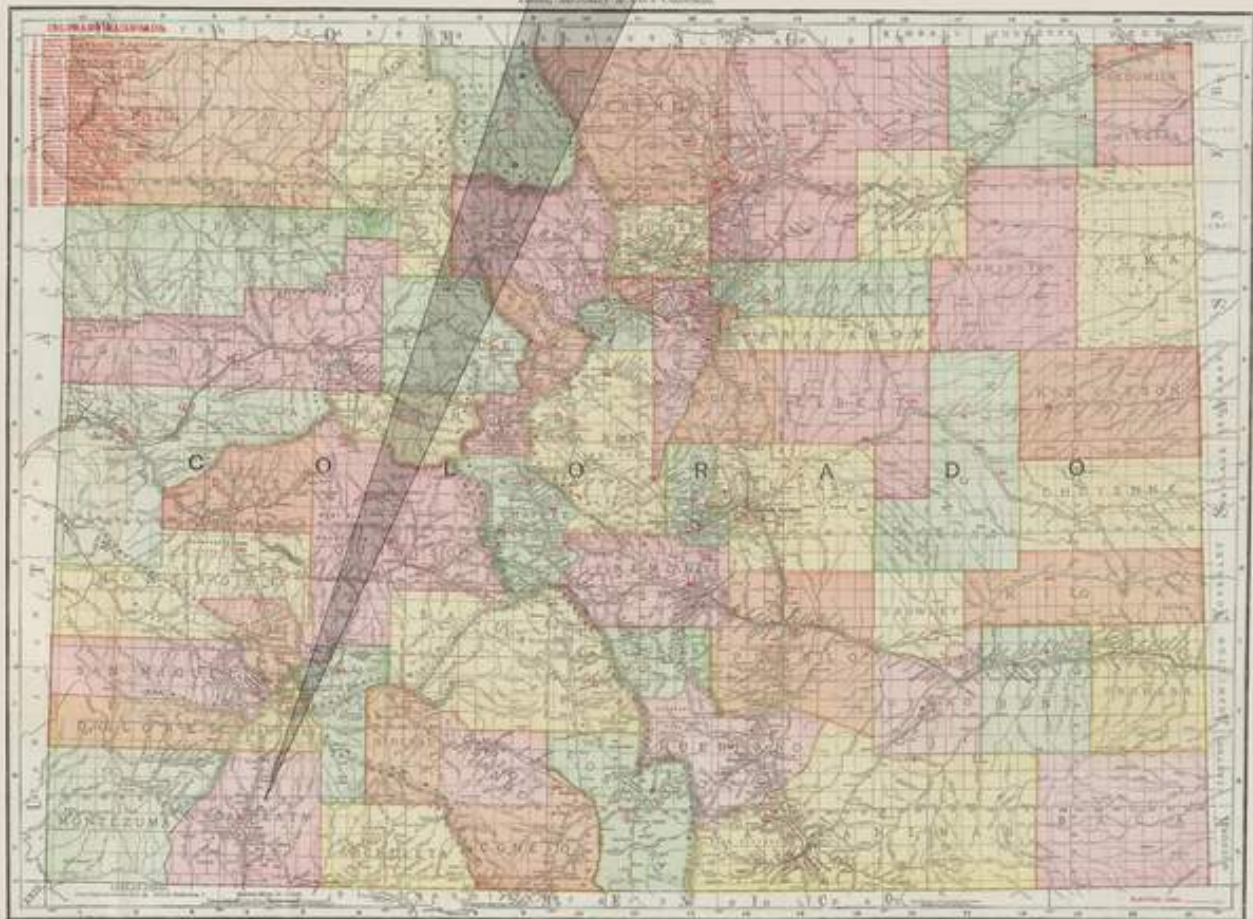


# La Plata County



Map courtesy of <http://www.davidrumsey.com>

*Established: February 10, 1874*

*County Seat: Durango*



## **LA PLATA COUNTY**

By William H. Bauer

La Plata County lies west of the Continental Divide on the border with New Mexico. The northern, eastern and southern boundaries are regular, while the western boundary follows the drainage divide between the La Plata River and the Mancos River. On the north La Plata County is bounded by San Juan County. On the east Hinsdale and Archuleta Counties share the boundary. To the south lies San Juan County New Mexico and on the west Montezuma County.

When the sixteen original counties of Colorado Territory were created, southwestern Colorado was primarily included in Lake and Conejos Counties. As far as governing the area was concerned it made little difference since the land was still the province of the Ute Indians. The Brunot Treaty of 1873 greatly reduced the Ute lands and on February 10, 1874 The Territorial Legislature began the subdivision of southwestern Colorado. Lake County was trimmed, Conejos County was greatly reduced and La Plata, Hinsdale and Rio Grande counties came into existence. The new La Plata County stretched westward to the Utah border.

Fifteen years later, April 16, 1889, Montezuma County was authorized and La Plata County was reduced by more than half to its present size of 1,848 square miles.

Topographically La Plata County consists of two regions. The northern half is mountainous and includes portions of the La Plata Mountains and the Needle Mountains, which are in turn part of the larger San Juan Mountain system. At 14,084 feet, Windom Peak is the highest point in the county. The lowest elevation is about 6,000 feet where the Animas River exits from the county.

The southern portion of the county consists of an irregular land surface that slopes southward towards New Mexico. The area is a mixture of mesas and shallow canyons.

Four prominent rivers drain the county. First the Los Pinos in the east, next the Florida, then the Las Animas, which is the largest of the four and finally on the west the La Plata River. All of these drain south into New Mexico feeding into the San Juan River.

The climate is semi-arid, however the high mountains normally accumulate an extensive snowpack that can provide year around runoff and through diversion irrigates a portion of the southern tablelands. Dry land farming is a major part of the county's agriculture as the broken topography restricts surface flow irrigation.

Early in the history of Colorado Territory and the gold rush, occasional prospecting parties penetrated the area that would become La Plata County. The Baker party of 1861 is the best known. However, the Ute Indians discouraged white settlement and not until the Brunot Treaty of 1873 did prospecting and settlement begin in earnest with any chance of becoming permanent.

In 1880 the Utes were further restricted to a reservation in a fifteen-mile wide strip along the southern border of Colorado. The Indians were encouraged to take up homesteads in that strip but most did not do so. In 1895 the Ute Strip was opened to homesteading by non-Indians. The result was an increase in farming along the rivers and the development of several small communities. The Ute Strip still remains a portion of the southern Ute Reservation but a mixed population of whites, Indians and Spanish-Americans inhabits it.

Although the initial influx of settlers to La Plata County was based on gold and silver, the county has never been a major producer of precious metals. Most of the hardrock mining activity in the county had ended by 1900. Coal mining became an important industry as it provided an at-hand source of fuel for the smelters in Durango that were processing the ore mined to the north in the Silverton area. The local mines also supplied the Denver and Rio Grande and the Rio Grande Southern with the fuel they required.

Agriculture, in the southern portion was a heavy contributor to the local economy with ranching and farming finding their places where best suited.

As mining declined, so did the economy of the region. By the mid-1950's the railroads no longer connected Durango to the outside world. However, a new factor was making itself visible: tourism and recreation. The spectacular mountain scenery with its resources for hunting, fishing, hiking and camping began to attract a growing number of visitors to the area. The Denver and Rio Grande line to Silverton became the Durango and Silverton Railroad, taking tourists on the scenic ride to and from Silverton.

Durango was, and still is, the primary beneficiary of this tourist influx but added to that is the attraction of Durango and the surrounding area as an attractive place for retirement and summer homes. Agriculture still plays a part in the county's economy but it is well behind tourism as a money source.

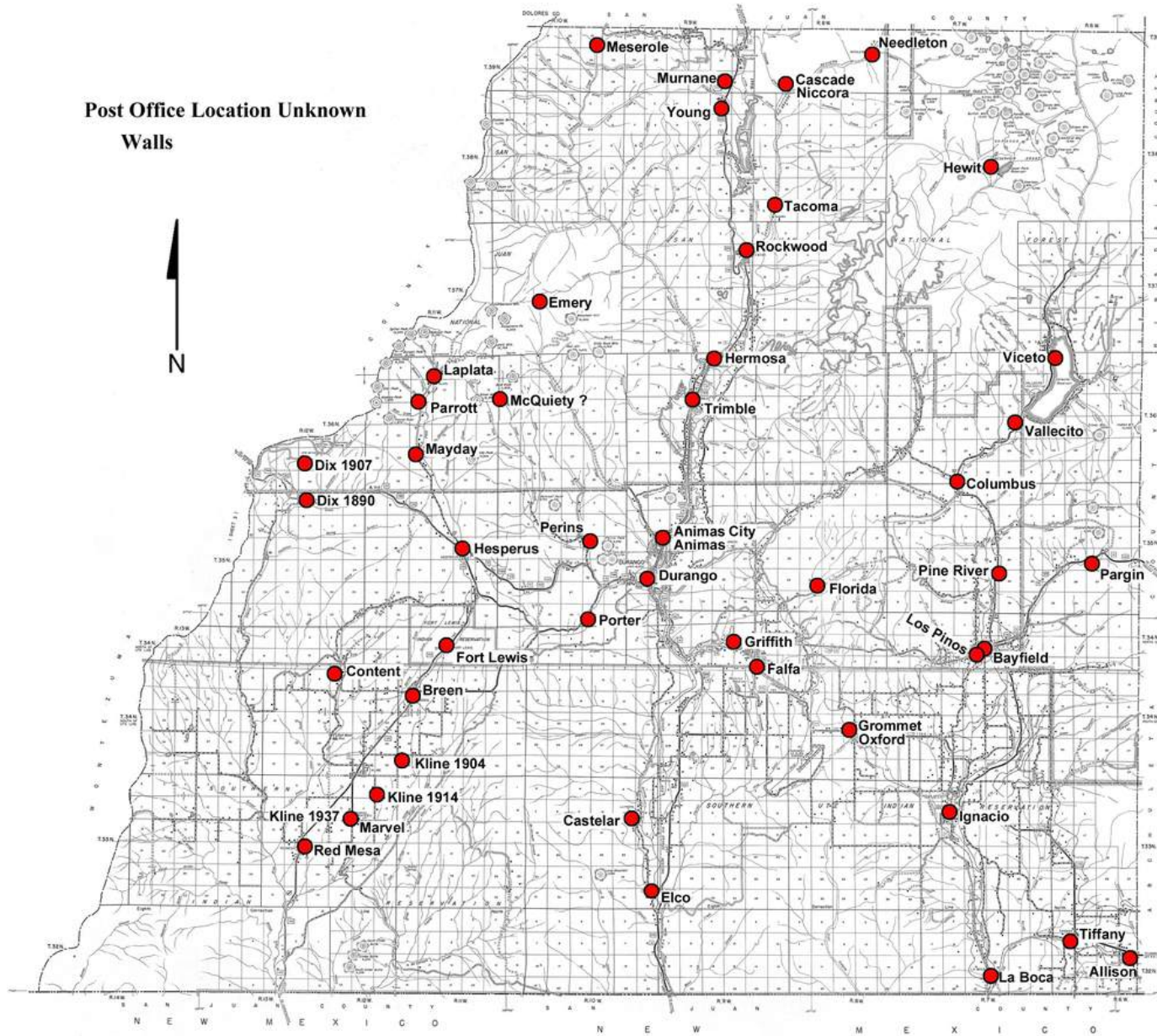
For a long time travel into and out of the area was difficult or time consuming. The road over the mountains from Ouray and Silverton was steep, narrow, and in winter, impassible. From 1881 travel was mainly by rail, at first the Denver and Rio Grande, which entered the county in the southeastern corner, wound its way to Durango and then on to Silverton. Later, the Rio Grande Southern came around the western end of the mountains by way of Rico and Dolores and terminated at Durango.

As autos and trucks began to replace the railroad, highways became essential. The wagon road from Ouray was improved and became the "Million Dollar Highway" – US 550. A road was built over Wolf Creek Pass to Pagosa Springs and on to Durango, US 160. These are still the main roads through the county. US 550 continues south into New Mexico and US 160 continues west to Cortez. Colorado Highways 151 and 140 provide additional routes south to New Mexico but US 550 is still the only road northward out of La Plata County.

Please note that a considerable portion of the La Plata County section of the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports is of very poor quality and difficult to read. Throughout the Encyclopedia Project I have relied heavily on the Site Location Reports for locations of the long discontinued post offices. Thus, because of this poor quality, some of the location information tabulated below may contain errors. Fortunately I was able to use other sources to refine most of the locations.



**The Durango Silverton Narrow Gauge Train**  
Photograph from <https://pixabay.com>



Post Office Location Map – La Plata County

## ALLISON

The settlement that became Allison was begun in 1901 under the name of Vallejo. When a post office was requested for the new community, they were required to choose another name to avoid confusion with Vallejo, California. The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report was submitted with the name Thuringer. For some reason that name was also not acceptable and instead Allison was chosen. The accepted name is said to honor Allison Stocker, secretary of the Colorado Ditch and Development Company that helped establish the settlement.

Allison is within the boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. It was on the line of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad through southern Colorado to Durango. While the railroad was in operation Allison served surrounding ranches and farms as a supply and shipping center. When the railroad ceased operations, Allison slowly declined. In 2000 Allison was still a small group of homes and a church in the very southeast corner of La Plata County, a few hundred yards west of the Archuleta County line and two miles north of the New Mexico-Colorado State line.

The easiest route to describe to reach Allison is to begin in Ignacio and drive east and south on Colorado Highway 151 to the Archuleta County line. At the county line, La Plata County Road 329 intersects Colorado 141. Drive west on Road 329 and immediately into Allison.

Latitude = 37:01:28 North Longitude = 107:29:15 West

### Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 1 1904	---	NE/4 Sec 15 T32N R6W	About 150 feet north of the tracks and right at Vallejo Station
Aug 22 1904		Established	
Aug 22 1904		Newcomb, Clara	
Dec 8 1905		Thomas, Benjamin F.	
Aug 15 1908		Dowell, Frank C.	
Feb 7 1911		Peerman, William D.	
Sep 7 1913		Peerman, Stella E.	
Apr 23 1914	---	NE/4 Sec 15 T32N R6W	135 feet east of railroad
Oct 23 1914		Morris, James J.	
Feb 25 1918		Bryant, Ambrose B.	
Sep 9 1920		Allen, Emery A.	
Feb 17 1928		Young, Bernice	Acting
Jun 28 1928		Young, Bernice	Appointed
Jul 5 1928	---	NE/4 Sec 15 T32N R6W	200 feet east of the D&RG RR
Jul 20 1928		Young, Bernice	Commissioned
Oct 20 1941	---	SW/4 Sec 10 T32N R6W	D&RGW Station 200 feet south of post office
Nov 3 1954		Ordered closed	
Nov 20 1954		Discontinued	Mail to Ignacio

### Confirmed types of postal markings

1	ALLISON, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Doane Type 2 with 2	Oct 19 1907 Nov 22 1909
1.1	ALLISON, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x14mm	Aug 19 1911 [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
2	ALLISON / COLO. CI 10P 29.5	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Jan 10 1914 Dec 27 1916
3	ALLISON / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	May 5 1931 Mar 26 1936
4	ALLISON / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Jan 30 1941 Oct 18 1942

**COLORADO POSTAL ENCYCLOPEDIA  
LA PLATA COUNTY**

**ALLISON – Continued**

5 ALLISON / COLO.  
CI 10P 33.0

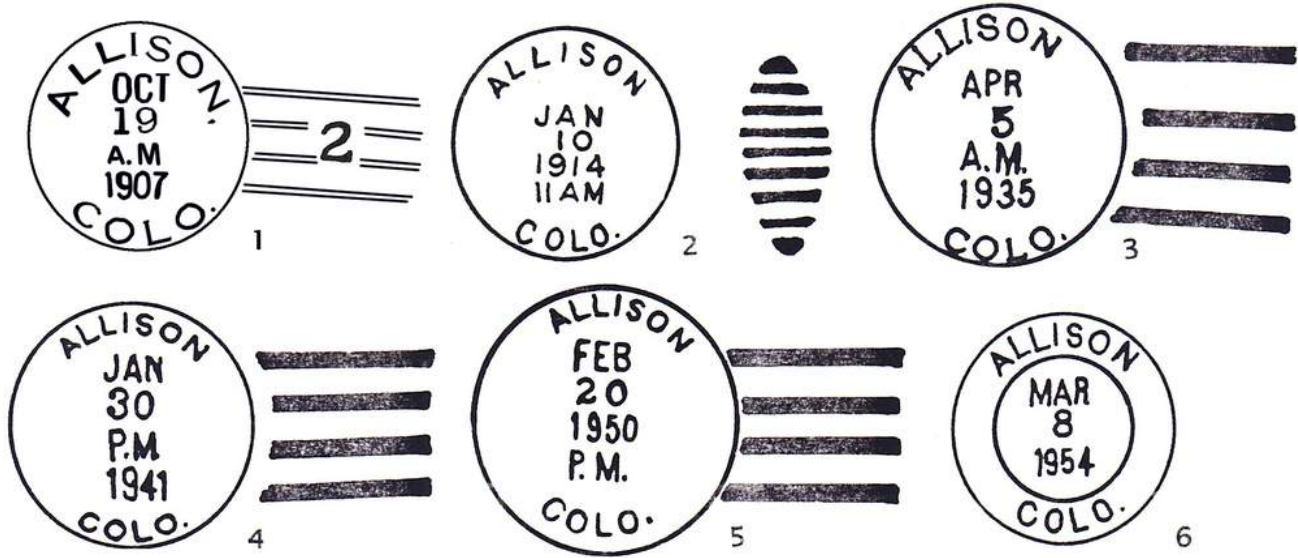
4bars S-24x20mm

Aug 24 1948 Nov 30 1954

6 ALLISON / COLO.  
CI 11P 31.0/20.0

Hstp No killer

Mar 8 1954



**Allison, Colorado – View west along La Plata County Road 329**  
Photograph by William H. Bauer  
September 17, 2000

## ANIMAS

The post office at Animas City was discontinued August 19, 1885. In July 1886 a post office was re-established in the same community but with the simpler name of Animas.

Please refer to the discussion of Animas City for the history.

Latitude = 37:17:27 North Longitude = 107:51:27 West ANIMAS CEMETERY

### Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 9 1886	--	NE/4 Sec 17 T35N R9W
		Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Esther Bagby
Jul 10 1886		Name changed from Animas City
Jul 10 1886		Bagby, Mrs. Esther
Sep 15 1900		Ordered closed
Sep 29 1900		Discontinued Papers to Durango

### Confirmed types of postal markings

1	ANIMAS / COLO.	Mar 23 1895	Nov 18 1897
	CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	



## ANIMAS CITY

The initial settlement to bear the name Animas City was created in the winter of 1860-1861, twelve miles north of where a second, later community would adopt the same name. It was a small cluster of log cabins built by a group of prospectors led by Captain Charles Baker. They built a crude log bridge across the Animas River and that site is still referred to as Baker's Bridge.

Since the area was Ute Indian land, the initial settlement failed. In 1874, after the signing of the Brunot Treaty in 1873, prospectors returned to the area and established a new Animas City twelve miles downstream from Baker's Bridge. In August 1876 the townsite was platted and two years later Animas City was incorporated.

Animas City thrived as a supply center for prospectors headed north to the developing silver mines at Silverton and in the surrounding mountains. However, in late 1879 the Denver and Rio Grande was rapidly building through southern Colorado on the way to Silverton. The route of the railroad would have to pass Animas City. Railroad officials approached the leaders of Animas City and expressed a willingness to develop the city as a railroad center. As was often the situation, the railroad had its price and terms for making the town an operations center for the Animas Valley. The town was to donate the right-of-way, a site for the depot, assist with grading of the railroad and purchase some railroad stock. The community would not accept those terms.

The response of the Rio Grande to the rejection was to select another, unoccupied site, two and one-half miles south of Animas City and begin construction of the town that became Durango. With the railroad as its foundation, Durango thrived and Animas City withered.

**ANIMAS CITY – Continued**

As Durango encroached northward, an independent Animas City would struggle on. By 1947 it was largely a bedroom suburb of Durango and was faced with increasing costs to maintain water, sewer and street services. On October 28, 1947 both communities overwhelmingly voted to unite.

At the beginning of the twenty-first century what was once Animas City is a pleasant residential neighborhood with a number of well maintained, older homes. From historical notes, I place its location along US Highway 550, between 24th and 29th Streets and from the Animas River west to the edge of town. East of US 550 the Durango High School and the La Plata County Fairgrounds occupy the area. There are a number of businesses along the west side of US 550 and behind them, on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, the residential section.



**ANIMAS CITY, / COL.      June 18, 1878      Fancy cancel, star-in-circle**

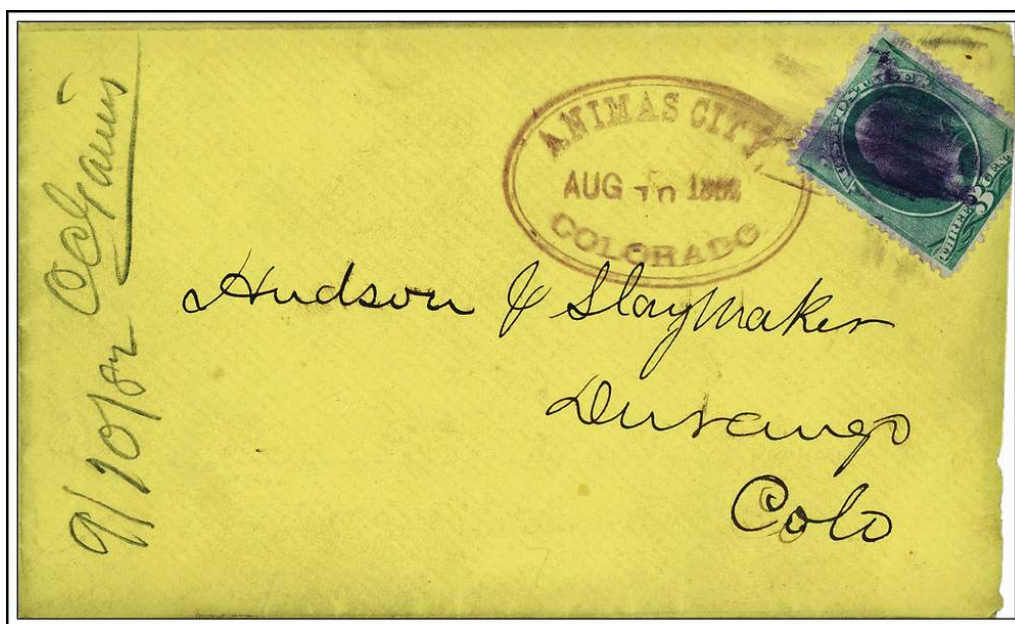
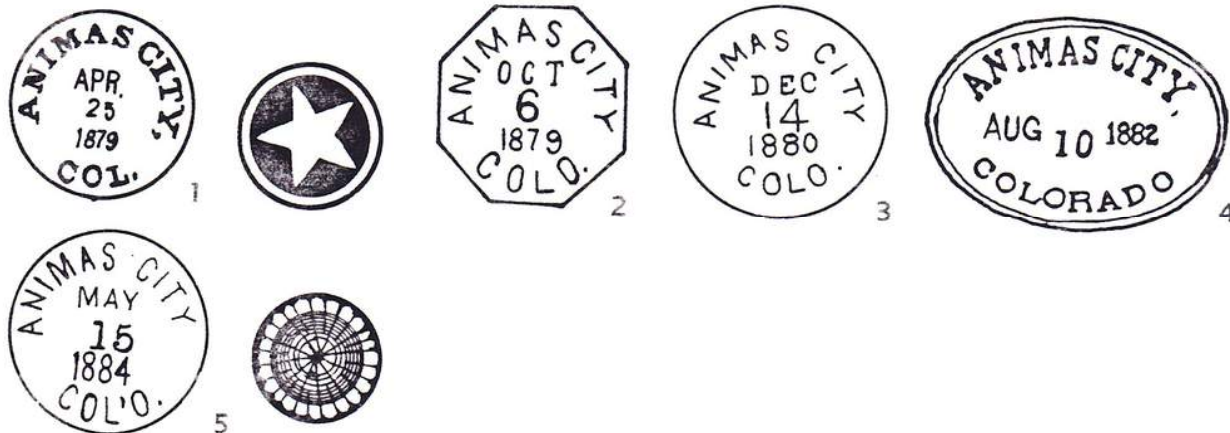
**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Apr 30 1877 --- NE/4 Sec 17 T35N R9W On west side of Animas River, 1/4 mile north of Junction Creek
- May 24 1877      Established
- May 24 1877      Trew, Jonathan M.
- Feb 21 1881      Gaines, Cyrus C.
- Mar 28 1882      Hopkins, J. S. D.
- May 11 1882      Emerson, Theodore F.
- Aug 19 1885      Discontinued Mail to Durango
- July 10 1886      Re-opened as Animas

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 ANIMAS CITY, / COL.<br/>CI 10P 24.0</li> <li>2 ANIMAS CITY / COLO.<br/>OC 10P 25.0x25.0</li> <li>3 ANIMAS CITY / COLO.<br/>CI 10P 27.0</li> <li>4 ANIMAS CITY, / COLORADO<br/>OV 20P 41x28/38x26</li> <li>5 ANIMAS CITY / COL'O.<br/>CI 10P 27.0</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oct 15 1877 Jul 20 1879</li> <li>Hstp Fancy, Negative star-in-circle with outer rim</li> <li>Oct 2 1879 Oct 6 1879</li> <li>Hstp Cork, Circular with small central hole</li> <li>Dec 14 1880 Jan 11 1881</li> <li>Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads</li> <li>Aug 10 1882</li> <li>Hstp Cork, Smudge</li> <li>Apr 28 1884 Jun 3 1884</li> <li>Fancy, Wheel-of-fortune</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

## ANIMAS CITY – Continued



ANIMAS CITY, / COLORADO

August 10, 1882

**BAYFIELD**

In 1898 Bayfield was surveyed on land owned by William A. and Laura E. Bay. The townsite was located on the east side of the Los Pinos River on the main road from Durango to Pagosa Springs and Wolf Creek Pass. The town was named for William Bay and in 1910 Bayfield was incorporated.

Bayfield is approximately eighteen miles east of Durango on US Highway 160. It is the largest community between Durango and Pagosa Springs. Located about a mile north of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation it serves as a supply center for a large portion of eastern La Plata County.

In 1971 the Bayfield Post Office was a small brick building located within the town. That post office was one of those that I photographed on the first of my trips around Colorado. From that trip I gradually developed the project that culminated in 2003 with photographs of some 2,400 post offices and abandoned post office sites in Colorado.

**BAYFIELD – Continued**

In 2000, on a return visit to Bayfield, the post office was located on a frontage road for a new bypass around the town of Bayfield. The new post office is much larger, reflecting the population growth of Bayfield and the surrounding area.

Prior to the opening of the Bayfield Post Office, the community was served by the Los Pinos Post Office which was located on the west side of the Los Pinos River on what is now Business Route US 160.

Latitude = 37:13:32 North Longitude = 107:35:51 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 15 1888	---	SW/4 Sec 11 T34N R7W Sketch map places it in the SE/4	
Feb 25 1899		Name changed from Los Pinos	
Feb 25 1899		Arnold, Henry J.	
Jul 26 1900		Allen, Charles E.	
Feb 26 1901		Brinkley, Rosa E.	
Jun 26 1903		Springer, Jesse A.	
Sep 3 1914	---	SE/4 Sec 11 T34N R7W 80 rods east of the Pine River	
Oct 12 1914		Jenkins, Emma F.	
Jan 31 1919		Fowler, Charles A.	
Oct 1 1919			Office made Presidential
Feb 18 1920		Fowler, Charles A.	
Mar 1 1924		Salbar, Mrs. Bessie	
Mar 1 1928		Salbar, Mrs. Bessie	
Mar 4 1932		Salabar, Mrs. Bessie	Nominated
Mar 18 1932		Salabar, Mrs. Bessie	Confirmed
Apr 11 1932		Salabar, Mrs. Bessie	Commissioned
Aug 15 1934		MacDonald, Miss Minnette	Assumed charge
Aug 21 1934		MacDonald, Miss Minnette	Acting
Jul 10 1935		Humiston, Mrs. Lena	Nominated
Jul 17 1935		Humiston, Mrs. Lena	Confirmed
Jul 22 1935		Humiston, Mrs. Lena	Appointed
Aug 23 1935		Humiston, Mrs. Lena	Commissioned
Sep 1 1935		Humiston, Mrs. Lena	Assumed charge
Jan 8 1940		Humiston, Mrs. Lena	Nominated
Jan 11 1940		Humiston, Mrs. Lena	Confirmed
Jan 18 1940		Humiston, Mrs. Lena	Appointed
Feb 3 1940		Humiston, Mrs. Lena	Commissioned
Oct 22 1941	---	NE/4 Sec 11 T34N R7W Los Pinos River is 1/2 mile west of post office	
		Proposed postmaster - Walter D. Taylor	
Oct 2 1942		Gray, Mrs. Lena May	Acting
Oct 3 1942		Gray, Mrs. Lena May	Assumed charge
Jun 22 1944		Landreth, Mrs. Lois E.	Nominated
Jun 23 1944		Landreth, Mrs. Lois E.	Confirmed
Jun 24 1944		Landreth, Mrs. Lois E.	Appointed
Oct 2 1942		Gray, Mrs. Lena May	Acting
Oct 3 1942		Gray, Mrs. Lena May	Assumed charge
Jun 22 1944		Landreth, Mrs. Lois E.	Nominated
Jun 23 1944		Landreth, Mrs. Lois E.	Confirmed
Jun 24 1944		Landreth, Mrs. Lois E.	Appointed
Aug 15 1944		Landreth, Mrs. Lois E.	Assumed charge
Aug 26 1946		MacDonald, Miss Minnette	Acting
Aug 27 1946		MacDonald, Miss Minnette	Assumed charge
May 17 1949		Mullen, Mrs. Dorothy F.	Assumed charge
Jun 13 1959		Badgley, Mrs. Dorothy F.	Name changed by marriage

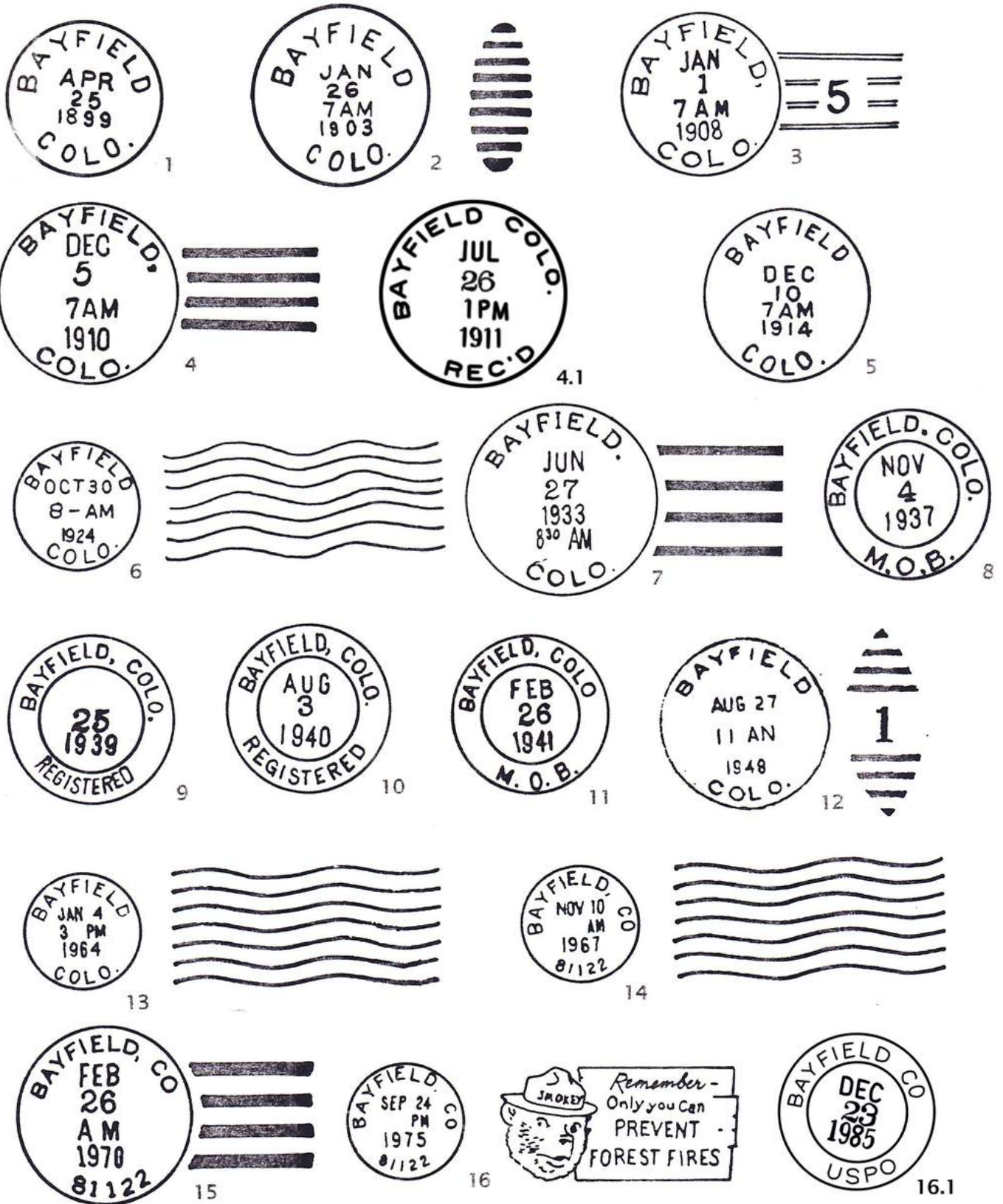
## BAYFIELD – Continued

Jul 28 1976	Candelaria, Mrs. Ruth	Officer in charge
Aug 13 1976	Ludwig, Mrs. Phyllis	Officer in charge
Nov 6 1976	Morales, Leslie P.	Appointed
Mar 9 1978	Storey, Orville	Officer in charge
Oct 3 1978	Jeppesen, Bertha	Officer in charge
Feb 26 1979	Casados, Ross A.	Officer in charge
May 19 1979	Storey, Orville F.	Appointed
Aug 30 1880	Harland, Jackie	Officer in charge
Feb 21 1881	Murphy, Jack E.	Officer in charge

