LA POSTA

SITKA IN 1868

vol. XI, no. 2

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IN THIS ISSUE:

THE EARLY SITKA POSTMARKS

By N. Leonard Persson

In 1957, Cavagnol in POSTMARKED ALASKA made the initial attempt to list chronologically the then earliest known covers bearing Sitka postmarks. In finalizing his listing, he made several logical points, and quite correctly established a cover with a Nov 6th handstamped postmark and 3¢ rose stamp as not an 1867 cover, but "more likely to have been used in 1868 or 1869." In his list, however, he called it an 1868 item. Apparently, there had been pencilled an 1867 notation on the envelope. At the time Cavagnol was writing, this cover, occassionally referred to as the "Gill" cover, was owned by the late H. Parker Johnson. It subsequently appeared in the Gimelson sale in January 1977. The auction catalog write-up assumed an 1869 usage, but gave no reason as to why. The pencilled "1867" notation had apparently been erased prior to the sale.

In presenting his list, Cavagnol described seven covers; three with manuscript postmarks and four with handstamps which read, "SITKA/ALASKA T." He strangely did not include in this list another similarly handstamped cover, which was illustrated in a later chapter of POSTMARKED ALASKA.

Since this first published list several covers have come to light; two of which significantly change the most probable listing order, and establish one of them as the earliest known handstamped cover from Alaska.
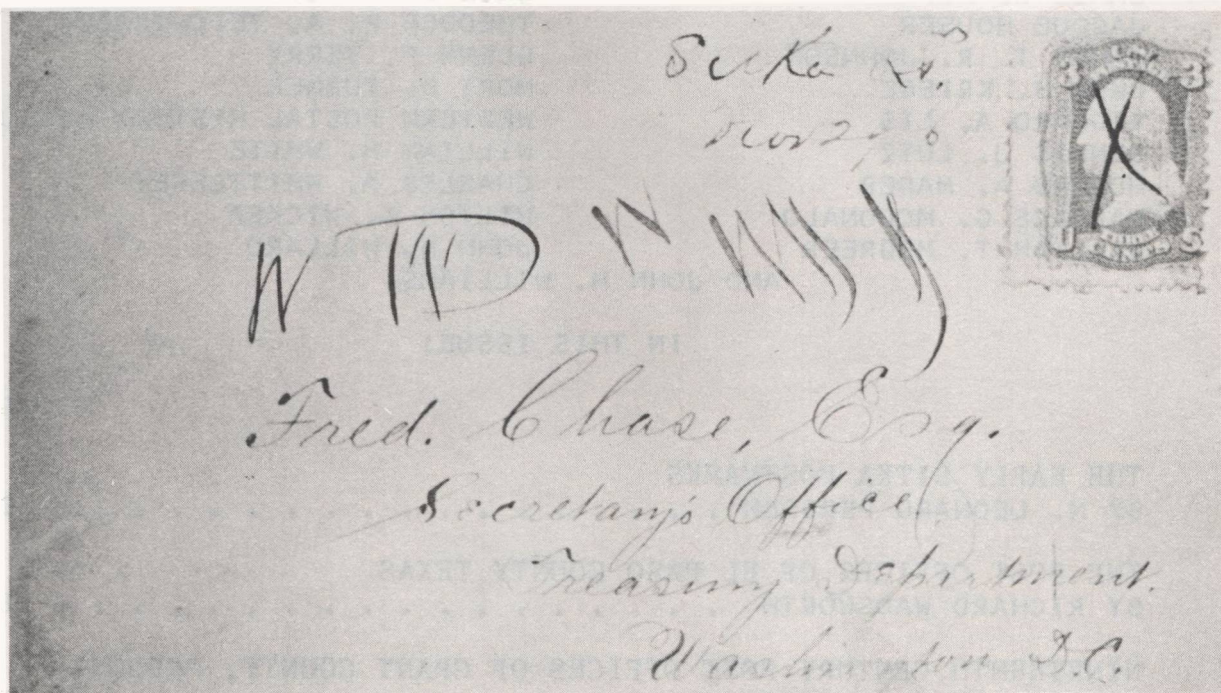

FIG. 1 SITKA AT./NOV 29, '68. FOURTH EARLIEST SITKA COVER.

A fourth Sitka manuscript cover is shown in Figure 1. It is dated Nov 29, 1868, and is therefore later than the three manuscripts originally listed by Cavagnol. Those covers were dated Nov 8, 1867; Jan 26, 1868; and, Mar 25, 1868. Fortunately, all known Sitka manuscripts incorporated the year date.

Postal history research has generally shown that in the vast majority of cases when the initial postmarking device at any post office was put into use, the manuscript method of post-marking was terminated. Should manuscript postmarking ever be re-employed, it could often be attributed to the loss or damage of the ten current handstamp. Manuscript markings would then be suspended when a replacement handstamp was acquired. Rarely were manuscript and handstamp postmarks used alternately.

Assuming normal historical postmarking habits occurred at Sitka, it can then be seen that all handstamp covers would have to date at least after Nov 29, 1868. The correct year of usage of the Nov 6 (Gill) cover is therefore most probably 1869.

Some may say this date could be 1870, or even later. This may be true, however in a study such as this it is not unsafe to assume the stamp to have been used in those years of avail-ability and statistically most popular usage.

