

LA POSTA



A Homesteader Scans the Skies for Wild Geese. *Century Magazine.*

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IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
NO MAN'S LAND: THE OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE By Richard W. Helbock	2
THE COLUMBIA, UTAH, BRANCH POST OFFICE: A BRANCH THAT NEVER WAS By Dennis H. Pack	11
THE POST OFFICES OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA (H) By Richard W. Helbock	13
PRICE, VALUE AND APPRAISAL By Dan Meschter	17
TIPS ON TECHNIQUES: USING PERSONAL COMPUTERS By Richard W. Helbock	21
EDITOR'S COMMENTS	24

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NO MAN'S LAND: THE OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE

By Richard W. Helbock

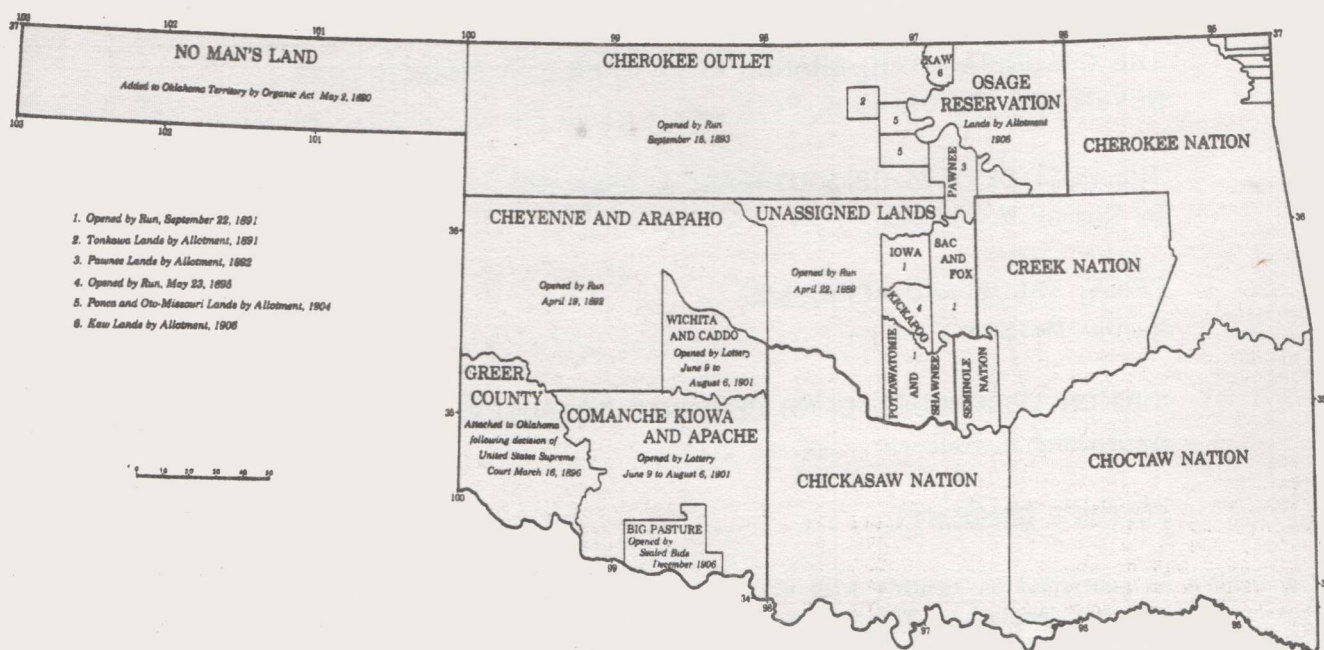
In 1850 Texas sold to the United States its claim to all territory lying west of the hundredth meridian and north of 36 degrees 30 minutes North latitude. The eastern border of newly organized Territory of New Mexico was fixed at the 103rd meridian in that same year. Four years later, Kansas Territory was organized, and its southern boundary identified as the 37th parallel. These decisions had the net effect of creating a rectangular territory 186 miles long (between 100 and 103 degrees West longitude) by 34 miles wide (between 36.5 and 37 degrees North latitude) which belonged to no State or Territory. For the next 36 years this area was officially known as the Public Land Strip, but, to those who lived near it and in it, the country was called "No Man's Land."

In 1854 there were few, if any, permanent residents of No Man's Land. The Comanche, the Kiowa and some other Plains Indians ranged through this country, but they were by nature nomadic and built no permanent settlements. In 1822 Captain William Becknell had pioneered a trail south from the Arkansas River through the plains to the

Cimarron River, which eventually became known as the Cimarron Cutoff of the Santa Fe Trail. The Cutoff entered No Man's Land from Kansas along the Cimarron and continued southwesterly away from the river to join the North Canadian River just west of the New Mexico border. Although the stretch of the Cutoff lying within No Man's Land was less than 40 miles long, it was not without note.

Mail service between Santa Fe and Missouri was initiated over the Santa Fe Trail as early as 1847, and by 1850 a contract was in effect calling for monthly mail stages over the route. Mail stages provided attractive targets for Indian raids, and gradually the U.S. Army presence was strengthened along the route. Numerous encounters between the Army and the Indians ensued, and at least one such was located in No Man's Land. On January 2, 1861, Colonel George B. Crittenden and his troop of 88 Mounted Riflemen out of Fort Union, New Mexico, surprised a Kiowa - Comanche village of some 175 lodges on near Upper Cimarron Spring -- about 15 miles north of modern day Boise City. (1)

Existence of this portion of the Santa Fe Trail through No Man's Land did not lead to the founding of any permanent military installations, but in May 1865 Colonel Kit Carson established Camp Nichols, a small temporary



Land Openings in Oklahoma. Reproduced from *Historical Atlas of Oklahoma*, by Morris, Goins and McReynolds.

post near Cold Spring (not far from the latter day community of Mexhoma). This post was occupied from May through November, 1865.

During the late 1870's, after the buffalo had been largely eliminated and the various Plains Indian tribes had been effectively pacified, cattlemen began to graze their herds on the lush grass of No Man's Land. Ranches of the day were vast, unfenced tracts, and the people who attended the animals were not unlike the Plains Indians in that they were at least semi-nomadic. The result was that no permanent community large enough to be awarded a post office was founded in No Man's Land until 1883. In that year Beaver post office was authorized at a community on the North Canadian River, then known as Beaver River, in the eastern part of what the Post Office Department called the "Neutral Strip."

Beaver City eventually grew into the largest population center in No Man's Land, but its beginnings were humble. A visitor during the summer of 1886 found "only a group of cowboys lined up at Jim Lane's saloon, a gang of loose horses grazing around a chuck wagon, and stakes set here and there over a section of land, a plat just laid out by a company from Wichita, Kansas." (2)

Two factors brought this period of settlement isolation quickly to an end in 1886. The first was a decision by

the U.S. Supreme Court in 1885 that the land was not part of the Cherokee Outlet, a portion of Indian Territory. The second was the fact that by the spring of 1886 the great land boom of southwestern Kansas had reached its saturation point, and there were hundreds of land-hungry farmers who had missed the boom and were eager to cross the border into No Man's Land.

By the summer of 1886 the first land rush was in No Man's Land was in full swing. After having staked a claim, the "stripper" took advantage of the only locally available construction material -- sod -- to build his low, one or two room farmhouse. Generally, the only cash activity in which these hardy pioneers could engage was the collection and sale of buffalo bones, and buffalo chips provided the major source of fuel. It was common for the head of a stripper family, once the bare improvements had been made to the claim, to travel outside the area in search of work. The goal of all this was to acquire title to the land, which could then be mortgaged in order to provide operating capital for a family farm.

The rush of settlers was accompanied by vigorous, and sometimes reckless, townsite promotion. By late summer in 1886 numerous townsites had been laid out, the majority of them in the eastern part of No Man's Land. Most of these townsites consisted of sec-



A Great Plains farm family in front of their sod house. *Nebraska State Hist. Soc.*

tions of land laid off in blocks and lots; but actual construction was usually limited to a few rough sod structures. Nevada, in the northeastern part of the strip, and Braidwood City, 6 miles south of Beaver, were examples of townsites which were laid out, but never saw as much as a single house built on either site. (3)

On August 26, 1886, a group of 35 squatters met in a sod school house in Beaver City in an effort to discourage claim-jumping and establish some organized authority in No Man's Land. The group drafted a resolution calling for the organization of the Public Land Strip as the Territory of Cimarron. In 1887 delegates were elected to a territorial council, which met in Beaver City in March. The Council divided the Territory into three senatorial districts by meridian lines and into seven delegate districts by township lines. A new election was called for November, 1887, to form the Territorial Assembly. (4)

O. G. Chase, one of the chief promoters of the idea of a separate territory, was elected President of Council. Once that body adjourned, Chase proceeded to Washington to try to convince Congress to recognize the new territory. Although Chase succeeded in having such a proposal introduced as a resolution, there was little support for it in Congress.

Chase returned to his Cimarron Territory undoubtedly dismayed by the lack of support he had found in Washington. Others continued the effort through 1888 to have No Man's Land declared a territory, but were no more successful. On April 22, 1889, a part of nearby Indian Territory was opened to non-Indian settlement as Oklahoma Territory, and there were no further attempts to organize Cimarron Territory.

The influx of settlers beginning in 1886 was responsible for acquiring at least one form of recognition by the United States Government. A total of 32 post offices were authorized in No Man's Land between April 1886 and January 1889. The POSTAL BULLETIN listed those offices established in 1886 (Gate City, Carrizo, Benton, Optima and Bluegrass) as being located in the "Neutral Strip." There were 9 offices established in 1887, 16 in 1888 and 2 in January 1889. All of these were listed as being located in the "Public Land Strip."

Three more post offices were established in the Public Land Strip in

early 1890, but on May 2, 1890, the President of the United States signed a bill creating Oklahoma Territory, and including within its boundaries "that portion of the United States known as the Public Land Strip." No Man's Land had come to an end.

Under the territorial government, No Man's Land was appropriately designated Beaver County, and the entire area of the county remained intact throughout the territorial era. The pace of settlement in Beaver County slackened during the 1890's as new lands were opened for non-Indian settlement to the east. Only 25 new post office names were added to the Beaver County list between August 1890 and 1900, and several of these resulted from name changes. The new century brought little change in the settlement pattern during its first few years. There were no new Beaver County post offices established in 1900, only one in 1901 which did not result from a name change, and two in 1902. All of this was soon to change.

Extension of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad southwest from Liberal, Kansas, in 1902 through the center of Beaver County greatly increased the area's attractiveness to settlers. This increased access to rail combined with a new optimism about dry farming on the Great Plains to touch off a second wave of settlement in old No Man's Land. Eight new post offices were opened in Beaver County during 1903. This was followed by 22 more in 1904, 14 more in 1905, 40 more in 1906 and 22 more in 1907. In those five years Beaver County added 106 post offices, and unlike the earlier wave these were scattered across the entire expanse of the county. On November 16, 1907, Oklahoma was admitted to the Union, and Beaver County was divided into three counties: Cimarron, Texas and Beaver.

Statehood day came at the peak of Beaver County's settlement history. The boom in arid land farming was short-lived, not only in the Oklahoma Panhandle but throughout the Great Plains, and by late 1907 many of the dry farmers had begun to move on. Post office closures increased in 1908, and, although many hung on for years beyond their usefulness, by 1915 most of the new offices and several of the older offices were closed.

Two new railroads eventually crossed old No Man's Land, but only 22 new post office names were added to the Beaver, Texas and Cimarron county lists

between 1908 and the present. Most were a result of name changes.

The winds of winter sweep across the Oklahoma Panhandle almost unimpeded in their rush from the Rockies to the Mississippi. Beaver, Guymon and Boise City have survived as the county seats of the three counties carved from old No Man's Land, but none has as many as 10,000 residents. A scattering of other communities such as Hooker, Keyes, Forgan, Tyrone, and Optima have survived due to fortunate road and rail connections, and the perserverance of their citizenry. There are some 25,000 people now living in the three county area, but the area measures over 5,700 square miles, which means a population density of less than four and one-half residents per square mile. Since most of these modern residents are clustered in the remaining towns and villages, the Panandle gives the general impression to a modern traveller along U.S. Route 64 or 54 that it has changed little since the days it was known as

No Man's Land.

Footnotes:

- (1) Taylor, Morris F. FIRST MAIL WEST, p. 76.
- (2) Kinchen, O.A., "The Abortive Territory of Cimarron," CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA, 23,3 (Aug 1945), p. 220.
- (3) *ibid.*, p. 219.
- (4) Wardell, M.L., "No Man's Land or Old Beaver County," CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA, 1,1 (Jan 1921), p. 84.

