
 In all communications to this Department be careful to give the name of your Office, County, and State. 

FORM OF OATH

FOR ASSISTANT POSTMASTERS,

PRESCRIBED BY ACT OF CONGRESS APPROVED MARCH 5, 1874, TO BE TAKEN
BY ALL PERSONS EMPLOYED IN THE POSTAL SERVICE,
EXCEPT POSTMASTERS.

LA POSTA

THIS BLANK MUST BE USED FOR ASSISTANT POSTMASTERS ONLY.

I, _____, being employed
as ASSISTANT POSTMASTER in the post office at _____
in the county of _____ and State of _____
do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully perform all the duties required of me, and abstain
from everything forbidden by the laws in relation to the establishment of Post Offices and Post Roads
within the United States; and that I will honestly and truly account for and pay over any moneys
belonging to the said United States which may come into my possession or control; and I also further
swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States. So help me God.



Frank H. Lea

SWORN before me, the subscriber, a _____
for the county of _____, this _____ day of _____
A. D. 188 .



Vol. 6, No. 3



N. B.—The person who takes this oath should sign his name above the magistrate's certificate.

NOTE.—This oath must be taken before a Justice of the Peace, Mayor, Judge, Notary Public, Clerk of a Court of Record
competent to administer an oath, or any officer, civil or military, holding a commission under the United States; and if the oath is
taken before an officer having an official seal, such seal should be affixed to his certificate.



This Oath must be forwarded to the Department immediately after being executed.



LA POSTA

Whole No. 33

JAN. 1975 POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL - MOUNTAIN & DESERT WEST VOL. 6, NO. 3

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LA POSTA is the research journal of the Mountain & Desert West Postal History Research Society. It is published on an irregular basis with six issues per volume. The subscription rate is \$5 per volume, and single copies are available at \$1 each. For additional information, or to place a subscription, write: THOMAS K. TODSEN, CO-EDITOR, 2000 Rose Lane, Las Cruces, NM 88001

NEW MEXICO POST OFFICES: PART II, SIERRA COUNTY

By Richard W. Helbock and Ruth Dolezal

Sierra County is one of southern New Mexico's fastest growing retirement centers. The county boasts rapidly expanding recreation facilities at Elephant Butte Lake, and increasing numbers of weekenders from both El Paso and Albuquerque. Physically, Sierra County presents great contrasts from east to west. Bisected by the two great impoundments of the Rio Grande, Sierra's eastern half is dominated by the extremely arid Jornada del Muerto. The western half of the county consists of foothills and higher peaks of the Black Range. Settlement has historically been sparse in Sierra County, but discoveries of gold, silver, and other minerals brought a spate of mining camps and towns during the late 19th century. This mining boom was responsible for the creation of the county.

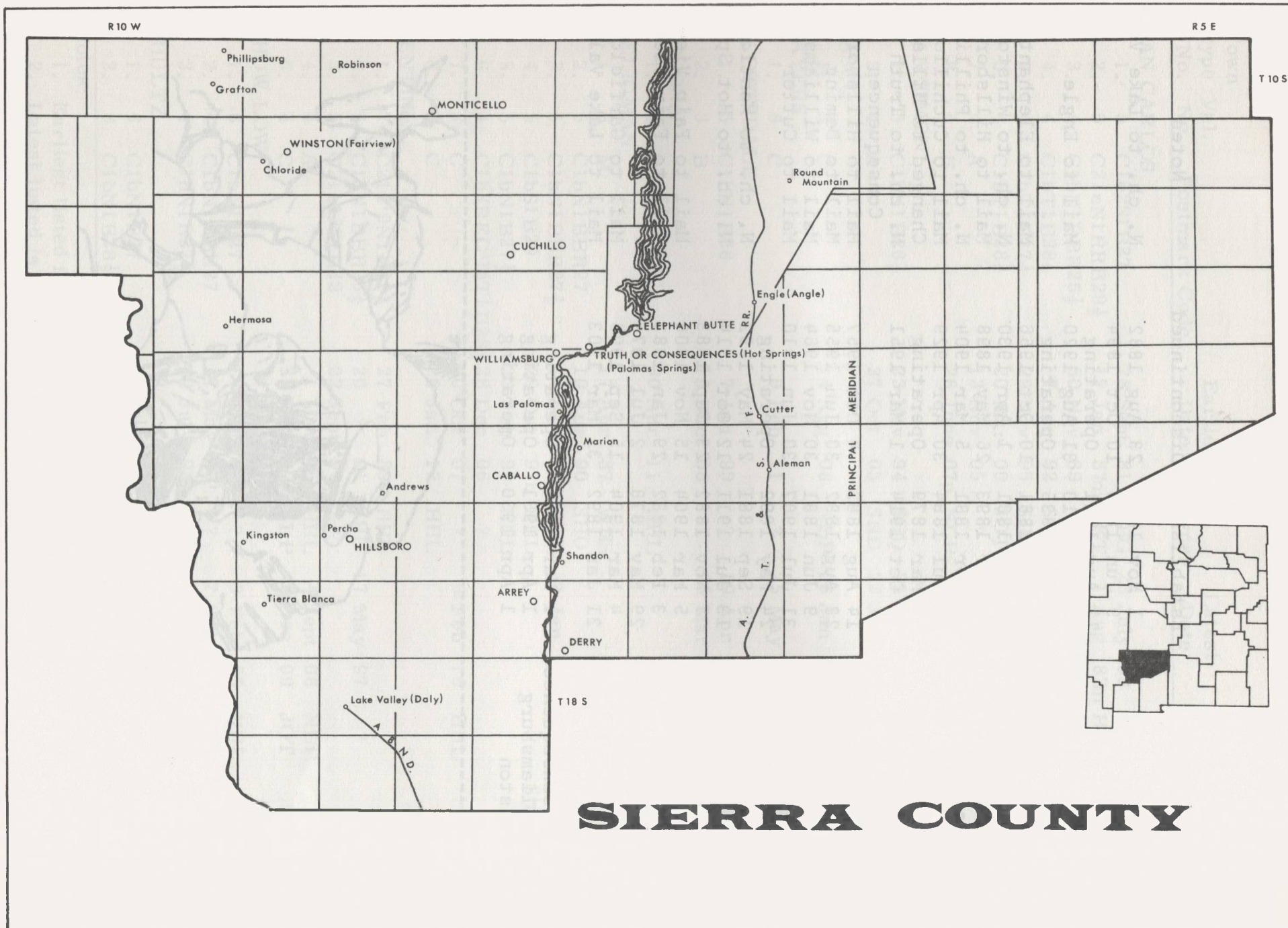
Sierra County was created by the Territorial Legislature on April 3, 1884, from parts of Dona Ana, Grant, and Socorro counties. Gold discoveries at Hillsboro in 1877, followed by silver strikes at Lake Valley, Chloride, and Kingston between 1878 and 1880, were successful in bringing thousands of people into the area, and the need for local government became readily apparent. Hillsboro was chosen as the first county seat.

