

LA POSTA

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THE POST OFFICES OF UTAH

By Daniel Y. Meschter with Arthur E. Rupert*

PART VI: SALT LAKE COUNTY

The Mormons who entered the Great Salt Lake Valley in July 1847 founded Salt Lake City and made it their spiritual and political capitol. Political development reached a point by 1850 that Salt Lake County could be erected on January 31st of that year. The choice of a name was obvious.

The location of the Mormon capital was strategic. Overland travelers bound for California soon began to detour from the old California Trail through Idaho in favor of the more direct route west from Salt Lake City. The postal route established in 1850 also went through Salt Lake City, where the first post office in the Territory was established on August 9, 1850, as described in Part I of this series.

The land the Mormons found when they emerged from the mouth of Emigration Canyon was a desolate, arid plain. Its life-blood were streams of fresh water that rushed down out of the Wasatch Mountains and across the plain to join the Jordan River on its way to the Great Salt Lake. Fortunately, the soils were friable and, when irrigated from the streams, were capable of supporting the agrarian economy best suited to the needs of the emigrants.

The colony expanded rapidly in order to accomodate the flood of emigrants which soon followed. The next post offices were established at new farming towns south of Salt Lake City at Draper, Union, Home (Taylorsville), Mormon and Mount Pleasant (Gardners Mills). Before long, little of the precious fresh water was allowed to reach the Great Salt Lake.

Even an agrarian economy requires some industry, and the Mormons were fortunate that the streams that irrigated their fields could be harnessed to a variety of mills in order to convert agricultural raw materials into useful products. John Neff built a flouring mill on Mill Creek as early as 1848, which probably suggested the creek's name. His name was later adopted for post offices at Neffs Mills and Neffs. The name of Mount Plesant was changed to recognize Robert and Arch Gardner's saw mill.

Agriculture did not long dominate the economy of Salt Lake County in view of its strategic location and abundant natural resources. Salt Lake City grew into a mercantile and commercial center even before the coming of the Utah Central Railroad from Ogden in 1870, but continued construction in the 1870's and 1880's made the capital a rail center second only to Ogden. Post offices that can be attributed to railroads included Eldorado, Brighton(1), Riter and Sandy in the early days. Bacchus, Magna(1) and Welby were later railroad-spawned post offices.

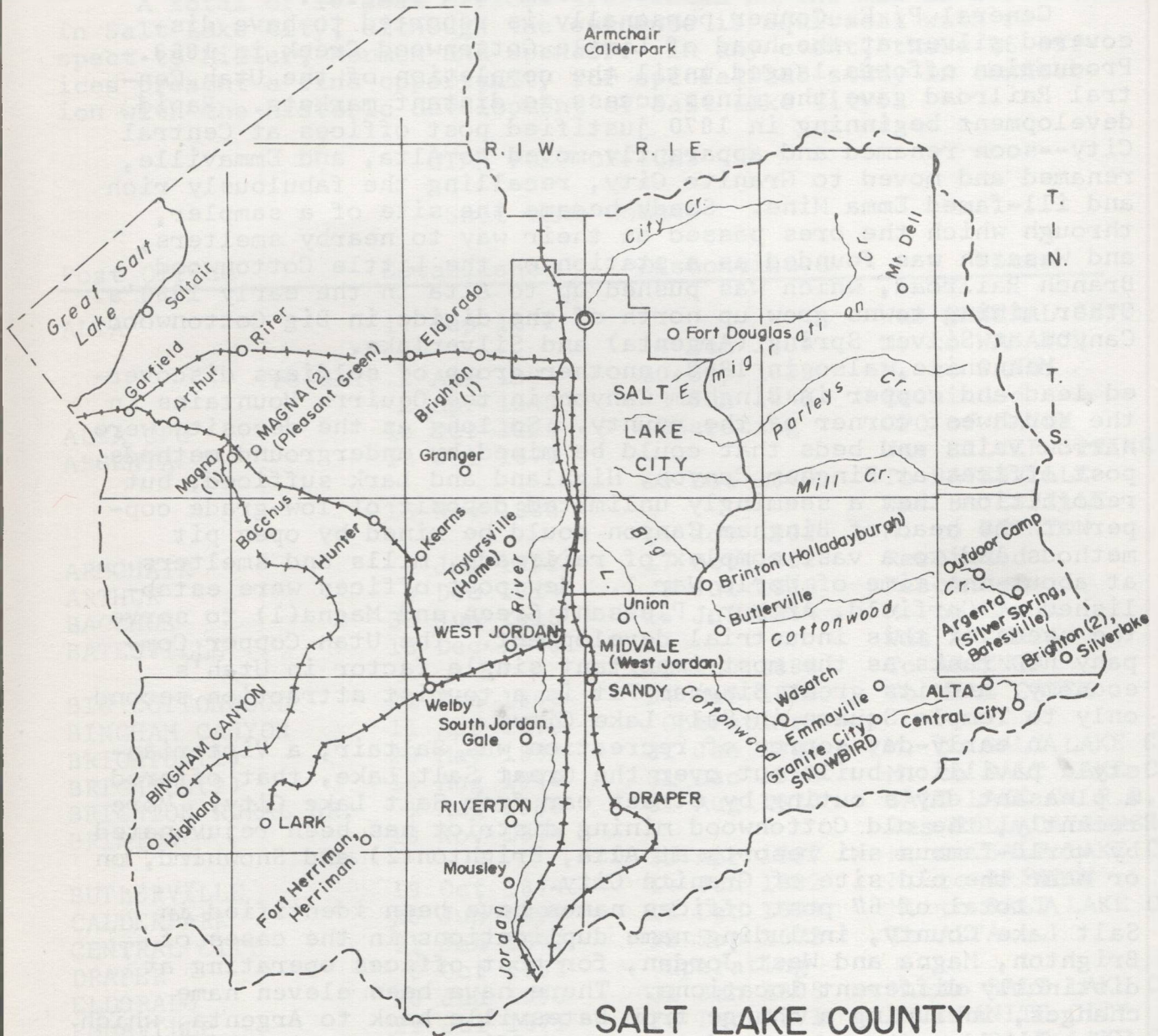
*Mr. Rupert is an authority on rural branch and community post offices, who has contributed his research to this study.

POSTOFFICES NOW IN SALT LAKE CITY

Big Cottonwood	Murray
Gardners Mills	Neffs
Holliday	Neffs Mills
Mill Creek	North
Millcreek	Paper Mill
Miller	South Cottonwood
Mormon	Spencer
Mount Pleasant	Sugar

NOT LOCATED

Armchair
Calderpark



SALT LAKE COUNTY

The Mormon elders approved development of iron, coal and stone as useful minerals where they were found in the Territory, but discouraged the mining of other metals, especially gold and silver. These minerals were not considered consistent with the community objectives of producing the necessities of life. Ironically, Salt Lake County proved to be a treasure house of base and precious metals, although it was not the Mormons who made the discoveries, but the soldiers from Fort Douglas.

General P. E. Conner personally is reported to have discovered silver at the head of Little Cottonwood Creek in 1863. Production efforts lagged until the completion of the Utah Central Railroad gave the mines access to distant markets. Rapid development beginning in 1870 justified post offices at Central City--soon renamed and apparently moved to Alta, and Emmaville, renamed and moved to Granite City, recalling the fabulously rich and ill-famed Emma Mine. Sandy became the site of a sampler, through which the ores passed on their way to nearby smelters, and Wasatch was founded as a station on the Little Cottonwood Branch Railroad, which was pushed up to Alta in the early 1880's. Other mining towns grew up north of the divide in Big Cottonwood Canyon at Silver Spring (Argenta) and Silverlake.

