

# LA POSTA



Salt Lake City in the 1870s. (Western Collection, Denver Public Library)

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# LA POSTA

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## TERRITORIAL POSTMASTERS OF NEW MEXICO - PAT COGHLAN, KING OF TULAROSA

By Thomas K. Todsén

Not all of the postmasters of New Mexico Territory (any more than any other frontier area) were the fine outstanding citizens that we would like to think of as typifying dependable appointed officials. New Mexico had its share of cheats, thieves and tyrants and one of the best documented of these latter was Patrick Coghlan, postmaster of Tularosa from 24 December 1877 to 21 March 1886, and again from 13 February 1889 to some time in 1892.

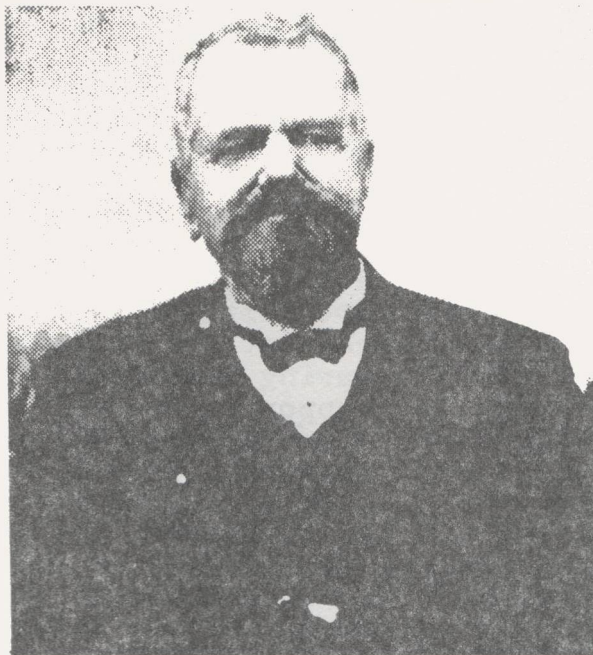
Born on the 14th or 15th of March 1822 at Clonakilty, County Cork in Ireland, he came to America to seek his fortune in 1845, or possibly 1848 as some sources have it. How he fared is not recorded, but after two years he enlisted in the United States Army. Mustered-out at San Antonio, Texas in 1852, he bought a farm near Cherry Springs not far from Fort Mason, Texas, and, after three years moved to Fort Mason itself where he dealt in cattle and general merchandise. In 1862 Coghlan married Ann Crosby, a 22 year old who was also born in Ireland. Sometime later the Coghlands moved to Mebard County, Texas, where Pat purchased another farm (it was said that he planned to contract for supplies to nearby Fort McKavett).

In 1873, or possibly 1872, Pat Coghlan came to New Mexico driving a herd of cattle stolen from his farther-in-law (according to a later interview with his nephew). He settled briefly in 1874 at the Block Ranch in the Rio Hondo Valley about 25 miles from Capitan, and, probably with money from the sale of his trail herd, began acquiring land at Three Rivers and in Tularosa. In 1874, Coghlan bought all the unoccupied and unused lots in Tularosa from Perfecto Armijo, Probate Judge (and then postmaster) in Tularosa. By 1883 Coghlan owned more than half of the town. At the same time he began acquiring land in the Three Rivers area beginning with Joe Wingfield's ranch, and added additional parcels from Juan Chavez and others. In time Coghlan's spread extended 8 miles west from the Mescalero Apache Reservation boundary and almost 15 miles north from the Rio Tularosa.

All this acquisition had its basis not only in legal merchandising, since Pat had the largest store in Tularosa and owned the La Luz sawmill, but also in some particularly shady dealings. Pat had the contract to supply beef to the US Army at Fort Stanton. He worked-out an amiable little arrangement with Billy the Kid to meet the terms of his contract. Billy was to rustle cattle from the east side of Lincoln County, including John Chisum's, and drive them up to the Panhandle of Texas to sell. Then he would rustle

cattle in the Panhandle from such outfits as the LX Ranch and drive them back to New Mexico to sell to Coghlan. If they were particularly good stock, Pat would have the herd trailed to Mexico or Arizona, otherwise they went to Pat's slaughter pens to feed the Army.

Unfortunately for Pat, Charlie Siringo was hired by the LX Ranch in February 1881 to find out what was happening to their cattle. Charlie found five hides with the LX brand at Pat's slaughter operation near Fort Stanton. He warned Pat not to continue. Pat promised after being threatened with force to mend his ways, but said he could not round-up the LX cattle for two months. Someone tried to ambush Siringo the next day on his way to White Oaks, but Charlie thought it was some Indians so he went



Patrick Coghlan

on to White Oaks to wait for Pat to assemble the cattle. Soon he heard that the LX animals were being sold as fast as Pat could find them, so Charlie gathered his men and went to Fort Stanton where he again found fresh hides with LX brands. He proceeded on to Coghlan's Three Rivers Ranch where all that could be found were eight LX cattle. The Deputy US Marshal then placed Pat under arrest, and in due time Coghlan was indicted by the grand jury in Mesilla. Pat did some fancy plea bargaining (and was rumored to have bribed the prosecuting attorney as he tried to bribe the Marshal). The result was that Coghlan pleaded guilty to having bought stolen cattle, with all other charges dropped. He paid a \$150 fine and court costs. He was however subsequently sued by the LX Ranch people and had to pay them almost \$2500 in damages during late 1882.

Two of the witnesses who were to have appeared against Pat Coghlan were Mr. and Mrs. George Nesmith, caretaker and house-keeper at his Three Rivers Ranch (Mr. Nesmith was the first postmaster in Tularosa). The Nesmiths and their small daughter were murdered on their way to Mesilla for the trial. The murderers, who were finally caught some four years later, described their employer as a red-haired man from Tularosa, but could not identify Coghlan as the individual.

All the cumshaw and trial costs apparently put Pat in a bind for cash. It is recorded that on 16 April 1886, he executed a \$15,000 mortgage deed to Numa Reymond and Martin Lohman of Las Cruces. In 1892 things had gotten so bad that he borrowed \$26,795.48 from Reymond on a 12 and 1/2 per cent note. The latter resulted in a foreclosure proceeding against Coghlan in which he lost all his cattle and horses. In 1906 Coghlan still owed over \$13,000 for which the Three Rivers property was stated to be security, but by that time Pat had already sold the property to Albert Bacon Fall, later to gain infamy through the Teapot Dome Scandal.

