

# LA POSTA



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# LA POSTA

OCTOBER 1980

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## THE CARROLL CHASE WYOMING TERRITORIAL TRACINGS<sup>©</sup>

By N. Leonard Persson

The contributions to philatelic and postal history research of Dr. Carroll Chase are legend. His studies on the 3¢ issues of 1851 and 1857 were not only authoritative and thorough, but they offered to the collecting public a new concept of specialization. Though perhaps best known for his work on the 3¢ platings, it has been said that his first love was the postal history of France with Venitian stampless covers a close second. Given these specialized interests, it seems stange that Dr. Chase would choose the postal history of the territories of the United States as still another field on which he would focus his investigations.

There is evidence Dr. Chase actively collected territorial covers over a half century ago. He also assembled data and accurately traced postmarks on covers owned by other collectors as early as the late 1920's. Beginning in October 1941 Dr. Chase collaborated on a series of articles published in The American Philatelist with Richard McP. Cabeen, an architect and philatelic editor of the Chicago Tribune. Each article contained a synopsis of the history of a specific territory, approximate post office operational data and a listing of known covers tabulated according to office and postmark type. Innovative in this listing were such ideas as full recognition given to manuscript postmarks (prior to this listing and in some quarters for decades to come, manuscript postmarks carried "second-class citizen" status). Highly similar markings, but those produced from different dies, were acknowledged as distinct types. Chase and Cabeen also attempted to ascertain the period of usage of each postmark type, giving ownership credit of covers listed. Prior ownerships, or cover pedigree, has helped to verify the authenticity of many items. It also increases the stature of specific pieces. What an increased pleasure it is to own an "ex-Atherton" or "ex-Darlington" cover.

The series of articles continued through the April 1950 issue of The American Philatelist, and two months later were published as a book entitled, The First Hundred Years of United States Territorial Postmarks, 1787-1887. A printing of less than 500 copies was quickly sold out, and for years used copies of this classic have commanded well over \$100.

It is not entirely clear why all territories on which Chase and Cabeen had gathered data were not represented in this series of articles. It is known that data had been obtained on covers from Arizona, New Mexico and Wyoming. Notes on Dakota, Idaho, Montana and Oklahoma territories are still to be located, if, indeed, they have ever existed.

Prior to 1958 Dr. Sheldon Dike obtained the Chase tracings of Arizona and New Mexico postmarks, and out of this grew Dike's classic Arizona and New Mexico catalogs. After studying hundreds of Chase's tracings, Dr. Dike has commented on the high degree of disciplined accuracy exhibited in the tracings.

Richard Cabeen willed his fabulous near-northside home to the Collectors Club of Chicago, and for more than a decade this charming brownstone has served as club headquarters and has housed among other things an ever expanding library. Much of the library's collection of book, articles and notes also came from Cabeen, who as a natural-born collector saved "almost everything". There were many boxes, crates and files of papers containing even duplicate publications and material of doubtful philatelic value. In the interest of making the most efficient use of space, some of the material was sold, and non-salable was earmarked for destruction. It was the scrutinizing eye of club member, Carmen Di Natale, that spotted a small brown envelope which almost found its way to the trash can. In this envelope were Dr. Chase's tracings of the territorial postmarks of Wyoming then known to him. Among other things it is interesting to note some of the cover owners' initials on Chase's little slips of paper: "HTD" (Darlington); "ENS" (Sampson); "MEI" (Ismert); "CdeW" (deWindt); "WCM" (Michaels) and, of course, "CC" -- heavy weights all.

So it is with pleasure that the Collectors Club of Chicago gives LA POSTA the opportunity of publishing these tracings with the original Chase notes for the first time.



24 mm

May 16 to Gen 1<sup>st</sup> Hall ① T. Bellefonte Pa. C.C.



26.5 mm

Apr. 12 1870 3<sup>rd</sup> 1870 ① T. Bellefonte Pa. C.C.

Mar 29 1870 2<sup>nd</sup> 1870 ① T. Bellefonte Pa. C.C.

May 31 (1870) 1<sup>st</sup> 1870 ① T. Bellefonte Pa. C.C.



23.5 mm

Apr. 26 1881 3<sup>rd</sup> 1881 ① T. Bellefonte Pa. C.C.



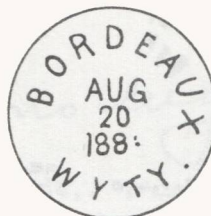
23.5 mm

Aug 1 1882 3<sup>rd</sup> 1882 ① T. Bellefonte Pa. C.C.



33.5 mm

May 3 1884 2<sup>nd</sup> 1884 ① T. Washington D.C. H.T.



27.3 mm

Aug 20 1881 2<sup>nd</sup> 1881 ① T. Philadelphia Pa. H.T.





27 mm

Nov. 2, 1887 2nd brass 100gms killed  
T. Platte Canon Col. CE.



30 mm

not very exact  
poorly struck

Nov. 1, 1880 3rd brass 100gms T. Antiprize Col. H.T.D.



28 mm

May 31, 1885 2nd brass 100gms T. Chicago 200gms  
Nov. 3, 1885 1st brass 100gms T. Phila. Pa. CE.  
May 12, 1886 1st brass 100gms T. Phila. Pa. CE.  
T. Phila. Pa. CE.