Meanwhile, also in 1863, another group of soldiers discovered lead and copper in Bingham Canyon in the Oquirrh Mountains in the southwest corner of the county. So long as the deposits were narrow veins and beds that could be mined by underground methods, post offices at Bingham Canyon, Highland and Lark sufficed; but recognition that a seemingly unlimited deposit of low-grade copper at the head of Bingham Canyon could be mined by open pit methods led to a vast complex of railroads, mills and smelters at about the time of World War I. New post offices were established at Garfield, Arthur, Pleasant Green and Magna(1) to serve the needs of this industrial development. The Utah Copper Company now ranks as the most important single factor in Utah's economy, and its great Bingham Pit is a tourist attraction second only to Temple Square in Salt Lake City.

An early-day source of recreation was Saltair, a Victorian-style pavillion built out over the Great Salt Lake, that offered a pleasant day's outing by street car from Salt Lake City. More recently, the old Cottonwood mining district has been rejuvenated by world-famous ski resorts at Alta, Brighton(2) and Snowbird, on or near the old site of Granite City.

A total of 67 post offices names have been identified in Salt Lake County, including name duplications in the cases of Brighton, Magna and West Jordan, for post offices operating at distinctly different locations. There have been eleven name changes, including a change from Batesville back to Argenta, which did not add a new name, and two post offices--Armchair and Arthur--were authorized but never actually operated. The maximum number of offices that ever operated at any one time was 27. This was for a brief period in 1900 and 1901. Only eleven post offices are operating at the present time, including the community post offices at Alta and Snowbird. Lark can be expected to be discontinued in the not too distant future.

Part of the reason for this small number of surviving post offices is the urban growth of Salt Lake City which has taken in the sites of many of the former independent communities south along the Jordan River and east to the front of the mountains. Other former post offices, west and south of the city, are close enough to permit service through branches and stations of Salt Lake City.

A total of 16 post offices are listed on the map as now within Salt Lake City, although the evidence is equivocal with respect to Miller, Mormon and Spencer. In any event, these 16 offices present a fine opportunity for specialized study in connection with the historic development of Salt Lake City.

UTAH POST OFFICES

Salt Lake County

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
ALTA	12 Sep 1872		Was CENTRAL CITY
	re-est 2 Apr 1901	4 Oct 1894	M. to WASATCH
	2 Apr 1940	30 Sep 1929	M. to SANDY
ALTA CPO	16 Oct 1968	3 Jun 1941	Rescinded
ARGENTA	18 Jul 1879	Operating	CPO of SANDY
			Was SILVER SPRING
	15 Nov 1880	18 Dec 1879	To BATESVILLE
			Was BATESVILLE
ARMCHAIR	5 Jul 1902	15 Nov 1902	M. to BRINTON
ARTHUR	4 Dec 1914	17 Oct 1902	Rescinded
BACCHUS	30 Jun 1915	3 Jul 1916	Rescinded
BATESVILLE	18 Dec 1879	16 Jul 1954	M. to MAGNA
			Was ARGENTA
		15 Nov 1880	To ARGENTA
BIG COTTONWOOD	21 Jan 1868	24 Mar 1870	To MILL CREEK
BINGHAM CANYON	11 Apr 1870	Operating	
BRIGHTON(1)	20 May 1889	31 Jan 1905	M. to SALT LAKE CY
BRIGHTON(2)	16 Aug 1946	31 Dec 1953	M. to SALT LAKE CY
BRIGHTON RURAL BR.	1 Aug 1960	31 Aug 1970	SALT LAKE CY R.B.
BRINTON	10 Nov 1874		Was HOLLADAYBURGH
		30 Apr 1907	M. to SALT LAKE CY
BUTLERVILLE	19 Oct 1874	14 Jun 1902	M. to BRINTON
CALDERPARK	26 Jun 1899	12 Dec 1899	M. to SALT LAKE CY
CENTRAL CITY	31 Jan 1871	12 Sep 1872	To ALTA
DRAPER	6 Oct 1853	Operating	
ELDORADO	25 Jun 1890	31 Jan 1905	M. to SALT LAKE CY
EMMAVILLE	21 Jul 1871	26 Dec 1871	To GRANITE CITY
FORT DOUGLAS	10 Feb 1897	1 Jul 1900	M. to SALT LAKE CY
	28 Jun 1916	31 Jul 1917	To STA. of S.L.C.
	9 Nov 1921	15 Aug 1942	M. to SALT LAKE CY
FORT HERRIMAN	15 Apr 1857	23 Feb 1859	
GALE	20 Dec 1887	31 Dec 1901	M. to SANDY

UTAH POST OFFICES

Salt Lake County

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
GARDNERS MILLS	19 Aug 1856	20 Oct 1860	Was MOUNT PLEASANT
GARFIELD	7 Dec 1905	6 Sep 1957	
GRANGER	8 Oct 1888	31 Dec 1901	M. to SALT LAKE CY
GRANITE CITY	26 Dec 1871	5 Aug 1878	Was EMMAVILLE
	9 Sep 1878	5 Aug 1887	M. to WASATCH
HERRIMAN	7 Dec 1864	31 Dec 1901	M. to RIVERTON
HIGHLAND	21 Jan 1876	3 Sep 1877	
	19 Jan 1900	15 Jul 1901	M. to BINGHAM CNYN.
HOLLADAYBURGH	19 Oct 1874	10 Nov 1874	To BRINTON
HOLLIDAY	22 Apr 1892	15 Nov 1905	M. to MURRAY STA. of SALT LAKE CITY
	7 Feb 1928	31 Oct 1928	Never in operation
HOME	26 Sep 1854	9 Apr 1857	To TAYLORSVILLE
HUNTER	25 May 1898	31 Dec 1901	M. to SALT LAKE CY
KEARNS	1 Sep 1950	7 Dec 1954	TO BR. of S.L.C.
LARK	4 Oct 1904	Operating	
MAGNA(1)	30 Nov 1914	30 Jun 1915	M. to GARFIELD
MAGNA(2)	14 Sep 1915	Operating	Was PLEASANT GREEN
MIDVALE	16 Jun 1909	Operating	Was WEST JORDAN
MILL CREEK	15 Apr 1857	15 Jul 1863	
	24 Mar 1870		Was BIG COTTONWOOD
		29 Jun 1886	M. to MURRAY
	re-est 4 Dec 1886	9 Feb 1895	To MILLCREEK
MILLCREEK	9 Feb 1895	31 Dec 1901	M. to SALT LAKE CY
MILLER	23 Jul 1894	31 Dec 1901	M. to SALT LAKE CY
MORMON	24 Jul 1855	5 Jan 1863	
MOUNT PLEASANT	22 Oct 1855	19 Aug 1856	To GARDNERS MILL
MOUSLEY	18 Jun 1887	31 Dec 1901	M. to RIVERTON
MOUNT DELL	28 Feb 1881	27 Jul 1881	
MURRAY	6 Mar 1883	31 Jul 1901	M. to SALT LAKE CY
NEFFS	22 Aug 1888	19 Nov 1890	M. to NORTH
NEFFS MILLS	24 Jun 1878	20 Oct 1879	
NORTH	6 Nov 1883	24 Jan 1891	M. to MILL CREEK
OUTDOOR CAMP	24 Jun 1922	30 Jun 1930	M. to SALT LAKE CY
PAPER MILL	24 Feb 1873	18 Jul 1882	M. to SALT LAKE CY
PLEASANT GREEN	4 Dec 1914	14 Sep 1915	To MAGNA
RITER	16 Jan 1889	31 Jan 1908	M. to GARFIELD
RIVERTON	14 Mar 1892	Operating	
SALTAIR	28 Dec 1903	31 Jan 1960	To S.L.C. Rur. Br.
SALTAIR RURAL BR.	1 Feb 1960	31 Mar 1975	
SALT LAKE CITY	9 Aug 1850	Operating	"Late in California Territory"
SANDY	2 Sep 1872	Operating	
SILVERLAKE	6 Apr 1899	30 Nov 1943	M. to SALT LAKE CY
SILVER SPRING	19 Oct 1874	18 Jul 1879	To ARGENTA
SNOWBIRD CPO	5 Nov 1972	Operating	CPO of SANDY

