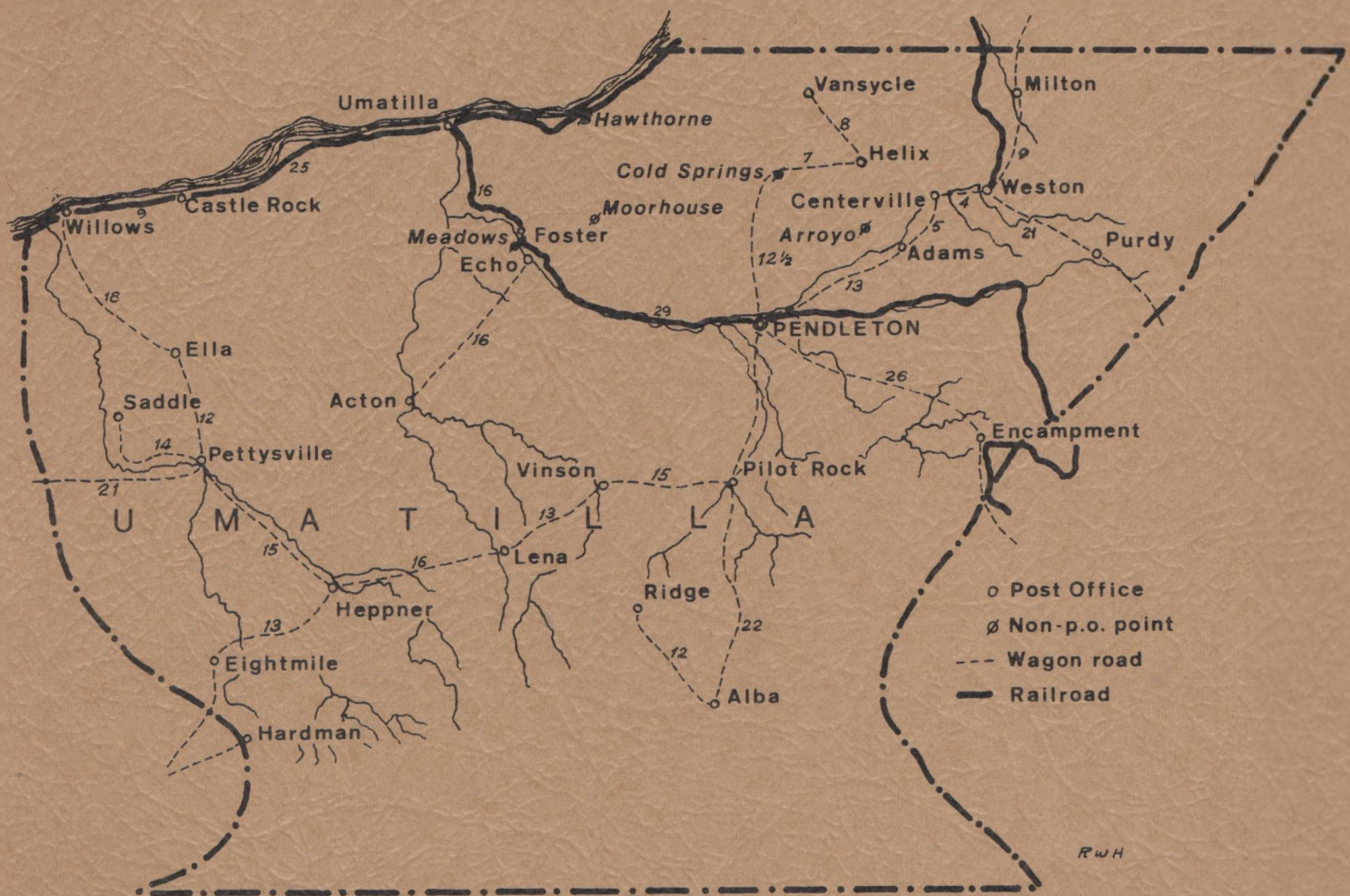
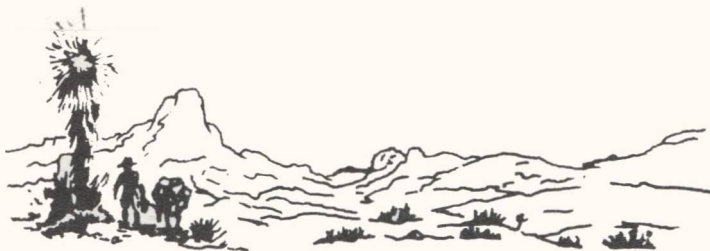


# LA POSTA



UMATILLA COUNTY POSTAL ROUTES IN 1883

vol. 10 no. 3



# LA POSTA

JUNE 1979

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 3 WHOLE NUMBER 57

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## THE POSTAL HISTORY OF UMATILLA COUNTY, OREGON

By Charles A. Whittlesey and Richard W. Helbock

Umatilla County contains over 3,200 square miles of land which varies from near desert conditions to conifer forested mountains. Created from the gigantic Wasco County on September 27, 1862, this semi-arid portion of northeastern Oregon has long been the State's most populous county east of the Cascades. Much of the county's population is supported by wheat farming, but manufacturing in the form of food processing, lumber products and textiles also add to the economy. The famous Pendleton Woolen Mills are perhaps the county's best known industry.

The Old Emigrant Trail crossed Umatilla County in the early days. After a long and difficult struggle up the Blue Mountains from the Grande Ronde River Valley, wagon trains dropped down onto the dry plains of the Columbia Basin. The route to the Willamette Valley closely paralleled the Umatilla River in the county, but an important junction led north to Wallula and Walla Walla. For many years Umatilla County was just a place to pass through quickly.

The first post office, named Umatilla, was established in 1851 at the Umatilla Indian Agency along the Emigrant Trail. It did not operate long, and indeed may not have operated at all. Twelve more years passed before another post office came into being. This second office was also named Umatilla, but its location was not near the original office. Other post offices were added during the decade. Marshall (later Pendleton), Eagan Station, Meadowville, Cavuse, Pilot Rock and Mitchell's Station (later Weston) all came into being during the 1860's.