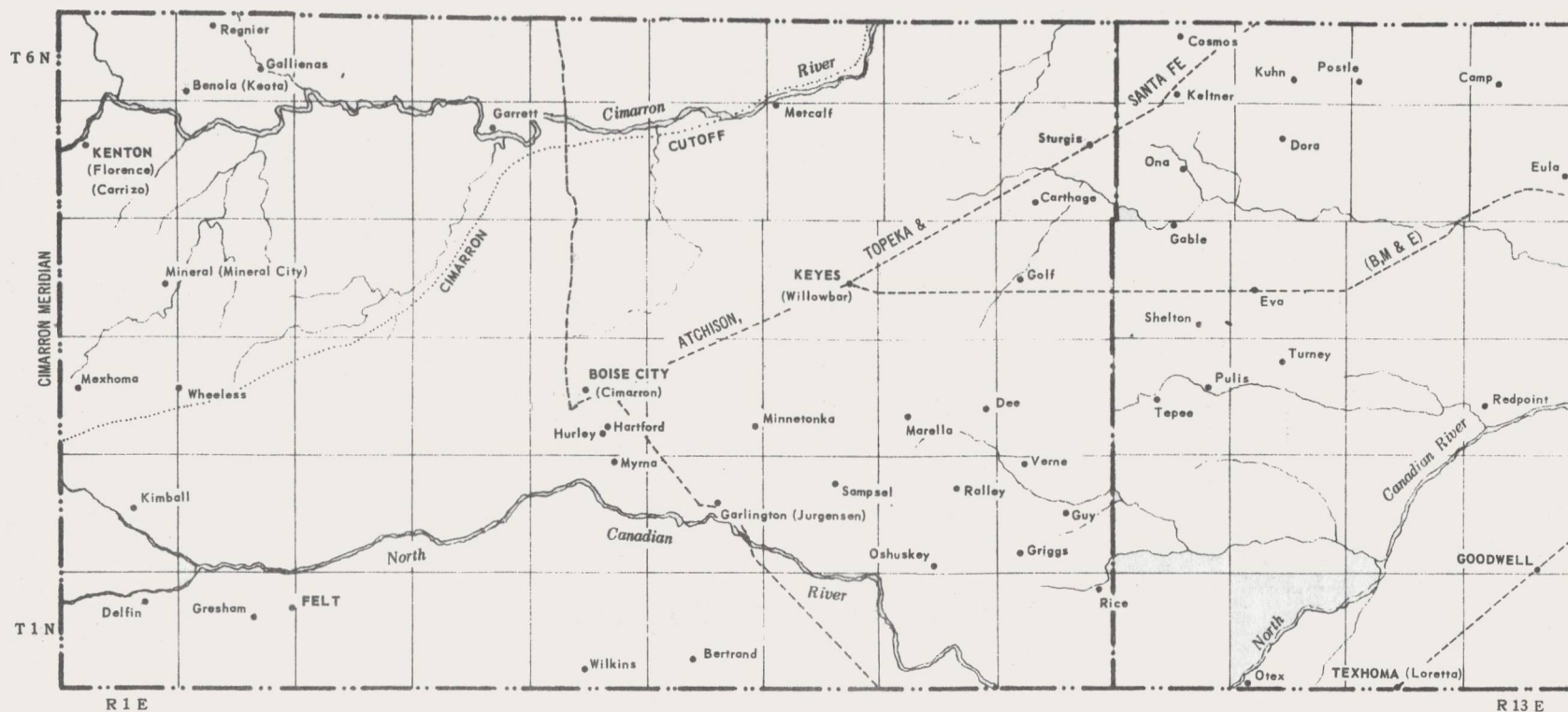
References:

Post offices of Oklahoma and Indian Territory have been listed in three articles appearing in CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA. Shirk, George H., "The Post Offices of Indian Territory," 26,2 (Summer 1948), pp. 179-244; "Post Offices of Oklahoma Territory," 30,1 (Spring 1952), pp. 41-104; and, "The Post Offices of Oklahoma, Nov 26, 1917 - Dec 31, 1965," 44,2 (Spring 1966), pp. 31-90.

POST OFFICES OF "NO MAN'S LAND" (Modern Beaver, Texas & Cimarron Counties)

<u>Post Office Name</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Established</u>	<u>Discontinued</u>	<u>Notes</u>
ABE	Beaver	21 Jul 1904	15 Nov 1907	Mail to Balko
ADAMS	Texas	14 Jun 1930	Operating	
APPLETON	Beaver	9 Jul 1906	30 Sep 1907	Mail to Healy
ARRILLA	Beaver	8 Jul 1907	15 Mar 1908	Mail to Grand Valley
BAKER	Texas	15 Aug 1953	Operating	Was Bakersburg
BAKERSBURG	Texas	5 Jun 1931	15 Aug 1953	Name changed to Baker
BAKKE	Cimarron	8 Jun 1907+	29 Mar 1909	Name changed to Esbon
BALKO	Beaver	14 Mar 1904	Operating	
BARDEN	Texas	25 Jun 1906	30 Sep 1912	Mail to Guymon
BEATRICE	Beaver	12 Aug 1904	15 Mar 1908	Mail to Liberal, KS
BEAVER	Beaver	5 Apr 1883	Operating	
BENOLA	Cimarron	7 Feb 1906	31 May 1908	Was Keota; Mail to Mineral
BENTON	Beaver	13 Sep 1886	14 Oct 1899	Mail to Riverside
BERTRAND	Cimarron	17 Mar 1906	31 Oct 1918	Mail to Delfin
BLUEGRASS	Beaver	13 Sep 1886	27 Oct 1898	Mail to Custer
BOISE CITY	Cimarron	23 Dec 1908	Operating	Was Cimarron
BOYD	Beaver	24 Dec 1887	30 Apr 1964	Mail to Balko
BUFFALO	Texas	15 Mar 1888	30 Aug 1902	Mail to Optima
BYRD	Texas	17 Mar 1904	31 Dec 1907	Mail to Healy
CAMP	Texas	26 Oct 1906	30 Sep 1916	Mail to Guymon
CAPLE	Texas	13 Apr 1891	31 May 1916	Mail to Hardesty
CARRIZO	Cimarron	9 Sep 1886	9 Apr 1890	Name changed to Florence
CARTHAGE	Cimarron	19 Jun 1906	31 Aug 1914	Mail to Elkhart, KS
CHAUNCEY	Beaver ?	7 Dec 1906	22 Apr 1907	Rescinded
CIMARRON	Cimarron	22 Jul 1907	23 Dec 1908	Name changed to Boise City
CLARAVILLE	Texas	22 Apr 1905	31 Oct 1908	Mail to Guymon
CLEAR LAKE	Beaver	11 Feb 1888	31 Jan 1916	Was Lake
		25 Sep 1919	15 May 1944	Mail to Logan
CLINE	Beaver	5 May 1894	31 Mar 1913	Mail to Gate
COIN	Beaver	3 Aug 1895	30 Apr 1914	Mail to Knowles
COLLINS	Cimarron	2 Mar 1888	2 Mar 1889	Mail to Boston, CO
COMO	Beaver	4 Jun 1904	31 Dec 1908	Mail to Elmwood
CONQUEST	Beaver	17 Sep 1904	21 Apr 1908	Mail to Madison
CONROY	Beaver	3 Feb 1904	26 Jul 1909	Name changed to Lakemp
COPASS	Beaver	22 Apr 1905	15 Oct 1906	Mail to Lorena
COSMOS	Texas	9 Feb 1906	31 May 1913	Mail to Sutter
COUCH	Beaver	12 Feb 1907	15 Jan 1914	Mail to Boyd
CUSTER	Beaver	28 Oct 1891	17 Jun 1904	Was Ivanhoe; NCT Madison
DAGUE	Texas	27 Dec 1904	31 Dec 1910	Mail to Niagra, KS
DANKS	Beaver	20 Mar 1892	15 Nov 1892	
DEE	Cimarron	15 Oct 1906	15 Sep 1913	Mail to Midwell
DELFIN	Cimarron	10 Oct 1907	15 Sep 1926	Mail to Clayton, NM
DILYA	Cimarron	22 Aug 1906	31 Jan 1912	Mail to Hidalgo
DOMBEY	Beaver	18 Apr 1904	28 Feb 1950	Mail to Turpin

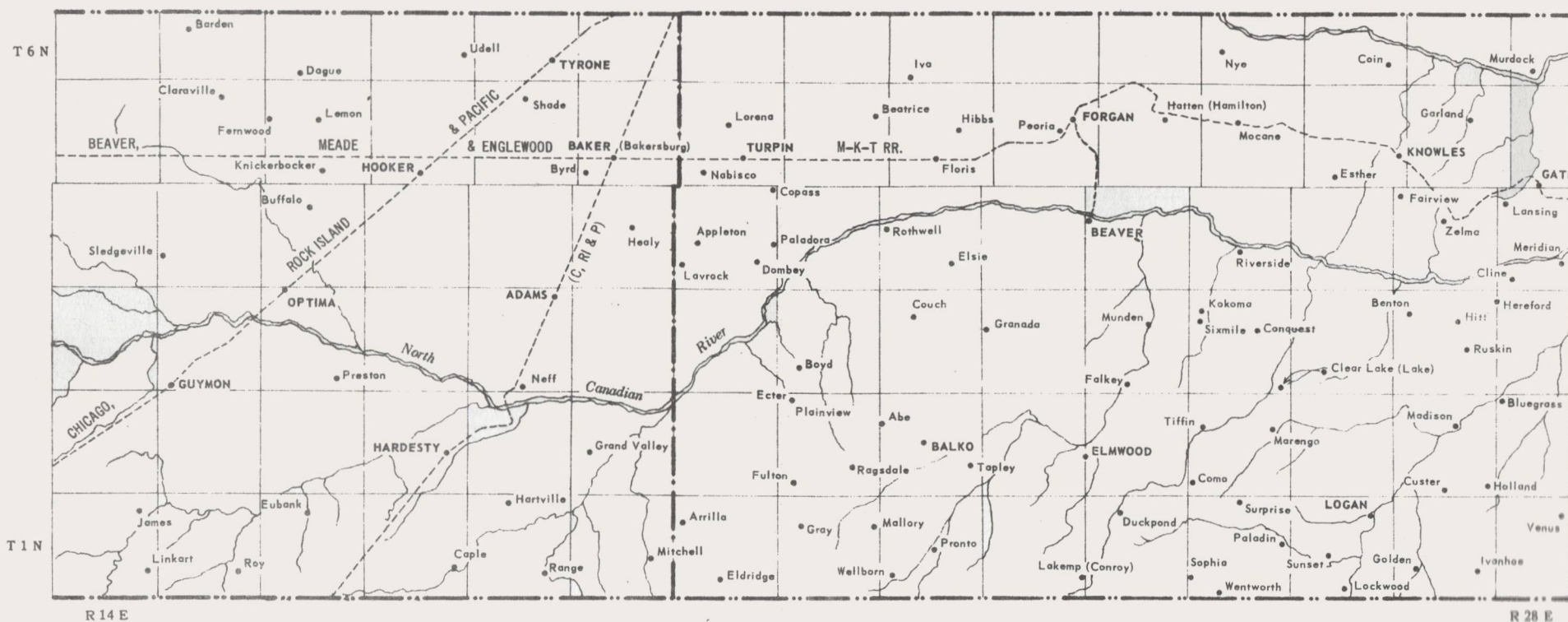
CIMARRON & TEXAS COUNTY POST OFFICES



Locations of some post offices are approximate, and are based on POD records, e.g., '10 miles SW of Dora'