UTAH POST OFFICES

Salt Lake County

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
SOUTH COTTONWOOD	15 Apr 1870	12 Mar 1883	M. to MURRAY
SOUTH JORDAN	29 Jan 1877	5 Aug 1887	M. to SANDY
SPENCER	19 May 1884	30 Oct 1884	M. to SALT LAKE CY
SUGAR	17 Oct 1883	12 Dec 1899	To STA. of S.L.C.
TAYLORSVILLE	9 Apr 1857	14 Jul 1859	Was HOME
	23 Jul 1875	15 Aug 1901	M. to MURRAY
UNION	13 Feb 1854	31 Dec 1901	M. to SANDY
WASATCH	28 Nov 1882	31 May 1902	M. to SANDY
WELBY	16 Jul 1910	30 Apr 1918	M. to MIDVALE
WEST JORDAN(1)	7 Dec 1864	16 Jun 1909	To MIDVALE
WEST JORDAN(2)	1 Mar 1951	Operating	

NOTES: "M. to ---" indicates mail to office named.
 "To ---" indicates name changed to office named.
 "Was ---" indicates former office name.

Next: PART VII, UTAH COUNTY.

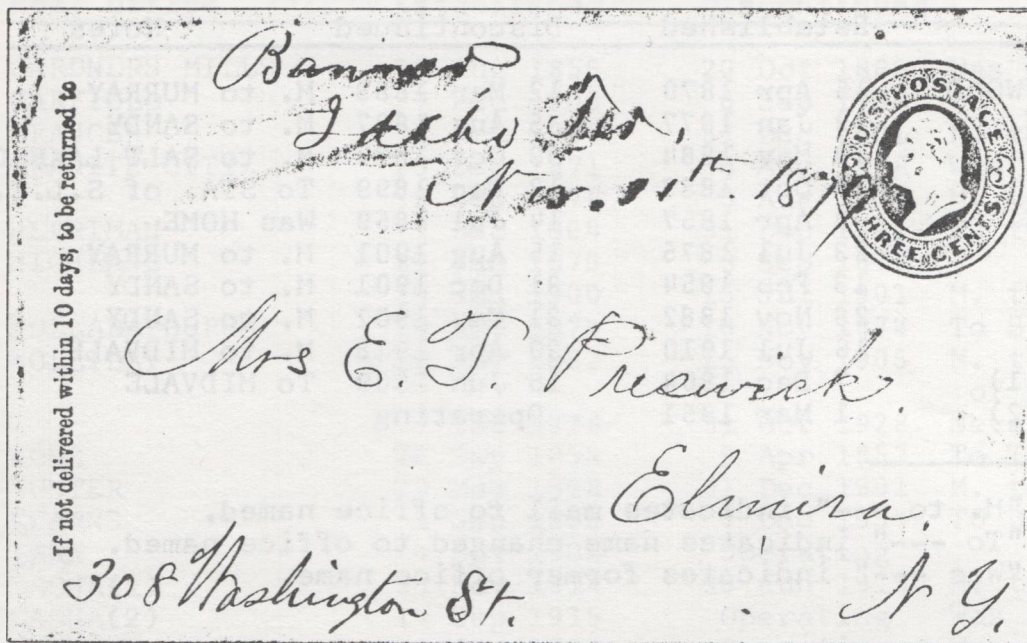
BANNER, IDAHO By S. Richard Sheppard

In 1864, James Hawley and Jess Bradford discovered the Banner Silver Lode while looking for a better road from the Boise Basin to Rocky Bar. This rich deposit was located in south Boise County, almost due east of Garden Valley near the present town of Lowman. The strike was 37 miles northeast of Idaho City, and the nearest railroad was the Oregon Short Line at Boise, 73 miles distant.

Hawley and Bradford sold out to a merchant from Idaho City by the name of Crafts, who imported a Fraser & Chalmers mill complete with tramway for transporting the ore. The company became known as the Elmira Silver Mining Company, and it lasted for a good many years producing over a total of \$3 million in silver bullion.

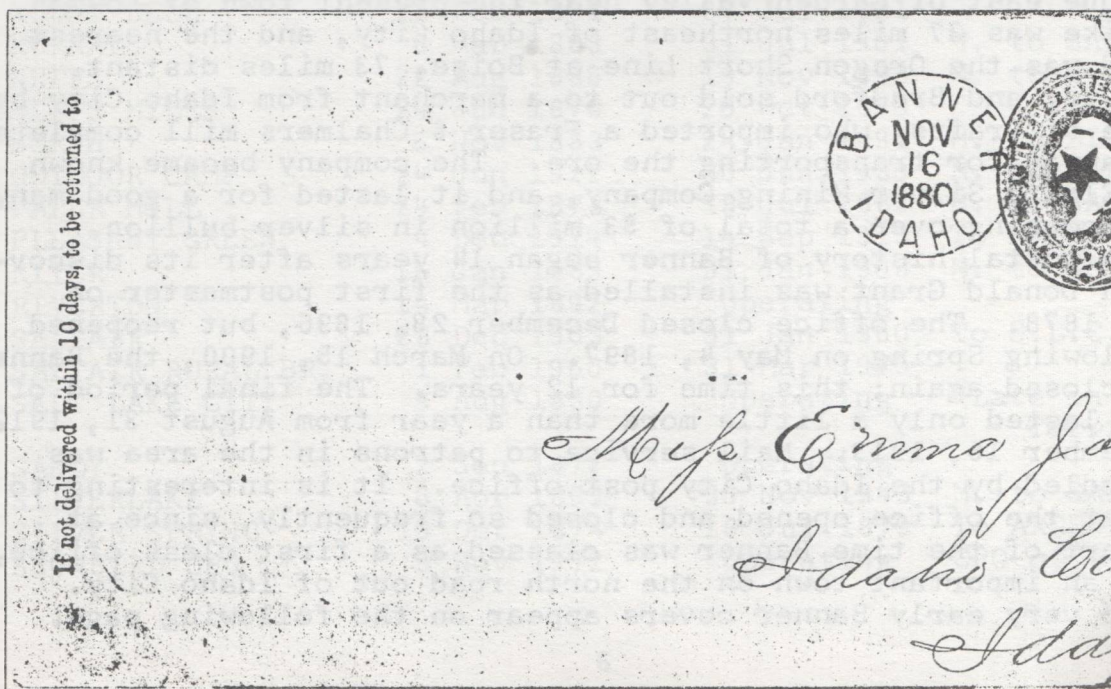
The postal history of Banner began 14 years after its discovery when Donald Grant was installed as the first postmaster on June 6, 1878. The office closed December 28, 1896, but reopened the following Spring on May 4, 1897. On March 15, 1900, the Banner office closed again; this time for 12 years. The final period of service lasted only a little more than a year from August 31, 1912, to September 15, 1913. Mail service to patrons in the area was then handled by the Idaho City post office. It is interesting to note that the office opened and closed so frequently, since at least part of the time Banner was classed as a first class office, and was an important town on the north road out of Idaho City.