Figure 2 illustrates a cover dated May 12, and not in the Cavagnol listing. The original letter in the cover establishes this as an 1869 usage, less than six months after manuscript postmarking was in practice. Since the existence of no other
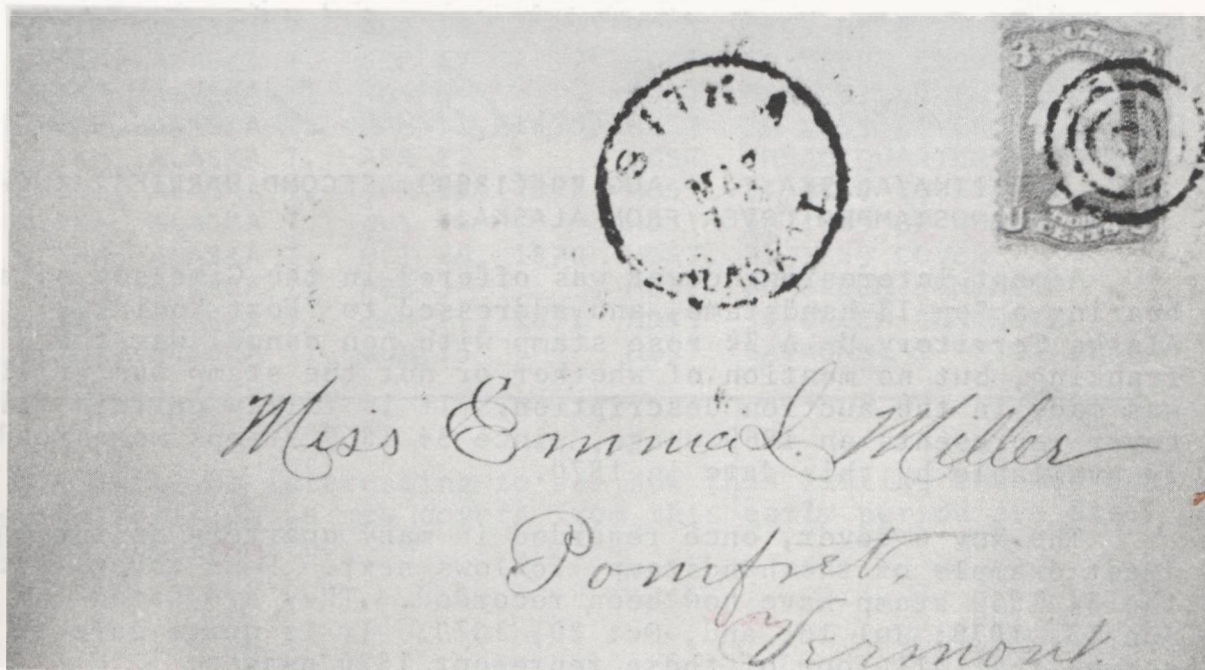

FIG. 2   SITKA/ALASKA T. - MAY 12 (1869). EARLIEST KNOWN HAND-
         STAMPED COVER FROM ALASKA.

hanstamped cover used in late 1868 or early 1869 has been veri-
fied to date, this May 12 cover must be considered to be the
earliest known handstamped cover from Alaska.

An 1864 Nesbitt entire is pictured in Figure 3. The hand-
stamp dating is Aug 20, and the most probable years of usage
are 1869 or 1870. However by August 20, 1870, the 3¢ Peay en-
velopes had been issued, and quite probably had reached the
Sitka post office. Since, of these two possible year dates,
1869 is certainly the more probable, this cover will be listed
as the second earliest example of the first Sitka handstamp.
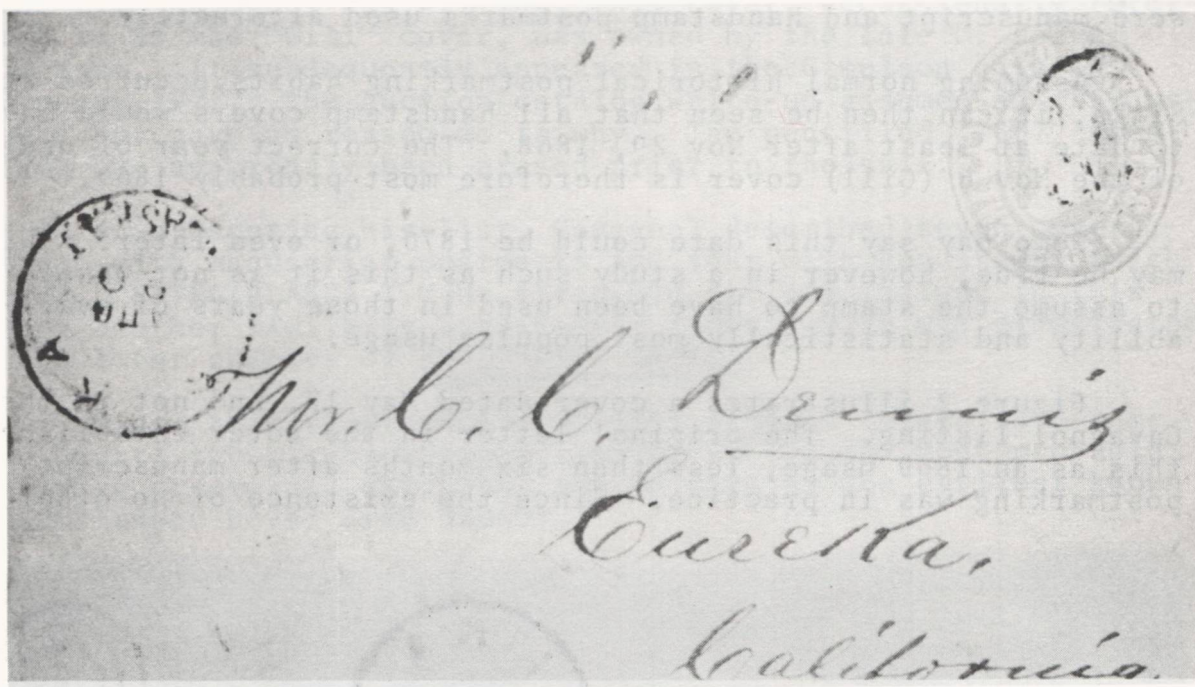
FIG. 3 SITKA/ALASKA T. - AUG 20 (1869). SECOND EARLIEST KNOWN
HANDSTAMPED COVER FROM ALASKA.

A most interesting cover was offered in the Gimelson sale
bearing a Sep 17 handstamp, and addressed to "Fort Kodiak,
Alaska Territory." A 3¢ rose stamp with pen cancel was the
franking, but no mention of whether or not the stamp was grilled
was made in the auction description. It is fairly certain this
cover represents an 1869 usage, since 3¢ 1869 stamps were readi-
ly available by this date in 1870.

The Nov 6 cover, once regarded in many quarters as the ear-
liest example of the handstamp, follows next. Four covers with
the 3¢ 1869 stamp have now been recorded. They are dated Jan 11;
Jun 13, 1870; Jul 16; and, Oct 29, 1870. It is quite safe to
assume that all four of these represent 1870 usages.