<u>Post Office Name</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Established</u>	<u>Discontinued</u>	<u>Notes</u>
DOBY	Cimarron	8 Feb 1908	30 Apr 1914	Mail to Boise City
DORA	Texas	3 Oct 1906	16 Jun 1907	Mail to Postle
DUCKPOND	Beaver	12 Nov 1906	31 Dec 1908	Mail to Elmwood
ECTER	Beaver	22 Oct 1906	7 Nov 1910	Name changed to Plainview
ELDRIDGE	Beaver	15 Feb 1906	31 Dec 1907	Mail to Gray
ELMWOOD	Beaver	26 Jan 1888	16 Oct 1893	
		4 Feb 1895	Operating	
ELSIE	Beaver	23 Jul 1907	30 Jun 1908	Mail to Balko
ESTHER	Beaver	3 Jun 1903	30 Nov 1912	Mail to Knowles
EUBANK	Texas	12 Feb 1891	15 Sep 1902	Mail to Roy
EULA	Texas	4 Oct 1905	30 Jun 1908	Mail to Guymon
EVA	Texas	9 Jul 1906	30 Sep 1975	
FAIRVIEW	Beaver	21 Feb 1888	5 Mar 1890	
FALKEY	Beaver	27 Mar 1906	15 Jan 1916	Mail to Forgan
FELT	Cimarron	16 Jul 1926	Operating	
FERNWOOD	Texas	17 Jun 1905	15 Oct 1908	Mail to Hooker
FLORENCE	Cimarron	9 Apr 1890	15 May 1891	Was Carrizo; NCT Kenton
FLORIS	Beaver	7 Aug 1903	30 Sep 1925	Mail to Forgan
FORGAN	Beaver	1 Jun 1912	Operating	
FULTON	Beaver	21 Apr 1887	2 Apr 1891	
		5 Oct 1892	31 Dec 1907	Mail to Gray
GABLE*	Texas	17 May 1907	30 Mar 1910	Mail to Ona
GALLIENAS	Cimarron	14 May 1890	31 Mar 1904	Mail to Regnier, CO
GARLAND	Beaver	21 Feb 1888	8 Jul 1891	Mail to Englewood, KS
GARLINGTON	Cimarron	14 Feb 1908	31 Jul 1926	Was Jurgensen; MT Boise City
GARRETT	Cimarron	17 Apr 1891	15 Nov 1917	Mail to Campo, CO
GATE	Beaver	24 Nov 1894	Operating	Was Gate City
GATE CITY	Beaver	13 Apr 1886	24 Nov 1894	Name changed to Gate
GOLDEN	Beaver	21 Dec 1905	15 Sep 1908	Mail to Logan
GOLF	Cimarron	22 Jun 1907	31 Aug 1910	Mail to Dee
GOODWELL	Texas	16 Jun 1903	Operating	
GRANADA	Beaver	30 Sep 1904	15 Nov 1907	Mail to Balko
GRAND VALLEY	Texas	23 Jun 1888	31 Dec 1930	Mail to Hardesty
GRAY	Beaver	13 Jan 1906	30 Apr 1964	Mail to Balko
GRESHAM	Cimarron	7 Jul 1906	13 Oct 1913	Mail to Delfin
GRIGGS	Cimarron	13 Jun 1906	2 Feb 1973	
GUY	Cimarron	9 Jul 1906	14 Sep 1907	* Mail to Rice
GUYMON	Texas	29 Jun 1901	Operating	
HAMILTON	Beaver	12 Feb 1907	27 Jun 1910	Name changed to Hatten
HARDESTY	Texas	3 Aug 1887	Operating	
HARTFORD	Texas	2 Feb 1907	30 Sep 1907	Mail to Jurgensen
HARTVILLE	Texas	7 Mar 1907	31 May 1908	Mail to Hardesty
HATTEN	Beaver	27 Jun 1910	15 Apr 1913	Was Hamilton; MT Forgan
HEALY	Texas	5 May 1904	31 Jul 1908	Mail to Hooker
HEREFORD	Beaver	26 Jan 1888	2 Aug 1889	Mail to Benton
HIBBS	Beaver	9 May 1903	31 May 1909	Mail to Floris
HIDALGO	Cimarron	10 Oct 1909	14 Oct 1916	Mail to Midwell
HITT	Beaver	16 Aug 1906	30 Mar 1907	Mail to Ruskin
HOLLAND	Beaver	26 Apr 1904	15 Apr 1913	Mail to Speersmore
HOOKE	Texas	13 Oct 1902	Operating	
HURLEY	Cimarron	2 Oct 1907	31 Jul 1925	Mail to Garlington
IYA	Beaver	25 Feb 1905	31 Oct 1907	Mail to Floris
IVANHOE	Beaver	26 Aug 1887	28 Oct 1891	Name & site changed to Custer
JAMES	Texas	19 May 1906	30 Jun 1910	Mail to Eva
JURGENSEN	Cimarron	4 Aug 1906	14 Feb 1908	Name changed to Garlington
KELTNER	Texas	4 Apr 1906	30 Jun 1910	Mail to Carthage
KENTON	Cimarron	12 May 1891	Operating	Was Florence
KEOTA	Cimarron	18 Jul 1904	7 Feb 1906	Name changed to Benola
KEYES	Cimarron	15 Oct 1926	Operating	
KIMBALL	Cimarron	5 Oct 1892	19 Jun 1899	Mail to Mineral
KNICKERBOCKER	Texas	22 Jul 1905	15 Feb 1907	Mail to Hooker
KNOWLES	Beaver	16 Mar 1907	Operating	
KOKOMA	Beaver	20 Mar 1888	6 Oct 1891	Mail to Beaver
KUHN	Texas	3 Oct 1906	15 Oct 1912	Mail to Postle
LAKE	Beaver	24 Dec 1887	11 Feb 1888	Name changed to Clear Lake
LAKEMP	Beaver	26 Jul 1909	4 Sep 1919	Was Conroy; N/SCT Booker, TX
LANSING	Beaver	19 Apr 1888	26 Jun 1896	Mail to Benton
LAVROCK	Beaver	8 Jan 1889	30 Apr 1892	Mail to Hardesty
LEMON	Texas	27 Apr 1905	14 Sep 1907	Mail to Hooker
LINKART	Texas	14 Jun 1905	30 Nov 1907	Mail to Fernwood
LOCKWOOD	Beaver	10 Mar 1887	30 Jun 1917	Mail to Logan
LOGAN	Beaver	10 Dec 1888	Operating	
LORENA	Beaver	13 Jan 1904	8 Apr 1925	Name & site changed to Turpin
LORETTA	Texas	7 May 1898	12 Nov 1901	Name changed to Texhoma
MADISON	Beaver	17 Jun 1904	15 Oct 1925	Was Custer; MT Laverne
MALLORY	Beaver	15 Jul 1905	31 Dec 1907	Mail to Gray
MARELLA	Cimarron	12 May 1906	30 Sep 1915	Mail to Griggs
MARENGO	Beaver	18 Oct 1904	15 May 1908	Mail to Logan
MERIDIAN	Beaver	1 Jun 1887	25 Jul 1893	Mail to Gate City
METCALF	Cimarron	23 May 1894	15 Sep 1900	Mail to Garrett
MEXHOMA	Cimarron	31 Jul 1909	30 Nov 1942	Mail to Boise City
MIDWELL	Cimarron	22 Jan 1908	31 May 1935	Mail to Eva

BEAVER & TEXAS COUNTIES



Locations of some post offices are approximate.

<u>Post Office Name</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Established</u>	<u>Discontinued</u>	<u>Notes</u>
MINERAL	Cimarron	29 Mar 1895	15 Feb 1911	Mail to Wheelless
MINERAL CITY	Cimarron	6 Feb 1888	29 Mar 1895	Name changed to Mineral
MINNETONKA	Cimarron	4 Jan 1907	15 Apr 1910	Mail to Willowbar
MINNELO	Beaver	18 Oct 1904	15 Aug 1906	Mail to Conquest
MITCHELL	Texas ?	28 Aug 1888	24 Sep 1890	Mail to Grand Valley
MOCANE	Beaver	18 Mar 1909	30 Apr 1948	Mail to Knowles
MUNDEN	Beaver	17 May 1907	15 May 1909	Mail to Riverside
MURDOCK	Beaver	31 Jan 1889	12 Aug 1891	Mail to Englewood, KS
MURIEL	Beaver ?	4 Aug 1906	31 Jan 1907	Rescinded
MYRNA	Cimarron	7 Dec 1906	31 Dec 1907	Mail to Jurgensen
NABISCO	Beaver	13 Jan 1904	29 Sep 1906	Mail to Tyrone
NEFF	Texas	8 Aug 1904	15 May 1909	Mail to Hooker
NYE	Beaver	15 Nov 1893	8 Dec 1919	Site changed to Meade Co., KS
ONA	Texas	22 Apr 1907	15 Jul 1919	Mail to Eva
OPTIMA	Texas	13 Sep 1886	Operating	
OSHUSKEY	Cimarron	15 Oct 1906	31 May 1913	Mail to Midwell
OTEX	Texas	15 Oct 1906	31 Jul 1907	Mail to Texhoma
PALADIN	Beaver	5 Mar 1903	31 Aug 1908	Mail to Logan
PALADORA	Beaver	25 Apr 1888	14 Jan 1899	Mail to Liberal, KS
FEORIA	Beaver	1 Mar 1890	29 Apr 1891	Mail to Beaver
PLAINVIEW	Beaver	7 Nov 1910	31 Dec 1912	Was Ecter; Mail to Balko
POSTLE	Texas	6 Jul 1905	15 Jun 1915	Mail to Camp
PRESTON	Texas	30 Jun 1892	31 Dec 1901	Mail to Hardesty
PRONTO	Beaver	23 Feb 1904	27 Feb 1909	Mail to Sophia
PULIS	Cimarron	4 Aug 1906	14 Dec 1907	Mail to Oshuskey
RAGSDALE	Beaver	24 Mar 1904	31 Aug 1907	Mail to Gray
RALLEY	Cimarron	26 Apr 1907	31 Mar 1914	Mail to Griggs
RANGE	Texas	21 May 1895	15 Feb 1934	Mail to Hardesty
REDPOINT	Texas	25 Apr 1896	28 Feb 1915	Mail to Guymon
REGNIER	Cimarron	27 Feb 1920	15 Mar 1948	Moved from Baca Co., CO
RICE	Cimarron	2 Mar 1906	31 Dec 1925	Mail to Midwell
RIVERSIDE	Beaver	20 Mar 1888	15 Jul 1927	Mail to Beaver
ROTHWELL	Beaver	24 Sep 1887	18 Apr 1898	Mail to Paladora
ROY	Texas	25 Jul 1894	31 Dec 1902	Mail to Eubank
RUSKIN	Beaver	17 Mar 1906	15 Sep 1909	Mail to Cline
CAMPEL	Cimarron	23 May 1906	15 Nov 1929	Mail to Boise City
SANFORD	Beaver ?	14 Jun 1901	No date	Never in operation
SHADE	Texas	19 Aug 1890	15 Sep 1902	Mail to Liberal, KS
SHELTON	Texas	16 May 1906	30 Nov 1912	Mail to Eva
SIXMILE	Beaver	2 Oct 1896	18 Apr 1899	Mail to Beaver
SLEDGEVILLE	Texas	5 May 1906	28 Feb 1907	Mail to Guymon
SOPHIA	Beaver	4 Mar 1903	30 Jun 1916	Mail to Lakemp
SPRINGER	Beaver ?	6 Mar 1888	13 Dec 1888	
STURGIS	Cimarron	18 Mar 1926	15 Dec 1936	Mail to Elkhart, KS
SUNSET	Beaver	22 Apr 1905	30 Sep 1908	Mail to Logan
SURPRISE	Beaver	3 Jan 1905	30 Sep 1910	Mail to Logan
TAPLEY	Beaver	21 Jul 1904	15 May 1909	Mail to Elmwood
TEPEE	Cimarron	16 Aug 1906	??	
TEXHOMA	Texas	12 Nov 1901	Operating	Was Loretta
TIFFANY	Beaver ?	9 Dec 1887	23 May 1888	
TIFFIN	Beaver	24 Apr 1907	31 Jan 1918	Mail to Riverside
TURNER	Texas	26 Apr 1907	31 Oct 1910	Mail to Shelton
TURPIN	Beaver	8 Apr 1925	Operating	PO moved from Lorena
TYRONE	Texas ?	5 May 1892	20 Sep 1898	Site to KS; NCT Barcross
TYRONE	Texas	26 Jul 1902	Operating	
UDELL	Texas	2 Feb 1902	31 Jan 1909	Mail to Beaver
USNA	Cimarron	9 Jan 1917	31 Jul 1920	Mail to Midwell
VARNEY	Cimarron	31 Oct 1906	4 Jan 1907	Never in operation
VENUS	Beaver	11 May 1894	31 Aug 1909	Mail to Ivanhoe
VERNE	Cimarron	9 May 1907	31 May 1910	Mail to Griggs
WEBSTER	Beaver ?	19 Jun 1906	25 Jul 1906	Rescinded
WEITZ	Texas	13 Mar 1907+	15 Apr 1911	Mail to Guymon
WELLBORN	Beaver	17 Dec 1903	15 Apr 1907	Mail to Ragsdale
WENTWORTH	Beaver	6 Aug 1903	30 Nov 1905	Mail to Sunset
WHEELLESS	Cimarron	12 Feb 1907	27 Sep 1963	Mail to Boise City
WILKINS	Cimarron	19 May 1905	15 May 1913	
		24 Jul 1915	31 Jan 1930	Mail to Felt
WILLOWBAR	Cimarron	5 Oct 1910	15 Oct 1926	Name changed to Keyes
ZELMA	Beaver	17 Apr 1903	31 Oct 1917	Mail to Knowles

ADDENDA:

ESBON	Cimarron	29 Mar 1909	30 Jan 1915	Was Bakke; MT Garlington
IVANHOE (Re-est.)	Beaver	20 Mar 1892	31 May 1920	Mail to Follett, TX

NOTES: + - date listed by Shirk is apparently incorrect. This date appears in Postal Bulletin.
* - Correct spelling is "Gable", not "Cable" as listed in Shirk.

THOMAS M. MILLS

Mail Bid sale no. 3

P. O. Box 25690,
Portland, OR 97225 (503)297-7456

ALASKA

1. CURRY, 1926, F-VF Ty1 on PPC. Est \$10.00
2. HAINES, 1910, VF 4-bar Ty2 on PPC. Est. \$8.00
3. MITKOF, 1910, VF 4-bar on PPC. Rare 4-yr. PO. Est. \$150.00
4. PILOT POINT, 1935, VF purple Ty1 on FFC. Est. \$5
5. SAINT MICHAEL, 1913, F-VF red Ty7 on PPC. Est. \$8
6. SLEETMUTE, 1936, VF Ty1 on FFC w/OPHIR Ty3.E. \$5
7. SOLOMON, 1907, F-VF Doane (Ty1) on PPC. Est. \$45.
8. WRANGELL, 1910, VF Ty2 on PPC of wreck of PRINCESS MAY in real photo. Est. \$15.00

COLORADO

9. BLACK HAWK, (1878) F-VF cds on VF cvr. w/#158.E.\$20
10. CASCADE, 1888, VF double cds w/decorative interior "flowers" on clean cvr. w/2¢ green. Est. \$25.00
11. CREEDE, 1893, VF cds ties 2¢ Col. to VF cvr. E. \$10
12. COLORADO SPRINGS, 1879, Exc. purple double cds on clean cvr. w/#158. Attractive piece. Est. \$30.00
13. DENVER/CAP. HILL STA., 1902, VF on UX16. Est. \$6.00
14. GOLDEN CITY/COL.T., ca. 1868, as fwd. mk. on cvr. w/#68. PM is Fine or better. Est \$60.00
15. MONTCLAIR, 1906, F-VF Doane on PPC. Est. \$8.00
16. WALDORF, Jul 4, 1908, VF 4-bar on PPC (1908-12) E. \$25

DAKOTA

17. RAPID CITY, ca. 1886 F-VF cds on U277 w/st. line MISSENT & ST.P & C. BLUFFS/RPO b/s. Est. \$12.00
18. WATERBURY, 1884, VF triple cds on cvr w/pr. #206. Cvr is a bit rough at rt, but still F-VF. Est. \$30

