

LA POSTA



WINTER VIEW OF MOGOLLON, THE RICHEST GOLD AND SILVER CAMP OF THE SOUTHWEST

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NEW MEXICO POST OFFICES: PART III, CATRON COUNTY

By Richard W. Helbock and Ruth Dolezal

Catron County is New Mexico's largest in terms of land area and second smallest in terms of population. The overall population density is only 0.3 persons per square mile, and the 2500 inhabitants live mostly in a number of small communities along the San Francisco River or near U. S. Highway 60, which traverses the northern part of the county in an east-west direction.

Catron County has an abundance of natural resources. Thousands of acres of timber and grazing lands characterize the landscape and provide a source of income for the county's residents. Mining operations extract sand, gravel, stone, gold, and silver. Water resources include three major drainage basins and one declared underground water basin. Wildlife is plentiful in the wilderness and primitive areas of the county. The major economic sector is cattle raising.

The county was created in February, 1921 from the western part of Socorro County. It was named for Thomas B. Catron, who served in the 1910 Constitutional Convention and who was chosen U. S. Senator by the first session of the State Legislature in 1912. The county seat is Reserve.

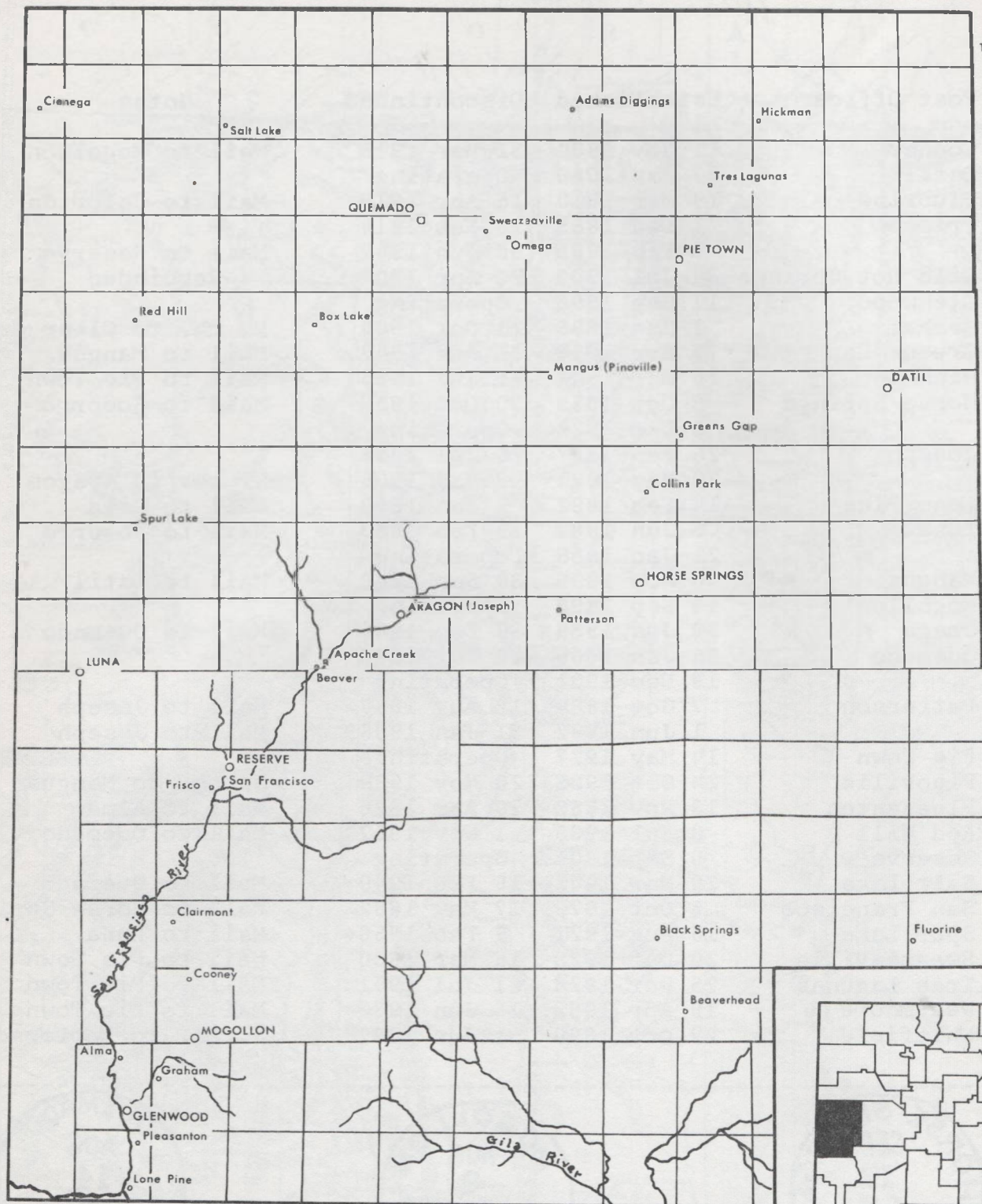
Catron County has housed a total of 41 post offices, but a number of them were in existence while the area was still part of Socorro County. Many of these post offices served mining camps such as Mogollon, Cooney, and Fluorine. Others served ranch centers such as Collins Park, Box Lake, and Datil. Of the total number only 9 post offices continue to operate.

NEW MEXICO POST OFFICES CATRON COUNTY

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Adams Diggings	26 Jun 1930	2 Oct 1945	Mail to Pie Town
Alma	17 Feb 1882	13 Mar 1896	
	13 Feb 1900	15 Jan 1931	Mail to Glenwood
Apache Creek	18 Oct 1928	31 Dec 1958	Mail to Aragon
Apache Creek R.B.	1 Jun 1959	Operating	
Aragon	3 May 1906	Operating	
Beaver	19 Jul 1880	30 Aug 1882	
Beaverhead	31 Mar 1922	15 Aug 1938	Mail to Black Springs
Black Springs	14 Aug 1935	31 Dec 1942	Mail to Magdalena
Box Lake	18 Jan 1919	31 Oct 1919	Mail to Quemado
Cienega	24 Apr 1894	31 Dec 1902	Mail to Salt Lake
Clairmont	15 Aug 1881	25 May 1883	Mail to Alma
Clear Creek	21 Oct 1904	11 Sep 1906	N. ch. to Glenwood
Collins Park	1 Mar 1951	15 Apr 1955	Mail to Horse Springs