Mrs. Coghlan died in 1903 and was thus spared Pat's final days of diminished fortunes. He gradually lost everything: his cattle, his ranches, his farm property, and finally his health. He pottered in things horticultural even winning a gold medal first prize for his peaches at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis in 1904. During Pat's last two years he was forced to rely on friends for support. He died on 22 January 1911, and was buried in El Paso. His total estate was then valued at about \$4,600, but bills and judgements were \$1,000 more than that.

Pat was not all bad of course, but reflected the era in which he lived. Having no children of his own, he always had time for those of others. He had a powerful physique, and was often the winner of athletic contests. He who eventually became a pauper was said to be always willing to help the poor.

Coghlan's own semi-autobiographical sketch in 1907 makes no mention of his extra-legal activities. Instead, it emphasizes his prowess in fighting Indians, his ability to prosper in spite of continual depredations by thieves, robbers and rustlers, and his sterling character as a pioneer. As appeared in his obituary: "Peace be to his ashes. May the sod rest lightly on his breast."

#### REFERENCES:

Charles, Mrs. Tom, More Tales of the Tularosa, Bennett, Alamogordo.  
Sonnichsen, C. L. Tularosa, Devin-Adair, New York, 1960.  
US Census, New Mexico, Dona Ana County, 1880.  
General Services Admin., "Records of Appointments to Postmasters, New Mexico", microfilm.  
History of New Mexico, Pacific Publishing Company, 1907.  
Tularosa Valley Tribune, 28 January 1911.





P. COGHLAN



DEALER IN GENERAL MERCHANDISE,

PROPRIETOR OF LA LUZ SAW-MILL.

Tularosa, Dona Ana Co., N. M. 188

W. H. Skidmore Esq

Dear Sir

I did not wait-

to see you in passing your place I surely  
 expected to see the mortgage when I returned  
 you made an excuse when I saw you  
 that was very plausible but now what  
 excuse can you make surely you had  
 had ample time to see me back from  
 your station or I shall take such steps  
 as will surprise you

Yours truly  
 P. Coghlan

Return to P. COGHLAN,  
 TULAROSA, Dona Ana County, New Mexico,  
 If not delivered within 10 days.



W. H. Skidmore Esq

signed & paid  
 Dona Ana Co

## THE POST OFFICES OF WYOMING: PART XV, PARK COUNTY

By Daniel Y. Meschter and Ruth Dolezal

Park County was set-off from the western half of Big Horn County on February 15, 1909, and was organized on January 9, 1911. Geographically it was nearly the mirror image of Big Horn County. The eastern portion is an extension of the arid plains of western Big Horn County. West of Cody the land rises gradually toward the jagged crest of the Absaroka Range, a range which is the source of many streams that flow eastward through lush meadows and well-timbered hills. Park County derives its name from its proximity to Yellowstone National Park which lies on the other side of the mountains.

The economy, like that of Big Horn County, is based largely on natural resources: cattle, sheep, oil, irrigated farming, timber, hunting and tourism. In fact the early history of Park County is nearly indistinguishable from that of its parent county.

One thing different about Park County was that it had a very famous promoter: Buffalo Bill Cody himself. Cody saw as early as the 1890's that the abundant natural resources, relatively mild climate, and proximity to Yellowstone National Park combined to give the area potential for development and future prosperity. He was influential in obtaining government reclamation projects and attracting a branch of the Burlington Railroad which was built in 1901 from Toluca, Montana, to the town named for him.

Today Cody is the gateway to Yellowstone National Park, and offers tourist accommodations, western art, an excellent museum, and daily rodeo performances during the summer. As the popularity of the Park increases year by year, so too do the fortunes of Cody.

The postal history of Park County began in the early 1880's when a mail route was established north from Fort Washakie through Hot Springs and Park counties into Montana by way of Meeteetse, Arland and Corbett. The first post office in the county was opened at Papypoe during the summer of 1880. It was located in the far eastern part of the county along the Greybull River, and this location, together with the existence of a contemporary post office at Shell Creek in Big Horn County, suggest an unsuccessful attempt to pioneer a postal route over the Big Horn Mountains to join the Bozeman Trail near Sheridan.

The very early post office at Cooke was a mistake in location. It was soon discontinued, so far as Wyoming was concerned, when it was found to be in Montana. Nevertheless, early Park bound tourists from the south followed a road past Meeteetse, across the Stinkingwater (now Shoshone) River near Corbett, and northwest past the future sites of Painter and Crandall to Cooke City. Later, just after the turn of the century, the Forest Service built a road west from Cody up the Shoshone River past Pahaska, and into the Park over Sylvan Pass.