IDAHO

19. HAILEY, 1886, F-VF purple cds on F-VF cvr w/206.E.\$30
20. ILO, 1906, F-VF Doane on PPC (1899-19). Est. \$8.00
21. ROCKY BAR, ca. 1875, VF cds on cvr w/3¢ green tied by star killer. Cvr. has small hole up lft. E. \$40
22. SILVER CITY/IDA, (1875), F-VF cds on U163. Est. \$50
23. WEIPPE, 1906, VF Doane on U385. Est. \$6.00

INDIAN TERRITORY

24. BERWYN, 1906, VF rec'v mark on PPC. Est. \$6.00
25. DUNCAN, 1902, VF cds on VF cvr w/Dry Gds cc. E\$15.
26. PALMER, 1907, F Doane on cvr. shtnd into stamp. E\$8.
27. SAPULPA, 1906, F-VF duplex on VF cvr. Est. \$10.00
28. WYNNEWOOD, 1905, VF duplex on VF cvr. w/Dry Goods corner card. Est. \$12.00

KANSAS

29. CLIFTON, 1879, VF red dbl cds w/neg. star-in-circle on U164. Est. \$8.00
30. ELYRIA, 1894, VF cds on VF cvr. (1887-54). Est. \$8.
31. FRANKFORT, 1880, Exc. purple cds on VF cvr. Est. \$15.
32. GARRISON, 1907, Exc. Doane on cvr. (1880-59). Est. \$5
33. LAWRENCE/K.T., 1857, F-VF cds on cvr w/#26. E. \$45
34. URBANA, 1894, VF cds on U349. (1870-57). Est. \$4.00
35. WABAUNSEE, ca. 1865, VF cds on U59. (1855-44). E. \$8.
36. XENIA, 1888, F-VF cds on U277. (1858-26). Est. \$4.00

MONTANA

37. DIAMOND CITY, 1877, VF purple cds on UX5. Est. \$45.
38. PIEGAN, 1883, VF cds w/star-in-circle (2) on Reg cvr U165 w/#188. Short @ Rt just into embssd. stamp. Still, attractive item from (1877-1902) PO. E. \$35.
39. PINECREEK, 1909, F-VF Doane on PPC. (1904-14). E. \$8.
40. RIDGELAWN, 1908, F Doane as Fwd mk on PPC. E. \$6.00

NEVADA

41. AMOS, 1916, VF 4-bar on clean cvr. (1889-26). E. \$15
42. BLACK FOREST, 1943, VF 4-bar on LDC UX28. E. \$5.
43. BLUE DIAMONDVILLE, 1942 (Jul 16), VF 4-bar on UY7. Philatelic, but scarce 5 mo. PO. Est. \$45.00
44. BRISTOL SILVER, 1950, VF 4-bar on cvr. Est. \$5.00
45. MILLERS, 1916, F 4-bar on U411. (1906-31). E. \$10.
46. MILLETT, 1916, F 4-bar on cvr w/sm. tear. E. \$8.
47. NORTH FORK, 1932, VF 4-bar on VF cvr. Est. \$8.00
48. NYALA, 1936, VF 4-bar on VF LDC. (1914-36). E. \$10.
49. OLINGHOUSE, 1911, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1903-23) E\$10.
50. OSCEOLA, 1907, VF duplex on PPC. (1878-20). E. \$15
51. SULPHUR, 1951, VF 4-bar on clean cvr. Est. \$5.00
52. TEMPIUTE, 1953, VF 4-bar on FDC. (1953-57). E. \$5.00
53. TUNGSTEN, 1944, VF 4-bar on UY7 (1944-62). E. \$8.

NEVADA (Continued)

54. UNIONVILLE, 1908, Exc. Doane on VF cvr. Est. \$15
55. VYA, 1916, Exc. 4-bar on comm. cvr (1910-41) E. \$20

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

56. CLOUDCROFT, 1910, Ty4 on PPC. F-VF, Est. \$4.00
57. LAGUNA, 1907, VF duplex on PPC, Ty6, Est. \$10.00
58. LUCERO, 1909, VF Doane, Ty3 on U406. Est. \$18.00
59. PUERTODELUNA, 1901, F-VF Ty 10 on VF cvr w/Gen'l Merchandise cc. Very attractive. Est. \$25.00

OREGON

60. ACME, 1907, VF Doane on PPC. (1885-16). Est. \$12
61. AURORA MILLS, 1893, VF cds on U349. Est. \$20.00
62. BUELL, 1910, F-VF cds on PPC. Est. \$6.00
63. CASEY, 1909, VF Doane on PPC. (1903-11). Est. \$80
64. CEDAR MILL, 1897, F-VF cds on cvr w/flts. Est. \$20
65. DEXTER, ca. 1890, F-VF cds on cvr w/2¢ red. E. \$12
66. EAST PORTLAND, 1890, VF cds on U312. Est. \$18.00
67. FRE MONT, 1911, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1908-19) E\$20
68. JACKSONVILLE, 1888, VF double cds w/wheel of fortune killer on VF cvr. Est. \$18.00
69. McKEE, 1909, F-VF Doane on PPC. Est. \$8.00
70. NEEDEY, 1893, F-VF cds on U311 w/encl. Est. \$25.
71. REEDVILLE, 1892, VF cds on VF cvr w/2¢ red. E\$12
72. ROCKCREEK, 1902, as b/s on cvr. Rare Baker Co. PO (1900-04), strike is only readable. E. \$30
73. SCOTTS MILLS, 1894, VF cds on U349. Est. \$20.00
74. UMPQUA FERRY, 1887, F-VF cds on Reg. Pk. Rct. E\$15
75. VESPER, 1909, VF Doane on PPC. (1879-19). E. \$12.
76. WALKER, 1911, VF 4-bar on PPC. (1891-25). E. \$16
77. WOODVILLE, 1911, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. Est. \$5.00

UTAH

78. HOOPER, 1893, VF cds on U349. Est. \$15.00
79. MANTI, 1880, Exc. purple cds on #10 env. Est. \$10
80. ST. GEORGE, ca. 1878, F-VF cds on U45. Est. \$25
81. WASATCH, 1921, VF red 4-bar on cvr. Est. \$8.00
82. Arbuckle's Arosia Coffee trade card w/Utah map & pix of Salt Lake & Mormon temple (1889) E\$5.00

WASHINGTON

83. ALADDIN, 1923, VF 4-bar on U430. (1910-24). E. \$8.
84. ALFALFA, 1905, Exc. Doane on U386. (1904-31) E\$15
85. BEE, 1907, VF Doane on VF cvr. (1895-19). E. \$15.
86. BUCKLEY, 1892, VF cds on VF cvr. Est. \$6.00
87. CHESTER, 1911, F 4-bar on PPC. (1899-43). E. \$4.
88. COVELLO, 1895, VF cds on cvr w/minor tears at bottom. (1883-1918). Est. \$18.00
89. GEORGETOWN, 1907, F cds on PPC. (1901-12). E. \$6.
90. HARMONY, 1903, F cds on UX18. (1890-24). E. \$5.
91. HILLYARD, 1908, F cds on PPC. (1894-10). E. \$4.
92. IRBY, 1904, VF Doane on VF cvr. Est. \$6.00
93. LANTZ, 1908, VF Doane on PPC. (1904-28). E. \$12.
94. LATONA, 1896, VF cds on U311. (1890-01). E. \$4.
95. LITTLE FALLS, 1890, Exc. fancy cds on VF cvr. E\$18
96. LOOKOUT, 1899, VF cds on cvr w/#286. A Skagit County showpiece (1890-1912). Est. \$30.00
97. OCOSTA, 1895, F-VF cds on clean cvr. Est. \$12
98. ORIN, 1924, VF 4-bar on U430. (1902-43). E. \$4.
99. TURNER, 1908, VF Doane on PPC. (1904-31). E. \$4.

WISCONSIN

100. ELKHART, 1886, VF cds on VF U277. DPO. Est. \$5
101. ELKA, 1894, F-VF cds on U349. DPO. Est. \$12
102. FULTON, ca. 1880, VF cds on U163. DPO. Est. \$10
103. JAMESTOWN, ca. 1870, F-VF cds on cvr. w/#147. E\$12
104. LUND, 1884, VF purple cds on U237. Est. \$8.00
105. PORCUPINE, ca. 1886, F cds on U277. DPO. E. \$8.00
106. TUNNEL CITY, ca. 1886, F octagon on U277. E. \$10.

RAILWAY POST OFFICES

107. BAKER & PORTLAND, 1931, VF on U432. Est. \$5.
108. MINIDOKA & BUHL, 1911, VF on PPC. Est. \$15.00
109. RENO & VIRGA. CITY/AGT., ca. 1882, VF cds on clean cvr w/3¢ banknote. Scarce RPO. Est. \$60.
110. ST. PAUL & S. CITY/AGT., 1886, VF on VF cvr. E\$15
111. SAN FRAN. & VISALIA, 1909, VF on U414. E. \$8.00
112. SEATTLE & KODIAK, 1916, F-VF on PPC real photo of "SHEEP CREEK, ALASKA". Very nice. Est. \$35

AIR CRASH COVER

113. "DAMAGE DUE TO AIR MAIL/INTERRUPTION NEAR/ PT. REYES, CALIF./NOV 29 1938" (AAMC #38.7) postmarked PORTLAND, OREG. Est. \$10.00

MINIMUM BID: \$2.00 Bidding increments: \$2-\$25:\$1; \$26-\$50:\$2; and Over \$50:\$5.

All lots shipped insured at buyers expense. Lots sold at a slight advance above the second highest bid. Improperly described lots are returnable within 10 days.

BIDS CLOSE: MARCH 31, 1983

THE COLUMBIA, UTAH, BRANCH POST OFFICE: A BRANCH THAT NEVER WAS

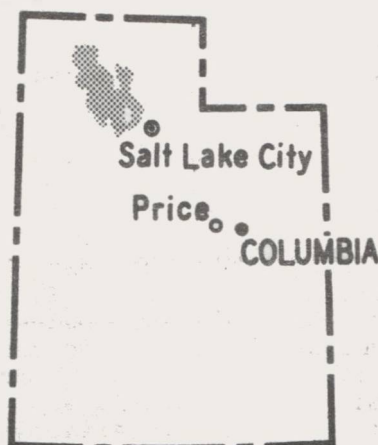
By Dennis H. Pack

It is not unusual to find a cancellation for a post office which no longer exists. Over the years thousands of post offices have closed for one reason or another.

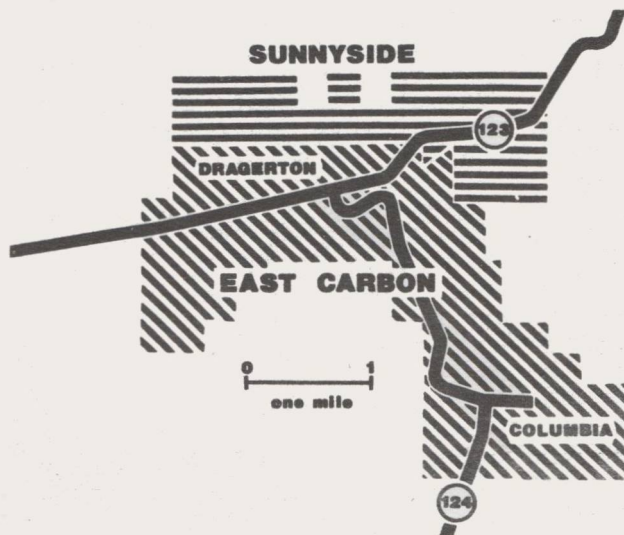
It is less common to find a cancellation for a post office which never existed, at least in the usual sense of the word. Ignoring fraudulent postal markings, which could not be legitimately applied and sent through the mail, there have been cancellations applied to mail by postal personnel at units not officially approved in the manner most new postal units are approved. This is uncommon and worthy of note when it happens.

The Columbia Branch of the East Carbon, Utah, Post Office was never listed in the United States Postal Service (USPS) DIRECTORY OF POST OFFICES, and its establishment and discontinuance were not recorded in the POSTAL BULLETIN. Never-the-less, Columbia Branch cancellations are not uncommon. The establishment of the branch was the result of USPS personnel striving to meet local service needs under circumstances thought to be temporary, but which lasted almost two years.

It is helpful to know a little history of the area. Before the turn of the century, coal was mined in the vicinity of what later became Columbia. Mines opened at Sunnyside, about three miles north of the site of Columbia, in 1899 to obtain coal known for making high quality coke.



In 1922, after the federal government started leasing mineral lands, the Columbia Steel Company, a subsidiary of United States Steel, opened additional mines for coking coal south of Sunnyside. In 1930 the Columbia Steel Company bought the community of Columbia, which had sprung up near the new mines, and developed it as a company town.



Relative locations of Columbia, Dragerton and Sunnyside, and the area incorporated as East Carbon.

When the federal government built the Geneva Steel Plant in Utah County to help diversify steel production during World War II, additional coke was needed, so more mines were started near Columbia and Sunnyside.

Living accommodations were needed for the influx of workers for the new mines. The federal government had the community of Dragerton built adjacent to Sunnyside, about two and a half miles north of Columbia.

Post offices were established in all three communities: Sunnyside, April 13, 1887, with Edwin J. Palmer as the first postmaster; Columbia, September 13, 1923, with Arthur H. Breer as first postmaster; and, Dragerton, August 16, 1943, with Mrs. Agnes Ellen Scow as first postmaster.

The demand for coal declined after World War II, and the communities decreased in size. The federal government sold Dragerton in 1947. Columbia was sold by the Columbia Steel Company in 1948. As the size of the communities further decreased, it was proposed Dragerton and Columbia be united.