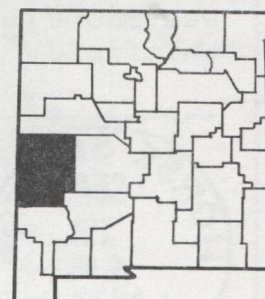
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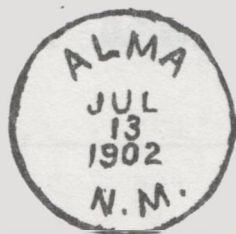
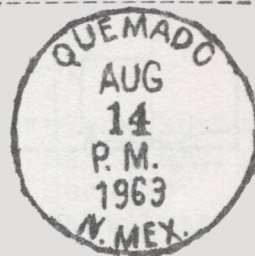
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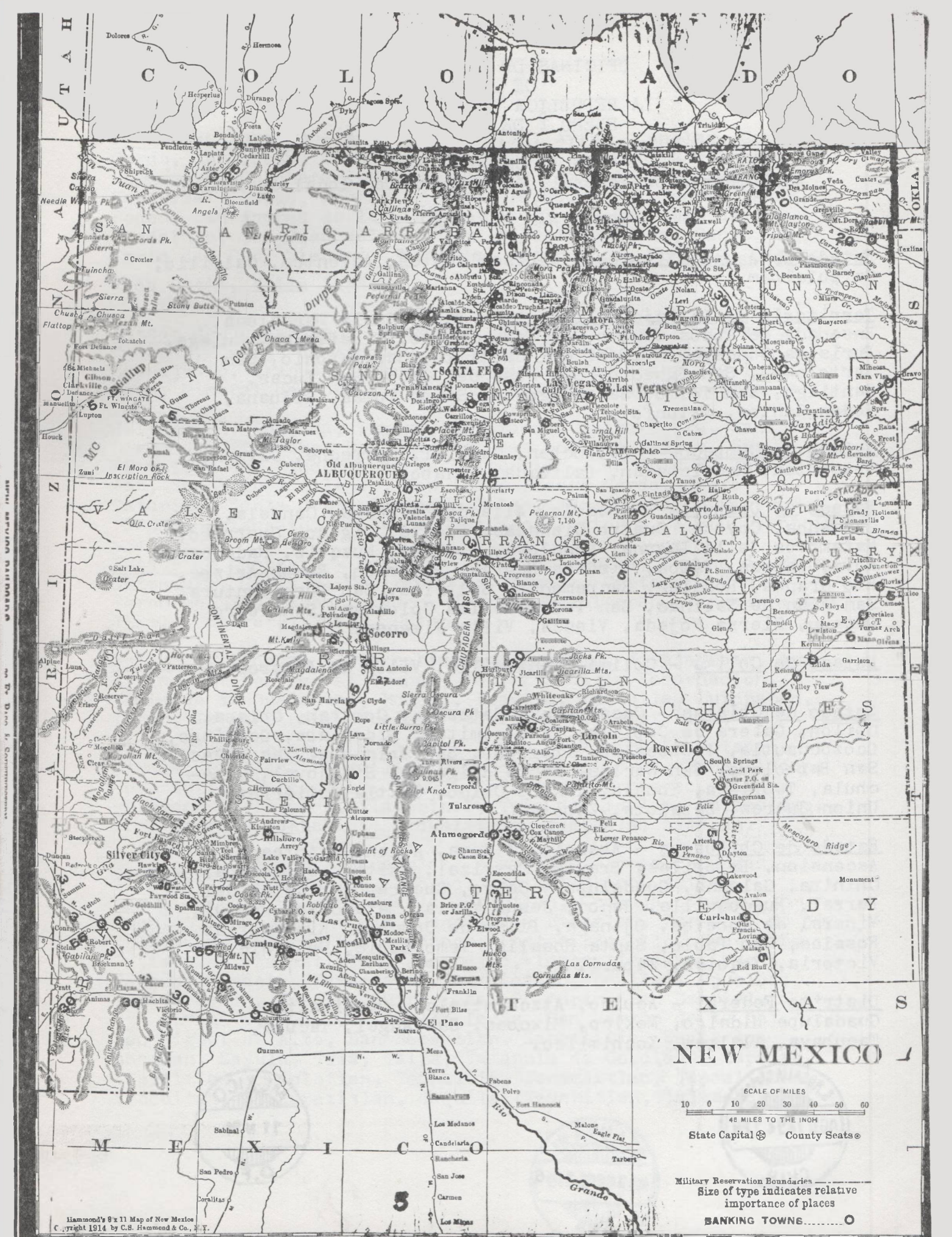
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CATRON COUNTY

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Cooney	11 Nov 1884	31 Mar 1915	Mail to Mogollon
Datil	27 May 1886	Operating	
Fluorine	19 Mar 1910	15 Apr 1918	Mail to Chloride
Frisco	21 Dec 1885	28 Feb 1914	
	7 Feb 1938	30 Jun 1942	Mail to Reserve
Gila Hot Springs	30 Jul 1903	23 Apr 1904	Rescinded
Glenwood	11 Sep 1906	Operating	
Graham	1 Jun 1895	21 Oct 1904	N. ch. to Clear Creek
Greens Gap	7 Aug 1918	31 Aug 1942	Mail to Mangus
Hickman	26 Mar 1937	31 Jul 1955	Mail to Pie Town
Horse Springs	6 Oct 1879	30 Oct 1882	Mail to Socorro
	8 Dec 1922	Operating	
Joseph	26 Feb 1887	26 Jul 1898	
	20 May 1901	3 May 1906	N. ch. to Aragon
Lone Pine	14 Feb 1882	2 Jan 1883	Mail to Gila
Luna	5 Jun 1882	19 Feb 1883	Mail to Socorro
	21 Jan 1886	Operating	
Mangus	20 Nov 1909	30 Sep 1943	Mail to Datil
Mogollon	13 Sep 1890	Operating	
Omega	28 Jun 1938	30 Dec 1966	Mail to Quemado
Quemado	26 Jan 1886	29 Jul 1896	
	13 Dec 1901	Operating	
Patterson	7 Oct 1884	12 Aug 1887	Mail to Joseph
	1 Jun 1892	31 Jan 1906	Mail to Joseph
Pie Town	14 May 1927	Operating	
Pinoville	24 Oct 1905	20 Nov 1909	N. ch. to Mangus
Pleasanton	13 Nov 1882	29 Apr 1886	Mail to Alma
Red Hill	8 Jul 1935	1 Nov 1957	Mail to Quemado
Reserve	9 Sep 1901	Operating	
Salt Lake	29 Mar 1902	15 Feb 1940	Mail to Quemado
San Francisco	6 Oct 1879	17 May 1882	Mail to Horse Springs
Spur Lake	15 Aug 1921	7 Feb 1958	Mail to Luna
Sweazeaville	20 Oct 1928	15 Mar 1930	Mail to Pie Town
Tres Lagunas	25 Oct 1923	21 Jul 1961	Mail to Pie Town
Westmoore	18 Apr 1935	15 Jun 1936	Mail to Pie Town
Whitfield	22 Oct 1890	1 Jun 1892	N. ch. to Patterson





REPRODUCED FROM THE 1914 MAP OF NEW MEXICO BY THE GEOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

OFICINAS DE CORREOS
DE
LA REPUBLICA MEXICANA
ENERO 1 DE 1884

EN LA CAPITAL
Administracion general, Administracion local de Mexico

OFICINAS FORANEAS

Estado de Aguascalientes - Aguascalientes, Asientos, Calvillo, Calpulalpan

Territorio de la Baja California - Bahia de la Magdalena, Ensenada de Todos Santos, La Paz, Loreto, Miraflores, Mulege, Purisima Concepcion, Real del Castillo, San Antonio, San Bartolome, San Ignacio, San Jose del Cabo, San Lucas, Santiago, San Telmo, Santa Agueda, Santo Tomas, Tijuana, Todos Santos, Triunfo.