33 mm



Apr. 7, 1887 1st brass 100gms T. Middlebury VT. H.T.D.



24 mm

Color is between red & violet  
not exact Poorly struck

Jan. 4, 1877 3rd brass 100gms T. Jeddsville N.Y. H.T.D.



Carter 100gms  
March 7/89

May 7, 1889 2nd brass 100gms T. Rock Springs Wyo.  
on a large fragment.



mm



Mar. 25, 1888 1st brass 100gms on 2nd brass 100gms  
T. Carbonado Penna. H.T.D.



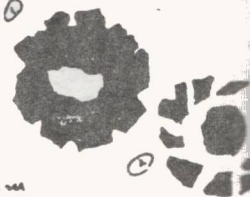
27 mm



Electron portrait?  
Oct. 30, 1888 2nd brass 100gms on large fragment CE.



28 1/2 mm



Oct. 31, 1888 2nd brass 100gms T. Fort Collins Col. CE.  
Oct. 2, 1869 1st brass 100gms T. Omaha Neb.  
Apr. 21, 1869 2nd brass 100gms T. North Platte Neb.  
Apr. 20, 1869 3rd brass 100gms T. Harrier Co. N.  
better named "Fort Russell near Cheyenne Col.  
Apr. 16, 1869"  
Jan. 30, 1869 2nd brass 100gms T. Baraboo Wis.



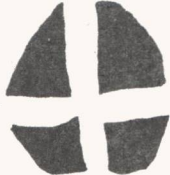
24 mm



Oct. 22, 1868 3rd brass 100gms T. Harrier Co. N.Y.



26.5 mm.



July 5, 1868 2nd brass 100gms T. Harrier Co. N.Y.  
Said to be 1st brass 100gms T. Harrier Co. N.Y.  
T. Harrier Co. N.Y. CE.



25.5 mm



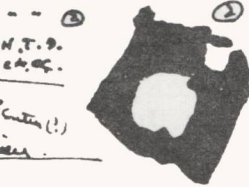
Apr. 20, 1868 2nd brass 100gms T. Fort Collins Col.  
May 28, 1868 1st brass 100gms T. Harrier Co. N.Y.

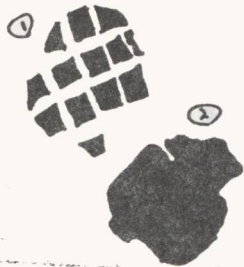


24 mm



Sept. 5, 1868 2nd brass 100gms T. Council Bluffs Ia.





26.3 mm

Nov 7 1873 3<sup>rd</sup> class T. Fort Collins Colo. CE.  
June 4 1874 - - - - - T. New Haven Ct. CE.  
Dec 20 1874 1<sup>st</sup> class T. Brewster N.Y. S.P.R.



25 mm

Apr 7 1871 3<sup>rd</sup> class T. Fort Collins Colo. CE.  
- 19 2<sup>nd</sup> class T. New Haven Conn. CE.  
- Oct 24 2<sup>nd</sup> class T. St. Louis Col. Terr. CE.  
- 5 2<sup>nd</sup> class T. Woodstock N.Y. N.T.D.



23.5 mm

Jan 1 1882 3<sup>rd</sup> class T. Fort Collins Colo. CE.  
- July 12 1884 - - - - - CE.  
- Dec 19 1881 - - - - - Wm. F. H. N.T.D.



26 mm

Oct 1 1873 2<sup>nd</sup> class T. Omaha Neb. N.T.D.



Vague black killer  
perhaps on the same  
handstamp

26 mm

Jan 18 1885 2<sup>nd</sup> class T. Chelsea VT. CE.  
- Sep 15 1884 - - - - - Leno P.O. CE.  
- Vague black killer



incoming plate

27 mm

June 12 1886 2<sup>nd</sup> class T. New York City CE.  
- June 12 1884 2<sup>nd</sup> class T. New York City CE.



27 mm

Mar 1 1887 2<sup>nd</sup> class T. Cheyenne CE.  
- Sep 17 1887 2<sup>nd</sup> class T. Cheyenne CE.  
- on a large fragment CE.  
- Jan 22 1886 2<sup>nd</sup> class T. Platte Canon Col. CE.  
- Dec 7 1887 2<sup>nd</sup> class T. Platte Canon Col. CE.  
- Jan 22 1887 2<sup>nd</sup> class T. Platte Canon Col. CE.  
- Feb 1 1887 - - - - - T. Platte Canon Col. N.T.D.  
- includes year date in post  
- Feb 4 1886 - - - - - T. Brooklyn N.Y. CE.  
- includes year date in post  
- Mar 31 1886 2<sup>nd</sup> class T. New Bedford Mass. CE.



27 mm

Jul 22 1889 2<sup>nd</sup> class T. New York City CE.



33 mm

Mar 12 1884 2<sup>nd</sup> class T. Washington D.C. CE.

Como Wyo 11/20/79

Nov 25 1879 3<sup>rd</sup> class T. New Haven Conn. N.T.D.