Effective August 1, 1973, Drager-ton and Columbia were incorporated under the name of East Carbon. They ceased to exist as separate communities even though their post offices did not immediately change their names. Sunny-side was not affected by the incorporation.

Prior to this, the Columbia Postmaster, Mrs. Ephie Frugni, retired effective June 28, 1972. Instead of a new postmaster being appointed, she was replaced by an officer-in-charge. This was done because the USPS desired to convert the Columbia Post Office to a rural branch, and because of the pending incorporation of East Carbon. The USPS did not receive acceptable bids for the operation of a rural branch at Columbia.

Mrs. Marguerite K. MacFarlane was appointed postmaster at Columbia effective February 16, 1973. She resigned the next day. Starting February 19th, a clerk of the Dragerton Post Office was assigned to provide window service three hours a day, five days a week plus one-half hour on Saturday, at the Columbia Post Office. This continued after the incorporation of East Carbon. The USPS made additional unsuccessful attempts to find an operator for a rural branch at Columbia.

Columbia currently has about 100 residents, most of whom are retired. After the incorporation into East Carbon, residents of the Columbia subdivision petitioned the USPS to continue the Columbia Post Office so they would not have to travel three miles to pick up their mail. The USPS replied that since there is no longer a community named Columbia, there could not be a Columbia Post Office.

The name of the Dragerton Post Office was officially changed to East Carbon effective June 30, 1974.

In December, 1974, USPS personnel met with the East Carbon City Council to discuss possible ways postal service might be provided at the Columbia subdivision. The council stated they knew of no one interested in operating a rural branch there. The USPS explained that East Carbon did not qualify for a classified station. All that was left was to have Columbia subdivision residents pick up their mail at the East Carbon Post Office, or to establish HCR curbside box delivery to the Columbia subdivision. Because of the age of many of the residents, HCR curbside box delivery was approved.

Meanwhile, a clerk continued to travel from East Carbon to the Columbia

Post Office, which had not been officially closed. There had been no hurry to terminate this arrangement because it was providing needed service, the USPS still held a lease on the post office building and would have to pay rent even if it was closed, and a final decision had not been made about the best way to provide regular service.

Practically speaking, the Columbia Post Office had ceased to exist. Service was being provided by a clerk of the East Carbon Post Office. It was necessary to keep money order funds collected at Columbia separate from those collected at East Carbon. The easiest way of doing this was to use the former Columbia Zip Code, but since the USPS position had been that there could not be a Columbia Post Office, that name could not be used. In a letter to the author dated April 15, 1980, Robert Q. Strong, MSC Manager - Postmaster at Provo, Utah, wrote:

"I can find nothing in the records indicating authorization for a postmark for East Carbon, Columbia Branch. I have to assume that sometime after February, 1973 verbal authorization was given to the Postmaster at East Carbon to get a postmark that would establish the sale of money orders at Columbia from those sold at East Carbon."

It should be noted that this was a period of reorganization for the USPS. In Utah the post offices administered by the Price Sectional Center, including those covered by this article, were turned over to the Provo Sectional Center. Because of this, some matters which otherwise might have been resolved took longer.

The Columbia Post Office continued on the books until April 25, 1975, when it was discontinued. The closing was announced in the March 20, 1975, POSTAL BULLETIN, giving postmark collectors ample time to obtain last day cancellations. The Columbia Branch cancellation was applied to these covers, but this was not its only use as it is known earlier.



There can be no doubt that the unorthodox establishment of the Columbia Branch of the East Carbon Post Office was brought about primarily by the desire of USPS personnel to provide the best service possible to the residents of Columbia under the circumstances. Still, one cannot help wondering why mail was canceled at Columbia if the

only purpose of the postmark was to distinguish postal money orders from those sold at East Carbon, and why a 4-bar cancellation was needed when CDS markers were used on money orders.

The East Carbon, Utah, Columbia Branch cancellation proves that old cancellations are not the only ones with interesting stories to tell.

THE POST OFFICES OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA

HAINES

By Richard W. Helbock

Estab. 24 Jul 1882. Dis. 12 Nov 1885.
MT: Sitka. Re-estab. 29 Mar 1898.

(Continued from LA POSTA, 13/6)

HADLEY

Estab. 25 Nov 1912. Dis. 9 Nov 1918.
MT: Ketchikan.

Served a mine supply point located at Lyman Anchorage on Kasaan Peninsula, east coast of Prince of Wales Island. An attempt was made to establish a post office named HADLEYVILLE here in 1906, and one named PORT HADLEY in 1907. Both offices failed to become operational. The community was apparently named for a prominent early settler. Aage K. Foss, 1st PM.

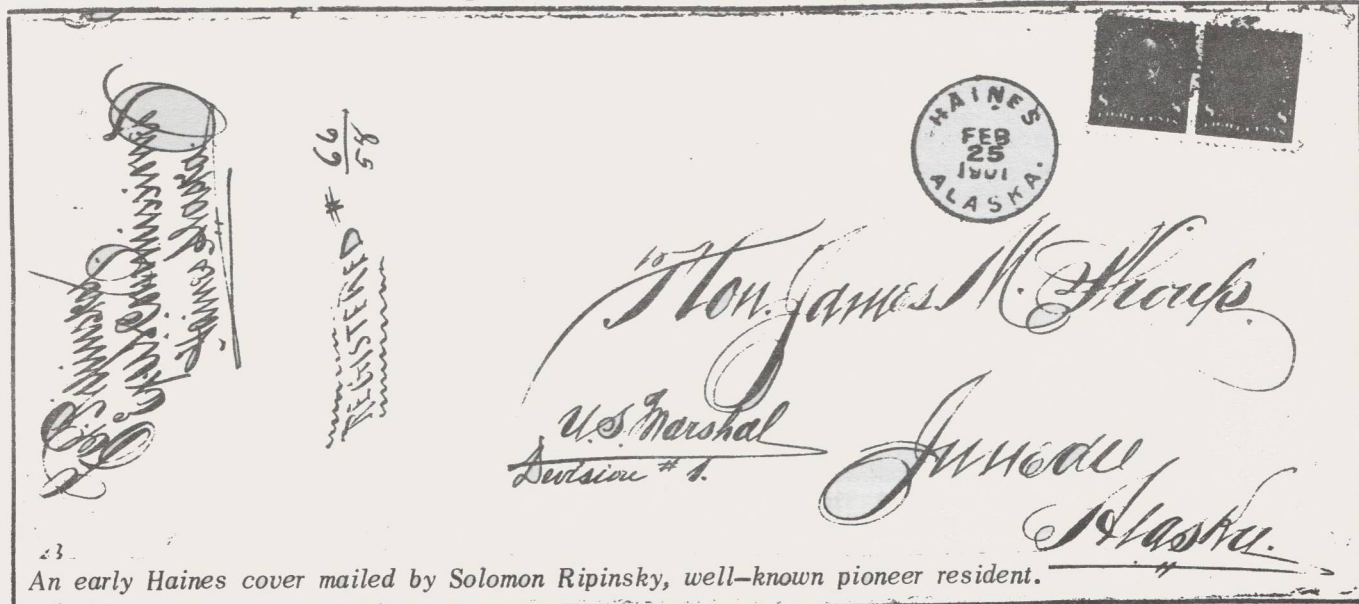
Located on Portage Cove in Chilkoot Inlet, 16 miles southwest of Skagway, George Dickinson established an agency of the Northwest Trading Company and became the first white man to settle here in 1878. In 1881 Willard Mission, a Presbyterian enterprise, was founded nearby, and shortly thereafter the pioneer Haines post office was opened with Eugene S. Willard as PM. The name of the Mission had been changed to honor Mrs. J.D.R. Haines, a member of the Presbyterian Board of Missions.

The importance of Haines was renewed by gold discoveries in the Porcupine District. A major supply center soon developed, and the town marked the beginning of the Dalton Trail. Chilkat post office, which had served the community from 1890, was closed out to a re-established Haines office in 1899. In 1904 the U.S. Army established Fort William H. Seward near Haines, thus insuring the continued survival of the community. Fort Seward was the only gold rush era military post built in

HADLEYVILLE

Estab. 7 Dec 1906. Rescinded: 25 Apr 1907.

Richard Bushnell was appointed 1st PM, but the office never actually operated.



An early Haines cover mailed by Solomon Ripinsky, well-known pioneer resident.

Alaska to remain active until World War II.

The Census of 1900 listed a population of just 85 for Haines, but 10 years later the population stood at 445 for the town plus 255 at Fort Seward and another 48 at Chilkoot village. During the 1920's and 1930's, the population of Haines remained slightly over 300, with an additional 200 or so at Chilkoot Barracks, the name applied to Fort Seward after 1920. World War II brought some increase in activity at Haines, although little by comparison with other Alaskan localities. Completion of Haines Road, tying the community to Fairbanks and Anchorage overland, has had a much larger impact in the postwar period. The Census of 1980 reported a population of 996 for Haines.

HARRISBURGH

Estab. 8 Apr 1881. Dis. 10 Jan 1882.
NCT: Juneau.

This office was the precursor of Juneau. Named for Richard H. Harris, who with Joe Juneau discovered gold on nearby Gold Creek in 1880 and staked out a townsite on the beach. The camp was also known for a time as Rockwell, so a miners meeting was held in 1882 to determine an official name for the young community. Nathaniel Hilton, 1st PM.

HAWK INLET

Estab. 4 Jun 1913. Converted to Summer PO: 31 Oct 1948. Dis. 15 May 1966. NCT: Hawk Inlet RB of Juneau. Dis. 1 Sep 1967.

Served a cannery settlement on the east shore of Hawk Inlet, Admiralty Island, 17 miles southwest of Juneau. While summer employment often swelled the population to 500, the permanent population was typically less than two dozen. William H. Spaulding, 1st PM.

HELM BAY

Estab. 24 Dec 1901. Dis. 15 Jan 1903.
MT: Ketchikan.

Served a small gold-mining camp on Cleveland Peninsula, near Behm Canal, about 15 miles west of Loring. The Bay was named for Lt. James M. Helm, USN, in 1886 by Lt. Cmdr. Albert S. Snow. Ely P. Spaulding, 1st and only PM.

HOLLIS

Estab. 9 Jul 1901. Dis. 15 Sep 1911.
MT: Kasaan. Re-estab. 27 Jun 1914. Dis. 31 Dec 1930. MT: Kasaan. Re-estab. 18 Jun 1938. Dis. 2 Oct 1942. MT: Ketchikan.

Served a community which was initially a mining camp, but became a lumber camp in its later years. Located on Hollis Anchorage, north of Cat Island, near the center of Prince of Wales Island. Martin V. Loy, 1st PM.

HOOD BAY

Estab. 29 Jun 1948. Dis. 1 Feb 1950.
NCT: Barge. Re-estab. 1 Aug 1952. Dis. 29 Nov 1957. MT: Juneau.

Located on the north shore of Hood Bay, 4 miles south of Angoon, on the west coast of Admiralty Island. The community was a mobile logging camp built on a former U.S. Navy quarter barge (YF 507). Since the logging operation was first centered at Hood Bay, the name seemed appropriate for the post office. After a few years, it was decided that "Barge" would be a more appropriate name, since the camp was towed from locale to locale as logging played out. Carl W. Campbell, 1st PM.

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SAMPLE CATALOG

BY FIRST CLASS MAIL \$1.00

HENRY M. SPELMAN III

P.O. BOX 645-LP
SAN ANSELMO, CA 94960

HOONAH

Estab. 18 Feb 1901.

Located 40 miles southwest of Juneau on Icy Strait. The principal Huna Village. This Tlingit tribe has historically camped from this locality north toward Lituya Bay each summer. The 1880 Census reported 800 people living here, and the 1980 Census showed a population of 677. William M. Carle, 1st PM.

HOWCAN

Estab. 15 May 1886. Was Jackson. Dis. 11 Apr 1890. NCT: Jackson.

Howcan, on the northwest coast of Long Island, was at one time the largest village of the Haida Indians. Sheldon Jackson founded a mission here in 1881, and one year later the Jackson post office was established here. Two attempts were made to change the name of this office to Howcan. This was the first, and it lasted some four years. John L. Gould, 1st and only PM.

HOWKAN

Estab. 16 May 1905. Was Jackson. Dis. 31 Jan 1917. MT: Hydaburg. This name change represented the second attempt at returning the name of this office to the traditional Haida name for the locality. Loyal Young, 1st PM.

HYDABURG

Estab. 16 May 1912.

Located on the west coast of Prince of Wales Island, 22 miles southeast of Craig, this village was named for the Haida people who were its original inhabitants. The village was formed in 1911 by people who moved here from an older village known as Kaigani in an effort to centralize the school system. The Census of 1920 reported 346 residents, and the most recent census shows little change at 303. Charles W. Hawksworth, 1st PM.