Estado de Campeche - Bolonchen, Calkini, Campeche, Carmen, Champoton, Hecelchakan, Palizada, Tenabo.

Estado de Coahuila - Abasolo, Allende, Arteaga, Candela, Castanos, Coyote, Cuatro Cienagas, Fuente, Gigedo, Guerrero, Matamoros de la Laguna, Monclova, Morelos, Muzquiz, Nadadores, Nova, Parras, Patos, Piedras Negras, Progreso, Ramos Arizpe, Rio Grande, Rosales, Sacramento, Saltillo, San Buenaventura, San Juan de Salinas, San Pedro de las Colonias, San Pedro Ocampo, Sierra Mojada, Viesca, Villa Jimenez.

Estado de Colima - Colima, Manzanillo, Villa de Alvarez.

Estado de Chiapas - Cacahuatan, Catazaja, Comitán, Chiapa, Chilon, Galera de Capilla, Ixta comitan, Micuilapa, Ocozingo, Ocozocuautla, Pichucalco, Progreso, San Cristobal las Casas, San Bartolome, San Carlos, Santa Efigenia, Simojovel, Tapachula, Teopisca, Tonala, Tuxtla Chico, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Union Juarez, Zapaluta, Zapote.

Estado de Chihuahua - Abasolo, Aldama, Allende, Arteaga, Ascension, Batopilas, Bravos, Carrizal, Cuiteo, Chihuahua, Chinipa, Galeana, Guadalupe y Calvo, Guerrero, Hidalgo del Parral, Huejuquilla, Janos, Jesus Maria, Matamoros, Meoqui, Minefal de Morelos, Ojinaga, Pilar de Conchos, Rio Florido, Rosales, San Pablo, Santa Rosalia, Temosachic, Uruachic, Victoria, Yoquiva, Zapuri.

Distrito Federal - Aculco, Atzacapotzalco, Guajimalpa, Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mexico, Mixcoac, San Angel, Tacuba, Tacubaya, Tlalpam, Xochimilco.



Estado de Durango - Amaculi, Amatlan, Avino, Canelas, Cerro Gordo, Copalquin, Cuencame, Chavarria, Durango, Gavilanes, Guanacevi, Guichapam, Hacienda de la Loma, Inde', Mapimi, Mezquital, Nazas, Nombre de Dios, Papasquiario, Penon Blanco, Rodeo, San Andres de la Sierra, San Dimas, San Juan de Guadalupe, San Juan del Rio, San Miguel de Bocas, Santa Maria del Oro, Sianori, Tamazula, Tepehuanes, Tonimil, Topia, Vaca Ortiz, Villa Lerdo.

Estado de Guanajuato - Acambaro, Apaseo, Celaya, Cortazar, Coroneo, Cutzeo de Abasolo, Dolores Hidalgo, Guanimatoro, Guanajuato, Irapuato, Jaral, Jaripitio, Jerecuaro, La Luz, Leon, Mineral de Pozos, Moroleon, Ocampo, Penjamo, Purisima

del Rincon, Quemada, Pomita, Salamanca, Salvatierra, San Diego del Biscocho, San Juan de Ocampo, San Felipe, San Francisco del Rincon, San Jose Iturbide, San Luis de la Paz, San Miguel Allende, San Pedro Piedra Gorda, Santa Catarina, Santa Cruz, Santiago, Silao, Tarandacuaro, Tierra Blanca, Uriangato, Valle de Santiago, Victoria, Xichu, Yuriria.

Estado de Guerrero - Acapulco, Atoyac, Ayutla, Coyuca de Mina, Cutzamala, Chilapa, Chilpancingo, Iguala, Ometepec, San Jeronimo, San Marcos, Tasco, Teopan, Teloloapan, Tepecuacuilco, Tixtla Guerrero, Tlapa, Union.

Estado de Hidalgo - Acaxochitlan, Actopan, Alfajayucan, Apam, Apulco, Atotonilco el Grande, Ferreria de la Encarnacion, Hacienda de Guadalupe, Huasca, Huautla, Huexutla, Huichapan, Ixmiquilpan, Jacala, Mezquititlan, Metztlitlan,

Mineral del Chico, Mineral del Monte, Mixquihuala, Molango, Napala, Omitlan, Ozumbilla, Pachuca, Pisaflores, Singuilucan, Tecocautla, Tepsapulco, Tepeji del Rio, Tezontepec, Tlanquistengo, Tizayuca, Tlanchinol, Tula de Hidalgo, Tulancingo, Xochiatipan, Yahualica, Zacualtipan, Zempoala, Zimapan.

Estado de Jalisco - Ahualulco, Amatitlan, Ameca, Arandas, Atenquillo, Atotonilco, Atoyac, Ayo del Chico, Autlan, Barra, Ciudad Guzman, Cocula, Colotlan, Comanja, Cuale, Cuquilo, Chamela, Chapala, Degollado, Etzatlan, Ferreria de Tula, Guadalajara, Huauchinango, Hostotipaquillo, Huejucar, Ixtlahuaca, Jalostitlan, Jocotepec, Lagos, Ledesma, Magdalena, Mascota, Mazamitla, Metzticacan, Ocotlan, Ojuelos, Purificacion, Teco de Cuarentena, Quitupan, San Gabriel, San Geronimo, San Juan de los Lagos, San Martin de la Cal, San Miguel el Alto, San Sebastian, Sapotiltic, Santa Ana, Apatlan, Sayula, Tula, Talpa, Tamazula de Gordiano, Tapalpa, Tecatitlan, Tecolotlan, Techaluta, Tenamaxtlan, Teocaltiche, Teocuitatlan, Tepatitlan, Tequila, Teuchitlan, Tlaquemulco,



Tizapan el Alto, Tomatlan, Tonaya, Tonila, Tuxpam, Union de Tula, Villa de la Encarnacion, Yahualica, Zacoalco, Zapotlanejo.