## Confirmed types of postal markings

1	BAYFIELD / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Apr 21 1899 Dec 23 1902
2	BAYFIELD / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Jan 26 1903
3	BAYFIELD, / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Doane Type 2 with 5, S-24x 14mm	Aug 11 1905 Mar 24 1913
4	BAYFIELD, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x14mm	Dec 24 1909 Dec 20 1911
4.1	BAYFIELD COLO. / REC'D CI 10P 33.0	Hstp Not present	Apr 8 1907 Dec 9 1911
5	BAYFIELD / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Hstp Not present	Dec 10 1914 Mar 28 1919
6	BAYFIELD / COLO. CI 10P 22.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Oct 30 1924
7	BAYFIELD, / COLO. CI 10P 33.5	4bars S-24x20mm	Jun 27 1933 Nov 18 1938
8	BAYFIELD, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer, large letters	Nov 4 1937 Sep 30 1938
9	BAYFIELD, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer, narrow letters	--- 25 1939
10	BAYFIELD, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Aug 3 1940
11	BAYFIELD, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Feb 26 1941
12	BAYFIELD / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, pointed oval with 1	Jul 11 1938 Dec 19 1962
13	BAYFIELD / COLO. CI 10P 20.5	Mach 7 wavy lines	Mar 12 1963 Dec 13 1965
14	BAYFIELD, CO / 81122 CI 10P 20.5	Mach 7 wavy lines	Nov 10 1967 Jun 3 1991
15	BAYFIELD, CO / 81122 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Feb 26 1970 Oct 6 1978
16	BAYFIELD. CO / 81122 CI 10P 20.5	Mach Slogan: SMOKEY BEAR / Remember / Only you Can / PREVENT / FOREST FIRES	Sep 28 1972 Feb 25 1983 Dec 23 1985
16.1	BAYFIELD CO / USPO CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	
17	BAYFIELD CO / 81122-9998 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x17mm	Mar 9 1987
17.1	BAYFIELD, CO / 81122 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Jan 30 1991
18	BAYFIELD, CO 81122 / USPS CI 11P 28.0/18.5	Hstp No killer	Jun 3 1991 Mar 26 1993
19	BAYFIELD CO 81122 / USPS CI 11P 35.0/22.5	Hstp No killer	May 25 1999

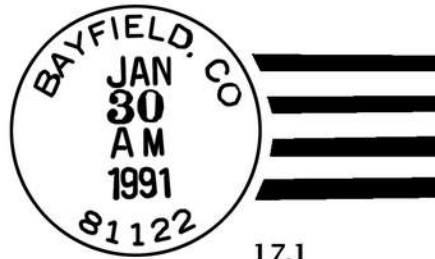
BAYFIELD - Continued



## BAYFIELD – Continued



17



17.1



18



19

**BREEN**

In 1891 the military post of Fort Lewis was closed and the post office there moved four miles north to become Hesperus. A year later an Indian school was established at the old fort. The school had an unsteady existence, even closing for a time. But it reopened about 1900 and lasted until 1910 when its purpose was supplanted by other schools scattered through the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

When the school reopened, there was a need for postal service. Thus, the Breen Post Office opened in July 1901. From the Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Reports it seems certain that initially the Breen Post Office was at the same location as the earlier Fort Lewis Post Office, probably in the administration building of the school.

In 1911 the Indian school was converted to the state operated Fort Lewis Agricultural School. Eventually the programs of the Agricultural School were moved to Durango and became Fort Lewis College. However, as the San Juan Basin Experimental Station, the site is still an active part of the State College System.

By 1926, and perhaps as early as 1911, the Breen Post Office had moved two miles south from the school. I base the early date for the move on the 1911 Site Location Report that gives a description that would not be needed for the original site but is appropriate for one in a town development.

Breen was named for Dr. Thomas Breen who was the superintendent of the Indian school. His wife (?), Bessie was the first postmaster.

The original site of Breen is a short distance west of Colorado Highway 140, a little more than four miles south of Hesperus and a mile or so north of the northern boundary of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. The second site is an additional two miles to the south and is also on Colorado 140, but it is within the reservation boundaries.

In 1994 Breen consisted of a few residences and the Breen Mercantile. A clerk in the store told us that a small building to the right (north) and slightly behind the store was the post office building when it was in operation. There is some evidence that the store building was once a doctor's office, which would be consistent with Dr. Breen having moved his practice from the Agricultural School.

Latitude = 37:11:33 North Longitude = 108:04:38 West

**BREEN – Continued**

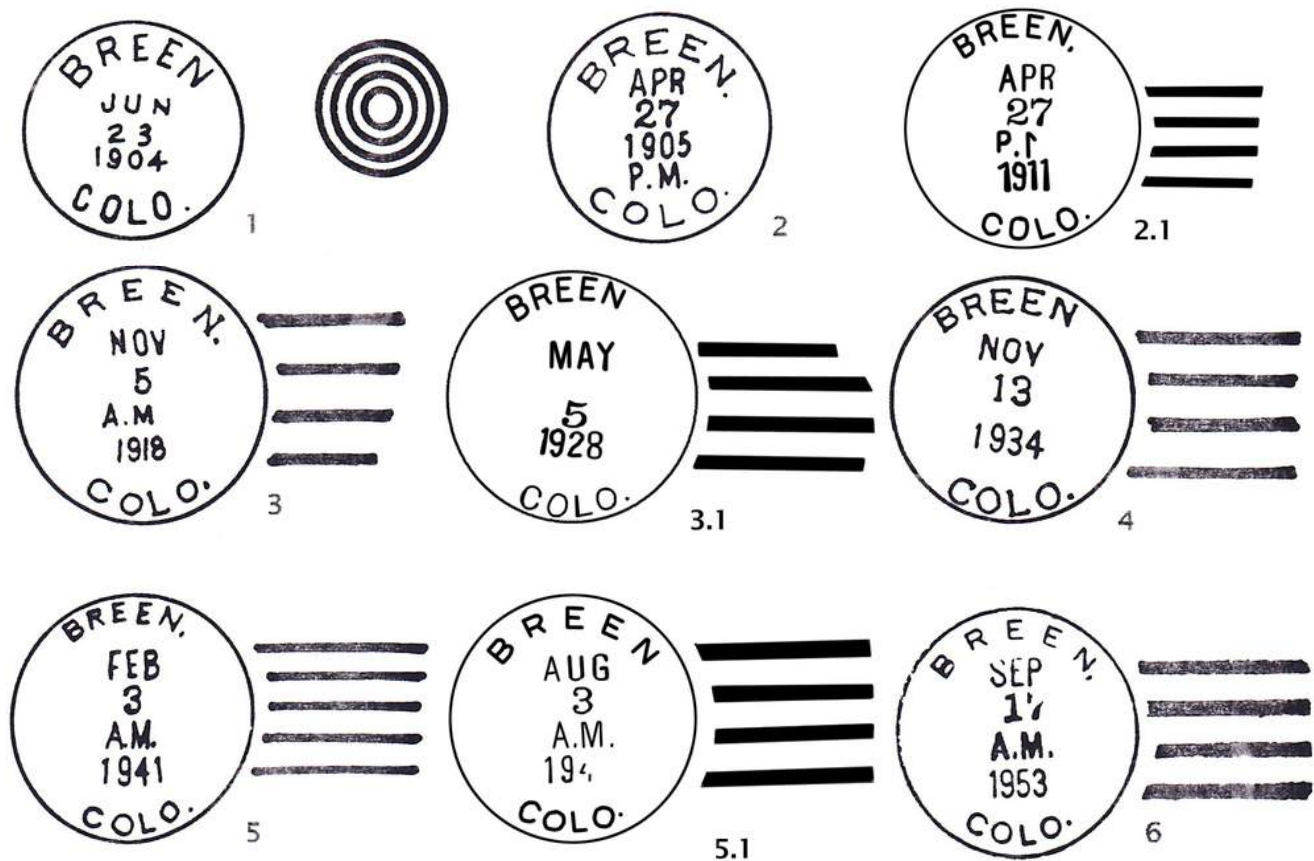
**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jul 19 1901	Established	
Jul 19 1901	Breen, Bessie W.	
Dec 10 1903	Peterson, William W.	
Jun 11 1907	Aspaas, Annette	
Mar 1 1911	---	SE/4 Sec 3 T34N R11W 1/8 mile west of the La Plata River
Sep 9 1914	---	Lot 3 of 5V, T34N R11W 300 yards west of the La Plata River
Apr 27 1921	Johnson, Knute	
Nov 23 1926	---	SW/4 Sec 18 T34N R11W
Dec 31 1939	Sterling, Mrs. Lavinia E.	Assumed charge
Jan 30 1940	Sterling, Mrs. Lavinia E.	Acting
Feb 20 1941	Sterling, Mrs. Lavinia E.	Confirmed
Mar 21 1941	Sterling, Mrs. Lavinia E.	Commissioned
Dec 25 1941	Michael, Mrs. Lavinia E.	Name changed by marriage
Jan 15 1942	---	NE/4 Sec 18 T34N R11W La Plata River is 1/2 mile west of post office
Feb 14 1942	Kinsey, Ross	Assumed charge
Feb 24 1942	Kinsey, Ross	Acting
Apr 22 1942	Kinsey, Ross	Confirmed
May 13 1942	Kinsey, Ross	Commissioned
Jun 30 1946	Williams, George H. Jr.	Assumed charge
Aug 24 1946	Kinsey, Mrs. Emma M.	Assumed charge
Feb 6 1947	Greenwood, Mrs. Mae	Assumed charge
Apr 8 1947	Greenwood, Mrs. Mae	Confirmed
Apr 30 1947	Greenwood, Mrs. Mae	Commissioned
Aug 19 1949	Davies, Mrs. Aldean N.	Assumed charge
Sep 26 1949	Davies, Mrs. Aldean N.	Acting
Oct 24 1949	Davies, Aldean N. (Mrs.?)	Confirmed
Nov 30 1949	Davies, Aldean N. (Mrs.?)	Commissioned
Jun 15 1950	Potts, Frank A.	Assumed charge
Sep 25 1950	Potts, Frank A.	Confirmed
Oct 12 1950	Potts, Frank A.	Commissioned
Nov 3 1954	Ordered closed	
Nov 30 1954	Discontinued Mail to Hesperus	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	BREEN / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target	Jun 23 1904 Jun 29 1904
2	BREEN. / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Doane Type 2 with 2	Oct 3 1904 Oct 16 1907
2.1	BREEN, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x113mm	Dec 28 1910 Apr 27 1911
3	BREEN, / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-25x19mm	Aug 18 1914 Jul 28 1919
3.1	BREEN / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x18mm	May 5 1928
4	BREEN / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x20mm	Nov 12 1930 Jan 21 1943
5	BREEN, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars 5- bars; S-23x15mm	Oct 12 1939 Feb 3 1941
5.1	BREEN / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars 5- bars; S-23x18mm	Aug 3 194-
6	BREEN, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Apr 16 1951 Nov 30 1954

## BREEN – Continued



## CASCADE

There is some confusion as to the location of Cascade in La Plata County. One interpretation is that it was at the summit of the trail or road that climbed up the Cascade Creek Valley from the Las Animas River. If that is true, it could have been in the vicinity of the Ranger Station on US Highway 550, about a mile north of Columbine Lake.

The second interpretation would place Cascade in the Las Animas River Canyon before the road began the ascent. That location would be at or near what came to be known as Cascade Siding, later Teft Siding on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad from Durango to Silverton.

The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report is not as clear as I would like. It seems to place Cascade one mile west of the Las Animas River. If the one mile is correct, that is not far enough to put Cascade at the summit of the climb up from the river. But, it is also beyond the location of Cascade Siding.

The Cascade Post Office existed for only two years and its timing was coincident with the construction of the railroad through the Las Animas Canyon to Silverton. That fact gives support to the post office having been located on or at least near the railroad. It would not be unusual to have two places claiming the same name: the settlement high on the mountain and a siding, with the post office, at the the railroad.

More study is called for to determine which was the actual location of the post office. But until the matter is resolved I will accept a location on the railroad.

**CASCADE – Continued**

Cascade (Teft) Siding is on the west side of the Las Animas River, immediately north of the bridge where the railroad crosses the river to the west side, about five and one-half miles north of the power plant at Tacoma. Without a long and difficult hike the only way to view the site is from the Durango and Silverton train. No sign of buildings is visible from the train – just trees.

Latitude = 37:36:12 North Longitude = 107:45:43 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Jun 5 1880</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Not surveyed One mile (?) west of the Animas River, on Cascade Creek</b>
		<b>Proposed postmaster - Theodore Schock</b>
<b>Jun 14 1880</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Jun 14 1880</b>		<b>Schock, Theodore</b>
<b>Apr 22 1881</b>		<b>Discontinued</b>
<b>May 11 1881</b>		<b>Re-established</b>
<b>May 11 1881</b>		<b>Haines, John L.</b>
<b>Jul 24 1882</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Silverton</b>

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

<b>1</b>	<b>Cascade Col</b>	<b>Mar 20 18(82)</b>	<b>Date from docketing and contents</b>
	<b>MS</b>	<b>Mscp</b>	<b>Pen cancel</b>

1

**CASTELAR**

Castelar was in the so-called Ute Strip that was opened to settlement in 1899. It was a small cluster of homes on the west side of the Las Animas River, largely occupied by Spanish-Americans. At first the settlement was known as La Posta. There is still a La Posta Cemetery shown on the USGS Map of La Plata County. There was another community on the east side of the river, known as Sunnyside, for Sunnyside Mesa.

When a post office was established, it was given the name Castelar. Ray Newburn in *Postal History of the Colorado San Juan*, theorizes that this was a convoluted reference to the Spanish heritage of many of the residents: Castile-Castillian-Castellano-Castelar.

When it was established the post office was on the west side of the river but also served Sunnyside on the east bank. Ray Newburn states that when the Denver and Rio Grande built an extension from Durango to Farmington New Mexico the post office moved across the river to Sunnyside but retained the name Castelar. There is no Geographic Site Location Report to support that move but I have good reasons to believe that not every post office move was formally reported to Washington.

To reach the site of Castelar, go east from Durango on US Highway 160/550. Turn south on US 550 and continue south to where Highway US 550 crosses the Las Animas River. After crossing the river, turn north on La Plata County Road 213. The abandoned (in 2000) Bondad Store is one mile north of the junction and another two miles north is a cluster of buildings that were Elco. Just north of Elco the road makes a turn west, then again north. Continue north for a total of about seven miles from US 550 to another scattering of buildings. This group of buildings was the site of Castelar, according to the Geographic Site Location Report.

To return to Durango you can continue north along the west side of the river to Durango or three miles north of Castelar, cross back to the east side and to US 550.

**CASTELAR – Continued****Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 17 1905	---	SE/4 Sec 11 T33N R10W 1/8 mile west of Rio Las Animas
May 9 1905		Established
May 9 1905		Cordova, R. A.
Sep 6 1905		Gibson, Oscar
Mar 28 1907		Trumble, William A.
Mar 20 1908		Bryce, Effie M.
Nov 24 1909		Trumble, Effie M.
Apr 15 1911		Miller, James L.
Jun 30 1912		Discontinued Mail to Elco

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	CASTELAR, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Doane 4-bars with 1	Aug 28 1907	Apr 8 1910
2	CASTELAR, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Dec 21 1910	Jan 18 1911

**COLUMBUS**

Like Castelar and several other of the post offices of La Plata County, I must rely on the work by Ray Newburn for historical information about this post office. Ray concludes that Columbus was likely never more than store and post office near the junction of Texas Creek with the Los Pinos River. The location is confirmed by the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports and his description is compatible with what still exists at the site.

The Post Office Department Records provide two locations for the Columbus Post Office. The first site (1894) is at a fork in the road less than a mile north of the bridge over the Los Pinos River. The right-hand fork goes on to the Vallecito Reservoir and the left-hand fork to Durango. At this location there is a residence and some outbuildings.

The second location of Columbus (1900) is on the east side of the Los Pinos River, a quarter-mile east of the bridge. At that location, in 2000, there were two old, log buildings close to the road and a remnant chimney standing alone.

To reach this site, begin at US 160 on the north side of Bayfield. Drive north eight miles on La Plata County Road 501 to the bridge over the Los Pinos River. Four miles north of US 160 you will pass the site of the Pine River Post Office.

Latitude = 37:19:40 North Longitude = 107:37:46 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Apr 18 1894	---	SW/4 Sec 34 T36N R7W 50 yards west of Pine River 1/2 mile north of Texas Creek
		Proposed postmaster - Mary I. Mullin
Nov 15 1894		Established
Nov 15 1894		Mullin, Mary I.

**COLUMBUS – Continued**

Jul 30 1897      Discontinued Mail to Los Pinos  
Mar 19 1898 ---      SW/4 Sec 34 T36N R7W On the west side of the Los Pinos River  
                         Proposed postmaster - Mary Mullin  
Jun 22 1898      Re-established  
Jun 22 1898      Mullin, Mary I.  
Jul 14 1900 ---      From: SW/4 Sec 34 T36N R7W To: NE/4 Sec 3 T35N R7W  
                         3/8 miles east of Pine River, 2 miles north of Bear Creek  
                         Proposed postmaster - Benjamin Henry Bennett  
Aug 10 1900      Bennett, Benjamin H.  
Apr 14 1903      Ordered closed  
Apr 30 1903      Discontinued Papers to Vallecito



**Columbus, Colorado – Second site, east side of the Los Pinos River**  
Photograph by James L. Ozment      September 17, 2000

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1      COLUMBUS / COLO.      Aug 20 1900  
         CI 10P 27.5      Hstp Target



## CONTENT

Content is yet another of the "lost" post offices of La Plata County. Ray Newburn discovered enough information to place the post office on the Aspaas Ranch in Hay Gulch, a few miles west of Breen. That information does fit with the Post Office Geographic Site Location Report. There is no information that Content was anything more than a convenient ranch post office serving the surrounding area.

A note on the Site Location Report that initially requested the name Hay Gulch but also suggested Content, Banks, Aspaas, Clover or Alder further supports all of this.

From the community of Breen, go north about a mile on Colorado Highway 140 to the junction with La Plata County Road 120 to the west. It will be a little more than four miles to the vicinity of Content. At first Road 120 heads to the southwest. It then turns briefly due west, then jogs north and again turns to the west. Two and one-half miles from the jog the road again turns north. Three-quarters of a mile further you can look west across the gulch to a large grouping of ranch buildings. This is the plotted location for the Content Post Office. Although we did not make the loop, it should be possible to continue north up Hay Gulch and eventually intersect Colorado 140 some two miles south of Hesperus.

### Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 27 1901 ---	NW/4 Sec 10 T36N (T34N) R12W 4 miles west of the La Plata River 1/16 mile west of Hay Gulch Ditch or Aroya Proposed postmaster - Sadie P. Aspaas (Aspaas) ?? NOTE: "The name Hay Gulch is disapproved. In case Content is an objectionable name, either Banks, Aspaas, Clover or Alder will do."
Sep 21 1901	Established
Sep 21 1901	Aspaas, Sadie P.
Dec 31 1903	Reister, Conrad
Feb 7 1907	Huntington, William L.
Nov 27 1907	Crawford, Dollie
May 5 1909	Crawford, Dora N.
Oct 15 1913	Discontinued Mail to Hesperus

### Confirmed types of postal markings

1	CONTENT / COLO.	Mar 22 1910
	CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not visible on photocopy



## DIX

The post office named Dix had three periods of operation. The first two were at or near the same location. The third location was about two miles to the northwest and lasted for only four months. Such a short period of operation poses a question as to whether that site was ever in actual operation.

**DIX – Continued**

Settlement at the site of Dix began in 1879 with the arrival of George Thompson and a herd of cattle. Thompson settled on a branch of Cottonwood Creek in what became known as Thompson's Park. A number of other homesteaders followed Thompson to the area, one of whom, George Dick, operated a small store with a stock of groceries and whiskey. The location was on the main road from Mancos to Durango and just east of the topographic divide that is the now boundary between La Plata and Montezuma Counties.

George Dick became the first postmaster and gave his name, in phonetic form (Dick's = Dix) to the post office.

When construction of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad was extended from Dolores to Durango, the railroad bypassed Dix to the north and some 700 feet higher in elevation. The post office at Dix was discontinued in 1900 and when an attempt was made to reopen the office in 1907 the chosen location was to the north on the railroad. Since this was not a particularly easy road from the settlement to the railroad, I suspect that the populace at Dix did not favor the new site and preferred to make the longer trip to Hesperus where they could also purchase supplies.

The area around the original site of Dix is still ranchland with an active ranch in the proper location. The later site is on the abandoned railroad bed within the San Juan National Forest.

To reach the original Dix, drive east on US 160 about two and one-half miles from the Montezuma County line and turn south on Cherry Creek Road. The road descends to a creek in Thompson's Park. Dix was along the creek and to the east of Cherry Creek Road.

For the second site of Dix, begin on US 160 just west of the county line. Turn north on Forest Service Road 316. In 1994 Jim Ozment and I drove up this road until it gave out. We decided we were on the wrong road and came back out. At one point we could look down on the old railroad grade to where it makes a sharp curve around a projecting ridge. I believe the second Dix was in the area of that curve. Although the maps we were using at the time do not show a road, it may be possible to drive down the old railroad grade from where it crosses Forest Service Road 316. If you really wanted to make the effort, you could walk down the grade but I don't think there is anything left of Dix to be seen.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Feb 28 1890</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>NW/4 Sec 3 T35N 12W</b>
		<b>Proposed postmaster - George Dick</b>
<b>Apr 8 1890</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Apr 8 1890</b>		<b>Dick, George</b>
<b>Nov 2 1891</b>		<b>Olbert, George</b>
<b>Apr 24 1895</b>		<b>Kraiger, John</b>
<b>May 14 1895</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Hesperus</b>
<b>Jun 6 1895</b>		<b>Re-established</b>
<b>Jun 6 1895</b>		<b>Olbert, George</b>
<b>Sep 21 1900</b>		<b>Ordered closed</b>
<b>Sep 29 1900</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Hesperus</b>
<b>Apr 27 1907</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Sec 27 T36N R12W On Rio Grande Southern Railroad - village, Thompson's Park</b>
<b>Jul 20 1907</b>		<b>Re-established</b>
<b>Jul 20 1907</b>		<b>Davis, Ellen E</b>
<b>Nov 20 1907</b>		<b>Ordered closed</b>
<b>Dec 14 1907</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Mancos</b>

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM DIX**

## DURANGO

Durango is the principal town of La Plata County and the county seat since November 1881 when the county offices were moved from Parrott City. Durango was founded in September 1880 when advance construction crews of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad reached the Las Animas River on their way to Silverton. The first train came to Durango on August 5, 1881.

Initially the Rio Grande intended to make Animas City their station and camp. However, the citizens of Animas City refused to agree to the railroad's terms and, as the Rio Grande often did, they established a competing town a short distance from the reluctant older community. The Durango Trust was organized in 1879 to acquire coal deposits, agricultural land and a town site. 2,300 acres of land were purchased by the Trust.

Durango was an almost instant success. It became the location for the railroad's railyard and shops that served to maintain the western end of the branch line and the extension north along the Las Animas River to Silverton. Very early in its history, Durango was successful in having the county seat moved from Parrott City to Durango.

The discovery of commercial coal deposits in the area around Durango gave impetus to Durango's economy and resulted in the construction of smelters at Durango to process the ores that were shipped down the railroad from Silverton and other mines in San Juan County. Durango also became the major supply center for most of southwestern Colorado and the southern portion of the San Juan Mountains.



**Durango, Colorado – The former main post office building**  
Photograph by James L. Ozment  
September 17, 2000

The prosperous economy based largely on mining and smelting lasted well into the twentieth century. However in the 1950's the Denver and Rio Grande abandoned its road east of Durango. The portion from Durango to Silverton remained in operation but became almost exclusively a tourist scenic railroad.

**DURANGO – Continued**

The agricultural school at Fort Lewis was moved to Durango. Construction of the new campus began in 1955 and the Fort Lewis College opened for the fall term in September 1957 at the new campus on the tableland east of the city.

In the later half of the twentieth century, the popularity of the Durango-Silverton Railroad, the increasing size of the college and a climate that encouraged people to select Durango as a retirement community have turned Durango into a rapidly growing and attractive community. Durango is also considered as a gateway to nearby Mesa Verde National Park.

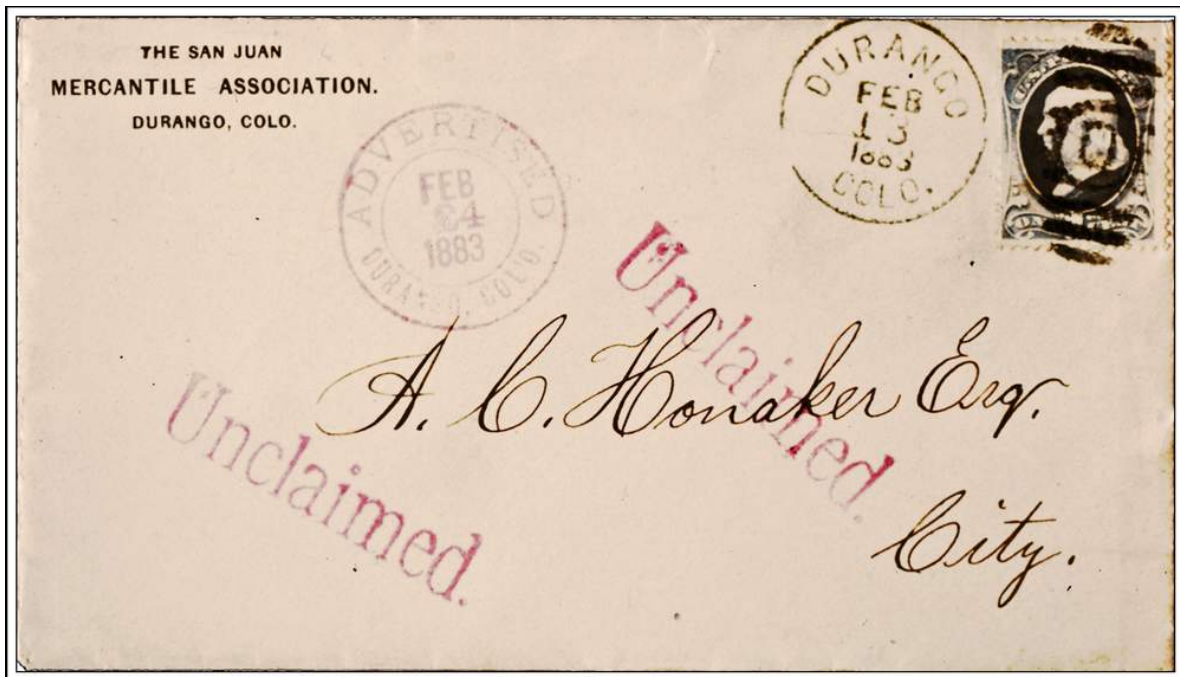
Much of the older business district remains with many shops, restaurants and hotels. Durango has also become a location for regional conventions and business gatherings.

There is some controversy about the naming of Durango. Most often it is attributed to former territorial governor Alexander Hunt, a principal of the Denver & Rio Grande, who it is claimed named the new settlement for Durango, Mexico where he had recently visited on railroad business. Another suggestion is that the name came from a pre-railroad coal mine that bore the name of Durango. Yet another thought is that it was first Urango, a Basque name for “watering town.” Spanish residents then gave it the same name as the place in Mexico adding the “D.”

The meaning of Durango is also controversial. Various translations are, “meeting of the way,” “enduring,” “watertown,” and “waterville.” There was an early suggestion to change the name to Palmer City but that idea was quickly rejected.

Durango is near the center of La Plata County on the Las Animas River and Highways US 160 and US 550. Durango also has an airport that officially opened on October 12, 1929 with an air show.