Only four new offices were added during the 1870's -- Arvo, Butter Creek, Centerville (later Athena) and Milton -- but the decade of the 1880's brought the first railroads to Umatilla County. The increased access occasioned by the railroads brought about the beginnings of wheat farming, created several new farm market towns and dramatically increased the population of the county. The first railroad in Umatilla County was a section of the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company line from Wallula, Washington, to Celilo. The Oregon Short Line was soon added, providing a connection at Umatilla Junction for Pendleton and on to the Union Pacific east. Other branch lines eventually provided a network serving the northern part of the county.

This report presents a capsule history of the operations of post offices in Umatilla County. It consists of three parts. Part I is an alphabetic listing of all post offices established in the county. Part II is a brief chronologically arranged history of each post office operating in Umatilla County during the 19th century. Part III is a listing with illustrations of all known postmarks from 19th century Umatilla post offices. A few maps have been added to assist the reader in understanding locations and space relationships.

# UMATILLA COUNTY POST OFFICES

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
ADAMS	9 Jul 1883	operating	
ALBA	17 Apr 1882	30 Jul 1907	N. ch. to ALBEE
ALBEE	30 Jul 1907	31 Oct 1943	M. to UKIAH
ARROYO	15 Jul 1878	2 Apr 1880	N. ch. COLD SPRS.
ATHENA	16 May 1889	operating	Was CENTERVILLE
BERKLEY	25 Jul 1903	28 Feb 1905	M. to WESTON
BRADEN	26 Mar 1891	14 Sep 1891	M. to WALLA WALLA
BRIGGSON	2 Jun 1896	15 Apr 1909	M. to WESTON
BURROUGHS	10 May 1893	12 Jul 1895	M. to PENDLETON
BUTTER CREEK	28 Jul 1873	13 Sep 1881	N. ch. to VINSON
CAYUSE	29 Oct 1867	29 Sep 1874	
	29 Jul 1895	operating	
CENTERVILLE	11 Oct 1878	16 May 1889	N. ch. to ATHENA
COLD SPRINGS	2 Apr 1880	25 Jun 1883	M. to PENDLETON
DALE	11 Nov 1891	3 Apr 1907	Moved to Grant County
DORMAN	3 Oct 1887	11 Nov 1891	N. ch. to DALE
DUNCAN	28 Oct 1899	30 Jun 1958	M. to GIBBON
EAGAN STATION	21 Nov 1865	23 Sep 1867	
ECHO	31 May 1881	operating	
ENCAMPMENT	8 May 1882	26 Mar 1890	N. ch. to MEACHAM
EVARTS	11 Nov 1885	11 Nov 1886	M. to RIDGE
FLINN	17 Dec 1887	21 Nov 1888	
FOSTER	14 May 1883	2 May 1890	M. to ECHO
FREEWATER	25 Jun 1890	1 Sep 1951	Combined into MILTON-FREEWATER
GIBBON	14 May 1892	26 Aug 1966	
GURDANE	30 Jun 1890	13 Apr 1891	
	4 May 1897	30 Aug 1934	
HAWTHORNE	24 May 1880	19 Feb 1883	M. to UMATILLA
HELIX	6 May 1880	operating	
HERMISTON	3 Feb 1905	operating	
HILTON	24 Nov 1884	21 Jun 1886	
HOLDMAN	15 Aug 1900	30 May 1929	M. to PENDLETON
HURON	26 May 1905	15 Feb 1913	M. to MEACHAM
JUNIPER	26 Jun 1884	13 Jun 1894	
	26 Mar 1898	4 Jan 1912	M. to HELIX
LEHMAN	8 Sep 1899	26 Oct 1926	
	14 Jun 1927	29 Feb 1928	M. to PILOT ROCK
McKAY	31 Jan 1900	15 Feb 1930	M. to PILOT ROCK
McKAY DAM	10 Mar 1923	30 Nov 1926	M. to GIBBON
MARSHALL	21 Apr 1865	8 Oct 1869	Name changed to PENDLETON
MEACHAM	26 Mar 1890	8 Nov 1963	To PENDLETON R.B.
MEADOWS	10 May 1880	19 Dec 1882	M. to ECHO
MEADOWVILLE	2 Feb 1867	26 Oct 1874	
MILTON	3 Feb 1873	1 Sep 1951	Combined into
MILTON-FREEWATER	1 Sep 1951	operating	MILTON-FREEWATER
MITCHELL'S STATION	7 Feb 1867	22 Sep 1869	N. ch. to WESTON
MOORHOUSE	25 Mar 1880	6 Jun 1883	M. to PENDLETON
MOREHOUSE	5 Jan 1880	25 Mar 1880	N. ch. to MOORHOUS

# UMATILLA COUNTY POST OFFICES

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
MYRICK	1 Aug 1902	31 Mar 1908	M. to HELIX
NOLIN	21 Jan 1885	19 Jul 1893	
	6 Mar 1894	19 Mar 1898	
	3 Mar 1906	9 Apr 1923	M. to ECHO
NYE	9 Mar 1887	18 Jun 1917	M. to PILOT ROCK
PENDLETON	8 Oct 1869	operating	Was MARSHALL
PILOT ROCK	2 Dec 1868	operating	
PINE GROVE	20 Jan 1911	9 Aug 1934	
PURDY	9 Jun 1881	17 Sep 1891	M. to WESTON
REITH	12 Jan 1917	14 Feb 1918	N. ch. to RIETH
RIDGE	5 Oct 1882	17 Feb 1906	M. to ALBA
RIETH	14 Feb 1918	1 Aug 1971	
RUDDOCK	25 Jul 1888	12 Oct 1895	M. to GIBBON
SALISBURY	18 Aug 1894	24 Jan 1896	M. to PENDLETON
SNIPE	17 Jun 1881	17 Apr 1882	N. ch. to ALBA
STANFIELD	7 May 1909	operating	
SWART	15 Sep 1897	12 May 1902	M. to DUNCAN
TAMARACK	2 Jun 1896	28 Aug 1902	M. to TANKS
TANKS	2 Jun 1896	2 May 1906	M. to BRIGGSON
THOPNHOLLOW	10 Mar 1923	30 Nov 1926	M. to GIBBON
TOLLGATE	15 Sep 1921	31 Mar 1954	M. to WESTON
UKIAH	22 Sep 1890	operating	
UMAPINE	10 Mar 1916	1966	
UMATILLA	26 Sep 1851	6 Jan 1852	
UMATILLA	28 May 1863	operating	
VANSYCLE	11 Oct 1882	19 Dec 1900	M. to HELIX
VINSON	15 Sep 1881	26 Oct 1907	M. to NYE
WARREN	18 Dec 1888	26 Mar 1895	M. to HELIX
WESTLAND	17 Aug 1917	14 Jan 1922	M. to HERMISTON
WESTON	22 Sep 1869	operating	