One cover which really seems to exhibit a lot of character is one which was lotted in the Gimelson sale. Unfortunately, the auction write-up was sketchy, and the photo only showed the left portion of the envelope. The cover is imprinted, "Head Quarters/Sitka, Alaska Territory/Official Business," and is apparently postmarked Apr 12. The stamp, or type of franking, was not noted in the lot presentation. The quality of the postmark impression does appear to resemble some of the identified 1870 examples, so for no better reason than this, this cover will be considered to be of an 1870 vintage in this article.

Three covers bearing 3¢ green banknotes bear the first Sitka handstamp postmark. The Dec 3 cover was presented in the recently concluded Matejka sale. The Jan 11 cover is dated by an 1871 letter. The third 3¢ green was used Jun 16. Cavagnol meant it to be "Fig. 11" in his book, but an error in putting the article together shows an 1888 cover in its place.

Given the foregoing discussion, the following chronological listing represents a revised ordering of the 17 earliest known Sitka covers:

	POSTMARK READS	DATE	TYPE	NOTES
1	SITKA, R.A.	NOV 8, 1867	MS	1ST "MARTEL" COVER
2	SITKA, A.T.	JAN 26, 1868	MS	TO "PENYAN,NEW YORK"
3	SITKA, R.A.	MAR 25, 1868	MS	2ND "MARTEL" COVER
4	SITKA, A.T.	NOV 29, 1868	MS	TO "TREASURY DEPT."
5	SITKA, ALASKA T.	MAY 12,(1869)	HDST	"MILLER" COVER W/LTR.
6	SITKA, ALASKA T.	AUG 20	HDST	1864 NESBITT ENTIRE
7	SITKA, ALASKA T.	SEP 17	HDST	TO "FORT KODIAK"
8	SITKA, ALASKA T.	NOV 6	HDST	THE "GILL" COVER
9	SITKA, ALASKA T.	JAN 11,(1870)	HDST	3¢ 1869 COVER
10	SITKA, ALASKA T.	APR 12	HDST	"HEAD QUARTERS" IMPRNT.
11	SITKA, ALASKA T.	JUN 13, 1870	HDST	3¢ 1869 COVER
12	SITKA, ALASKA T.	JUL 16	HDST	3¢ 1869 ON WELLS FARGO
13	SITKA, ALASKA T.	AUG 26	HDST	3¢ 1869 "TO NEW HAMPSHIRE"
14	SITKA, ALASKA T.	OCT 29, 1870	HDST	3¢ 1869 COVER
15	SITKA, ALASKA T.	DEC 3	HDST	3¢ GREEN BANKNOTE
16	SITKA, ALASKA T.	JAN 11, 1871	HDST	3¢ GREEN BANKNOTE
17	SITKA, ALASKA T.	JUN 16	HDST	CAVAGNOL'S "FIG. 11"

It will be interesting to see how this listing becomes subject to revision as new covers from this early period are discovered and reported.

THE POST OFFICES OF EL PASO COUNTY TEXAS

By Richard Wadsworth

This article is the first in a series dealing with the postal history of El Paso County, Texas. It will be concerned with presenting an introduction to the postal background of the county, and to the post offices which have existed within the county boundaries.

In 1850 the Texas Legislature divided the far west area of the state, called the Trans-Pecos Country, into two large counties named El Paso and Presidio. El Paso County included the extreme western section, and it had an area of over 8,000 square miles. At this time, the largest settlement in the area was the village of San Elizario, and it was selected as the county seat during the first organization of the county in 1852. San Elizario hald this honor until 1876, when the seat was transferred to Ysleta, a few miles up the road toward the still tiny village of El Paso. It was not until after the railroads arrived in May 1881, and El Paso itself started to grow, that pressure mounted for the county seat to be located in the present City of El Paso. Political shenanigans and a highly crooked vote led to the county seat being moved to El Paso in 1883. El Paso was at the time a roaring boomtown, which was rapidly growing towards a population that would exceed 10,000 before the end of the decade.

El Paso is today, far and away, the most important urban settlement in the county, and it is fitting that we start with this city in looking at the postal history of the county. The El Paso post office got its start on July 26, 1852, when Jarvis Hubbell was appointed the first postmaster. At that time, El Paso was a village of about 500 persons. Hubbell chose to call his post office Franklin, but the Post Office officials in Washington registered the name as El Paso, and that was the name that stuck.