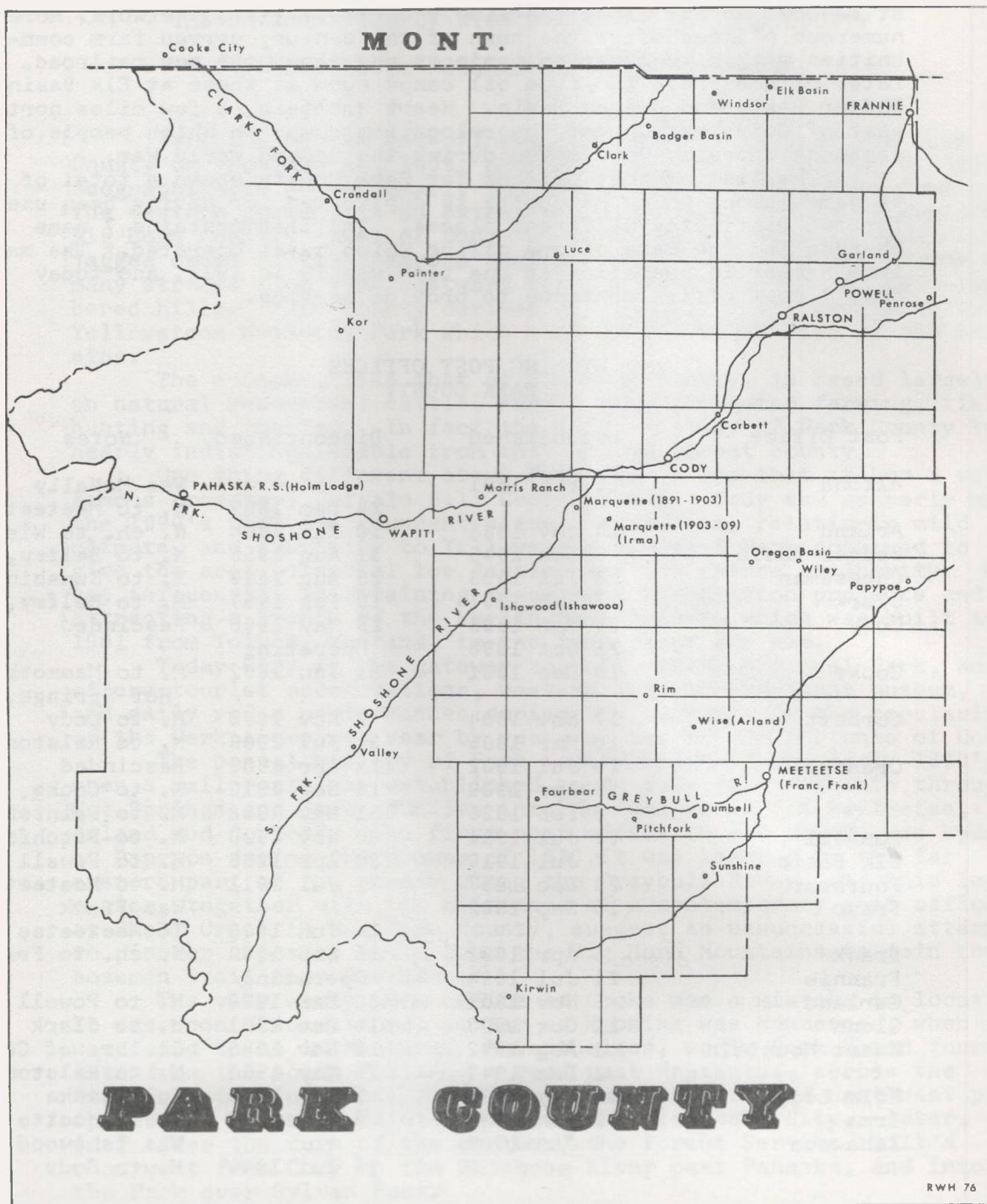
Most of the early post offices in Park County were located at ranches spread along the slowly developing road network. More numerous offices after the turn of the century served farm communities within reclamation projects and along the new railroad. Later offices resulted from oil camps such as those at Elk Basin, Badger Basin and Oregon Basin. Heart Mountain, a few miles north-east of Cody, was one of the relocation camps to which people of Japanese ancestry were moved during the Second World War.

The list of post offices for Park County shows a total of 48 names among which Marquette is duplicated for having been used for two distinctly different places. The list contains 7 name changes and the name of one office which never operated. The maximum number in operation at one time was 19 in 1911, and today only 7 post office continue to provide service.

#### WYOMING POST OFFICES PARK COUNTY

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Altona	12 Feb 1891		Was McNally
		24 Dec 1892	M. to Meeteetse
Arland	10 Nov 1885	18 Jun 1894	N. ch. to Wise
Badger Basin	6 Dec 1940	31 Aug 1956	M. to Belfry, MT
Cheeseman	25 Jul 1898	26 Aug 1899	M. to Sunshine
Clark	27 Feb 1891	10 Feb 1967	M. to Belfry, MT
Cody	24 Mar 1896	28 May 1896	Rescinded
	21 Oct 1896	Operating	
Cooke	23 Dec 1881	31 Jan 1882	M. to Mammoth
			Hot Springs, YNP
Corbett	17 Nov 1884	2 Nov 1898	M. to Cody
	10 Mar 1906	31 Jul 1908	M. to Ralston
Crandall	24 Jul 1902	14 Apr 1903	Rescinded
	16 Apr 1909	15 Nov 1910	M. to Cooke, MT
	9 Feb 1925	31 May 1928	M. to Painter
Dumbell	28 Jul 1911	30 Nov 1920	M. to Pitchfork
Elk Basin	7 Jul 1916	30 Apr 1956	M. to Powell
Fourbear	29 Dec 1897	31 Jul 1911	M. to Meeteetse
Franc	15 Sep 1882		Was Frank
		14 Jun 1883	To Meeteetse
Frank	6 Apr 1882	15 Sep 1882	N. ch. to Franc
Frannie	21 Jul 1894	Operating	
Garland	5 Nov 1901	30 Mar 1973	M. to Powell
Glenn	11 Oct 1900	14 Dec 1901	M. to Clark
Heart Mountain	1 Aug 1942	18 Nov 1945	Cl. br. of Cody
	1 Dec 1947	15 May 1953	M. to Ralston
Holm Lodge	28 May 1926	1 Aug 1950	To Pahaska
Irma	21 Jun 1898	8 Apr 1903	To Marquette
Ishawooa	6 Jan 1902		Was Ishawood
		15 Jul 1944	M. to Cody





Post office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Ishawood	10 Apr 1895	6 Jan 1902	To Ishawooa
Kirwin	6 Jun 1892	9 May 1894	M. to Sunshine
	16 Nov 1896	15 Oct 1920	M. to Meeteetse
Kor	13 Jun 1893	25 Jan 1895	M. to Clark
Luce	5 May 1911	15 Apr 1913	M. to Cody
Marquette	1 Apr 1891	31 Mar 1903	M. to Irma
Marquette	8 Apr 1903		Was Irma
		15 Sep 1909	M. to Cody
McNally	19 Jun 1890	12 Feb 1891	N. ch. to Altona
Meeteetse	14 Jun 1883	Operating	Was Franc
Morris Ranch	18 Sep 1913	15 Nov 1923	M. to Wapiti
Oregon Basin	12 Feb 1928	30 Jun 1932	M. to Cody
Pahaska	1 Sep 1950		Was Holm Lodge
		2 Feb 1963	To Ind. R. Sta.
Pahaska R.S. of Cody	2 Feb 1963	Operating	
Painter	29 Dec 1902	31 Oct 1950	M. to Cody
Papypoe	7 Jun 1880	22 Nov 1880	
Penrose	18 Oct 1905	30 Oct 1920	M. to Garland
Pitchfork	20 Feb 1914	31 Dec 1952	M. to Meeteetse
Powell	23 Jan 1908	Operating	
Ralston	16 Mar 1907	Operating	
Rim	2 Mar 1910	31 Aug 1913	M. to Meeteetse
Sunlight	31 Dec 1904	12 Jul 1905	Rescinded
Sunshine	4 Jan 1890	31 Jul 1955	M. to Meeteetse
Tinkcom	16 Jul 1898	30 Jun 1900	M. to Cody
Valley	30 Apr 1900	1 Jul 1959	To Rur. Sta.
Valley R.S. of Cody	1 Jul 1959	10 Jan 1973	
Wapiti	25 Apr 1904	14 Dec 1907	M. to Marquette
	18 Apr 1908	Operating	
Wiley	18 Sep 1906	15 Apr 1916	M. to Cody
Windsor	1 Aug 1903	31 Oct 1905	M. to Garland
Wise	18 Jun 1894		Was Arland
		15 Sep 1903	M. to Meeteetse
Woodriver	22 Jun 1898	3 Nov 1898	M. to Meeteetse

-----  
 NOTES: 1) "Was --" refers to change of name from --.  
 2) "N. ch. to --" or "To --" refers to name change to --.  
 3) "M. to --" refers to post office which took over service  
 of discontinued office.

