LA POSTA

DAWSON in the Klondike, goal of thousands of gold-hungry miners, sprang from these modest beginnings in 1897 to a big, booming town just a year later.

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IN THIS ISSUE

THE POST OFFICES OF WYOMING: PART XVI, HOT SPRINGS AND WASHAKIE COUNTIES

By Daniel Y. Meschter and Ruth Dolezal

The 1911 Wyoming Legislature performed major political surgery by creating seven new counties, and thus increasing the total number in the state by 50%. Hot Springs and Washakie counties were carved mostly from the southern end of Big Horn County with small parts of Fremont and Park counties thrown in to make the new county boundaries conform more closely to the terrain. This was done on February 9, 1911, and the creation of these counties gave political recognition to centers of growing population at Worland and Thermoplois which had become inconveniently distant from the old county seats at Basin, Lander, and Cody.

The two new counties were crossed by transportation routes from the earliest times. Ancient Indian trails led east over the Big Horn Mountains to the rich buffalo hunting ground in the Powder River Basin by way of Tensleep Canyon. Later, Chief Washakie showed Jim Bridger a route along Nowood Creek through the badlands of southeastern Washakie County toward the Montana gold camps, but he carefully avoided the Shoshone's favorite wintering place, Ten Sleep Pow Wow Camp. This route was eventually marked by such settlements as Mahogany, Red Bank, and Spring Creek (later Ten Sleep) after the Big Horn Basin was opened to settlement by white men and became favored by ranchers.

A postal route north from Fort Washakie in Fremont County into Montana (LA POSTA, 7/2 & 7/3) crossed the west end of Hot Springs County through Embar.

Finally, the Burlington Railroad was built south from Montana up the Big Horn River. The tracks reached Worland in 1906, and passed on through the Wind River Canyon to connect with the rail head being driven west from Casper in 1914. In the meantime mail was carried by stage over an old road from Thermopolis to the railhead on the south side of the mountains through Birdseye Pass.

Hot Springs County

The outstanding feature of Hot Springs County is the famous hot springs at Thermopolis from which both the county and the town derive their names. Through these springs flow more than 18 million gallons of "healing waters" per day, and they have been known to man since ancient times. The State of Wyoming has now created a park about the springs. In 1896 the springs were preserved for public use when Chief Washakie ceded a 10 square mile area of land to the United States. At that time the Chief expressed his wish that part of the water be set aside for public use in perpetuity. Chief Washakie's gesture is commemorated

annually by the "Gift of the Waters" pageant presented in the town of Thermopolis.

Most of the post offices in Hot Springs County originally served scattered cattle ranches. Gebo came into existence as a coal mining center in response to the fuel demands of the railroad. During World War I oil was discovered under the range land at the western end of the county, and these finds led to the establishment of Grass Creek and Hamilton Dome. The number of post offices in Hot Springs County has never been large, and today only four offices remain in operation.

WYOMING POST OFFICES

HOT SPRINGS COUNTY

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Anchor	7 Nov 1904	31 Aug 1931	M. to Thermopolis
	8 Jul 1933	31 Aug 1947	M. Hamilton Dome
Arapooish	9 Mar 1907	31 Dec 1908	M. Thermopolis
Collins	19 Jan 1910	30 Apr 1914	M. to Kirby
Crosby	28 Nov 1896	3 Mar 1897	Rescinded
	29 Nov 1907	15 May 1933	M. to Gebo
Dickie	26 Oct 1912	30 Apr 1941	M. to Worland
Embar	21 Aug 1884	14 May 1927	M. Thermopolis
Gebo	11 Jan 1908	31 Dec 1955	M. to Kirby
Gooseberry	19 Jul 1900	9 Feb 1901	Rescinded
Grass Creek	8 Nov 1923	Operating	
Hamilton Dome	30 Jul 1925	31 Jul 1934	M. Winchester
	24 Apr 1935	Operating	
Ilo	19 Aug 1901	31 Dec 1907	M. to Meeteetse
Kirby	23 Dec 1907	Operating	To Rural Br. 2 Dec 1966
Lucerne	2 May 1910	31 Jan 1956	M. Thermopolis
Middleton	6 Dec 1895	16 Apr 1908	N. ch. to Rothwell
Middleton	27 Sep 1912	15 Jan 1919	M. Thermopolis
Midwest	25 Sep 1917	8 Nov 1923	N. ch. to Grass Creek
Puteney	26 Apr 1915	30 Jul 1925	N. ch. to Hamilton Dome
Rothwell	16 Apr 1908	14 Aug 1915	M. to Middleton
Thermopolis	9 Jan 1895	Operating	Was Torrey
Torrey	24 Jul 1888	9 Jan 1895	N. ch. to Thermopolis

PLEASE NOTE: Due to space limitations this issue, the HOT SPRINGS & WASHAKIE COUNTY POST OFFICE LOCATOR MAP will appear in the next issue of La Posta. (ed)

Washakie County

Washakie County was named in honor of the great Shoshone Chief Washakie, who did so much during his long life (c. 1798-1900) to stabilize relations between his tribe and the white men. During the late 19th century increasing numbers of white men entered the country of the Shoshone, and Chief Washakie realized that the main hope for the peace and security of his tribe lay in establishing good relations with the newcomers.

Most of the county is an arid prairie. Hot in summer, bitterly cold in winter, the land is largely devoted to grazing with some irrigated farming along the Big Horn River. The eastern end of the county is a lush land of hills, timber, and vividly painted badlands favored by tourists, sportsmen, and sight-seers from both Wyoming and beyond.