## ----- Addenda:

BOILING POINT	21 Nov 1932	31 Dec 1935	M. to PENDLETON
LEHMAN HOT SPRINGS	28 Jun 1937	23 Jun 1944	M. to UKIAH
McnARY	1 Sep 1949	operating	
ORDNANCE	6 Dec 1943	29 Feb 1960	M. to HERMISTON



UMATILLA. Established September 26, 1851. Eleven years before the county was created a post office named Umatilla was authorized with the appointment of A. Francis Royer as postmaster. Located on the Umatilla Indian Reservation near the Oregon Emigrant Trail, this post office was the first to be established in territory that is now organized as Oregon east of the Cascades. Records indicate that the office was discontinued January 6, 1852, and, even though the Official Register of 1851 confirms the existence of a Umatilla post office in Oregon, it seems unlikely that the office ever was in operation. This office was related only in name to the post office which was established in 1863. Their locations differed considerably.

UMATILLA. Established May 28, 1863. In 1863 Timothy K. Davenport survey a townsite at the mouth of Umatilla River on the Columbia. The town was named Umatilla Landing and it gained attraction as a supply point for miners headed toward the Boise and Owyhee Mining Districts. Z. F. Moody was appointed the first Umatilla postmaster, but he was succeeded by James H. Koontz in 1864 and Koontz remained the community's postmaster for a considerable period of time. The Umatilla post office continues to operate.

MARSHALL. Established April 21, 1865. The Marshall post office functioned for a few years at Marshall Station, about a half-mile east of the mouth of McKay Creek on the north bank of Umatilla River. Marshall Station was on Harney's Cutoff of the Oregon Emigrant Road at a place where that trail crossed Umatilla River. It was believed to be about halfway between Umatilla Landing and the Grande Ronde Valley, so when Umatilla County was erected the town became the temporary seat of county government. In 1868 the commissioners of Umatilla County chose the name Pendleton for the county seat, and on October 8, 1869, the name of the post office was changed to coincide. Marshall post office was about two miles west of the present business district of Pendleton.

EAGAN STATION. Established November 21, 1865. This office was named for its first postmaster, Charles P. Eagan. Beyond that, very little is known about the short-lived facility. Records indicate that Eagan Station post office was discontinued September 23, 1867, and, while it seems likely the station was on the Emigrant Trail, the exact location has not been determined.

MEADOWVILLE. Established February 2, 1867. Descriptively named for the locality in the vicinity of the present-day community of Stanfield on the Umatilla River. Hawkins Shelton was the first postmaster at this office which was situated about two miles east of the mouth of Butter Creek on the Umatilla. Meadowville post office was discontinued October 26, 1874.

MITCHELL'S STATION. Established February 7, 1867. This office was located near the present site of Weston on Pine Creek, northeast of Pendleton on the old road to Fort Walla Walla. William H. Abell was the first postmaster. On September 22, 1869, the name of the office was changed to Weston.

CAYUSE. Established October 29, 1867. The Cayuse post office was named for the Indian tribe which formerly made its home at the headwaters of the Umatilla, Walla Walla and Grande Ronde Rivers. The office is located about 11 miles east of Pendleton on the old Emigrant Trail and the Umatilla River. John S. White was the initial postmaster, and on September 29, 1874, the office was closed. On July 29, 1895, Cayuse post office was re-established with James W. Flack as postmaster, and the office has remained in service until the present day.

PILOT ROCK. Established December 2, 1868. This post office was named for a large basalt bluff, a prominent landmark in the community. The office is located on Birch Creek at the mouth of East Birch Creek, about 12 miles south of Pendleton. Andrew Sturtevant was the first Pilot Rock postmaster, and the office continues to function.

WESTON. Established September 22, 1869, by change of name from Mitchell's Station. When Thomas T. Lieuallen became postmaster, he changed the name of his office to honor his former home, Weston, Missouri. The office was also probably relocated slightly, as this was a common occurrence with the change of postmasters on the early frontier. Weston continues to operate as an Oregon post office.

PENDLETON. Established October 8, 1869, by change of name from Marshall. The new name of this office honored George Hunt Pendleton of Ohio, who was the Democratic candidate for Vice-President in 1864 and who was the 1868 Oregon Democratic State Convention nominee for U. S. President. Pendleton was the original seat of county government for Umatilla County. It is the primary population concentration to this day, and, naturally, the post office continues to operate.

MILTON. Established February 3, 1873. The name of this post office apparently derives from the fact that a mill was projected to form the economic base of the settlement from a very early date. William A. Cowl was the first Milton postmaster. The community is located on the Walla Walla River about 12 miles south of Walla Walla and only a few miles south of the state boundary. On the 1st of September in 1951 the Milton post office was combined with the nearby Freewater post office, and the name officially became Milton-Freewater. The office continues to operate as such.

BUTTER CREEK. Established July 28, 1873. This post office was located on the creek of the same name, about 18 miles southwest of Pendleton on the stage road to Heppner. John S. Vinson was the first and only Butter Creek postmaster, and on September 13, 1881, when Vinson was succeeded in the job, the name of the office was changed to VINSON in his honor.

ARROYO. Established July 15, 1878. The arid countryside of eastern Oregon is channeled by numerous dry or intermittent stream beds, which are known by the Spanish term "arroyo." Clinton V.B. Peeder was the first and only Arroyo postmaster. His office was renamed

COLD SPRINGS, and relocated on April 2, 1880. The Arroyo post office was located about 10 miles northeast of Pendleton, and a few miles northwest of Adams.