\*\*\*\*\*

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 FRESH PERSPECTIVE. EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE FREELY GIVEN... rwh



## ARIZONA TERRITORIAL POSTMARKS, PART XIII

By Sheldon H. Dike

Town	type	Val.	Earliest	Latest	Owner	Owner	Killer	Notes
No.	No.	Postmark Code	Date	Date				
TUCSON (Cont'd.)								
30.	1	C1bT6B22 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 Jan 08	3 Jan 12	JOT	NLP	Waving flag	1
31.	3	REG	28 Sept 11m		?			
TURKEY								
1.	5	C1bN1B28	1 Apr 04	5 Nov 04	HHL			
2.	5	C	26 Apr 09		?			
3.	5	C	14 July 11		HHL			
TURNER (Cochise Co.)								
1.	5	A	26 Oct 05	19 Feb 08m	HHL	HHL		
2.	5	C	28 July 11	26 Jan 12	NLP	*		
VALVERDE								
1.	3	C1bN1B28	11 May 01	3 Apr 03	HHL	?		
2.	4	C1bN1B29 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 Oct 03	15 Aug 05	SHD	HHL		
VEKOL								
1.	5	C1bN1BBR27 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 Nov 89	16 Jan 91	NLP	?		
VERDE								
1.	8	OC1eN1RRB27	11 Jan 80m		HHL			
VERNON								
1.	6	C	29 May 11		NLP			
VICKSBURG								
1.	5	C	30 June 11	12 July 11	?	HHL		
VIVIAN								
1.	4	A	5 May 05	7 Sept 05	?	HHL		2
VULTURE								
1.	7	C1bN1BBR27	23 Sept 91	? June 94	HHL	?		
WAGONER								
1.	5	C1bN1BBR27 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 July 94	26 Dec 98	JOT	HHL		
2.	5	C1bN1B28	12 Mar 02	7 June 02	?	SHD		
3.	4	B	24 Feb 06	15 Feb 07	HHL	NLP		
4.	4	C	9 Mar 09	5 May 11	HHL	HHL		
WALKER								
1.	6	C1hN1B27 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 Nov 84	10 June 87	NLP	?		
2.	5	C1bN1BBR28	5 Nov 95	9 Nov 95	JOT	?		
3.	4	C1bN1B28	15 June 00		SHD			3
4.	4	C1bT1B29	3 Aug 04	29 Apr 05	NLP	?	Grid	
5.	3	C	19 July 09	7 Aug 11	?	HHL		
WALNUT GROVE								
1.	6	C21b'9N1rrB27	15 Mar 87	6 Apr 88	NLP	?		
2.	5	C1bN1BBR27 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 Dec 91	27 Mar 94	HHL	NLP		
3.	5	SL	30 Oct 94		FER			
4.	4	A	4 Sept 08	9 Jan 09	JOT	HHL		
5.	4	C	7 Oct 10	6 June 11	?	HHL		
WARREN								
1.	4	C	13 Jan 08		NLP			
2.	4	C	21 Oct 10	8 Apr 11	HHL	SHD		

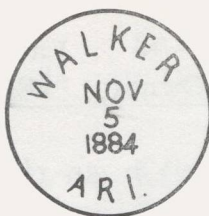
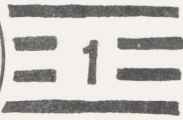
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1. Used in 1908, 1910, and 1912.
2. Latest listed is on piece.
3. Earliest listed is on piece.

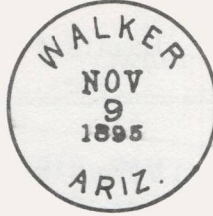
# ARIZONA TERRITORIAL POSTMARKS



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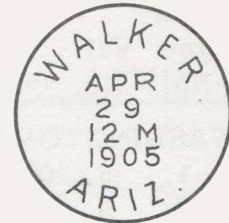
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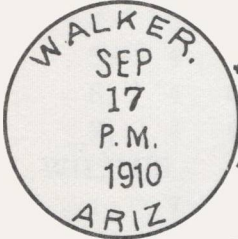
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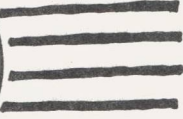
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4



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Walnut G

riz.

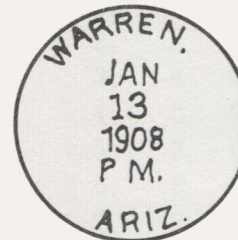
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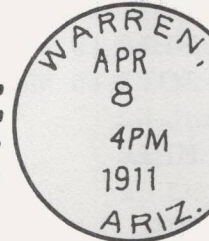
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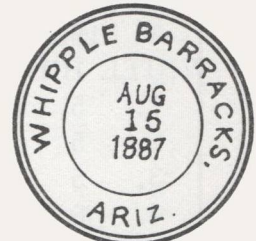
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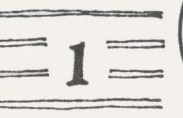
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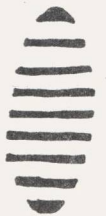
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6