Como Wyo  
6/9/87

Nov 9 1891 3<sup>rd</sup> class T. New Haven Conn. CE.

Como Wyo  
6/9/87

Nov 9 1881 3<sup>rd</sup> class T. New Haven Conn. CE.

Como Wyo 6/26/87

Nov 26 1880 3<sup>rd</sup> class T. New Haven Conn. CE.





24.5 mm

Apr 4 1890 3<sup>rd</sup> 743 E. To New Haven Conn. D.D.

June 1 1890 3<sup>rd</sup> green - - - - - C.F.

Jan 8 no year - "Chulpi" - - - - - H.T.D.

May 21 1890 2<sup>nd</sup> cent 10 - - - - - E.S.



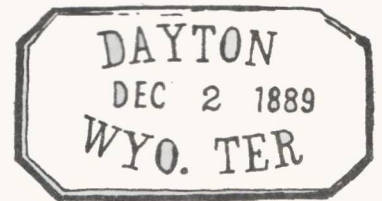
24.5 mm

color a little

duller. more

of a white color.

May 21 1890 3<sup>rd</sup> 743 E. To New Haven Conn. D.D.



47 x 25 mm

Dec 2 1889 2<sup>nd</sup> green 10. about T. Boston Mass



31 1/2 mm

Oct 11 1884 2<sup>nd</sup> red S.E. about T. Providence R.I. C.F.



29.5 mm

Dec 22 1886 2<sup>nd</sup> red brown @ To East Ham Me. H.T.D.



31.5 mm

Aug 26 1887 2<sup>nd</sup> red brown @ To Peru Neb.



26. mm

Aug 9 no year 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> about 74 S.E. @ To Kansas K.H. C.F.



27 mm

not very exact. Poorly struck

May 4 1882 3<sup>rd</sup> 74 S.E. @ To East Woodstock VT. H.T.D.



26 mm

Sept 26 1887 2<sup>nd</sup> brown S.E. @ fragment H.T.  
Aug 12 1887 - - - - - T. Rich Springs Wyo large fragment.



29.5 mm

Nov 20 1885, 2<sup>nd</sup> brown about T. Uniontown Pa. D.D.  
Nov 25 1887 2<sup>nd</sup> red brown @ To Verona N.Y. H.T.D.  
June 21 1886 5<sup>th</sup> Sanford brown @ T. Dunbar N.Y. C.F.  
Color is 3<sup>rd</sup> 24



29 mm

Feb 21 1887 2<sup>nd</sup> red brown 25 @ To Crawford Pa. H.T.D.



23 mm

May 13 1876 3<sup>rd</sup> red @ To New Haven Conn.  
Nov 16 1876 " Cedar @ " " " " H.  
Oct. 27 1876 3<sup>rd</sup> 74 S.E. @ " " " " C.F.







① 1111

25.5 mm

July 3 1880 3<sup>rd</sup> 7452 T. to ...



25.5 mm

Aug. 17 1880 3<sup>rd</sup> 7452 ...



① 1111

25.5 mm

July 5 to year 3<sup>rd</sup> ...



27.2 mm

Aug. 19 1880 3<sup>rd</sup> 7452 ...



30 mm

Sept. 13 1880 3<sup>rd</sup> 7452 ...



30 mm

Aug 15 1880 3<sup>rd</sup> 7452 ...



① 1111

29 mm

May 23 1886 2<sup>nd</sup> 7452 ...



30 mm

Apr 3 1881 3<sup>rd</sup> 7452 ...



① 1111

28 mm

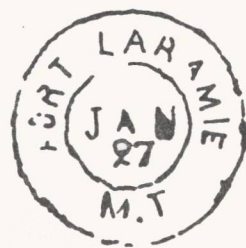
Jan 12 1885 2<sup>nd</sup> 7452 ...



FORT LARAMIE  
 JAN 8  
 WG.TY.

~~26 Jan 1944~~

Jan 6 no year 1° 67 4 x 1.3 To Boston Mass. <sup>CP</sup> ~~Mass.~~  
 Dec. 4 (1918 in pencil) 1° 61 To Newton Mass. <sup>New York</sup> ~~Mass.~~  
 Oct. 23 no year 1° 67 4 x 1.3 To - - <sup>Mass.</sup> ~~Mass.~~  
 Jan 5 - - 1° - - - - - - - - - - - - <sup>Mass.</sup> ~~Mass.~~

3. ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

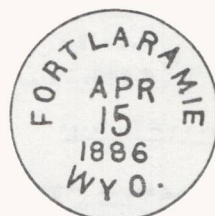
Jan 27 7:45 PM 1971 3" 17 42.3 24.0  
target probably added - "Tid". It is  
probable that a poor 3" 18 was  
removed from the cover - upper right  
corner. T. "Harry E. Child  
Braznaw City Michigan" 24 24  
encl. pp. C



— 3251679 Stamp 1/3 5<sup>th</sup> Angles Column! Head that on the  
plates. To New York City. C.R.

 $24 \frac{1}{2}$  mm

July 24 no year 3<sup>rd</sup> Cont'd (1) T. New Haven Conn. ~~1890~~  
Ct.