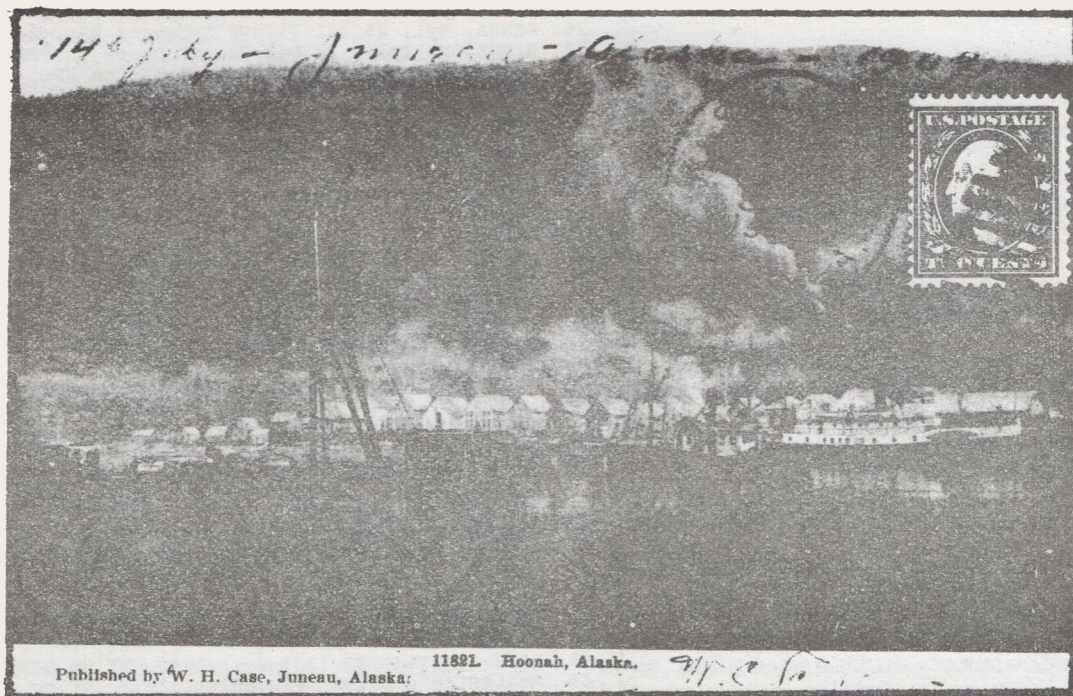
HYDAH

Estab. 11 Jun 1904. Rescinded: 7 Dec 1906. Estab. 10 Oct 1907. Rescinded: 25 Apr 1908.

Two separate attempts were made to establish this post office, but neither were successful. The office was apparently to be located at Mission Cove, just north of Howkan.

HYDER

Estab. 18 Sep 1915. Located at the mouth of Salmon River on the west bank of Portland Canal, this mining community is the easternmost



A view of Hoonah dating from about 1909.

village in Alaska. Originally founded in 1907 and known as Portland City, the post office was named for Frederick Hyder, a Canadian mining engineer who came to the area in 1914 to evaluate claims. The Census of 1920 reported 237 residents of Hyder, but seasonal work in the mines often attracted nearly five times that number. By World War II the population was greatly reduced, and when mining was curtailed by Congressional order many of those remaining left. By the early 1960's there were only about 30 people in Hyder, but the Granduc Mines development at nearby Stewart, British Columbia, begun in 1964 has caused Hyder to continue its existence. Daniel Lindeborg, 1st PM.

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New Mexico 88005**

ALABAMA

1. LIVINGSTON, VG 32mm blue cds (Sampson#5), Dec 11 (1850's) on U9. B

ARIZONA

2. ASHFORK, Ty3, 6 Apr 05, F on PPC. A
3. COCHISE, Ty5, 11 Jan 10, VF, on PPC. E
4. DOUGLAS, Ty4, 23 Dec 11, VF, on PPC. A
5. GLENDALE, Ty2, 22 Dec 09, VF, on PPC. C
6. NOGALES, Ty13, 8 Feb 04, VF on Montezuma Hotel cvr. B

ARKANSAS

7. NATIONAL, DPO, F mss. on cvr., 31 Jan 87, scarce. F

CALIFORNIA

8. FAIRMONT (1888-39), 1916, three F 4-bars on Reg. cvr. B
9. OLIVE (1887-1963), 19 Jun 09, VF Doane on PPC. A
10. ROCHESTER (1890-11), 24 Sep 08 VF Doane on PPC. B

COLORADO

11. MORRINE PARK (1902-21), 21 Aug 11, VF 4-bar on PPC. C

DAKOTA

12. PUKWANA, F dbl cds w/star klr, 19 Nov 1884, on cvr, rough opening w/letter. B

FLORIDA

13. GRUELL, DPO, F triple cds, 13 Jan 1883 on U167. PO named for author of Raggedy Ann. D

HAWAII

14. HONOLULU, F flag, 13 Nov 12 on PPC. A

IOWA

15. E. NODAWAY, ADAMS COUNTY, DPO, VF triple mag cds, 2 Apr 80, not in Doane on govt. pc. B
16. REMBRANDT, 28 Aug 1907, VF Doane on PPC. A
17. WEBSTER CITY, F blue octagon, 1 May (78) on UX5. B

MASSACHUSETTS

18. SOUTH HADLEY FALLS, F octagon, 6 Nov (75) on cvr. B

MICHIGAN

19. CLARKSTON, VF octagon, 12 Dec 83 on UX7, unlisted. C
20. NORWOOD, DPO, 15 Jul 95, VF purple cds, SL date on cover. B

MISSOURI

21. BRIGHTON, XF mag. octagon, 13 Oct 84 on age-stn U265. E

NEBRASKA

22. LUELLA, DPO, 20 Feb 06 on cvr. w/LEAVENWORTH, NE (DPO) Doane. C

NEW MEXICO

23. CORONA, Ty1, 23 Aug 08, VF Doane on PPC. B
24. ELIDA, Ty2, 19 Nov 07, VF 4-bar on PPC. B
25. HOPE, Ty4, 17 Jul 11, VF 4-bar on PPC. B
26. KENNA, Ty1, 25 Jul 11, VF 4-bar on PPC. D
27. KINGSTON, Ty14, 28 Dec 08, VF Doane on PPC. A
28. KNOWLES, Ty3, 15 Jul 10, VF 4-bar on PPC. C
29. MAGDALENA, Ty8, 14 Oct 05, F on U385. B
30. MESILLA PARK, Ty7, 17 Nov 07, VF on cvr. B
31. OLIVE, Ty1, 23 Apr 10, VF 4-bar on PPC. C
32. STRAUSS, (1918-43), 23 Aug 19, VF 4-bar on PPC. B

NEW YORK

33. ELLENVILLE, VF octagon, 24 Feb 74 on UX1, unlisted, E

OKLAHOMA

34. CHANDLER, 19 Jan 07, VF on cover. A
35. LAWTON, 24 Dec 07, VF Doremus, unlisted, on cvr. A
36. NORMAN, 16 Jan 07, F cds on cover, A
37. OKLAHOMA, 22 Feb 05, VF flag on cover, A
38. PAWNEE, 10 Jul 06, F cds on cover, A
39. SHAWNEE, 4 Feb 06, XF flag on cover, A

PENNSYLVANIA

40. HOLLAND, DPO, XF mss, 24 Mar (56) on U10 w/ltr. C

TENNESSEE

41. KNOXVILLE, 6 Jul 59 (Samp.#1), cds on cropped U10, B

TEXAS

42. FORT SAM HOUSTON (1900-16), 1911, VF on PPC of cavalry charge. C

RPO'S (USTMC Numbers)

43. CHICAGO & PEKIN, (722-C-1), 1883, VF on gvt. pc. C
44. EL PASO TRANS. CLERK (497-E-1), 1908, VF on PPC, B
45. EL PASO & LOS ANGELES, unlist., 1934, VF on Golden State Ltd. cover, B
46. HEMPSTEAD & LLANO, unlist., 1907, VF on PPC of H&TC dpt. D
47. JACKSONVILLE & MIAMI (392-I-1), 1902, VF on U367, B
48. KANE & PITTSBURG (229-G-1), 1890, VF on UX9, B
49. McALESTER & SAYRE RPIO, unlist., 1914, VF on cvr., C
50. MONETT & OKLAHOMA, unlist., 1906, VF on PPC, B

Estimates: A=\$2-\$5; B=\$5-\$10; C=\$10-\$15; D=\$15-\$20; E=\$20-\$30; F= over \$30. Minimum bid: \$2.00. Postage added. Lots returnable within 10 days. Bids close: 31 March 1983.

PRICE, VALUE AND APPRAISAL

By Dan Meschter

(Editor's Note: This article has been written with the idea of including it as part of a projected "Handbook of Basic Postal History." It is being pre-released here in order to stimulate interest and discussion on the part of concerned collectors and dealers of postal history artifacts. The author and the editor welcome comments by interested readers, and such comments will be shared with LA POSTA readers in future issues.)

Price, value and appraisal are economic terms, which, although they have related definitions and are sometimes used almost interchangeably, have important differences in meaning.

PRICE

Price is the amount of money at which a willing seller, who may or may not be informed as to the value of a postal cover, offers it for sale in an unrestricted transaction to a buyer. Aside from the fact that many dealers are flexible in their prices to the extent of being willing to dicker on a price within certain limits, the buyer's choice usually is to pay the price demanded or to refuse it.

When dealing in lower-priced material, up to say \$10, few collectors concern themselves much with a few dollars difference between the asking price and what they would like to pay. These collectors let their need dictate their decision to buy or not to buy. For the more affluent collector, this indifference may extend to the \$25, \$50 or even \$100 range. Again, desirability and need determine the buyer's willingness. As a matter of fact, a fair number of collectors accept the proposition that what they feel they paid too much for in some cases is offset by their bargains in others.

The reasons for apparent overpricing in some cases and underpricing in others include the fact that few dealers can afford the time to fully inform themselves as to the value of any but the more valuable covers that pass through their hands, whereas the serious collector usually has a better perception of value than the dealer, at least within his area of specializa-

tion. Another problem is that there are few pricing standards for covers comparable to the catalogues for stamps.

Somewhere in his or her development the collector will begin to formulate a concept of worth. He will begin to recognize covers he thinks ought not to be worth more than \$5 being offered for many times that amount. His opinion, of course, may not be an objective one. On the other hand, through being informed, he sometimes will find a truly rare and valuable cover being offered for a fraction of what he considers its value to be. Again his opinion may not be an objective one, but there are few veteran collectors who cannot testify to such opportunities from personal experience, and fewer novices who do not thrill at the possibility of finding a rare first day cover in a dealer's dollar box because he recognizes the date, or dream of unreported transcontinental Pony Express in a batch of old papers at a garage sale.

In the final analysis, price is determined by a combination of a sense of value, based upon a general knowledge of the market for covers, and the subjective thoughts and feelings of an owner or dealer. A dealer, additionally, is influenced by his need to mark up a cover over its cost to him.

There is a certain point beyond which buyers want some assurance the price they are being asked to pay conforms reasonably to some standard of worth.

VALUE

Value is the worth of something. In economic theory, it is the power of a kind of goods -- covers in the present case -- to command other goods in exchange for it. Those other goods most simply may be expressed in terms of money as the universal medium of exchange.

Value is an objective quality that depends upon outward facts rather than the thoughts and feelings an owner may use subjectively to set a price.

The only circumstance when the price and value of a cover can be said to approximate each other is at an unreserved public auction, where there are sufficient potential buyers to constitute market exposure. Even then, the price can be said to be the true value only for that particular cover at that particular moment in time.

The two outward facts that determine the value of a cover are demand,

which is to say the summation of its desirability, and supply, which is to say the quantity available to satisfy the demand. Condition is not an outward fact in and of itself, but is an attribute of desirability.

The intersection of demand and supply of philatelic materials in the market place is anything but simple, uniform or predictable. It can be considered neither too broadly nor too narrowly.

That demand, rather than scarcity, is the more important factor, can be demonstrated by an analogy to stamps for which there is an established market and published price standards. It should be remembered in this discussion of course, that catalogue values are not prices unless the buyer and seller agree to use them as such. They do not establish the market. To the contrary, catalogue values only reflect the market, and publishers adjust them from time to time in accordance to the workings of the market place. They are, in effect, guideline appraisals.

For an example, let us compare the U.S. \$1 Columbian (Scott's #241), the Egypt 100-mil overprint (Scott's #90), and the Great Britain Penny Black (Scott's #1). Issues of 55,050; 2,000; and, 68,000,000 are estimated for these respectively by Scott, Zeheri and Gibbons as the total theoretical supply of each. The 1983 Scott catalogue value for each is: U.S. #241 (\$1,350 and \$575), Egypt #90 (\$67.50 and \$40) and Great Britain #1 (\$2,250 and \$180).

Using the Columbian as the standard for comparison, and estimating the values of the others strictly on the basis of total theoretical supply compared to it, gives us:

	Mint	Used
U.S. #241	\$1,350.00	\$575.00
Egypt #90	\$37,168.75	\$15,826.88
Great Brit. #1	\$1.09	\$0.47

Regardless of the criticisms, some of them probably valid, that can be made of this approach, the situation in which one stamp (Egypt #90), with 1/27th the potential supply of the Columbian, is listed at 5% of its mint value, while another (the Penny Black), with more than 1,200 times the potential supply, is listed at less than twice its mint value and only 31% of its used value, should demonstrate rather forcefully that demand, not supply, is the more important factor in determining value. In fact it can be

technically incorrect. An appraisal is never more than an estimation of fair market value at best. Competent appraisers usually will be close in their appraisals of stamps, where there is an established market so that value differences usually rest more upon assessment of condition and analysis of market trends, than upon other factors. Wider variations can be expected in the case of covers, where there is no standard of value other than the auction market, and condition may not influence value to the same extent as stamps.

The appraised value becomes the market price only where the buyer and seller agree to use it. One only need compare the differences between estimates of value, which are more-or-less well-informed appraisals, published in auction catalogues, with the prices realized to disabuse himself of the coincidence of value and price.