Estado de Mexico - Acambay, Almolaya, Amanalco, Amecameca, Atlacomulco, Ayotla, Calimaya, Cuautitlan, Chalco, Chapa de Mota, Huehuetoca, Ixtapan del Oro, Ixtlahuaca, Jilotepec, Lerma, Malinalco, Mineral del Oro, Ometusco, Otumba, Ozumba, Papalotla, Polotitlan, Salto, San Felipe del Obrje, Soyani-quilpan, Sultepec, Tecualoya, Tejupilco, Temascalcingo, Temascaltepec, Tenancingo, Tenango del Aire, Tenango del Valle, Teo tihuacan, Tepetlaxtloc, Tepexpan, Texcaltitlan, Texcoco, Tlalmanalco, Tlalnepantla, Tlanguistengo, Toluca, Villa del Valle de Bravos, Xuchitepec, Zacualpan, Zinacantepec, Zumpango.

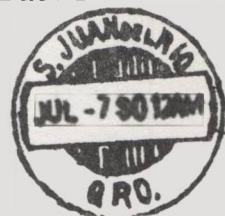
Estado de Michoacan - Acuitzeo, Angamacutiro, Anganguero, Apatzingan, Ario de Rosales, Coahuayana, Coalcoman, Coeneo, Cotija, Cuitzeo, Chucandiro, Ecuandureo, Huacana, Huetamo, Indaparapeo, Jiquilpan, La Piedad, Los Reyes, Maravatio, Morelia, Nuevo Urecho, Paracuaro, Paracho, Patzcuaro, Penjamillo, Pungarabato, Purepero, Puruandiro, Quiroga, Sahuayo, Santa Ana Maya, Santa Clara del Cobre, Tacambaro, Tajimaroa, Tancitaro, Tanguancicuaro, Taretan, Tinguindin, Tlalpujahua, Trojes, Toluatlan, Tuxpam de Maravatio, Uruapam, Zacapu, Zamora, Zinapécuaro, Zitacuaro.

Estado de Morelos - Cuautla, Cuernavaca, Jonacatepec, Mia-catlan, Puente de Ixtla, Tetecala, Tlaltizapan, Tlalquil-tenango, Tlayacapam, Yautepec.

Estado de Nuevo-Leon - Agualeguas, Allende, Apodaca, Aramburri, Bustamante, Cadereita Jimenez, Cerralvo, China, Doctor Arroyo, Galeana, General Bravo, General Teran, General Trevino, Hualahuises, Lampazos, Linares, Marin, Mier y Noriega, Mina, Montemorelos, Monterey, Paras, Rayones, Salinas Hidalgo, Salinas Victoria, Santa Catarina, Santiago, Soledad, Vallecillo, Villa Aladama, Villa de los Aldamas, Villa Garcia,

Estado de Oaxaca - Amapa, Coixtlahuaca, Cuicatlan, Choapam, Ejutla, Etla, Huajuapam de Leon, Huautla, Ixcatlan, Ixtaltepec, Jalapa de Diaz, Jamiltepec, Juchitan, Juquila, Miahuatlan, Nochistlan, Oaxaca, Ocotlan, Pinotepa Nacional, Pochutla, Salina Cruz, San Carlos, Silacayoapan, Tamazulapam, Tehuantepec, Teposcolula, Teotitlan del Camino, Tlacolula, Tlaxiaco, Tututepec, Tuxtepec, Juxtlahuaca, Villa Alta, Villa Juarez.

Estado de Puebla - Acatlan, Acahuate, Acatzingo, Aljojuca, Amozoc, Ajalpa, Aquixtla, Atlixco, Canada de Morelos, Coxcatlan, Cuyuaco, Chalchicomula, Chapulco, Chiautla, Chietla, Chignahuapan, Chila, Cholula, Dolores, Hue quechula, Huachinango, Huejotzingo, Ixcaquixtla, Ixtacamastitlan, Izucar de Matamoros, Libres, Miahuatlan(San Jose), Molcahuac,



Nopalucan, Palmar, Pahuatlan, Petlalcingo, Puebla, Quecholac, Rinconada, San Marcos, San Salvador Atoyatempa, San Salvador el Seco, San Salvador el Verde, Santa Ines Ahuatempa, Santa Isabel Tlalnepantla, Tecali, Tecamachalco, Tehuacan, Tepango, Tepeaca, Tepeji de la Seda, Tepeyahualco, Tetela de Ocampo, Texmelucan, Teziutlan, Tlacotepec, Tlatlauquitepec, Tochimilco, Tixtepec, Zacatlan, Zacapoaxtla, Zapotitlan.

Estado de Queretaro - Amealco, Amoles, Arteaga, Bernal, Cadereyta, Jalpan, Queretaro, San Juan del Rio, Tequisquiapan, Toliman, Tolimanejo, Vizarron.

Estado de San Luis Potosi - Ahualulco, Alaquines, Aquismon, Armadillo, Axtla, Carbonera, Catorce, Cedral, Cerritos, Ciudad del Maiz, Ciudad de Valles, Charcas, Guadalcasar, Guadalupe, Huetlan, Jilitla, Lagunillas, La Pastora, Matehuala, Moctezuma, Ramos, Rayon, Rio Verde, Salinas, San Ciro, San Luis Potosi, San Martin, Santa Maria del Rio, Tamazunchale, Tampamolon, Tancanhuitz, Tamuin, Tanquian, Tierra Nueva, Venado, Villa Arreaga, Villa de Reyes, Zomorelia.

Estado de Sinaloa - Altata, Bacubirito, Badiguarato, Brecho, Capirot, Concordia, Copala, Cosala, Croix, Culiacan, Elota, Escuinapa, Fuerte, Guadalupe de los Reyes, Higuera de Zaragoza, Mazatlan, Mocorito, Noria, Panuco, Pericos, Playas Cloradas, Quila, Rosario, San Ignacio, Sinaloa, Tocuixtitu, Union.

Estado de Sonora - Aconchi, Aduana, Agiabampo, Alamos, Altar, Atil, Angeles, Arizpe, Arivechi, Babiadora, Babispe, Bacuachic, Banamiche, Baroyeca, Batuc, Bronces, Caborca, Cedros, Francisco Granados, Fronteras, Guaymas, Hermosillo, Horcasitas, Huepac, Imures, Magdalena, Moctezuma, Mulatos, Nacoris, Navajoa, Nogales, Noria de Valles, Opodepe, Oquitoa, Pitiquito, Promontorios, Quiriego, Quitovaquita, Rayon, Rosario, Sahuaripa, San Antonio, San Javier, San Marcial, San Pedro Galominas, Santa Cruz, Saric, Soyapa, Tecoripa, Trinidad, Tubutama, Ures, Villa, Pesqueira.

Estado de Tabasco - Balancan, Cardenas, Comalcalco, Cunduacan Frontera, Huimanguillo, Jalapa, Jonuta, Macuspana, Montecrist Nacajuca, Paraiso, Raices, San Carlos, San Juan Bautista, Tacotalpa, Teapa, Tenosique, Tepetitlan, Usumacinta.