The mining boom was relatively short lived, and the towns and camps which it spawned soon faded. By 1936 the county seat was moved from Hillsboro to the health resort and trading center along the Rio Grande then known as Hot Springs (first known as Ojo Caliente and now called Truth or Consequences). Today stock raising and tourism furnish the principal economic support for Sierra County.

Sierra County has seen 34 post offices within its present-day boundaries. Most of them have served mining camps and towns, but Engle, Cutter, and Aleman were associated with the railroad, Truth or Consequences, Caballo, and Elephant Butte are resorts, and Derry, Arrey, and Monticello are farm/ranch centers.

NEW MEXICO POST OFFICES SIERRA COUNTY

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Aleman	19 Jul 1869	17 Jul 1890	Mail to Detroit
Andrews	15 Jun 1898	2 Jan 1907	Mail to Hillsboro
Angle	7 Jul 1881	7 Dec 1881	N. ch. to Engle
Arrey	29 Jul 1901	Operating	
Caballo	6 May 1916	Operating	
Chloride	28 Mar 1881	10 Feb 1956	Mail to Winston
Cuchillo	25 May 1883	Operating	
Cutter	10 Jul 1907	15 Jun 1956	Mail to Engle



SIERRA COUNTY

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Daly	1 Nov 1881	23 Aug 1882	N. ch. to Lake Valley
Derry	9 Jun 1893	10 Oct 1894	
	11 Aug 1911	Operating	
Elephant Butte	15 Oct 1910	31 Aug 1920	Mail to Engle
	8 Jul 1935	Operating	
Engle	7 Dec 1881	10 Oct 1956	Mail to Elephant Butte
Fair View	15 Aug 1881	1 Apr 1930	N. ch. to Winston
Faulkner	3 Mar 1893	26 May 1898	Mail to Hillsboro
Grafton	21 Apr 1881	5 Mar 1904	N. ch. to Phillipsburg
Hermosa	10 Jul 1884	30 Apr 1929	Mail to Cuchillo
Hillsborough	7 Mar 1879	Operating	Changed to Hillsboro
Hot Springs	12 Oct 1914	1 Mar 1951	N. ch. to Truth or Consequences
Kingston	14 Aug 1882	4 Oct 1957	Mail to Hillsboro
Lake Valley	23 Aug 1882	30 Jun 1955	Mail to Deming
Las Palomas	9 Jun 1881	30 Nov 1964	Mail to Williamsburg
Marion	31 Jul 1907	30 Jun 1910	Mail to Cutter
Monticello	24 May 1892	Operating	
Montecillo	19 Sep 1881	24 May 1892	N. ch. to Monticello
Palomas Springs	13 Jul 1911	12 Oct 1914	N. ch. to Hot Springs
Percha	7 Nov 1882	23 Sep 1883	
Phillipsburg	5 Mar 1904	15 Nov 1906	Mail to Fair View
Robinson	3 Feb 1882	29 Jan 1883	Mail to Fair View
Round Mountain	29 May 1878	2 Jul 1879	
Shandon	4 Mar 1904	15 Sep 1906	Mail to Garfield
Tierra Blanca	21 Jan 1892	31 Mar 1903	Mail to Lake Valley
Truth or Consequences	1 Mar 1951	Operating	
Williamsburg	1 Apr 1951	Operating	
Winston	1 Apr 1930	Operating	