CENTERVILLE. Established October 11, 1878. The Centerville post office was so named because of the community's location on the road to Walla Walla about halfway from Pendleton. William T. Cook was appointed the first Centerville postmaster. On May 16, 1889, the name of this office was changed to ATHENA.

MOREHOUSE. Established January 5, 1880. This office was named for the family name of its first postmaster, but the postmaster's name was spelled "Moorhouse." Thomas L. Moorhouse apparently notified the Department of their error, for on March 25, 1880, the records indicate a change of name to MOORHOUSE.

MOORHOUSE. Established March 25, 1880. Thomas L. Moorhouse, also known as Major Lee Moorhouse, was a prominent pioneer citizen of eastern Oregon and later gained considerable fame from his photographs of Indians. Moorhouse post office was located about halfway between Pendleton and Umatilla on the old stage road. On June 6, 1883, Moorhouse post office was discontinued with papers to Pendleton.

COLD SPRINGS. Established April 2, 1880, by change of name from Arroyo. When Andrew C. Bryan succeeded Postmaster Reeder as the Arroyo postmaster, the site of the office was moved several miles to the northwest. The new name of this office was apparently descriptive, for a number of natural springs occur in the area. Cold Springs post office was 12.5 road miles north of Pendleton and 7 miles due west of Helix. The office was closed June 25, 1883.

HELIX. Established May 6, 1880. McArthur relates in OREGON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES that this office was named because a local resident, possibly W. B. Henderson, had an infection of the helix of his ear at the time the office came into being. Apparently, Postmaster Henderson was so taken with the word that he submitted it to postal authorities in Washington as the name of his new office. Helix is located about 15 miles northeast of Pendleton, near the headwaters of Greasewood Creek. Helix survives.

MEADOWS. Established May 19, 1880. The Meadows post office served the same locality as the earlier MEADOWVILLE post office, and its name derived from the same source. The area around the lower Umatilla River -- near present-day Hermiston -- was known as the Meadows because of its appearance, and in contradistinction to the Umatilla River Canyon west of Pendleton. This office was on or near Umatilla River near the mouth of Butter Creek. Noah W. Hiestand was the only postmaster, for the office was discontinued December 19, 1882, mail to Echo.



HAWTHORNE. Established May 24, 1880. Hawthorne post office was established at a station on the newly constructed Oregon Railway & Navigation Company line from Umatilla to Wallala. Situated on the south bank of the Columbia River about 10 miles east of the town of Umatilla, Hawthorne operated as a post office less than three years. Sarah S. Simmons was the only postmaster, and the office was discontinued February 19, 1883, papers to Umatilla.

ECHO. Established May 31, 1881. This post office was named for Echo Koontz, who was the daughter of James H. Koontz, postmaster of Umatilla from 1872 to 1883. Echo post office is located very near the Umatilla River, a few miles east of the mouth of Butter Creek. Moses C. Tribble was appointed the first postmaster, and the office continues to operate.

PURDY. Established June 9, 1881. This office was located at an early-day resort hotel and stage station at what is now Bingham Springs on the Umatilla River in the Blue Mountains. John B. Purdy owned the resort when the post office was established, and the office was named for him. Purdy post office was located some 8 miles east of present-day Gibbon, and was served by a mail route out of Weston which proceeded on over the mountains to Summerville in Union County. William H. Parrent was the first Purdy postmaster, but he was succeeded in about a year by John B. Purdy. Purdy remained postmaster until his office was discontinued September 17, 1891.

SNIPE. Established June 17, 1881. Snipe post office was named for a nearby stream. The office was located in the southern part of the county, and was served by a mail route that ran some 22 miles south from Pilot Rock. John H. Clifford was the only Snipe postmaster, for on April 17, 1882, the name of the office was changed to ALBA.

VINSON. Established September 15, 1881, by change of name from Butter Creek. John S. Vinson was succeeded by Lucien Everts as postmaster at Butter Creek, and the name of the office was changed to Vinson. Vinson was an early settler in the area, and this name change was an obvious attempt to pay him an honor. Vinson post office was served by a mail route which ran along the wagon road from Pilot Rock to Heppner. Operation of the office was interrupted briefly in 1889 and again in 1890, and on October 26, 1907, Vinson post office was discontinued with papers to Nye.

ALBA. Established April 17, 1882, by change of name from Snipe. This name change reportedly was made to honor the Albee Brothers, well-known local cattle ranchers. John H. Clifford remained as the postmaster, so it is unlikely that the location of the office was moved at this time. The reason why Alba was chosen instead of Albee is unknown, but on July 30, 1907, the name of the office was finally changed to ALBEE. Albee post office was discontinued on October 31, 1943, mail to Ukiah.

ENCAMPMENT. Established May 8, 1882. The Encampment post office was so named because it was located near the site of Lee's Encampment, a pioneer site dating from the 1840's. Mary M. Strickland became the first postmaster of this office which was located in the Blue Mountains on Meacham Creek, near the point where the Old Emigrant Trail crossed the stream. The office was about half way between Pendleton and La Grande. On March 26, 1890, the name of this facility was changed to MEACHAM.

RIDGE. Established October 5, 1882. The name of this office was descriptive of its situation on a ridge separating the waters of Birch and Butter Creeks in the southern part of the county. Ridge was located about 12 miles southwest of Pilot Rock, and on or near what is now U.S. Route 395. William R. Stansell was the first postmaster, and the office operated until February 17, 1906, when it was closed out to Alba.

VANSYCLE. Established October 11, 1882. The Vansycle post office was named in honor of J. M. Vansycle, a pioneer resident in the area west of Milton. James L. Killiam was appointed the first postmaster of this office, which was located on a wagon road eight miles north of Helix and very near the state boundary. Vansycle was located on the Hunt Pailroad, later the Washington & Columbia River Railroad, during the late 1880's and 1890's. On December 19, 1900, Vansycle was discontinued with papers to Helix.