27 mm

Apr. 15 1886 Strip 63 2<sup>nd</sup> from black N.E.  
To Omaha Neb. H.T.



37 mm

June 11/1986 Sundering Park on a Legio Rhy  
Bismut Canal T. Chaguanu City wgs. CR



26.5 hours

Nov 13/1961 2<sup>nd</sup> and brown ones Vague black killed  
T. knew Brighton Station 20 day. CR

Nov 3 / 1968 " " " " " " " " H.P.D.



22 23

3.1.5.1861 3<sup>4</sup> жана 7458.070. 14.67. 49.

Jan. 15, 188 - 1<sup>st</sup> seen  $\odot$  in Middleborough Mass. H.T.  
"9-12-1880 3<sup>rd</sup> - ~~seen~~ <sup>seen</sup> in West Newbury  
Pool Fetherman's house near Colorado. H.P.



25 1/2 mm

June 30 1983 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Conf. T. Theobald N. S. P. A.  
 17 May 1983 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Conf. T. Theobald N. S. P. A.  
 18 Oct 1983 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Conf. T. Theobald N. S. P. A.



15.5 mm

19 Dec. 1913 12<sup>th</sup> year old I. Green. 77 over 100 lb.  
19 Dec. 1913 about 100 lb. ① T. 200 200 100. e.g.



30.5 mm.

Jan 5 1888 ~~Jan 5 1888~~  
2° green under the bark  
T. springfieldensis





27.5 mm

30! 1000000

May or Mar 4 1882 10<sup>th</sup> near Salt Creek. N. Green



27.5 m m

Summary 14/190 2<sup>nd</sup> from sec. DT. New Haven CT. C.P.

Gilman  
Morning  
Apr 24

Apr 2 1869 2<sup>nd</sup> 1 The postmark is entirely on the  
leaf. To New Haven Conn. N. T.

Edmund Lang

Gilmer wg.

Jan 9 to Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> 1913 T. East River New Haven Co. Conn. CR.



24 mm Color is a dirty green.  
Probably once ultra marine

28 ~~mm~~

Oct. 2, 1890 1<sup>st</sup> inst and ① T. Fall River Mass. C.C.  
Dec. 27, 1890 3<sup>rd</sup> inst ① " Boston Mass. H.T.D.  
Apr. 5, 1893 5<sup>th</sup> inst ① " New Haven Conn. E.A.S.

34 mm  
Nov 26 1984 2<sup>nd</sup> and brown (1) To T. f. f. o. N.T.D



01111

32.5 mm

July 2 1885 10<sup>th</sup> ann. 2nd brown ① Registered  
T. Chicago Ill. R.R.  
Sp. 1/2



11110

22.5 mm

note spelling  
CREEK!  
May 21 1880 3<sup>rd</sup> 7550 ① T. Mt. & land O. H.T.D.



01111

27 mm

Oct 6 1884 2<sup>nd</sup> brown ① T. other reg. H.T.  
Apr 21 1885 2<sup>nd</sup> brown ① T. - same reg. 22.

UNION PACIFIC  
RAILWAY  
OCT  
13  
1883  
HILLSDALE, WYO.

29.5 x 24

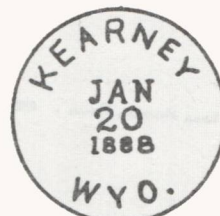
color is a little  
lighter



11110

27 mm

Oct 13 1883 2<sup>nd</sup> brown ① T. Wallingford VT. 22.



11110

28 mm

Jan 20 1888 2<sup>nd</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> HT ① T. Montpelier VT. 22.



29 mm

Mar 18 1886 2<sup>nd</sup> brown 55. Vague killer same color  
T. New Bedford Mass. 22.



24.5 mm

not exact. poorly  
struck.

Sept. 24 1886 3<sup>rd</sup> 69 ① T. Wickersburg? O. H.T.D.  
One section 1 the postmarks may read WY.T.T.



25 mm

Dec 16 to year 1<sup>st</sup> section ① T. Haysville O. 22  
Jul 15 " " 3" " ① " Southard CT. 22  
Mar 25 " " 3" " ① " Brunswick N.H.  
Mar 10 " " 3" " ① " New London N.H. 22  
Dec. 16 1875 without outer circle 1<sup>st</sup> post  
and ① T. at 100 lbs. 22

Mar 4 to year 8<sup>th</sup> HT. Vague killer T. Paris, Maine.  
East. Postmark same.

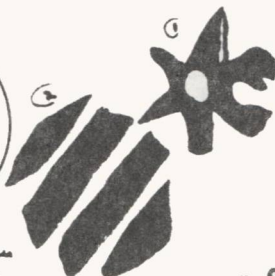


not exact.  
poorly struck

24.3 mm

Mar 10 (1876 in year) 2<sup>nd</sup> section vague killer  
T. Salt Lake. 22.

Mar 8 to year 1<sup>st</sup> section vague killer  
T. Salt Lake. 22.



25.5 mm

Jan 21 to year 3<sup>rd</sup> section? ① T. 2<sup>nd</sup> section 22.