Two very early Banner covers appear on the following page.



Banner, Idaho Ter. manuscript of November 31, 1879

Banner, Idaho cds of November 18, 1880 with star-in-circle



NEW MEXICO POST OFFICES
Part IX: COLFAX COUNTY

By Richard W. Helbock with Ruth Dolezal

In terms of its topography, its history and its resources, Colfax is one of the more interesting of New Mexico counties. Much of the forested western portion offers unusual scenic beauty with mountain peaks rising to above 12,000 feet, and mountain valleys at elevations above 8,000. Streams, lakes and deep winter snows create an unusual recreation potential in an area still largely primitive, much of it accessible only by trail or unimproved mountain roads. Streams flow easterly toward the Canadian River, which flows from north to south through the county. Much of the eastern portion of the county is rolling grassland broken by occasional mesas and peaks. No part of Colfax County is devoid of some scenic interest.

In view of this scenic beauty and an accompanying bounty of natural resources which includes coal, timber, precious metals and grazing land, it seems most odd that Colfax County supports such a small population. Only about 13,000 people live in the county today, and most of them are clustered in Raton and the other small towns along the Interstate highway. An explanation of this seeming misallocation of people and resources lies in the settlement history of the county. It is an unusual story.

Established in 1869 and named for Schuyler Colfax, Vice President of the United States during Grant's first term, the county was born under a serious handicap, a handicap which has influenced its development down to the present day: the Beaubien-Miranda Land Grant, generally known today as the Maxwell Land Grant. A short history of this grant is essential to an understanding of the patterns of settlement and economic development of Colfax County.

When, in January 1841, Governor Armijo of the Department of New Mexico granted to Charles Beaubien and Guadalupe Miranda a large tract of land lying east of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and occupying much of what is now Colfax County, he precipitated a severe land problem, which was inherited by the United States through conquest less than six years later. Beaubien, a native of Quebec, was a naturalized Mexican citizen and a prominent Taos merchant. Miranda was Secretary of Government at Santa Fe, a fact which probably accounted for his selection by Beaubien as a partner in the land grant venture.

Though Beaubien may have thought of the grant as a source of wealth and a means of escape from political enemies in Taos, it is doubtful if he ever enjoyed his tenure. Miranda's direct association with the property was brief, since he left the area before General Kearney's troops reached Santa Fe in 1846.

Beaubien and Miranda made no effort to take actual possession of the grant until 1843. Immediately thereafter their troubles began in earnest. Father Antonio Jose Martinez of Taos, a long-time enemy of Beaubien, filed a strong protest with Mariano Chavez who had replaced Governor Armijo. Chavez suspended the grant in February 1844, but it was restored in April of the same year by

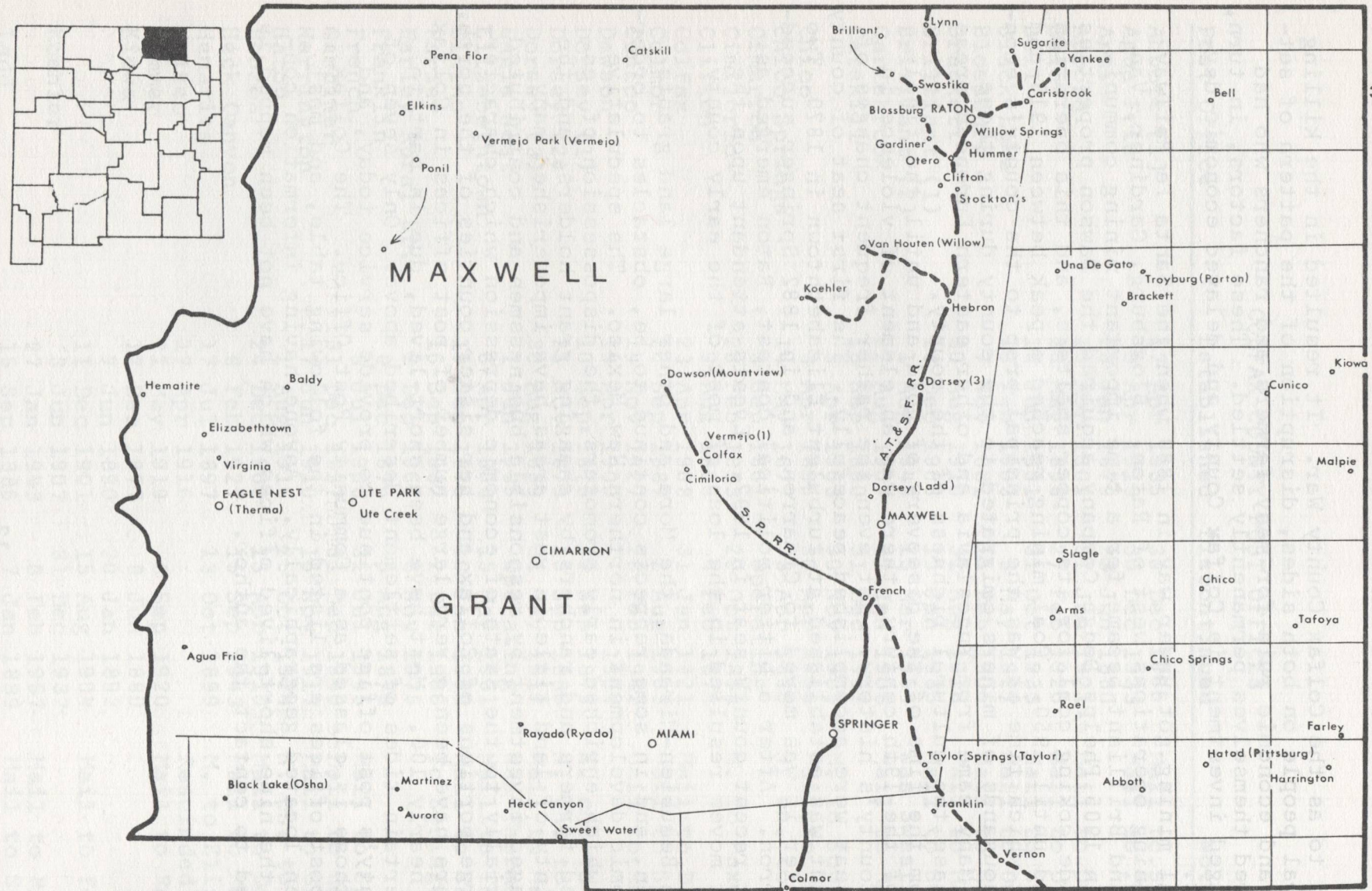
Governor Sena, who had succeeded Chavez. Ensuing attempts to colonize the grant encountered a series of obstacles, culminating in the entry of U. S. military forces under General Kearney during the summer of 1846. Newly established farms and ranches were deserted as settlers fled southward away from the advancing American troops. By the end of the year, Beaubien and others associated with him had agreed to sell their holdings for \$4,000, but the transaction was never completed.