FOSTER. Established May 14, 1883. This office was named for John P. Foster, a pioneer Umatilla County settler. It was located on the O.R. & N. line from Umatilla to Pendleton, and, in fact, served as the station for nearby Echo. Frank B. Clopton was the first Foster postmaster. Service was interrupted briefly during 1888, and on May 2, 1890, Foster was discontinued with mail to Echo.

ADAMS. Established July 9, 1883. The Adams post office was named for John F. Adams, whose homestead made up part of the original townsite. The office is located about 13 miles northeast of Pendleton on Wildhorse Creek. William H. McCoy was the first Adams postmaster, and the office continues to operate.

JUNIPER. Established June 26, 1884. Named for the scattered juniper trees which dot the landscape of northern Umatilla County, Juniper Canyon gave its name in turn to at least one post office in the county. The original Juniper post office was located on the O. R. & N. Company line between Wallula and Umatilla, at a point where the railroad crosses Juniper Canyon near its mouth. Service of the post office was discontinued June 13, 1894, but Juniper was re-established March 26, 1898. It is believed that this re-established office was located several miles up Juniper Canyon, perhaps as much as 12 miles from the railroad station. On January 4, 1912, Juniper post office was closed out to Helix.

HILTON. Established November 24, 1884. The Hilton post office was a short-lived affair which bore the family name of its first postmaster, Mrs. M. E. Hilton. There is some reason to doubt that the office was ever in actual operation, for the Official Guide of 1885 does not list it. No information has come to light as to the location of the office, but records indicate that Hilton was discontinued June 21, 1886, with no papers.

NOLIN. Established January 21, 1885. Nolin post office was situated on the O. R. & N. line a few miles east of Echo, and near the Umatilla River. The identity of the person honored by the name of this office is not known, but it may have been a local settler, or perhaps someone connected with the railroad. John J. Vinson was the first Nolin postmaster. The office was not in operation from July 19, 1893 to March 6, 1894, and again from March 19, 1898 to March 3, 1906. On April 9, 1923, Nolin was finally closed out to Echo.

EVARTS. Established November 11, 1885. This post office was named for Squire Evarts, who operated a general store, hotel and livery stable in the small community. The office was located in the southern part of the county in the upper Birch Creek drainage, and on what is now U.S. Route 395. William Roberts was the first Evarts postmaster, and the office was closed out to Ridge on November 11, 1886.

NYE. Established March 9, 1887. The name of this office honored A. W. Nye, a pioneer Umatilla County resident. Henry C. Wright was appointed the first Nye postmaster, and he continued to hold the position throughout the 19th century. Nye post office was located about 8 miles southwest of Pilot Rock, near the present junction of U.S. Route 395 and Oregon Route 74. The office was discontinued June 18, 1917, mail to Pilot Rock.

DORMAN. Established October 3, 1887. James W. Dorman was the first postmaster of this office, which bore his family name. It was located in the extreme southern part of Umatilla County on the North Fork John Day River, and near the spot where U.S. Route 395 crosses Camas Creek today. On November 11, 1891, the name of the post office was changed to DALE.

FLINN. Established December 17, 1887. Flinn post office operated less than one year, being closed November 21, 1888, with no papers. Elizabeth A. Nessly is listed as the first and only postmaster, but the author has been unsuccessful in an attempt to learn additional details about this office.

RUDDOCK. Established July 25, 1888. Ruddock post office served a logging community in the Blue Mountains. It was located near the junction of Meacham and North Fork Meacham Creeks, and on the railroad. Isaac Ruddock was the first and only postmaster, and on October 12, 1895, Ruddock was discontinued with papers to Gibbon.



WARREN. Established December 18, 1888. William O. Warren was appointed the first postmaster of this office, which was located on the Washington & Columbia River Railroad about 5 miles southwest of Helix. Warren was the only postmaster the office ever had, as it was discontinued March 26, 1895, papers to Helix.

ATHENA. Established May 16, 1889, by change of name from Centerville. The coming of the railroad changed space relationships for this community which had formerly been a midway location on the road from Pendleton and Walla Walla. There were also problems of confusion with communities with the same name in Washington County, Oregon, and Klickitat County, Washington, so the local school principal selected Athena, a name with classical Greek overtones. The Athena post office continues to operate.

MEACHAM. Established March 26, 1890, by change of name from Encampment. The name of this office was changed to honor Harvey J. and Alfred B. Meacham, who operated Meacham Station in the 1860's and 1870's on the old stage road between Pendleton and La Grande. Mrs. Sue Todd was the first Meacham postmaster. Meacham continued to operate as an independant post office until November 8, 1963. At that time it was converted to a rural branch of Pendleton. It presently operates under the designation of Community Post Office.

FREEWATER. Established June 25, 1890. The Freewater post office was so named to call attention to the promotion scheme which was used to boost the town development. This community was begun as a rival to nearby Milton, and in order to attract new residents the town promoters offered free water for irrigation. Freewater was located just a mile or so from Milton, and eventually the two communities merged together. Freewater post office was merged with Milton post office September 1, 1951, and the two now operate as MILTON-FREEWATER.

GURDANE. Established June 30, 1890. This office was named for John S. Gurdane, an early resident of southern Umatilla County and one-time member of the State Legislature. Gurdane post office was located in the southwest corner of the county about 15 road miles south of Vinson. Alba G. Bartholomew was the first postmaster. The office did not operate from April 13, 1891, to May 4, 1897, and was finally discontinued August 30, 1934.

UKIAH. Established September 22, 1890. Ukiah was named for the California town by E. B. Gambee, who moved to southern Umatilla County from northern California. DeWitt C. Whiting was the first Ukiah postmaster, and the office continues to operate in southern Umatilla County on Camus Creek and Oregon Route 244.

BRADEN. Established March 26, 1891. Jennie Braden was the first postmaster, and the office bore her family name. It was located on the lower Walla Walla Road, and about four miles north of Milton. After only a few months of operation, Braden post office was closed out to Walla Walla on September 14, 1891.

DALE. Established November 11, 1891, by change of name from Dorman. The new name of this office may have been descriptive, or it may have been chosen to honor some person. Details are lacking, but when William J. Cavender became postmaster the name change was effected. On April 3, 1907, Dale post office was moved a mile or so south and into Grant County. The office remained there, and on July 1, 1962, was converted to a rural branch of UKIAH. It is now operating as a Community Post Office out of UKIAH.