ARIZONA TERRITORIAL POSTMARKS

Town	type	Val.			Earliest			Latest				
No.	No.	No.	Postmark	Code	Date	Owner	Date	Owner	Killer	Notes		
SAN CARLOS												
1.	5		C1e2S1B27		28 Sept 81	EBG	23 July 83	JOT	Target			
2.	5		C21eN1RRB29 $\frac{1}{2}$		17 Jan 87m	TKT	1 Aug 87m	HHL				
3.	4		C1bN1BBR26 $\frac{1}{2}$		30 Nov 89	?	3 Sept 91	HHL				
4.	4		C1bT1B28 $\frac{1}{2}$		7 Apr 92	SHD	31 Jan 94	SHD			1, 2	
5.	4		C1bT1B27 $\frac{1}{2}$		29 Nov 95	SHD	9 Mar 96	SHD			1, 2	
6.	4		C1bT1B28 $\frac{1}{2}$		20 Mar 00	JOT			Grid			
7.	4		A		13 Nov 05	?						
8.	4		B		26 June 07p	NLP						
SAN SIMON												
1.	5		C1bN1B26 $\frac{1}{2}$		23 Nov 94	SHD	25 Jan 95	HHL				
2.	4		A		27 Oct 05	SHD	23 Jan 11	?				
SASCO												
1.	5		C		14 Aug 08	NLP	26 Jan 09	HHL				
SAYERS												
1.	6		C		9 Feb 11	?	25 May 11	HRF			1, 2	
SCOTTSDALE												
1.	5		C1bN1B28		7 Jan 99	?	19 Apr 02	JOT				
2.	3		B		19 Dec 06	?	25 Mar 09	?				
SEDONA												
1.	6		B		30 Apr 11	HHL					3	
SELIGMAN												
1.	6		M		17 Apr 87	WHS						
2.	5		C1bN1BBR27		10 Apr 90	SHD						
3.	5		C1bN1BBR27 $\frac{1}{2}$		14 Dec 94	HHL	? Jan 97	HHL				
4.	5		C1bS1B29		29 Oct 97b	HHL			Star in circle			
5.	5		C1bN1B27 $\frac{1}{2}$		23 Feb 99	HHL					3	
6.	4		C1b'(REC'D)T1B28 $\frac{1}{2}$		28 Dec 06	?						
7.	3		C		30 Oct 07	?	6 Feb 10	HHL				
8.	4		C		26 Jan 12	HHL						
SENTINEL												
1.	7		C21a'9N1B31 $\frac{1}{2}$		27 Feb 89	HHL					4	
2.	5		C1bN1BBR26 $\frac{1}{2}$		20 ? 91	SHD	17 May 97	?			1	
3.	5		C21e13S1B32		22 Sept 97p	?					4	
4.	4		A		1 Mar 05	HHL	4 Sept 06	NLP			4	
5.	4		C		22 May 09	NLP	5 Dec 09	JOT				
SHOW LOW												
1.	6		C1bN1B27		17 Jan 85	?	3 Feb 85	HHL				
2.	4		C1bN1BBR27		7 May 92	?	? Oct 97	TKT				
3.	4		C1bN1B27 $\frac{1}{2}$		18 July 98	TKT	6 Feb 02	TKT				
SHULTZ												
1.	6		C1bN1B27		23 Jan 96	*	17 Sept 96	HHL				
2.	6		C1bN1B28 $\frac{1}{2}$		23 Jan 00	?						

Notes:

1. Earliest listed is on piece.
2. Latest listed is on piece.
3. Earliest listed is backstamp receiving mark.
4. Earliest listed is backstamp transit mark.

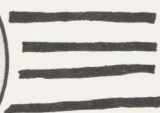
ARIZONA TERRITORIAL POSTMARKS

Town type	Val. No.	Postmark Code	Earliest Date	Owner	Latest Date	Owner	Killer	Notes
SHUMWAY								
1.	5	C1bN1B28	25 Apr 03	JOT				
2.	5	A	14 Sept 07	?				
SIGNAL								
1.	7	M	5 Jan 78	SHD	24 Apr 78	SHD		
2.	7	C31aN1BBR24	22 May 78p	SHD				
3.	4	C1bA1BBR25 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 Jan 84	HHL	11 Sept 86	*		
4.	6	EX	28 Oct ?b	HHL				
5.	5	C1bN1BBR28 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 Feb 94	NLP	19 Oct (97?)	JOT		
6.	4	C1bN1B28	22 Sept 03	?	12 Oct 03	?		
7.	4	B	9 Mar 09	?	4 Aug 11	?		
SILENT								
1.	6	C1eN1B27 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 June 81	?			Target	
SILVERBELL								
1.	4	B	12 Apr 07	JOT	15 Nov 07	?		
2.	4	C1bT1B29 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 May 09	SHD	3 Dec 10	HHL	Grid	
SILVER CREEK								
1.	6	C	11 Sept 08	?				
SILVER KING								
1.	5	C21eS1RRB34	24 Nov 81	HHL	11 Apr 82	SHD		
2.	5	C21eS1B31	11 Aug 82	HHL				
3.	5	C1bN1B27	28 May 84	SHD				
4.	4	C1eN1B27	20 Aug 85	HHL	15 Apr 90	?	Grid in oval	
5.	4	C1bN1BBR27 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 Sept 90	JOT	21 Feb 92	HHL		
SILVERKING								
1.	6	C	11 Dec 08	HHL				
SIMMONS								
1.	6	M	5 Mar 82	HHL	2 Oct 82	JOT		
2.	6	C1bN1B27	27 Apr 85	?	18 Mar 91	SHD		
3.	5	C1bN1B27	20 Sept 98	?	22 Mar 02	HHL		
4.	4	C	28 Mar 11	HHL				
SKULL VALLEY								
1.	5	C1bN1RBB29	21 Oct 94v	SHD				
2.	5	C1bN1BBR27 $\frac{1}{2}$? Sept ?	SHD				1
3.	5	C1bN1B27	3 Apr 98	SHD	4 Apr 98	SHD		1, 2
4.	4	C1bN1B28	4 Apr 02	FER	23 June 08	SHD		
SNOW FLAKE								
1.	6	C21bN1RRB27 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 Mar 83m	HHL				
2.	5	C1bN1B27	26 Mar 96	?	7 Dec 97	JOT		
3.	4	C1bN1B29	20 May 03	HHL	20 Aug 06	NLP	Grid	
4.	4	C	6 Mar 07	?	12 Jan 09	?		
SOLOMONSVILLE								
1.	6	C1e10RRB26 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 Jan 80m	JOT			Star	3

Notes:

1. Earliest listed is on piece.
2. Latest listed is on piece.
3. Spelled "Solomonville" in the strike.

ARIZONA TERRITORIAL POSTMARKS



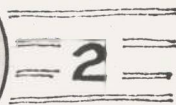
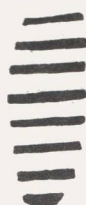
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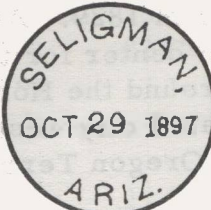
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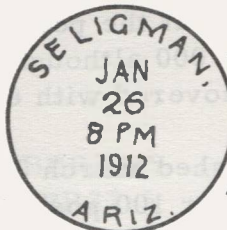
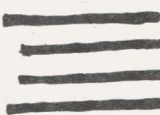
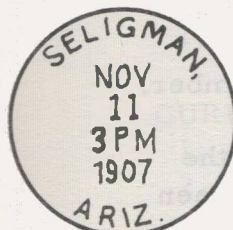
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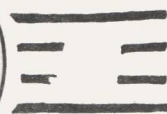
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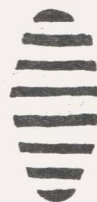
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NINETEENTH CENTURY OREGON POSTMARKS CLACKAMAS COUNTY

By Charles A. Whittlesey and Howard A. Mader

Clackamas County was one of the four early districts of Oregon, the other three being Twality, Yamhill, and Champooick. Created July 5, 1843, it has been reduced in size several times to the present 1843 square miles. An early settling spot for the pioneers who crossed the plains during the middle Nineteenth Century, it was named for the Clackamas Indians, a Chinookan tribe living along the Clackamas River.