With Beaubien's appointment as one of three judges of the new Territorial Supreme Court, his active interest in the grant passed to his sons-in-law, Jesus Abreu and Lucien B. Maxwell. In 1847 these two men undertook to resettle the area. Eventually Abreu sold his interest to Maxwell, who acquired over a period of years title to the entire grant.

The area of the grant as it was originally envisioned by Governor Armijo, Beaubien and Miranda will probably never be known. Some say that it amounted to no more than 32,000 acres. The area finally confirmed to the Maxwell Land Grant Company by the United States Supreme Court in 1887, almost 12 years after the death of Lucien B. Maxwell, was 1,714,765 acres. The western boundary of this vast tract followed the western boundary of Colfax County from a point just north of the Mora County line, and extended into southern Colorado. The eastern boundary was at an average distance of six or seven miles east of a line drawn through Raton, Maxwell and Springer. Within these boundaries most of the county's important natural resources were to be found: the timber and water of the mountainous west, the gold of Baldy Peak and the Moreno Valley, most of the great Raton coal field, and much of the county's good farming and grazing land. The Ute and the Jicarilla Apache Indians had long considered the area as their own, and scores of settlers, encouraged by Maxwell and those associated with him, were to carve out farms and ranches beside the streams and on the grassy plains.

Maxwell had been a trapper, an explorer and, for a brief time at least, a merchant in Taos. He began his settlement work on the grant at Rayado in 1847, and probably started building at Cimarron about 10 years later. His principal interest appears to have been ranching. He was obviously aware that both gold and coal existed on the property, but apparently he was not sufficiently interested to do anything about either. Even the discoveries made in 1866 and 1867 on the slopes of Baldy Peak and in the Moreno Valley, which gave rise to such communities as Elizabethtown, Virginia and Ute Creek, did not involve Maxwell in mining. Neither did Maxwell oppose development of the area by outsiders. Shortly after these discoveries, big business became interested in the area, and in 1870 Maxwell disposed of the grant for a consideration of \$650,000.

The Maxwell Land Grant and Railway Company, which succeeded Lucien B. Maxwell, was a promotional enterprise. It staggered to financial collapse within a few years, and was itself succeeded by the Maxwell Land Grant Company, incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands, in 1880. With adequate capital and a clear view of the extent and value of the grant, this company undertook the final removal of settlers from the grant. The ensuing struggle between grant representatives and anti-grant people is sometimes



COLFAX COUNTY

31N

referred to as the Colfax County War. It resulted in the killing of several people on both sides, disruption of the pattern of settlement and economic ruin for many farmers and ranchers who had considered themselves permanently settled. These factors, in turn, discouraged investment in Colfax County and delayed economic development.

Coal mining got under way in 1880 when the Santa Fe Railway began mining operations west of Raton. Blossburg, Gardiner, Van Houten and Brilliant became for a time important mining communities. In 1905 Phelps Dodge Company acquired the Dawson properties to provide coking coal for its copper smelters, and this operation continued until 1950. Coal mining reached a peak between 1915 and 1920, at which time it was the principal prop to the county's economy. Thousands of miners emigrated to the county during those years. Many came from Yugoslavia and other eastern European areas to increase the cultural richness of the county.

From the time of the discovery of gold and until the final decade of the 19th century, there was an element of violence in Colfax County's history. Not even the rather frequent changes of county seat were accomplished peacefully. The first seat of county government was established at turbulent Elizabethtown in 1870. Two years later it was moved to Cimarron, and in 1882 Springer succeeded Cimarron. After a bitter political contest, Raton emerged as the most recent county seat in 1897. Events attendant upon the frequent moves resulted in the loss of most of the early county records.

The Beaubien-Miranda, the Mora and other large land grants have been, and in some respects continue to be, obstacles to orderly economic development in northern New Mexico. The speculative schemes which enriched early promoters, the dispossession of established farmers and ranchers by changing grant holders, and the uncertainty of land title in vast areas have impoverished many, discouraged investment by responsible businessmen and contributed substantially to the state of economic depression which characterizes large portions of Colfax and her sister counties of the north.

There have been a very large number of post offices in Colfax County; nearly 100. Most have been short-lived, due in part to the uncertain tides of settlement described above. Only seven of the county's post office continue to provide service today, and one of those is classed as a Community Post Office. The Colfax County post offices are listed in the following table, and most have been located geographically. Anyone having information concerning the nine short-lived offices which have not been mapped is requested to contact the author.

COLFAX COUNTY POST OFFICES

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Abbott [1]	17 Apr 1935	30 Dec 1966	Mail to Springer
Agua Fria	5 Apr 1919	30 Dec 1933	Mail to Therma
Arms	28 Jan 1879	23 Jun 1880	
Aurora	15 Apr 1902	31 Jan 1921	Mail to Ocate
Baldy	25 May 1888	27 Feb 1926	Mail to Ute Park
Bell	18 Jun 1891	31 Oct 1933	Mail to Sugarite
Black Lake	19 Feb 1903	3 May 1927	Mail to Ocate
Blossburg	7 Nov 1881	15 Feb 1905	Mail to Gardiner
Brackett	30 Aug 1910	31 Aug 1916	Mail to Maxwell
Brilliant (1)	13 Dec 1906	15 Jan 1935	Mail to Swastika
Brilliant (2)	1 Aug 1940	15 Mar 1954	Was Swastika
Carisbrook	22 Aug 1907	31 Jan 1908	Mail to Raton
Catskill	18 Sep 1890	31 Dec 1902	
	3 Apr 1903	30 Nov 1905	M. to Sopris, CO
Chico	3 Apr 1895	30 Apr 1956	Mail to Maxwell
Chico Springs	14 May 1877	3 Apr 1895	N. ch. to Chico
Cimarron	3 Sep 1861	Operating	
Cimilorio	28 Feb 1883	29 Oct 1898	M. to Maxwell City
Clifton	9 Aug 1869	4 Feb 1879	
Colfax	23 Apr 1908	31 Jan 1921	Mail to Dawson
Colmor	26 Sep 1887	2 Aug 1963	Mail to Springer
Cunico	14 Nov 1927	28 Feb 1942	Mail to Raton
Dawson	19 Apr 1900	1954	
Dorsey (1)	10 Sep 1879	29 Sep 1879	N. ch. to Springer
Dorsey (2)	25 Nov 1879	15 Sep 1886	N. ch. to Ladd
Dorsey (3)	30 Aug 1889	31 May 1912	Mail to Maxwell
Eagle Nest	1 Jun 1935	Operating	Was Therma
Elizabethtown	6 Apr 1868	15 May 1931	Mail to Therma
Elkins	19 Sep 1876	10 Jan 1900	Mail to Catskill
Farley	16 Sep 1932	2 Dec 1966	To Springer RB
Farley Rural Br.	2 Dec 1966	8 Nov 1975	
Franklin	8 Dec 1876	5 Aug 1879	
French	8 Jul 1908	31 Jul 1945	Mail to Springer
Gardiner	31 Dec 1897	31 Dec 1940	Mail to Raton
Harrington	17 Jun 1910	15 Nov 1917	Mail to Gladstone
Hatod	1 Aug 1916	25 Oct 1924	N. ch. to Pittsburg
Hebron	24 Dec 1902	15 Apr 1910	Mail to Dorsey
Heck Canyon	8 Feb 1927	15 Sep 1943	Mail to Miami
Hematite	17 Jul 1897	13 Oct 1899	M. to Elizabethtown
Holkeo	17 Apr 1916		Rescinded
Hummer	21 May 1919	8 Sep 1920	Mail to Raton
Kiowa	17 Dec 1877	8 Jun 1880	
	7 Jun 1890	20 Jan 1892	
	11 Dec 1901	15 Aug 1904	Mail to Folsom
Koehler	3 Jun 1907	31 Dec 1932	
	27 Jan 1943	8 Feb 1957	Mail to Raton
Ladd	15 Sep 1886	7 Jan 1889	Mail to Springer