GIBBON. Established May 14, 1892. This post office was named for General John Gibbon, commander of the Department of Columbia in 1885-1886. The office was located on Umatilla River near the mouth of Meacham Creek, and about 20 miles east of Pendleton. Robert Mathews was the first Gibbon postmaster. The office was finally discontinued August 26, 1966.

BISSELL. Authorized April 27, 1893, and apparently named for Wilson S. Bissell, Postmaster General of the United States in 1893, this office was rescinded May 16, 1893, before beginning actual operations.

BURROUGHS. Established May 10, 1893. Burroughs post office was named for Benjamin S. Burroughs, who was to have been the first postmaster at BISSELL. Both offices were located in the same locality, about 8 miles southwest of Pendleton in Coombs Canyon. Barney F. Hogue was the first and only Burroughs postmaster. His office was discontinued July 12, 1895, with papers to Pendleton.

SALISBURY. Established August 18, 1894. Located on McKay Creek, about halfway between Pendleton and Pilot Rock, this post office was named for Francis M. Salisbury, its first and only postmaster. On January 24, 1896, Salisbury post office was closed out of Pendleton.

BRIGGSON. Established June 2, 1896. Dan Briggs conceived the idea of a post office to serve the small community on Wildhorse Creek in the Blue Mountains about 8 miles southeast of Weston, and so the name of the facility honored him. William McCorkell was the first postmaster, and the office operated until April 15, 1909, when it was closed out to Weston.

TAMARACK. Established June 2, 1896. The western larch is a tree common in the Blue Mountains of Umatilla County, and it is known locally as the tamarack. Lewis A. Rambo became the first Tamarack postmaster, and his office was sited along the road from Milton to Elgin, about 15 miles east of Weston. Service was interrupted for a few months in 1897, and the office was closed out to Tanks on August 28, 1902.

TANKS. Established June 2, 1896. Tanks post office was third to be established in Umatilla County on the same day. All three were in the eastern part of the county. Tanks was named for the water tanks used by freight haulers traveling the road between Walla Walla and Elgin. DeWitt C. French was the first postmaster, and

his office was located near the summit of the Blue Mountains on the road from Milton to Elgin. Tanks post office survived until May 2, 1906, when it was closed out to Briggson.

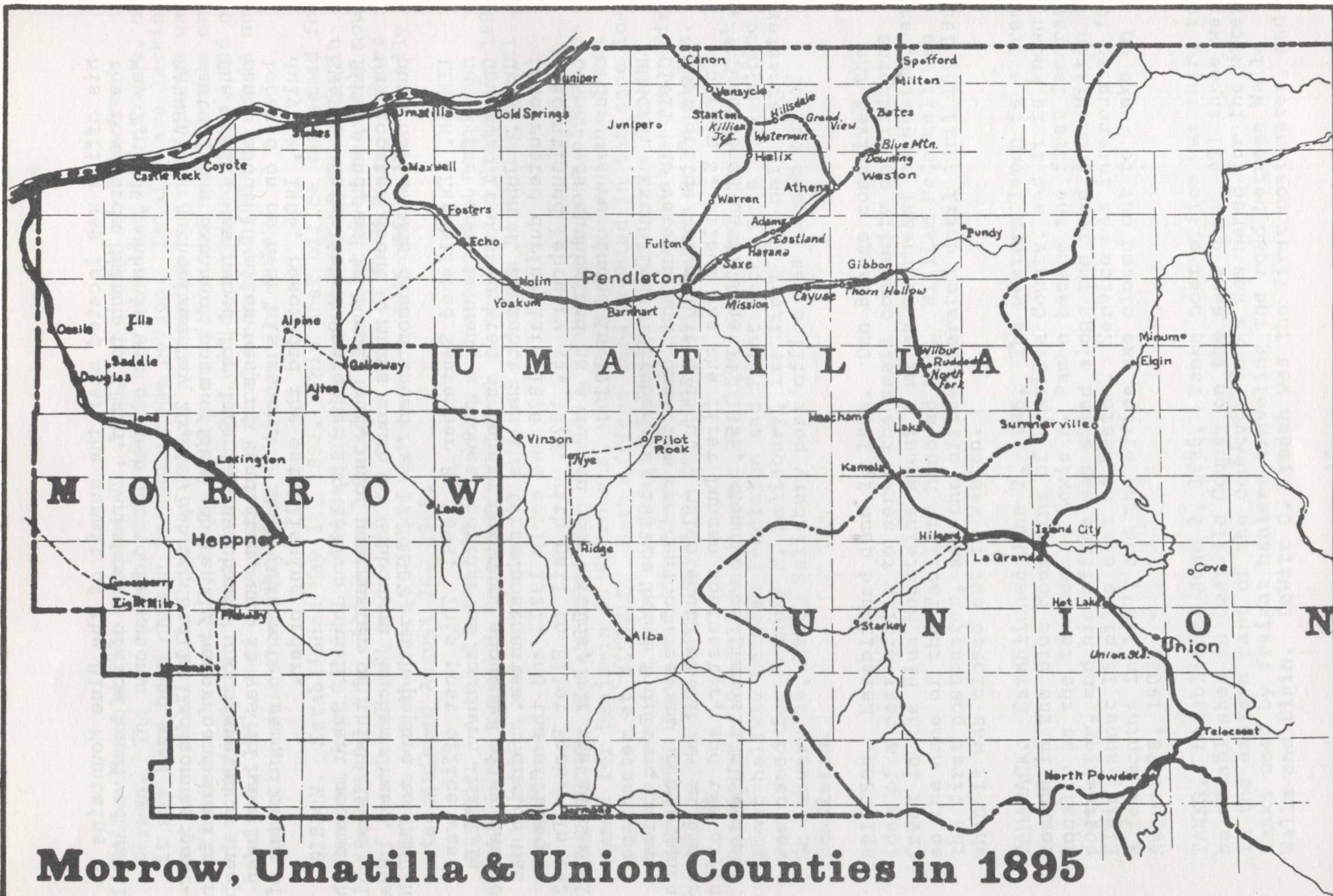
BARNHART. Authorized May 20, 1897, with Stella Jackson as postmaster, the Barnhart post office apparently never came into being. The office was named for Jeremiah Barnhart, who operated a sheep ranch about 10 miles west of Pendleton, and it was to have been located on or near his ranch. A Post Office Department order of July 14, 1905, rescinded the establishing order.