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2



7



8



9



4

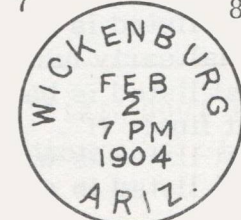


5



6

11



10





## ARIZONA TERRITORIAL POSTMARKS

Town type	Val. No.	Postmark Code	Earliest Date	Owner	Latest Date	Owner	Killer	Notes
WASHINGTON								
1.	5	C1bN1BBR27 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 Dec 96	NLP	30 June 00	SHD		
2.	5	C1bN1B?	9 Nov 98	*				1
3.	5	C1bT1B29	6 Mar 03	?			Grid	
WELLTON								
1.	4	M	19 Nov (07?)	HHL	7 Dec	? SHD		
2.	4	A	21 Sept 07p	NLP	31 Oct 07p	JOT		
3.	4	C	6 Jan 08	HHL	30 Nov 10	HHL		
WENDENDALE								
1.	4	B	22 May 08	JOT	12 June 09	HHL		2
WHIPPLE								
1.	6	C1bN1BBR27	25 June 88	HHL	22 Apr 90	SHD		
2.	5	C1dN1B27	20 Sept 92	HHL	19 Sept 95	NLP		
3.	4	C1bN1B28 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 Jan 96	JOT	15 Mar 98	SHD		
WHIPPLE BARRACKS								
1.	6	C41bN1B32 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 Aug 87m	HHL				3
WHITE HILLS								
1.	5	C31eN1RRB31	9 Mar 95	HHL				
2.	5	C1bA1BBR28	21 Aug 96	HHL				
3.	5	C1b(REC'D)B28 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 Mar 98	NLP				
4.	5	C1bN1B27 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 Jan 96	NLP	1 Jan 98	?		
5.	5	C1bN1B28	23 Mar 01	?			Grid	
6.	5	C1bN1B28 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 Jan 03	?				
WHITERIVER								
1.	6	C1bN1B27	14 Apr 99	NLP				
2.	4	C1bN1B29	17 July 03	HHL	27 Jan 05	SHD	Grid	
3.	4	C	27 May 11	?				
WHITTUM								
1.	7	C1bN1BBR27 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 Dec 95	HHL				4
WICKENBURGH								
1.	8-6	M	7 Nov 65	DLJ	10 Aug 71	?		5
2.	5	C1bA1B24 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 July	?	NLP	17 Sept (76?)	HHL	5, 6
3.	5	C1b?B27 $\frac{1}{2}$	?	NLP				7
4.	6	OV1a2,9SIRRB27x43	16 Sept	?	HHL	8 Nov 84	NLP	
5.	5	C1bN1BBR26 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 Jan	?	JOT			
6.	4	C1bM1B27	4 Apr 94	?	30 Apr 94	HHL		
7.	5	C1bA1BBR26	29	?m	HHL			
8.	4	C1eN1B28 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 July 97v	?	30 Oct 97	HHL		5
9.	3	C1bN1B29 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 Feb 00	?				5
10.	3	C1bT1B29 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 Feb 04	SHD	12 June 09	HHL	Grid	5
11.	3	C1bT1B29 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 Apr 11	NLP	14 Sept 11	HHL		5

## Notes:

1. Earliest listed from a photo of example on piece.
2. Earliest listed is on piece.
3. Unofficial early name for Whipple.
4. Earliest listed is backstamp receiving mark.
5. Without final "H".
6. Earliest listed is with 3-cent '74 stamped envelope.
7. Earliest listed is sans date, on 3-cent Plimpton, about 1882.

## ARIZONA TERRITORIAL POSTMARKS

Town type	Val. No.	Postmark Code	Earliest Date	Owner	Latest Date	Owner	Killer	Notes
WILCOX								
1.	5	C22e'13S1B30 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 Oct	81b HHL	1 Sept 82	*		
2.	4	C1bN1B27	13 Apr	(83?) SHD	14 Aug 83	HHL		1
3.	4	C1bN1B27 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 Sept	83 ?	21 Mar 84	NLP		
4.	5	C21e13S1RRB30	7 July	84 JOT	? July 84	*	Target	
5.	4	REG	12 Nov	84p HHL	24 Apr 84b	?		
6.	4	C21e13S1RRB33	31 Oct	84 SHD	31 Jan 88	NLP	Target	
7.	4	C21e13S1RRB33	3 Apr	88 ?	7 Dec 89	JOT	Target	
WILGUS								
1.	7	C1bN1B28	? ?	? JOT				
WILLCOX								
1.	3	C21e13S1RRB32 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 Nov	90 SHD	22 Mar 97	?	Target	
2.	3	C1bT1B28 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 May	93 ?	25 July 95	JOT		
3.	4	C21eS1B33	22 Nov	97 ?				
4.	3	C1bT1B28 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 June	98 ?	20 Feb 00	SHD		2
5.	2	C1bT1B29	29 Oct	04 SHD	15 Aug 10	*	Grid	3
6.	2	C	25 Oct	07 SHD	11 Nov 07	NLP		
7.	2	C1bT1B29 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 Oct	11 SHD				
WILLIAMS								
1.	5	M	1 May	82 ?	6 June 82	NLP		
2.	5	C1bN1BbB29	19 Sept	82 ?	6 Nov 89	?	Star	
3.	5	C1bN1BBR26 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 Apr	86 SHD				
4.	4	C1bS1B31	6 June	91 ?			Oval grid	
5.	4	C1bS1BbB?	26 Nov	91 HHL	24 June 92	HHL	Oval grid	4
6.	4	C1bN1B29	5 Dec	92 SHD	16 Jan 93	HHL	Oval grid	3
7.	3	C1bN1B28	27 Nov	93 SHD	25 Apr 98	SHD		2
8.	4	C1bT1B29	6 Dec	99 SHD	1 Mar 00	SHD		2, 3
9.	2	C1bT1B28	8 Jan	01 JOT	20 Mar 04	?	Grid	
10.	1	C1bT1B30	3 May	04 SHD	27 Dec 11	?	Grid	
11.	3	REG	30 Dec	07v ?	29 Jan 10m	?		
WINKELMAN								
1.	4	A	4 Feb	08 NLP				
2.	4	C	19 Apr	10 HHL	20 May 10	JOT		
3.	4	C1bT1B29 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 May	11 ?	5 Nov 11	?	Grid	
WINSLOW								
1.	5	C31aN1RRB30 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 Feb	84p SHD			W in circle	
2.	4	C31eS1B31 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 Jan	86v HHL	4 Nov 87m	?		5
3.	5	C41eN1B30 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 Jan	88r SHD			Star	
4.	5	C41eN1B30	27 Mar	88m ?	16 Aug 88m	SHD	Broken star	
5.	5	C51eN1B30	12 Oct	88b SHD	21 Nov 89b	?		
6.	4	C1bS1B?	9 Dec	90 SHD				3, 6
7.	4	C41eN1B?	20 Mar	91 SHD				6

## Notes:

1. Spelled WILLCOX.
2. Latest listed is on piece.
3. Earliest listed is on piece.
4. Device circle is split into two halves top and bottom.
5. Inner circle not complete.
6. Badly distorted.