The mail route serving El Paso consisted of the route north to Santa Fe, and east to San Antonio. This had only recently been designated as the San Antonio and Santa Fe Mail Route. Service east to San Antonio first relied on mules to carry the mail, but these were replaced by a small wagon and, finally, by stage coaches. In 1857 the Butterfield Stage Line came in from the north, and at approximately the same time, the San Antonio-San Diego Mail Route was established. Mail service for the first twenty years to and from El Paso was considered miserable by the residents. Part of the reason may be blamed on the disruption caused by the Civil War, but corrupt administration of the service completed the job. In the early 1870's El Paso residents sent a delegation to Washington to attempt to acquire better service, but the community had little success until the railroads arrived.
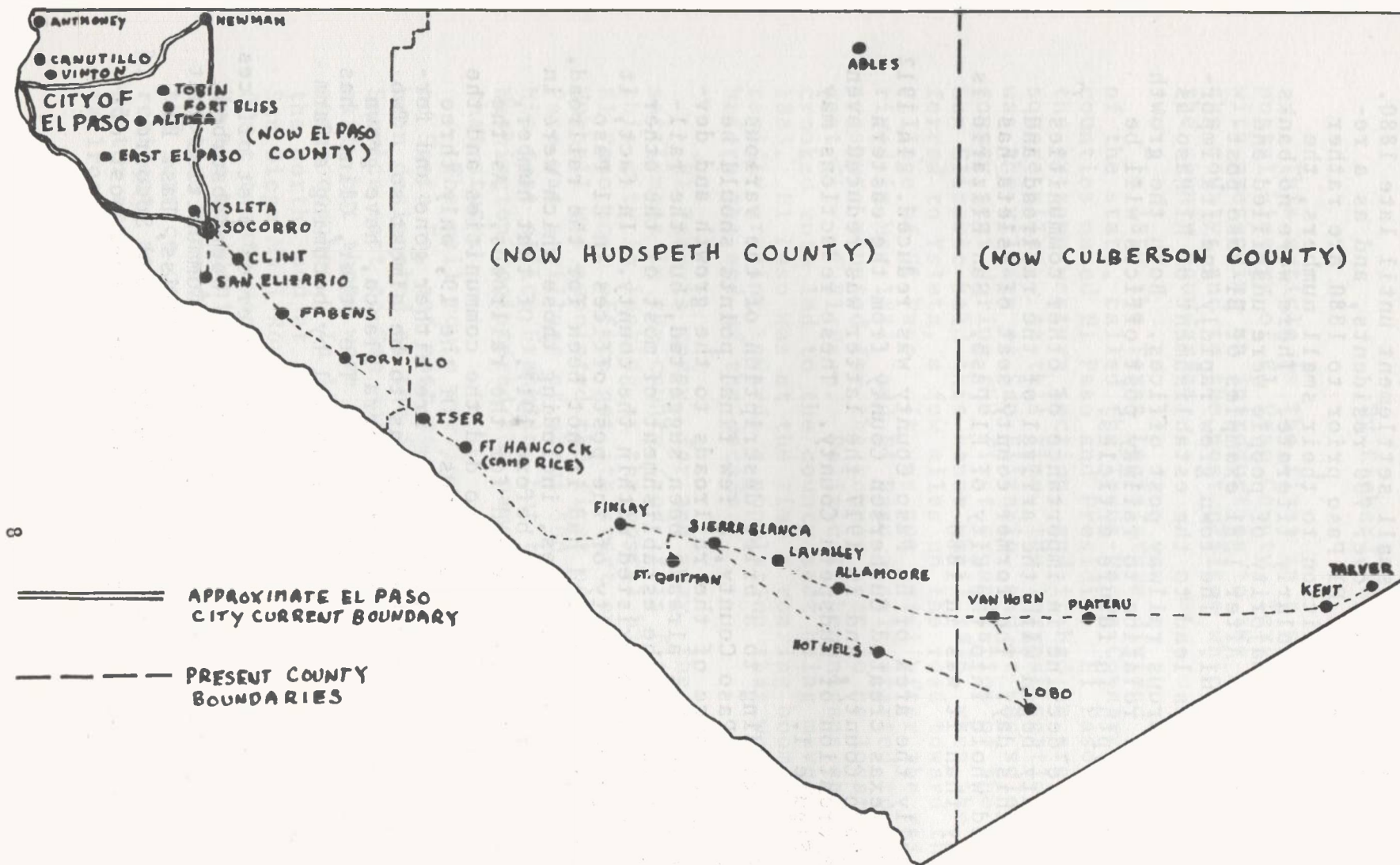
El Paso remained a very small settlement until late 1880. In that year there were just over 700 residents, and as a result covers postmarked from El Paso prior to 1880 are rather difficult to find. In addition to their small numbers, the population was not particularly literate. There were no banks or newspapers, and the majority of people were unskilled and semi-skilled laborers. After 1881 examples of El Paso postmarks are more plentiful. The town grew rapidly and its importance to the railroads lead to the establishment of El Paso as a prime link on numerous railway post offices. Both the growth of the town and its relation to railway post offices will be covered in more depth in future articles.

The relative decline in importance of other communities in El Paso County began with the arrival of the railroad and continues to this day. The former county seat of Ysleta has been swallowed whole into the City of El Paso. San Elizario is smaller today than it was in 1880

Eventually the area of El Paso County was reduced. In 1912 the State of Texas created Culberson County from the eastern part of El Paso County, and in 1917 the latter was reduced even more by the creation of Hudspeth County. These reductions may be seen in Figure 1.

Before proceeding to a brief description of the various post offices of El Paso County, a few final points should be noted. The importance of the railroads to the growth and development of El Paso has already been suggested, but the railroad was also vital to the establishment of most of the other post offices which have existed within the county. In fact, it is unlikely that the majority of the post offices in El Paso County would ever have existed had it not been for the railroad. There are 45 listed post offices, including those which were in Hudspeth and Culberson counties before 1917. Of that number, 19 were created exclusively by and for the railroads. As the fortunes of the railroads waned, so did the communities and the post offices created by the railroads. Of the 19, only three have grown and survived. All the rest are either gone and forgotten, or are so tiny and bedraggled as to be almost so. Two of the railroad towns, Van Horn and Sierra Blanca, have grown to modest size and are now county seats. The other, Clint, has maintaineda reasonable posture for survival by becoming a farm and ranch community

One final consideration involves the number of post offices which were formerly independent, but have since been absorbed by physical expansion of the City of El Paso. Communities that fall into this category include: Newman, Fort Bliss, East El Paso, Altura, Tobin, Ysleta, Belen, Smeltertown and Socorro. If the city continues to grow as it now is, a few other post offices will join this list.

ANTHONEY
NEWMAN
CANUTILLO
VINTON
TOBIN
FORT BLISS
CITY OF EL PASO
ALTURA
EAST EL PASO
(NOW EL PASO COUNTY)
YSLETA
SOCORRO
CLINT
SAN ELIZARRIO
FABENS
TORNILLO
ISER
FT HANCOCK (CAMP RICE)

ABLES

(NOW HUDSPETH COUNTY)

(NOW CULBERSON COUNTY)

FINLAY
SIERRA BLANCA
FT. QUITMAN
LAVALLEY
ALLAMOORE
HOT WELLS
LOBO
VAN HORN
PLATEAU
KENT
TALVER

APPROXIMATE EL PASO CITY CURRENT BOUNDARY

PRESENT COUNTY BOUNDARIES

CO

ABLES. The community of Ables once existed in the far north-
east corner of what is now Hudspeth County. It apparently
never exceeded a population of 25, and was undoubtedly the
most isolated community in the county. Founded in 1909, it
was named for W. S. Ables, a pioneer resident.
        Current County: HUDSPETH (site only)
        Post Office: Established February 3, 1909
                        Transferred to Hudspeth Co.: 1917
        Postmarks: None known from El Paso County period.