The leading town is Worland, which was originally build along the west bank of the Big Horn River. When it was learned that the railroad was coming up the east side of the river, rather than the west side as expected, the residents took advantage of the severe winter of 1905 to move the town, buildings and all, across the river on the ice. Washakie's only remaining post offices are located at Worland, the county seat, and the old Pow Wow Camp at Ten Sleep.

WYOMING POST OFFICES

WASHAKIE COUNTY

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Big Trails	23 May 1898	15 Apr 1942	M. to Ten Sleep
Cedar	4 Mar 1898	15 May 1902	M. to Rome
	10 Jan 1908	31 Jan 1909	M. to Ten Sleep
Colter	24 Aug 1907	28 Feb 1918	M. to Worland
Deep Creek	20 Apr 1909	28 Feb 1920	M. to No Wood
Harvard	29 Nov 1899	3 Mar 1902	Ch. to No Wood
Mahogany	24 Jul 1886	19 Nov 1887	No papers
Neiber	2 Oct 1908	15 Jan 1938	M. to Worland
No Wood	3 Mar 1902	31 Jan 1931	M. to Big Trails
Olwen	29 Jun 1903	24 Aug 1907	Ch. to Colter
Red Bank	31 Mar 1888	15 Aug 1904	M. to No Wood
Rome	3 Feb 1902	28 Feb 1907	
Spring Creek	31 Mar 1888	27 Oct 1891	M. to Mayoworth
Ten Sleep	18 Dec 1891	Operating	
Winchester	15 May 1903	31 Jan 1956	M. to Worland
Worland	22 May 1902	Operating	

Notes: "M. to" or "M" means mail to, or office handling business
          for a discontinued post office.
          "Ch. to" indicates a name change for the post office.

TERRITORIAL POSTMASTERS OF NEW MEXICO - NUMA REYMOND OF PARAJE

By Thomas K. Todsen

On El Camino Real, the road from Mexico City to Santa Fe, at the north end of the Sierra Fray Cristobal in central New Mexico, was El Paraje de Fray Cristobal. For travellers going south, this was the last camping place before they entered the dreaded Jornada del Muerto, the Way of the Dead, 80 miles of trail through the waterless Chihuahua Desert. This too was the welcome spot where the north-bound caravans returned to the cool shade of the cottonwoods along Rio Bravo del Norte (the Rio Grande). Protected from marauding Apache bands by Fort Craig a short distance to the north, it seemed the ideal spot for an enterprising young merchant to start a new venture. At least that was the attitude of Numa Reymond, a clerk in the firm of Lesinsky Bros. of Las Cruces. Borrowing $10,000 worth of merchandise from Mr. Julius Freudenthal, an uncle of the Lesinskys', Reymond set-up shop in 1867. Almost at once he applied for a post office to be named Paraje, and was appointed the postmaster effective 24 September 1867. Numa Reymond retained the postmastership until 31 August 1871, when his clerk, Victor Rouiller, replaced him.

Numa Reymond was born of French parents on 16 January 1846 at La Chaud de Foud, Canton Neuchatel, Switzerland. At the age of 16 he crossed the Atlantic and North American continent alone (a tribute to his courage and initiative) at the invitation of his uncle, Jules Granjeau, who owned the first flour mill in Las Cruces. A few months later Reymond moved to Franklin (now El Paso) in Texas to become a clerk in the stores of Schuster and Company, both in Franklin and Paso del Norte (now Juarez, Mexico). After this bout with frontier merchandising during which he became fluent in the mandatory border Spanish idiom, the young Reymond returned to Las Cruces to work for Lesinsky Brothers, wholesale and retail merchants, traders and freighters from the Texas Panhandle to California, owners of the copper mines at Santa Rita, NM, and Clifton, Arizona. Then, at the ripe old age of 21, Numa Reymond embarked on his own venture as stated above.

The business in Paraje was a success from the beginning. To augment this however, Reymond began branching-out, becoming manager of the New Mexico Stage and Express Company which operated from Santa Fe to Tucson. He obtained mail and express contracts from the government, but in 1881, after concluding that the coming of the railroad would eliminate the need for the express company and bypass Paraje, Reymond sold-out to the Rouiller family.

In the meantime, he was married in 1877 at Socorro to Miss Katherine E. Crecilius of St. Louis. For her he built a Spanish colonial home in Paraje and furnished it with imported pieces which had formerly been in the home of the wealthy Staabs family of Santa Fe. Acting as the justice of the peace in Paraje, Reymond performed a marriage which took place about the same time as his own. The couple was named Fest, and they had a ranch on the

Jornada. They named their first born "Numa," after Reymond, and
in 1881, when the boy was 3 years old, his mother was shot by
accident so the Reymonds' adopted him.
    On leaving Paraje with the intent to move to St. Louis and
enter business there, the Reymonds stopped in Las Cruces to see
their old friends, the Lesinskys. The latter had just sold all
their mining holdings and were looking for a buyer for their
Las Cruces business before retiring to New York. Mr. Reymond
again seized the opportunity and remained in New Mexico. He
purchased the Lesinsky business in partnership with Martin
Lohman.

N. REYMOND & CO.

WHOLESALE

Dealers in General Merchandise,

LAS CRUCES, N. M.

Numa Reymond along with some of his advertisements.