# ARIZONA TERRITORIAL POSTMARKS



11



1



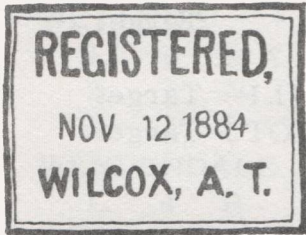
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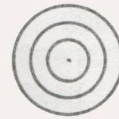
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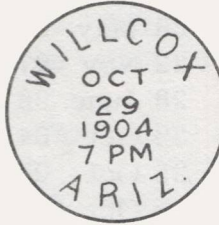
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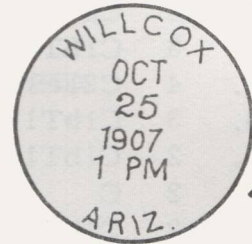
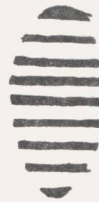
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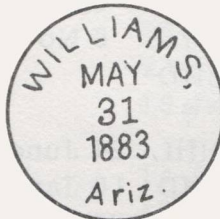
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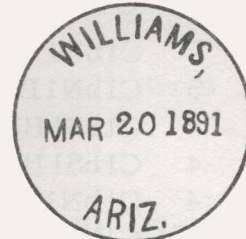
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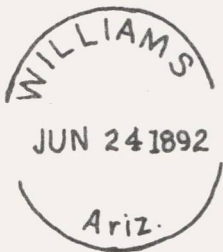
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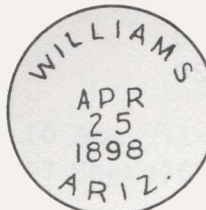
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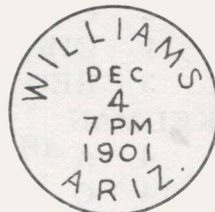
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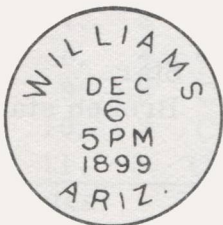
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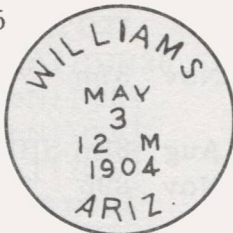
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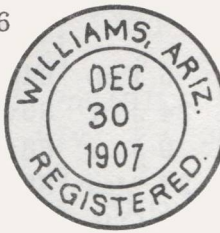
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8



10



11



3



1



2 14



3



# ARIZONA TERRITORIAL POSTMARKS

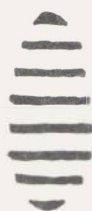
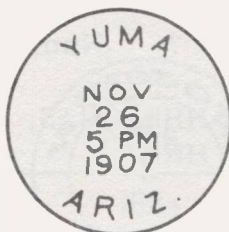
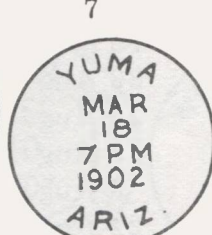
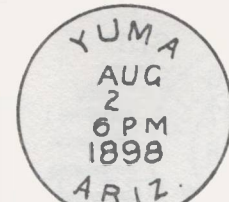
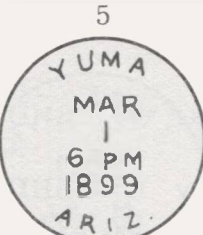
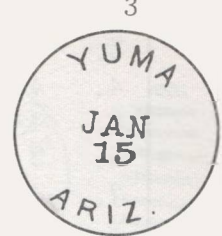
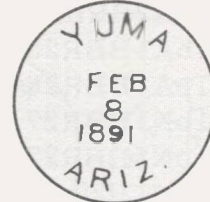
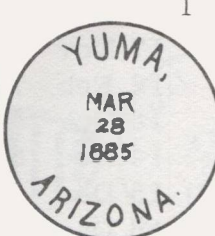
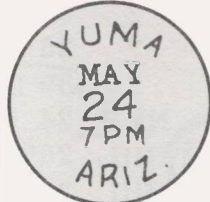
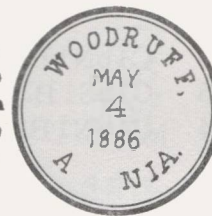
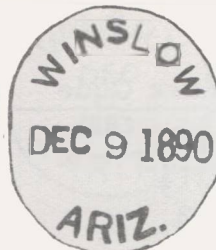
Town	type	Val.		Earliest			Latest				
No.	No.	Postmark	Code	Date	Owner	Date	Owner	Killer	Notes		
WINSLOW (Cont'd.)											
8.	3	C1aS1B31 $\frac{1}{2}$		25 May	91v SHD	29 Dec	91v ?	Target			
9.	4	C1aS1B32		5 June	92v ?	4 Apr	93 ?	Star			
10.	3	C1bN1B28		21 Dec	92 ?	14 Dec	94 SHD				
11.	4	C1bT1B27 $\frac{1}{2}$		10 June	97 NLP						
12.	3-2	C1bT1B28		? Jan	99 NLP	21 Oct	04 HHL	Grid			
13.	2	C1bT1B30		24 Apr	06 ?	14 July	09 SHD	Grid			
14.	1	C1bT1B30		2 Apr	07 SHD	9 Jan	12 HHL	Grid			
WOODRUFF											
1.	6	C21mN1RRB28		4 May	86 SHD	20 Aug	86 JOT				
2.	5	C1bN1B28		2 June	98 HHL	20 Jan	99 NLP				
3.	4	A		6 Sept	07 ?						1
YARNELL											
1.	5	C1bN1BBR27 $\frac{1}{2}$		18 Oct	97 ?						
2.	5	C1bS1B35		15 Sept	98 HHL						
3.	4	C1bN1B28		20 Sept	08 SHD	12 Sept	10 HHL				
YORK											
1.	6	C		6 Dec	11 HHL						2.
YOUNG											
1.	6-4	C1bN1BBR27		2 Mar	97 SHD	10 Feb	00 HHL				
2.	4	C		8 Mar	08 HHL	20 Sept	11 JOT				
YUCCA											
1.	5	B		11 Nov	07 HHL	5 Oct	11 NLP				
YUMA											
1.	7	M		31 May	67 SHD	2 Aug	67 JOT				
2.	6	C1aA2RRb21		9 Sept	67b ?	30 Oct	69b SHD				
3.	5	C1bA1BBR25		17 Nov	73 ?	26 Nov	73 ?				
4.	4	C1bA1BBR26		12 Feb	77 ?	30 Dec	? ?				
5.	4	C1bN1BBR27		18 Oct	83 NLP	24 Jan	93 NLP				
6.	3	C1bN1BBR27		14 Dec	83 HHL	28 Sept	88 NLP				
7.	4	C1eN1B29		15 Dec	83r HHL	28 Mar	85r SHD				
8.	4	C1bN1B26 $\frac{1}{2}$		16 Dec	89 ?	? June	91 HHL				
9.	4	REG		17 Aug	92p ?						
10.	4	C1bA1BBR27 $\frac{1}{2}$		15 Jan	? SHD						3
11.	4	C1bT1B27		26 Aug	96 SHD						
12.	4	C1bT1B27 $\frac{1}{2}$		28 Aug	97 ?	1 Mar	99 SHD				
13.	4	C1bT1B28 $\frac{1}{2}$		2 Aug	98 ?						
14.	2	C1bT1B27 $\frac{1}{2}$		6 Aug	00 HRF	23 Nov	03 SHD	Grid			
15.	2	C1bT1B28		22 Apr	04 SHD	3 May	07 TKT	Grid			
16.	1	C1bN1B29 $\frac{1}{2}$		27 July	07 ?	31 Jan	11 ?	Grid			
17.	3	REG		3 Feb	11r NLP						
18.	3	C1bT7B25		30 Mar	11 ?	11 Aug	11 ?	Number grid			
ZENOS											
1.	7	OV21e3S1RRB38x21		20 Sept	86 HHL	8 Feb	87 HHL	U. S. Mail			
2.	5	C31bN1B26		6 Apr	87 SHD	12 Dec	88 HHL				