ACME. No information is presently available on this office.in
terms of its historic background or location.
        Current County: probably HUDSPETH
        Post Office: Established February 6, 1884
                        Discontinued April 29, 1886
        Postmarks: None known

ALLAMOORE. Allamoore was founded in 1885 as a railway section
house of the Texas & Pacific Railway. It was named for Alla
Moore, wife of W. S. Moore, an early settler in the area. The
community still survives and is east of Sierra Blanca in Huds-
peth County. The largest population listed was 65 in 1930.
        Current County: HUDSPETH
        Post Office: Established April 9, 1888
                        Discontinued March 2, 1895
                        Re-established September 11, 1897
                        Transferred to Hudspeth Co.: 1917
        Postmarks: One postmark type is known from the El Paso
        County period. It is a single ring measuring 27mm, and
        was used in conjunction with a target killer. Earliest
        date recorded is Jun 18, 1890.

ALTURA. The Altura post office now lies within the boundaries
of the City of El Paso. Altura was located in the Five Points
section of modern El Paso, and was an early suburb of El Paso.
This area is now considered to be the central section of the
city. Altura was incorporated into El Paso in 1915.
        Current County: EL PASO
        Post Office: Established April 2, 1908
                        Discontinued April 30, 1915, when it was
                        converted to Station "A" of El Paso.
        Postmarks: None yet known under Altura designation. Sta-
        tion "A" is still in existence on Yandell Street.

ANTHONY. Probably the same as the community of Anthony, Texas,
lying on the Texas-New Mexico border north of El Paso, but not
clearly so.
        Current County: EL PASO (?)
        Post Office: Established March 17, 1884
                        Discontinued April 1, 1884
        Postmarks: None known.

BELEN (1). Belen has been applied as the name to the general area occupied by the communities of Ysleta and Socorro, south of the central area of El Paso. The first Belen post office was located near Socorro, an area now incorporated into southeast El Paso.
      Current County: EL PASO
      Post Office: Established April 21, 1890
                  Discontinued October 26, 1892
      Postmarks: None known

BELEN (2). The second post office with this name was in the same general area, but located nearer or in the community of Ysleta. The site of this office is now within the boundaries of the City of El Paso.
      Current County: EL PASO
      Post Office: Established July 6, 1909
                  Discontinued November 15, 1918
      Postmarks: None known

BIRCHVILLE. No references have been located concerning the history and location of this office. In 1857 James E. Birch contracted with the Post Office Department to operate the San Antonio-San Diego mail route, and shortly thereafter lost his life at sea, but this may just be coincidence.
      Current County: Unknown
      Post Office: Established April 1858
                  Discontinued February 9, 1859

CAMP RICE. Camp Rice was the first name given to a military post situated about 50 miles south of El Paso. The name was later changed to Fort Hancock.
      Current County: HUDSPETH
      Post Office: Established April 15, 1884
                  Discontinued May 26, 1886, by change of name
                  to Fort Hancock.
      Postmarks: None known

CANUTILLO. The small community of Canutillo (current population about 1500) lies just north of the El Paso city limits along the Rio Grande. It is a farm center, and was founded about the turn of the century.
      Current County: EL PASO
      Post Office: Established July 11, 1911
                  Operating
      Postmarks: The earliest identified Canutillo postmark is a 4-bar with 32mm dial. Known examples date from Jun 15, 1913, to 1918.

CLINT. The town of Clint was founded in 1883 along the route of the Texas & Pacific Railway. It has developed into a farm and ranch center with a population of about 600.
      Current County: EL PASO
      Post Office: Established July 26, 1886

CLINT. (continued)
       Post Office: Discontinued March 8, 1892
                    Re-established April 13, 1892
                    Operating
       Postmarks: The earliest Clint postmark of record is a 27mm
       cds dated November 20, 1889, and used in conjunction with
       a target killer.

EAST EL PASO. The former community of East El Paso has long
been absorbed by the City of El Paso. In the early 1890's it
existed about two miles east of the heart of the city in what
is now Concordia Cemetery and Washington Park.
       Current County: EL PASO
       Post Office: Established June 13, 1889
                    Discontinued July 1, 1891
       Postmarks: Three covers have been discovered, all bearing
       the same postmark. It is a duplex with 22mm cds and ovate
       bar killer with a star at its center circle. The earliest
       date is March 22, 1890. All known covers bear corner cards
       of the same business concern.

ELIZARIO. This name was used by the San Elizario post office
for a time during the 1880's.
       Current County: EL PASO
       Post Office: Established March 17, 1881
                    Discontinued April 14, 1886, by change of
                    name to San Elizario.
       Postmarks: None known

EL PASO. The City of El Paso traces its origins to 1827 when
one Ponce de Leon (not related to the famous explorer) crossed
the Rio Grande from present-day Juarez and established a ranch
on the north side of the river. By 1852, when the first post
office was established, the community was a tiny American vil-
lage lying opposite the much larger Mexican town of Paso del
Norte (Juarez). El Paso was incorporated in 1873 with a popu-
lation of about 700. Growth came with the railroads in the
1880's, and El Paso today has a population of over 300,000.
       Current County: EL PASO
       Post Office: Established July 26, 1852
                    Operating
       Postmarks: A seperate article dealing with the numerous
       postmarks of El Paso will appear in a future issue.

FABENS. Fabens was once part of a large Spanish land grant.
In 1887 the site, which later became the town, was sold to an
El Paso banker, E. S. Newman. He was slow to develop the site,
but a post office was established in 1906. The town was named
for George Fabens, an official of the Southern Pacific Railroad.
       Current County: EL PASO
       Post Office: Established December 26, 1906
                    Operating
       Postmarks: No early postmarks known

FINLAY. Finlay was another of the small stopover points estab-
lished for use by the railways. It was founded about 1890 by
the Texas & New Orleans Railroad. Named for J. R. Finlay, an
early settler, its population reached nearly 100 at one time.
Finlay lies between Fort Hancock and Sierra Blanca.
     Current County: HUDSPETH
     Post Office: Established May 16, 1890
                 Discontinued prior to 1950
     Postmarks: None known during its El Paso County period.