Oregon City, the county seat, was laid out and named in 1842 by Dr. John McLoughlin, Chief Factor of the Hudsons' Bay Company, who located his claim there in 1829. After 1840, Oregon City became known as a political and trade center for the immigrants who crossed the plains or traveled by boat "around the Horn" for the next 30 years. Oregon City was the first incorporated city west of the Rocky Mountains and became the first capital of the Oregon Territory in 1848.

The county has considerable excellent farm land although elevations rise from 55 feet at Oregon City to 11,235 feet at the peak of Mount Hood. The county population is now approaching 200,000 although the eastern two-thirds of the County is mountainous and covered with evergreen timber.

The Oregon City post office was established March 29, 1847 but the earliest postmark known is in early 1849. Over 100 post offices have been established in the county but there are only 25 or so remaining in operation today.

Town Type No.	Postmark Code	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Integral Killer	Notes
AIMS					
1.	C21EN1RRB26.5	21 Jun 91		Target	Illus.
BARLOW					
1.	C1EN1BBR26.5	26 Sep 93	05 Apr 94		Illus.
BEAVER CREEK					
1.	C1EN1B27	03 Feb 99	03		Illus.
BUTTE CREEK					
1.	C1EA1BBR24.5	13 Feb 77	16 Feb 79 (G)		Illus.
2.	M	11 Feb 81	04 Feb 84		
3.	C1J1ON1RRB27	06 Mar 86	16 Oct 88	Target	Illus.
CANBY					
1.	M	26 Dec 76	19 Aug 82		
2.	C1EA1BBR25	22 Nov 82	02 Mar 87		Illus.
3.	C1EN1BBR28	24 Feb 88	25 Feb 92		Illus.
4.	C1JT1B28	05 Feb 94	28 Jan 99		Illus.

NINETEENTH CENTURY OREGON POSTMARKS
CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Town Type No.	Postmark Code	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Integral Killer	Notes
CARUS					
1.	C1EN1BBR27	04 Feb 92	05 Jan 00		Illus.
CHERRYVILLE					
1.	C21EN1RRB33	09 Aug 87		Target	Illus.
CLACKAMAS					
1.	C1EA1BBR25.5	14 Feb 81			Illus.
2.	C1EN1RRB26.5	21 Jan 87(R)	15 Jan 90	Target	Illus.
3.	C1EN1BBR27	21 Oct 90	23 Feb 93		Illus.
4.	C1JT2BBR28	10 Aug 98	17 Jul 99		Illus.
CLARKS					
1.	C1EN1BBR26.5	24 Feb 90	11 Nov 98		Illus.
CLEAR CREEK					
1.	M	23 Mar 73	29 Sep 73		
CURRINSVILLE					
1.	C1EN1BBR27.5	18 Jun 89	06 Jun 90		Illus.
2.	C1JN1BBR27.5	29 Jun 95	20 Nov 01		Illus.
CUTTINGSVILLE					
1.	M	18 Apr 69	23 May 69		
DAMASCUS					
1.	M	18 Jul 81	24 Jun 90		
2.	C1EN1BBR26.5	13 Dec 86	26 Jul 87		
EAGLE CREEK					
1.	M	07 Jul 70	06 Mar 72		
2.	C1EN1R25	20 Nov 76	21 Jan 79	Star/Cir.	Illus.
3.	C41EN1R29	11 Dec 79(B)	05 Jun 88(P)		Illus.
ELWOOD					
1.	C1JN1BBR27.5	19 Nov 98	03		Illus.
ELY					
1.	C1EN1BBR27	08 Jan 92	09 May 99		Illus.
FIRWOOD					
1.	C1EN1B27.5	18 May 99	06		Illus.
GEORGE					
1.	C1EN1BBR27	12 Mar 90			Illus.

NINETEENTH CENTURY OREGON POSTMARKS
CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Town Type No.	Postmark Code	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Integral Killer	Notes
GLAD TIDINGS					
1.	M	65 ?	27 Feb 78		
GRAEME					
1.	C1EN1B27.5	02 Sep 98			Illus.
HIGHLAND					
1.	M	03 Jan 77	28 Jul 82		
LACY					
1.	C1JN1BBR27.5	12 May 94			Illus.
LIBERAL					
1.	C1JN1BBR27.5	26 May 94	04 Mar 98		Illus.
LOGAN					
1.	M	14 Jan 87			
2.	C1EN1BBR27.5	10 Nov 98			Illus.
MACKSBURG					
1.	C1EA1BBR27	25 Oct 85	11 Jan 86		Illus.
MARQUAM					
1.	C1JS1B31	28 Jan 91	15 Sep 93	Target	Illus.
2.	C1JN1BBR27.5	04 Mar 97			
MEADOW BROOK					
1.	C1EN1BBR27.5	18 Dec 89	18 May 95		Illus.
MILWAUKIE					
1.	M	52	15 Jan 58		Terr.
2.	M	59	10 Feb 85		
3.	C1EM126.5	28 Jul 87	18 Dec 87(P)	Target	
4.	C1EN1BBR27	25 Aug 92			
5.	C1JN1BBR27.5	10 Apr 94	22 Sep 96		
MINK					
1.	M	17 Apr 86	21 May 87		
2.	C1EN1BBR27.5	17 Aug 90	12 Jan 91		Illus.