May 16 1885 2<sup>nd</sup> brown ① T. Omaha Neb. 22.  
Apr 15

Little Bearby  
Oct 18/81

Oct 18 1881 3<sup>rd</sup> 7550. T. Beaverhill reg. 22

Check the in

May 15 7550











20 mm



28.5 mm

Apr 26 1887 2nd Bureau @ T. Adams Ridge Co. CE



30.5 mm

June 20 1880 2nd Bureau no am fine  
Tiesiding WYO. on F. Livermore Co. CE

Jan 14 89 3' 67 1/2 @ T. North Thetford VT. ME.  
Apr 22 89 3' 14 @ T. North East Pa. CE  
Jan 30 89 3' 12 @ T. Strong's Truck and  
To Posters House.  
*Apr 22 89 3' 14 @ T. North East Pa. CE*



30.5 mm

Not exact.  
Very poorly struck.

Oct 20 1882 3' 10 in. Vague circular holes  
To Ravenna O. H.T.D.



27 mm

June 14 1886 2nd Bureau @ T. Omaha Neb  
CE  
Auto  
Spring



18 mm

May 13 1869 3' 6 1/2 @ T. Suttons auto WY. ME.  
The holes may have been applied by the R.R.  
Suttons like the same with.  
note by Wm. M.E.I. "A station between  
Latham & Red Desert (now) & Wamsutter  
located according to the U.P. at least an  
long ago as 1870 & was changed to  
Wamsutter between July 85 & Sept 86  
"The Wyoming State Library says - Covered  
about 1/2 Ravinia & between Croston &  
Red Desert in 1871." "Target for 2nd  
Washakie was handled through Ravinia  
station."



29 mm

Dec 7 2 3/4 14 @ T. Lido Miami CE



25.5 mm

Jun 21 1880 3' 10 in. @ T. Fort Collins Co. CE  
2mm!

NEW MEXICO POST OFFICES  
Part XII: SAN JUAN COUNTY

By Richard W. Helbock with Ruth Dolezal

San Juan County had two creations. It first came into being in January 1861, when the Territorial Legislature set its boundaries at California to the west, the New Mexico line to the north, the eastern boundary along a line running south from a point 10 miles west of Pagosa, and to a south line extending east and west 10 miles below the southernmost bend of the San Juan River. The outbreak of the Civil War interrupted effective settlement of this early version of the county, and in January 1862 the county was abolished. Times were more favorable in February 1887, when the county was once more erected. This time, San Juan County was carved from the western portion of Rio Arriba County, and an increased number of settlers in the area assured its continued existence.

The choice of a county seat occasioned a lengthy dispute among a number of the early communities. The Territorial Legislature had originally named Aztec as the seat of government, but Farmington, Junction City, Largo and Mesa City all wanted the seat. An election was held in 1890 to determine the popular choice, and, although Junction City received the greatest number of votes, it was soon discovered that the balloting had been fraudulent for almost no one lived in Junction City. An investigation disclosed that the community's promoters had paid people to vote for it, and the issue was finally settled by the Territorial Supreme Court which named Aztec as the county seat in 1892.

San Juan County, with 5,516 square miles, ranks seventh among New Mexico's 32 counties. The landscape consists of semi-arid mesas and valleys, for physiographically the county is part of the Colorado Plateau. Since prehistoric times the people who have inhabited the area of San Juan County have generally resided close to its major rivers, the Animas, the La Plata and the San Juan. Settlements in more remote areas such as Chaco Canyon, often endured for a long time, but most have been abandoned because of drought or isolation from the main flows of trade. Today the county's major population concentration is along these major rivers, particularly the San Juan, which is a major tributary of the Colorado River.

The overall population density of the county is slightly higher than the state average, but nearly 80% of the people are concentrated in the northern quarter of the county. The remainder of its area is the home of San Juan's Navajo Indians, roughly a third of the total population. Aside from those Navajos living in Shiprock, most of the tribe still prefers living in small isolated communities or in even more remote hogans. The Navajo Reservation encompasses the western half of the county and also other scattered areas.

San Juan County has seen a long, rich and varied settlement history. The ruins at Chaco Canyon, Aztec and elsewhere bear mute testimony to what was once a great and flourishing civilization. By the time the early Spaniards first visited the San Juan County area, the earlier Indians had long since deserted it. Coronado traveled in the San Juan Valley in 1541 in search of the fabled Cibola. While there,



he may have named the Rio de Las Anumas Perdidas, so called because of its treacherous crossings. Escalante passed through the area in his search for a good route to California. He made a rough map of the region, naming the Florida, Piedras and San Juan Rivers. Governor de Anza may have visited Chaco Canyon in 1735 during his campaign against the Navajos, but this visit has not been thoroughly documented.

In 1812 a party of French prospectors left Santa Fe to search for gold in the county, and apparently did some placer mining. They claimed to have found rich deposits, but when a second French group returned to the area several years later they failed to relocate the find of the original group. Josiah Gregg of Santa Fe Trail fame reports in Commerce of the Prairies that he visited Chaco Canyon in the early 1830's. An increasing number of visitors wrote of the grandeur of Chaco Canyon and the fertility of the river valleys during the 1840's and 1850's, and by the 1860's cattlemen began driving their herds to the county to graze the fertile valleys.