Latitude = 37:16:31 North Longitude = 107:52:46 West



**DURANGO / COLO.**  
**With ADVERTISED / DURANGO, COLO.**

**February 13, 1883 (Type 3)**  
**February 24, 1883 (Type 4) and “Unclaimed.”**

**DURANGO – Continued**  
**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 3 1880	---	NW/4 Sec 29 T35N R9W 1/2 mile east of the Animas River Animas City is 2-1/2 miles north Proposed postmaster - Clarence W. Cornell	
Nov 19 1880		Established	
Nov 19 1880		Keightly, William M.	
Apr 11 1882		Keightly, William M.	P&S [Apptd by President & confirmed by Senate]
Mar 17 1884	---	Sec 29 T35N R9W A station of the D&RG Railroad, on east side of railroad	
Apr 16 1886		Hilliker, Charles M.	P&S
Aug 12 1889		Sullivan, John C.	P
Dec 19 1889		Sullivan, John C.	P&S
Feb 5 1892	---	NW/4 Sec 29 T35N R9W	
Jun 12 1893		Stearns, Edward J.	P
Sep 25 1893		Stearns, Edward J.	P&S
Feb 14 1895		Schiffer, Harry	P&S
Mar 2 1899		Biggs, Samuel M.	P&S
Mar 31 1903		Raymond, George N.	P
Nov 19 1903		Raymond, George N.	P&S
May 26 1908		Parshall, Wesley W.	P&S
Jul 18 1912		Parshall, Wesley W.	P&S
Apr 18 1914	---	NE/4 Sec 29 T35N R9W 280 feet east side of D&RG Railroad	
Jun 27 1916		Frery, Oren F.	P&S
Oct 21 1921		McDevitt, John H. Jr.	P&S
Dec 14 1925		McDevitt, John H. Jr.	P&S
Dec 16 1929		McDevitt, John H. Jr.	P&S
Dec 16 1933		Hood, Oscar M.	Acting
Dec 31 1933		Hood, Oscar M.	Assumed charge
May 23 1934		Brennan, Michael J.	Nominated
Jun 12 1934		Brennan, Michael J.	Confirmed
Jul 9 1934		Brennan, Michael J.	Commissioned
Apr 29 1938		Brennan, Michael J.	Nominated
May 3 1938		Brennan, Michael J.	Confirmed
Jun 10 1938		Brennan, Michael J.	Commissioned
Jun 12 1938		Brennan, Michael J.	Appointed Presidential
Oct 31 1941	---	1076 Main Avenue Sec 29 T35N R9W	
Jul 23 1942		Brennan, Michael J.	Nominated
Aug 20 1942		Brennan, Michael J.	Confirmed
Aug 25 1942		Brennan, Michael J.	Appointed Presidential
Sep 18 1942		Brennan, Michael J.	Commissioned
Sep 30 1942		Brennan, Michael J.	Possession
Jul 31 1949		Sullivan, Frank M.	Acting & Assumed charge
Jul 6 1950		Parker, Schulyer C.	Nominated
Jul 28 1950		Parker, Schulyer C.	Confirmed
Aug 2 1950		Parker, Schulyer C.	Appointed Presidential
Sep 15 1950		Parker, Schulyer C.	Possession & Assumed charge
Apr 30 1965		Johnson, Emil G.	Assumed charge
May 3 1965		Johnson, Emil G.	Acting
May 8 1967		Johnson, Emil G.	Appointed, Confirmed & Commissioned
May 19 1967		Johnson, Emil G.	Possession
Dec 7 1973		Lemmon, Richard L.	Officer in charge
Dec 7 1973		Croshal, Frank	Officer in charge
Apr 15 1974		Maestas, Richard	Officer in charge
Apr 27 1974		Blanco, Frank M.	Appointed

**DURANGO – Continued**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	Durango Col. SL 00R 41.0x11.5	Feb 19 1881 Apr 27 1881 Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads; Cork, resembles a "D"
2	DURANGO / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	May 30 1881 Feb 6 1883 Hstp Negative X-roads
2.1	Durango, Colo. // REGISTERED CI 11P 29.5/18.0	Dec 18 1882 Hstp No killer
3	DURANGO / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Feb 6 1883 Jun 16 1883 Dplx Grid, oval with O
4	DURANGO, COLO. // ADVERTISED CI 11P 30.0/18.0	Feb 17 1883 Feb 24 1883 Hstp No killer
5	DURANGO / COL. CI 10P 27.0	Aug 24 1883 Jan 13 1887 Hstp Cork, 4-bar grid; Negative crossroads; Large oval 7-bar grid
5.1	DURANGO, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 27.0	Apr 29 (1884) Hstp No killer
6	DURANGO / COL. CI 10P 27.0	Dec 6 1886 Dec 23 1889 Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads
7	DURANGO / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Jul 8 1890 Dec 9 1895 Hstp Cork, Smudge
8	DURANGO / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Jun 15 1894 Aug 5 1896 Dplx Target, 4-ring oval
9	DURANGO, COLO. CI 10P 25.0	Sep 20 1896 Nov 11 1899 Dplx Grid, oval with 1 and circle
10	DURANGO, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 28.0	Jun 13 1887 Feb 26 1898 Hstp No killer, backstamp
11	DURANGO, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 27.0	Aug 15 1893 Apr 16 1895 Hstp No killer, backstamp [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
11.1	DURANGO, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 29.5/19.0	Feb 17 1897 Hstp No killer
12	DURANGO / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Nov 27 1900 Nov 6 1905 Dplx Grid, oval with 1, full year date
13	DURANGO, COLO. // REGISTERED IR 10P 37.0x30.0	Aug 3 1901 Nov 19 1901 Hstp Fancy, Black cork with various cross-cuts, shield shaped cds
14	DURANGO, COLO. / REC'D CI 10P 30.0	Feb 5 1900 Oct 28 1901 Hstp No killer
15	DURANGO, / COLO. // R.F.D. SL 00R 28.0x17.0	Feb 22 1901 Aug 15 1902 RFD 5 bars with 1
16.2	DURANGO / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Aug 18 1906 Dplx Grid, oval with 2
16.3	DURANGO / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Jan 18 1907 Feb 10 1907 Dplx Grid, oval with 3
17	DURANGO / COLO. CI 10P 22.0	Feb 12 1907 Sep 6 1907 Flag 13 star waving flag
18	DURANGO, COLO. CI 10P 22.0	Jan 5 1909 Jan 21 1921 Flag 13 star waving flag
19	DURANGO / COLO. CI 10P 22.0	Jan 12 1908 Dec 22 1910 Flag 13 star waving flag, split year date
20	DURANGO, COLO. / REGISTERED. CI 10P 30.0/19.0	Aug 22 1910 Hstp Cork, smudge
21	DURANGO, COLO. CI 10P 23.0	Sep 10 1920 Flag Slogan in flag: MESA VERDE / NATIONAL / PARK
22	DURANGO, COLO. CI 10P 25.0	Jun 3 1913 Jan 8 1920 Dplx Grid, oval with 1 and circle

DURANGO – Continued



4



5



5.1



6



7



8



9



10



11.1

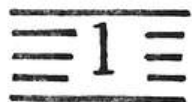
12

13

14

R. F. D.  
DURANGO,  
AUG 15 1902  
COLO.

15



1906



16.2



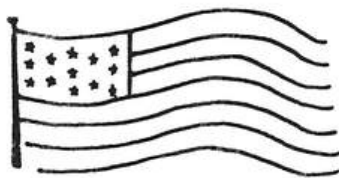
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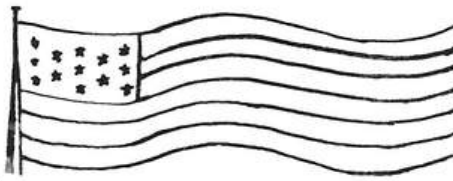
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17



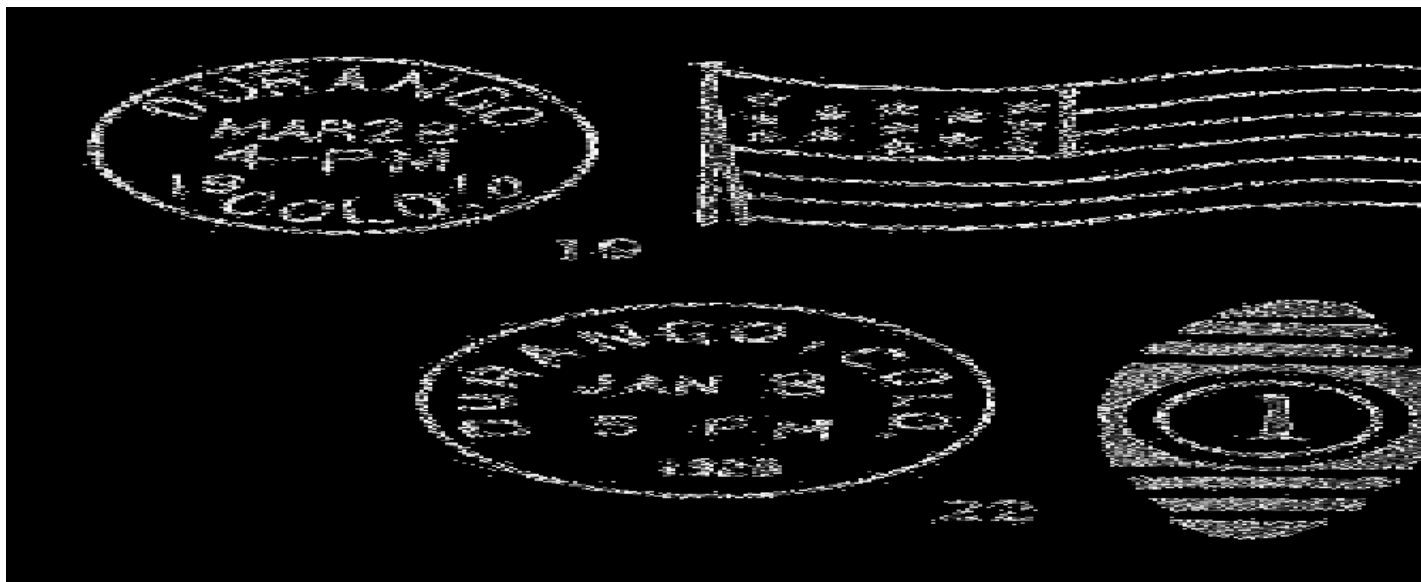
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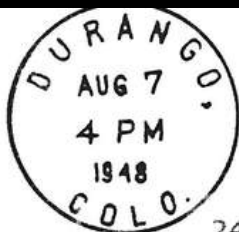
**DURANGO – Continued**

23	DURANGO, COLO. CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Oct 12 1929 Apr 17 1943
23.1	DURANGO, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 28.0/18.5	Hstp No killer	Mar 16 1934
24	DURANGO, / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, oval with 1	May 1 1937 Aug 7 1948
25	DURANGO, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 30.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Sep 8 1937 Mar 9 1939
26	DURANGO, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Dec 25 1941
27	DURANGO / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, pointed oval with 1	Dec 10 1951 Jan 10 1953
28	DURANGO, / COLO. CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Nov 13 1942 May 9 1958
28.1	DURANGO, / COLO. CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines ,	May 15 1958 Jun 14 1963 Last two digits of year date are smaller
29	DURANGO, COLO. CI 11P 35.0/27.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 6 1957
29.1	DURANGO, COLO. CI 10P 21.0	Mach, Smokey bear with Remember / Only <u>you</u> can / PREVENT / FOREST FIRES	Nov 23 1959
30	DURANGO, COLO. CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Mar 3 1962 Nov 10 1964
30.1	DURANGO, CO 81301 CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Jul 20 1966 May 26 1975
31	DURANGO, COLO. CI 11P32.0/24.0	Rolr 7 slanted wavy lines	Jun 30 1967
31.1	DURANGO, CO 81301 CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Apr 9 1974 Dec 14 1974
32	DURANGO, CO 81301 CI 11P 32.0/23.0	Rolr 7 wavy lines	Apr 2 1975 May 26 1975
33	DURANGO, CO 81301 CI 10P 21.5	Mach 7 wavy lines	Jan 14 1967 May 26 1975
34	DURANGO, CO / 81301 CI 10P 22.0	Mach Slogan in box with bars: MAIL EARLY – / ALWAYS USE / ZIP CODE	Mar 3 1976 Jun 3 1976
35	DURANGO, CO / 81301 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-26.0x26.0mm	Aug 1 1976
36	DURANGO, CO / 81301 CI 10P 21.0	Mach Slogan between bars: COLORADO / THE CENTENNIAL STATE / 1876 ----- 1976	Aug 6 1976 Dec 27 1976
37	DURANGO, CO / USPO CI 11P 27.0/17.5	Hstp No killer	Jul 27 1981
38	DURANGO, CO / 81301 CI 10P 20.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Apr 13 1976 May 21 1993
39	DURANGO, CO / 81301 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Dec 19 1991
39.1	DURANGO, CO / 81301 CI 10P 38.0	4bars S-28x21mm	Jan 31 1992
40	DURANGO, CO 81301 / USPS CI 10P 27.5/18.0	Hstp No killer	Apr 14 1992
41	DURANGO, CO / 81301-9998 CI 10P 38.0	Rolr, horizontal 9 bars	Apr 21 1992
41.1	DURANGO, CO / USPO CI 10P 29.0/18.0	Hstp No killer Distorted oval	Jan 27 1993

DURANGO – Continued



23.1



24



25



26



27



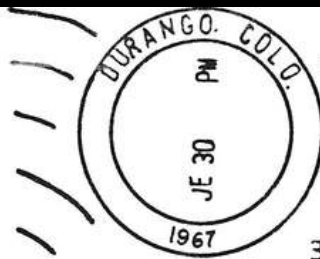
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28.1



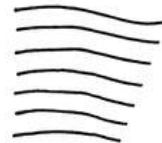
30.1



31

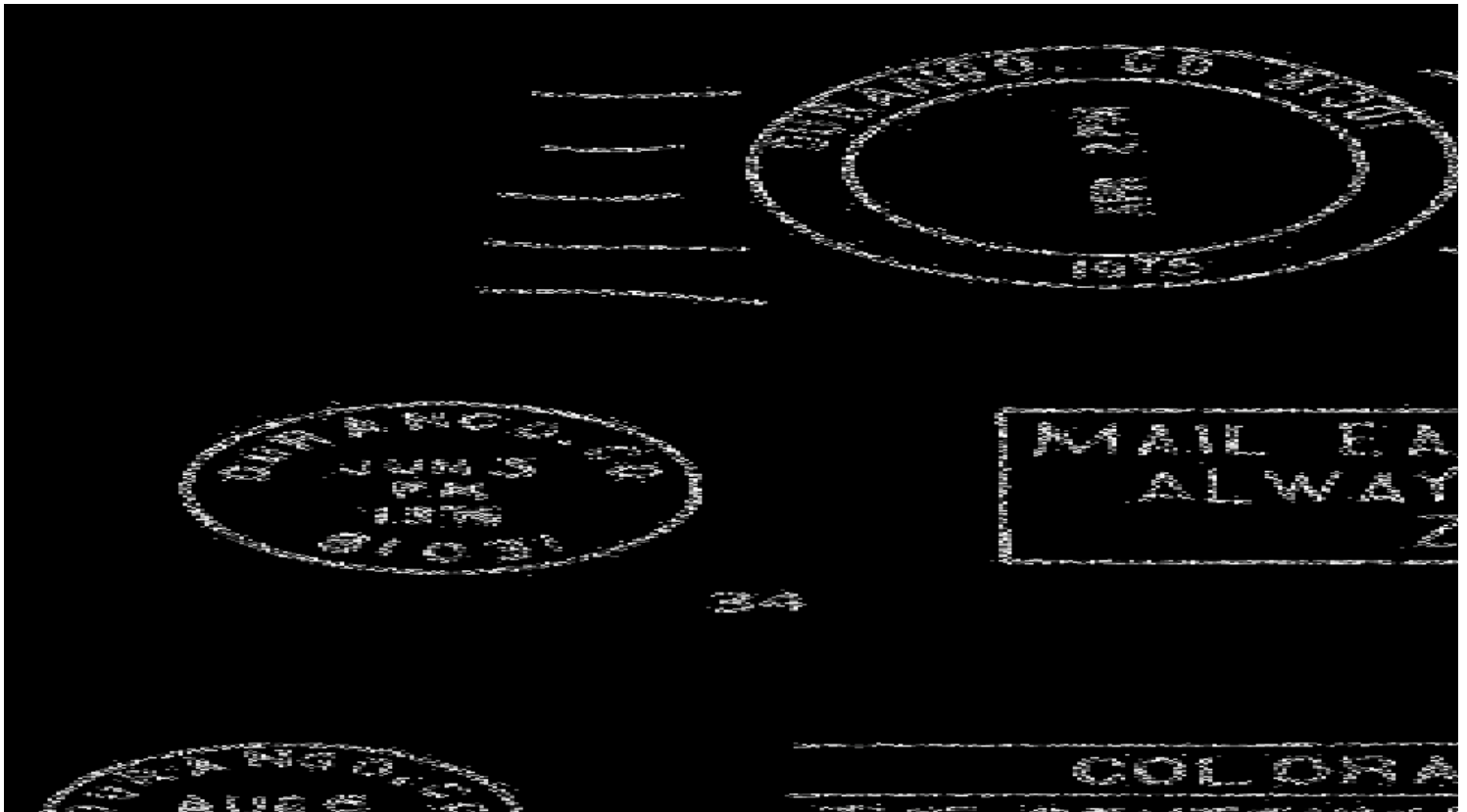


31.1



**DURANGO – Continued**

42	DURANGO, CO / 81301 CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-26x20mm	Apr 10 1993
43	DURANGO, CO / USPS CI 10P 30.0/21.0	Hstp No killer	Apr 20 1993
44	DURANGO CO 81301 CI 10P 23.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Apr 26 2004



36

THE CENTENNIAL STATE  
1876 ——— 1976



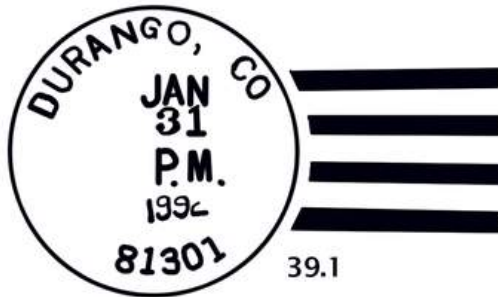
37



38



39

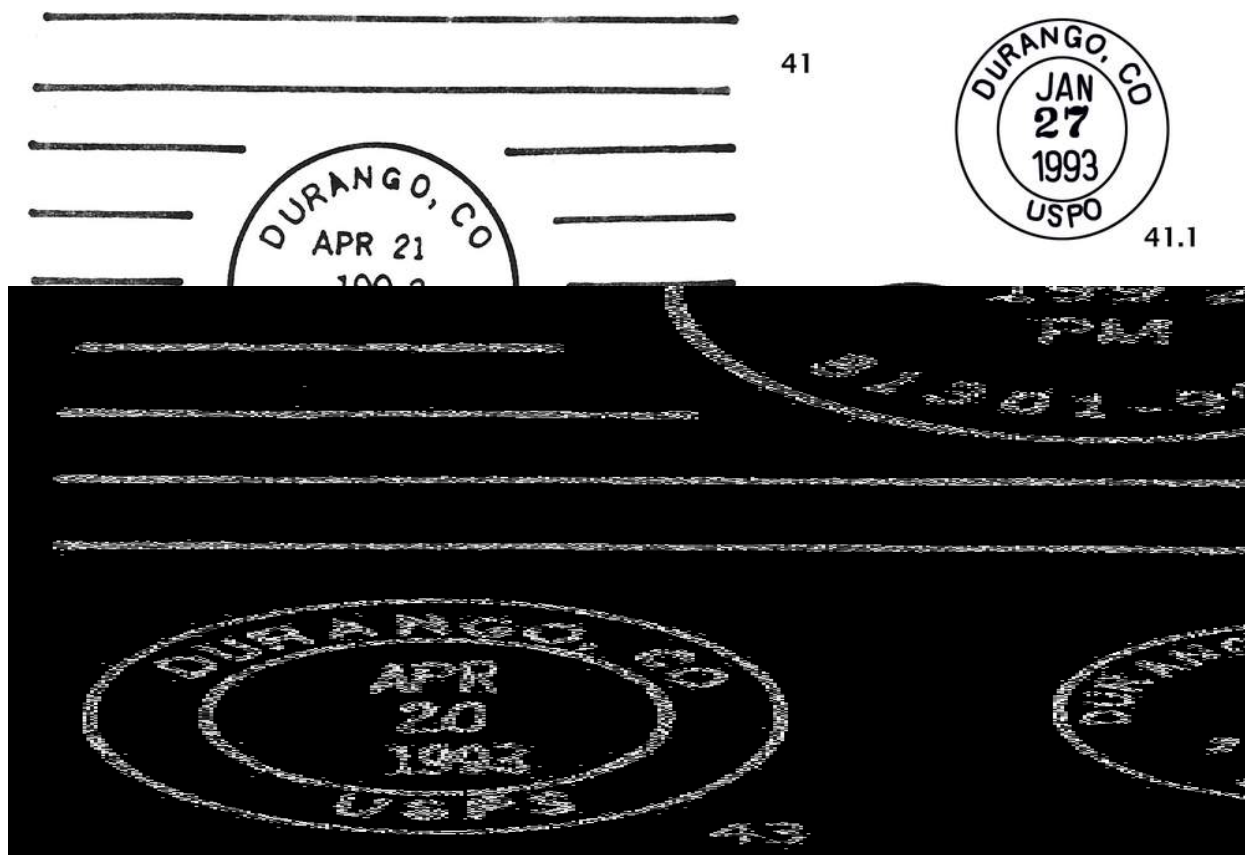


39.1



40

DURANGO – Continued



AUXILIARY MARKINGS

- A-1 durango -- RETURNED / TO / WRITER Feb 17 1883  
IR 00R 38.0x19.0 Hstp Pointing hand, on Durango drop letter
- A-2 durango -- Unclaimed. Feb 24 1883  
SL 00R 46.0x9.0 Hstp On local drop letter this date  
(with Type 4 marking)



DURANGO STATIONS

STATION NUMBER 1

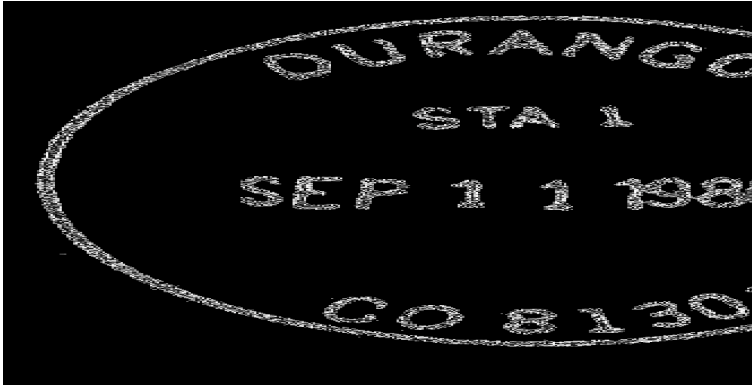
Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 29 1984      Established as a Contract Station

**DURANGO STATION NUMBER 1 – Continued**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |   |                |                         |
|---|---|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | DURANGO (STA 1) CO 81301<br>CI 10P 43.0 | Hstp No killer | Sep 11 1986 Apr 15 1987 |
| 2 | DURANGO #1 / CO 81301<br>CI 10P 46.0    | Hstp No killer | Sep 15 2000             |



**STATION NUMBER 2**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Apr 11 1985      Established as a Contract Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |  |                |                         |
|---|--|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | DURANGO (Sta. No. 2) CO 81301<br>CI 10P 43.0 | Hstp No killer | Sep 12 1986             |
| 2 | DURANGO (STA NO. 2) CO 81301<br>CI 10P 45.0  | Hstp No killer | Apr 20 1993             |
| 3 | DURANGO #2 (No. 373) CO 81301<br>CI 10P 48.0 | Hstp No killer | Jan 31 1996 Sep 15 2000 |



**STATION NUMBER 3**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Dec 10 1985      Established as a Contract Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |                                     |                |             |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1 | DURANGO, CO / STA. 3<br>CI 10P 29.5 | Hstp No killer | Dec 29 1988 |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|



**DURANGO STATIONS – Continued**

**DURANGO STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 15 1987      Established as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | DURANGO, (STA.) / COLO. :: 81301<br>CI 10P 26.0 | Aug 15 1987<br>Pict Scene - Reproduction of Durango & Silverton<br>RPO cancel, with ZIP code in grid |
|---|---|--|



**DURANGO & SILVERTON RAILWAY STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jul 11 1982      Operated as a Special Commemorative Station  
Aug 5 1991      Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | DURANGO / COLORADO //DURANGO & SILVERTON RAILWAY --<br>CI 00R 25.0           | Jul 11 1982<br>Pict Scene - Steam engine; Text - Durango /<br>Silverton Narrow Gauge / Branch / 100 Years                            |
| 2 | DURANGO / COLORADO //DURANGO & SILVERTON RAILWAY --<br>CI 21P 25.0/24.0/20.0 | Aug 5 1991<br>Pict Scene - Sections of track; Text -<br>CELEBRATING / 110 YEARS / Narrow Gauge/<br>Railroad Operations :: 1881 /1991 |



**FORT LEWIS COLLEGE STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Replaced the College Heights Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |  |                               |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 | DURANGO CO FORT LEWIS COLLEGE STA. 81301-9998 / USPS<br>CI 11P 28.0/18.0 | Oct 13 1992<br>Hstp No killer |
|---|--|-------------------------------|

**DURANGO STATIONS – Continued**

**FORT LEWIS COLLEGE STATION – Continued**

- |     |   |                |             |
|-----|---|----------------|-------------|
| 1.1 | DURANGO CO FORT LEWIS COLLEGE STA 81301-9998 / USPS<br>CI 11P 30.0/19.0 | Hstp No killer | Nov 4 1993  |
| 2   | DURANGO CO FT. LEWIS COLLEGE STA. 81301-3999 / USPS<br>CI 11P 30.0/20.5 | Hstp No killer | Sep 15 2000 |



**4 CORNERS NAPUS STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 4 2002 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Durango CO 81301 (4 Corners / NAPUS / Station)<br>CI 11P 26.5/17.5 | Jun 4 2002<br>Pict Scene - Tree, building and mountain profile;<br>Text - Greetings from / AMERICA |
|---|--|--|



**HERMOSA STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Apr 17 1995 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |   |                |             |
|---|---|----------------|-------------|
| 1 | HERMOSA STA DURANGO CO 81301 / USPS<br>CI 11P 28.5/19.0 | Hstp No killer | Apr 17 1995 |
|---|---|----------------|-------------|



**DURANGO STATIONS – Continued**

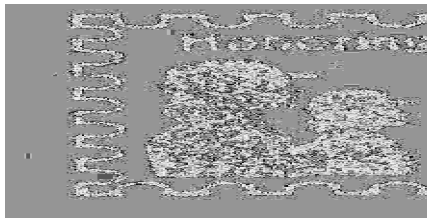
**HONORING OUR VETERANS STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 8 2004 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1 Durango CO 81301 // Honoring Our Veterans Station Nov 8 2004  
RC 10T 48.0x24.0 Pict Scene - Two silhouettes; Text - Women in Military Service



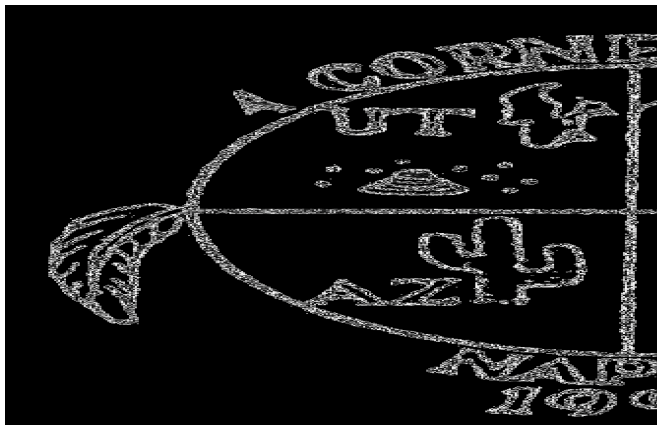
**NAPUS STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 3 1990 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1 DURANGO, CO / 81301 // NAPUS STATION Jun 3 1990  
SL 00R 32.0x15.0 Pict Scene - Indian style ornament at left;  
Text - 4 CORNERS USA / NAPUS / 1990



**PHILATELIC DEPOT STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 12 1988 Established as a station in the Main Post Office

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1 DURANGO, COLORADO / PHILATELIC DEPOT / 81301 Feb 12 1988 Jun 30 2000  
CI 10H 40.0 Pict Scene – Skier, steam engine,  
Indian ruins, three arcs between T-S and Zip

**DURANGO STATIONS – Continued**  
**PHILATELIC DEPOT STATION – Continued**



**PURGATORY STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Dec 10 1985	Established as a Contract Station
-----	Discontinued

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM PURGATORY STATION

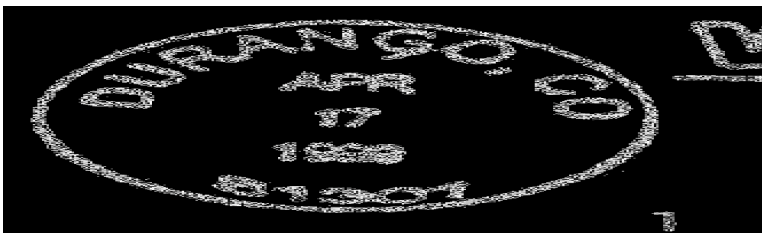
**WAL\*MART STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Apr 17 1999	Operated as a Special Commemorative Station
-------------	---

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | DURANGO, CO / 81307 :: WAL*MART / STATION | Apr 17 1999   |
|   | CI 10P 25.0                               | Pict Scene - Sylvester, Tweety, Daffy Duck,<br>Bugs Bunny |



**ELCO**

Elco was the second and southernmost of the communities established in the Ute Strip south of Durango and along the Las Animas River. Like its neighbor Castelar to the north, Elco was on the west side of the river but the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Farmington Branch was on the east side. The railroad established a station opposite Elco but named it Bondad. The name Bondad has gradually supplanted that of Elco, although the Elco Cemetery is shown on the USGS map of La Plata County.

Elco was a farming community depending on the railroad for supplies and shipping of produce. There are still a few residences and older buildings at the location and the abandoned Bondad store is a mile to the south.

**ELCO**

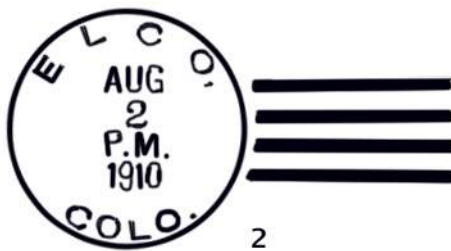
Elco is on La Plata County Road 213, north of US 550. Please refer to Castelar for directions to Elco. The proper spelling of the name of this community is Elco, not Elko, which was a post office in Gunnison County (1881-1884).

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 22 1905	--	NE/4 Sec 36 T33N R10W 1/4 mile west of the Las Animas River 1 mile west of Florida Creek
Jul 28 1905		Established
Jul 28 1905		Frazier, Emma
Sep 3 1913		Wilson, Olive M.
May 31 1914		Discontinued Mail to Durango

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	ELCO, / COLO. CI 10P ???	May 10 1907 Dec 10 1908 Doane Type 3 with 1 [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
2	ELCO, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	May 25 1910 Jul 31 1911 4bars S-??x13mm



**EMERY**

Emery was a small mining community near the head of Junction Creek and adjacent to the Checkmaker and Oro Fino Mines. After the turn of the century the Neglected proved to be the best mine in the area but it was not rich enough to overcome a serious transportation problem.

The road to Emery begins on 25th Street in Durango which, at the edge of the city becomes La Plata County Road 204. It is sixteen miles to the Emery site. The pavement ends a short distance beyond the city limits and the road begins a steep climb out of the Animas Valley. For the first seven miles from US 550 the road is good. At that point you should be at Animas Overlook. From the Overlook the view north up the Animas Valley is spectacular and alone is worth the trip. Beyond the Overlook the road narrows and is not as well maintained. There are side roads but stay with the most traveled route. At one point the road crosses the face of Slide Rock Mountain and might give you second thoughts about continuing. Beyond there, although still narrow and at times steep it is less threatening. At approximately sixteen miles you will reach a small, level area on the crest of a ridge. The road forks at this point. The Neglected Mine was on the road to the left and the other mines were along the right hand fork. Some barely recognizable mining activity is all that remains at Emery. This is a dead-end road so you will have to reverse your route to get back to Durango.

The Geographic Site Location Report indicates that the first choice for a post office name was Oro Fino, undoubtedly for the mine of the same name. That was not approved and the office was named Emery, the first name of the proposed postmaster.

**EMERY – Continued****Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 7 1891	---	SE/4 Sec 20 T37N R10W Proposed postmaster - Emery Brown
Feb 5 1892		Established
Feb 5 1892		Brown, Emery
Nov 11 1897		Discontinued Papers to Durango

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM EMERY**

**FALFA**

In November 1924 the name of this post office was changed from Griffith to Falfa. It is generally understood that the name is a contraction of Alfalfa, however there is no good explanation for implementing the chosen form. It is true that there was an early post office in Weld County named Alfalfa and another in Las Animas County that had been discontinued the previous year. Perhaps it is true that the shortening to Falfa was to avoid any possible confusion with the Las Animas County Alfalfa.

Alfalfa in Las Animas County was at best no more than a ranch post office and I have some doubts that it would have ever received enough mail to potentially cause confusion.

Falfa, or Griffith, was a few miles southeast of Durango, on Florida Mesa. The land is reasonably level and is excellent agricultural property. Large crops of alfalfa were and are grown in the area, hence the name.

The location is on the border of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation and this causes problems in the interpretation of the Federal Land Survey designations given in Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports. Under normal conditions when the sections are in the same township and range, a location in Section 2 (1926) would be northeast of a location in Section 7 (1940). However in this case the reverse is true. The reason is that Township 34 is split. North of the reservation, Sections 1-18 are numbered in the normal fashion (Sections 13-18 are partial sections). South of the boundary, the numbering in Township 34 North begins anew, but sections 1-6 contain only a small portion of the normal 640 acres.

To reach the sites of Falfa/Griffith, drive east from Durango about six miles to Colorado Highway 172. The original location (1940) of Falfa was at the intersection of US 160 and Colorado 172, specifically the northeast corner of the intersection.

The second location of Falfa is one mile to the south of US 160 on Colorado 172. There is a group of buildings and residences at both of these locations.