SWART. Established September 15, 1897. John H. Swart became the first, and, as it turned out, only postmaster of this office which was located about 7 miles south of Gibbon on Meacham Creek. Swart post office was discontinued May 12, 1902, with papers to DUNCAN.

LEHMAN. Established September 8, 1899. This post office was named for James Lehman, a pioneer settler of southern Umatilla County. It was located at Lehman Springs, about 13 miles east of Ukiah. John W. Endicott was the first postmaster. Service was interrupted during late 1926 and early 1927, and the office was discontinued February 15, 1928, with mail to Pilot Rock. In 1929 Lehman was authorized as a summer post office, but the authorizing order was rescinded in 1930.

DUNCAN. Established October 28, 1899. Named for Isaac Duncan, a Civil War veteran and long-time resident of Meacham Creek, Duncan post office was situated about 9 miles south of Gibbon on the creek. Ephraim S. Wilbur was the first Duncan postmaster, and the office functioned until June 30, 1958, when it was finally closed out to Gibbon.

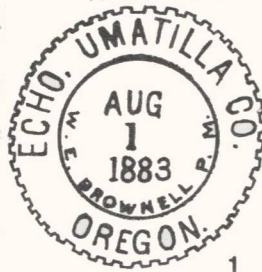
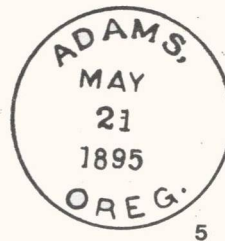




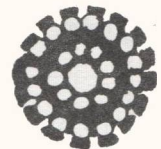
# UMATILLA COUNTY NINETEENTH CENTURY POSTMARKS

TOWN TYPE NO.	POSTMARK CODE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	EXAMPLES KNOWN	KILLER TYPE*	NOTES
ADAMS (1883-Date)						
1.	C2J3,9,10NRRB30	20Jan85	30Nov85b	4	Swiss cheese	
2.	C1J3,9S1RRB34	16Feb87r	1Dec87r	3	Target	(1)
3.	C1EN1B27	18Mar89	31Oct90	?	Target	
4.	C2J3,10N1RRB30	23Jul93b		1	Target	(2)
5.	C1EN1RBB28.5	29Mar94b	21Mar95b	?	Target	
ALBA (1882-1907)						
1.	OV22J1N1RRB36x22	6Jan91b	7Mar92b	2		
2.	C1JN1BBR27.5	21Feb94		1	mss.	
ATHENA (1889-Date)						
1.	C21JN1B32	17Jul89p		1	Target	
2.	C1JT1B27.5	27Sep93	15Mar95	5	Cork	
3.	C1ET1B28	30Mar98		1	Cork	
CAYUSE (1867-1874 and 1895-Date)						
1.	M	29Dec73		1	mss.	
CENTERVILLE (1878-1889)						
1.	C1J10N1RRB26	20Sep79p	5Jun83p	7	Star-in-circ.(3)	
2.	C1C1S1RBB32	19Feb87p	21May87p	2	Cork	
3.	C31J12N1B30	9Nov88b	13Mar89	2	Wheel-of-fort.	
ECHO (1881-Date)						
1.	C32J3,9N1B33	1Aug83	25Apr87	5	mss.	
2.	C1EN1BBR27.5	16Mar89		1	Target	
3.	C1JN1BBR28	4Dec95		1	Target	
ENCAMPMENT (1882-1890)						
1.	SL	21Jul81		1	mss.	
FOSTER (1883-1888)						
1.	C2J1N1B33	10Oct86		1	Swiss cheese	
GIBBON (1892-1966)						
1.	C1EN1BBR26.5	3Jun96		1	Target	
HELIX (1880-Date)						
1.	C31JN1B26.5	8Aug85r	11Sep89	2	Target	
2.	C1JT1B28	3Nov93	7Nov93	2	Cork	
JUNIPER (1884-1912)						
1.	M	4Feb87	20Mar93	?		
MILTON (1873-1951)						
1.	C1EA1BBR25.5	13Aug79r	21Jun83r	3	Cork	
2.	C21E9N1RRB32	21Nov80r		1	Iron cross	





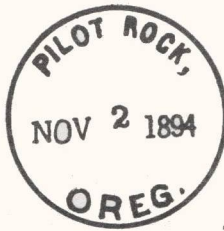
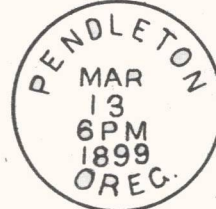
ENCAMPMENT OR(?)  
7/21/84