The Navajo Indians, who inhabited northwestern New Mexico prior to the arrival of the Spanish, were not direct descendants of the people who built Chaco Canyon and Aztec ruins. The Navajo were a group of Apaches which split at some early date from the main body of the tribe, and by the time of the Spanish arrival had formed a distinct culture of its own.

Commerce between the Navajos and the Puebloans existed long before the arrival of the Spanish in the late 16th century, and there can be little doubt that the Navajos were an important factor in encouraging the Pueblo Rebellion of 1680. When the Spanish returned to New Mexico at the end of the 17th century, they began a series of raids of reprisal against the Navajo. Much of the tribe withdrew to the safety of Canyon de Chelly, where they raised corn and tended sheep peacefully in isolation for nearly a century.

The end of the 18th century found the Navajo once more on the move, and raids against the Spanish and Puebloans began to increase. Raiding continued into the early 19th century, and, when the American government took New Mexico in 1848, the Navajo were still considered a serious threat to peace in the region. In 1864 Kit Carson led a detachment of U. S. Army troops into battle against the Navajo. Following a decisive battle near Canyon de Chelly, the Navajo were marched to the Bosque Grande near Fort Sumner on the Pecos River. This forced deportation from their homeland was a cruel punishment, and nearly succeeded in destroying the tribe. After four years, the experiment was abandoned, and the 7,000 Navajos who had managed to survive were allowed to return to their own country. In 1884 a treaty established the Navajo Reservation in its present location in Arizona and New Mexico.

Many of the cattlemen who began entering San Juan County in the early 1860's migrated south from Colorado, or came from Colfax and Lincoln counties in New Mexico. At about the same time sheepherders, principally men of Spanish ancestry from Rio Arriba County, began to move into the county to take advantage of the good pastures along the San Juan River. Some of these livestock raisers settled in, while others remained itinerant grazers. Several fortified buildings were erected by ranchers who feared Indian raids, but the sheep and cattle men had more troubles among themselves than with the Indians. Armed

confrontations were not uncommon, and several killings led to long-standing hatreds between the two groups.

In July 1876, part of the projected Jicarilla Apache Reservation was opened to settlement, and a number of families came in from Colorado and Texas. The areas around Aztec, Farmington and Cedar Hill were first settled at this time. At Farmington a general store and trading post was opened in 1877, and a post office was established in April of 1879. Aztec, Bloomfield, Floravista and Wallace were all founded about the same time, and all were similar in character being small farm centers. The San Juan County fruit industry had its beginnings in 1879, when William Locke brought peach, walnut and other seeds which he planted near Farmington. The agricultural potential of the San Juan Valley was obvious to all who settled there, and the name of Farmington reflects its location in good farming country.

Though the settlers were peaceable people, a few of the cowboys who moved in from Lincoln and Colfax counties were not. Some of these men had fled to San Juan County to escape prosecution for their cattle rustling and other dishonest activities, and they soon reverted to their earlier ways. It was during these years that the "Stockton War" developed between legitimate cattlemen and about 20 rustlers led by Ike and Port Stockton and a man named Lacey. This group stole cattle and sold them to Army posts, outlying markets and even retail through their own butcher shop which they operated in Durango, Colorado. When not rustling, they sometimes engaged in other nefarious activities such as holding-up stages. Their activities continued for several years, until one-by-one the leaders of the group were killed and the clan drifted apart.

As the troubles with rustlers decreased, San Juan County began to expand its development. The farmers undertook irrigation projects all along the valley, founding in the 1880's the Las Animas, La Plata and San Juan Irrigating Company. Their first project was the Coolidge Ditch, 20 miles long and designed to spread water over 10,000 acres of land lying north of Farmington. The Bloomfield Ditch was another early project, dug east from the mouth of the Animas River. Several other ditch companies followed these early leads and were organized in the 1890's and early 1900's. Their efforts greatly expanded the agricultural potential of the area.