Estado de Tamaulipas - Aldama, Altamira, Antiguo Morelos, Bagdad, Burgos, Bustamante, Camargo, Ciudad Victoria, Cruilla Escandon, Guemez, Guerrero, Hidalgo, Jaumave, Jimenez, Magiscatzin, Matamoros, Mier, Miquihuana, Nueve Laredo, Nuevo Morelos, Padilla, Palmillas, Panuco, Reynosa, San Carlos, San Fernando, San Nicolas (Degollado), Santa Barbara de Ocampo, Soto la Marina, Tampico, Tancasnequi, Tula de Tamaulipas, Villagran, Villa Mendez, Xicotencatl.



Canton de Tepic - Acaponeta, Ahuacatlan, Amatlan de las Canas, Compostela, Ixtlan, Jala, San Blas, San Luis, Santiago, Tepic.

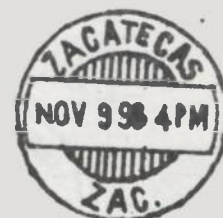
Estado de Tlaxcala - Apizaco, Calpulalpan, Cuapiaxtla, Huamantla, Nativitas, Santa Ana Chiautempan, Santa Ines Zacatelco, Tlaxcala, Tlaxco.

Estado de Vera Cruz - Acayucan, Altotonga, Alvarado, Amatlan Chalcaltianguis, Amatlan Tuxpam, Antigua Veracruz, Atempam, Atoyac, Atzalan, Banderilla, Boca del RIO, Camaron, Catemaco, Coatepec, Cordoba, Cosamaloapam, Cosautlan, Coscomatepec, Coatzacoalcos, Chalcaltianguis, Chicontepec, Chinameca, Espiral, Fortin, Gutierrez Zamora, Huatusco, Huayacocotla, Ixhuacan, Jalacingo, Jalapa, Jaltipan, Jicaltepec, Jico, Maltrata, Mazatepec, Medellin, Minatitlan, Misantla, Naranjal, Nautla, Naolinco, Nogales, Orizaba, Otatitlan, Ozuluama, Papantla, Paso del Macho, Paso de Novillos, Paso de Ovejas, Paso de San Juan, Perote, Platon Sanchez, Playa Vicente, Pueblo Viejo, Puente Nacional, San Andres Tuxtla, San Carlos, San Cristobal Llave, San Juan Evangelista, San Pedro Coyutla, Santiago Tuxtla, Soyaltepec, Soledad, Suchil, Tamiahua, Tantina, Tantoyuca, Tecolutla, Tihuatlan, Temapache, Teocelo, Tesechoacan, Teteles, Tlacotalpam, Tlaliscocoyan, Tlapacoyan, Tuxpan, Tuxtilla, Valle Nacional Veracruz, Xico, Zamapa, Zongolica.

Estado de Yucatan - Acaceh, Cacalchen, Cansahcab, Citas, Citilcum, Chicxulub, Cholul, Euan, Espita, Halacho, Huji, Hunucma, Ixil, Izamal, Kinchil, Maldonado, Mama, Maxcanu, Merida, Motul, Nolo, Oxkutzcab, Peto, Progreso, Sacalum, Seye, Sisal, Sitilpech, Sitpach, Sotuta, Tekax, Temax, Tiaul, Tispehual, Tiskokob, Tizimin, Tunkax, Uayma, Valladolid.

Estado de Zacatecas - Apozol, Bolanos, Chalchhuites, Fresnillo, Jalpa, Jerez, Juchipila, Mazapil, Nieves, Nochistlan, Noria de los Angeles, Ojocaliente, Panuco, Pinos, Rio Grande, Sain Alto, San Juan del Mezquital, San Mateo, San Miguel del Mezquital, San Pedro Piedra Gorda, Saucedo, Sierra Hermosa, Sombrerete, Tepechitlan, Tepetongo, Teul, Tlaltenango, Valparaiso, Veta Grande, Villa de Cos, Villa Garcia, Villa de Guadalupe, Villa del Refugio, Villanueva, Zacatecas.

The above is copied from the "Codigo Postal de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos", the Postal Code of the United Mexican States, dated January 1, 1884.



TERRITORIAL POSTMASTERS OF NEW MEXICO - THE HILTONS OF SAN ANTONIO

By Thomas K. Todsén

The name of Hilton is known throughout the civilized world as the emblem of a standard of hotel excellence. Few of the people who are familiar with the plush modern-day Hilton hostelrys realize that the man behind the name came from the hamlet of San Antonio, New Mexico, where his father was an area merchant and he himself was once the local banker.

- - - - -

The first Hilton in San Antonio was Augustus Holver Hilton. Born in 1854 on the family farm near Oslo, Norway, he was brought to America at the age of 7 by his older brother after his parents had died of tuberculosis. He went to school in Fort Dodge, Iowa, but dropped out of high school to go to work. In 1878, he was clerking in Fort Dodge and courting Mary Laufersweiler, daughter of a prominent Fort Dodge merchant.

Feeling that there would be greater opportunity in the expanding areas of Colorado and New Mexico, he first went to Leadville about 1880. However, the cold brought back the spectre of his parents' death so in 1881 we find him in Santa Fe. Still not doing as well as he wanted, he moved south with the railroad to Albuquerque and then to Socorro, where, in 1882, he contracted to supply stone for a new smelter being built south of town to handle the Water Canyon and Kelly ores. He and his crew of six were attacked by Apaches at the quarry, only he and one other escaping alive.

This experience convinced him that he should return to the mercantile field so he moved to San Antonio and set up his business of trading throughout west central New Mexico. He built a three room store in 1883 and brought his nephew, Holm O. Bursum, out from Fort Dodge to clerk for him and to run the store while he travelled over his trading territory. On January 2, 1885, Hilton became postmaster of San Antonio and was replaced on June 20, 1893, by Thomas J. Fleeman. He took over again on August 28, 1896, and continued this time until May 15, 1905.

On February 12, 1885, he and Mary Laufersweiler were married. Over the years the Hiltons had eight children, Felice A. and Conrad Nicholson (of whom more later); Eva, born 1890; Carl, born 1892; Julian, born 1896, died 1898; Rosemary, born 1899; August Harold, born 1901; and Helen, born 1903. Mary was a devout Catholic and raised all the children in the Faith. Gus could take his religion or leave it alone, but he was firm in his instruction relating to business and in his belief in the value of education.

As the Hilton businesses prospered, Gus expanded, adding rooms to his house as the family grew, and adding buildings to accommodate the business. In the middle 1890's, he operated a stage line to White Oaks. He gradually acquired the coal mines at Carthage, New Mexico, and sold them in 1904 for \$135,000. He became the dealer for Studebaker buggies and wagons in 1898 and this in later years became his Sierra Motor Company, a Ford agency. When the crash

of 1907 came, he had over extended and lost most of his money, but started again. It was at this time that the extra rooms became the Hilton Hotel where all the Hiltons worked and Mary's German cooking became justly famed among the travelling salesmen and railroad men who stopped over in San Antonio. About 1909, thinking once more of expansion, he organized the bank in Hot Springs, New Mexico. He moved most of his mercantile efforts to Socorro about 1910, but retained his ties in San Antonio. In 1915, he took such losses that he sold all his wholesale and retail businesses and reorganized as A. H. Hilton and Son, dealing solely in livestock, wool, mohair, and peltries.