COLFAX COUNTY POST OFFICES

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Lynn	10 Jan 1891	14 May 1910	M. to Wootten, CO
Malpie	16 Nov 1915	30 Dec 1939	M. to Des Moines
Martinez	11 Feb 1889	15 Apr 1902	N. ch. to Aurora
Maxwell (1)	4 Aug 1879	10 Sep 1879	N. ch. to Dorsey
Maxwell (2)	10 Apr 1909	Operating	Was Maxwell City
Maxwell City	20 Mar 1890	10 Apr 1909	N. ch. to Maxwell
Miami	8 Jan 1908		To Springer CPO
Miami CPO		Operating	
Mountview	20 Apr 1895	19 Apr 1900	N. ch. to Dawson
Osha	5 Feb 1894	19 Feb 1903	N. ch. to Black Lake
Otero	3 Feb 1879	13 Dec 1880	N. ch. to Raton
Parton	30 Jun 1884	29 May 1886	Mail to Raton
Pena Flor	23 Jan 1888	31 Jan 1901	Mail to Catskill
Pittsburg[2]	25 Oct 1924	16 Sep 1932	N. ch. to Farley
Ponil	25 Nov 1879	26 Jul 1880	
	21 Jul 1888	31 Mar 1913	Mail to Cimarron
Pael	28 Aug 1901	15 Mar 1902	Mail to Springer
Raton	13 Dec 1880	Operating	Was Otero
Rayado	14 Sep 1881	19 Feb 1883	
	30 Jan 1900	15 Nov 1907	Mail to Springer
Ryado	2 Jun 1873	14 Sep 1881	N. ch. to Rayado
Slagle	17 Jul 1901	15 Oct 1902	Mail to Chico
Springer	29 Sep 1879	Operating	Was Dorsey
Stockton's	20 May 1878	26 Aug 1878	
Sugarite	10 Jan 1912	10 Jan 1944	Mail to Raton
Swastika	23 Nov 1918	1 Aug 1940	N. ch. to Brilliant
Sweet Water	6 May 1878	9 Oct 1882	Mail to Springer
Tafova	5 Nov 1936	18 Feb 1953	Mail to Raton
Taylor	21 Sep 1905	18 Dec 1909	N. ch. to Taylor Springs
Taylor Springs	18 Dec 1909	28 Feb 1942	Mail to Springer
Therma	28 Aug 1920	1 Jun 1935	N. ch. to Eagle Nest
Troyburgh	8 Apr 1878	30 Jun 1884	N. ch. to Parton
Una De Gato	15 Apr 1880	12 Oct 1882	Mail to Raton
Ute Creek	26 Aug 1868	5 Jan 1874	
	26 Sep 1876	23 Aug 1895	Mail to Baldy
Ute Park	22 Sep 1908	Operating	
Van Houten	2 Dec 1902	31 Oct 1952	Mail to Raton
Vermejo (1)	26 Oct 1874	28 Feb 1883	N. ch. to Cimilorio
Vermejo (2)	11 Jun 1902	24 Oct 1907	N. ch. to Vermejo Park
Vermejo Park	24 Oct 1907	29 Apr 1966	M. to Weston, CO
Vernon	27 Jan 1911	31 Oct 1917	M. to Taylor Sprs.
Virginia	9 Apr 1868	22 Oct 1869	

COLFAX COUNTY POST OFFICES

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Willow	16 Aug 1902	2 Dec 1902	N. ch. to Van Houten
Willow Springs	11 Apr 1877	25 Feb 1879	
Yankee	22 Jun 1906	6 Jun 1922	Mail to Raton

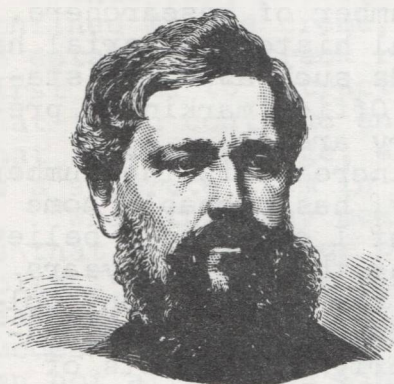
Locations Unknown:

Catalpa	5 Dec 1882	24 Dec 1884	Mail to Madison
Chicoso	8 Dec 1876	14 Sep 1877	
England	4 Apr 1881	21 Dec 1881	
Frampton	11 Mar 1892	11 Nov 1892	Mail to Clapham
Perryville	8 May 1894	20 Mar 1895	M. to Elizabethtown
Southside	6 Aug 1878	24 Jun 1879	
Trinchara	17 Jan 1882	8 Jun 1883	M. to Madison
Whitson	7 Feb 1878	11 Nov 1878	
Vanderitas	11 Aug 1906	15 Apr 1907	M. to Aurora

[1] Abbott was established 4 Nov 1905 by change of name from Sauz. The office operated in Harding County until moved 11 miles into Colfax County on 17 Apr 1935.

[2] At the time the name of this office was changed to Farley, the site was moved 7 miles to the northeast.

... and now, a brief word from
your Editor,



help!

POSTAL HISTORY AND THE EIGHTIES: COMMENTARY AND SPECULATION

By Richard W. Helbock

Ten years ago in LA POSTA I wrote a 3-page piece speculating upon postal history trends during the 1970's (Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 14-16). The article cited three trends to be expected during the coming decade: an increase in popularity of the "newer" Territorials from Arizona, New Mexico and Alaska; an increase in collector interest in 20th century material; and, an increase in the number of Western postal history buffs. In re-reading that 10-year old piece the other day, I couldn't help but try to look back and figure out the accuracy of the three predictions.

The increased interest in Arizona and Alaska, and to a lesser extent New Mexico, Territorial postal history seems apparent if we are to take current auction prices as a measure of collector interest, but then prices for just about everything today are much much higher than they were in 1970. Other possible measures of collector interest such as membership in specialty groups, the number of research articles and books, or the formation of new study groups would not appear to argue in favor of a rapid increase in interest during the decade. There are probably more members of the Western Cover Society today, and there are about three times the number of LA POSTA subscribers, but, frankly, there appears to have been a much greater growth in the number of collectors interested in areas lying east of the Mississippi. State postal history groups in Ohio, Wisconsin, New York, Pennsylvania and elsewhere have become increasingly active during the 1970's. Few such groups are well organized in states of the West.