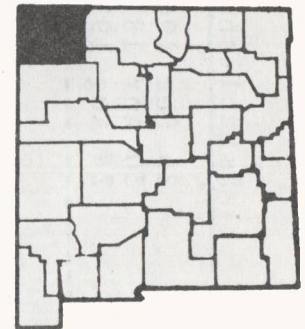
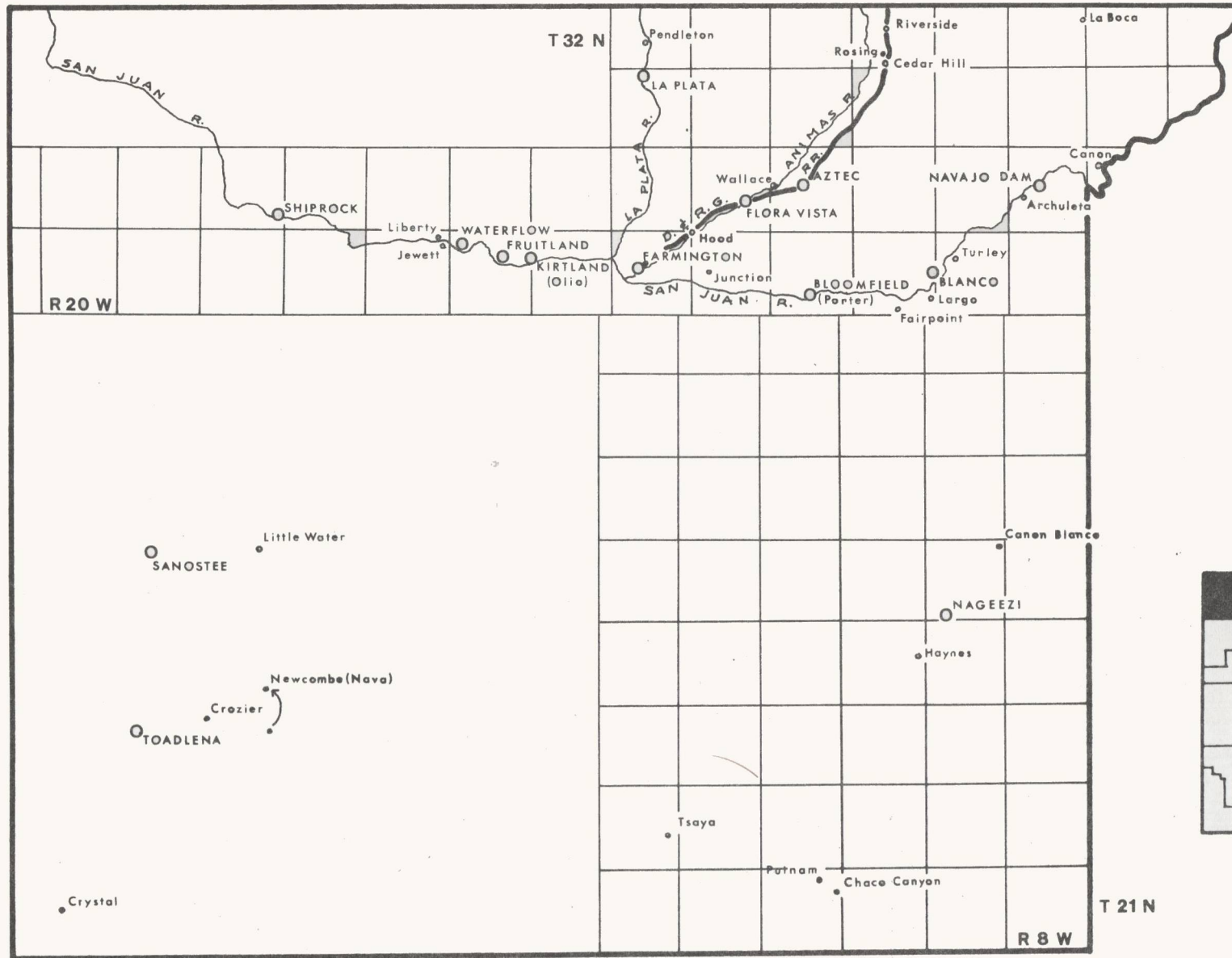
In 1887 the first detailed survey map of the county was drawn. Settlement increased in the 1890's, and in the early years of the 20th century as more and more settlers learned about the attractive farming opportunities of the county. A great boost to development came with the building of a branch line of the Denver & Rio Grande Railway from Durango through Aztec to Farmington in 1905.

Production of energy resources dates from 1900 when the first oil and gas well was drilled near Farmington. In 1911 the coal mining industry began. Commercial petroleum production was organized in the 1920's, and continues, along with coal, to be a major part of the county's economic base. Indeed, the decade of the 1950's illustrated well the potential impact which could be caused by San Juan County's mineral wealth. From 1950 to 1960 employment rose from 4,500 to nearly 15,000. Personal income increased from \$12.5 million to \$92.3 million, and population increased over 190%. The economic future of San Juan County appears bright.