Of the three approaches appraisers can use to estimate the value of any property, the market data approach is used almost exclusively for the appraisal of postal history. This approach compares prices actually paid in recent arms-length sales of similar covers, or covers similar enough in class to make a valid comparison with adjustments for factors such as condition, separate value of the stamp (if any), and separate value due to historic features such as free franking by a former president or relevant autography by a famous person.

It is demonstrated that there are classes of stamps and covers that are so rare (it might be more comforting to say that their supply is "thin") as to discourage demand, and depress their value compared to other more readily available stamps and covers.

The problem of value is even more exaggerated in the case of covers because, except for philatelic covers, the potential supply can only be roughly estimated in most cases, the survival rate is enigmatical, and each has unique characteristics. Demand, moreover, is only slightly better defined within speciality areas.

The valuation of such material requires resort to the uncertain and esoteric world of appraisal.

APPRAISAL

Appraisal is the process of estimating the worth, or value, of something. It sometimes is taken as the determination of market price, which is

Covers are not generally considered capable of generating a flow of income in and of themselves, so that the income approach to appraisal is not strictly applicable to postal history. This evades the value of exceptional pieces for advertising purposes by certain dealers, and the highly speculative value for investment purposes.

The cost or replacement approach is not at all applicable, because it is not possible to legitimately replace, or reproduce, an original cover.

The appraisal process using the market data approach may be illustrated by analyzing a group of four transcontinental Pony Express covers offered at a mid-1982 auction. These can be compared to each other, with adjustments for condition and desirable characteristics, and the four taken individually for market data purposes because they are similar enough to comprise part of a class.

None of the four covers could be described as flawless.

No. 1 was a 10-cent entire with manuscript "\$2.50" Paid, and a St. Joseph Pony Express handstamp; flap tears and staining.

No. 2 was a rarer west bound routing, stampless "Free" frank with the running "Pony Express, St. Joseph" handstamp; nick into handstamp.

No. 3 was a 10-cent entire with Wells Fargo imprint, \$1 Wells Fargo Pony Express stamp, and San Francisco Pony Express handstamp; top cut into embossing.

No. 4 was similar to No. 3, with a somewhat weak Mount Ophir Wells Fargo handstamp; nicks and reduced irregularly just into the embossing.

The auction house's estimates for use as bidder guidelines, and the realizations were as follows:

No.	Estimate	Realized
1	\$7,500-10,000	\$5,250
2	\$7,500-10,000	\$6,500
3	\$6,000	\$7,250
4	\$6,000	\$4,500

Since this was a widely advertised auction that attracted a representative group of dealers, collectors and agents, the realizations reflect good market exposure and are valid for appraisal purposes.

The relatively high realization for the otherwise quite plain No. 2 can be ascribed to the free frank, east to west routing and the running pony handstamp as desirable characteristics. No. 3 was undoubtedly the showiest, and its condition was at least equal to, if

not better than the others, which probably accounts for its attracting top dollar. No. 4 suffered from inferior condition, which probably accounts for a large part of the 40% difference between it and No. 3.

In applying the principles of the market data approach, a similar cover is appraised by comparing it to any, or even all four, that the appraiser considers reasonably comparable. He is, of course, perfectly free to reach out and analyze other sales of which he is aware, including private sales if he is satisfied there was adequate market exposure and the sales were truly at arms-length.

He then adjusts the sale price of the comparable cover by factors, which he estimates quantitatively, upward or downward to the degree the subject cover he is appraising has characteristics superior or inferior to the comparable cover. For example, if the comparable Pony Express cover was routed the more common west to east, and the subject cover was routed the rarer east to west, he might be justified in applying a plus 25% factor. At the same time, if the comparable cover was franked with a Pony Express stamp lacking on the subject cover, he might be justified in applying a negative 10% factor.

Condition is one of the most important considerations, and the most difficult to analyze as demonstrated by the 40% difference between Nos. 3 and 4 above. Factors for condition might range up to 75% or more, although under that circumstance there would be a serious question whether the covers were satisfactorily comparable.

A competent appraiser goes through this process with as many different comparable sales as he can, identifying and analyzing all of the significant factors. Where he uses a number of different sales, they should be reasonably recent because one of the factors that influence value is market trends, and it is best to minimize this factor as much as possible.

Finally, the adjustment factors are restated decimally (+25% = 1.25, -10% = .9, etc.), multiplied, and the sale price of the comparable cover multiplied by the result. If only one comparable sale is analyzed, the adjusted price of the comparable is rounded-off and becomes the appraised value of the subject cover. If more than one sale is analyzed, the appraiser selects the one that in his judgement is the best. Averaging has no proper role in

this exercise.

It is unlikely any philatelic appraiser goes through this process quite as formally as outlined here. Rather, he is more likely to make an overall judgement of desirability and condition, and render an appraisal based upon recent prices. It should be obvious that competent appraisal, formal or off-the-cuff, of valuable properties requires broad philatelic knowledge to identify and evaluate the factors that contribute or detract from value, and sound judgement based upon long experience.

This technique can be used for appraising almost any class of cover, and, perhaps not so strangely, it is easier with the more valuable covers because of a more definite market. Nominally-priced material seldom appears as individual covers in important auctions, and dealer prices have relatively little meaning. The problem is compounded by great numbers of varieties, such as the hundreds of different cancelling devices used by the New York City post office alone and the several thousand fourth class post offices that ever operated in California.

In the very popular area of collecting post office postmarks by territory, state or some other political subdivision, several specialists are making significant progress developing what is a guideline appraisal technique applicable to groups of covers having certain common characteristics.

An outstanding effort is contained in R.W. Helbock's "Postmarks of Territorial Alaska," which catalogues the known postmarks on cover of Alaskan post offices and assigns a value index number to each. The numbers from 1 to 9 consider factors such as age, the number of years the post office existed, volume of business where it can be estimated from postmaster compensations, and the number of examples known to exist. Since these factors tend to be interdependent, the index number is essentially an assessment of rarity.

The value index, in effect, is a kind of classification. Although Helbock does not attempt it, the same parameters could be applied within certain limits to covers from post offices known to have operated, but from which no examples have been reported. The fact that no examples are reported is in itself a measure of scarcity. Yet, one or more examples could be discovered at any moment.

The demand aspect of Helbock's technique is found in a price range

assigned to each value index from less than \$2 to Value Number 1, to more than \$500 to Value Number 9. These values are based upon specific auction realizations for some or similar items and a broad range of knowledge of the general market for Alaskan postal history. Finally, a series of factors are offered to adjust for condition and usage of other than standard-sized envelopes. Statistical analyses of some recent auction realizations tend to verify the validity of this approach.

An interesting aspect is that the value indices probably will remain stable over long periods because the supply of covers is not likely to increase rapidly on the whole enough to lower the number. On the other hand, significant changes in demand can be handled rather easily by adjusting the price range assigned to the index number.

It is believed the same technique can be applied to any territory/state although the criteria for analysis will vary from state to state, and the dollar ranges undoubtedly will vary even more widely between very popular states with strong demand and less popular states with weak demand.

(Editor's Note: While the author makes reference "Postmarks of Territorial Alaska," it should be pointed out that the value index technique therein was originated by Dr. Sheldon Dike in his pioneering NEW MEXICO TERRITORIAL POSTMARK CATALOG)

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TIPS ON TECHNIQUE: USING PERSONAL COMPUTERS; Part I, Hardware

By Richard W. Helbock

Personal computers are quickly becoming a fixture in more and more of our homes. No doubt some of you have become recent owners, and others may be considering the purchase of one of these little electronic marvels. Because of the contrast between the old and the new, it has always struck me as somewhat ironic to talk about the applications of computers to postal history research and collecting, but, after living and working with a personal computer for nearly two years, there are some comments which I might offer to those of you who are new owners or are thinking of becoming owners. First, let me say that I am not a computer programmer, electronics "bug", or person highly skilled in mathematics or science. My remarks will be made as one who is a user of a product, much as I am a user of my automobile, typewriter or television. The article will be divided into two parts: hardware, a discussion of the equipment components required for a home computer system appropriate for use in postal history research; and, software, some comments regarding the ready made programs currently available which are applicable to postal history.

As everyone who reads magazines and newspapers, or watches television, is well aware, there is now a rather impressive array of personal computers available on the market. If you have yet to acquire a machine, my best advice is simply to learn as much as you have time for before making the plunge. I have heard it said that buying a personal computer is as complicated as buying stereo equipment. In my opinion, that's not quite true, for it's really a lot more complicated than buying stereo equipment. Begin your education by checking out one of the popular styled introductions to personal computers in your local library or buying one of the slick magazines that compares and contrasts the various systems available. Visit some computer stores, if possible, to talk with sales people and collect literature. Talk with people who already own personal computers. If you don't know anyone personally, look in the newspaper for announcements of "user group" meetings. In a short time you will be up to your gills in RAM, bytes, CPUs, floppy disks, BASIC, and a whole new vocabulary of terms which

probably meant nothing before you started. If you are anything like I was during this selection phase, you will also be a bit confused.

Time spent educating yourself about personal computers is probably a good investment even if you decide you do not want to buy one. At least you'll know what all the "fuss" is about, and that you can continue to survive without one of the infernal contraptions. On the other hand, if you've concentrated exclusively on the machines -- their design features, their capabilities and their limitations -- then you have not really answered the initial question of what one is best for you. The answer to this most important question is personal, and may be phrased "what do I want this computer to do for me?" At this point, I am going to assume that you want a personal computer for about the same reasons I wanted one. After all, LA POSTA is a postal history journal, and our common interest is postal history. Whatever else a personal computer might be used for, we want one that we can put to work doing postal history research and helping organize our collection.

At the moment there are generally three levels of machines advertised as personal computers on the market. These levels are roughly determined on the basis of how much information can be stored in the machine's memory. This capacity is usually stated in RAM (random access memory), and varies from as little as about 2K (2,000 bytes, or typewritten characters) to as much as 64K. In simple terms, the capacity of a machine's memory determines the kinds of things for which it may be used. To play simple games, or to serve as a sophisticated calculator, 2,000 bits of RAM might be sufficient memory, but, in order to store a 15-page text plus the program necessary to make your machine work as a word processor, you will probably require 32 or 48K RAM.

In general, price varies directly with memory storage capacity. The smallest machines, with up to about 8K RAM, are sometimes referred to as pocket computers. They cost from about \$100 for the no-frills package to as much as \$500, depending upon the brand. These machines are not appropriate for most uses a postal historian might wish to make of a computer. They are too small for inventories, word processing and filing.

The next level of personal computers has RAM varying from 4K to 48K, although there is at least one company now advertising 64K. Prices start about

\$600 for a simple system consisting of CPU (central processing unit, consisting of memory "box" and keyboard), I/O device (a means of entering information and storing data from the memory, typically in the form of a cassette tape recorder at the least expensive level) and perhaps a CRT (cathode ray tube, or display screen), although some computers cut cost by having you use your television set for a CRT. Prices at the high end of this level run to about \$3,000, which should buy 48K RAM plus a disk drive in place of a tape recorder for I/O.

The third level of personal computers now on the market is often billed as a small-business computer. Prices start here around \$2,500 and run to more than \$7,000. The advances include greatly increased RAM, larger display screens, and more sophisticated I/O devices. Frankly, unless you plan to use a personal computer to help you run a fairly complex small business in addition to your postal history needs, the odds are very high that you do not need a machine of this capacity.

In summary, a mid-level machine of somewhere around 32 to 48K should cost about \$2,000, if you shop around, and be perfectly adequate for use as a word processor, filing system and collection organizer. The machine I bought two years ago began life with a 16K memory and cassette recorder I/O device. It soon grew into a 48K memory with disk drive I/O, and, although there are times when I contemplate adding a second disk drive, I can truthfully say that the system meets my postal history research and collecting needs quite well.

To be continued.

Gordon Twedt, Box 280, Maddock, ND 58348, writes:

At a meeting held recently, a small group of people interested in the postal history of North Dakota organized the North Dakota Postal History Society.

The purpose of the group in its initial phase is to create a renewed interest in the postal history of North Dakota. This is especially appropriate now at a time when many communities are just completing or preparing centennial celebrations.

Plans call for publication of a quarterly bulletin, which has been named the DAKOTA COLLECTOR. It is realized that both Dakotas are involved in this name, and any article contributed for publication within this scope will be welcome.

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ALASKA

1. CHENA, 1909, Ty1, F-VF Doane ties faulty 2¢ red to cover. Est. \$35.00
2. CHITINA, 1912, Ty1, VF 4-bar on Cordova street scene PPC. Very nice piece. Est. \$35.00
3. MCKINLEY PARK, 1938, Ty1, F-VF 6-bar on cvr. E. \$5
4. Lot of 25 diff. WWII APO covers, from 12 diff. Alaskan bases. Some scarce. Est. \$25.00

ARIZONA

5. COPPER HILL, 1909, Ty1, F-VF 4-bar on PPC w/2 lwr. corners chewed off. Est. \$20.00
6. DRAGON, 1918, F 4-bar on cvr w/encl. E. \$4.00
7. FLORENCE, 1888, VF purp. Ty4 on VF cvr. E. \$20.
8. LAND, 1911, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. Very scarce two year PO (1911-13). Est. \$200.00

CALIFORNIA

9. AGER, 1909, VF 4-bar on PPC. Sisk. Co. (1888-40). E\$4.
10. ARROWHEAD SPRINGS, 1916, VF purp. 4-bar on PPC. E\$4
11. BAIRDSTOWN, 1910, VF Doane on PPC. (1904-14). E. \$8.
12. BESWICK, 1911, VF 4-bar on PPC. (1882-47). Est. \$5
13. CLIPPER GAP, 1912, VF 4-bar on PPC. (1866-60). E. \$4
14. CROMBERG, 1908, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1880-60). E. \$5.
15. KAWAIAH, 1914, VF 4-bar on PPC. (1879-1974). E. \$4.
16. LONESTAR, 1909, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1891-10). E\$12.
17. OILFIELDS, 1910, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1908-51). E\$5.
18. SKIDOO, 1907, VF 4-bar on Reg. Pk. Rct. (1907-17). E\$35
19. VULTEE FIELD, 1943, VF machine pm on comm. cvr + cvr. pm Downey ('43) w/cachet pix of Vultee a/c reading "HOME OF VULTEE". Nice pair. Est. \$15.00
20. ZABRISKIE, 1912, VF 4-bar on Reg. Pk. Rct. Est. \$35.
21. ZAYANTE, 1922, F-VF 4-bar on cvr. (1916-38). E. \$8.