Latitude = 37:12:47 North Longitude = 107:47:25 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

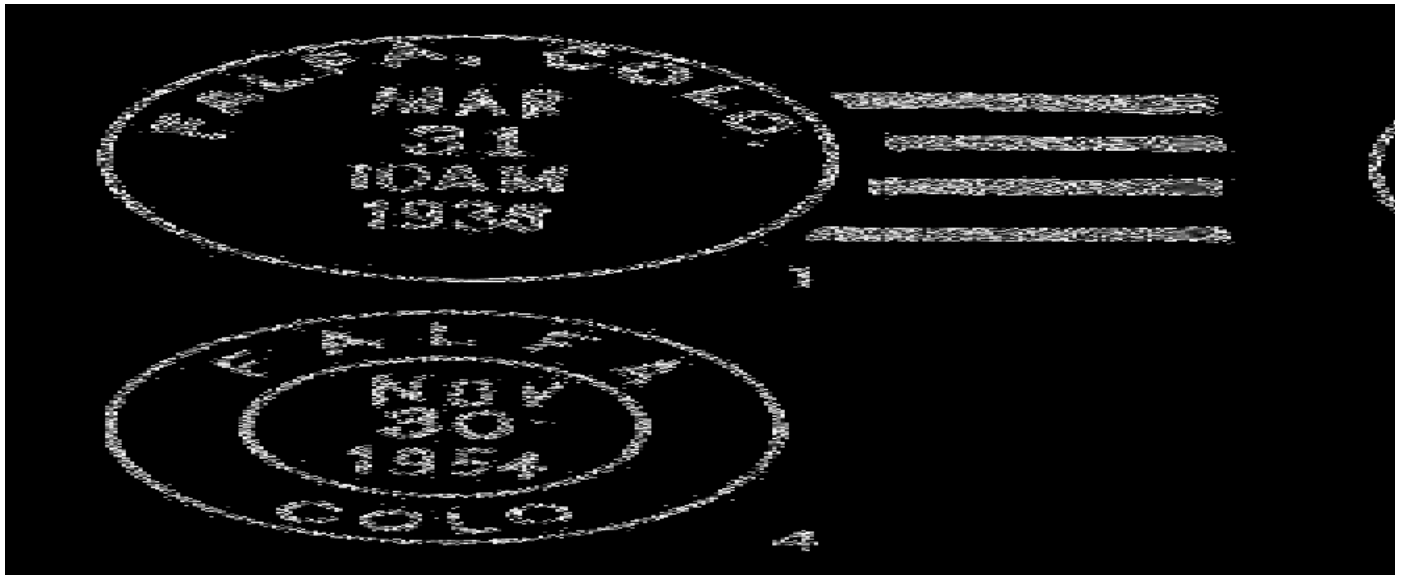
Dec 2 1909	Laughren Mrs. Hattie	Confirmed
Dec 22 1909	Laughren Mrs. Hattie	Commissioned
Jan 10 1910	Laughren Mrs. Hattie	Assumed charge
Nov 19 1924	Name changed from Griffith	
Nov 11 1926	---	Lot 2 Sec 2 T34N R9W 300 feet south of the D&RG Railroad
Jun 28 1934	Huth, Mrs. Sunshine	Assumed charge ???
Aug 1 1934	Self, Ray	Assumed charge
Aug 20 1934	Self, Ray	Acting
Sep 14 1934	Huth, Mrs. Sunshine	Acting
Jun 4 1935	McGuigan, Miss Teresa A.	Confirmed
Jun 25 1935	McGuigan, Miss Teresa A.	Commissioned
Jun 30 1935	McGuigan, Miss Teresa A.	Assumed charge

**FALFA – Continued**

Aug 27 1940 --- SW/4 NW/4 Sec 7 T34N R8W One mile north of the D&RG Railroad  
 Oct 22 1941 --- SW/4 NW/4 Sec 7 T34N R8W Florida River is 2-1/4 miles east of post office  
 300 feet south of the D&RG Railroad  
 Nov 3 1954 Ordered closed  
 Nov 30 1954 Discontinued Mail to Durango

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	FALFA, COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x18mm	Nov 28 1931 Aug 6 1938
2	FALFA / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Sep 1 1939 Apr 6 1943
3	FALFA / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-23x19mm	Oct 17 1946 Nov 30 1954
4	FALFA / COLO. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Nov 30 1954



**FLORIDA**

To be honest, I am uncertain as to where in La Plata County the Florida Post Office was located. There are at least three possibilities, which will be discussed below. I do favor one, unfortunately of the three sites it is the one I have not visited.

Ray Newburn, in *Postal History of the Colorado San Juan* favors a location on the east side of the Florida River where the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad crossed the river. The post office closed just before the railroad reached the river crossing. That location is still identified on some maps as Florida.

Leanne Boyd and Glenn Carson, in their book *Colorado Ghost Towns, Volume II* recognize two locations placing one where the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad crossed the Florida River and the other, derived from an 1885 map, five miles to the north. Although it had been discontinued by 1885 this northern location is compatible with the location given in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports. It is the site that I have not visited.

The third location is one that I placed on my La Plata County “work map.” It is about three and one-half miles due north of US 160 and the site of Falfa at the junction of US 160 and Colorado 172. Reviewing that location, I can not determine why I plotted Florida at that site. Perhaps it was a plain error in plotting.

**FLORIDA – Continued**

I have reviewed several maps from my personal files. The 1877 *Post Route Map* of the Post Office Department shows the Florida Post Office at a location some distance east of the river at a place that would correspond to the location given in the Geographic Site Location Report. The 1880 version of *Nell's New Topographic & Township Map of the State of Colorado* also shows that location. The 1885 version of the Nell's map repeats the location but also shows a Florida at the railroad crossing of the Florida River.

I will perpetuate the controversy by giving directions to all three locations.

To reach the location on the old Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, begin at the junction of US 160 and Colorado 172 and drive south on Colorado 172 to the original site of Falga. Turn east on La Plata County Road 221. A quarter-mile east of Falga turn south on a dirt road that angles slightly east of south but soon turns to a solid southeast direction. In a little over a mile, before turning due east, this road almost intersects Colorado 172. Stay on the dirt road, which soon turns back to the north, following the old railroad grade. The road crosses the Florida River on the old railroad bridge. The Florida Station was on the east side of the river. There are buildings on the west side but nothing close by on the east side of the river.

To reach the Post Office Department location, begin at the same intersection on US 160. Drive north one mile. Turn east for one mile to where the road turns north for about a half-mile. From there the road soon crosses the Florida River and intersects another road on the east side of the river. The road you have been on may or may not continue straight across. It might require a short jog southeast before continuing to the northeast. About two miles from this last intersection will put you in the southeast corner of section 28 where the Geographic Site Location Report locates the Florida Post Office. From examination of the USGS La Plata County Map this is small valley with a couple of small ponds but no buildings are indicated on the map.

The third location, my mystery location, is also reached by starting at the same intersection on US 160. Drive due north about three miles and cross the Florida River. You will then intersect the same road mentioned in the directions to site two. Turn left and continue about another mile to where that road crosses the Florida River. There is large horse ranch in the valley at that point and that would coincide with the location spotted on my map.

After all of this discussion and review, I find that for the site of the Florida Post Office I favor the second location described above, which is the one supported by the Post Office Department records.

Locations one and three are on the Florida River in good agricultural land. From the USGS map, location two also seems to be in a valley suitable for agriculture. There is no present indication that any of the three was more than a few ranch and farm buildings.

Perhaps later this year I will have a chance to revisit this area.

Latitude = 37:12:54 North Longitude = 107:45:07 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jul 18 1877	---	SE/4 Sec 28 T35N R8W
Aug 8 1877		Established
Aug 8 1877		Hampton, Columbus E.
Mar 31 1881		Discontinued

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM FLORIDA**

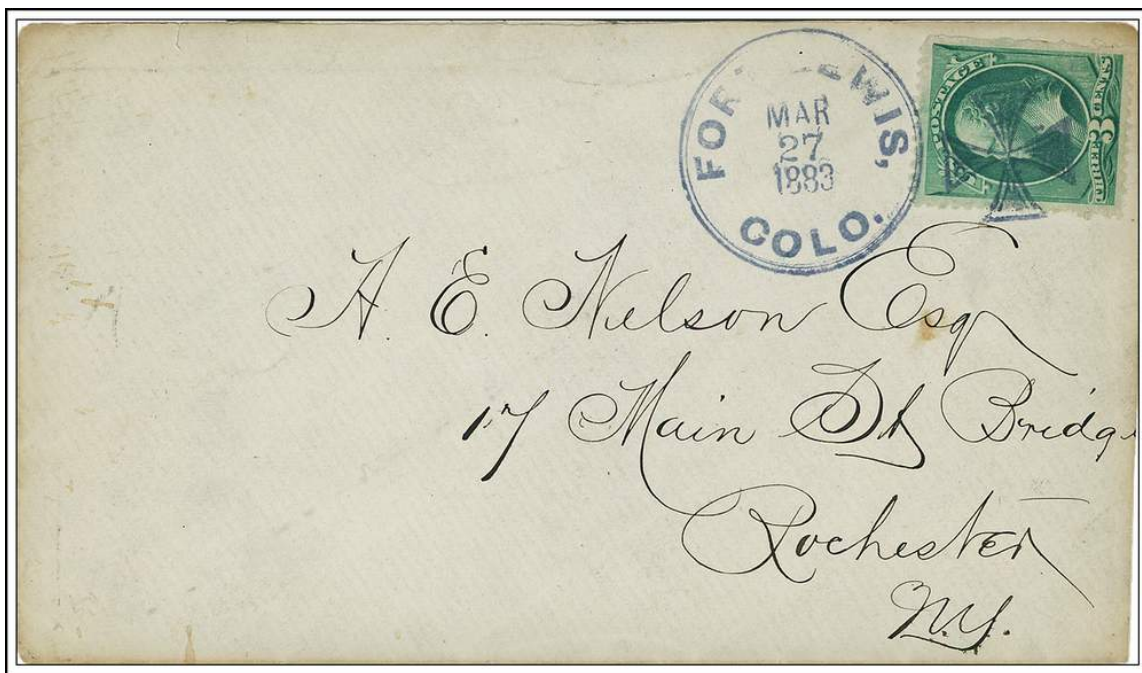
**FORT LEWIS**

Fort Lewis was established in October 17, 1878 at Pagosa Springs. By 1880 the Indian presence had become concentrated in the western portion of the San Juans and soon on the newly established reservation that included a large strip of land along the southern border of Colorado. Thus on August 15, 1880 orders were issued to move Fort Lewis west to a site on the La Plata River. By 1891 the need for a military post in southwestern Colorado had passed and in September of that year Fort Lewis was abandoned.

The military reservation was transferred to the Department of the Interior and an Indian school was established at Fort Lewis. The school lasted until 1910.

On January 15, 1911, an Act of the 18th General Assembly of the State established a School of Agriculture, Mechanical, and Household Arts to be a part of the Agricultural College System of the state to be managed by the State Board of Agriculture. Eventually the school would evolve into Fort Lewis Junior College. In 1956 construction of a new campus began in Durango and in 1962 Fort Lewis College became a four-year degree granting institution.

With the departure of the college from the Fort Lewis site, the property was converted to the San Juan Basin Experimental Station and in that way continues to serve the state's agriculture.



**FORT LEWIS , / COLO.    March 27, 1883    With Maltese Cross killer**

Fort Lewis was named for Lieutenant Colonel William H. Lewis, a Union Army veteran who was killed in a skirmish in Kansas with Cheyenne Indians in a month prior to the establishment of the fort.

The site of Fort Lewis is four and one-half miles south of Hesperus and on the west side of Colorado Highway 140. The entrance to the San Juan Basin Research Center, Colorado Agricultural Experimental Station is well marked. Several of the buildings at the site likely date from the days the Indian school and perhaps even from the time of the active Fort Lewis. They do exhibit a definite "military style".

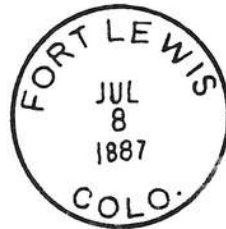
When Fort Lewis was abandoned, the post office was moved north to Hesperus.

**FORT LEWIS – Continued****Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 20 1880	---	No description On west side of La Plata River Three names were offered: Grafton, La Plata and Fort Lewis Fort Lewis was accepted
Oct 5 1880		Established
Oct 5 1880		Price, John G.
Apr 8 1885	---	SE/4 Sec 3 T34N R11W On the west side of the La Plata River
Aug 11 1891		Spears, Miss Lillian
Aug 28 1891		Bailey, Daniel B.
Oct 10 1891		Moved to Hesperus

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	FORT LEWIS, / COLO. CI 20P 28.0/26.0	Hstp Target	May 22 1881 Sep 1 1882
2	FORT LEWIS, / COLO. CI 20P 32.0/29.0	Hstp Fancy, Outlined Maltese Cross	Mar 15 1883 Jun 10 1885
3	FORT LEWIS / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Hstp Target	Dec 7 1886 Feb 14 1889
4	FORT LEWIS, / COL. CI 10P 26.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge	Feb 19 1890 May 22 1890

**GARLAND**

The La Plata County file of Geographic Site Location Reports contains a 1907 document for a proposed Garland Post Office. However, there is no entry in the Records of Postmaster Appointments and seems unlikely that this office was ever authorized.

The proposed location plots a mile north and a mile west of Redmesa and it may be that this application was discarded in favor of the application of a post office for Redmesa, which opened in April 1907.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jan 11 1907 --- SW/4 Sec 8 T33N R12W

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM GARLAND**

**GRIFFITH**

The Geographic Site Location Report for Griffith may provide an explanation for some of the confusion about the names applied to this post office. The report shows that the original name requested was Falfa, again a shortened version of Alfalfa. This was rejected in favor of Griffith. This does make some sense as The Alfalfa Post Office in Las Animas County was in operation at the time the Falfa application was submitted.

**GRIFFITH – Continued**

The community was named for D. S. Griffith, a retired army surgeon who for many years practiced medicine in Durango and claimed the first homestead on Florida Mesa.

Please refer back to the discussion of Falfa for the location of Griffith and directions to the site. There are still several residences in the vicinity of the location, which after the change in name became the first site of Falfa.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 26 1909	---	Lot 1 Sec 2 T34N R9W Florida River is 4 miles east of post office
Dec 2 1909		Established
Dec 2 1909		Laughren, Hattie A.
Nov 19 1924		Name changed to Falfa

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	GRIFFITH, / COLO.	Sep 15 1910 Feb -- 1914
	CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x13mm



**GROMMET**

Grommet was a small agricultural community at White's Spur of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. The community took its name from that of its first postmaster, Margaret A. Grommet. Additional suggested names were Sites and Purcell.

In 1908 the community and the post office names were changed to Oxford. The common explanation for the name change was: "It sounded better."

The directions to Grommet (Oxford) once again begin at the intersection of US Highway 160 and Colorado Highway 172. Drive south through Falfa. At the entrance to the La Plata County Airport, Highway 172 turns east. At about two miles from the airport and after a short jog to the southeast, you should be at Oxford, the site of Grommet.

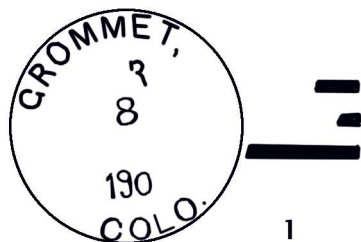
**Chronology of the Post Office**

Mar 21 1904	---	SE/4 Sec 21 T34N R8W 100 feet northeast of D&RG, White's Spur
		Proposed postmaster - Margaret A. Grommet
May 3 1904		Established
May 3 1904		Grommet, Margaret A.
Nov 8 1904		Smith, George W.
Feb 9 1905		Grommet, Charles A.
Jun 5 1905		Fowler, James A.
Mar 22 1906		Gibson, Edwin Y.
Jan 13 1908		Name changed to Oxford

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	GROMMET, / COLO.	--- -8 1906?
	CI 10P 31.0	4bars, may be a Doane

## GROMMET – Continued



## HERMOSA

Hermosa was established in 1874. For much of its existence Hermosa has been a small agricultural community growing hay and some produce crops. With the development of the mines to the north at Silverton, Hermosa became a stage station on the Wrightman Toll Road into the mining country. And, for a brief period Hermosa was a construction camp for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad while it was building from Durango to Silverton.

In recent years the economy of Hermosa has gradually shifted from agriculture to a service base. Travel on US Highway 550 and the influx of retirement and second homes are becoming the dominant factors of the local economy. Hermosa has always been a small community but it does have several convenience style businesses that serve the residents and tourists.

Hermosa (hermoso) is a Spanish word meaning, “beautiful” or “handsome”. A word that aptly describes the location in the broad, fertile Las Animas Valley just north of where Hermosa Creek flowing from the northwest, joins the Las Animas River.

The community of Hermosa is along and to the west of US Highway 550 some eight miles north of Durango. Today, most of the community is centered on Hermosa Creek. According to the Geographic Site Location Report the post office was a short distance northeast of Hermosa Creek. Four-tenths of a mile north of Hermosa Creek there is a group of older buildings on the west side of US 550 which may relate to the early days of Hermosa.

Latitude = 37:24:55 North Longitude = 107:50:05 West

## Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 26 1875 ---	On unsurveyed lands 1 mile west of the Las Animas River 1/2 mile north of Hermosa Creek
Jul 27 1876	Established
Jul 26 1876	Fuller, Arthur A.
Jun 22 1882	Sackett, Mrs. Elizabeth B.
Jul 17 1882	Sackett, Mrs. Elizabeth B.
Jun 11 1884	Hight, John P.
Dec 4 1885	West, Willis B.
May 25 1888	Cram, Charles F.
Mar 21 1890	Gaines, Cora D.
Dec 21 1895	Discontinued Mail to Trimble
Feb 14 1896 ---	NW/4 Sec 2 T36N R9W 1 mile west of the Animas River 1/2 mile north of Hermosa Creek Proposed postmaster - Sarah A. Winner
Mar 10 1896	Re-established
Mar 10 1896	Winner, Sarah A.
Nov 10 1896	Discontinued Mail to Trimble
Dec 23 1896	Re-established
Dec 23 1896	Crenshaw, Maud

**HERMOSA – Continued**

Apr 4 1900                      Holden, Hattie J.  
 Sep 15 1900                  Ordered closed  
 Sep 29 1900                  Discontinued Papers to Durango



**Hermosa Colo. / April 1, 1891                  Manuscript postmark, second period of use**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |                               |                          |                        |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Hermosa Colo.<br>MS           | Mscp Pen cancel          | Jun 7 1877 Feb 11 1881 |
| 2 | HERMOSA / COL.<br>CI 10P 24.5 | Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm | Oct 3 1879 Aug 25 1883 |
| 3 | Hermosa Colo.<br>MS           | Mscp Pen cancel          | Apr 4 1891             |
| 4 | HERMOSA / COLO<br>CI 10P 27.0 | Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm | Oct 1 1899             |

*Hermosa Colo.*  
*2/11/81*

1



2

*Hermosa Colo.*  
*April 1, 1891*

3



4

**HESPERUS**

Hesperus is a Latin name for the evening star (Venus). In mythology Hesperus was the son or brother of Atlas. There is also a connection of the name with Greek mythology.

Settlement at Hesperus began in 1882 with the opening of a coal mine by John A. Porter. The mine and the town were named for 13,225-foot Hesperus Peak, which is some 12 miles north of the town. The Hayden Survey named the peak.

Although activity at Hesperus began in 1882 it is surprising that there was no post office there until October 1891 when the post office at Fort Lewis was closed and moved to Hesperus.

Coal mining at Hesperus continued until well into the twentieth century and there is still some minor mining activity. Hesperus also served as a supply center for surrounding agricultural and lumbering activity. Hesperus was a station on the Rio Grande Southern Railroad and near the junction point for a branch line northward to Mayday and the mines along the upper La Plata River which also relied on Hesperus for supplies.

In the twenty-first century Hesperus is a small community west of Durango at the junction of US Highway 160 and Colorado Highway 140. There are a number of residences and a few small businesses serving the local population and travelers.

Latitude = 37:17:10 North Longitude = 108:02:20 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 10 1891	Post office moved from Fort Lewis	
Oct 10 1891	Bailey, Daniel B.	
Feb 18 1892	---	NW/4 NW/4 Sec 14 T35N R11W 1/4 mile west of the La Plata River
Nov 15 1894	Anderson, Charles	Declined
Feb 28 1901	---	From: SW/4 Sec 14 T35N R11W To: SW/4 Sec 14 T35N R11W A move 5 rods northeast of a previous location 90 rods southeast of the La Plata River Proposed postmaster - Daniel B. Bailey
Apr 30 1914	---	NE/4 SW/4 Sec 14 T35N R11W 250 yards east of the La Plata River 562 feet 8 inches southwest of the D&RG
May 11 1915	Bailey, Alvia	
Sep 2 1919	Lowell, Ruth M.	
Apr 4 1920	---	SW/4 Sec 14 T35N R11W About 500 feet west of the Denver & Rio Grande 700 feet east of the La Plata River
May 31 1921	Morgan, Henry	Acting
Jan 14 1922	Morgan, Henry	Appointed
Sep 12 1925	Gifford, William I.	Acting
Jan 15 1926	Gifford, William I.	Appointed
Feb 12 1927	Gifford, Richard A.	Acting
Apr 11 1927	Gifford, Richard A.	Appointed
Jul 1 1928		Office made Presidential
Dec 8 1928	Gifford, Richard A.	P&S
Jul 1 1931		Office relegated
Aug 17 1931	Gifford, Richard A.	Confirmed
Oct 29 1931	Gifford, Richard A.	Commissioned
Nov 1 1941	---	NE/4 Sec 14 T35N R11W La Plata River 1/8 mile south of post office
Feb 3 1942	Gifford, Mrs. Kathryn D.	Assumed charge
Feb 13 1942	Gifford, Mrs. Kathryn D.	Acting
Aug 13 1942	Gifford, Mrs. Kathryn D.	Confirmed
Sep 2 1942	Gifford, Mrs. Kathryn D.	Commissioned
Apr 18 1943	Archuleta, Mrs. Lena	Assumed charge
Apr 23 1943	Archuleta, Mrs. Lena	Acting
Sep 20 1944	Dunn, Mrs. Ethel	Appointed
Oct 31 1944	Dunn, Mrs. Ethel	Assumed charge

**HESPERUS – Continued**

Jul 24 1946	Dunn, Mrs. Ethel	Nominated
Jul 31 1946	Dunn, Mrs. Ethel	Confirmed
Aug 1 1946	Dunn, Mrs. Ethel	Appointed Presidential
Oct 23 1946	Dunn, Mrs. Ethel	Assumed charge
Jun 30 1960	Briggs, Otis E.	Assumed charge
Jul 6 1960	Briggs, Otis E.	Acting
Feb 24 1961	Dennison, Mrs. Clara W.	Assumed charge
Feb 28 1961	Dennison, Mrs. Clara W.	Acting
Mar 18 1964	Dennison, Mrs. Clara W.	Confirmed
Mar 26 1964	Dennison, Mrs. Clara W.	Commissioned
Apr 10 1964	Dennison, Mrs. Clara W.	Assumed charge
May 26 1972	Benton, Mrs. Ernie Marie	Officer in charge
Jun 24 1972	Benton, Mrs. Ernie Marie	Appointed
Jun 24 1972	Benton, Mrs. Ernie Marie	Assumed charge



**HESPERUS / COLO.**

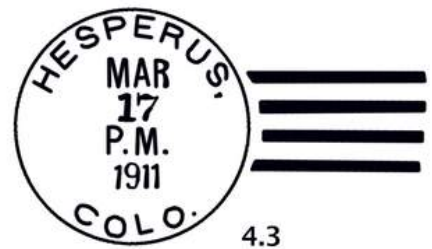
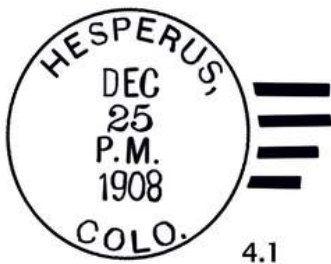
**November 14, 1896**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

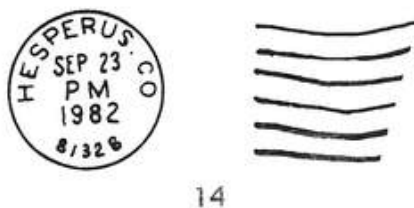
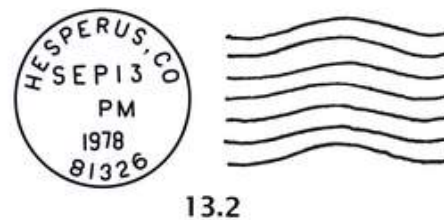
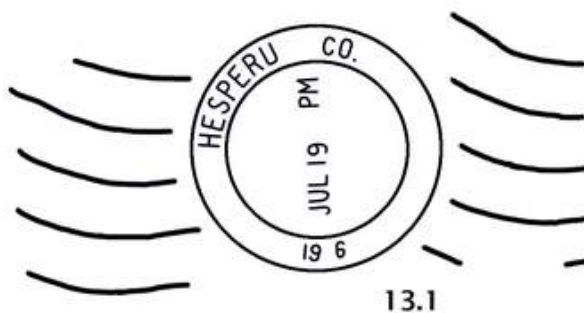
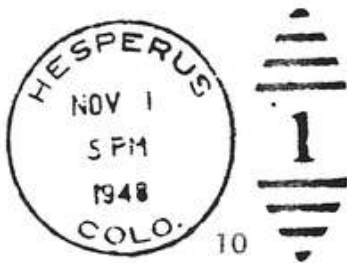
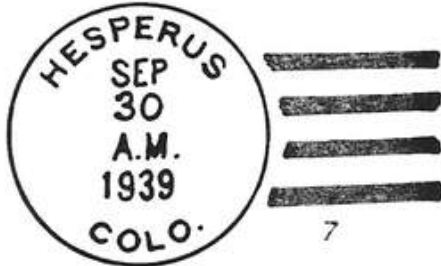
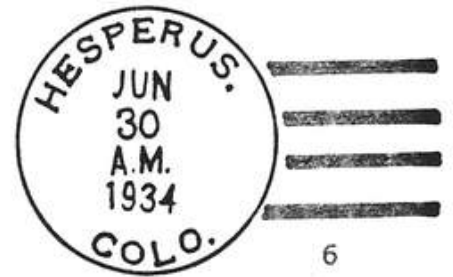
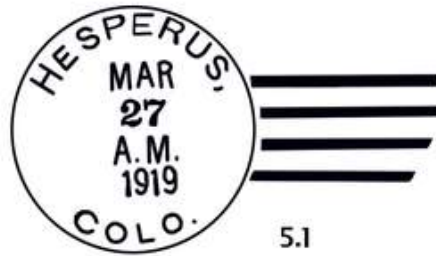
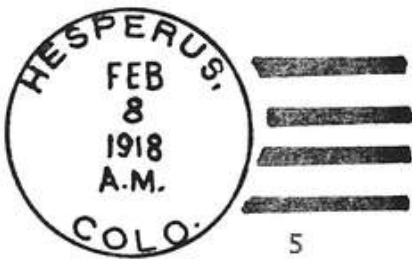
1	HESPERUS, COLO. CI 20P 33.0/31.0	Jan 15 189-
2	HESPERUS / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not present, Nov 14 1896 Apr 22 1899
3	HESPERUS / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm May 1 1900 Jun 14 1900
4	HESPERUS, / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Dplx Grid, 8-bar oval Apr 24 1905 Sep 9 1907
4.1	HESPERUS, / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	Doane Type 2 with 4, S-23x14mm Dec 25 1908 Jun 25 1909
4.2	HESPERUS, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-20x14mm Nov 12 1909 Apr 29 1910
4.3	HESPERUS, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Hstp No killer Mar 17 1911 4bars S-23x14mm

HESPERUS – Continued

5	HESPERUS, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Jun 7 1912 Aug 22 1918
5.1	HESPERUS, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x14mm	Dec 20 1910 Mar 27 1919
6	HESPERUS. / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Nov 17 1933 Sep 10 1937
7	HESPERUS / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Oct 14 1938 Oct 28 1948
8	HESPERUS / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Mar 13 1946 Aug 30 1948
9	HESPERUS, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Nov 1 1940 Nov 21 1941
10	HESPERUS / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, pointed oval with 1	Dec -- 1945 Mar 1- 1953
11	HESPERUS / COLO. RC 10P 38.0x19.0	Hstp No killer; Parcel Post box style	Jan 10 1951
11.1	HESPERUS / COLO. CI 11P 30.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Apr 11 1956
11.2	HESPERUS, / COLO. RC 10P 36.0x18.5	Hstp No killer, Parcel Post box style	1950s
12	HESPERUS. COLO. CI 11P 35.0/27.0	Hstp No killer	Aug 24 1960 Aug 11 1964
12.1	HESPERUS / COLO. CI 11P 29.0/18.5	Hstp No killer	Jan 8 1963
13	HESPERUS, CO / 81326 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-25x18mm	Nov 13 1967 Dec 19 1991
13.1	HESPERUS CO. CI 11P 32.0/24.0	Rolr 6 slanted wavy lines	Ju1 19 1976
13.2	HESPERUS, CO / 81326 CI 10P 23.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Sep 13 1978
14	HESPERUS, CO / 81326 CI 10P 20.0	Mach 6 wavy lines	Sep 23 1982 Oct 14 1982
15	HESPERUS, CO / 81326 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Mar 21 1987 Sep 24 1994
16	HESPERUS, CO / USPS CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Sep 24 1994



HESPERUS - Continued



**HEWIT**

Very little has been written about Hewit. What little is known indicates that it was a small mining community near the headwaters of the Florida River, approximately twenty-three miles northeast of Durango.

Today that area is part of the Weminuche Wilderness Area and there are no roads into the area. In studying the USGS map of La Plata County one finds that the headwaters of the Florida River contain a number of small glacial tarns and one larger feature labeled City Reservoir. Just north of the reservoir there is a label Logtown (site). I suspect that that was the site of Hewit.

The difficulty of travel into this area would have required extremely rich mineral deposits to encourage and sustain development. The short, intermittent life of the post office indicates there was only minimal value to the discoveries.

The original name entered on the Geographic Site Location Report was Hewitt. There is no explanation as to why the name was shortened to Hewit or even what might be the source of the name.

Needless to say, access to the Hewit site is beyond my present day physical capabilities and I doubt that very little would remain to be seen.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Jul 3 1882</b>	---	<b>Not reported</b> On the west side of the Florida River 3 miles south of Vallecito Creek <b>Proposed postmaster - Robert Dickey</b>
<b>Jul 14 1882</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Jul 14 1882</b>		<b>Dickey, Robert</b>
<b>Jan 5 1883</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Durango</b>
<b>Jun 14 1883</b>	---	<b>NE/4 Sec 23 T38N R7W</b> At head of Florida Creek <b>Accompanied by a map showing relation of Hewit to Durango</b> <b>Proposed postmaster - John C. Wynn</b>
<b>Jun 25 1883</b>		<b>Re-established</b>
<b>Jun 25 1883</b>		<b>Wynn, John C.</b>
<b>May 1 1884</b>		<b>Chandler, Frank M.</b>
<b>Jul 9 1885</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Durango</b>

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM HEWIT**

**IGNACIO**

The establishment in 1877 of the Southern Ute Agency on the Los Pinos River was the beginning of Ignacio. The post office opened in 1882 and the location given in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports indicates that it was in the Southern Ute Agency complex, a logical place, as for a number of years the post office served only the agency and its related activities. The agency buildings are located a half-mile north of the present-day town of Ignacio. Even though the agency has a number of older buildings, it seems unlikely that any date from 1882.

In April 1914 the post office had moved from the agency and into the new town of Ignacio. For some reason there is a Site Location Report dated October 1914 that gives another location that is approximately a mile south of the town, on Rattlesnake Hill. Having visited that site, I suspect that there was an error in the Section that was listed on the October report. In 1941 the post office was definitely back in the town.

When I first visited Ignacio in 1976 the post office was in a small brick building on the east side of the main street (Colorado Highway 172). In September 2002 that building was still there (it still looks like a post office) but the post office had moved to a new location at the southern end of Ignacio.

**IGNACIO – Continued**

The town of Ignacio developed slowly. In 1908 H. H. Hall and Hans Aspaas, who ran trading posts, bought tracts of land south of the agency and combined them into a townsite. The town plat was filed on June 26, 1909 and Ignacio was incorporated July 7, 1913.

Ignacio developed into the commercial center for the Southern Ute Indian Reservation and was and still is the largest community within the reservation boundaries. In recent years the construction of a casino, operated by the Utes, has given a boost to the economy of the town and the reservation.

The town was named for Ignatio a member of the Weminuche band of the Utes. He was the son of a famous medicine man and although not a chief by heredity he was a sub-chief under Chief Ouray and was the leader of the Southern Utes. The name Ignatio, most commonly spelled Ignacio, is considered to be the Spanish equivalent of “Ignatius.”