NINETEENTH CENTURY OREGON POSTMARKS
CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Town Type No.	Postmark Code	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Integral Killer	Notes
MOLALLA					
1.	M	24 Feb 69	19 Feb 70		
2.	C1EN1BBR25	03 Dec 72	12 Jan 74(R)		Illus.
3.	C1EA1BBR25	06 Oct 76			
4.	C1EA1B26	78(R)			
5.	C1E'N1RRB28.5	30 Oct 84(R)			Illus.
6.	C1EN1BBR26.5	27 Nov 84	25 Jan 90	Target	
7.	C1JN1BBR27.5	03 Aug 94	23 Dec 96		
MULINO					
1.	M	28 Sep 83			
2.	C1EN1BBR27	27 Jun 92	15 Jul 96		
3.	C1EN1B28	08 Mar 99	14 Nov 00		
NEEDY					
1.	M	02 Oct 56	12 Dec 57		Terr.
2.	M	59	07 Dec 67		
3.	SL	65?			Illus.
4.	C1EN1BBR27	03 Mar 85(R)	12 Mar 88	Target	Illus.
NORTON					
1.	M	?	19 Apr 76		
OREGON CITY					
1.	M	29 Oct 49			Terr.
2.	C1FA1R33	31 Dec 49(G)	59		Terr.
3.	C1FA1R33	59	62?		Illus.
4.	C31CN1BBR26	18 Nov 62	04 Jul 68	Ov. Grid	Illus.
5.	C1FA1BBR24	14 Apr 68	18 Nov 73		Illus.
6.	C1EA1BBR24.5	05 Feb 73	74?		
7.	C1JN1BBR28.5	12 Aug 75	24 Feb 88	Target	Illus.
8.	C1JS1RRB31	16 Nov 79(B)	29 Jan 79(R)	Target	Illus.
9.	C1J17N1RRB25.5	30 Oct 78	31 Mar 79	Star	Illus.
10.	C1JN1RRB29	29 May 79(R)	21 Feb 81	Target	Illus.
11.	C21JS1BRB30	23 Jul 80(V)	11 Oct 80	Target	Illus.
12.	C1J13S1RRB31	04 Jun 80(V)	18 Jan 81	Target	Illus.
13.	C31CN1BBR26.5	14 Jul 81	21 Mar 82		Illus.
14.	C1EN1B27	06 Nov 86	19 Jun 89		Illus.
15.	C1ET1B28	11 Apr 93	09 Aug 97		Illus.(1)
16.	C1JN1B27.5	19 Jun 93	13 Dec 93		Illus.
17.	C1JT1B27.5	07 May 94	11 Aug 95		Illus.(1)
ORVILLE					
1.	C1EN1BBR27	26 Feb 93			

Note:

1. Date type T2 also known.

NINETEENTH CENTURY OREGON POSTMARKS
CLACKAMAS COUNTY

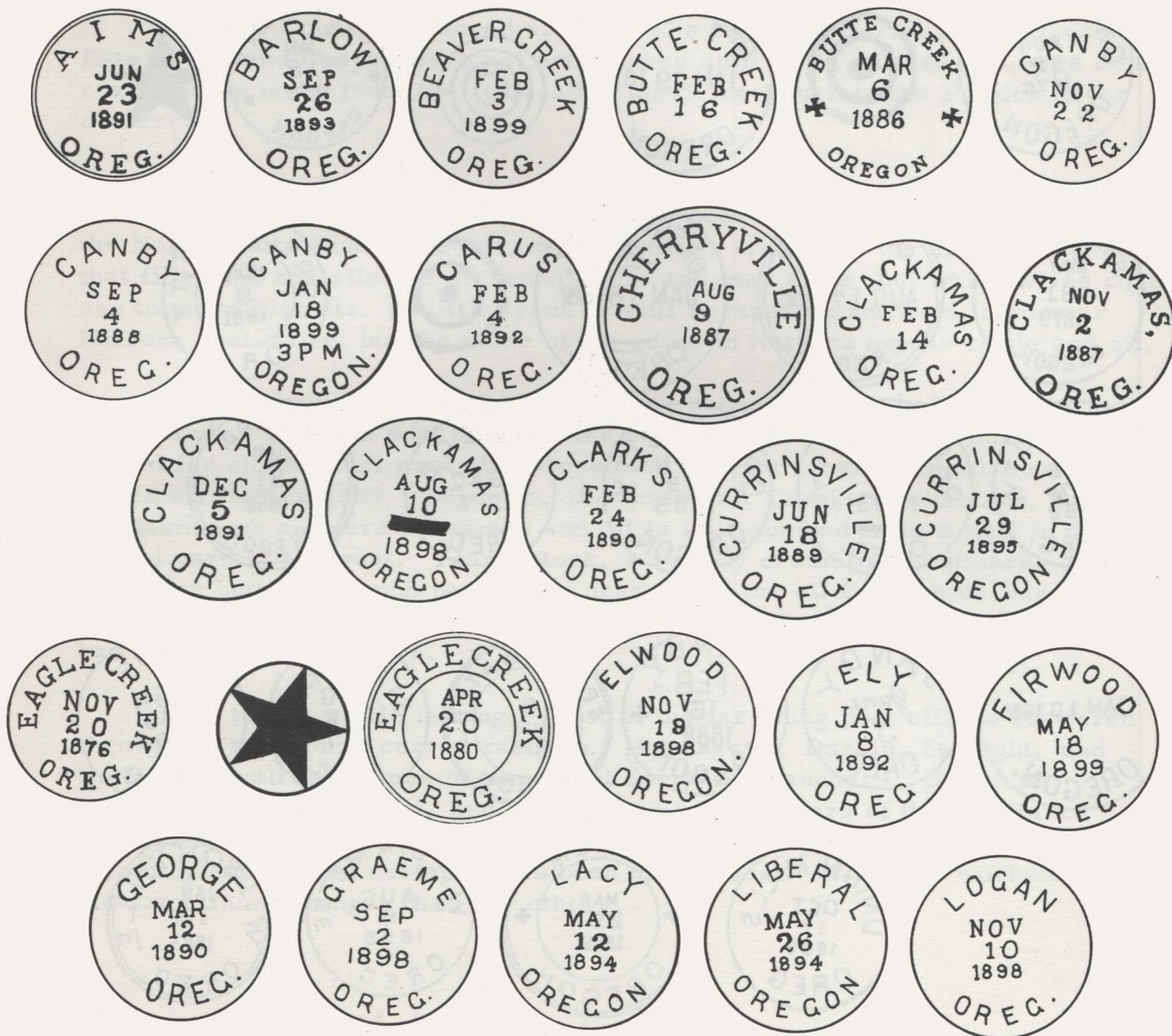
Town Type No.	Postmark Code	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Integral Killer	Notes
OSWEGO					
1.	M	?			Terr.
2.	C1EA1BBR24.5	27 Dec 73(B)	27 Feb 79		Illus.
3.	M	30 May 80			
4.	C21JN1RRB28	31 Jan 82(B)			Illus.
5.	C1EN1BBR28	08 Jul 87		Target	
6.	C1JS1RRB32.5	10 Jan 88	01 Jun 88	Target	Illus.
7.	C1EN1BBR27	08 Dec 88	23 Mar 91	Target	
8.	C1JN1BBR27	01 Dec 94	06 Dec 94		
9.	C1JT1B28	17 Aug 97	21 Oct 99		
PARK PLACE					
1.	C1EN1BBR27.5	11 Dec 90		Target	
2.	C1EN1B28	05 Apr 99			
REDLAND					
1.	C1EN1BBR27.5	13 Jun 93			
2.	C1EN1B27.5	11 Jan 99			
RINGO POINT					
1.	M	25 Nov 76?			
SANDY					
1.	C1EM2B25.5	08 May 80	05 Jun 80		Illus.
2.	C1J1ON1RRB27	16 Feb 88		Target	Illus.
3.	C1EN1B27	18 May 99			
SPRINGWATER					
1.	C41JN1B27.5	09 Aug 79		Target	Illus.
2.	C1EN1B27.5	07 Jun 93	03 Jan 99		
STAFFORD					
1.	C1ENZBBR26.5	13 Aug 87	10 Mar 88		Illus.
2.	C1JN1BBR27.5	23 Nov 94			
3.	C1EN1B27.5	10 Feb 99			
STONE					
1.	C1EN1B27	29 Jun 98			Illus.
SUNNYSIDE					
1.	C1EN1BBR27	28 Jul 98			
UNION MILLS					
1.	M	07 Jun 79			
2.	C1EN1B27	17 Oct 89			Illus.