    Mr. Reymond vigorously pursued the expansion of his business
interests. He acquired new government contracts to supply Indian
agencies and Army posts in extension of the Lesinsky operations.
He set-up large freighting contracts in further augmentation of
the Reymond-Lohman joint venture. He became a silent partner in
the large Lincoln, New Mexico, merchandising and contracting firm
of Dolan and Frietze. Along with James J. Dolan and William
Rynerson (later governor of New Mexico), he incorporated the
Felix Cattle Company with capital stock of $300,000 and 5000 head
of cattle on the eastern slope of the Sacramento Mountains. Part
of the profits from his extensive banking and money-lending act-
ivities were mentioned in a previous La Posta article on Pat
Coghlan (Vol. 7, No. 3).
    That he was not solely occupied in his business is shown by
the fact that the Apollo Music and Literary Club was organized
in the Reymond home. Mr. Reymond was a life-long Mason and

contributed $5000 to the building of a new lodge hall in Las
Cruces. He was an active member of the local committee which
prepared the articles of incorporation for a Territorial Agri-
cultural College, and developed ways and means to finance that
institution which became a reality in less than 10 years.

Mr. Reymond was an ardent Republican and a personal friend
of many of the individuals involved in the land feuds in southern
New Mexico during the late 1800's. As an example, he was an ex-
ecutor for Francois Jesu Kochas, "Frenchy" of Dog Canyon, who
was killed allegedly by Oliver Lee's men so that Lee could get
the Dog Canyon water for his cattle operations.

Numa Reymond also worked extensively with Col. Albert
Fountain, both in the Republican Party and on various public
enterprises such as the college project described above. Colonel
Fountain and his son were later murdered, and to this day there
is "bad blood" between the Lees and the Fountains.

Reymond was elected Treasurer of Dona Ana County in 1884,
and with the experience gained in that office it became natural
for the Republicans to propose him for county sheriff in 1895.
It was anticipated that Reymond would conduct a complete inves-
tigation of the Fountain murders which had occurred shortly
before. The Democrats led by Oliver Lee and Albert Fall (later
to gain notoriety in the Teapot Dome scandal), proposed a pre-
vious sheriff, Guadalupe Ascarte, whom they controlled. On
election day at noon after 88 votes had been cast, the ballot box
disappeared. It was found later in the afternoon at the post
office with all 88 ballots rolled-up instead of folded. All 88
ballots were marked "Democrat." Voting continued however, and
the next day the voting commissioners held a meeting to decide
what should be done about the 88 votes. Intimidated by Oliver
Lee, who came to the meeting armed, the commissioners allowed
the votes and declared Ascarte the winner. Reymond then brought
suit in Federal court, but said he would drop the suit if Ascarte
would resign and allow Pat Garrett, killer of Bily the Kid, to be
appointed in his place. At this point, Mr. Fraser, the Pinkerton
agent who was working on the Fountain murders for the Territory
of New Mexico, appealed to Governor Thornton for assistance. As
a direct result of his appeal, District Judge Gideon Boutz de-
clared the 88 votes void. Thus, Numa Reymond became the winner
and took office on 20 March 1896. When Pat Garrett approached
Reymond about working on the Fountain case as chief deputy, the
latter said he was going to appoint Oscar Lohman, his partner's
brother, to the job. Fraser once again intervened, and a group
of local businessmen paid Lohman $1000 to refuse the position.
Garrett became chief deputy on 22 March. In late April Reymond
resigned.

The controversy between Reymond and the Lee-Fall group con-
tinued. It was said that Reymond and others petitioned New Mexico
Governor Miguel A. Otero to appoint Albert Fall a captain of
Company H of the New Mexico National Guard on the condition that
Fall never return to New Mexico after the Spanish-American War.

The papers further reported Lee's understanding that Reymond had put-up money to have him(Lee) and Fall killed. This all finally became too much for Reymond and in 1900, shortly after the afore-mentioned newspaper report, he retired from active business and moved to Geneva, Switzerland. There he lived for 14 years, still retaining his ties in New Mexico and his United States citizen-ship. Reymond returned to New Mexico after the beginning of World War I. He became ill shortly after his return and died at Hotel Dieu Hospital in El Paso at the age of 68. Numa Reymond is buried, along with his wife and adopted son, in the Masonic Cemetery in Las Cruces.

References:

Las Cruces Sun News, article by Katherine Stoes.
Dona Ana County, Her Resources and People, A.J. Fountain,
        28 March 1885
Rio Grande Republican, 19 March 1887, 28 April 1888, % May
        1888, 1 September 1888, 21 February 1896, & 6 June 1899.
El Paso Times, 20 March 1896.
Pinkerton Reports, 15 and 19 March 1896.
General Services Administration, "Records of Appointments
        of Postmasters - New Mexico."

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POST OFFICES OF THE ALASKA GOLD RUSH, III

By Richard W. Helbock

The Bonanza Strike and the Klondike Rush, 1896. The big Yukon
gold strike, the discovery which led to the stampede, occurred
in late summer of 1896. Controversy surrounds the precise de-
tails of the strike, but records indicate that an American pro-
spector named George Carmack filed his claim at Fort Cudahy,
the Northwest Mounted Police post at Forty Mile, on a piece of
land along what was then known as Rabbit Creek on August 21,
1896. News of the discovery spread very rapidly for on the day
after Carmack's claim was recorded a group of 25 miners met at
Rabbit Creek to officially rename it the Bonanza.

In this way the great Bonanza rush was begun, and, while there
are conflicting claims about who made the initial discovery at
Rabbit Creek, there is no disagreement about who started the
first gold-rush boom town in the area. The town was Dawson,
and its founder was a trader named Joe Ladue. Ladue had been
operating a trading post at Ogilvie on the Yukon below Stewart
River, but as the Stewart River diggings were largely exhausted
he decided to seek a new location. In August 1896, about the
same time as the Bonanza discovery was being made, Ladue and
his partner, Arthur Harper, staked-out most of what soon became
Dawson at the mouth of the Klondike River.