Though he was primarily concerned with business interests, he did take time to serve on the Socorro County School Board and as a county commissioner. George Curry, the last Territorial governor of New Mexico, appointed him a Colonel Aide-de-Camp. "Colonel" Hilton organized and led many a parade and usually had a keg of whiskey tapped and ready for the fiesta afterward.

Concerning his death, I quote retired A. T. & S. F. engineer Frank Davey, "On January 1, 1919, Mickey Gallagher and another brakeman, whose name I have forgotten, and I were seated in the pool hall at San Marcial. An hombre came running in, and said a car had turned over up near Tiffany, and a man was pinned underneath.

"Mickey and I borrowed a car from Mr. Armstrong and went to Tiffany, three miles north of San Marcial, to see what we could do. It was freezing out, and it was snowing.

"We found the car without trouble, an old Model-T Ford. It was loaded with sacks of feed. Underneath was Gus Hilton. We managed to lift the car and drag Gus out. We gently put him in the car we were driving and went back to San Marcial where we put him on a pool table. Dr. Bessette who had been called moved forward to examine him. Gus Hilton was dead."

It was said of Gus Hilton that there wasn't a more energetic worker or "more complete man" in Socorro County. He is buried in the San Miguel Church cemetery in Socorro.

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The second Hilton postmaster in San Antonio was Felice A. Hilton, the eldest child of the clan, she having been born in February 1886? in San Antonio. An ardent church worker, she was teaching in Socorro primary schools in 1908. She became postmaster 19 December 1907 and gave up the post to her brother, Conrad. She married Cony Brown, Jr in Chicago in 1912. Shortly thereafter, the Browns moved to New Jersey. There they raised a family of four children. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Brown moved back to New Mexico and lived in Albuquerque. She died there on 12 February 1968 and is buried in the Hilton plot in Socorro.

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It is probably superfluous to say much about Connie Hilton since biographies and an autobiography are generally available. However, all of these err regarding his tenure as postmaster of San Antonio, which was from 29 October 1910 until 21 December 1911. Mr. Hilton now agrees that this is probably correct, "if the records say so".

Conrad Nicholson Hilton was born on Christmas Day in 1887, the second child of the A. H. Hiltons. He started school in San Antonio at the age of eight, receiving the equivalent of a fourth grade education there. Then he went to Goss Military Institute in Albuquerque, to Saint Michael's in Santa Fe, and for three years to New Mexico Military Institute, finally finishing high school in Long Beach, California in 1906. He also attended New Mexico School of Mines in Socorro for two years.

All this time, his father had taught him the intricacies of the business world so well that he took over management of the San Antonio establishments when Gus moved to Socorro about 1910. This was when he took over the postmastership from his sister. While carrying on the businesses, in 1911 he ran for the Legislature under the sponsorship of his cousin, H. O. Bursum, who by that time was a power in New Mexico politics. He served in the first State legislature in 1912 and 1913, and was a member of the Solid Seventeen, the group responsible for the election of Albert Bacon Fall (of Teapot Dome fame) to the United States Senate.

Following this, he decided to enter the banking business and personally sold all 300 shares in the San Antonio State Bank. Some of the larger shareholders elected a Mr. Allaire president and Connie had to settle for cashier, but, at the following annual meeting of the stockholders, he had obtained enough proxies so that he had control of the bank after that.

After enlisting during World War I, he sold his interest in the bank. He was commissioned in the Quartermaster Corps and spent almost a year in France, where he received word of his father's death. He returned home and was discharged on 11 February 1919.

Connie took over all of his father's businesses, but really wanted to get back into banking. On the advice of a friend from Albuquerque, he went to Cisco, Texas, in the middle of the Texas oil boom, to look for a small bank, but ended up buying the Mobley Hotel instead. After consolidating his position, he bought the Melba in Fort Worth, and the Waldorf in Dallas. Selling all of these, he built the first Hilton Hotel in Dallas, the doors opening on August 4, 1925. That same day Connie married Mary Barron. Their first son, Conrad N. Hilton, Jr., was born 6 July 1926, and their second son, William Barron Hilton, was born 23 October 1927.

Meanwhile, Connie embarked on the construction of his hotel chain throughout Texas. By Christmas 1928, there were Hilton Hotels in Abilene, Waco, Marlin, Plainview, San Angelo, and Lubbock. The El Paso Hilton was completed on 5 November 1930, despite the depression.

sion. However, the decrease in business resulted in Connie's having to give up ownership of one hotel after the other and finally he was only managing.

With the resurgence as the depression lessened, Connie's fortunes also took an upswing. He acquired and refurbished hotels in Long Beach and San Francisco. He pressed further and obtained the Palmer House in Chicago and then his crowning achievement, the Waldorf-Astoria. There was then no limit, and now the Hilton empire covers the globe, watched over by Connie, as Chairman of the Board, from his Beverly Hills mansion.

What about the B and
of which key ordered nearly
a week ago — I not
shipped immediately
advise us so that the car
get it elsewhere

To A. H. Hilton
San Antonio 11-22-88

Maybe Gus was getting ready for a parade!



One of several postmarks used by Gus Hilton



The only postmark used by Felice and Conrad Hilton



**The Hilton family about 1893
L. to R.; Felice, Mary, Conrad, Carl, August, Eva**



One of the Hilton mercantile establishments

Photos courtesy of Conrad N. Hilton

THE POST OFFICES OF WYOMING: PART XII, SWEETWATER COUNTY

By Daniel Y. Meschter

Sweetwater County was named Carter County when it was erected by the Dakota Legislature on December 27, 1867. Like Laramie County (La Posta, 4/4), it was older than Wyoming itself, but lost its identity when the Wyoming Legislature changed its name to Sweetwater on December 13, 1869.

Carter County was taken from the west half of Laramie County and originally stretched from Colorado to Montana. It was named for William A. Carter, the post trader at Fort Bridger (Uinta County). The county seat was at South Pass City (now in Fremont County) until 1873 when it was moved to Green River City.