NINETEENTH CENTURY OREGON POSTMARKS CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Town Type No.	Postmark Code	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Integral Killer	Notes
VIOLA					
1.	C41J10N1B31	29Mar 82(V)	31 Dec 88	Star/Cir.	Illus.
2.	C1EN1B27	14 Dec 96	25 Sep 99		
WILLAMETTE					
1.	C1EN1B27	06 Aug 95	04		Illus. (1)
WILSONVILLE					
1.	CZ1EN1RRB27	13 Jan 83	09 Oct 88(R)	Target	Illus.
2.	C1EN1BBR27	17 Nov 85(P)	02 Sep 98	Target	
3.	C1EN1B28	22 Jan 98			

Note:

- Note Misspelling.





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THE POST OFFICES OF WYOMING: PART XI, NATRONA COUNTY

By Daniel Y. Meschter

Natrona County was erected by the Wyoming Legislature on March 9, 1888 and organized on April 11, 1890. It was taken from the north half of what was left of Carbon County after the earlier partition of Johnson County (LaPosta, 5/5).

The area had a rich Preterritorial history. The Oregon Trail crossed the county from east to west up the North Platte River to Independence Rock - the famous landmark Father DeSmet christened the "Register of the Desert" - and then up the Sweetwater River toward South Pass. The Trail and the first transcontinental telegraph line along it was guarded by Union forces during the Civil War. Lieut. Caspar Collins of the 11th. Ohio Cavalry was killed by Indians at the Battle of Platte River Bridge on July 26, 1865 and gave his name to both Fort Casper at the bridge and the modern city of Casper nearby.