Latitude = 37:06:54 North Longitude = 107:37:57 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jan 18 1882	---	Survey not completed 1/4 mile west of the Rio de Los Pinos 4 miles north of Beaver Creek Proposed postmaster - James F. Bouton	
Jan 31 1882		Established	
Jan 31 1882		Bouton, James F.	
Jul 8 1886		Conway, John	
Mar 13 1888		Hubler, Ira	
May 17 1889		Bennett, John B.	
Jun 12 1889		McGregor, Asa	
Sep 14 1891		Bartholomew, Charles E.	
May 16 1895		Kraus, George H.	
Aug 1 1896	---	SW/4 Sec 5 T33N R7W 200 feet west of Rio Los Pinos	
Mar 2 1898		Hall, Henry L.	
Jun 30 1908		Aspaas, Hans	
May 3 1910		Hall, William R.	
Apr 25 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 8 T33N R7W 1/4 mile west of the Pine River	
Sep 23 1914		Bradshaw, Thomas J.	
Oct 16 1914	---	SW/4 Sec 17 T33N R7W 1/4 mile west of the Pine River	
Jul 1 1917			Office made Presidential
Jul 8 1919		Bradshaw, Thomas J.	
Jul 1 1919			Office relegated
Oct 1 1920			Office made Presidential
Mar 9 1922		Bradshaw, Thomas J.	P&S
Jun 22 1926		Flint, Jones C.	
May 29 1930		Flint, Jones C.	
Jun 27 1932		Strain, Oscar G.	Acting
Jul 6 1932		Strain, Oscar G.	Assumed charge
Apr 25 1934		Aspaas, Sadie P.	Nominated
May 7 1934		Aspaas, Sadie P.	Appointed & Confirmed
May 28 1934		Aspaas, Sadie P.	Commissioned
Apr 29 1938		Aspaas, Sadie P.	Nominated
May 3 1938		Aspaas, Sadie P.	Confirmed
May 7 1938		Aspaas, Sadie P.	Appointed Presidential
May 19 1938		Aspaas, Sadie P.	Commissioned
Oct 22 1941	---	NE/4 SW/4 Sec 8 T33N R7W Pine River is 1/4 mile east of post office	
Jul 23 1942		Aspaas, Sadie P.	Nominated
Aug 25 1942		Aspaas, Sadie P.	Confirmed
Aug 26 1942		Aspaas, Sadie P.	Appointed Presidential
Oct 6 1942		Aspaas, Sadie P.	Commissioned

**IGNACIO – Continued**

Oct 15 1942	Aspaas, Sadie P.	Assumed charge
Sep 30 1944	Deulton, Mrs. Nell B.	Acting
Oct 1 1944	Daulton, Mrs. Nell B.	Assumed charge
May 17 1945	Daulton, Mrs. Nell B.	Nominated
May 31 1945	Daulton, Mrs. Nell B.	Confirmed
Jun 1 1945	Deulton, Mrs. Nell B.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Jul 31 1945	Deulton, Mrs. Nell B.	Assumed charge
Jan 9 1950	Marker, Mrs. Nell B.	Name changed by marriage
Mar 15 1963	Pearson, Harry N.	Acting
Apr 6 1966	Pearson, Harry N.	Nominated, Confirmed & Appointed
Apr 15 1966	Pearson, Harry N.	Commissioned
Apr 22 1966	Pearson, Harry N.	Assumed charge
Mar 20 1981	Gonzalez, Paul	Officer in charge



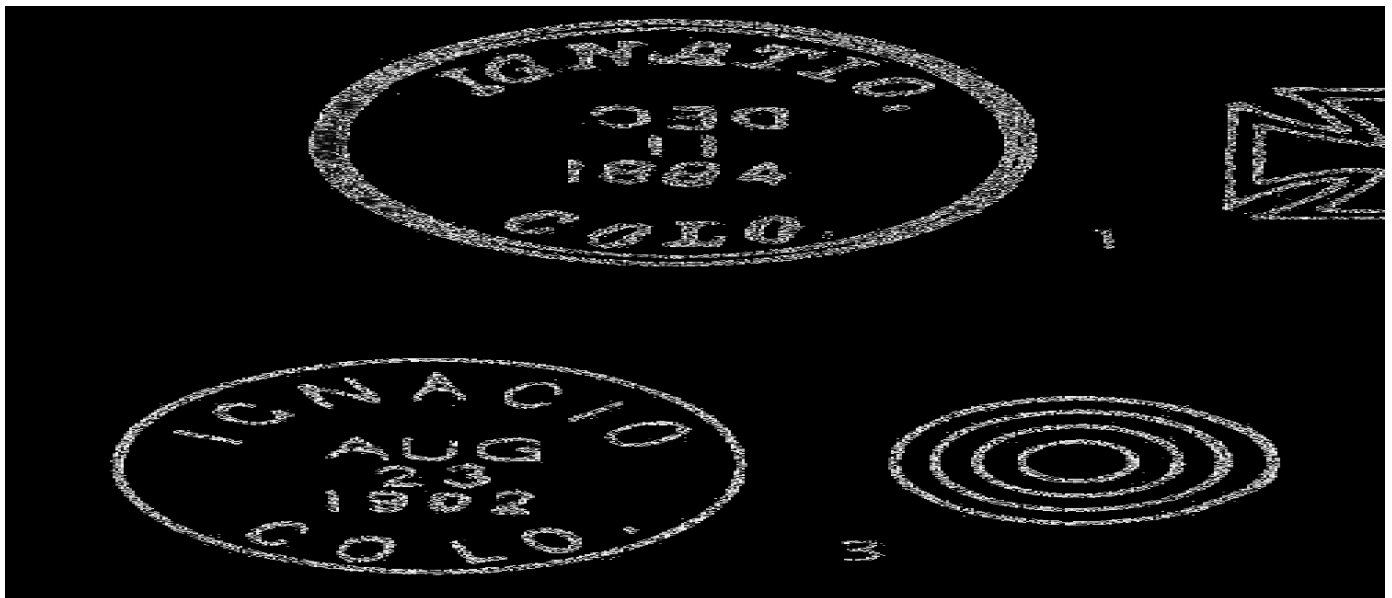
**Ignacio, Colorado – The former post office building on Colorado Highway 172**  
 Photograph by William H. Bauer September 17, 2000

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	IGNATIO, / COLO. CI 20P 31.0/29.0	Dec 11 1884 Hstp Fancy, Outlined Maltese Cross
1.1	IGNACIO / COL. CI 10P 27.0	Nov 1 (1880s) Hstp Target, 4-ring
2	IGNACIO / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Feb 10 1887 Dec 30 1898 Hstp Cork, smudge; Target
3	IGNACIO / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Oct 3 1900 Nov 22 1902 Hstp Cork, Smudge

**IGNACIO – Continued**

<p><b>3.1</b> IGNACIO, / COLO. CI 10P ???</p> <p>4 IGNACIO, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0</p> <p>5 IGNACIO / COLO. CI 10P 31.0</p> <p>5.1 IGNACIO, / COLO. CI 10P 33.5</p> <p>6 IGNACIO, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0</p> <p><b>6.1</b> IGNACIO / COLO. CI 10P 29.0</p> <p>7 IGNACIO. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0</p> <p>8 IGNACIO / COLO. CI 10P 30.0</p> <p>8.1 Ignacio / COLO. RC 10P 38.0x18.5</p> <p>9 IGNACIO, / COLO. CI 10P 22.0</p> <p>10 IGNACIO, CO / 81137 CI 10P 22.0</p> <p>11 IGNACIO, CO / 81137 CI 10P 32.5</p> <p>11.1 IGNACIO, CO / 81137 CI 10P 21.0</p> <p>12 IGNACIO, CO / 81137 CI 10P 32.0</p> <p>13 IGNACIO CO / 81137 CI 10P 32.0</p>	<p><b>Oct 10 1904</b></p> <p><b>Doane Type 2 with 3</b> [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]</p> <p>May 1 1907 Jun 30 1907</p> <p><b>Doane Type 3 with 4; S-23x15mm</b> Dec 12 1907 Jun 16 1910</p> <p>4bars S-23x13mm Nov 14 1909 Jun 16 1910</p> <p>4bars S-??x15mm Sep 21 1912 Dec 22 1913</p> <p>4bars S-??x19mm <b>May 4 1917</b></p> <p><b>Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval</b> [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]</p> <p>Apr 20 1927 Nov 23 1945</p> <p>4bars S-24x20mm Mar 2 1946 Aug 8 1957</p> <p><b>Dplx Grid, pointed oval with 1</b> 1950s</p> <p><b>Hstp No killer, Parcel Post box style</b> Nov 4 1960 Feb 9 1965</p> <p><b>Mach 7 wavy lines</b> Nov 10 1967 Apr 15 1993</p> <p><b>Mach 7 wavy lines</b> Sep 10 1969 May 28 1975</p> <p>4bars S-24x20mm May 3 1978</p> <p><b>Mach 7 wavy lines</b> Feb 28 1983</p> <p>4bars S-24x19mm Nov 3 1995</p> <p>4bars S-20x18mm</p>
--	---



IGNACIO – Continued



5.1



6



7



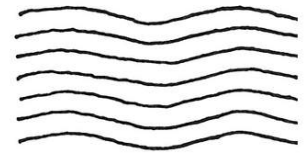
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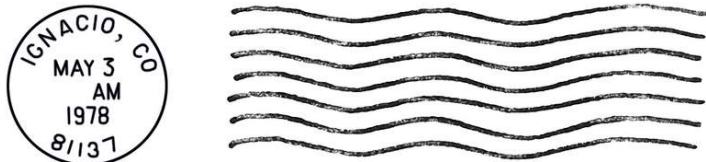
8.1



9



10



11.1



12



13

IGNACIO STATIONS

CELEBRATE THE CENTURY STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 15 2000

Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**IGNACIO CELEBRATE THE CENTURY STATION – Continued**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1 Ignacio, CO 81137 // Celebrate the Century Station Jun 15 2000  
SL 00R 95.0x3.0 Pict Text only - CENTENARIAN / -- 100 -- /  
The Life of a Century



**FOUR CORNERS IRON HORSE MOTORCYCLE RALLY STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 1 1995 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1 Ignacio, Colorado 81137 // FOUR CORNERS IRON HORSE MOTORCYCLE ... Sep 1 1995  
IR 00R 100.0x53.0 Pict Scene - Inscribed emblem of rally:  
Text - IGNACIO, COLORADO



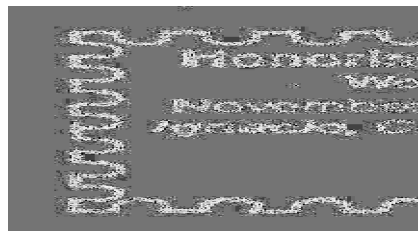
**IGNACIO – HONORING OUR VETERANS STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 8 2004 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1 Ignacio, CO 81137 // Honoring Our Veterans Station Nov 8 2004  
RC 10T 48.0X24.0 Pict Scene - World War II Memorial;  
Text - World War II Memorial



**KLINE**

Kline is somewhat of a mystery. The post office first opened in 1904 and from then until 1941 it was reported to the Post Office Department at four different locations in the area east of Colorado Highway 140. There is yet a small community of several buildings, a school, some houses and a few dirt streets on Highway 140 that is identified on maps as Kline. None of the 1941 or earlier locations of the post office were in that community. It is certainly possible, since there are few Site Location Reports after 1941, that the post office was in the named community sometime after 1941 and before it was moved to the community of Marvel.

Kline was a Mormon community and was probably named for a church official or member. Agriculture was the mainstay of the community. The post office though at several locations, seems to have been the province of a single family with three different Millers serving as postmaster from 1906 to 1953. The Geographic Site Location Report indicates that the first choice for a name was Haskell but that was rejected, probably because of the similarity to Haskill in San Miguel County.

One difficulty with directions in this part of La Plata County is that not every crossroads displays road markers, so please bear with me on this wandering trip to visit the several sites of Kline. Begin at the community on Highway 140. Drive north about a half-mile and turn east on La Plata County Road 128. Drive somewhat less than two miles to County Road 129. The 1904 location of Kline spots in the southeast corner of this intersection, where there is an occupied farm complex. Next, go south on Road 129 two miles and then west one mile (Road 132). The 1914 location was in the northeast corner of this T intersection. The Marvel Cemetery occupies the corner but there is no evidence of any buildings. There may be some evidence of a foundation among some trees east of the cemetery and north of the road.

Onward, turn south for one mile on County Road 131 to County Road 134. Turn west on Road 134, one mile, which will bring you to the community of Marvel and the intersection with Road 133. In 1916 the Kline post office was in the northeast quarter of this intersection; in 1937 it was in the northwest quarter and in 1941 it had moved somewhat further west but still on Road 134. The Marvel Post Office is still in operation and could have been the last site of Kline before the change in name.

Latitude = 37:08:39 North Longitude = 108:07:08 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Mar 18 1904</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>NW/4 Sec 31 T34N R11W</b>	
		<b>Proposed postmaster - Joel L. Preston</b>	
<b>Apr 22 1904</b>		<b>Established</b>	
<b>Apr 22 1904</b>		<b>Preston, Joel L.</b>	
<b>Jan 24 1906</b>		<b>Miller, W. Langford</b>	
<b>Nov 12 1910</b>		<b>Miller, Ray</b>	<b>Confirmed</b>
<b>Jan 23 1911</b>		<b>Miller, Ray</b>	<b>Commissioned</b>
<b>Jan 31 1911</b>		<b>Miller, Ray</b>	<b>Assumed charge</b>
<b>Jul 14 1914</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>SW/4 Sec 1 T33N R12W</b>	
<b>Feb 25 1916</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>SW/4 Sec 11 T33N R12W 4 miles east of the La Plata River</b>	
		<b>1-3/4 miles west of Spring Creek</b>	
<b>Mar 2 1937</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>SE/4 Sec 10 T33N R12W A move 575 feet southwest of a previous location</b>	
		<b>(Moved across the road from SW/4 Sec 11.)</b>	
<b>Nov 11 1941</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>SW/4 Sec 10 T33N R12W La Plata River is 4 miles west of office</b>	
<b>Jun 15 1944</b>		<b>Miller, Lawrence W.</b>	<b>Possession</b>
<b>Jun 23 1944</b>		<b>Miller, Lawrence W.</b>	<b>Acting</b>
<b>Apr 21 1945</b>		<b>Miller, Lawrence W.</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
<b>May 26 1945</b>		<b>Miller, Lawrence W.</b>	<b>Commissioned</b>
<b>May 31 1945</b>		<b>Miller, Lawrence W.</b>	<b>Possession</b>
<b>Mar 31 1953</b>		<b>Post office moved to Marvel</b>	

**KLINE – Continued**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	KLINE, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Doane Type 2 with 1	Jun 25 1907 Jul 20 1910
2	KLINE, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-25x13mm	Jul 20 1910 Feb 7 1916
2.1	KLINE, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Jan 26 1921
3	KLINE, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Feb 20 1928 Nov 22 1933
4	KLINE, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Feb 13 1935 Sep 26 1936
5	KLINE / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Oct 18 1939 Nov 1 1940
6	KLINE / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Feb 27 1943 Sep 13 1948
7	KLINE / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Mar 10 1953 Mar 31 1953



**LA BOCA/LABOCA**

The history of La Boca or Laboca is somewhat involved. Apparently the post office was first established in San Juan County, New Mexico in 1894 and discontinued in 1896. The location was less than two miles south of the state line and on the route of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. The information relative to that location appears under LABOCA below.

**LABOCA/LA BOCA – Continued**

Most of the life cycle of this post office is related to locations in Colorado under the spelling La Boca. However, the Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Reports, listed in the chronology below, are confusing.

The initial report (1902) claims a location that plots in Colorado nearly three miles north of the border and two miles west of the Los Pinos River. But the sketch map, that accompanies the report places La Boca just across the line in New Mexico. This could be possible if there is an adjustment to the Federal Land Grid at the border between Colorado and New Mexico. Unfortunately I do not at present have a map that can resolve that question.

The second Site Location Report (1903) places La Boca at a similar distance west of the Los Pinos River and only a half-mile north of the Colorado-New Mexico border but a reference to Spring Creek does not fit the map. Neither of these locations is in country that is currently inhabited and was at best sparsely populated in the 1902-1903 time frame. The Records of Postmaster Appointments do not indicate establishments or discontinuances for La Boca relative to these dates so I suspect the applications for a post office in 1902 and 1903 were not approved.

The Site Location Report for 1909 is the first that makes good sense with respect to a location in Colorado. The 1909 location is the popularly recognized site, on the route of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad soon after it enters Colorado from New Mexico and has crossed to the west side of the Los Pinos River. A second report in December 1909 agrees with the earlier January 1909 report. It is this site that Jim Ozment and I visited in September 2000.

It is quite probable that the answers to these questions are contained in the Post Office Department records for New Mexico, specifically San Juan County. If anyone has access to those records I would appreciate knowing whatever you might be able to discover about La Boca. [SRM: There are no site reports for La Boca in the Post Office Department records for San Juan County, New Mexico.]

The things that do appear certain are that the La Boca Post Office operated in Colorado from 1909 to 1937 but was never more than a railroad station with a ranch and perhaps and a few houses. There may also have been a school at the site.

To reach the site of La Boca, drive south from Ignacio on Colorado Highway 172. Less than two miles north of the state line, Highway 172, which has been following the old railroad grade, turns more directly south. The railroad grade continues straight to the left (east) of the highway and enters the La Boca Ranch. A half-mile more and you are in the middle of the La Boca Ranch yard. There are a number of buildings and the foundation for the railroad water tank is still visible to the west of the road as the grade turns east to cross the river by way of the old railroad bridge.

Jim Ozment and I visited La Boca in September 2000 and it proved to be another in a line of interesting and unusual experiences. We quickly discovered that the La Boca Ranch was a llama ranch. We were quietly taking pictures when the owner came out of his house to inquire as to what we were doing. He had no problem with our explanation and told us that the post office had been in his house on the west side of the road and that the small building on the east side had been a school. The owner's name was Roy Craig, a former professor at the University of Colorado, Boulder. The conversation wandered from his llama herd to a project at the university in which he had been involved in the 1970's: a study to determine the facts behind the UFO sightings of that time. Dr. Craig's task in the project was to interview witnesses and try to determine what, if anything, they might have really seen. He has written a book on the project and he gladly sold Jim a copy, which I later read. Dr. Craig's and the project's conclusion was that UFOs can be explained as either hallucinations or natural phenomena—no little green men. After reading the book I have to agree with him.

In our wanderings through the southernmost counties of Colorado, this was not our first encounter with the UFO hysteria and it would not be our last. Is there something in the water in that part of the state that nourishes weird ideas and strange behavior?

**LABOCA/LA BOCA – Continued**

One final comment on the llama ranch: Roy Craig seems happy to share his yard, porch and garage with the llamas. We did not get a look inside the house.

Latitude = 37:00:40 North Longitude = 107:36:05 West

**LABOCA**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 26 1894 --- NE/4 Sec 27 T32N R7W 100 yards west of the Pine River  
60 feet east of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad  
Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Jennie Mullen

Mar 2 1895 Established

Mar 2 1895 Muller, Jennie

Mar 16 1896 Discontinued Mail to Arboles

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM LABOCA**

**LA BOCA**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Mar 21 1902 --- NW/4 Sec 8 T32N R7W By the sketch map, this location was just  
across the line in New Mexico  
Proposed postmaster - Berllyno A. Rodriguez

Dec 15 1903 --- NE/4 Sec 19 T32N R7W On west side of Pine River 1/2 mile west of Spring Creek  
Proposed postmaster - Socoro B. Garcia

Jan 29 1909 --- SW/4 Sec 15 T32N R7W (according to sketch map)  
A move three miles north of a previous location [the New Mexico site]

Feb 23 1909 Established

Feb 23 1909 Hatcher, Elmer E.

Dec 27 1909 --- SW/4 Sec 15 T32N R7W 1/8 mile west of Pine River 1/2 mile west of Spring Creek

Aug 7 1917 Lenox, John C.

Jun 30 1931 Connelly, Bertha L. Possession

Jul 9 1931 Connelly, Bertha L. Acting

Aug 20 1931 Connelly, Bertha L. Appointed

Oct 7 1931 Connelly, Bertha L. Commissioned

Jun 2 1932 Hersch, Joseph Z. Acting

Jun 16 1932 Hersch, Joseph Z. Commissioned & Assumed charge

Oct 1 1935 Williams, Ralph H. Confirmed

Nov 8 1935 Williams, Ralph H. Commissioned

Jan 2 1936 Williams, Ralph H. Deceased

Jan 28 1936 Walter, David S. Assumed charge

Mar 20 1936 Williams, Ralph H. Appointment rescinded Never took charge

Mar 23 1936 Walter, David S. Acting

Jul 25 1936 Walter, David S. Confirmed

Aug 18 1936 Walter, David S. Commissioned

Sep 20 1937 Ordered closed

Sep 9 1937 Discontinued Mail to Tiffany

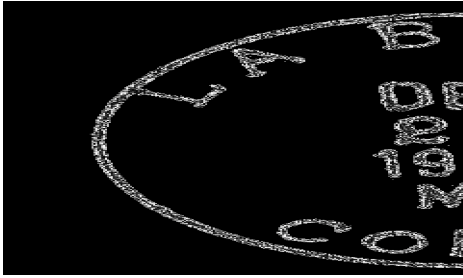
Sep 21 1937 Modified Mail to Ignacio

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**0.1 LA BOCA, / COLO. Oct 11 1909**  
**CI 10P 32.0 4bars Narrow (Type A)**  
**[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]**

**1 LA BOCA, / COLO. Feb 10 1931 Dec 27 1932**  
**CI 10P 32.5 4bars S-24x20mm**

## LABOCA – Continued

**LA PLATA/LAPLATA**

La Plata was the northernmost of the three mining communities on the upper reaches of the La Plata River. The earliest settlement, Parrot, was mainly a placer gold camp, the final settlement, Mayday, would produce both gold and silver.

When San Juan County was created on January 31, 1876 a new county seat was needed. La Plata gained the honor and served as La Plata County seat until 1885 when the county offices moved to Durango.

Soon after the placer discoveries at Parrot, prospectors discovered lode deposits further up the river. The new finds were primarily silver. The new camp took its name from the Spanish word for silver, “La Plata”. That name had been given to the river and the mountains by Spanish explorers in the late eighteenth century. By 1881 a number of mines were active, the best being the Cumberland, five miles above the site of La Plata.

The silver crash of 1893 hit the town hard but increased importance of gold production helped La Plata survive for a few more years.

Initially the post office was open for a period of a bit more than three years. During that period the official name was two words: La Plata. Following a nine-year hiatus in operation, the post office reopened as Laplata, one word.

Although there were many discoveries and attempts at precious metal mining within present-day La Plata County, the hardrock mining town of La Plata was the only one to enjoy a modest success and a reasonably long life as a mining community.

Laplata is another mile and a half beyond the site of Parrot and four plus miles from Mayday. When Jim Ozment and I visited the site in 1994 there were several renovated buildings and even some new construction. Apparently Laplata was enjoying a modest recovery as a place for summer homes and perhaps year around residences. Now ten years later, I would not be surprised to find even more development in the upper La Plata River Valley.

Latitude = 37:23:50 North Longitude = 108:03:45 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

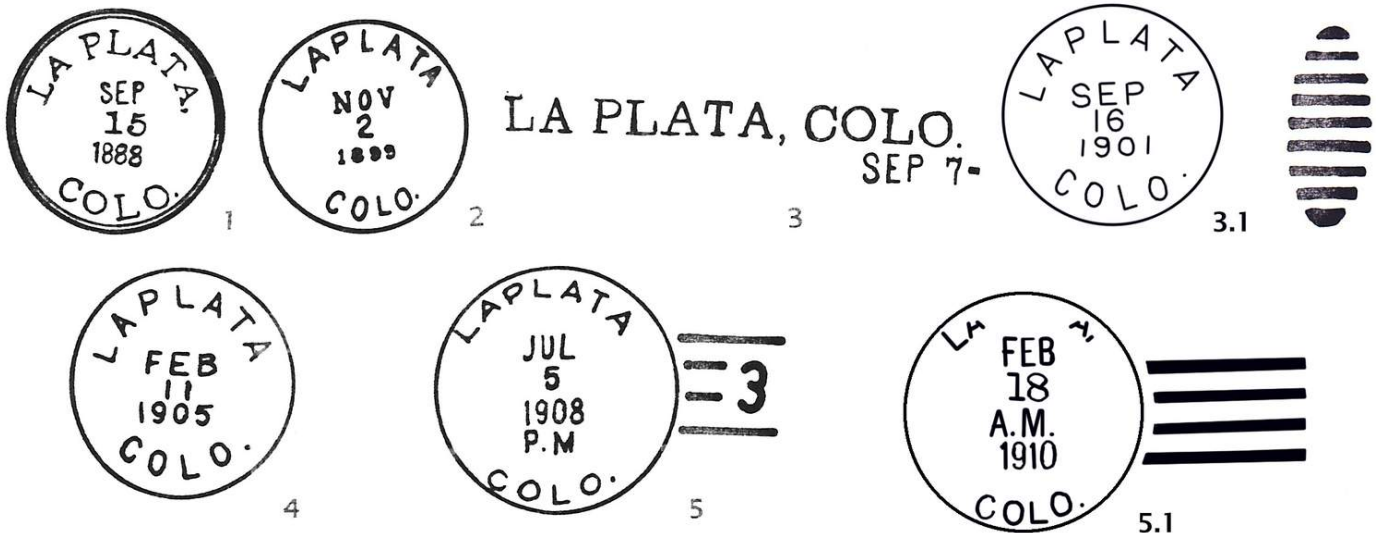
Jul 10 1882	---	None reported On west side of La Plata River on south side of Boren Creek Proposed postmaster - Floyd M. Goodykoontz
Jul 24 1882		Established
Jul 24 1882		Goodykoontz, Floyd M.
Jan 17 1884		Hampton, Benjamin M.
Dec 23 1885		Discontinued Mail to Fort Lewis
Apr 6 1894	---	NE/4 Sec 9 T36N R11W 1/20 mile west of the La Plata River 1/4 mile south of Boren Creek Proposed postmaster - Henry C. Bollinger
Apr 21 1894		Re-established

**LA PLATA – Continued**

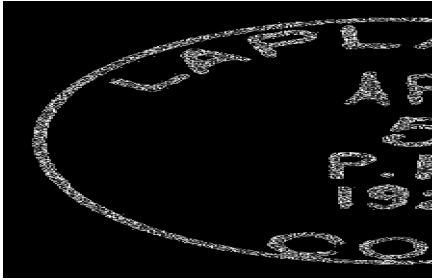
Apr 21 1894	Bollinger, Henry C.	
Nov 5 1897	Fleming, Davis C.	
Feb 21 1899	Bollinger, Henry C.	
Dec 27 1899	Brawner, George F.	
Dec 21 1901	Gordon, Frederick H.	
Jun 21 1905	Beach, Julia E.	
Apr 30 1914 ---	SE/4 Sec 4 T36N R11W 400 feet north of La Plata River 2000 feet east of Bed Rock Creek	
Aug 31 1918	Discontinued Mail to Hesperus	
Dec 9 1918	Re-established	
Dec 9 1918	Ekborg, Deda M.	Declined
Apr 22 1919	Rasmussen, Eva	
Nov 6 1923 ---	SW/4 Sec 3 T36N R11W 500 feet west of the La Plata River About 800 feet south of Boren Creek	
Jul 18 1924	Ekborg, Beda	
Jul 18 1934	Ordered closed	
Jul 23 1934	Discontinued Mail to Hesperus	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	LA PLATA, / COLO. CI 20P 28.0/26.0	Aug 13 1883 Sep 15 1883 Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm
2	LA PLATA / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Nov 8 1897 Nov 2 1899 Hstp Cork, smudge, Target 4-ring 18mm
3	LA PLATA, COLO. SL 00R 74.0x10.0	Sep 7 1899 Hstp With cds used as killer
3.1	LA PLATA / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Sep 16 1901 Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval
4	LA PLATA / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Feb 11 1905 Hstp Target, 4-ring
5	LAPLATA / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Aug 6 1906 Sep 12 1911 Doane Type 3 with 3 S-??x13mm
5.1	LAPLATA, / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	Feb 18 1910 4bars S-??x14mm
6	LAPLATA, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Apr 5 1921 4bars S-24x19mm



## LA PLATA – Continued



## LOS PINOS

This was the third and final, post office in Colorado to be named Los Pinos. The first was the Los Pinos Indian Agency in Saguache County. The second was established in Gunnison County (now in Montrose County) when the Indian Agency was moved there from Saguache County.



**Los Pinos, La Plata County Colorado – Overview of the third and last site in Colorado to bear the name Los Pinos. The location is just west of Bayfield on the west side of the Los Pinos River.**

Photograph by William H. Bauer

September 17, 2000

Los Pinos was a small community that developed to serve ranchers and farmers along the Los Pinos River and north of the Ute Indian Reservation. The growth of Bayfield soon eclipsed Los Pinos and the post office moved east across the river to Bayfield.

The name is a direct reference to the river on which the community was located. The location of Los Pinos is on the west side of the Los Pinos River where Business Route 160 crosses the river to Bayfield. Several buildings remain in that area.

**LOS PINOS – Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Nov 15 1888 --- SW/4 Sec 11 T34N R7W Sketch map places it in the SE/4  
Proposed postmaster - Walter D. Taylor
- Jan 18 1889 Established
- Jan 18 1889 Taylor, Walter D.
- Dec 5 1898 Arnold, Henry J.
- Feb 25 1899 Closed Post office moved to Bayfield



**LOS PINOS / COLO.**

**December 2, 1895**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1 LOS PINOS / COLO.  
CI 10P 27.0

Sep 2 1889 May 3 1897

Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm



**MARVEL**

Marvel was a Mormon agricultural community established around 1915 on the homestead of John H. Miller. The community took its name from a cooperative flour mill named the “Marvel Midget.” Kline preceded Marvel in the general area and in fact the Kline Post Office was at the Marvel community from at least 1916 to 1941. However, the post office would not assume the name of Marvel until 1953.

**MARVEL – Continued**

Marvel grew slowly until agreement was attained on the interstate water compacts, which apportioned water supplies. The Marvel area was penalized by these agreements and the small boom at Marvel collapsed. More speculative and difficult dry land farming replaced irrigation.

There is a small community of homes, the post office and a couple of small businesses grouped around the intersection of La Plata County Roads 134 and 133. If you have not been following the directions to the various sites of Kline, then the alternate is to drive south on Colorado Highway 140 to County Road 134. Turn east one and one-half miles to Marvel. The turn is marked at Highway 140.

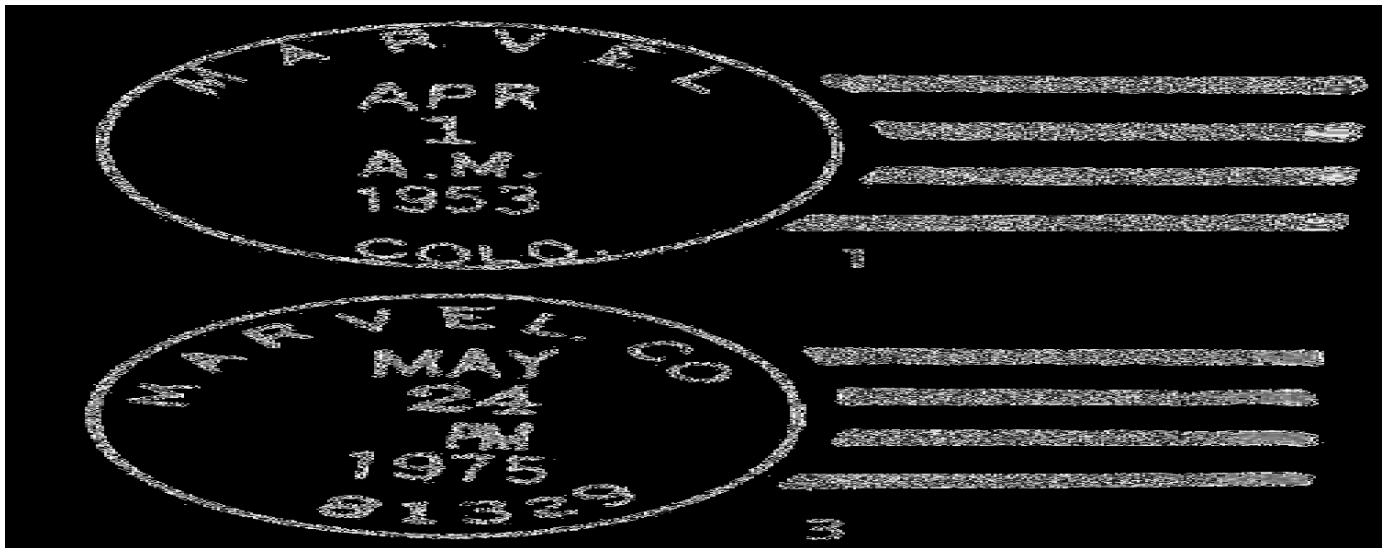
Latitude = 37:06:45 North Longitude = 108:07:34 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Apr 21 1945	Miller, Lawrence W.	Confirmed
May 26 1945	Miller, Lawrence W.	Commissioned
May 31 1945	Miller, Lawrence W.	Assumed charge
Apr 1 1953	Post office moved from Kline	
Mar 3 1956	Kennedy, Mrs. Frances M.	Possession & Assumed charge
Mar 23 1956	Kennedy, Mrs. Frances M.	Acting
Feb 4 1957	Hendershot, Mrs. Ruth L.	Appointed
Mar 1 1957	Hendershot, Mrs. Ruth L.	Possession & Assumed charge
Mar 15 1957	Hendershot, Mrs. Ruth L.	Appointed
Sep 14 1960	Candelaria, Mrs. Ruth L.	Name changed by marriage

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	MARVEL / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x20mm	Apr 1 1953 Jan 10 1962
2	MARVEL / COLO. CI 11P 30.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Apr 1 1953 Apr 1 1953
2.1	MARVEL, CO / 81329 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Oct 24 1969 Sep 13 1971
3	MARVEL, CO / 81329 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Oct 23 1973 Jan 18 1978
4	MARVEL, CO / 81329 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Sep 22 1981 Mar 29 1993
5	MARVEL, CO / 81329 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Mar 29 1985





**MAYDAY – Continued**

The spelling Mayday instead of May Day is likely another example of the Post Office Department's dislike of multi-word post office names during the 1890's and 1900's.