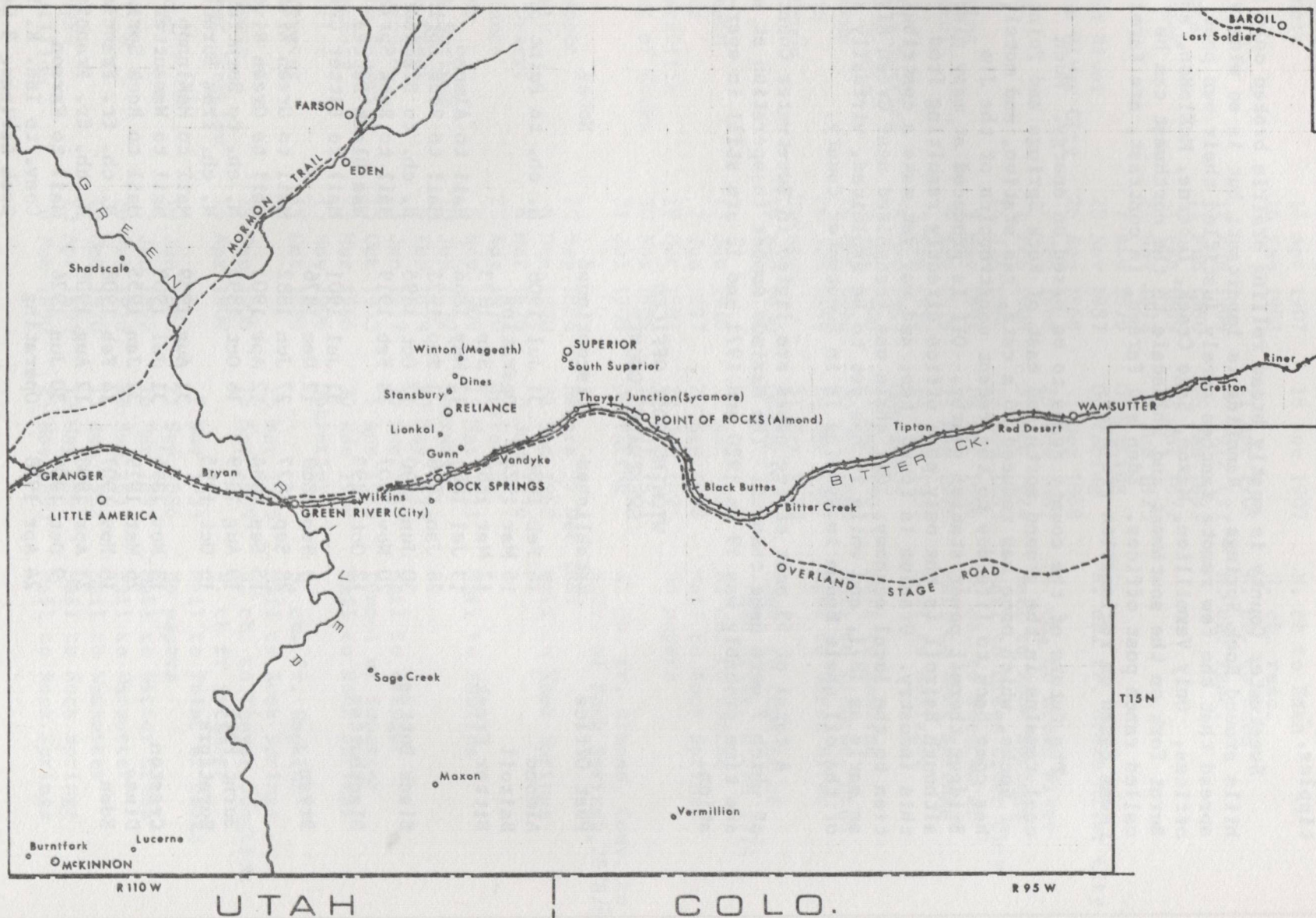
This huge county was somewhat reduced first in 1879 by the extension of Johnson County west of the mountains to the Big Horn River (La Posta, 5/5). It was then reduced to about one-third of its original size by the partition of Fremont County in 1884. Finally, a small part of its southeast corner was transferred to Carbon County in 1886 because towns and ranches there were far more convenient to the Carbon County seat than to Green River City. Even so, Sweetwater County still is the eighth largest county in the adjacent United States and is larger than seven eastern states.

The Oregon and Mormon Trails west of South Pass lay mostly north of present-day Sweetwater County except for a portion of the Mormon Trail from South Pass to Fort Bridger across the northwest corner of the county. Indian pressures forced abandonment of these trails in the early 1860's in favor of the newer Overland Trail further south across the south half of Sweetwater County. The mail route was changed to the Overland Trail in mid-1862 and the first settlements in the county, aside from one on the Mormon Trail, were the stage stations scattered at 10 to 15 mile intervals along the trail. This trail was abandoned in its turn with the coming of the railroad in 1868. In the 1880's, the Rawlins to Fort Washakie wagon road and telegraph line was built across the extreme northeast corner of the county and Lost Soldier post office was at a stage station on it.

Like in most southern Wyoming counties, the first territorial post offices were along the railroad at Green River City, Bryan, Point of Rocks, Bitter Creek, and Granger. Bryan was the next to last of the "Hell-on-Wheels" construction camps and Point of Rocks was once a thriving town at the site of the old Almond stage station on the Overland Trail.

The transportation industry has dominated the county's economy as reflected by the 15 or so post offices along the railroad. Coal mining centered around Rock Springs was transportation oriented, too, since most of the production prior to 1955 was used for locomotive fuel. A ring of post offices from South Superior through Winton,

Sweetwater County Post Offices



UTAH

COLO.

Reliance, and Quealy served coal mining towns clustered around the tipples.

Sweetwater County is mostly broad rolling prairie broken only by hills around Rock Springs. Ranching is important; but is so widely spread that the few remote ranches rarely justified their own post offices. Only Vermillion, Maxon, Sage Creek, Lucerne, McKinnon, and Burnt Fork on the southwest and Shadscale to the northwest can be called ranch post offices. Eden and Farson, in contrast, are farming towns based on reclamation projects.

The future of the county seems to be based on energy. Much coal remains in the ground north and east of Rock Springs and Point of Rocks, which once was reduced to a cafe, gas station, and motel, has come back to life due to the recent construction of the Jim Bridger thermal power station nearby. Oil is produced at many places although Bairoil is the only post office directly resulting from this industry. Uranium is found, too, and may yet make a contribution to the local economy. Oil shale was recognized near Green River as early as 1871, and while it has yet to be exploited, virtually all of the oil shale known in Wyoming is in Sweetwater County.

A total of 53 post office names are listed in Sweetwater County of which 7 were name changes. The maximum number in operation at any one time probably was 19 in 1920 and 1921 and 12 are still in operation.