A selective increase in collector interest in 20th century postal history is underway. RFD postmarks, Doane numeral cancellations, flags and certain other early machine cancellations are attracting higher prices and an increasing number of researchers. Thus far, this interest in 20th century postal history material has not extended with significant impact to fields such as rural station/branch postmarks, the Discontinued Post Office markings, pre-ZIP code four-bars, or most other 20th century areas.

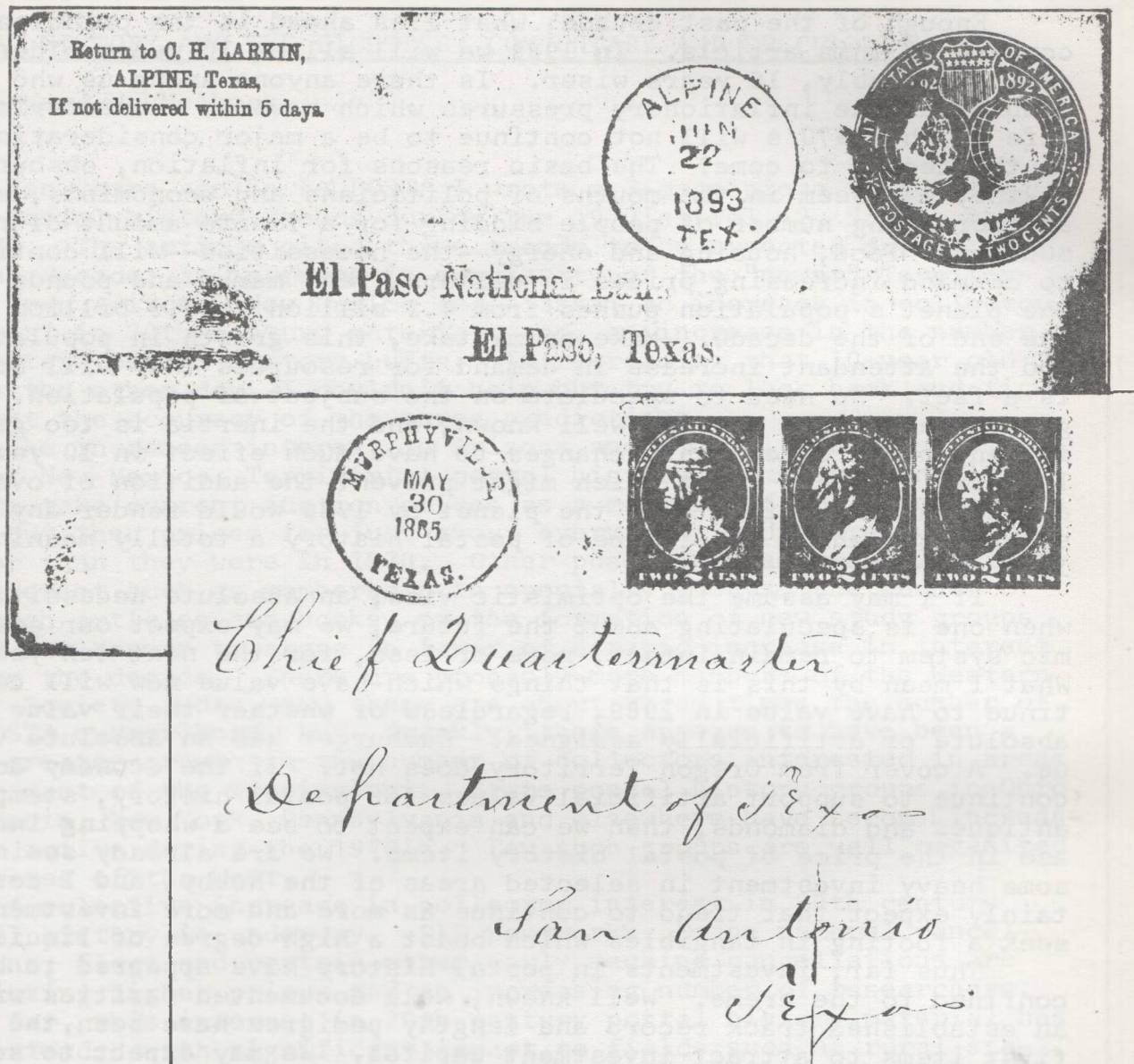
The third trend, concerning an overall increase in the number of folks interested in Western postal history, has probably come about as indicated in the comments above. But I can't help believe that the increase in collector interest during the last 10 years is nothing compared to the potential held by the field. Many collectors in other areas of philately view postal history as a mysterious, perhaps rarified, area without the bright signposts of Scotts, Gibbons or Brookman to guide the neophyte. They hear tales of the \$240,000 Waterbury "Running Chicken", or the multimillion dollar Gibbons purchase, and conclude that postal history must be the province of the wealthy. You and I know that this is not the case, and we welcome the absence of signposts as an invitation to forge our own pathways, but how can we communicate this to our uninformed brothers and sisters? Should we try to communicate?

Enough of the past decade; what lies ahead is the principal concern of this article. In 1989 we will all be 10 years older, and, presumably, 10 years wiser. Is there anyone among us who can doubt that the inflationary pressures which have so characterized life in the 1970's will not continue to be a major consideration in the decade to come? The basic reasons for inflation, obscure as they may seem in the mouths of politicians and economists, are an increasing number of people bidding for a finite amount of resources. Food, housing and energy--the necessities--will continue to command increasing prices in dollars, yen, marks and pounds as the planet's population pushes from 4.2 billion to 5.3 billion by the end of the decade. Make no mistake, this growth in population and the attendant increase in demand for resources they will bring is a fact. No need to speculate on the subject of population. The growth mechanisms are too well known, and the inertia is too great for any basic demographic changes to have much effect in 10 years. In fact, the only event which might prevent the addition of over a billion new residents of the planet by 1989 would render any speculation about the future of postal history a totally meaningless exercise.

If I may assume the optimistic view, an absolute necessity when one is speculating about the future, we may expect our economic system to remain intact, more or less, for the next ten years. What I mean by this is that things which have value now will continue to have value in 1989, regardless of whether their value is absolute or artificially assigned. Hamburger has an absolute value. A cover from Oregon Territory does not. If the economy does continue to support artificial values for postal history, stamps, antiques and diamonds, then we can expect to see a whopping increase in the price of postal history items. We are already seeing some heavy investment in selected areas of the hobby, and I certainly expect that trend to continue as more and more investments seek a footing in tangibles which boast a high degree of liquidity.