## Notes:

1. Earliest listed is cut-to-shape.
2. Listing is backstamp receiving mark.
3. Earliest listed is with 2-cent Columbian.

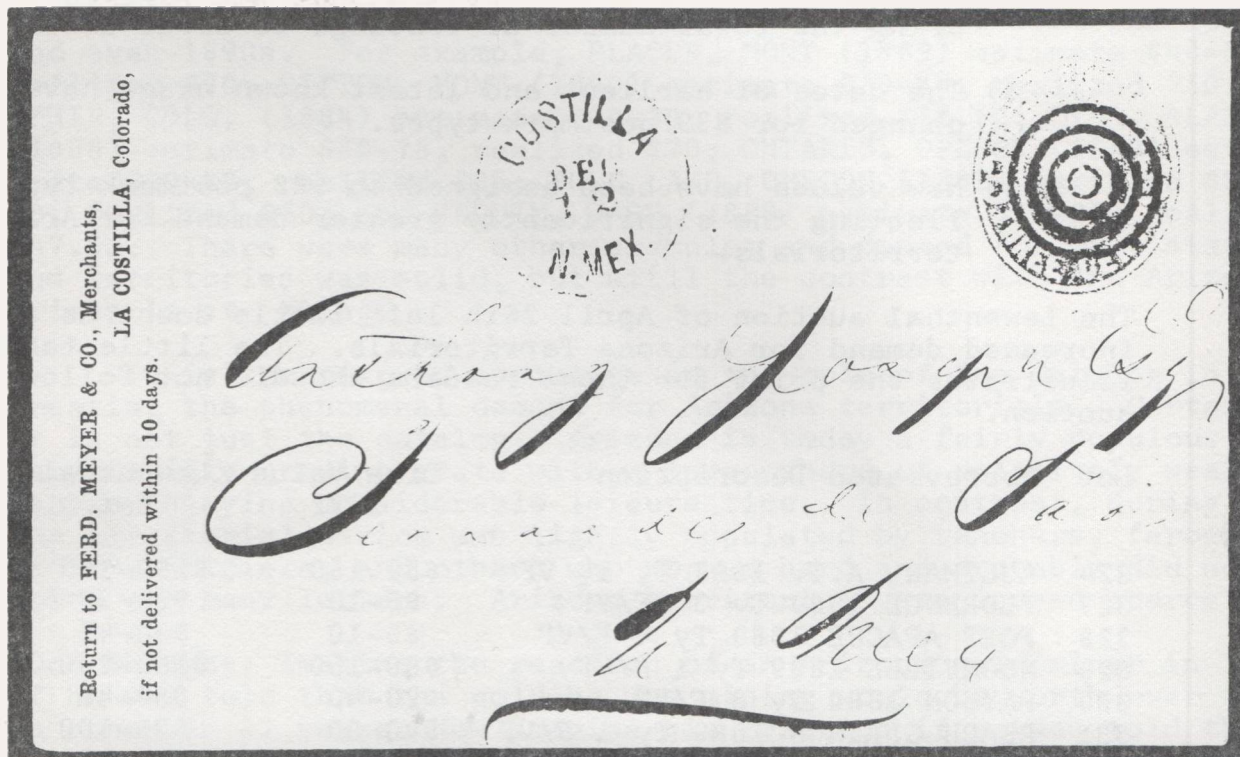


# ARIZONA TERRITORIAL POSTMARKS



## BOOK NOTES

David L. Jarrett, long-time La Posta subscriber and authority on Colorado postal history, is the author of Colorado Territorial and Pre-territorial Postmarks. Dave's 208 page study is the latest in a splendid series of postal research volumes published by the Chicago Collectors Club. The work is lavishly illustrated with 150 covers including the classic below, and is available in a choice of two editions. The Deluxe edition at \$22.50 features a large detailed folding map of Colorado Territory, and the Regular



Costilla, NM Type 1. First postmark type known after Costilla was officially transferred from Colorado to New Mexico territory.

edition is priced at \$17.50. While your editor has a copy on order it has not yet arrived, and a detailed review is not possible as of this writing. Based upon the past publication record of the Chicago Collectors Club and the scholarship demonstrated by Dave Jarrett, it is difficult to believe that Colorado Territorial and Pre-territorial Postmarks could be anything other than a top-notch postal history volume. It may be ordered directly from the Chicago Collectors Club, 1029 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60610.

La Posta will offer a review of this and other works of postal historic significance as they become available to the editor, or as submitted by our readers.



A second edition of the Arizona Territorial Postmark Catalog in just four years? Yes, and according to co-author Owen H. Kriege its bigger and considerably up-dated from the first edition. The volume is authored by Sheldon Dike and Owen Kriege, both pioneer La Posta subscribers, and offers the following revisions from the 1972 edition:

- 1) An addition of 148 new postmark types listed, making a total of 1,452 types from 415 towns.
- 2) Almost 300 additional illustrations are included to bring the total number of tracings to about 1,300.
- 3) The dates of earliest and latest known usage have been changed for 839 postmark types.
- 4) New values have been assigned to 588 postmark types reflecting the significantly greater demand for Arizona territorials.