The community of Mayday was located at the entrance to the La Plata River Canyon. In 1994 there was a large ranch complex that spanned the road into the canyon.

Four-tenths of a mile west of Hesperus, turn north from US Highway 160. It is four miles from US 160 to Mayday. To visit the sites of Parrot and La Plata, continue through Mayday and up the canyon.

Latitude = 37:21:02 North Longitude = 108:04:34 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 20 1913	---	NW/4 Sec 28 T36N R11W 475 feet west of the La Plata River
		Applicant for postmaster - Henry Christian Bollinger
Sep 4 1913		Established
Sep 4 1913		Otton, Katherine L.
Dec 31 1914		Discontinued Mail to Hesperus

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	MAYDAY, / COLO.	May 20 1914	Nov 19 1914
	CI 11P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	

**MCQUIETY**

In March 1894 a post office with the name of McQuiety was authorized and a postmaster appointed but not commissioned. It was eight months before a replacement was appointed and another nine months before an entry was made in the Records of Postmaster Appointments that the establishment was rescinded and that the office had never been placed in operation.

The surprising fact is that although something was going on for more than a year, I have found no mention of McQuiety in the historical literature of Colorado. In addition, there is no Geographic Site Location Report on file, so I have no clue as where this post office would have been located.

[SRM: Contemporary newspapers mention mines on McQuiety Hill and on Lightner Creek near Silver Mountain and a populace there. Without a Site Location Report it is only conjecture, but if the proposed post office was to serve these mines, then it would have been approximately two and half miles east-southeast of La Plata on the east side of Silver Mountain on Lightner Creek.]

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Mar 16 1894	Established	
Mar 16 1894	Wheeler, Harry C.	Not commissioned
Nov 15 1894	Hartman, Frank	[SRM: Odd, appointed after establishment rescinded]
Aug 7 1895	Establishment rescinded	Never in operation

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM MCQUIETY**

## **MESEROLE**

Meserole was a stage station on the Meserole and Blake Stage Line from Rockwood to Rico. It was named for George Meserole. The post office operated only briefly and it is probable that there was little or no postal business other than from travelers and likely very little of that.

The location is at the western end of Hermosa Park where the two major forks of Hermosa Creek join.

There is still a road (Hermosa Park Road) that begins on the edge of the Purgatory Ski Resort on US 550, climbs out of the valley into Hermosa Park and eventually beyond Meserole over Bolam Pass to Rico. This road is in places steep and rough. You might be able to drive it with passenger car but I would recommend a four-wheel drive vehicle. It is nine miles to the Hermosa Park Campground. A short distance beyond the campground and west of a fork in the road, there are scattered boards and other debris a couple hundred feet south of the road. This is the only evidence of any early activity in the vicinity. On a clear day the drive to Meserole is very scenic. Returning to US 550, the views east towards the Needle Mountains are truly spectacular.

### **Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Aug 22 1882</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>T39N R10W - Not sectionized (sic.) On Hermosa Creek</b> <b>Proposed postmaster - Perley Mason</b>
<b>Sep 12 1882</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Sep 12 1882</b>		<b>Mason, Perley</b>
<b>Jul 28 1884</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Rockwood</b>

### **Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM MESEROLE**

## **MURNANE**

Murnane was another of the stage stations on the Meserole and Blake route from Rockwood to Rico. The location given in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report places Murnane about two and one-half miles south of the modern Purgatory Ski Resort. This location is little more than a mile north of the site of another stage station, Young, that also had a post office for part of the time the Murnane office was supposedly in operation.

There is some confusion (at least on my part) about the proper spelling of this office. Most frequently it is spelled as above – Murnane. However, the handwriting in the Records of Postmaster Appointments and on the Site Location Report is not perfectly clear. The spelling could be Murmane or Murname. Perhaps someone can clarify the matter. In any event the post office was named for the proposed postmaster Mrs. Mary Murnane, who did serve twice as postmaster.

To find the site, drive south on US 550, two and one-half miles from the Purgatory Resort. Unfortunately the area is undergoing active development associated with the resort and travel on US 550, so no early structures can be identified. There is a Ranger Station here and that might occupy the site of Murnane.

### **Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Oct 31 1882</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>E/4 Sec 35 T39N R9W 9 miles from Meserole Flag Station</b> <b>4 miles from the Animas River, 4 miles west from Cascade Creek</b> <b>Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Mary Murnane</b>
<b>Nov 10 1882</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Nov 10 1882</b>		<b>Murnane, Mrs. Mary</b>
<b>Jul 10 1883</b>		<b>Reed, Paul S.</b>
<b>Mar 10 1884</b>		<b>Murnane, Mrs. Mary</b>
<b>Jul 8 1886</b>		<b>Discontinued Papers to Rockwood</b>

**MURNANE – Continued****Confirmed types of postal markings**

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM MURNANE

**NEEDLETON**

It has been reported that Needleton began as a stage stop on the road along the upper Las Animas River. It was also the starting point for a crude wagon road up Needle Creek to the mining activity in Chicago Basin at the head of Needle Creek.

The arrival of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad helped to perpetuate Needleton beyond its life as a stage station. It served as a shipping and receiving point for ore and supplies to and from the miners working in Chicago Basin. Mining in the basin continued sporadically as late as 1934. In 1975 the Needle Mountains were included in the Weminuche Wilderness Area and now mining is prohibited and access to Chicago Basin is by foot only.

The original site of Needleton was in a somewhat wider section of the Las Animas Canyon where Needle Creek from the east joins the river. There was a railroad siding at Needleton but a flood destroyed it in 1927. The siding was rebuilt about two miles upstream and the Needleton Water Tank is another half-mile on the way to Silverton. From the Geographic Site Location Reports it appears that the post office was, during its life, in several locations, on both sides of the Las Animas River. The 1927 and subsequent floods have removed any remnants of Needleton.



**NEEDLETON / La Plata Co., Colo.**

**August 15, 1884**

Today, Needleton is a flag stop to drop off and pick up fishermen, hikers and backpackers. The only access is by the Durango and Silverton Railroad or by a lengthy trail from near the Ranger Station on US 550. It is easier to identify the site on the way back from Silverton as the water tank acts as a warning marker.

Mileposts on the railroad further identify and separate these locations as follows:

Mile Post 482.31	ORIGINAL SITE OF NEEDLETON
Mile Post 483.3	NEEDLETON FLAG STOP
Mile Post 484.4	NEEDLETON TANK

**NEEDLETON – Continued**

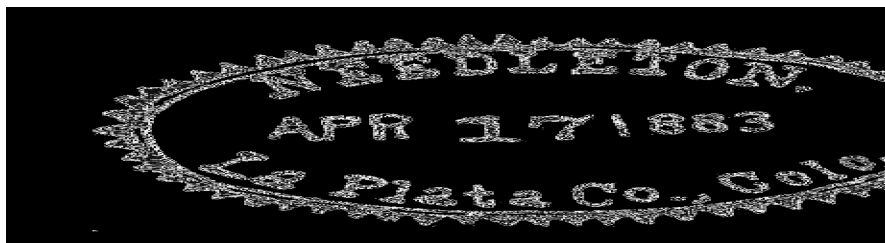
Latitude = 37:38:52 North Longitude = 107:41:17 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- May 22 1882 --- Not Reported 1/16 mile west of Animas River 1/4 mile south of Needle Creek  
65 feet west of D&RG, "probably Needleton Station."  
Proposed postmaster - Theodore Schock (See Cascade)
- May 26 1882 Established
- May 26 1882 Schock, Theodore
- Jan 19 1886 Schock, Mrs. Susette
- May 29 1889 Taylor, Warren N.
- Dec 9 1889 Mason, James W.
- Dec 24 1890 Henderson, Thomas
- Mar 18 1892 Discontinued Mail to Rockwood
- Apr 16 1892 --- Not reported 1/4 mile west of the Animas River 3/4 mile southwest of Needle Creek  
West side of D&RG, 50 feet from track and Needleton Station  
Proposed postmaster - James N. Livingood
- May 5 1892 Re-established
- May 5 1892 Livengood, James N.
- May 21 1896 Morrison, Hadley Not commissioned
- Jun 22 1896 Discontinued Mail to Silverton
- Sep 23 1896 --- T39N R8W - Unsurveyed land 250 feet west of Needleton Station, D&RG  
On west side of the Animas River  
Proposed postmaster - Aaron A. Steward
- Oct 20 1896 Re-established
- Oct 20 1896 Steward, Aaron A.
- May 15 1905 Ayers, Charles M.
- Dec 17 1907 Ordered closed Mail to Tacoma effective Jan 31 1908
- Jan 18 1908 Closing order rescinded
- Jan 23 1908 True, Ira Y.
- Jan 31 1910 Discontinued Mail to Durango

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |  |                           |                         |
|---|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | NEEDLETON, / La Plata Co., Colo.<br>OV 20T 38x25/35x22 | Hstp Grid, 7-bar circular | Apr 17 1883 Aug 15 1884 |
| 2 | NEEDLETON / COL.<br>CI 10P 26.0                        | Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm  | Jul 12 1885 Aug 12 1888 |
| 3 | NEEDLETON / COLO.<br>CI 10P 28.0                       | Hstp Not present          | Jul 13 1898 Oct 22 1906 |



**NICCORA**

It is generally accepted that Niccora was a predecessor of Cascade. That would locate it in the area of Teft siding on the Denver and Silverton Railroad.

**NICCORA – Continued**

During its short life Niccora was a station on the wagon and stage road from Durango to Silverton, at the foot of the difficult climb up Cascade Creek. It has also been stated that there was a sawmill at this location. Unfortunately there is no Geographic Site Location Report to support or dispute this information.

Niccora (Teft) Siding is on the west side of the Las Animas River, immediately north of the bridge where the railroad crosses the river to the west side, about five and one-half miles north of the power plant at Tacoma. Without a long and difficult hike the only way to view the site is from the Durango and Silverton Train. No sign of buildings is visible from the train – just trees. A cabin standing on the north side of Cascade Creek is probably on the site of Niccora. This cabin, built in 1941, is owned by Ernie Schaaf of Durango [*Cinders & Smoke*, 7th Edition, by Doris B. Osterwald, p 43].

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Jul 16 1877</b>	<b>Established</b>
<b>Jul 16 1877</b>	<b>Blackridge, Frank E.</b>
<b>Nov 26 1877</b>	<b>Discontinued</b>

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM NICCORA**

**OXFORD**

The community of Oxford began life as Grommet. In 1908 the name was changed to Oxford, perhaps just because, “it sounded better.”

Oxford was initially a small farming community and in 2000 it was even smaller. There are a few homes and a bar & grill, which is marked by a small sports car, mounted atop a high post. The Durango-La Plata County Airport is two miles southwest of Oxford but does not seem to have contributed to the economy. Oxford is within the boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

The directions to Oxford (Grommet) once again begin at the intersection of US Highway 160 and Colorado Highway 172. Drive south through Falfa. At the entrance to the airport, Highway 172 turns east. At about two miles from the airport and after a short jog to the southeast you should be at Oxford.

The 1941 Geographic Site Location Report for Oxford contains a rather odd statement that the post office was “240 feet east from the Ignacio station of the D&RG Railroad.” This makes no sense as Ignacio is several miles southeast of Oxford and the railroad passed close enough to Ignacio for a station to be located there, not at Oxford.

Latitude = 37:10:08 North Longitude = 107:42:49 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Mar 21 1904</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>SE/4 Sec 21 T34N R8W 100 feet northeast of D&amp;RG, White's Spur</b>	
		<b>Proposed postmaster - Margaret A. Grommet</b>	
<b>Jan 13 1908</b>		<b>Name changed from Grommet</b>	
<b>Jan 13 1908</b>		<b>Gibson, Edwin Y.</b>	
<b>Jul 9 1908</b>		<b>Brockenauer, Fritz</b>	
<b>Jul 14 1908</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>SE/4 SE/4 Sec 21 T34N R8W 100 Feet east of the D&amp;RG Railroad</b>	
<b>Oct 22 1912</b>		<b>Buchanan, Andrew J.</b>	
<b>Apr 23 1914</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>SE/4 Sec 21 T34N R8W 100 rods east of Salt Creek 100 feet east of the D&amp;RG</b>	
<b>Jan 14 1921</b>		<b>Berlin, Louie</b>	
<b>Nov 21 1925</b>		<b>Hahn, James B.</b>	<b>Acting &amp; Confirmed</b>
<b>Nov 24 1925</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>SE/4 SE/4 Sec 21 T34N R8W 1/2 mile east of Salt Creek 240 feet east of the D&amp;RG</b>	
<b>Dec 7 1925</b>		<b>Hahn, James B.</b>	<b>Appointed</b>

**OXFORD – Continued**

Jan 30 1926	Hahn, James B.	Commissioned
Apr 1 1926	Hahn, James B.	Assumed charge
Mar 12 1934	Smith, Harry E.	Confirmed
Apr 13 1934	Smith, Harry E.	Commissioned
Apr 23 1934	Smith, Harry E.	Assumed charge
Oct 22 1941	--- SE/4 Sec 21 T34N R8W 240 feet east from Ignacio Station of the D&RG Railroad	
Nov 3 1954	Ordered closed	
Nov 30 1954	Discontinued Mail to Ignacio	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	OXFORD, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x14mm	Mar 26 1910 Jul 16 1916
2	OXFORD, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Jul 23 1911 Mar 21 1920
3	OXFORD. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Jun 8 1940 Sep 18 1948
4	OXFORD / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Mar 3 1950 Nov 30 1954
5	OXFORD / COLO. CI 11P 29.5/19.0	Hstp S-24x19mm	Nov 30 1954 Nov 30 1954



**PARGIN**

Pargin was a small settlement on the road from Pagosa Springs to Durango. From its short existence it was most likely a ranch post office that served a modest number of farms and ranches in the area about two thirds of the way from Piedra to Bayfield.

Ray Newburn, in *Postal History of the Colorado San Juan* suggests that it might have been named for the Pargin family: Dan, Seralda, and four sons who in 1877 were early settlers on the Pine River.

The location is a mile and a half west of the La Plata-Archuleta County line. There is a group of fairly new buildings and one older barn on the south side of US 160.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 15 1901	---	SW/4 Sec 22 T35N R6W 6 miles east of the Pine River 100 feet north of Beaver Creek
		Proposed postmaster - John W. Zimmerman
Jul 24 1901		Established

**PARGIN – Continued**

Jul 24 1901	Zimmerman, John W.
Dec 19 1902	Ordered closed
Jan 15 1903	Discontinued Papers to Bayfield

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM PARGIN**

**PARROTT/PARROTT CITY**

Parrott was one of the few post offices established in the San Juan Mountain region before Colorado became a state. It was of such size and importance that it was the county seat of La Plata County until the office was moved to Durango in 1885.

In the spring of 1873 John Moss led a party of prospectors into the mountains of southwestern Colorado. They were successful in finding placer gold deposits in the canyon of the La Plata River. Moss sought capital from bankers in San Francisco and was successful in convincing Tiburcio Parrott, of Parrott and Company, to contribute financing to the new settlement. As a result of Mr. Parrott's support the settlement was named in his honor. Prior to selecting Parrott as the community name, the camp was also known as Moss Camp and California Bar. The initial Geographic Site Location Report offered Coppinger as an alternate name to Parrot.

A plat for Parrott (City) was filed on October 7, 1874 in La Plata County. The town grew rapidly to an estimated 1,000 inhabitants but the placer gold soon played out and by 1883 the town was nearly deserted. Parrott lost the county seat to Durango but lived on until the end of the nineteenth century.

Eventually the area that was once Parrott became part of a cattle ranch and only a few remnants of log buildings still exist to mark the location. One additional marker is small trailer home or the back half of a bus, that is securely fenced in by some sizeable aspen trees.

To reach the site, follow the directions to Mayday and continue two and one-half miles further up the La Plata River. The trailer and a couple of rotting log cabins will mark the site.

When you read the location descriptions tabulated below, you will find that I do not understand their meaning. The three "specific" sites don't fit to anything reasonable for Parrott. The site is within the boundaries of the San Juan National Forest, which for the most part is unsurveyed. It could be that the claimed locations are only estimates made at the time the documents were submitted to Washington.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

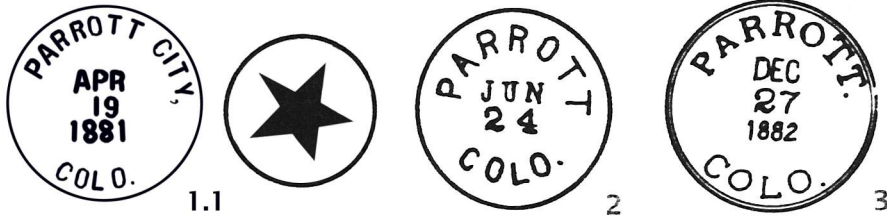
Aug 24 1875 ---	Not surveyed 1/4 mile west of La Plata River West side of Parrott Creek Note: Parrott Creek no longer appears on the USGS County Map It seems to have been renamed Madden Creek
May 5 1876	Established
May 5 1876	Kallenberg, Albert H.
Jan 2 1877	Sheek, Joseph S.
Apr 8 1878	Hogan, Frank S.
Sep 2 1880	Winters, W. R.
Dec 28 1880	Winters, John J.
Feb 2 1881	Hill, Melvin G.
May 25 1881	Winters, William R.
Oct 4 1881	Casebolt, Josiah B.
Oct 24 1883	Sheek, James G.
Oct 25 1884 ---	NW/4 Sec 15 T35N R11W NOTE: This location is almost identical with Hesperus and makes no sense as a location for Parrot 1/8 mile west of the La Plata River The sketch map indicates this to be a move south from NE/4 Sec 26 T36N R11W Proposed postmaster - James G. Sheek
Nov 12 1885	Discontinued Papers to Durango

**PARROTT/PARROTT CITY – Continued**

- Jul 21 1886 --- E/2 NE/4 Sec 32 & W/2 NW/4 Sec 36 T36N R11W 1/2 mile west of the La Plata River  
Note: This yet another location that makes little sense. Possibly it was an early attempt to provide postal service to the May Day Mine.  
Proposed postmaster - William S. Darrow
- Jan 6 1887 Re-established
- Jan 6 1887 Darrow, William S.
- Apr 26 1892 Town, Martin L.
- Jul 5 1898 Vanderverter, Lena L.
- Oct 31 1898 Discontinued Papers to Hesperus

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |     |                                      |  |
|-----|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1   | Parrott<br>MS                        | Jul -- 18--<br>Mscp Pen cancel [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]<br>Apr 19 1881 |
| 1.1 | PARROTT CITY, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 26.0 | Hstp Fancy 5 pointed star in circle  |
| 2   | PARROTT / COLO.<br>CI 20P 27.5/26.0  | Feb 2 188- May 5 1884<br>Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm                              |
| 3   | PARROTT. / COLO.<br>CI 10P 25.5      | Jun 24 188- Nov 26 188-<br>Hstp Target, 4-ring                                 |



**PERIN/PERINS**

When initially established this post office was simply called Perin. The office was discontinued in 1903 and when a post office was reopened in 1907 it was with the extended name of Perins. I have not seen an explanation for the change but the Post Office Department was notorious during the 1890's and 1900's for insisting on names that were short and simple.

As early as the 1870's it was known that there were coal deposits on Perins Peak, immediately west of Durango. In 1891 G. C. Franklin discovered a seven-foot thick vein of bituminous coal. With the help of eastern capital he organized the Boston Coal and Fuel Company and began development of the Perins Mine. A narrow gauge railroad was constructed to haul coal from the mine to the Rio Grande Southern Railroad at Franklin's Junction. In 1908 the spur railroad and mine were acquired by the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad and continued to operate as the Calumet Fuel Company.

The town of Perins was in a low saddle on the crest of a ridge below the summit of Perins Peak. This was a fair sized town with a post office, boarding house, stores and a number of residences. The Perins Mine became the most important coal producer in the Durango vicinity.

The mine survived a brief strike in 1921 but by 1926 a declining market and a depleted coal reserve brought the mining to a close. The railroad was removed and the population departed. During the 1960's, author-historian Robert Ormes hiked in to the mine and town site. He reported that no structures remained.

Today, there is a radio tower on Perins Peak and a service road to the tower. However, a locked gate blocks the road.

**PERIN/PERINS – Continued**

From the junction on US 160, with the road into Wildcat Canyon, drive west 1.3 miles to the side road that turns up Lightner Creek. Seven-tenths of a mile from US 160 a road to the right leads three-tenths of a mile more, to a dead end at an apartment complex. It might be possible to park there and then hike up the back of Perins Peak to the site of Perins and the mine.

**PERIN****Chronology of the Post Office**

Mar 5 1902	---	NE/4 Sec 14 T35N R10W 1 mile east of Lightner Creek 50 feet west of track (Perins Peak Railroad) Proposed postmaster - Frederick C. Chandler
Apr 4 1902		Established
Apr 4 1902		Chandler, Frederick C.
Mar 24 1903		Discontinued Papers to Durango

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

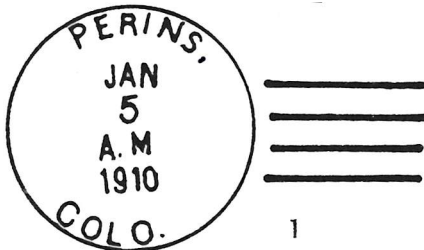
NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM PERIN

**PERINS****Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 1 1907	---	NE/4 NW/4 Sec 14 T35N R10W Rio Grande Southern 1-1/4 miles south
Apr 1 1907		Established
Apr 1 1907		Rader, Albert
Aug 10 1907		Meston, John
Oct 7 1917		Rich, Edward Griffith
Nov 2 1918		Meston, John
Feb 7 1920		Rader, Albert
Dec 16 1920		Meston, John
Aug 15 1922		Discontinued Mail to Durango
Oct 6 1924		Re-established
Oct 6 1924		Alexander, Fred C.
Aug 4 1926		Ordered closed
Aug 14 1926		Discontinued Mail to Durango

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1 PERINS, / COLO. Mar 7 1909 Jan 12 1912  
CI 10P 31.5 4bars S-24x13mm

**PINE RIVER/PINERIVER**

In 1880 George A. Crofutt described Pine River as, "Consists of a ranche, hotel, and post office, in one building, on the west bank of the Rio de Los Pinos, surrounded by timber and agricultural land, where stock-raising is the principal occupation, and where a little mining is done". There are a couple of problems with that description, the major one being that period and later maps all place Pine River on the

**PINE RIVER / PINERIVER – Continued**

east side of the Los Pinos River. The mention of mining is also questionable but the early prospectors dug holes in many places that never resulted in significant mineral production.

There is not a clear location for Pine River as most reports give only approximate distances to Columbus on the north and Los Pinos (Bayfield) to the south. It was on the wagon road from Animas City to Pagosa Springs. In September 2000 when Jim Ozment and I toured the area along the Los Pinos River, we chose a well-maintained ranch with a beautiful old house and barn as a site for Pine River. The chosen ranch was on the west side of Colorado Highway 501, four miles north of US Highway 160 at Bayfield.

The derivation of the name is obviously from its location on the Rio de Los Pinos, “River of the Pines.”

There was apparently a need for a post office in the area, as postmarks are known throughout the years of its operation. In 1894, Pine River was another victim of the Post Office Department’s crusade to turn two word names into one word without concern for proper use of the language. Thus, Pine River became Pineriver.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 28 1878	---	Not surveyed: About 37 deg 15' North, 107 deg 40' west 300 feet east of Los Pinos River
Jul 15 1878		Established
Jul 15 1878		Johnson, Charles Sr.
Nov 28 1881		Hammond, Nahum W.
May 26 1888		Wood, Charles F.
Sep 25 1889		Hughes, Jonathan
Jul 31 1890		Wood, Charles F.
Sep 18 1891		Wood, Oscar C.
Apr 14 1894		Spelling changed to Pineriver
Apr 14 1894		Isaacson, Robert
Nov 15 1894		Issackson, Johanne
Sep 12 1895		Discontinued Mail to Los Pinos

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

0.1	Pine River Colo MS	Nov 19 1878
1	PINE RIVER, / COL. CI 10P 24.0	Mscp Pen cancel Jun 14 1881 May 14 188?
2	PINE RIVER / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Fancy, star with openings in each point Mar 17 1883 Jun 25 1890
3	PINERIVER / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, smudge; Fancy, 7-bar grid in toothed circle Dec 28 1892 Jun 24 1895
		Hstp Target, 4-ring

*Pine River Colo  
11-19-78*

0.1



1



2



3



**PORTER**

Porter was a small community situated around some small coal mines in Wildcat Canyon, west of Durango. John A. Porter, for whom the settlement and the principal mine were named, began mining operations as early as 1880. Construction of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad in 1890 was deliberately routed through Porter in order to serve the coal mines.

In 1906 the Porter Coal Company was sold to the Union Pacific Coal Company, a subsidiary of the Union Pacific Railroad. However, within two years the main coal seam had been depleted and mining at Porter quickly declined. The town of Porter once had been large enough to support at least one general store and perhaps a hundred residents. With closure of the Porter Mine, the town soon disappeared.

In September 2000 there were a few small buildings and a mobile home at the site of Porter. Although not confirmed, it is possible that there may still be one or more "one-man" mining operations at Porter.

To reach the site begin in the city of Durango at the point where US Highway 160 separates from US 550. Drive west on US 160 two miles and turn left into Wildcat Canyon. Porter was a mile and half from US 160 and the old mining activity is clearly evident.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 11 1891	---	SW/4 Sec 35 T35N R10W 4 miles west of the Rio Las Animas On northwest side of Wildcat Creek 150 feet north of Rio Grande Southern track Proposed postmaster - Thomas Mason
Oct 7 1891		Established
Oct 7 1891		Mason, Thomas
Aug 11 1906		Rogers, Ida
Aug 25 1908		Ordered closed
Sep 15 1908		Discontinued Mail to Durango

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

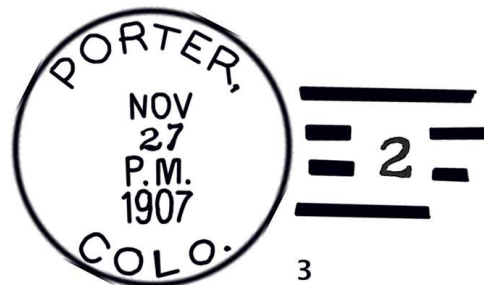
1	PORTER, / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Mar 10 1895 Hstp Fancy Star in circle
2	PORTER / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Feb 6 1905 Oct 10 1905 Hstp Target
3	PORTER, / COLO. CI 10P 36.0	Jun 13 1907 Apr 9 1908 Doane Type 3 with 2



1



2



3

**REDMESA**

There is substantial belief that the original name chosen for Redmesa was Garland but that was rejected for the post office, perhaps for fear of confusion with Fort Garland. However, the Geographic Site Location Report on file for Garland describes a site about two miles north of the location of Redmesa. It does remain possible that the original intention was to establish a town at that location but before any serious work was done, a decision was made to move to the present location of Redmesa.

**REDMESA – Continued**

Mormon settlers established Redmesa. By 1930 the population had nearly reached 300. However, since then there has been a gradual decline and in 1994 there are a few residences and a building that might have served as the post office but is now the Redmesa Bakery.

Redmesa takes its name from the nearby tableland of that name, so named for the red color of the soils and rock that form the mesa. The names of the community and the mesa are usually given as a single word: Redmesa. However, the locals frequently use two words: Red Mesa.

Redmesa is located on Colorado Highway 140, approximately eight miles south of Breen and seven miles north of the Colorado-New Mexico border.

Latitude = 37:05:40 North Longitude = 108:10:11 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

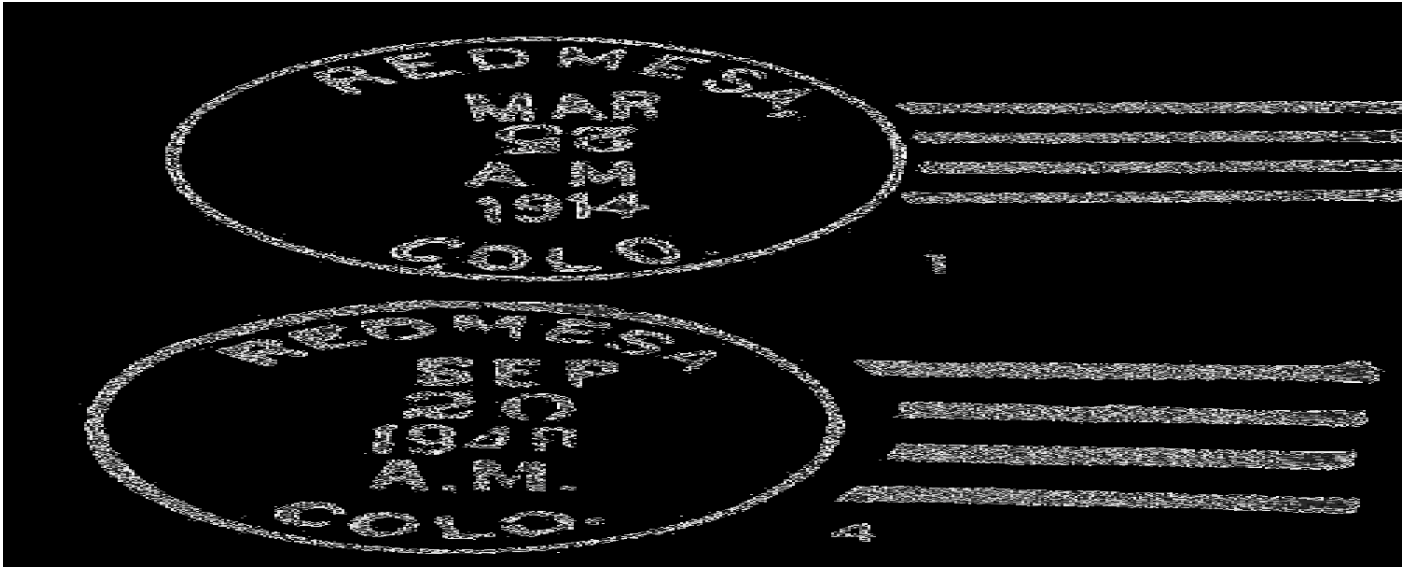
Apr 24 1907	Established	Records indicate this office was formerly Garland	
Apr 24 1907		Greer, Hannah J.	
Jan 22 1912	---	SE/4 Sec 8 T32N R12W	
Jan 12 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 21 T33N R12W	1-1/4 mile east of La Plata River
Jan 30 1914		Hall, Martha I.	
Feb 18 1915		Taylor, Irina	
May 12 1917		Taylor, Clara	
Jul 23 1921		Walker, Irma T.	
Jul 10 1928		Craft, William C.	
Dec 3 1928		Burnham, Lila	Confirmed
Jan 10 1929		Roubidoux, Lila B.	Commissioned
Jan 17 1929		Roubidoux, Lila B.	Assumed charge
Oct 22 1941	---	NE/4 Sec 20 T33N R12W	La Plata River is 2 miles west of the office
Nov 13 1943		Burnham, Mrs. Rose P.	Assumed charge
Nov 25 1943		Burnham, Mrs. Rose P.	Acting
May 28 1945		Cheney, Mrs. Virginia F.	Confirmed
Aug 3 1945		Cheney, Mrs. Virginia F.	Commissioned
Aug 22 1945		Cheney, Mrs. Virginia F.	Assumed charge
Mar 6 1947		Jacobs, Mrs. Lizzie M.	Assumed charge
Mar 28 1947		Jacobs, Mrs. Lizzie M.	Confirmed
May 7 1947		Jacobs, Mrs. Lizzie M.	Commissioned
Sep 30 1947		Cheney, Mrs. Virginia F.	Assumed charge
Nov 26 1947		Cheney, Mrs. Virginia F.	Confirmed
Feb 9 1948		Cheney, Mrs. Virginia F.	Commissioned
Aug 20 1949		Gladden, Mrs. Margaret	Assumed charge
Sep 7 1949		Gladden, Mrs. Margaret	Acting
Apr 3 1950		Halls, Verd	Confirmed
May 12 1950		Halls, Verd	Commissioned
Jun 15 1950		Halls, Verd	Assumed charge
Nov 3 1954		Ordered closed	
Nov 30 1954		Discontinued	Mail to Hesperus

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	REDMESA, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-22x13mm	Sep 28 1908 Mar 25 1914
2	REDMESA, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Mar 21 1931 Jun 21 1938
3	REDMESA, / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Aug 14 1941 Oct 24 1942

**REDMESA – Continued**

4	REDMESA / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-24x19mm	Sep 20 1948 Nov 30 1954
5	REDMESA / COLO. CI 11P 30.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Nov 30 1954

**ROCKWOOD**

Activity at Rockwood commenced a few years before the arrival of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. Rockwood was at first a rest point on the road from Durango. North of Rockwood the road divided with one branch going on to Silverton and the other to Rico. With the arrival of the railroad on November 26, 1881 Rockwood gained importance. It was still the departure point for the road to Rico and it was the last suitable place for railroad activities before the rails entered the Las Animas Canyon. In addition to the railroad, there was ranching and timber cutting in the area and a quarry provided limestone that was burned to make flux for the smelters in Durango.