FORT BLISS. Fort Bliss was first established in 1848 near what
is now downtown El Paso. Except for brief periods of inactiv-
ity, the post has remained an integral part of the City of El
Paso. The fort was named for Colonel William Wallace Bliss,
Adjutant General to Zachary Taylor in the Mexican War. Unlike
the fort, its post office is relatively new.
     Current County: EL PASO
     Post Office: Established April 26, 1907
                 Discontinued August 31, 1916, by conversion
                 to a branch of El Paso. Continues to operate
                 as such.
     Postmarks: The earliest marking from Fort Bliss in its
     independent postal status is dated July 1, 1913. It is a
     30mm cds.

FORT HANCOCK. The post at Fort Hancock was first established
in 1882 with the name "Camp Rice." The name was changed to
Fort Hancock in 1884 to honor General Winfield Scott Hancock
of Mexican War fame. The post office was established two years
later, and, although the military post has long since disap-
peared, the town of Fort Hancock continues to bear the name.
It is located some 50 miles south of El Paso in Hudspeth County.
     Current County: HUDSPETH
     Post Office: Established May 26, 1886
                 Transferred to Hudspeth County in 1917.
     Postmarks: The earliest postmark known from Fort Hancock
     is a 27mm cds dated Jul 12, 1890, with target killer.

FORT QUITMAN. Fort Quitman was established in 1858 to defend
against Indians menacing the stages of the San Antonio-El Paso
stage line. In the 1870's, Fort Quitman had a larger popula-
tion than did El Paso, but in 1881 the post was abandoned due
to a removal of the Indian threat. The site of the post lies
just west of Sierra Blanca in Hudspeth County.
     Current County: HUDSPETH
     Post Office: Established November 8, 1858
                 Discontinued December 11, 1876
     Postmarks: The earliest Fort Quitman postmark of record
     is dated Feb 1 (1861. It is part of the Price correspon-
     dence and is illustrated as Figure 289 in Alex L. ter
     Braake's, TEXAS: THE DRAMA OF ITS POSTAL PAST, p. 257.

TO BE CONTINUED

NINETEENTH CENTURY POST OFFICES OF GRANT COUNTY, OREGON

By Richard W. Helbock

Grant County was created amidst the flurry of excitement attending a gold rush to that part of Oregon then organized as part of Wasco and Umatilla counties. The Civil War was still in progress, and General Ulysses S. Grant was at the peak of his fame as a commander of the Union armies. Legislation to erect the county was passed October 14, 1864, and Grant County became on of Oregon's larger counties with a land area of 4532 square miles.

A total of 31 different post offices were established in Grant County during the 19th century. Most were fairly short-lived affairs as is common in areas of mining activity. These offices are described briefly in chronological order of their establishment.

CANYON CITY. Established April 23, 1864. Canyon City was so named because of its situation in a canyon about two miles south of the John Day River. Gold discovered in nearby streams touched off the stampede of miners who started this community. The Canyon City post office is currently operating; ZIP code - 98720.

JOHN DAY CITY. Established January 20, 1865. John Day was a member of the Astor-Hunt party of 1811-12. He was attacked and robbed by Indians near the mouth of the stream which now bears his name. The name of this post office reflected its location on or near the John Day River. It was situated near the modern town of John Day, about two miles north of Canyon City. This post office was discontinued March 1, 1871.

DAYVILLE. Established December 8, 1868. This office, too, was named to call attention to its location on the John Day River. The initial site of the Dayville post office was about three miles downstream, or west, of the mouth of South Fork John Day River, but the present site is very near the mouth of this stream in section 1, T 13 South, R 26 East. Service was interrupted from January 3, 1881, to January 31, 1882, but the Dayville post office continues to operate; ZIP code-97825.

GRANT. Established June 13, 1870. Grant post office was obviously named for the county. It was located about ½ mile north of the present-day settlement of Mount Vernon, and about 8 miles to the west of John Day City on the river. The post office was discontinued April 14, 1873.

PRAIRIE CITY. Established August 8, 1870. The name of this post office was descriptive. Prairie City is situated near the center of the level John Day River valley near the place where Dixie Creek flows into the larger stream. The post office has managed to survive, and is currently listed as ZIP code- 97869.

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MONUMENT. Established October 27, 1874. Monument post office was named for nearby Monument Mountain, an oddly shaped peak which resembles a pulpit. The community is situated in the far northwest corner of Grant County, near the spot where Cottonwood Creek and Long Creek form the North Fork John Day River. The Monument post office is currently operating; ZIP code - 97864.

PENOLA. Established January 27, 1876. The Penola post office was located about 16 miles northeast of Prairie City on the road to Sumpter in Baker County, but the origin of the name of this office is unknown. Penola post office was discontinued April 19, 1878.

MOUNT VERNON. Established May 14, 1877. This community and its post office were named for a prominent rocky peak located just north of town. The Mount Vernon post office is located on the John Day River about 8 miles west of John Day. Mount Vernon has survived as a viable community, and its post office is listed as ZIP code - 97865.

GRANITE. Established March 28, 1878. The community was named for the abundance of granitic rock formations found in its lo-cality. Originally called Independence, when the settlers ap-plied for a post office they were informed that there counld not be two post offices with the same name in the same state. Since there was already an Independence, Oregon, in Polk County, the petitioners opted for Granite. The office was located at the junction of Granite Creek and Bull Run in the northeast corner of the county. Granite post office closed July 31, 1957.

ROBISONVILLE. Established June 27, 1878. This office was appar-ently named for a local settler, but historical details are lacking. Robisonville was situated a few miles south of Granite near the summit of the Blue Mountains. It was a mining camp, and the post office was discontinued July 23, 1884, with papers to Granite.

JOHN DAY. Established July 11, 1879. The second John Day post office, this time without "City", was located in the same general vicinity as the first. As mining became less important and fin-ally died out, the superior position of John Day with regard to transportation through the John Day River valley, led this town to become the county's main population center. Today, John Day has a population of around 1500, but Canyon City retains the county seat. John Day post office has ZIP code number 97845.

LONG CREEK. Established August 12, 1880. This post office was named for the stream along which it was located. Long Creek is near the center of Grant County on U.S. Route 395, about a mile south of the spot where the highway crosses the stream. The post office continues to operate using ZIP code number 97856. It will celebrate a centennial of service later this year.