# SAN JUAN COUNTY POST OFFICES

| Post Office            | Established | Discontinued | Notes                          |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| ALCATRAZ               | 7 Apr 1892  | 27 Mar 1894  | Mail to Largo                  |
| ARCHULETA              | 11 Mar 1919 | 31 May 1930  | Mail to Turley                 |
| AZTEC                  | 30 Apr 1879 | Operating    |                                |
| BLANCO                 | 6 Mar 1901  | Operating    |                                |
| BLOOMFIELD             | 1 May 1879  | 7 Dec 1881   | Name ch. to Porter             |
| BLOOMFIELD             | 17 May 1882 | Operating    | Was Porter                     |
| CANON                  | 26 May 1902 | 30 Jun 1903  | Mail to La Boca                |
| CANON BLANCO           | 17 Apr 1917 | 14 Feb 1920  | Mail to Largo                  |
| CEDAR HILL             | 13 Jun 1892 | 8 Apr 1966   | Mail to Aztec                  |
| CHACO CANYON           | 13 Aug 1936 | 26 Sep 1942  | Mail to Bloomfield             |
| CROZIER                | 6 Jun 1903  | 15 Jul 1919  | Mail to Shiprock               |
| CRYSTAL                | 25 Nov 1903 | 7 Jun 1941   | M. to Ft. Defiance,<br>Arizona |
| FAIRPOINT              | 9 Mar 1894  | 1 Oct 1898   | Mail to Largo                  |
| FARMINGTON             | 17 Apr 1879 | Operating    |                                |
| FLORA VISTA            | 13 Nov 1884 | Operating    |                                |
| FLORAVISTA             | 6 Aug 1878  | 26 Jul 1880  |                                |
| FRUITLAND              | 18 Jun 1891 | Operating    |                                |
| HAYNES                 | 24 Apr 1930 | 30 Jun 1932  | Mail to Chijuilla              |
| HOOD                   | 20 Jul 1898 | 2 Apr 1906   | Mail to Farmington             |
| JEWETT                 | 7 Mar 1884  | 15 Jan 1907  | Mail to Fruitland              |
| JUNCTION               | 5 Jun 1895  | 9 Sep 1896   | Mail to Farmington             |
| JUNCTION CITY          | 9 Mar 1891  | 5 Jun 1895   | N. ch. to Junction             |
| KIRTLAND               | 13 Oct 1903 | Operating    | Was Olio                       |
| LA BOCA                | 12 Apr 1902 | 1909         | (1)                            |
| LA PLATA               | 9 Jun 1881  | 8 Oct 1881   |                                |
|                        | 16 Jan 1882 | 14 Nov 1895  | Name ch. to Laplata            |
| LA PLATA               | 1 Oct 1965  | Operating    | Was Laplata                    |
| LAPLATA                | 14 Nov 1895 | 1 Oct 1965   | Name ch. to La Plata           |
| LARGO                  | 15 Feb 1883 | 23 May 1927  | Mail to Blanco                 |
| LIBERTY                | 14 Feb 1907 | 14 Feb 1920  | Mail to Waterflow              |
| LITTLE WATER RUR. STA. | 1 Sep 1960  | 30 Jun 1967  | Of Shiprock                    |
| NAGEEZI                | 11 Jun 1941 | Operating    |                                |
| NAVA                   | 30 Aug 1924 | 1 Sep 1929   | Name ch. to Newcombe           |
| NAVAJO DAM             | 10 Jan 1959 | Operating    |                                |
| NEWCOMBE               | 1 Sep 1929  | 30 Jun 1944  | Mail to Tohatchi               |
| OLIO                   | 7 Mar 1884  | 13 Oct 1903  | Name ch. to Kirtland           |
| PENDLETON              | 12 Nov 1903 | 15 Aug 1922  | Mail to Laplata                |
| PORTER                 | 7 Dec 1881  | 17 May 1882  | Name ch. to Bloomfield         |
| PUTNAM                 | 12 Apr 1901 | 28 Feb 1914  | Mail to Crownpoint             |
| RIVERSIDE              | 10 Oct 1905 | 31 Aug 1938  | Mail to Aztec                  |
| ROISING                | 18 Dec 1909 | 15 Nov 1919  | Mail to Cedar Hill             |
| SANOSTEE RURAL BR.     | 16 Nov 1967 | Operating    | (2)                            |
| SATEKON                | 15 Dec 1900 | 15 May 1901  | Mail to Jewett                 |
| SHIPROCK               | 31 Aug 1904 | Operating    |                                |
| TOADLENA               | 7 May 1917  | Operating    |                                |
| TSAYA                  | 28 May 1921 | 15 Dec 1926  | Mail to Crownpoint             |



# SAN JUAN COUNTY



| Post Office | Established | Discontinued | Notes          |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| TURLEY      | 26 Dec 1906 | 30 Jun 1941  | Mail to Blanco |
| WALLACE     | 30 Apr 1879 | 12 Aug 1881  |                |
| WATERFLOW   | 28 Aug 1919 | Operating    |                |

NOTES: (1) La Boca post office was moved to La Plata County, Colorado, between January and May, 1909. The office remained in that county until discontinued in October 1937.

(2) Sanostee was originally created as a rural branch of the Shiprock post office. It is currently operating as a CPO of the Farmington post office.

#### EDITOR'S COMMENTS

The interruption in Edith Doane's excellent series of articles on the Doane Numeral Cancels has been caused by Miss Doane's relocation from New Jersey to Massachusetts. We have all been eagerly looking forward to a resumption of her series, but word has recently been received from Miss Doane that failing health may preclude her further work on the series. It is hoped that Miss Doane's health will improve, and that she is once again able to pursue her interest in postal history research from which we have all benefited so richly through the years.

Word has been received from Mr. Ralph B. Smith, Curator of the Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library at the University of Texas at Dallas, that Gordon Bleuler recently staged a display of his award-winning collection of Oklahoma and Indian Territory covers. The Library was founded in late 1976, and now contains over 3,000 books and thousands of journals which are available for use by students and philatelists. More information on the Library may be obtained by writing Mr. Smith at Post Office Box 643, Richardson, Texas 75080.

Next issue we will feature an outstanding piece of postal history narrative entitled, "Carrying the Mail in Southern Oregon, 1856-1858". Edited by David A. Ramstead, this account provides a fascinating glimpse into the trials and tribulations of a pioneer mail carrier in early-day Oregon. Stay tuned...

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RICHARD W. HELBOCK, EDITOR, 424 Mc Clure Road, Las Cruces, NM 88001