Rockwood grew to be a substantial town with a hotel, school, general store, dry goods store, restaurant, saloon and a sawmill. There are still some active small businesses in Rockwood that service the inhabitants of the town as well as the surrounding area. On the north edge of "old" Rockwood there is a new condominium or apartment development - "The Village at Rockwood," a sign of things to come.

One version of the naming of the community is that it honors Thomas Rockwood, a pioneer. Another claim is that it was a combination of Rock (for the quarry) and wood (for the harvested lumber).

The Durango and Silverton Railroad still runs through the site and about a half-mile from the town exits from a cut onto a ledge from which there is a sheer drop of several hundred feet to the Animas River. This is perhaps the most famous photo location in all of narrow gauge railroad history.

Rockwood is nineteen miles north of Durango and three-quarters of a mile east of US Highway 550. The entrance road is about a mile after the second switchback on US 550 northbound and is well marked. Of course you can get a good view of Rockwood from the open photographers' car on the Durango and Silverton train.

Latitude = 37:29:27 North Longitude = 107:48:05 West

**ROCKWOOD – Continued**



**Overview of the Rockwood Community**

Photograph By James L. Ozment

September 25, 1998

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Jun 26 1878 --- Land not surveyed 1/4 mile west of the Las Animas River
- Jul 8 1878 Established
- Jul 8 1878 Warner, George B.
- Jun 1 1881 West, Robert L.
- Mar 15 1882 Campbell, G. A.
- Mar 28 1882 Campbell, Archie G.
- Oct 16 1882 Jackson, Mason
- Nov 15 1894 Monyon, Mina
- May 11 1895 Conley, John J.
- Jul 15 1895 Discontinued Mail to Hermosa
- Oct 14 1895 --- NE/4 Sec 12 T37N R9W 3/4 mile west of the Las Animas River  
400 feet east of Elbert Creek 30 feet north of D&RG Railroad  
Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Ann Brown
  
- Nov 8 1895 Re-established
- Nov 8 1895 Brown, Ann
- Nov 21 1896 Sarles, Frederic H.
- Jan 9 1897 --- SW/4 Sec 12 T37N R9W 1/2 mile northwest of the Las Animas River  
250 feet northeast of Elbert Creek about one fourth mile southeasterly  
And one mile south of Rockwood RR Station
  
- Aug 31 1899 Bowlen, Elizabeth M.
- Dec 10 1903 Nickell, John I.
- Apr 1 1905 Sevire, Blanche E.

## ROCKWOOD – Continued

May 10 1910	Deputy, Frank	
Feb 18 1915	Deputy, Florence A.	Declined
Jun 2 1915	Holden, James R.	
Apr 14 1917	Discontinued Closing order rescinded, no date given Likely this discontinuance was not effected	
Apr 20 1923	Re-established	
Apr 20 1923	Bart, Mrs. Eliza H.	
Oct 8 1926	--- NE/4 Sec 12 T37N R8W 1/2 mile west of the Las Animas River 600 feet east of Elbert Creek 25 feet west of the D&RG track	
Aug 18 1928	Haley, Leroy	Acting
Sep 19 1928	Haley, Leroy	Confirmed
Oct 5 1928	Haley, Leroy	Commissioned
Dec 5 1929	Amos, Dulcie E.	Acting
Dec 20 1929	Amos, Dulcie E.	Appointed
Jun 2 1930	Walker, Alice M.	Possession
Jun 21 1930	Walker, Alice M.	Acting
Sep 5 1930	Walker, Alice M.	Appointed
Sep 23 1930	Walker, Alice M.	Commissioned
Jun 15 1935	Harrington, J. Gerald	Assumed charge
Aug 29 1935	Harrington, J. Gerald	Acting
Nov 16 1935	Harrington, J. Gerald	Confirmed
Jan 4 1936	Harrington, J. Gerald	Commissioned
Oct 17 1936	Sharp, Oliver	Assumed charge
Oct 20 1936	Sharp, Oliver	Acting
Nov 16 1936	Sharp, Oliver	Confirmed
Feb 12 1937	Sharp, Oliver	Commissioned
Jan 31 1940	Ordered closed	
Feb 15 1940	Discontinued Mail to Durango	

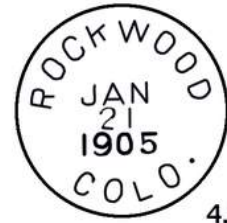
## Confirmed types of postal markings

1	ROCKWOOD, / LA PLATA CO., COLO. CI 11P 28.5/17.5	Hstp Fancy, Outlined Maltese Cross	May 20 1882 Aug 2 1882
2	ROCKWOOD, / COLO. CI 21P 28.0/26.0/17.0	Grid, 9 bar circular	May 4 1883 Feb 19 1888
3	ROCKWOOD / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target	May 27 1884 May 18 1891
4	Rockwood, Colo MS	Mscp Target, Registered cover. The town designation may be a return address	Dec 29 1897
4.01	ROCKWOOD / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not present	Jan 21 1905
4.1	ROCKWOOD, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Doane Type 3 with 4	Nov 11 1907 Aug 15 1911
5	ROCKWOOD, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Jun 30 1913 Jan 5 1914
6	ROCKWOOD / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x14mm	Feb 14 1933 Jan 9 1934
7	ROCKWOOD, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Jun 2 1936 Feb 15 1940



**ROCKWOOD – Continued**

*if not called for in 10 Days  
Return to O. J. Leggett. Rockwood, Colo*

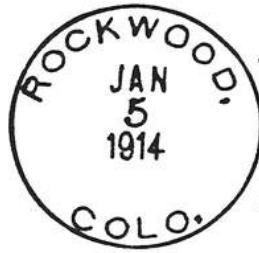


4

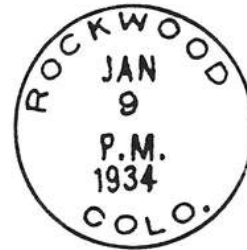
4.01



4.1



5



6



**AUXILIARY MARKINGS**

A-1 rockwood, colo Returned to Writer.  
SL 00R 47x5

May 4 1883

Hstp

**Returned to Writer.**

A-1

**TACOMA**

In 1906 the Western Colorado Power Company built a generating station on the Animas River. Water to power the turbines is stored in Electra Lake, several hundred feet above the powerhouse located on the canyon floor. Little Cascade and Elbert Creeks feed the lake.

The community of Tacoma was constructed to house employees at the power plant. There were no roads to the powerhouse and access was only by way of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. The Tacoma plant is still in use and there are several small cabins for use by the maintenance and operating staff. The power plant is west of the river but most of the homes are on the east side of the river. The post office was also on the east side of the river.

The power company or whoever filed the application for the post office, suggested the name Electra but that was discarded in favor of Tacoma. The accepted story is that the plant foreman named the plant and settlement for his hometown, Tacoma, Washington.

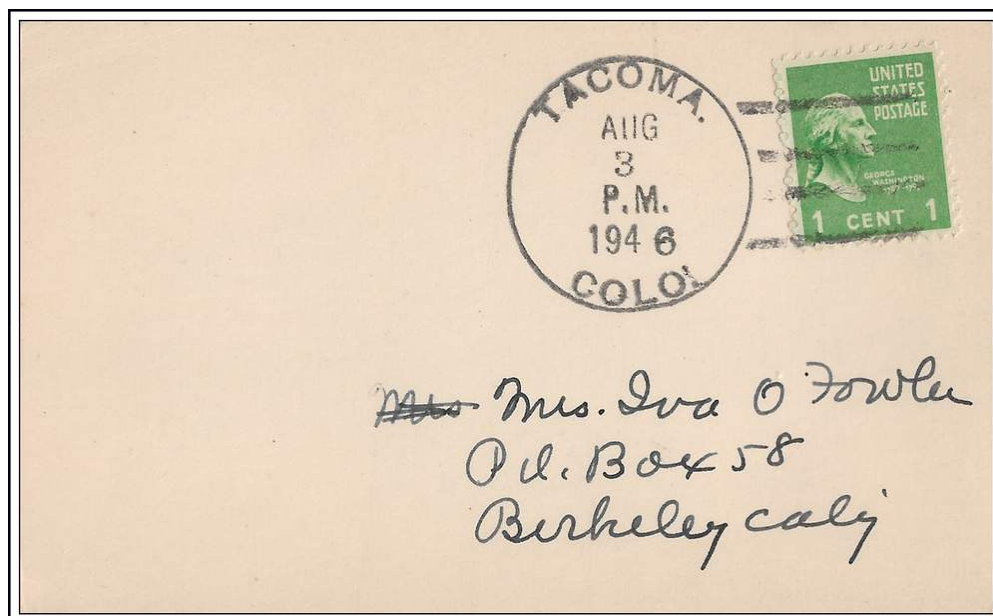
The only way to visit Tacoma is by means of the Durango and Silverton Railway. The area is open so there are no obstructions to photography from the train.

## TACOMA – Continued

Latitude = 37:31:25 North Longitude = 107:46:53 West

## Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 31 1906	---	NE/4 Sec 31 T38N R8W Las Animas River 300 feet west and Canon Creek 600 feet south of post office D&RG passes through Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Marie E. Johnson	
Sep 25 1906		Established	
Sep 25 1906		Johnson, Marie E.	
Jan 3 1907	---	NW/4 Sec 32 T38N R8W 300 feet east of Las Animas River 600 feet north of Canon Creek 300 feet east of D&RG track	
Sep 19 1910		Young, Adelbert E.	
May 10 1912		Wait, Arthur E.	
May 7 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 32 T38N R8W	
May 6 1916		Marshall, Howard	
Dec 20 1916		Rodgers, Stephen A.	
Nov 23 1918		Ayres, Lee T.	
Dec 11 1919		Jakway, Paul R.	
May 21 1920		Smith, Elton A.	
Sep 12 1922		Morris, Curtis	Acting
Nov 13 1922		Morris, Curtis	Appointed
Jul 2 1926		Smith, Elton A.	Acting
Jul 6 1926		Smith, Elton A.	Appointed
Jul 19 1928		Roach, James L.	Acting
Aug 18 1928		Halz, Leroy	Acting
Sep 19 1928		Halz, Leroy	Appointed
Oct 28 1941	---	NE/4 Sec 31 T38N R8W Animas River 250 feet west of post office D&RG tracks about 200 feet west of office	
Jan 2 1945		Hosner, James J.	Assumed charge
Jan 20 1945		Hosner, James J.	Acting
Apr 14 1945		Hosner, James J.	Confirmed
Jun 26 1945		Hosner, James J.	Commissioned
Nov 30 1954		Discontinued	



TACOMA, COLO.

August 3, 1946

**TACOMA – Continued**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**0.1 TACOMA, / COLO.  
CI 10P 31.0**

**Oct 3 1910**

**4bars S-??x13mm**

**NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION**

**1 TACOMA, / COLO.  
CI 10P 32.0**

**Dec 24 1938 Nov 30 1954**

**4bars S-23x19mm**



**TIFFANY**

In February 1903 William H. Wigglesworth, John Edwin Tiffany, G. E. Tiffany and G. E. Tiffany, Jr. claimed homesteads in the southeastern corner of La Plata County. In 1905 the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad installed a switch and a sidetrack. A boxcar was moved in to hold freight. The community came into existence on the Wigglesworth homestead and soon acquired a store. With a store the next logical step was to add a post office. That was accomplished and the name was chosen to honor John Edwin Tiffany. It is somewhat surprising that the Post Office Department would go along with the request as the Allison Post Office was in operation less than three miles to the east of Tiffany and even more surprising that both Tiffany and Allison continued to operate until November 30, 1954. Tiffany and Allison shared a cemetery, which was closer to Tiffany than to Allison.

Tiffany never had more than a handful of residents but there are still several occupied homes at the location.

To visit Tiffany, drive east from Ignacio on Colorado Highway 151. Eventually this road turns due south for a distance of three miles before it angles off to the southeast. At the point where it turns to the southeast, La Plata County Road 328 continues due south. A half-mile south of the intersection, a county road runs westward. Turn west on to that road and Tiffany is in front of you.

Return to Road 328, turn south a half-mile and then east. Two more miles and you are at Allison and only one mile from the La Plata-Archuleta County line.

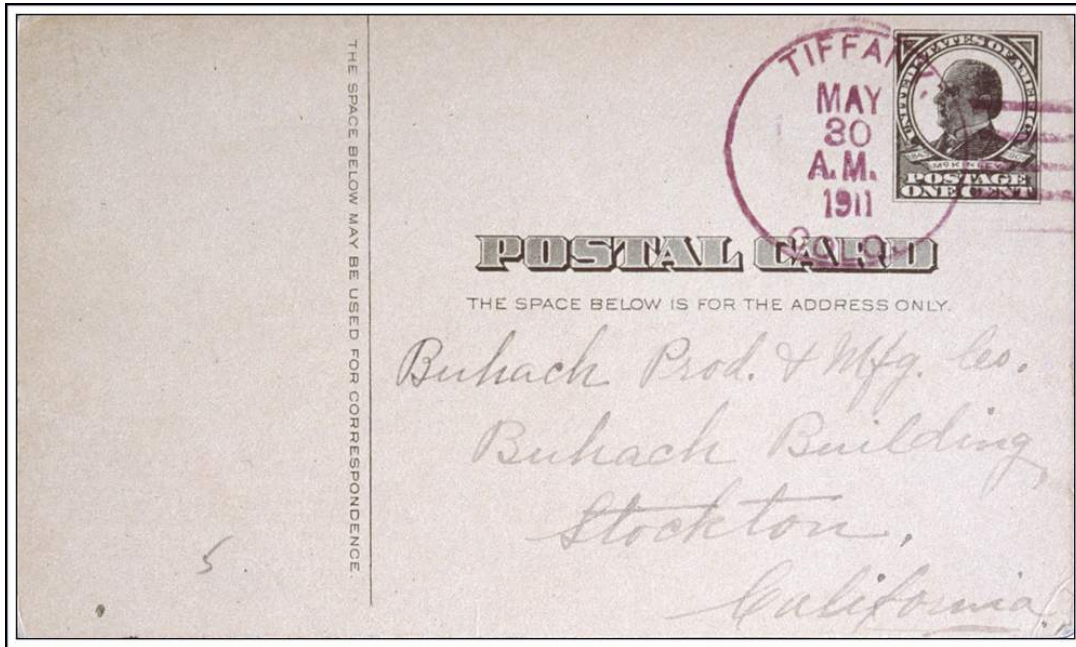
Latitude = 37:01:58 North Longitude = 107:32:15 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Jun 24 1907</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>NE/4 Sec 7 T32N R6W D&amp;RG is 300 feet south of post office</b>	
<b>Dec 3 1907</b>		<b>Established</b>	
<b>Dec 3 1907</b>		<b>Solomon, Barney W.</b>	
<b>Apr 20 1910</b>		<b>Linebarger, Henry N.</b>	
<b>Apr 21 1914</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>NE/4 Sec 7 T32N R6W 200 feet north of the D&amp;RG</b>	
<b>Mar 4 1916</b>		<b>Levey, Maurice</b>	
<b>Oct 26 1920</b>		<b>Davis, Laura L.</b>	<b>Confirmed</b>
<b>Feb 16 1933</b>		<b>Levey, Maurice</b>	<b>Confirmed</b>
<b>Feb 28 1933</b>		<b>Levey, Maurice</b>	<b>Commissioned</b>
<b>Mar 10 1933</b>		<b>Levey, Maurice</b>	<b>Assumed charge</b>
<b>May 25 1933</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>NE/4 Sec 7 T32N R6W 900 feet north of the D&amp;RGW</b>	
<b>Apr 19 1935</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>NE/4 Sec 7 T32N R7W (6W) A move 1050 feet southwest of a previous location</b>	

TIFFANY – Continued

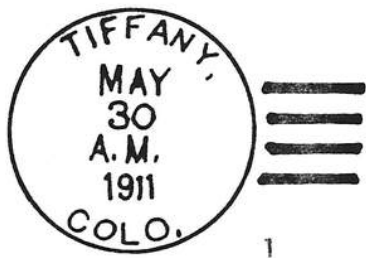
Nov 3 1954      Ordered closed  
Nov 30 1954      Discontinued Mail to Ignacio



TIFFANY, / COLO.      May 30, 1911

Confirmed types of postal markings

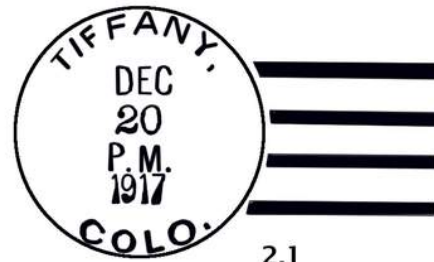
- |     |   |                 |                            |
|-----|---|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 1   | TIFFANY, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 31.5             | 4bars S-??x13mm | May 30 1911    May 20 1922 |
| 2   | TIFFANY, COLO. / M.O.B.<br>CI 11P 32.0/20.0 | Hstp No killer  | Feb 28 1917                |
| 2.1 | TIFFANY, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 32.5             | 4bars S-25x21mm | Dec 20 1917                |
| 3   | TIFFANY / COLO.<br>CI 10P 32.0              | 4bars S-23x14mm | Sep 28 1920    Dec 11 1934 |
| 4   | TIFFANY / COLO.<br>CI 10P 31.0              | 4bars S-23x14mm | Jan 27 1942    Nov 30 1954 |



1



2



2.1



3

**TRIMBLE**

The history of Trimble, or Trimble Hot Springs, begins in 1874 when William and Rufina Trimble settled near the springs. William Trimble believed that the hot water relieved his rheumatism so in March 1882 he purchased 160 acres of land that included the springs. Financial problems forced Trimble to sell the property to T. D. Burns of Tierra Amarillo, New Mexico. The first hotel at Trimble Hot Springs opened December 28, 1882 and lasted until 1892 when it was destroyed in a fire. In 1896 the lavish Hermosa House Hotel opened as a replacement and enjoyed a longer life but was claimed by fire on July 30, 1931. The property changed hands during the 1930's and a new, two-story, pink stucco and glass block building with a dining room and a ballroom was built on the site of the Hermosa House. But once again fire struck and the main building was destroyed in 1963. The resort remained closed until 1988 when new owners built facilities. Even today, after over 100 years of exploitation the springs continue to flow at a rate of 120 gallons per minute and an average temperature of 111° F.

There is some conflict as to whether it was William Trimble or Frank Trimble who should be credited with the development of the springs and for whom the community was named. Doris B. Osterwald who has thoroughly researched the route and history of the Durango and Silverton Railroad uses the name William Trimble.

The Trimble Hot Springs enjoyed reasonable popularity and its proximity to Durango provided a clientele seeking relaxation and entertainment. The Denver and Rio Grande had a small depot to serve excursionists. In 1898 the community was connected to Durango by an electric streetcar. The resort advertised, "curative qualities unsurpassed and a fine bar and billiard rooms for the recovered."

Trimble is located on US Highway 550, eight miles north of Durango. La Plata County Road 352 connects from the new US 550 to old US 550 in Trimble. There are a number of homes at Trimble and the hot springs still feed to a small resort.

When the application for a post office was submitted, the suggested name was Browns, however, that was in conflict with the existing Brown Post Office in Montrose County so Trimble was the chosen alternative.

Latitude = 37:23:25 North Longitude = 107:50:45 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Jan 29 1883</b>	<b>Established</b>	
<b>Jan 3 1883</b>	---	<b>NW/4 Sec 15 T36N R9W 125 yards south of the D&amp;RG, Trimble Springs Station</b>
		<b>Proposed postmaster - Charles W. Bowman</b>
<b>Jan 29 1883</b>		<b>Bowman, Charles W.</b>
<b>Sep 10 1883</b>		<b>Larkin, Andrew</b>
<b>Oct 31 1884</b>		<b>Hilliken, Charles M.</b>
<b>Jan 13 1885</b>		<b>McClelland, Job C.</b>
<b>Jan 14 1886</b>		<b>Discontinued Papers to Hermosa</b>
<b>Mar 26 1886</b>	---	<b>NE&amp;NW/4 Secs 15&amp;16 T36N R9W One mile west of the Rio de Las Animas</b>
		<b>200 feet west of D&amp;RG, Trimble Springs Station</b>
		<b>Proposed postmaster - Robert M. Gallagher</b>
<b>May 6 1886</b>		<b>Re-established</b>
<b>May 6 1886</b>		<b>Gallagher, Robert M.</b>
<b>Jul 7 1892</b>		<b>Quartiner, Joseph T.</b>
<b>Nov 15 1894</b>		<b>Borel, Fred Error in name</b>
<b>Jan 9 1895</b>		<b>Bovee, Floyd D.</b>
<b>Jun 4 1896</b>		<b>Hertsel, Theodor T. Declined</b>
<b>Oct 19 1896</b>		<b>Discontinued Papers to Hermosa</b>
<b>Dec 28 1896</b>		<b>Re-established</b>
<b>Dec 28 1896</b>		<b>Allen, James L.</b>
<b>May 13 1898</b>		<b>Waterman, George A.</b>

**TRIMBLE – Continued**

Jun 13 1899	Clark, Giles P.
Sep 7 1900	Ordered closed
Sep 15 1900	Discontinued Papers to Durango

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	TRIMBLE, / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Hstp Target	Jul 13 1883 Apr 19 1885
2	TRIMBLE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not present	Dec 8 1890 Aug 18 1891

**VALLECITO**

Ray Newburn, in *Postal History of the Colorado San Juan* describes the original Vallecito thusly: “Vallecito, Spanish for Little Valley, lay on Vallecito Creek just above its confluence with the Los Pinos River, according to Nell. Interestingly the 1908 Ignacio Quadrangle shows no town, just a Vallecito Ranger station near the location shown by Nell and a Vallecito Club further upstream.” This statement does agree with the location of the Post Office Department Report and suggests that the original Vallecito was a resort and not a permanent community.

The Vallecito Post Office closed in 1916. An attempt to reopen in 1917 failed and it was not until 1938 that a Vallecito Post Office reappeared. At that time construction had begun on the dam that would impound the Vallecito Reservoir. A construction camp was built a short distance below the dam and a post office was opened to serve the construction crews.

With the completion of the dam, need for the post office faded and the wartime conditions could not support the office so it too closed.

The “New” Vallecito did not die. It became a resort and service facility for fishermen and campers visiting the reservoir. After the war people began building cabins and summer homes at Vallecito and along the west side of the reservoir but the post office did not reopen.

In 2000 Vallecito was a modest resort community with some services for the residents and visitors to the reservoir. On our visit to Vallecito, we stopped at the Vallecito Resort store. We discovered that the boxes and window from the Vallecito Post Office are still in use to deliver mail to local residents and resort guests. The USPS brings mail to the store and fills the boxes – a “cluster box” delivery facility for the area. There is also on display in the store a money order window from another, unknown, post office.

To reach Vallecito, drive north from Bayfield on Colorado Highway 501. After crossing the Los Pinos River at the site of Columbus, Highway 501 continues to the right and will take you to Vallecito and the Vallecito Reservoir.

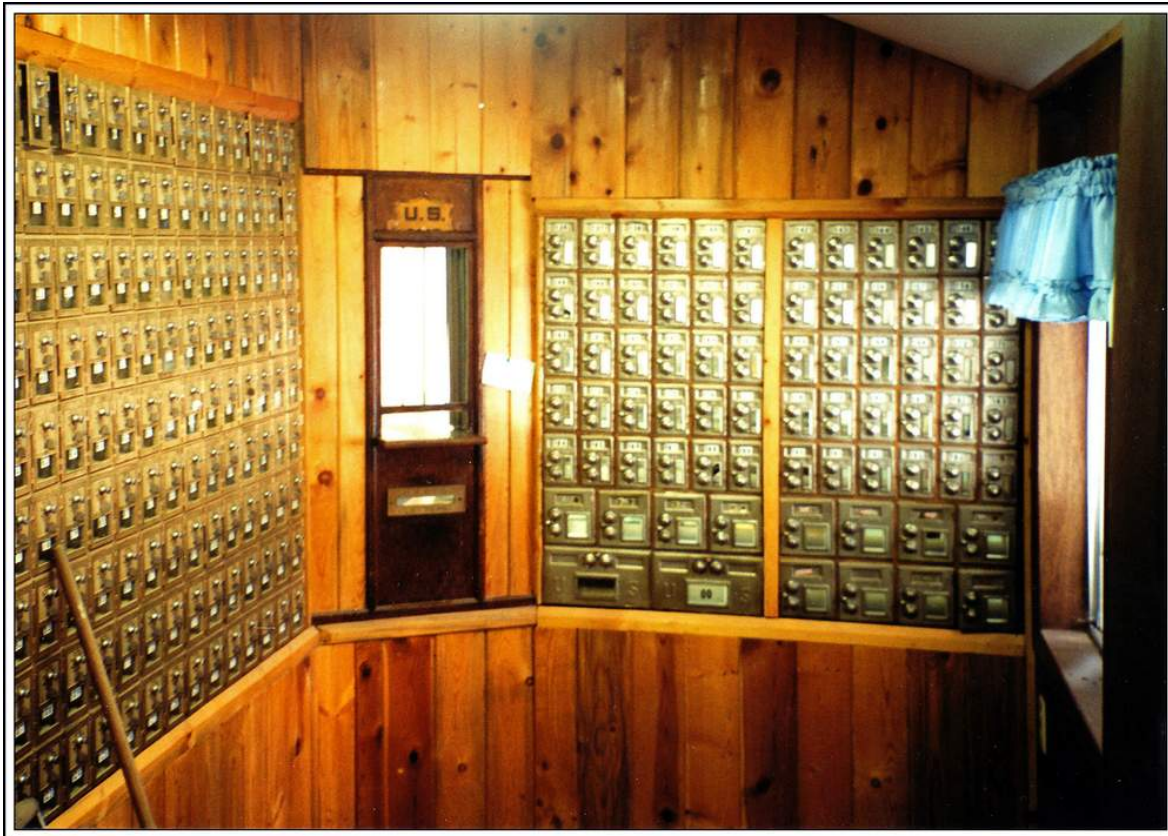
Latitude = 37:28:35 North Longitude = 107:32:47 West VALLECITO CAMPGROUND

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 17 1901	---	NW/4 Sec 17 T36N R6W 1/2 mile west of Los Pinos River and Vallecito or Viceto Creek (Near junction)
		Proposed postmaster - John T. Graham
Nov 15 1901		Established

**VALLECITO – Continued**

Nov 15 1901	Graham, John T.
Sep 23 1902	Whitney, Carrie
Oct 17 1903	Graham, John T.
Jun 21 1905	Melville, George W.
Mar 13 1908	Steans, Rose



**Post Office Boxes in the office of the Vallecito Store, they are still used to deliver mail to local residents and resort guests.**

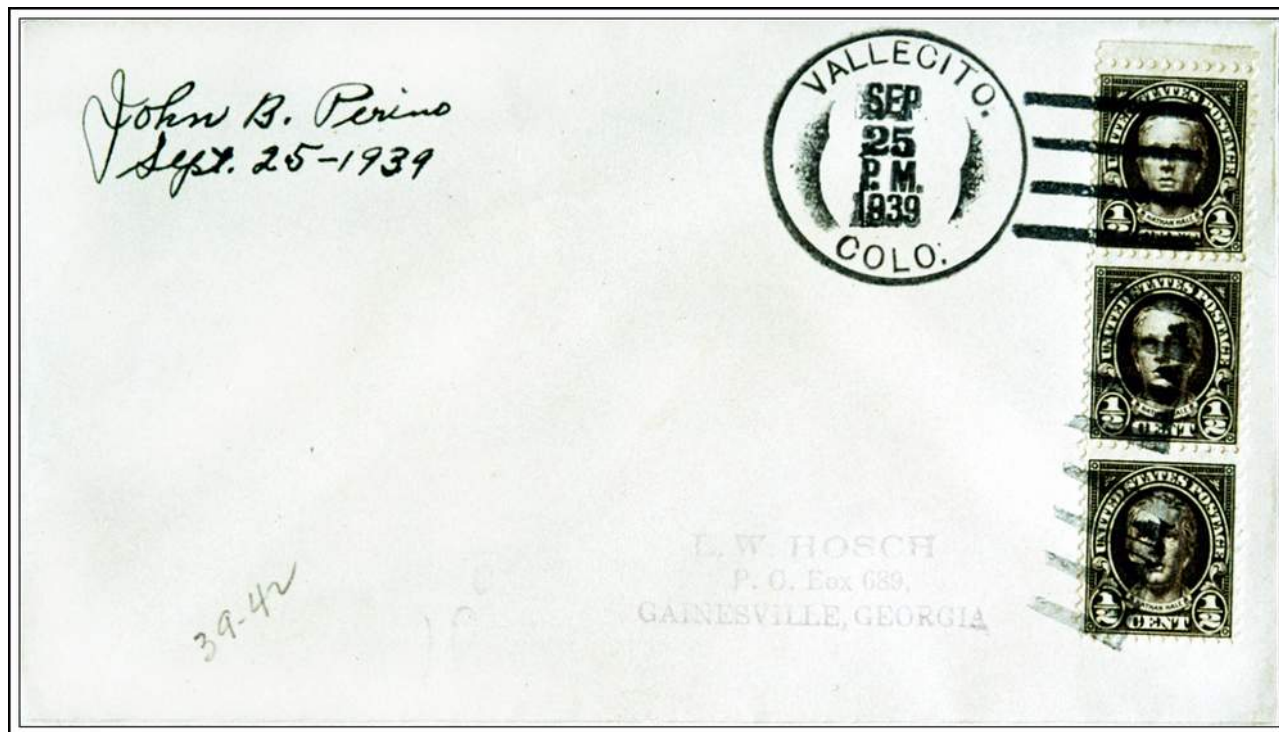
Photograph by William H. Bauer

September 17, 2000

May 10 1909	Whitney, Carrie	
Jan 6 1911	Root, Candace	
Jun 12 1913	Shaw, Dora M.	
Feb 10 1914	Smith, Harry C.	
Jun 10 1915	Kenney, Edward J.	Declined
Nov 24 1915	Frahm, Fred P.	
Dec 30 1916	Discontinued Mail to Bayfield	
Jun 12 1917	Re-established	
Jun 12 1917	Shaw, Dora M.	Declined
--- --	Establishment rescinded when postmaster declined appointment	
Feb 7 1938	NE/4 Sec 24 T36N R7W 1/2 mile north of the Los Pinos River 1/2 mile west of Jack Creek Applicant for postmaster - John B. Perino	
Aug 26 1939	Re-established	
Aug 26 1939	Perino, John B.	Confirmed
Sep 8 1939	Perino, John B.	Commissioned
Oct 16 1941	Buswell, Mrs. Esther R.	Assumed charge

VALLECITO – Continued

Oct 21 1941            Buswell, Mrs. Esther R.            Acting  
 Sep 26 1939 ---       NE/4 Sec 24 T36N R7W Pine River 1/2 mile southeast of post office  
 Fed 23 1942            Ordered closed  
 Mar 15 1942            Discontinued Mail to Bayfield



VALLECITO, / COLO.      September 25, 1939

Confirmed types of postal markings

- |   |                                   |                     |                                      |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | VALLECITO / COLO.<br>CI 10P 28.0  | Hstp Target         | Oct 7 1903                           |
| 2 | VALLECITO, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 31.0 | Doane Type 3 with 1 | Aug 18 1908 Aug 19 1916<br>S-24x14mm |
| 3 | VALLECITO. / COLO.<br>CI 10P 34.0 | 4bars S-24x20mm     | Sep 25 1939 Mar 14 1942              |



## **VICETO**

Ray Newburn in *Postal History of the Colorado San Juan* states that Viceto is shown on the 1902 Nells Map of Colorado, and that the 1906 version locates Vallecito at the same location. However, the 1889 Geographic Site Location Report for Viceto is not the same as the Site Location given for Vallecito in 1901. That document does indicate that it might have been filed with the intention to reestablish the name Viceto.