A note on Canadian postal operations along the early Yukon seems
appropriate at this point, and for greater detail the reader is
referred to Robert G. Woodall's excellant study, The Postal His-
tory of Yukon Territory. Establishment of the R.N.W.M.P. post
at Fort Cudahy on an island opposite McQuesten's Forty Mile in
late 1894 represented the first permanent presence of the Canad-
ian government in the area. Fort Cudahy post office was estab-
lished October 1, 1894, with the appointment of C. H. Hamilton
as postmaster. Hamilton, an American, was employed by the North
American Transportation and Trading Company, and the N.A.T.& T.
Company had been responsible for the establishment of Fort Cud-
ahy trading post in 1893. Since Forty Mile, under McQuesten, was
an enterprise of the Alaska Commercial Company, the establishment
of Fort Cudahy was initially an economic confrontation. The sub-
sequent arrival of the Mounties and a Canadian post office made
it a political confrontation, but the discovery of gold at Bonan-
za Creek radically altered the situation and by late 1896 the
community at Forty Mile Creek was almost totally deserted. No
postmarks are known from the Fort Cudahy post office prior to
1898, and no postmarks at all are known from a second Canadian
office known as Forty Mile which operated in the same locality
between June 1, 1896 and March 1, 1897.

On September 1, 1897, two new Canadian post offices were autho-
rized in the Yukon District of the Northwest Territories: Dawson
and Tagish Lake. Inspector Frank Harper of the R.N.W.P. became
the first Dawson postmaster, and Woodall reports that Harper
arrived in Dawson to open his post office in October 1897. The
Tagish Lake post office, located far to the south, was adminis-
trated by another N.W.M. Police inspector, D'Arcy Strickland,
and he reportedly began operations of his office on October 5,
1897.

Dawson grew rapidly after the first steamers bearing Klondike
gold reached Seattle and San Francisco during the summer of 1897.
By the end of the year some 2000 prospectors had reached the
booming town and several thousand more were stranded en route by
the winter cold in Juneau, Skagway, Dyea, and elsewhere. With
the spring thaw of 1898 the stampede began in earnest. Thousands
and thousands of prospectors, merchants, dance hall hostesses,
officials, clergymen and others anxious to take part in the settle-
ment of the fabulous Klondike struggled to reach their destination.
The Klondike had caught the imagination of the world much as Cali-
fornia had done some 50 years earlier. Estimates vary, but their
were probably 18 to 20 thousand people in and around Dawson by the
end of 1898, and additional thousands were on the way. The rapid
increase in population and wealth prompted Canada to elevate the
former Northwest Territory district to separate territorial status.
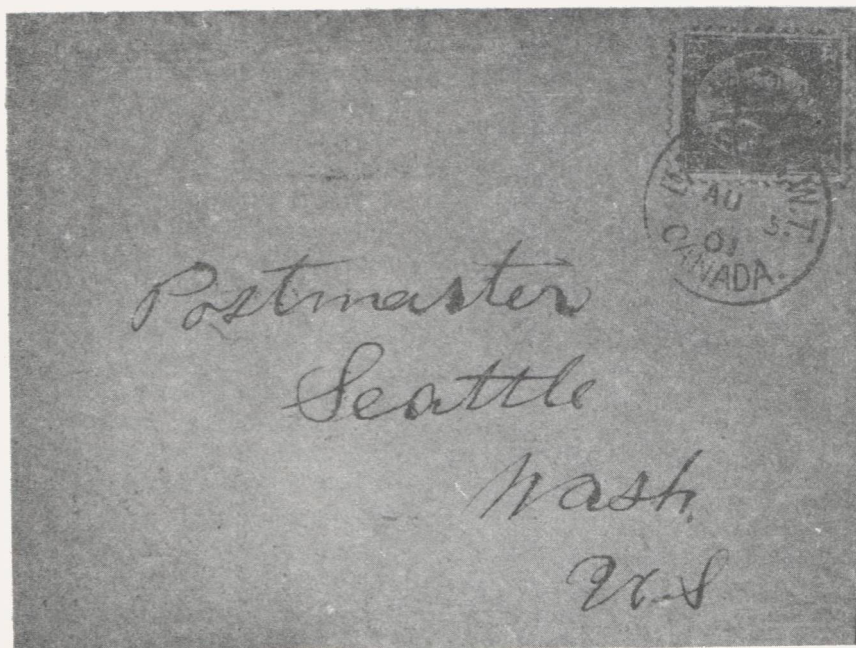Yukon Territory was erected on June 13, 1898.

Figure 3. Dawson cover of 1901 with "N.W.T." postmark.

Mail service between Dawson and the outside world during the first few years of the towns existence was a severe problem. During the summer months mail was carried downstream via steamers of the North American Transportation and Trading Company to Saint Michael, and in the summer of 1898 the first steamer made the trip from Lake Bennett to Dawson. The winter situation was somewhat more diffi- cult. Incoming mail during the winter of 1897-98 was handled en- tirely by the Northwest Mounted Police. Inspector Harper brought two bags of mail with him from Victoria when he arrived to assume postmaster duties on October 10, 1897. The next mail arrived via dog team on February 26, 1898. It consisted of 18 bags. Other mail deliveries to Dawson during the winter of 1897-98 consisted of one bag on March 28th, six bags on March 31st, nine bags on April 16th, and a quantity of mail brought in by Inspector Starnes from Little Salmon on May 17, 1898. There was no mail sent out from Dawson during that winter. Sled dogs were in extremely short supply in the boomtown, and none could be purchased to send out the mail. The first mail out of Dawson by way of the Tagish Lake post office arrived there April 5, 1898.