FOX. Established March 26, 1883. Named for Fox Creek, the Fox post office is located on a branch of the stream at a point where U.S. Route 395 crosses it. Fox post office is currently operating; ZIP code - 97831.

HAMILTON. Established May 15, 1884. Hamilton post office was named for J. H. Hamilton, a pioneer settler and stockman in the area. The post office was on Deer Creek about 10 road miles southeast of Monument in the northwest part of the county. The Hamilton office was discontinued June 30, 1959, papers to Long Creek.

RANN. Established April 8, 1886. Rann post office was named in honor of a prominent stockman of the Silvies Valley of Grant County. The office was located on or near the Rann Ranch on the Silvies River. Rann post office was discontinued Feb. 29, 1888, mail to Canyon City.

RITTER. Established January 25, 1887. This post office was named for the Rev. Joseph Ritter, a pioneer Baptist minister, at whose ranch the office was first established. The Ritter post office moved about in its early days, but in general it was located in the northwest corner of T. 8 South, R. 30 East. The office is still operating; ZIP code - 97872.

YEOVILLE. Established February 23, 1887. The Yeoville post office, an extremely short-lived affair, was apparently located south of Canyon City in Bear Valley. No explanation is known for the name. Yeoville was discontinued May 18, 1887, papers to Canyon City.

HORTON. Established September 1, 1887. Horton post office was named for its first and only postmaster, Lewis Horton. On paper the office was in existence for only a little over a month, so it is entirely possible that it never really functioned. Postal records indicate that Horton was discontinued on October 4, 1887.

BLANTON. Established June 9, 1888. Blanton post office was named for its first postmaster, David Blanton. It was located about four miles north of the present-day town of Seneca, on the old Burns-Canyon City Stage Road through Bear Valley. Service was interrupted from Sep. 14, 1891, to March 15, 1892, and on June 12, 1895, Blanton was closed for the last time.

AUSTIN. Established August 28, 1888. This post office was named for Minot Austin, who, with his wife, operated a small hotel and general store in the community. Minot Austin was also the first postmaster. Austin post office was on the upper reaches of Middle Fork John Day River in the Blue Mountains. The office was discontinued February 28, 1950.

SUSANVILLE. Established September 12, 1888. Susanville was named for the California town by a group of miners who migrated to the vicinity during the gold rush of the 1860's. The post office was located on Elk Creek in the Blue Mountains, and in section 7, T. 10 South, R. 33 East. The Susanville post office was discontinued December 31, 1952, mail to Bates.

SCOUBES. Established September 13, 1888. Maggie Scoubes was the first and only postmaster of this office, and it may be assumed that the office was named for her family. Details on its location are missing. The Scoubes post office was closed November 2, 1889.

ELSTOW. Established January 31, 1889. Elstow post office was in existence for less than one year. The office was located in the Blue Mountain mining region, not far from Granite. Derivation of the name is not known. Elstow post office was discontinued December 20, 1889.

HOMER. Established September 20, 1889. Homer post office was named for Homer Stone, the son of the first postmaster. This office was located in Bear Valley, not far from the present-day community of Logdell. Homer was discontinued November 4, 1895, papers to Canyon City.

IZEE. Established November 6, 1889. This post office was given the name of the cattle brand of the Bonham Ranch, on or near which it was located for much of its existence. The ranch used the brand "I Z." Izee post office was on South Fork John Day River in the southwestern corner of the county. The post office was discontinued July 31, 1954, mail to Canyon City.

DIFFIN. Established March 19, 1890. Diffin post office was reportedly named for Jimmy Diffin, last surviving resident of the old Blue Mountain mining town of Robisonville. The office was short lived, but believed to have been located in the Blue Mountains northeast of Prairie City. Diffin was discontinued April 10, 1891.

SUPLEE. Established October 31, 1894. The name of this post office was suggested by Charles Dorling, an early resident of the locality, because it was the maiden name of his mother. Suplee post office was located in the extreme western part of Grant County, about 10 miles west of Izee. The office was discontinued April 1, 1902, and when it was re-established in July of that same year, the site was moved three miles west into Crook County. Suplee post office was eventually closed out to Paulina on June 12, 1943.

SENECA. Established September 17, 1895. Seneca post office was named for Judge Seneca Smith of Portland, who was a relative of Minnie Southworth, the first postmaster. The office is located on Silvies River in the southern part of Bear Valley. Service was interrupted from 1919 to 1923, but the office is now operating; ZIP code - 97873.

BALDY. Established January 10, 1896. The Baldy post office was authorized with John E. McDonnell as the first postmaster, but the authorizing order was rescinded April 13, 1896, before Baldy became operational.

COMER. Established May 27, 1896. Comer post office was named for R.H.J. Comer, a pioneer resident and early miner. The office was located beside Dixie Creek, about 8 miles north of Prairie City. Comer post office was discontinued April 23, 1907, papers to Prairie City.

BUDD. Established June 10, 1897. This office was authorized with Hamilton McGinnis as its first postmaster, but an order rescinding the establishment was issued April 4, 1899, and it apparently never was in operation.

DUNCANVILLE. Established September 27, 1897. Wesley P. Duncan was appointed the first postmaster, and his office bore his name. This short-lived facility was situated in the western end of Bear Valley, not far from present-day Logdell. Duncanville post office was discontinued April 23, 1902, mail to Canyon City.

MARGARET. Established May 23, 1898. Margaret was reportedly named for the foster mother of Walter H. Wilcox, the first and only postmaster here. The office was located in the Aldrich Mountains, about 11 miles east of Prairie City. It closed on December 13, 1900, mail to Prairie City.

NINETEENTH CENTURY OREGON POSTMARKS: GRANT COUNTY, OREGON
(Part XVI of the 19th CENTURY OREGON POSTMARK CATALOG)

By Charles A. Whittlesey

Postmarks dating from before 1900 have been documented from only 11 of the 31 offices believed to have operated in Grant County prior to that date. The brevity of existence for many of these offices explains part of the reason why we lack solid coverage of the county, but the nature of many of the settlements as mining camps may also be an explanation.

A total of 29 different postmark types are known from the Grant County offices. Canyon City leads the list with 7 different types. Three each are known from Dayville, John Day and Long Creek. Camp Watson, a community whose site lies within the current boundaries of Wheeler County, has been included in this listing. When in existence, Camp Watson was in Grant County, and its history is closely tied to the John Day River mining boom.