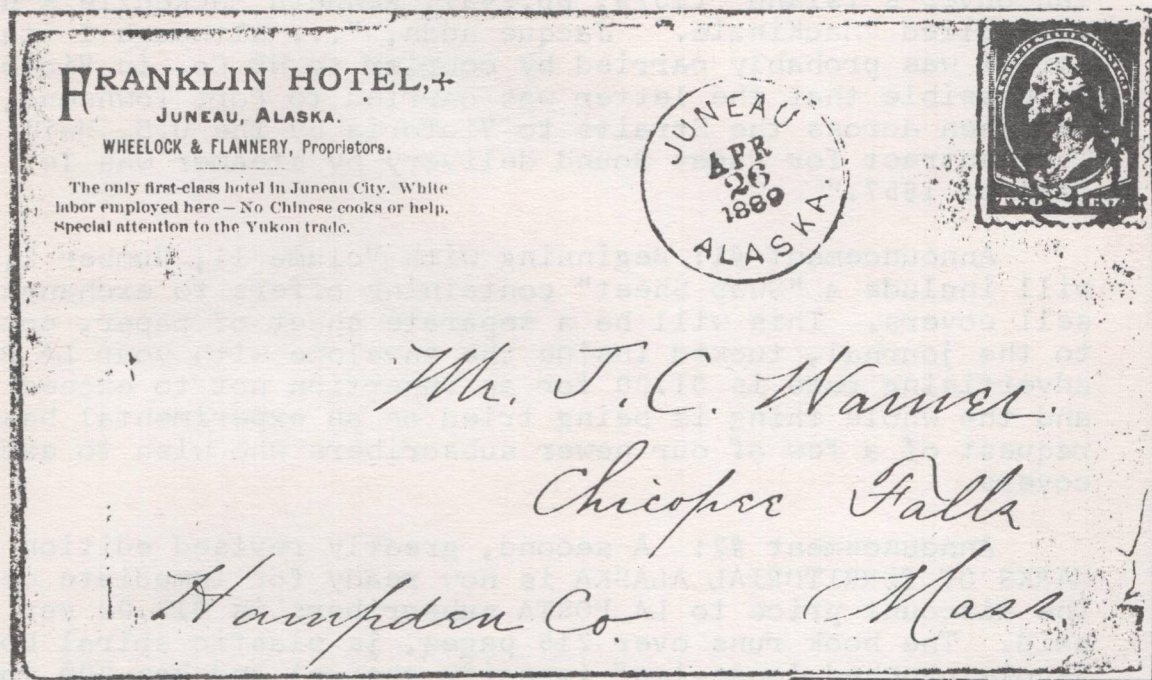
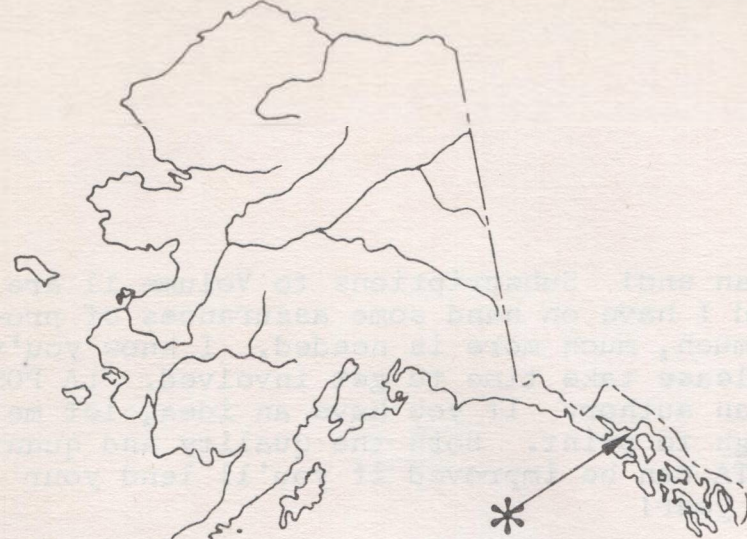
Thus far, investments in postal history have appeared to be confined to the creme. Well known, well documented rarities with an established track record and lengthy pedigree have been the first items to attract investment capital. We may expect to see that trend continue and spread, I would think, to material of somewhat lower prestige, e.g., any cover that would normally be lotted as a separate item in a current Spelman, Siegel or Harmer auction.

What this may mean for the average postal history enthusiast is that we forge our paths deeper into the forest. Many of the folks I have talked with during the past year or two, some of you reading this, have noted their increasingly consistent lack of success in bidding at the major auctions. Its not so much that we can not afford the winning price; its more that the winning bid is beyond our personal evaluation of the item in question. And so we acquire more and more of our material from non-market sources. We seek out new areas of exploration and interest. What I am saying is that for the 1980's postal history buffs, at least those of modest means, will increasingly find themselves in the role of Mountainmen. They will pioneer new areas, walk first the new paths, and then be forced further into the forest as "civilization" begins to catch up with them.



Murphyville post office was established in Persidio County, Texas, on December 14, 1883. On February 2, 1887, Murphyville was included in territory reorganized as Brewster County. The name of the post office was changed to Alpine on February 3, 1888, and the Alpine post office continues to operate. These covers summarize the early name change from Murphyville to Alpine.

JUNEAU



A Franklin Hotel advertising corner cover from Juneau dated 1889 presents a racially slanted appeal for customers. The notation, "Special attention to the Yukon trade", indicates an interest in miners bound for the Yukon District long before the famous strike in the Klondike.

The postmark is an example of the third type known used at Juneau and examples date from January 1887 to this April 1889 strike. A Chicopee Falls, Mass. backstamp of May 9, 1889, appears on the reverse indicating a transit time of roughly two weeks.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Volume 10 comes to an end! Subscriptions to Volume 11 are beginning to come in, and I have on hand some assurances of projects in the works, but much, much more is needed. I know you've heard this before, but please take time to get involved. LA POSTA needs articles. Become an author. If you have an idea, let me help you follow it through to print. Both the quality and quantity of research in LA POSTA can be improved if you'll lend your talents. Make 1980 your year!

Correction: In Jacque Houser's "Early Mails to Victoria, Vancouver's Island" (10/4, pp.2-5), Kenneth MacKenzie's name was misspelled "MacKinzie." Jacque adds, "... although I state the letter was probably carried by courier to HB Co. in Victoria, it is possible that the letter was carried to Port Townsend, W.T., and then across the Straits to Victoria by the U.S. Mail steamer. The contract for Puget Sound delivery by steamer was let in the fall of 1857."

Announcement #1: Beginning with Volume 11, Number 1, LA POSTA will include a "Swap Sheet" containing offers to exchange, buy or sell covers. This will be a separate sheet of paper, not attached to the journal, tucked inside the envelope with your LA POSTA. The advertising rate is \$1.00 for an insertion not to exceed 25 words, and the whole thing is being tried on an experimental basis at the request of a few of our newer subscribers who wish to exchange covers.

Announcement #2: A second, greatly revised edition of POST-MARKS OF TERRITORIAL ALASKA is now ready for immediate delivery. The discount price to LA POSTA subscribers is \$16.00 per copy post-paid. The book runs over 215 pages, is plastic spiral bound or 3-hole punched loose-leaf (specify choice) and has 40% more illustrations than the 1976 edition. Order from address below.

Announcement #3: LA POSTA was recently awarded a silver medal in the literature competition held in conjunction with the Chicago Philatelic Society's 93rd National Philatelic Exhibition. The exhibit consisted of Numbers 1-4 of the current volume, so congrats to our authors: Dan Meschter, Tom Todsén, Edith Doane, Dick Moyer, Frank Norris, Chuck Whittlesey, Jacque Houser and Charlie Towle. This award was earned by you good people.

And now with the old year and the old decade coming to its final ticks on the clock, please let me take these last few lines to wish each one of you gentle people a warm and wonderful holiday season. I want to thank you most sincerely for your support of my pleasurable endeavors. With your continued support in the coming year, I shall try harder to improve LA POSTA.

RICHARD W. HELBOCK, 1635 MARIPOSA DRIVE, LAS CRUCES, NM 88001