The mail flow improved greatly as soon as the ice broke-up on the Yukon in the summer of 1898. In July a contract was awarded to a Mr. Richardson of Seattle to carry the mail to Dawson, but let- ters from the postmasters of Dawson and Tagish Lake during the winter of 1898-99 indicate that Richardson never performed his contract. As a result the R.N.W.M. Police took on the task once more and conducted hazardous and somewhat sporadic mail delivery to the outside world. The Postmaster-General's Report of 1899 indicates that the Police made 16 trips from Bennett to Dawson and 13 trips from Dawson to Bennett during the winter season of 1898-99, but other accounts tend to dispute this frequency of mail delivery. At least some Dawson residents were willing to pay for alternative means of communicating with the outside. On December 11, 1898, Mike Mahoney, "Klondike Mike," carried about 3,500 letters at a dollar a letter from Dawson. He left Dawson by dog sled but transferred to a horse-drawn freight sleigh at Lake Bennett, and reached Skagway 14 days after leaving Dawson. Upon arrival in Skagway, Mahoney was offered $4.00 per pound to carry about a ton of mail back to Dawson which had stacked-up at the Skagway post office. He departed Skagway on February 1, 1899, with four sleds, 22 dogs, and three other drivers, and managed to arrive in Dawson 27 days later. Klondike Mike made one more trip from Dawson to Skagway leaving Dawson on March 21 and arriving in Skagway on March 31 in a record time of only 10 days and 5 hours.

The mid-May break-up of ice on the Yukon heralded another summer of relatively rapid mail communications for Dawson and the Klon- dike camps. Anxious to avoid the mistakes of the previous summer, the Canadian postal authorities sought and found a reliable mail contractor, the Canadian Development Company. The contract, which went into operation at the close of navigation in the fall of 1899,

provided for weekly delivery of mails both ways between Dawson and Bennett during the winter, and not less than semi-weekly frequency both ways in the summer. The Postmaster-General's Report of 1900 indicates that the CDC provided service between Bennett and Dawson which averaged only seven and one-half days during the winter of 1899-1900. In its third winter Dawson apparently enjoyed a semblance of normal mail delivery, but by this time Dawson had already begun to decline from its maximum population.
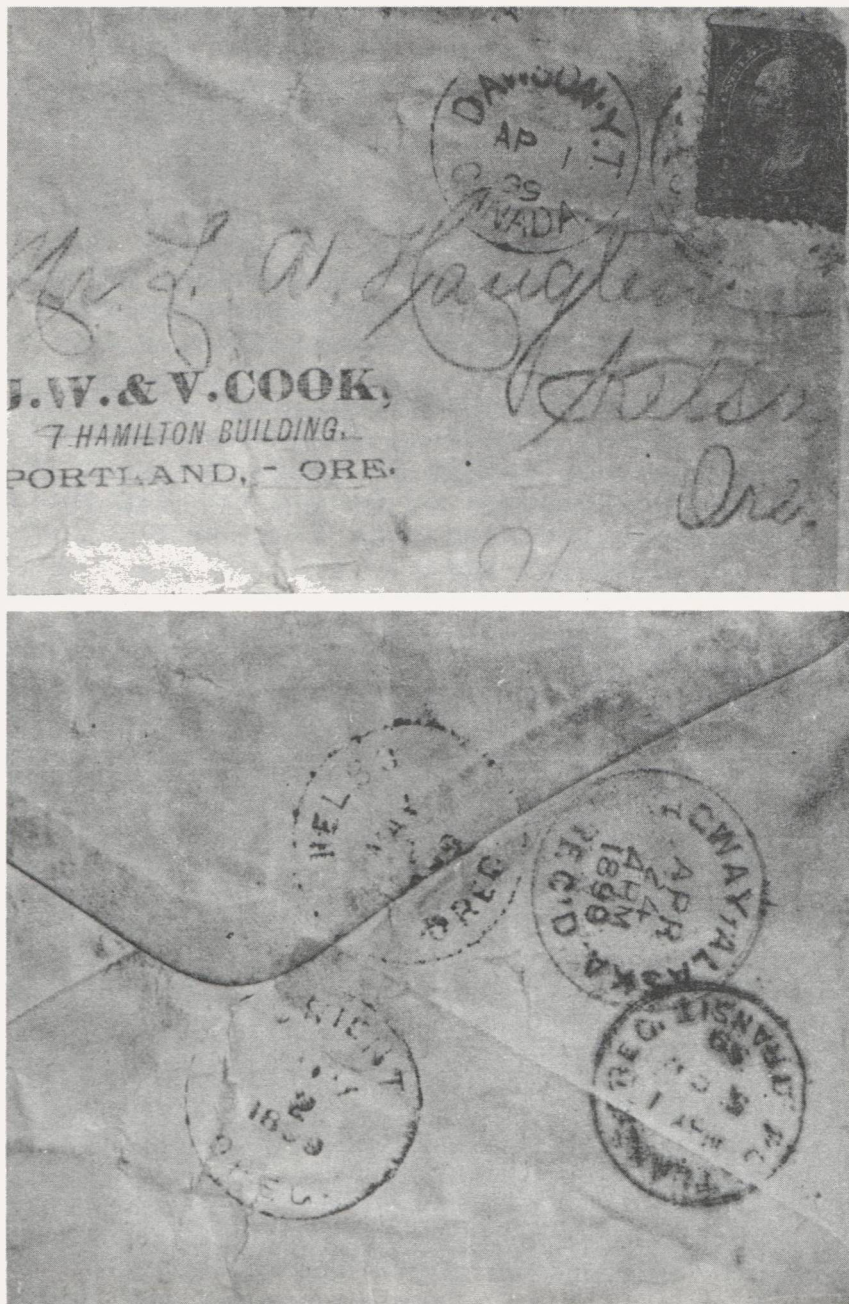

Figure 4. Front and back of a cover carried between Dawson and Skagway during the winter of 1898-99. Transit time: 23 days.