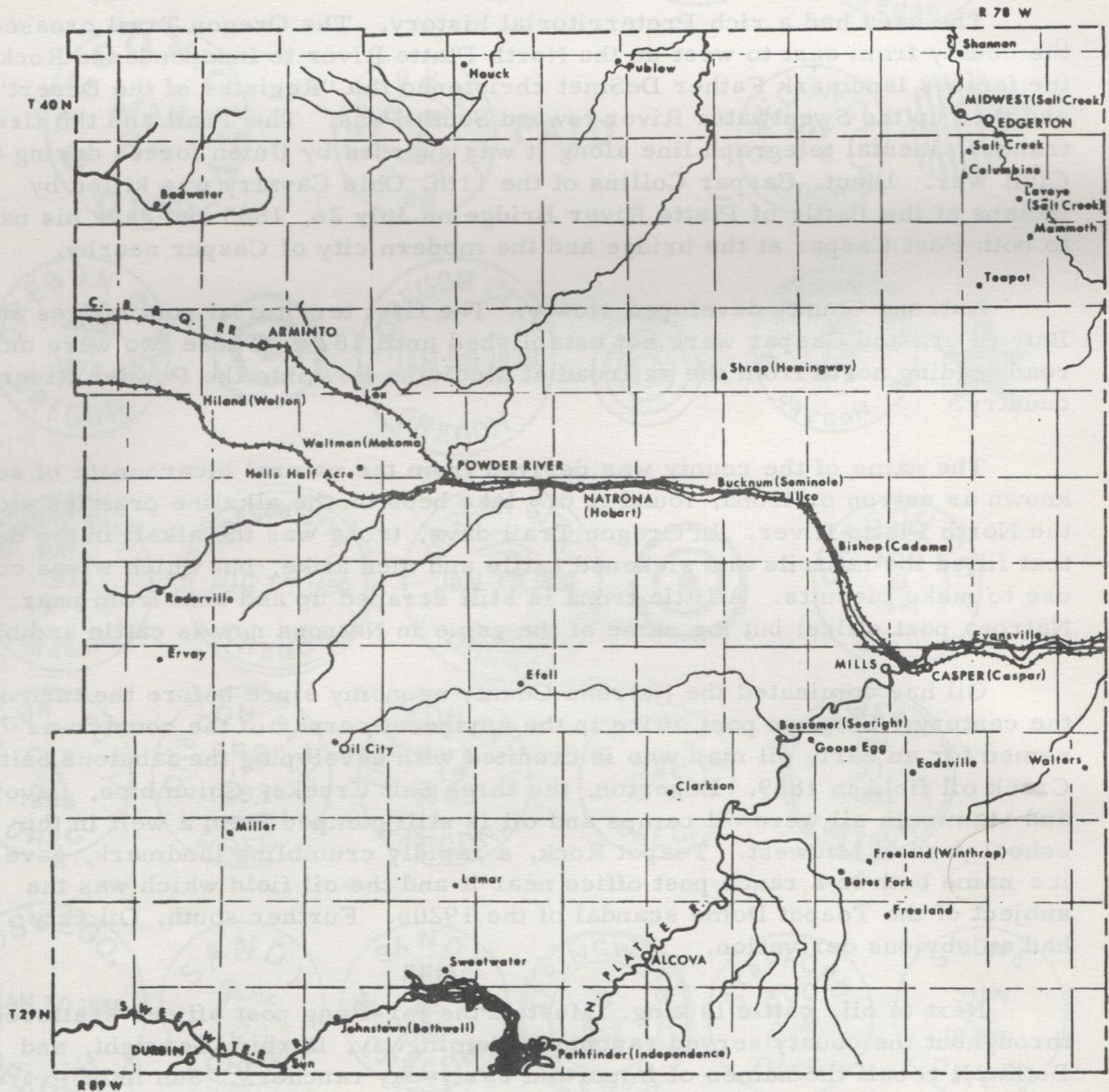
Natrona County developed slowly. The first territorial post offices at Bates Fork and Caspar were not established until 1879. These two were on a road leading north from the railroad at Medicine Bow into the Powder River country.

The name of the county was derived from the natural bicarbonate of soda, known as natron or trona, found in dry lake beds on the alkaline prairies along the North Platte River. In Oregon Trail days, trona was the alkali in the dust that filled the nostrils and sickened cattle and men alike, but which wives could use to make biscuits. A little trona is still scraped up and sold from near Natrona post office; but the name of the game in Natrona now is cattle and oil.

Oil has dominated the Natrona County economy since before the turn of the century. Shannon post office in the northeast corner of the county was named for an early oil man who is credited with developing the fabulous Salt Creek oil field in 1889. Edgerton, the three Salt Creeks, Columbine, Lavoye, and Mammoth all were oil camps and oil is still pumped from a well in the school yard at Midwest. Teapot Rock, a rapidly crumbling landmark, gave its name both to a ranch post office near it and the oil field which was the subject of the Teapot Dome scandal of the 1920s. Further south, Oil City had an obvious derivation.

Next to oil, cattle is king. Most of the far-flung post offices scattered throughout the county served ranches. Hemingway, Durbin, Searight, and Bothwell recall the names of important early-day ranchers. Sun is of especial interest. It was, and still is, the headquarters of the Sun Ranch founded in the 1807s by Tom Sun. It is one of the oldest working ranches in Wyoming and almost certainly has been continuously owned and worked by the same family longer than any other.

NATRONA COUNTY



RWH

Historically, the opening round in the Wyoming range wars of 1892 took place near Independence Rock in 1888 when James Averell, the Sweetwater postmaster, and Cattle Kate, his paramour, were lynched for alleged cattle rustling.

The coming of the railroads led to a line of stations along the tracks, each with cattle loading ramps and often a post office. The Chicago and Northwestern reached Casper from the east in 1888 and was extended to Lander in Fremont County in 1906. The Burlington tracks reached Casper from the northwest in 1913 and connected up with the Colorado Southern to the east in Converse County the following year.

Cattle, railroads, and oil with its accompanying refineries, oil well service companies, and pipelines have made Casper Wyoming's leading business and financial center even though it does misspell Lt. Collins' first name.

Natrona County has had 61 post office names, of which were name changes, including two that were changed back to the original name. Free-land occurs twice and Salt Creek three times. Two of the listed post offices never operated. The maximum number in operation at any one time was 20 in 1924 - 1925; 11 are in operation at present. The list does not include contract stations operating in Casper.

WYOMING POST OFFICES NATRONA COUNTY

<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Established</u>	<u>Discontinued</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Alcova	18 Nov 1892	Operating	
Arminto	21 Feb 1914	Operating	Conv. to Ind. Rural station of Casper, 17 Jul 1964
Badwater	28 Jul 1911	31 May 1935	Mail to Lost Cabin
Ballard	14 Nov 1914	20 Feb 1905	Rescinded
Bates Fork	7 Aug 1879	29 Jan 1880	
Berthaton	7 Oct 1895	23 Dec 1898	Mail to Johnstown
Bessemer	18 Jun 1888		Name changed from Searight
		10 Mar 1898	Mail to Casper
Bishop	5 Dec 1916		Name changed from Cadoma
		15 Feb 1920	Mail to Casper
Bothwell	5 Sep 1889	11 Jun 1892	Name changed to Johnstown