COLORADO

22. BUTTES, 1907, Exc. Doane Ty3 on PPC. (1895-22). E. \$15
23. CLAREMONT, 1906, VF Doane Ty2 on PPC. (1888-06). E. \$8
24. COLFAX, ca. 1878, neat mss. on VF U163. Very scarce Custer Co. PO (1870-1879). Est. \$75.00
25. DOVER, 1909, VF Doane on PPC. (1905-31). Est. \$6.
26. GRAYCREEK, 1909, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1895-21). E. \$15
27. FLORESTA, 1906, VF cds on PPC. (1897-1919). Est. \$20
28. HASWELL, 1910, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. Est. \$4.00
29. HAWTHORNE, 1913, VF 4-bar on PPC. (1906-30). E. \$6.
30. KELLY, 1910, VF 4-bar on PPC. (1909-16). Est. \$35.
31. NEW WINDSOR, 1900, F-VF cds on U362. (1884-11). E\$6.
32. TINCUP, 1907, lovely Doane Ty2 on PPC. (1895-18)
An outstanding example of a scarce pm. Est. \$40
33. UNDERCLIFFE, 1910, VF cds on PPC. (1879-25). E. \$15

IDAH0

34. CABINET, 1909, VF Doane Ty2 on PPC. (1904-54). E. \$6
35. DOWNEY, 1905, Exc. Doane Ty2 on PPC. Est. \$4.00
36. LANDING, 1911, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1898-14). E. \$15
37. LARDO, 1911, VF Doane Ty2 on PPC. (1889-17). E. \$15
38. LELAND, 1915, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1888-42). E. \$8.
39. LINDEN, 1917, VF 4-bar on PPC. (1889-29). E. \$12.00
40. MONAGHAN, 1910, VF 4-bar on PPC. Very scarce PO (1908-1910). Est. \$45.00
41. NEELEY, 1916, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1898-18). E. \$15
42. POWELL, 1910, double struck but very clear 4-bar on PPC. Scarce (1896-1912). Est. \$20.00
43. STEELE, 1913, VF 4-bar on PPC. (1896-23). E. \$15
44. WEBB, 1915, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1901-21). E. \$15
45. WESTMOND, 1908, VF 4-bar on PPC. (1903-25). E. \$15

MONTANA

46. BEEBE, 1910, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1890-35). Est. \$8.
47. BOYD, 1909, Exc. 4-bar on PPC. (1909-65). Est. \$5.
48. BUELOWS, 1912, VF purp. 4-bar on PPC. (1911-18). E\$8
49. FRENCH GULCH, 1909, VF Doane on PPC. (1904-13). E\$10
50. GRANDVIEW, 1923, VF 4-bar on PPC. (1910-33). E. \$8.
51. LOTHROP, 1906, VF cds on PPC. (1900-13). Est. \$20
52. LAKE BASIN, 1916, VF 4-bar on PPC. (1913-17). E. \$8
53. LYTLE, 1916, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1901-21). Est. \$10
54. OSBORN, 1909, VF 4-bar as rcv. mk. on PPC. (1908-14) Est. \$10.00
55. RED ROCK, 1909, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1879-23). E. \$10
56. ROSS, 1912, VF 4-bar on PPC. (1906-35). E. \$8.00
57. SARPY, 1913, VF red 4-bar on PPC. (1907-43). E. \$8
58. WACO, 1909, VF 4-bar on PPC. (1907-18). Est. \$25.00
59. WHITEPINE, 1915, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1903-65). E\$4.

NEVADA

60. BAUVARD, 1910, F 1t. purple 4-bar on PPC. (1904-12) Est. \$15.00
61. BEATTY, 1905, VF Doane on Reg. Rct. w/RHYOLITE Doane Est. \$8.00
62. BULL FROG, 1906, VF Doane on Reg. Rct. (1905-09). E\$25
63. COBRE, 1910, F-VF Doane on PPC. (1906-56). Est. \$8.
64. GOLDBAR, 1908, VF 4-bar on Reg. Pk. Rct. Very scarce PO. (1907-09). Est. \$35.00
65. GOLDFIELD, 1906, purple Reg. double cds on Reg. Pk Rct. w/RHYOLITE Doane. Est. \$5.00
66. JOHNNIE, 1910, VF 4-bar on Reg. Pk. Rct. (1905-35) w/double cds RHYOLITE Reg. pm. Est. \$10.00
67. SMITH, 1907, VF Doane as rcv. mk. on PPC. Est. \$5
68. STEPTOE, 1940, VF 4-bar on LDC card. Est. \$4.00

NEW MEXICO

69. CENTRAL, 1909, Ty4, VF 4-bar on PPC. Est. \$20.00
70. ELIDA, 1909, Ty2, VF 4-bar on PPC. Est. \$10.00
71. ESPANOLA, 1911, Exc. 4-bar on PPC. Est. \$5.00
72. NARA VISA, 1908, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. Est. \$5.00
73. SOFIA, 1916, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1914-26). Est. \$8.

OKLAHOMA

74. AVERY, 1911, VF 4-bar on PPC. (1902-57). Est. \$5.
75. CLINE, 1912, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1894-13). Est. \$15
76. KEEFETON, 1908, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1905-57). E \$5
77. MADISON, 1914, VF blue 4-bar on U411. (1904-25). Beaver County DPO. Est. \$15.00
78. MC LAIN, 1908, VF 4-bar on PPC. (1894-15). Est \$10
79. OSHUSKEY, 1907, VF 4-bar as rcv. mk. on PPC. Territorial. Scarce PO. (1906-13). Est. \$10.00
80. SALT FORD, 1910, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1902-51). E\$5

OREGON

81. BALM, 1908, Lt. readable Doane on PPC. (1897-11). \$
82. HEMLOCK, 1909, F-VF Doane on PPC. (1906-21). E. \$8
83. TYEE, 1911, F-VF Doane on PPC. (1901-39). Est. \$6
84. VICTOR, 1910, F-VF Doane as rcv. mk. on PPC. E. \$4
85. WILHOIT, 1912, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1882-28). E. \$6

RAILWAY POST OFFICES

86. ASHFORK & LOS ANG, 1912, VF on Reg. Pk. Rct. E. \$8
87. DENVER & GRAND JUNC., 1911, VF on PPC. Est. E. \$8
88. GOLDFIELD & LOS ANG., 1911, VF on Reg. Rct. E. \$25
89. KERRISTON & TACOMA, 1909, VF on PPC. Est. \$15.00
90. PHOENIX & LOS ANG., 1912, VF on Reg. Pk. Rct. E. \$20.
91. RIDGWAY & DURANGO, 1908, VF on PPC. (A-2). Est. \$15
92. S.L. CITY & LOS ANG., 1912, F-VF as forwarding pm on PPC. Est. \$15.00
93. TONOPAH & STAGG, 1909, four strikes F-VF on Reg. Pk. Rct. Est. \$25.00
94. WALLACE & SPOKANE, 1910, F-VF on PPC. Est. \$8.00
95. WALLA WALLA & PASCO, 1914, F-VF on Hershey Choc. adv. PPC. Est. \$10.00

WASHINGTON

96. BIG LAKE, 1914, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1898-31). E. \$5
97. CHIMACUM, 1907, VF cds on PPC. (1878-30). E. \$8.
98. CHRISTOPHER, 1908, VF 4-bar on PPC. (1887-17). E\$10
99. DUCKABUSH, 1914, VF 4-bar on PPC. (1891-26). E. \$8
100. ELECTRON, 1908, VF Doane on PPC. (1903-42). E. \$6
101. KRUPP, 1914, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1901-19). E. \$15
102. LITTLE FALLS, 1911, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1874-13). \$9
103. SHERLOCK, 1911, VF 4-bar on PPC. (1891-15). E. \$10
104. VEGA, 1915, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1890-57). E. \$4
105. WEHESVILLE, 1909, VF cds on PPC. (1900-11). E. \$25
106. Lot of 13 DPOs (1900-04) on piece. F-VF cds, most w/stamps. Tough towns, inc. ARGYLE, LATONA, DERBY EVERGREEN & SCOTIA. Est. \$8.00

WYOMING

106. ARMINTO, 1926, F red 4-bar on PPC. (1914-64). E \$6
107. BARBER, 1908, VF Doane on PPC. (1904-29). Est. \$15
108. CLARKELEN, 1936, VF LDC on UY7. (1916-36). E. \$5
109. FOX PARK, 1910, VF 4-bar on PPC. (1910-66). E. \$4
110. HAMS FORD, 1910, VF Doane on PPC. (1898-33). E. \$6
111. HOLMES, 1911, VF 4-bar on PPC. (1893-50). E. \$5.00
112. HOLM LODGE, 1941, F-VF 4-bar on PPC. (1926-50). E\$4
113. RELIANCE, 1921, VF red 4-bar on PPC. Est. \$4.00
114. UPTON, 1908, F-VF Doane on PPC. Est. \$4.00
115. WIND RIVER, 1908, F 4-bar on PPC. (1905-44). E. \$5

All lots sold at a slight advance over 2nd highest bid. Minimum bid is \$2.00. Buyers pay mailing cost (1st Cl. under \$50; Insured over \$50) unless insurance is requested. Improperly described lots may be returned within 10 days for refund. Prices realized sent to all successful bidders & others for S.A.S.E

BIDS CLOSE: 10PM (PST) March 31, 1983.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

A very happy new year to you! May 1983 bring us relief from our economic woes, continued good health and the good fortune to find a trunk full of interesting postal history goodies.

For the second issue in a row we are pleased to welcome a new author to our pages. Dennis Pack has contributed a delightful piece of work on a mystery of contemporary postal history. Not only is it refreshing to read the results of Mr. Pack's detective work, but, by publishing his findings here, he has insured that we and future postal historians will know the story of one postal unit that fell through the cracks in official records.

Our one-page auctions continue to attract comments, and, happily, new subscribers to LA POSTA. The objective of the auctions is to provide a market for elusive, but less expensive, items of postal history. In recent years the major auction houses have found it increasingly difficult to lot covers and cards separately in the \$10 or under range. Elwyn Doubleday, Ernie Peyton, Len McCabe and others have provided us an opportunity to acquire such items through their periodic retail price lists, but, since the days of Elmer Long and Severy, low-priced auctions have been few and far between.

The goal is to increase the circulation of the "stuff" from which we build our collections. Rare and valuable items should be traded through an established auction house, where they can be photographed and given the benefit of a floor sale, but our 1-page and half-page auctions are an ideal way to convert that pile of duplicates and non-collected covers and cards into cash. LA POSTA auctions may be entered by anyone with material to sell. Page and half-page rates are published elsewhere in the journal, and generally work out to about \$1 per lot. Advise and assistance in lotting your auction is available from the editor.

Our next issue will contain an article on the post offices of Siskiyou County, California; a continuation of Chuck Whittlesey's series on 19th Century Oregon Postmarks featuring the extensive Marion County listing; more Southeast Alaska post offices; our regular departments; and, hopefully, one or more articles by new authors working with Nevada and South Dakota postal history.

There is no backlog of articles on

hand waiting to break into print. At the risk of boring you with a time-worn refrain, LA POSTA needs new material. We particularly want county postal history studies, single post office historic researches, postmark use details and classifications, and articles dealing with stage, rail or ship routings of the mails. We can also use requests for research assistance, articles on collecting and research techniques, book reviews, reports of society activities and other items of general, regional or local interest for postal historians.

LA POSTA is on the verge of becoming the major journal of Western postal history. This is our year of crisis. With your support, we can evolve LA POSTA into an important hobby publication during 1983. Without it, LA POSTA might not disappear, but it will most surely regress as other pursuits command my time. Your subscriptions tell me that you agree with my dream of building an important postal history publication out of LA POSTA, but I will need your support beyond a subscription. To help make LA POSTA a success, these are some things you can do:

Inform your friends about LA POSTA. If they would like a sample copy, I would be pleased to mail them one.

Patronize our advertisers whenever you can. If we are to become a credible advertising medium, then obviously an ad in LA POSTA must generate some reaction.

Consider placing an ad in LA POSTA if you have some good or service to offer, or are seeking material for your collection. Our advertising rates are quite low, and each issue is being mailed to 400 or more subscribers and known postal historians.

Write something. Communicate. Use LA POSTA! Old, established journals such as NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC and ATLANTIC MONTHLY are just the thing for passive entertainment. What I'm asking you to do is to become actively involved with this journal. LA POSTA is a small, tenuous publication, which is desperately struggling to achieve a modest measure of acceptability and financial success. If you agree with me that such a journal is useful, needed and important to our avocation, then please consider how you can help make it survive. Thank you.

Richard W. Helbock, Editor