A number of other Canadian post offices were established in conjunction with the Klondike gold rush. Some of these such as Lake Bennett, B.C., Tagish Lake, Pelly, and White Horse were brought to life due to their strategic locations along major transport arteries. Others such as Bonanza, Dominion, Paris, and Last Chance served gold-mining camps scattered throughout the Canadian portion of the Klondike. Table 2 below lists these and other Canadian post offices associated with the Klondike rush up to 1910. Postmarks are

TABLE 2

CANADIAN POST OFFICES ESTABLISHED IN RESPONSE TO THE KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Settlement Type
Bonanza, Y.T.	Oct 1899	10 Jun 1921	Mining camp
Bullion Creek, Y.T.	1 Oct 1904	1 Mar 1905	Mining camp
Caribou Crossing	12 Jun 1902	1 Oct 1904	Rail station
Carcross, Y.T.	1 Oct 1904	Operating	Rail station
Dawson, Y.T.	1 Sep 1897	Operating	Mining town
Dominion, Y.T.	1 Nov 1899	30 Sep 1913	Mining camp
Gold Run, Y.T.	28 Oct 1903	Oct 1907	Mining camp
Granville, Y.T.	20 Jun 1903	Operating	Mining camp
Hunker, Y.T.	1 Nov 1899	23 Aug 1946	Mining camp
Kluane, Y.T.	1 Mar 1905	1 Jan 1910	
	Jun 1913	1 Jan 1921	Mining camp
Lake Bennett, B.C.	1 May 1898		Route camp
Last Chance, Y.T.	20 Jun 1902	21 May 1921	Mining camp
Lower Dominion, Y.T	1 Oct 1904	Aug 1918	Mining camp
Paris, Y.T.	1 Oct 1904	Feb 1943	Mining camp
Pelly (Ft. Selkirk)	9 Sep 1899	Sep 1939	Route post
Radford, Y.T.	19 Aug 1905	30 Apr 1934	Mining camp
Stewart River, Y.T.	20 Jun 1902	Operating	Route post
Sulphur, Y.T.	28 Oct 1903	Jul 1922	Mining camp
Tagish Lake, Y.T.	1 Sep 1897	1 Oct 1901	Route post
White Horse, Y.T.	1 Jun 1900	Operating	Rail terminal

Source: Woodall, Robert G. The Postal History of Yukon Territory, Dorset, England: R.G. Woodall, 1964.

unknown from many of these offices, and with the exception of Dawson and White Horse any postmark from a Yukon Territory post office dated prior to 1910 should be considered scarce to rare.

TO BE CONTINUED.

The Lane County, Oregon, Postmark Survey

In September Gil Hulin of Eugene, Oregon, organized an interesting philatelic exhibition in that city. The objective of the show was to display covers and cards bearing postmarks from as many of the 178 different Lane County post offices as possible. Hulin surveyed nearly two dozen collectors of Oregon postal history and received responses from 16 or 17 of them. Eventually 249 covers and cards were identified by Hulin as being desirable for the show, and it is reported that the Greater Eugene Stamp Society had a very popular exhibition this year.

An interesting by-product of Gil Hulin's survey is the tally he discovered for each Lane County post office, and he has graciously permitted La Posta to publish the results. A total of 139 of the 178 possible offices were eventually reported. Some respondents completed the questionnaire by marking only those DPOs in their collections while others marked all offices. In addition, since the exibition received a good deal of local publicity, a few new discoveries were made by non-collectors. The results reported below reflect both the talley from the survey, and those new towns which have since been discovered. It is therefore a little hard to consider this listing as an accurate index of scarcity, but by adopting some class intervals a rough approximation of relative scarcity should be possible. For offices with less than 2 reported examples it seems reasonable to consider them RARE, for offices with between 3 and 5 examples the term SCARCE seems appropriate, for offices with 6-9 reported examples we might say HARD TO GET, and for offices with more than 9 examples the term FAIRLY COMMON could be used. It should be pointed-out however that the survey was based upon a small sample of collectors who were known to be specialists in Oregon postal history. With this in mind the term "COMMON" must be used very carefully.

Post Office	Operated	Examples	Notes
Acme	1885-1916	10	
Ada	1892-1957	11	
Alene	1892-1912	2	
Alma	1888-1933	6	
Alpha	1890-1940	9	
Alvadore	1914-date	10	
Amos	1898-1902	1	
Belknap Springs	1875-1953	8	
Belle	1906-1908	1	
Berkley	1907-1908	5	
Big Prairie	1873-1879	0	
Blachy	1872-1975	11	Became CPO in 1975
Blackbutte	1901-1957	13	
Blakelyville	1910-1918	5	
Blue River	1886-date	10	