The Lewenthal auction of April 25th left little doubt as to the increased demand for Arizona Territorials. The little table below illustrates the point for those readers who did not follow the auction.

Lot	Abbreviated Description	Dike Value 1972	Lewenthal Est.	Price Realized
324	AULTMAN, A.T. 1889 Ty 1, VF	\$80-150	\$100-150	\$220
327	FLORENCE 1889 Ty 3 F/VF	\$5-10	\$20-30	\$57.50
328	FORT APACHE 1889 Ty 4 F/VF	\$5-10	\$30-40	\$50
329	NOONVILLE 1889 Ty 1 F/VF	\$80-150	\$150-250	\$525
330	PAYSON 1889 Ty 3 F/VF	\$20-40	\$30-40	\$50
331	PEACH SPRINGS 1889 Ty 1 F/VF	\$40-80	\$75-100	\$325
332	PIMA 1889 Ty 2 VF	\$20-40	\$30-40	\$85
333	SAFFORD 1889 Ty 6 VF	\$10-20	\$30-40	\$55
334	SELIGMAN 1889 Ty 2 RR c.c.	\$20-40	\$75-100	\$325
335	SILVER KING 1889 Ty 4 VF	\$10-20	\$30-40	\$55
336	SKULL VALLEY 1889 Ty 2 F/VF	\$20-40	\$50-75	\$230
337	SNOW FLAKE 1889 Ty 2 F/VF	\$20-40	\$50-75	\$210
338	TEMPE 1889 Ty 6 Good strike	\$10-20	\$30-40	\$35
340	VULTURE 1889 Ty 1 VF	\$80-150	\$100-150	\$230

The message seems pretty clear. When material sells for 6-9 times catalog and 2-3 times the auctioneers estimate, it suggests that there is a very strong demand. On the basis of this point alone a Second edition of the Arizona Territorial Postmark Catalog seems justified. The price for the new edition is \$20.00, and it may be ordered from Owen H. Kriege, 98 Beech Woods Drive, Madison, CT. 06443.



## SOME NOTES ON AUCTION PRICES AND CATALOGS AND RELATED MATTERS

The Lewenthal auction was really an eye-opener for me. As I had been out of the country for 18 months, auction prices were one of the things I had not followed too closely. The Lewenthal sale was the first major auction of quality postal history material that I had reviewed for nearly two years. The Arizona prices simply astounded me! But other areas also showed very strong demand. The true classics in the sale - the Denver City "Tombstone", the Coraville, K.T., the Tracy & Co., Express, and others - commanded premium prices, and that was no real surprise. But what did surprise was the very heavy demand for material from the 1880s and even 1890s. For example, PLACER, MONT (1889) estimate \$40-50, realized \$90; SIFTON, MONT (1890) estimate \$30-40, realized \$50; OPHIR, COLO. (1884) estimate \$20-30, realized \$52.50; DYEA, ALASKA (1898) estimate \$50-75, realized \$70; ONTARIO, OREGON (1889) estimate \$30-40, realized \$35; TULE LAKE, OREGON (1889) estimate \$20-30, realized \$50; and SEQUIM, WASH (1889) estimate \$20-30, realized \$47.50. There were many other examples and demand for most states and territories was solid, but still the contrast with the Arizona prices is startling.

It is tempting to speculate on the role of the Catalog in creating the phenomenal demand for Arizona territorials. Certainly it is not just the catalog. Arizona is today a fairly populous, very rapidly growing state with a large share of relatively wealthy people enjoying considerable leisure time. In contrast, during the territorial period was lightly populated by ranchers, farmers, miners, soldiers, and others who worked hard and probably did not write too many letters. Arizona territorials are indeed scarce.

[Odd thought: Imagine the reaction of an Arizona gold miner in 1889 if he was told that the gold he was mining would be worth over \$200 an ounce in 87 years. Now imagine his reaction if he was told that the envelope containing a letter he just wrote would be worth 5-10 times that much PER OUNCE in 87 years.]

Although it is difficult to say how much of a factor, there seems little doubt that the Catalog is a factor in the increasing demand for Arizona territorials. At last there is something to refer to. It is possible for a collector to evaluate his/her progress. There is a pricing guideline. An incentive exists to acquire an unlisted item. Perhaps most importantly, the existence of a catalog offers reassurance and encourages neophytes to enter the field. In a very real sense the collecting of postmarks from a state or territory for which a catalog exists becomes a much safer enterprise, and what we are witnessing today is a transition from the old wide open era of Western cover collecting to a new era of collecting by the catalog.

It will not happen over-night of course. So far there are territorial catalogs for only Arizona and New Mexico. A first edition of an Alaska catalog is due out next month, and Charles Whittlesey, et.al, have made some pioneering installments with a catalog of 19th century Oregon postmarks. As yet we have no catalogs for Washington, California, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, or Colorado. They will come eventually as students of those areas bite their teeth into the massive organizing and collating problems involved. It is my guess that within 10 years there will be postmark catalogs in existence for most of the Western states and territories.

The coming of the catalog era is not without its drawbacks. Many among us will miss the old days of free-wheeling bargain hunting among the dealers bourse box. Oh, there should still be the occasional "find", for not everyone "gets the word." But it seems most likely that with the existence of catalogs, collectors and dealers alike will recognize the true worth of those Noonvilles. This is not the problem that concerns me. Its inevitable that we should loose the free-wheeling days. Think of it as the "taming of the Western cover field."

What bothers me is the abuse of the catalog, and its already beginning. Catalog prices for Western postal history items are not like catalog prices in Scott's or the other stamp catalogs. First of all, postmark prices are phrased as a range of dollars, i.e., \$10-20, or \$40-80, or some such. If one is forced to quote a price based upon a range of dollars, it would seem much more reasonable to quote from the mid-point of the range than the top. Secondly, and even more importantly, the value ranges used in Western postmark catalogs apply to a clear strike on a sound cover. Condition is very important, and can count as either a positive or negative factor in determining value for a particular item. It is misleading to simply note the listed value range for a postmark without regard to both the condition of the strike and the cover. Should this become badly abused we will find ourselves loosing one of the greatest advantages of the catalog; the security it gives both a buyer and seller that each is obtaining a fair price.

Enough said on this subject for the time being. Your editor will welcome comments from readers and will publish rebuttals, additions, and so forth cheerfully.

Please take a moment to fill out the enclosed questionnaire. I would like very much to mold La Posta's content to the desires of you our readers, and your suggestions regarding future articles will help me do this. Also please do not feel structured by the questionnaire. If you wish simply turn the page over and write me your wishes in your own words. So long for this time...

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