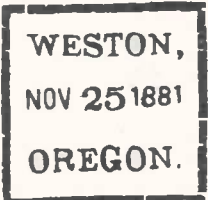


# UMATILLA COUNTY NINETEENTH CENTURY POSTMARKS

TOWN TYPE NO.	POSTMARK CODE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	EXAMPLES KNOWN	KILLER TYPE*	NOTES
MILTON (Continued)						
3.	C21EN1RRB32	9Mar82r	20Mar82r	2	Iron cross	(4)
4.	C31JN1RRB28.5	14Jun84	17Jun85	2	Iron cross	
5.	C1ES1RBB28.5	25Jun92	24May94	4	Ov. bar grid	
6.	C31J3,9N1RRB32	1Aug92g	13Feb93b	2		
MOORHOUSE (1880-1883)						
1.	C21JS1B31.5	5May82		1	Target	
NOLIN (1885-1923)						
1.	C21E1N1RRB31.5	26Dec90b		1		
2.	C1EN1BBR28	17Sep96		1	Target	
NYE (1887-1917)						
1.	C21E1N1RRB32	16May88b		1		
PENDLETON (1869-Date)						
1.	OC1?A1BBR25	7Mar74	25Apr74	2	Target	
2.	C1EA1BBR24	17Mar74?		2	Target	
3.	C1EA1BBR25.5	12Aug79?r		1	Target	
4.	C21JS1B31	18Nov79r	9Dec80r	5	Target	
5.	C1JS1B27	6Jan82	3Jul83	5	Target	
6.	C1JS1RRB29	15Jun84	18Jul84	2	Target	
7.	C1EN1B27	22Jun85	16Jul91	6	Cork	
8.	C1ET1B28	18Oct92	24Mar93	3	Cork	
9.	C1JT1B27	27Jul94		1	Cork	
10.	C1ET1B27	5Sep95		1	Cork	
11.	C1JT8B24	25Oct97		1	Ov. grid/"1"	
12.	C1ET1B28	13Mar99		1	9-bar grid	
PILOT ROCK (1868-Date)						
1.	COEN1BBR24	29Jun74		1	Target	
2.	C1EN1BBR25	29Apr82r	4Jan83r	2	Target	
3.	C41JN1B30	18Aug86	10Feb90	5	Target	
4.	C1ES1BBR29	2Nov94		1		
RIDGE (1882-1905)						
1.	C41JN1B29.5	23Aug84b	5Sep85b	2	Wheel-of-fortune	
TAMARACK (1896-1902)						
1.	C1EN1BBR27.5	26Jul97		1	Target	
UKIAH (1890-Date)						
1.	C1EN1B27.5	12Dec98		1	Target	
UMATILLA (1863-Date)						
1.	Handstmp.+ M	Feb64	Jul65	?	Cork	
2.	M	17Nov64		1	mss.	
3.	C1GA1BBR24	Jun66	21May67	?	Target	



*July 15/65*



# UMATILLA COUNTY NINETEENTH CENTURY POSTMARKS

TOWN TYPE NO.	POSTMARK CODE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	EXAMPLES KNOWN	KILLER TYPE*	NOTES
UMATILLA (Continued)						
4.	C1EA1BBR26	16Apr73		1	Target	
5.	C21JS1B31	19Apr81	13Mar82	2	Target	
6.	C1JN1BBR28	20May94		1	Target	
7.	C1JN1B28	31Jan96r		1	Oval grid	
VANSYCLE (1882-1900)						
1.	M	24Oct93		1		
2.	C1JN1BBR27.5	10May95	13Mar96	2	Target	
3.	C1EN1B26.5	Oct99		1	Target	
WESTON (1869-Date)						
1.	C1EA1BBR24	Mar75		1	Target	
2.	C1EA1BBR25	30Mar78r		1	Target	
3.	C31E10N1B27	22Apr81		1		
4.	SLB	25Nov81	16Jan88	5		(5)
5.	C21J13S1B33	5Oct83	31Aug88	3	Star-in-circle	
6.	C1JS1RRB31	17Jan84	11Oct87	6	Star-in-circle	
7.	C1EN1B27.5	10Aug87	28Sep90	4	Cork	
8.	C41EN1RRB29	12Jan89		1	Oval grid	
9.	C1JT1B28	15Apr93	14Sep97	2	Cork	

NOTES: (1) Postmaster's name is Stewart C. Craft; not "Croft" as reported in the Thompson book.  
 (2) Appears to be Type 1 with postmaster's name removed.  
 (3) Post office name is spelled "CENTREVILLE" in this postmark only.  
 (4) Appears to be Type 2 with postmaster's name removed.  
 (5) Border is a square composed of delicate design; see illustration.

COLOR ABBREVIATIONS: b - blue; p - purple; r - red; g - green.



## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

We have some excellent articles 'on tap' for the next issue of LA POSTA. John Henry has contributed an excellent study of the Early Mails to Victoria. Dan Meschter in collaboration with Art Rupert will bring us the Davis County portion of "The Post Offices of Utah." Edith Doane continues her highly regarded series with the Doane Cancellations of Nevada. Chuck Whittlesey has another installment of the 19th Century Oregon Postmark Catalog; this one dealing with Union County.

Looking beyond the next number however, the future is less clearly defined. LA POSTA is in serious need of additional research articles and features. We can use post office or county studies from any area of the American West. We can use postmark studies, postal route investigations, RPO research, interesting postmaster biographies and any other similar research reports. If you've been thinking about carrying forward one of your pet interests in postal history, now is the time! Your editor will be pleased to assist you in postmark tracings, map work and/or editorial assistance.

A recently published work, which may prove useful to those who collect modern postmarks, is Robert W. Govern and Jay W. Lounsbury's Discontinued and Renamed Post Offices in the Zip Era 1963-1978. Stiff cover with plastic spiral binder, this 135 page listing is arranged alphabetically by state. It is, in effect, a summary of the records of post office and branch closings and name changes for the 15-year period. Unfortunately, details as to price and where available are lacking, but this is a publication by people associated with the Post Mark Collectors Club, and additional information may be available from Bernice White, 3487 First-enger Road, Marion, Ohio 43302. Alternatively, interested persons might write literature dealers such as Roger Koerber or Leonard H. Hartmann.

Leonard H. Hartmann, P.O. Box 21397, Louisville, KY 40221, has just issued a most interesting listing of philatelic literature for sale from the "Library of a Western Gentleman." The holdings contain numerous classic and near-classic philatelic and postal history works. It appears that most of the "giants" of philatelic literature from the United States are represented in the sale. A copy of Chase and Cabeen's, The First Hundred Years of United States Territorial Postmarks is available in mint condition for \$210.00, and there are many other items of high interest. It is apparent from the price realizations of philatelic literature these days, that one would be well advised to buy books of possible interest as soon as they are released. Once out of print, prices skyrocket. Witness the performance of Towle & Meyer's Railroad Postmarks of the United States, 1861-1886. This book listed just \$12.50 when it was released in 1968. It brought \$47.50 in the Phillips sale of Nov. 3, 1978. Hartmann lists it for \$62.50. 'Nuff said?

RICHARD W. HELBOCK, EDITOR, 1635 MARIPOSA DR., LAS CRUCES, NM 88001