Post Office	Operated	Examples	Notes
Bluff	1892-1899	1	
Bohemia	1893-1922	5	
Bonita	1904-1908	1	
Broughton	1891-1893	0	
Butte Disappointment	1872-1875	0	
Camp Creek	1871-1922	5	
Canary	1916-1940	14	
Cannon	1880-1883	1	
Cartwright('s)	1871-1890	3	
Champion	1909-1918	1	
Charlotte	1880-1881	0	
Chesher	1875-1892	0	
Cheshire	1914-date	10	
Christman	1888-1893	0	
Coast Fork	1867-1872	0	
Coburg	1884-1958	12	
Coburg Rural Br.	1958-date	9	
College Crest	(1913)	0	Never in Operation
Cottage Grove	1855-date	12	Territorial P.O.
Creswell	1873-date	9	
Crow	1874-1938	14	
Culp Creek	1925-date	12	
Cushman	1916-1961	10	
Deadwood 1884-1914	1950-date	13	
Deerhorn	1907-1913	11	
Delphia	1893-1894	0	
Dexter	1875-date	10	
Dilworth	(1890)	0	Never in operation
Disston	1906-1974	11	Became CPO in 1974
Divide	1900-1921	9	
Dorena	1899-date	11	
Duckworth	1884-1884	0	
Earl	1898-1925	1	
Egypt	1893-1894	0	
Elliston	1897-1900	0	
Elmira	1884-date	11	
Estrup	1898-1902	3	
Eugene City	1853-1889	13	Territorial P.O.
Eugene	1889-date	10	
Eula	1918-1943	5	
Fairmount	1891-1904	4	
Fall Creek	1885-1974	11	Became CPO in 1974
Finn Rock	1947-1959	9	
Finn Rock Rural Br.	1959-date	11	
Florence	1879-date	10	
Foley Springs	1884-1940	10	
Fox Hollow	1922-1924	3	
Franklin	1855-1902	3	Territorial P.O.
Freedom	1858-1866	0	Territorial P.O.

Post Office	Operated	Examples	Notes
McKenzie	1854-1859	1	Territorial P.O.
McKenzie Bridge	1874-1960	11	
McKenzie Bridge R.B	1960-1974	9	
Meadow	1887-1908	4	
Mercer	1904-1933	4	
Mineral	1903-1908	2	
Minerva	1890-1939	10	
Minnie	1893-1906	0	
Mirth	1898-1910	6	
Mohawk	1862-1957	11	
Mohawk Rural Br.	1958-1961	5	
Mound	1892-1910	3	
Natron	1892-1924	3	
Noti	1913-date	11	
Oakridge	1912-date	10	
Omro	1887-1888	0	
Ord	1898-1912	1	
Orseco	1903-1909	1	
Othello	1855-1859	1	Territorial P.O.
Panther	1894-1909	2	
Paris	1909-1933	7	
Pawn	1915-1930	2	
Pengra	1925-1943	6	
Piney	1852-1852	0	Territorial P.O.
Pleasant Hill	1850-1922	8	Territorial P.O.
Pleasant Hill R.B.	1961-date	11	
Point Terrace	1889-1929	6	
Portola	1912-1913	6	
Preston	1853-1855	0	Territorial P.O.
Rainbow	1924-1937	7	
Rattlesnake	1868-1875	2	
Reed	1900-1904	8	
Robinson	1883-1884	0	
Roosevelt Beach	1922-1937	6	
Row River	1911-1914	4	
Royal	1887-1899	0	
Rujada	1916-1918	3	
Saginaw	1898-1957	10	
Saginaw Rural Br.	1957-date	11	
Salt Springs	1874-1875	0	
Samaria	1897-1905	0	
Seaton	1885-1896	1	
Signal	1927-1938	9	
Siltcoos	1916-1963	9	
Siuslaw	1852-1898	1	Territorial P.O.
Skinner's	1850-1853	1	Territorial P.O.
Smithfield	1859-1859	0	
Spencer Creek	1874-1879	0	
Spencer's Butte	1853-1855	0	Territorial P.O.
Springfield	1868-date	12	
Star	1891-1923	10	

Post Office	Operated	Examples	Notes
Gate Creek	1874-1897	1	
Glenada	1890-1943	9	
Glentena	1888-1902	0	
Goldson	1891-1934	8	
Goshen	1874-1957	12	
Goshen Rural Br.	1957-date	9	
Grand Prairie	1854-1860	0	Territorial P.O.
Greenleaf	1892-date	14	
Hadleyville	1890-1903	1	
Hale	1886-1907	3	
Harris	1898-1901	1	
Hazeldell	1888-1912	7	
Heceta	1891-1922	3	
Hermann	1889-1890	2	
Hill	1882-1885	1	
Horton	1913-1960	8	
Horton Rural Br.	1960-date	9	
Hubert	1914-1914	3	
Ida	1877-1883	0	
Ilion	1900-1900	0	
Inlow	1899-1901	1	
Irving	1876-1931	13	
Isabel	1876-1901	6	
Ivison	1893-1909	6	
Jasper	1884-1961	11	
Jasper Rural Br.	1961-date	9	
Junction City	1872-date	13	
June	1899-1907	1	
Lancaster	1866-1872	1	
Landax	1914-1927	5	
Latham	1878-1888	3	
Leaburg(h)	1877-1959	9	
Leaburg Rural Br.	1959-date	11	
Lemati	1893-1898	3	
Linneus	1895-1903	0	
Linslaw	1917-1958	13	
Llewellyn	1886-1904	3	
London	1902-1919	11	
Long Tom	1853-1904	3	Territorial P.O.
Lorane	1887-date	12	
Lowell	1883-date	11	
Luckyboy	1901-1906	4	
Mabel	1878-1957	10	
Mackdale	(1917)	0	Never in Operation
Madison	1904-1909	5	
Mango	1899-1900	0	
Mapleton	1896-date	10	
Marcola	1901-date	12	
McCredie Springs	1926-1953	11	
McGlynn	1923-1938	7	