<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Established</u>	<u>Discontinued</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Bucknum	31 Jan 1908		Name changed from Seminole
		30 Sep 1924	Mail to Natrona
Cadoma	17 May 1907	5 Dec 1916	Name changed to Bishop
Caspar	7 Aug 1879	11 Jul 1882	Mail to Fort Fetterman
Casper	4 Oct 1888	Operating	
Clarkson	7 Sep 1898	31 Jul 1900	Mail to Alcova
Columbine	13 Aug 1925	21 Apr 1944	Mail to Midwest
Durbin	6 Sep 1887	9 Apr 1892	Mail to Cheyenne (ranch headquarters)
Eadsville	9 Mar 1892	31 Jul 1895	Mail to Casper
Edgerton	5 Sep 1925	Operating	
Efell	25 Feb 1898	30 Sep 1902	Mail to Oil City
	16 Jan 1908	15 Feb 1910	Mail to Casper
Ervay	6 Oct 1888	31 Oct 1944	Mail to Casper
Evansville	19 Oct 1923	Operating	
Freeland	23 Mar 1889	28 Jul 1899	Mail to Winthrop
Freeland	21 Sep 1900		Name changed from Winthrop
		30 Sep 1952	Mail to Casper
Goose Egg	21 Dec 1939	31 Dec 1950	Mail to Casper
Hells Half Acre	9 Jul 1940	Operating	Estab. as SPO; conv. to rural station of Casper 1 Jul 1959
Hemingway	7 Apr 1905	24 Mar 1909	Name changed to Shrap
Hiland	1 May 1925	Operating	Name changed from Wolton
Hobart	25 Jul 1898	20 Jun 1899	Mail to Casper
	9 Feb 1906	8 May 1906	Name changed to Natrona
	16 Mar 1907		Name changed from Natrona
		15 Oct 1908	Mail to Casper
Houck	3 Mar 1902	14 Apr 1906	Mail to Barnum
Illco	27 Jan 1926	15 Mar 1935	Mail to Casper
Independence	23 Jan 1901	18 Jul 1905	Name changed to Pathfinder
Johnstown	11 Jun 1892		Name changed from Bothwell
		9 Mar 1900	Mail to Split Rock
Lamar	27 May 1887	10 Oct 1889	Mail to Sweetwater
Lavoye	22 Jan 1923	15 Jan 1924	Name changed to Salt Creek
	1 Apr 1924		Name changed from Salt Creek
		7 Sep 1929	Mail to Columbine

<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Established</u>	<u>Discontinued</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Lonebear	7 Aug 1899	12 Dec 1899	Never in operation
Lox	25 Oct 1923	15 Dec 1925	Mail to Arminto
Mammoth	5 Feb 1923	15 Apr 1924	Mail to Casper
Midwest	1 Jan 1924	Operating	Name changed from Salt Creek
Miller	14 Nov 1903	30 Sep 1925	Mail to Waltman
Mills	8 Jun 1921	Operating	
Mokoma	2 Mar 1907	24 Aug 1908	Name changed to Waltman
Natrona	8 May 1906		Name changed from Hobart
		16 Mar 1907	Name changed to Hobart
	12 Oct 1921	Operating	
Oil City	29 Jul 1886	15 Sep 1886	No papers
	6 Sep 1887	30 Dec 1887	No papers
	13 Sep 1888	13 Jun 1895	Mail to Johnstown
	28 Mar 1898	30 Jun 1923	Mail to Miller
Pathfinder	18 Jul 1905		Name changed from Independence
		31 Jul 1912	Mail to Alcova
Powder River	30 Apr 1904	Operating	
Publow	17 Mar 1906	15 Feb 1908	
Raderville	5 May 1921	30 Jun 1934	Mail to Casper
Salt Creek	26 Apr 1912	1 Jan 1924	Name changed to Midwest
Salt Creek	15 Jan 1924		Name changed from Lavoye
		1 Apr 1924	Name changed to Lavoye
Salt Creek	1 Apr 1924	31 Oct 1936	Mail to Columbine
Searight	13 Jan 1888	18 Jun 1888	Name changed to Bessemer
Seminole	13 Mar 1906	31 Jan 1908	Name changed to Bucknum
Shannon	13 Mar 1906	31 Dec 1909	Mail to Casper
Shrap	24 Mar 1909		Name changed from Hemingway
		31 Dec 1910	Mail to Casper
Sun	13 Mar 1906	31 Dec 1909	Mail to Alcova
Sweetwater	29 Jun 1886	31 Jul 1890	Mail to Bothwell
Teapot	19 Jan 1925	1 Apr 1925	Mail to Casper
Walters	17 Jun 1889	19 Nov 1895	Mail to Casper
Waltman	24 Aug 1908	31 May 1943	Name changed from Mokoma

<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Established</u>	<u>Discontinued</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Winthrop	9 Jan 1896	21 Sep 1900	Name changed to Freeland
Wolton	27 Jan 1897	1 May 1925	Name changed to Hiland

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

We must thank our subscriber, Mrs. Inez Cosgrove Ford, whose father, William H. Cosgrove, was postmaster of Roswell, New Mexico, from 1884 to 1893, through whose courtesy we have the cover of this issue. If others of you have similar items that we might use, please get in touch. It is interesting that the signature on the form is that of Judge Frank H. Lea, brother of Capt. Joseph C. Lea for whom Lea County, New Mexico, was named. It's really not so very comforting to note that there were Government forms to fill out even in 1883!

We must also acknowledge the help of Mrs. Irene Beebe, who was kind enough to do much of the required typing for this issue.

Re the Helbock family, Lucy and the kids have safely joined Bill in Pakistan. They are in a brand new home and are going thru the strain of getting new furnishings et al. Despite the demands of his job, Bill promises that these pages will continue to have the benefit of what I think is an exceptional cartographic talent. Projected date for their return to the USA is during January 1976.

We have to hand two more of Dan Meschter's excellent articles on Wyoming county postoffices, so you can look forward to them in future issues. My thanks to Dan and to Chuck Whittlesey for adding northern flavor to this potpourri!

One finds postal history information where one least expects it. I looked in libraries in Albuquerque, Phoenix, and San Francisco for Federal documents on Star mail Routes and finally found them in the library of the University of Texas in El Paso, just 45 miles from home. There may be more available close to you than you realize. Another source we overlook is old-time postmasters who may just be waiting to tell their story to anyone who will listen. I missed out last year when a New Mexico territorial postmaster died here at the age of 93. And that's information that is gone forever!

TOM TODSEN

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