Persons who can add new postmarks to those listed below, or can report 19th century postmarks from any of the offices described in the preceding article, are asked to contact the authors.

GRANT COUNTY NINETEENTH CENTURY POSTMARKS

TOWN TYPE NO.	POSTMARK CODE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	EXAMPLES KNOWN	KILLER TYPE	NOTES
CAMP WATSON (1867-1886)						
1.	SL 33MM.	68	72	4	MSS.	
2.	C1EA1BBR24.5	10NOV74		1	TARGET	
3.	C31ER25	30NOV78	17JUN82	2	TARGET	
CANYON CITY (1864-DATE)						
1.	C1GA1BBR25	17NOV66	19JAN69	6	TARGET	(A)
2.	C1EA1BBR24.5	11JAN70		1	TARGET	
3.	C1EA1BBR24.5	22SEP70	16MAY76	4	TARGET	(B)
4.	C21JN1RRB27.5	6NOV82		1	TARGET	
5.	C1EN1B26.5	29DEC86	5JAN87	5	CORK	
6.	C1EN1B27	18SEP88		1	CORK	
7.	C1JN1B28.5	29NOV94	18NOV97	3	CORK	
DAYVILLE (1868-DATE)						
1.	MSS.	10MAY71	18JUN84	4	MSS.	
2.	C1EN1BBR28	12DEC88		1	TARGET	
3.	C1EN1B28.5	6JAN98		1	TARGET	
FOX (1883-DATE)						
1.	C1EN1BBR27.5	18MAY89		1	TARGET	
2.	C1EN1B28	11JUN94		1	BARS IN OVAL	
GRANITE (1878-1957)						
1.	C1EN1B29	6OCT92		1	?	
2.	C1EN1BBR27.5	3APR94	19MAR99	3	TARGET	
JOHN DAY (1879-DATE)						
1.	C31J1N1BRB29	27JUL85	29JUL86	2	TARGET/STAR	
2.	C1EN1BBR28	26JUL88	?	2	TARGET	
3.	REG 40X31	12MAY97P		1	CORK	
LONG CREEK (1880-DATE)						
1.	MSS.	16MAY83		1	MSS.	
2.	C21J9N1B29	1MAY91	27MAR93	2	TARGET	(C)
3.	C1JN1B27.5		10JAN00	1	CORK	
MONUMENT (1874-DATE)						
1.	MSS.	17MAR81		1	NONE	
2.	C31JN1B27.5	7OCT87		1	NONE	
MOUNT VERNON (1877-DATE)						
1.	C2C1RRB26.5	26APR89	?	2	US MAIL MONO.	
2.	C1EN1BBR26.5	14FEB93		1	TARGET	
PRAIRIE CITY (1870-DATE)						
1.	C1EA1BBR26.5	82	26OCT94	5	TARGET	(D)

CAMPWATSON. OGN

1

CAMPWATSON
NOV
30
1878
OREG.

3

CANON CITY
SEP
3
OR'N

1

CANYON CITY
JAN
11
OREG.

2

CANYON CITY
SEP
22
OREG.

3

CANYON CITY,
6
NOV
1882
OREGON

4

CANYON CITY
SEP
25
188
OREG.

5

CANYON CITY
JUL
21
1896
OREGON

7

Dayville Or oct 21 / 75

1

FOX
JUN
11
1894
OREG.

2

GRANITE
MAR
12
1899
OREG.

2

JOHN DAY
JUL
29
1886
GRANT CO., OREGON.

1

REGISTERED,
MAY 12 1897
John Day, Ogn.

3

LONG CREEK, OREGON.
MAR
27
1893
P.M.

2

LONG CREEK
JAN
10
1900
OREGON

3

MONUMENT,
OCT
7
1887
OREGON.

2

MOUNT VERNON, OR.
APR
26
1889
GRANT CO.

1

U S
MAIL
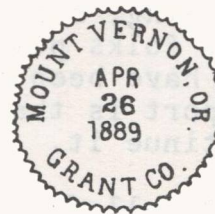
GRANT COUNTY NINETEENTH CENTURY POSTMARKS

TOWN TYPE NO.	POSTMARK CODE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	EXAMPLES KNOWN	KILLER TYPE	NOTES
SUSANVILLE (1888-1952)						
1.	C1EN1BBR27.5	1DEC97			TARGET	

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        NOTES: (A) SPELLING OF THE SPANISH FORM.
               (B) LETTER SPACING DIFFERS FROM PREVIOUS TYPE.
               (C) NAME OF POSTMASTER CUT OUT.
               (D) DEVICE SHOWS BLANK SPACE FOR YEAR DATE, BUT
                   NONE WAS USED.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Thanks to the efforts of Len Persson, LA POSTA will soon be publishing the original notes of Dr. Carroll Chase concerning the postmarks of Wyoming Territory. Len noted the existence of Dr. Chase's postmark tracings and notations in the collection of the Collector's Club of Chicago. He obtained permission of that organization's Publications Committee for LA POSTA to publish the tracings and information, and we will be doing so in the near future. Wyoming Territory was one of the territories not covered in Chase and Cabeen's, THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS OF UNITED STATES TERRITORIAL POSTMARKS, and both Len and I believe the publication of these tracings and notes will be a most useful contribution to the body of postal history literature.

Lee E. Peters and Charles Finke both rushed to the assistance of the editor on the matter of locating New Mexico post offices. Both of these students of ephemeral post offices from the Land of Enchantment sent maps and notes concerning the location of offices in Colfax and other counties, which were omitted or incorectly located in past articles of NEW MEXICO POST OFFICES. Their notes will be published in their entirety in a forthcoming issue. Thanks to both of you seekers of truth.

As of this writing it is still too early to determine the success or failure of ** THE EXCHANGE **, our attempt to stimulate swapping, selling and/or buying among readers of LA POSTA. Only five folks placed an ad in the original listing, and thus far none have been received to be mailed with this issue. All I can report is that if you want the listing and support it, I will continue it.

Thats all for this number...

RICHARD W. HELBOCK, EDITOR, 505 W. Griggs, Apt. E-3, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001