Post Office	Operated	Examples	Notes
Swisshome	1902-date	11	
Tay	1880-1885	0	
Thomson	1891-1895	0	
Thurston	1877-1974	12	
Thurston C.P.O.	1974-date	4	
Tiernan	1919-1969	10	
Tiptop	1895-1901	0	
Trent	1875-1963	13	
Varien	1892-1895	0	
Veneta	1914-date	10	
Vida	1898-date	10	
Walker	1891-1925	9	
Wallace	1885-1898	0	
Walterville	1875-date	12	
Walton	1884-date	11	
Wendling	1899-1952	12	
Westfir	1923-date	11	
Westlake	1915-date	11	
West Oak Rur. Sta.	1964-date	3	
Wildwood	1888-1914	9	
Willamette Forks	1851-1884	1	Territorial P.O.
Winberry	1906-1933	10	
Winino	1924-1925	1	
Zion	1899-1913	8	

Once again, readers are cautioned about using the number of post-mark examples reported from the survey as a literal measure of scarcity. For example, the fact that only 3 West Oak Rural Sta. postmarks were reported does not necessarily make that a SCARCE postmark. Whereas the fact that only 3 Long Tom postmarks were reported probably does reflect the true SCARCITY of that office.

In the opinion of La Posta, Gil Hulin is to be complimented on a very imaginative and highly productive idea. This exhibition not only succeeded in pulling together an impressive display of local postal history, but it made a long lasting contribution to the knowledge of Lane County history. There are not many exhibits which leave such a legacy.

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

As this is written in mid-October a total of 16 readers have
responded to the "Readers Preference Questionnaire" which was
mailed-out with V. 7, No. 3. Since about 80 questionnaires
were mailed, the response rate is roughly 20%. The statistical
significance of the results is therefore open to considerable
question. In response to the question seeking preference for
more articles dealing with specific states and territories, the
leading state was Montana with 7 readers requesting more arti-
cles. It was followed by Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico with
6 supporters each; Utah, Arizona, and Nevada with 5 each; Idaho,
and California with 4 each; and Washington, Oregon, and Alaska
with 2 supporters apiece. Some respondents indicated that all
of the states listed required more articles in La Posta, and
states of the Great Plains and West Texas were suggested as
other areas which should be considered in our pages.

Postal marking studies was the most favored type of article by
12 respondents. It was followed closely by post office listings
by county with 11 proponents. Research technique/data source
explanations received 9 votes; histories of a single post office
got 8; and book reviews drew 5 supporters. The other listed
types of articles received 4 votes each and "postal services
accounts and histories" and "integrated historical and postal
historic accounts" were also suggested as worthwhile types of
La Posta articles.

The question regarding what era La Posta articles should empha-
size drew a rather even response distribution for all eras from
1850 to 1930. Only about half as many people favored post-1930
period articles. By a margin of 10 to 2 respondents favored
keeping La Posta's six number per volume format. The reaction to
mail auctions, exchange sheet supplements, and so forth was mixed
but tended to be negative. More than one respondent expressed
the idea that there were already a sufficient number of commer-
cial auction houses, and specialist societies conducting auctions
and exchanges. For example, Robert Dalton Harris wrote, "I feel
quite strongly that La Posta should do nothing to dilute its
straight PH content, should do nothing to look more like just
another society..." Don Smith wrote, "La Posta is not the journal
of a club or society. It is instead a scholarly journal. Therefore
it should refrain from conducting auctions and exchanges." Ray L.
Newburn wrote, "Leave the exchanges, want ads, etc. to the weeklies.
An auction probably isn't practical either without a huge increase
in the number of subscribers. Most of us would be glad to buy,
but how would you get good stuff to sell?" The floor is still
open, but unless I receive a "public" outcry to the contrary, I
shall consider the matter or auctions and exchanges to be tabled.

In summary the "Readers Preference Questionnaire" yielded a some-
what disappointing response rate, but some of the comments were
interesting and instructive. Tom Todsen predicted that few of
you would respond on the theory that basic response comes in the
form of subscription renewal, or lack thereof. I know that's
true, but from time to time my insecurities prod me to try to
elicit some guidance from those of you who read these pages.
For the moment my insecurities are abated, and I want to thank
those of you who took the time to respond to the questionnaire.
We will try to incorporate your suggestions.

On other matters..... If you haven't heard about the Mobile Post
Office Society's work in publishing Charles Towle's U.S. TRANSIT
MARKINGS CATALOG, you've been missing out on quite an event. The
MPOS is bringing out the catalog serially, and is well along with
the 1837-1886 volume. Once this first volume is complete early
in 1977, a second volume covering the post-1886 period will be
published. The CATALOG comes to MPOS members through a modest
$3 added to club dues each year. Eventually the volumes will be
made available to all, but the price is likely to be considerably
higher. For additional information write the MPOS Secretary,
Edward J. Maloney, 26 South Onota St., Pittsfield, MASS 01201.
This is a super bargain which includes Charles Towle's usual
outstanding scholarship!

THE ALASKAN PHILATELIST will be carrying a column updating and
expanding the coverage of my Postmarks of Territorial Alaska. I
have received quite a lot of very useful information from people
who have examined their collections after seeing PTA. If you
are interested in Alaska or are just desirous of supporting good
postal history journals, why not send $5 to Don S. Dimpsey, the
Alaska Collectors Club Treasurer (P.O.Box 303, Odenton, MD 21113).
I'm quite sure that THE ALASKAN PHILATELIST as edited by Don
Morisch will not disappoint you.

Thus far (early November) we have one person, Art Rupert, who has
indicated an interest in working-up some postal history research
on Utah. Art's primary interest is rural branches and stations,
and he reports making a beginning on organizing the rural data on
Utah. Who else harbors an interest in the Beehive State? Contact
Art at Box 645, Prosser, Wash. 99350, or your editor if you have
a little time and an inclination to dig out some interesting his-
tory.

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