WYOMING POST OFFICES SWEETWATER COUNTY

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Almond	14 Feb 1884	31 Jul 1908	N. ch. to Point of Rocks
Bairoil	15 Mar 1924	Operating	
Bitter Creek	17 Mar 1869	2 Sep 1873	
	13 Jul 1881	12 May 1884	Mail to Almond
	28 Jan 1888	1 Sep 1971	Mail to Rock Springs
Black Buttes	30 Jun 1890	12 Oct 1895	N. ch. to Blackbuttes
	20 Nov 1907	28 Feb 1919	Mail to Rock Springs
Blackbuttes	12 Oct 1895		Was Black Buttes
		31 Jul 1901	Mail to Bitter Creek
Bryan	9 Sep 1868	12 Dec 1876	
	28 Sep 1877	27 Jun 1882	Mail to Green River City
	15 Sep 1884	12 Apr 1901	Mail to Green River
Burnt Fork	19 Aug 1879	16 Oct 1895	N. ch. to Burntfork
Burntfork	16 Oct 1895		N. ch. from Burnt Fork
		31 Aug 1939	Mail to McKinnon
Creston	18 Nov 1896	31 Jul 1909	Mail to Wamsutter
Dines	26 Mar 1919	31 Jan 1955	Mail to Rock Springs
Eden	18 Nov 1907	14 Feb 1908	N. ch. fr. Francis resc.
	21 Apr 1908	12 Aug 1908	N. ch. fr. Francis resc.
	9 Oct 1908	30 Jun 1926	Mail to Farson
	24 Apr 1928	Operating	Conv. to Ind. R. Sta. of Rock Springs, 3 Dec. 1965

Farson	19 Jun 1909	Operating	
Fisherville	6 Aug 1889	Unknown	
Francis	18 Apr 1907	18 Nov 1907	N. ch to Eden
	14 Feb 1908		N. ch. resc.
		21 Apr 1908	N. ch. to Eden
	12 Aug 1908	1912 (?)	N. ch. resc.
Gavera	11 Feb 1880	26 Jan 1881	
Granger	1 Feb 1869	22 Jul 187?	
	22 Nov 1872	16 Jun 1873	
	7 Aug 1876	Operating	
Green River	28 Nov 1887	Operating	N. ch. fr. Green River City
Green River City	26 Aug 1868	1 Dec 1868	
	7 Dec 1868	28 Nov 1887	N. ch. to Green River
Gunn	1 Feb 1908	31 Oct 1924	Mail to Rock Springs
Hale	14 Jan 1884	19 Nov 1885	Mail to Green River City
Hopkins	9 May 1891	19 Oct 1896	N. ch. to Sweetwater
Lionkol	9 Feb 1918	31 Aug 1926	Mail to Rock Springs
	5 Sep 1930	14 Apr 1932	Mail to Reliance
Little America	26 Oct 1963	Operating	
Lost Soldier	9 Jul 1906	31 Aug 1907	Mail to Rawlins
Lucerne	18 Oct 1894	30 Jul 1904	Mail to Linnred, Utah
Maxon	26 Jun 1889	14 Dec 1907	Mail to Green River
McKinnon	Unknown	31 Mar 1930	
	19 Nov 1930	Operating	Conv. to Comm Br of Green River, 4 Jan 1974
Megeath	13 Jun 1918	1 Mar 1927	N. ch. to Winton
Piper	2 Jun 1897	20 Sep 1898	Mail to Rock Springs
Pipersville	19 Oct 1891	22 Jun 1895	No papers
Point of Rocks	30 Nov 1868	17 Jul 1871	
	31 Jul 1908	Operating	N. ch. fr. Almond. Conv. to R.Br. of Rock Springs, 26/8/66
Prospect	25 Sep 1884	Before 31 Dec 1887	
Quealy	8 Dec 1920	28 Sep 1962	Mail to Rock Springs
Red Desert	6 Mar 1876	5 Jun 1876	
Reliance	23 Aug 1910	Operating	
Riner	8 Nov 1909	15 Mar 1911	Mail to Rawlins
Rock Springs	10 Jun 1872	Operating	
Sage Creek	6 Feb 1879	20 May 1879	
Shadscale	23 Jun 1917	15 Dec 1919	Mail to Granger
South Superior	15 Oct 1913	1 Apr 1923	Consol w/ Superior
Stansbury	29 Mar 1946	30 Nov 1959	Mail to Rock Springs
Superior	15 Nov 1906	Operating	
Sweetwater	19 Oct 1896		N. ch. fr. Hopkins
		15 Mar 1915	Mail to Rock Springs
Sycamore	18 Dec 1906	15 Apr 1909	N. ch. to Thayer Junction
Thayer Junction	15 Apr 1909		N. ch fr Sycamore
		7 Nov 1931	Mail to Point of Rocks
Tipton	19 Jun 1886	21 Sep 1886	No papers
	2 Jan 1892	14 Mar 1892	Mail to Bitter Creek
	26 Feb 1910	29 Sep 1917	Mail to Wamsutter
	13 Oct 1920	15 Jun 1922	Mail to Wamsutter
Vandyke	13 Apr 1894	13 May 1895	Mail to Rock Springs
Vermillion	6 Feb 1890	23 Nov 1893	Mail to Rock Springs

Wallrock	8 May 1901	29 Jul 1902	Ch. to Routt (offat) Co., Colo.
Wamsutter	23 Feb 1892	Operating	
Washam	3 Apr 1890	24 Oct 1903	Mail to Green River
Wilkins	21 Apr 1903	15 Sep 1908	Mail to Green River
Winton	1 Mar 1927		N. ch. fr Megeath
		31 Jan 1955	Mail to Rock Springs

EDITOR'S COMMENTS - Here we are overwhelming you with New Mexico again. But as I have said before, that's what I know best, and that's what I must fall back on. It would be nice to have a backlog of all sorts of articles so there would be a completely mixed bag each time.

I ask your indulgence on the typing. It's mostly my own hunt-and-peck.

The piece on Mexican postoffices is included because there seems to be an upswing of interest in our neighbor immediately south. And we could further justify it by saying that the Sierra Madre is just a continuation of the Rocky Mountains and that much of Arizona and New Mexico are parts of the Chihuahuan and Sonoran deserts, all of which go with the "Mountain and Desert West". Sometime soon, we'll give you a translation of that portion of the 1884 Mexican Postal Code on the railway postal service, unless I hear strong protests.

It would seem that advertising one's home town as the "Best place on Earth" or some such is not new. The cover illustration is from a 1913 calendar, at a time when there were many gold and silver camps that far outstripped Mogollon. That old town, incidentally, is being resurrected as are so many of the western ghost towns, and the gold comes not from the mines but from tourists' pockets. However, people are building summer homes to take advantage of the 7000' altitude and there are numbers of artists who appreciate the spectacular mountains and the unhurried atmosphere.

Good postal history material patently continues to rise in value and, of course, in price in the various auctions. A few cover examples from D. G. Phillips' 24 February sale: Keokuk, Iowa Territory, 14/3/1846 - \$101.50; Fort Craig, N. Mex., 10/15/1877 - \$112.50; Astoria (pre-territorial Oregon), 1845 - \$1075!

In Bill Helbock's April letter, he was commenting that there were just 270 more days to go, and that he really missed the U. S. of A. So-- we can look forward to his taking up the editorial task again, come Volume 7. HASTA LA VISTA! TOM TODSEN