Other than Newburn's brief comment there is no other information relative to Viceto. Based on its location in heavily timbered, mountainous terrain, I think it possible that it was a short-lived lumber camp.

The site reported for Viceto in 1891 is near the upper end of the Vallecito Reservoir and would be under water most of the time. When Jim Ozment and I visited the reservoir in September 2000 the water level was down but was still sufficiently high to cover any possible remnant of Viceto.

To reach an overlook of the Viceto site, follow the directions to Vallecito. Drive beyond the Vallecito community to the dam and north on the west side of the reservoir to the Mountain Marina. Continue north another two miles to where a crude road leads down to the bank of the reservoir. The claimed location of Viceto was near the center of the reservoir, opposite this spot.

### **Chronology of the Post Office**

Dec 17 1889	--	NE/4 Sec 5 T36N R6W
		Proposed postmaster - Norman W. Titus
May 19 1890		Established
Mar 19 1890		Titus, Norman W.
Oct 15 1891		Discontinued Papers to Pine River

### **Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM VICETO**

## **WALLS**

A post office to be named Walls was authorized on April 25, 1896 and John F. Daly was appointed postmaster. The establishment was rescinded on August 13, 1896 with no reason stated.

Nothing else has been found to explain where Walls was located and what kind of populace it was intended to serve. It is highly unlikely that it was ever placed in operation.

### **Chronology of the Post Office**

		No documents were found in the La Plata County Geographic Site Location Reports
Apr 25 1896		Established
Apr 25 1896		Daly, John F.
Aug 13 1896		Establishment rescinded

### **Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM WALLS**

## **YOUNG**

Young appears to have been another station on the Meserole and Blake stage road from Rockwood to Rico. The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report places it about three and one-half miles south of the boundary between La Plata and San Juan Counties and near the Purgatory Ski Resort. Nothing else is known about this place.

The site location report does reference Young's Ranch and the first and only postmaster was Kenneth B. Young, so it can be assumed that the post office was named for him.

**YOUNG – Continued**

The location is on the present day US Highway 550 and there is a service station and convenience store complex on the west side of the highway. A few other buildings are in the area but none are old enough to date from the early 1880's.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 13 1882	---	S/4 Sec 2 T38N R9W 4 miles west of the Animas River On Rockwood and Rico Mail Route, Youngs Ranch (eight miles from Rockwood) Proposed postmaster - Kenneth B. Young.
Nov 7 1882		Established
Nov 7 1882		Young, Kenneth B.
Mar 19 1883		Discontinued Papers to Murnane

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM YOUNG**

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Prepared by the Colorado Writers Project; *Colorado Magazine*; Serialized in Volumes 17-20

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Chapter VIII - La Plata County, Part 1 - January 1979  
La Plata County, Part 2 - April 1979  
La Plata County, Part 3 - July 1979  
La Plata County, Part 4 - October 1979

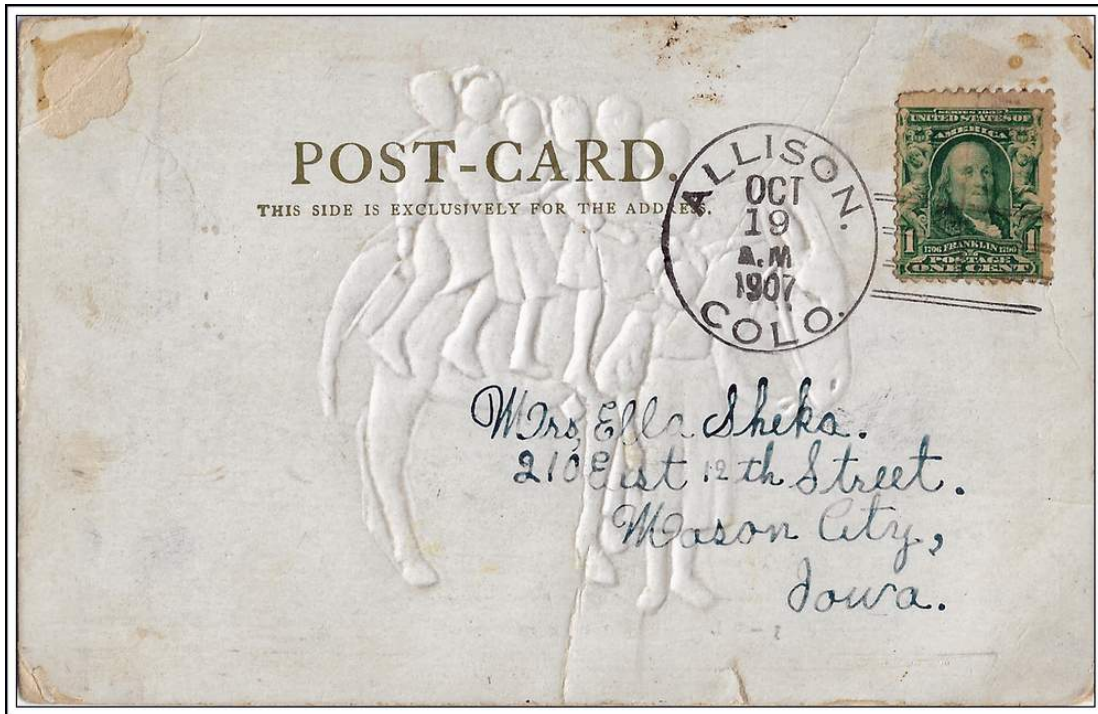
**REFERENCES – WORLD WIDE WEB**

- [www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org](http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org); Durango *Wage Earner*; various in 1897 for McQuiety;

**GEOGRAPHIC SITE LOCATION REPORTS OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**

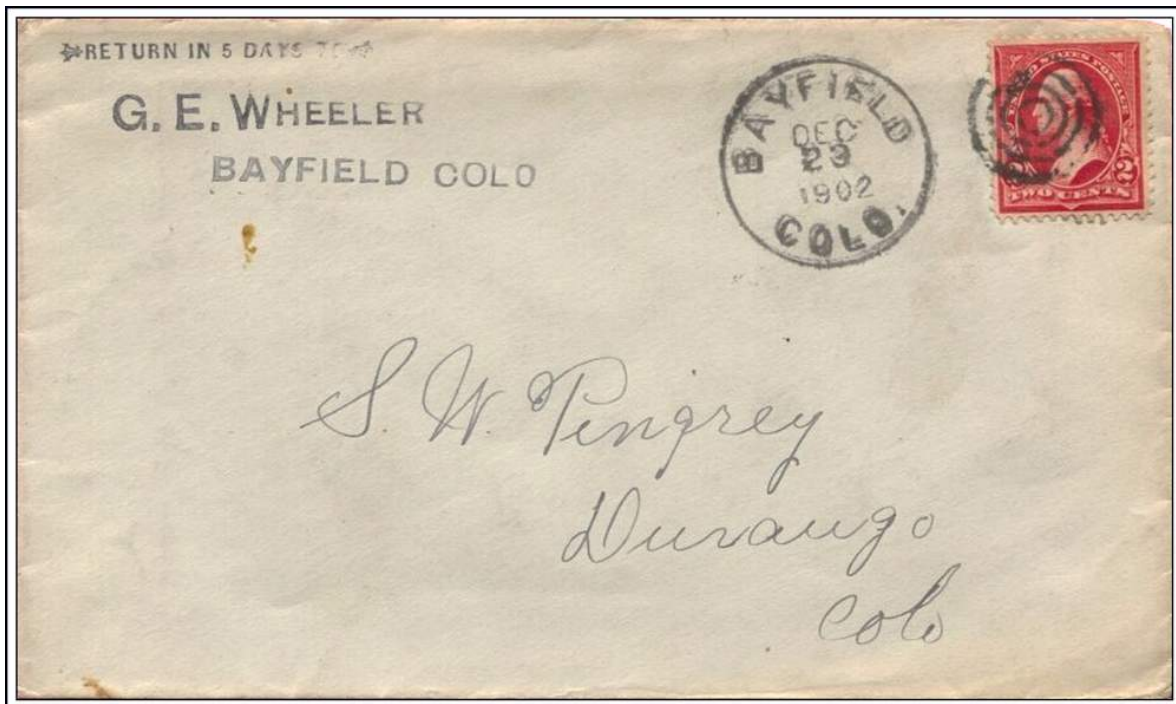
These are documents filed with applications for the approval of a new post office, at the time of a move of a post office and upon periodic requests of the Post Office Department. The documents may include a detailed location using the Federal Land Survey System, reference of distance to local streams and rivers, to railroads and to nearby existing post offices.

A GALLERY OF LA PLATA COUNTY COVERS



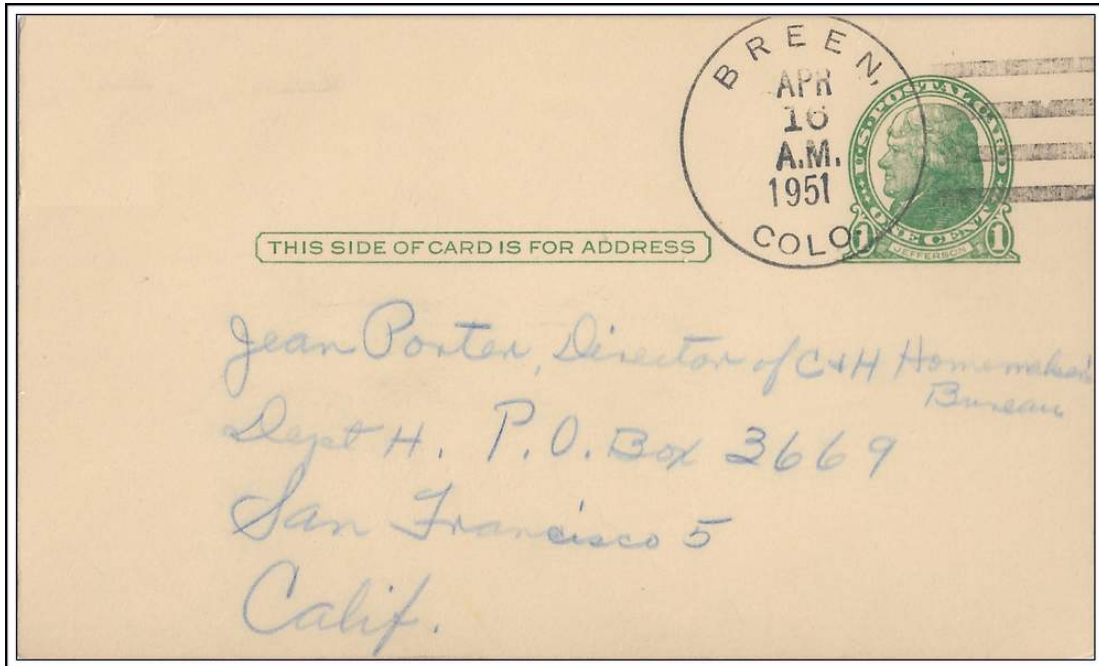
ALLISON, / COLO.

October 19, 1907



BAYFIELD / COLO.

December 23, 1902



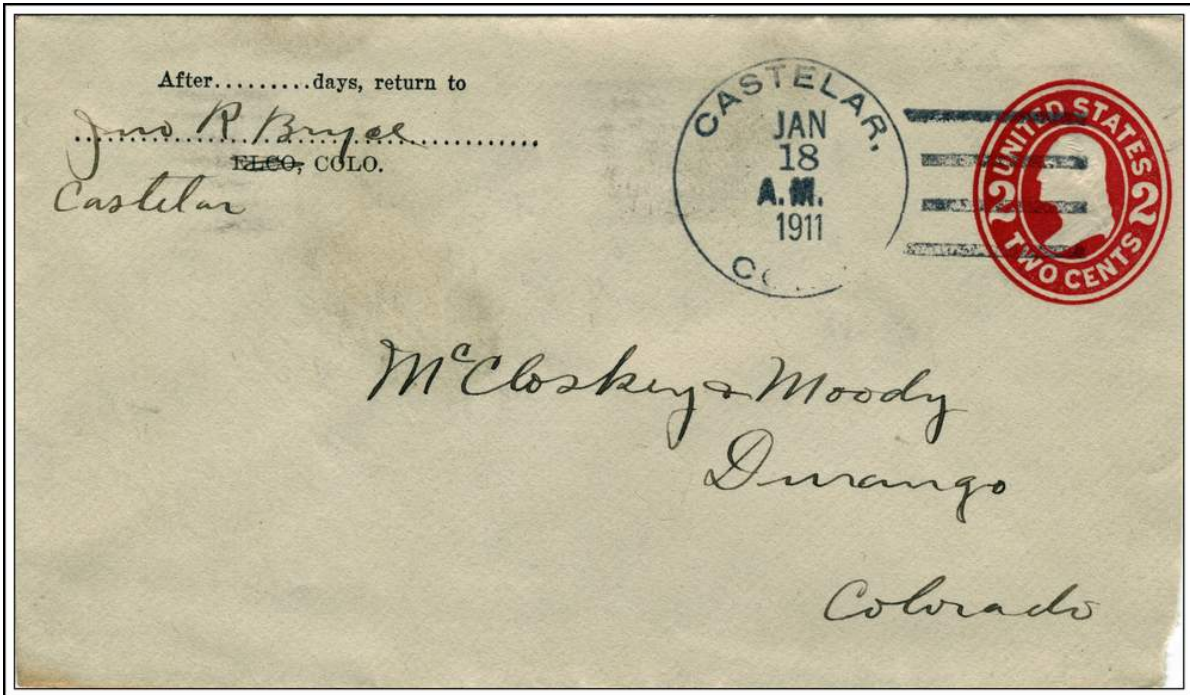
BREEN, / COLO.

April 16, 1951



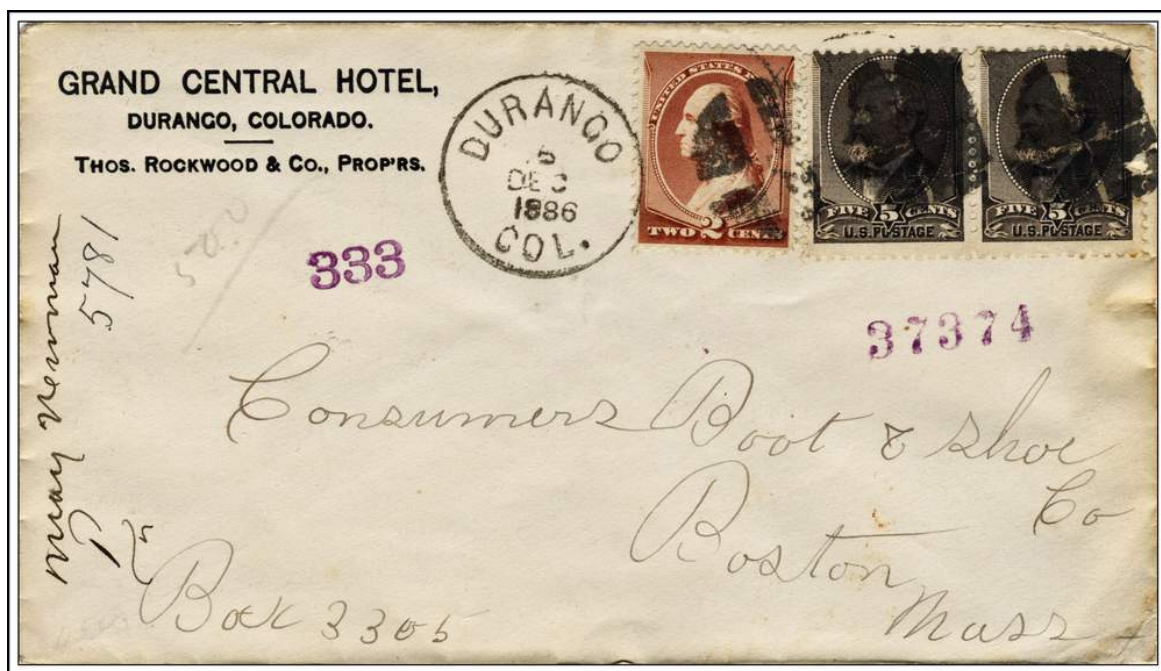
Cascade Col

March 20, (1882)



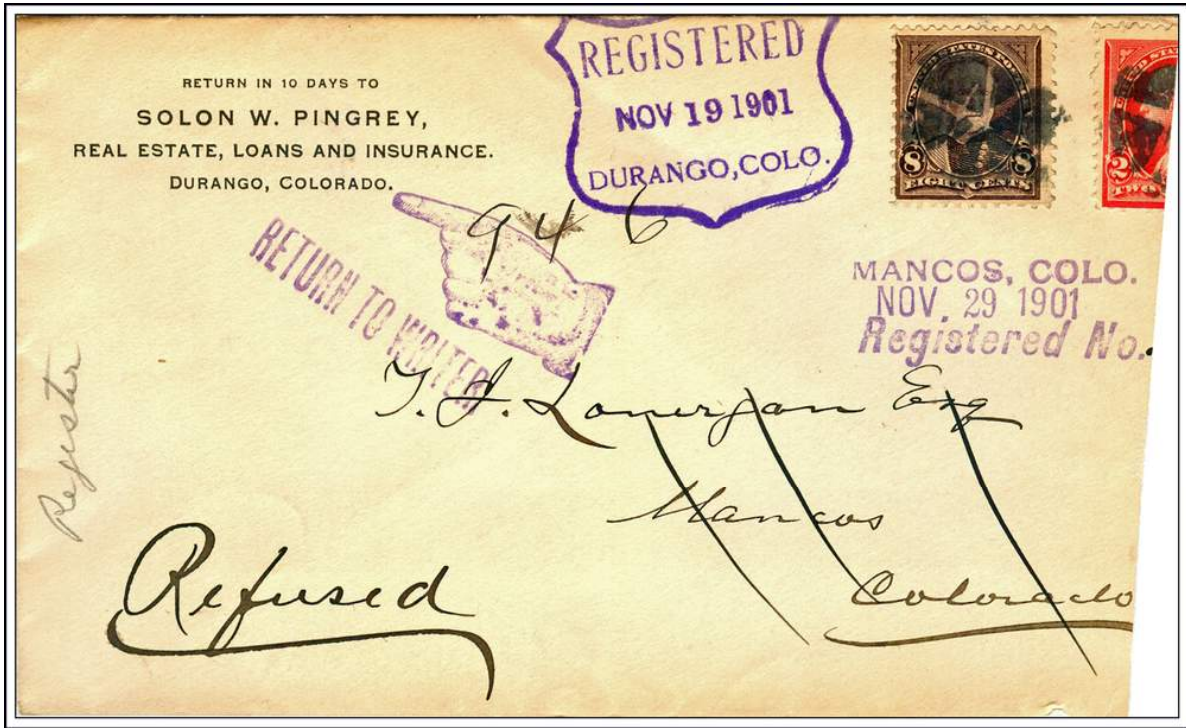
CASTELAR, / COLO.

January 18, 1911



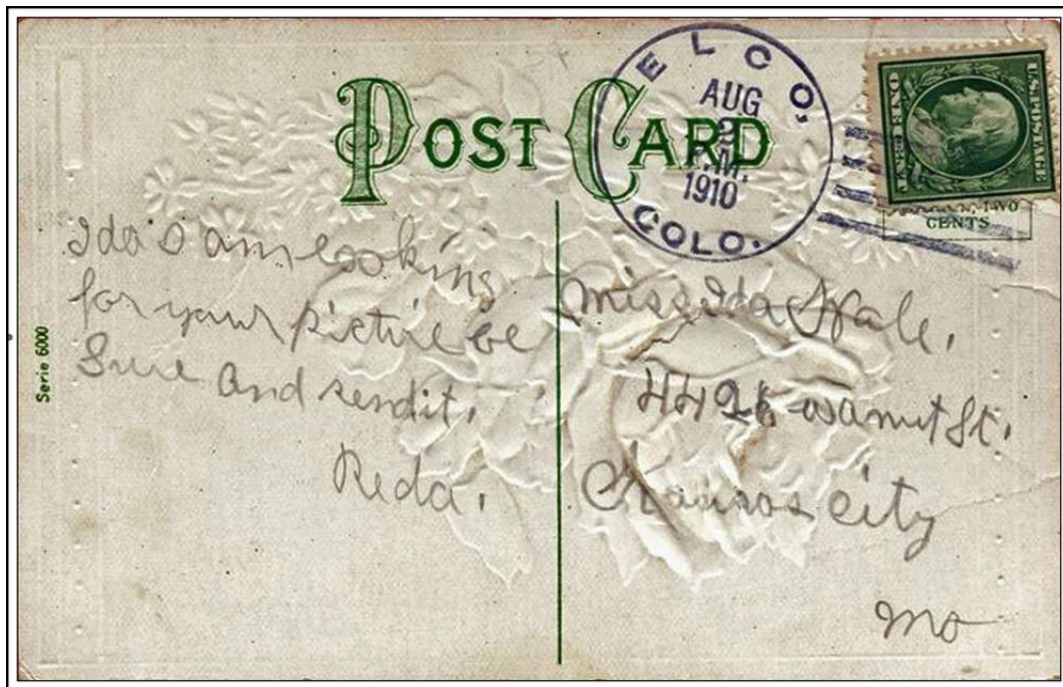
DURANGO / COL.

December 5, 1886



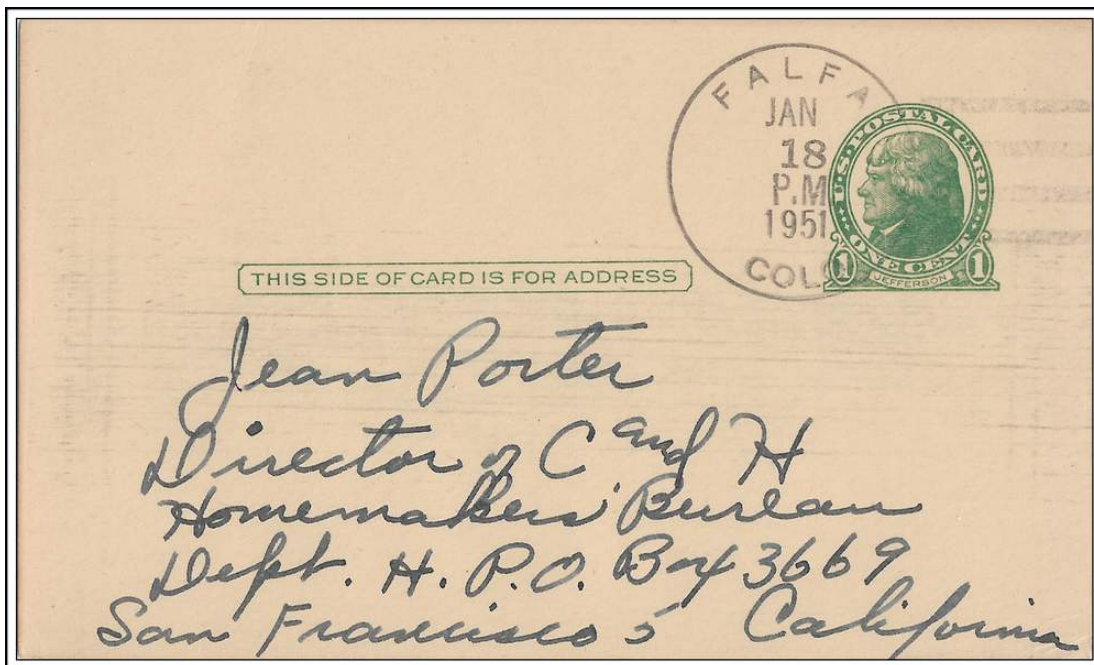
REGISTERED / DURANGO, COLO.

November 19, 1901



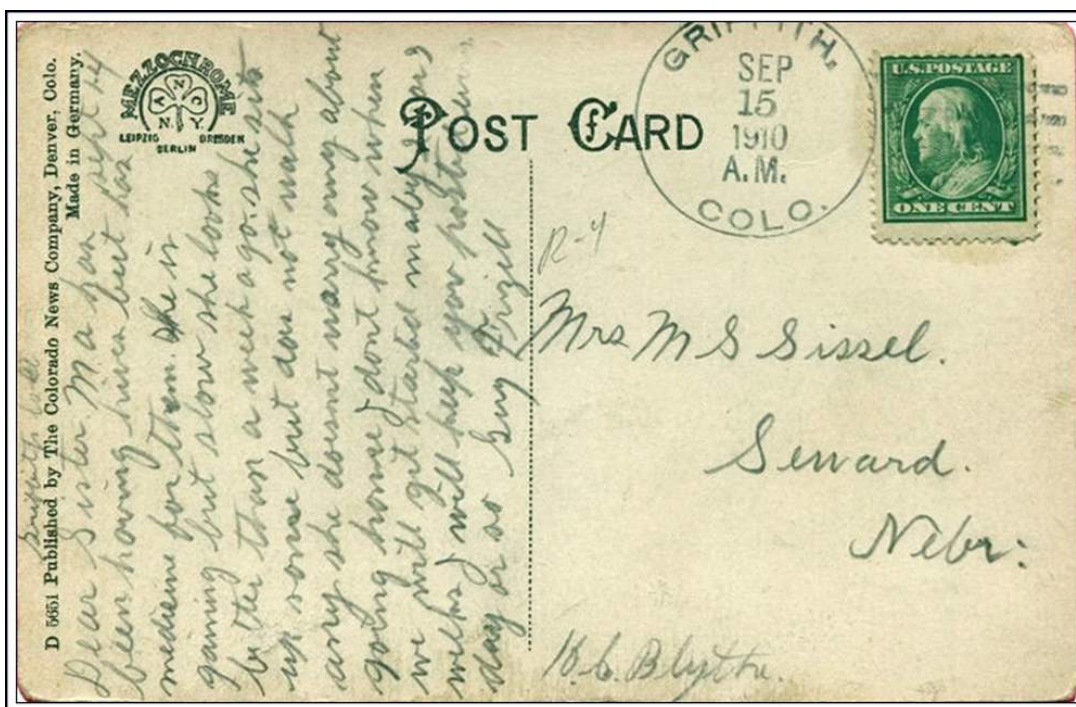
ELCO, / COLO.

August 2, 1910



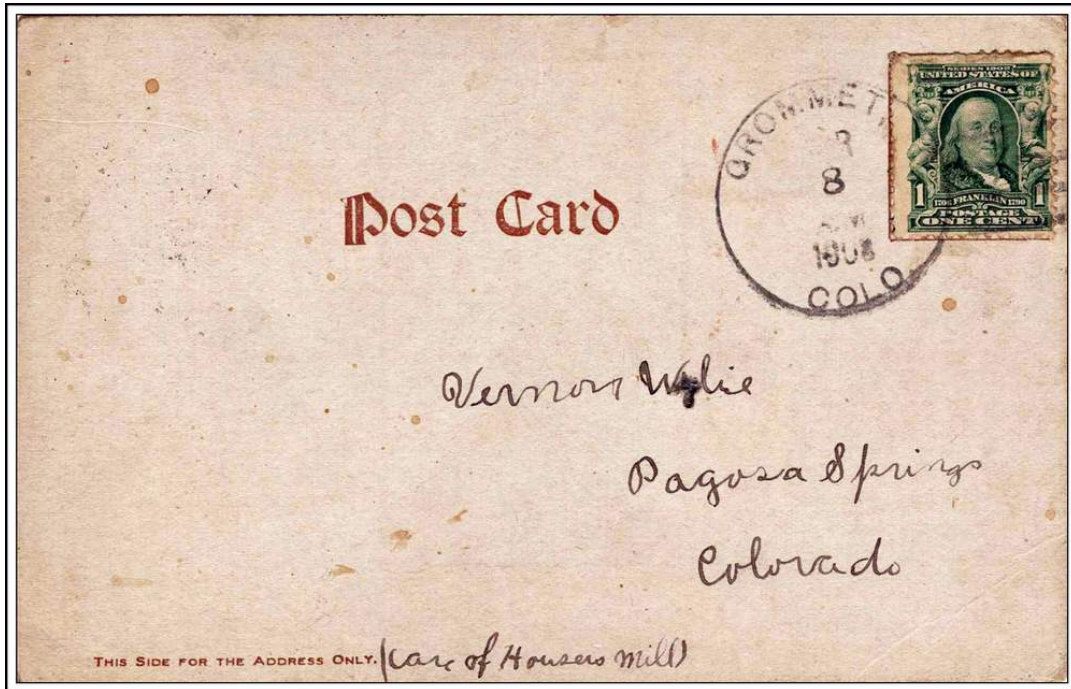
FALFA / COLO.

January 18, 1951



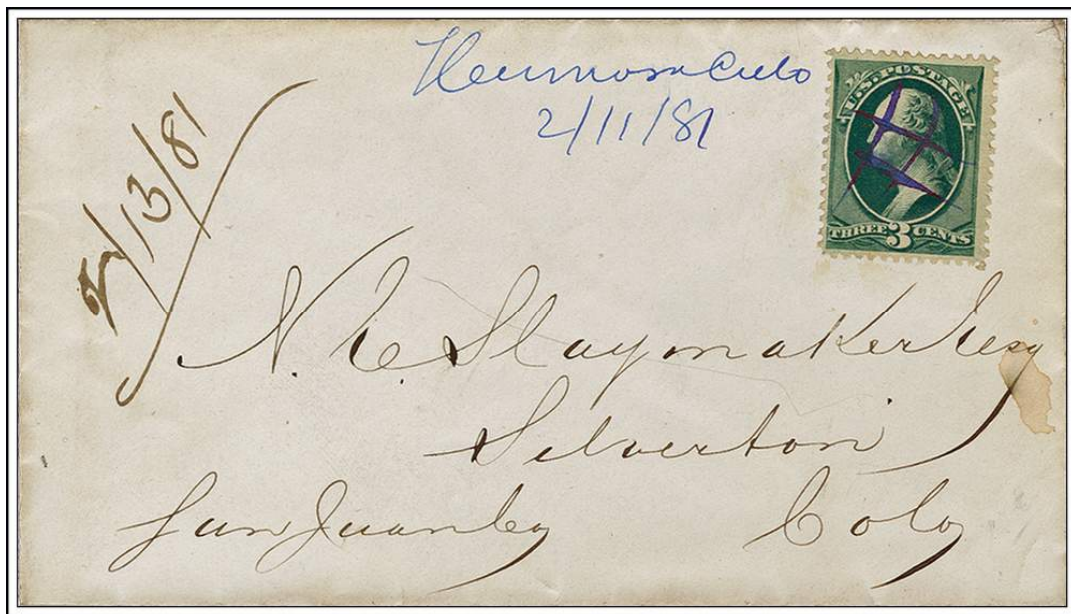
GRIFFITH, / COLO.

September 15, 1910



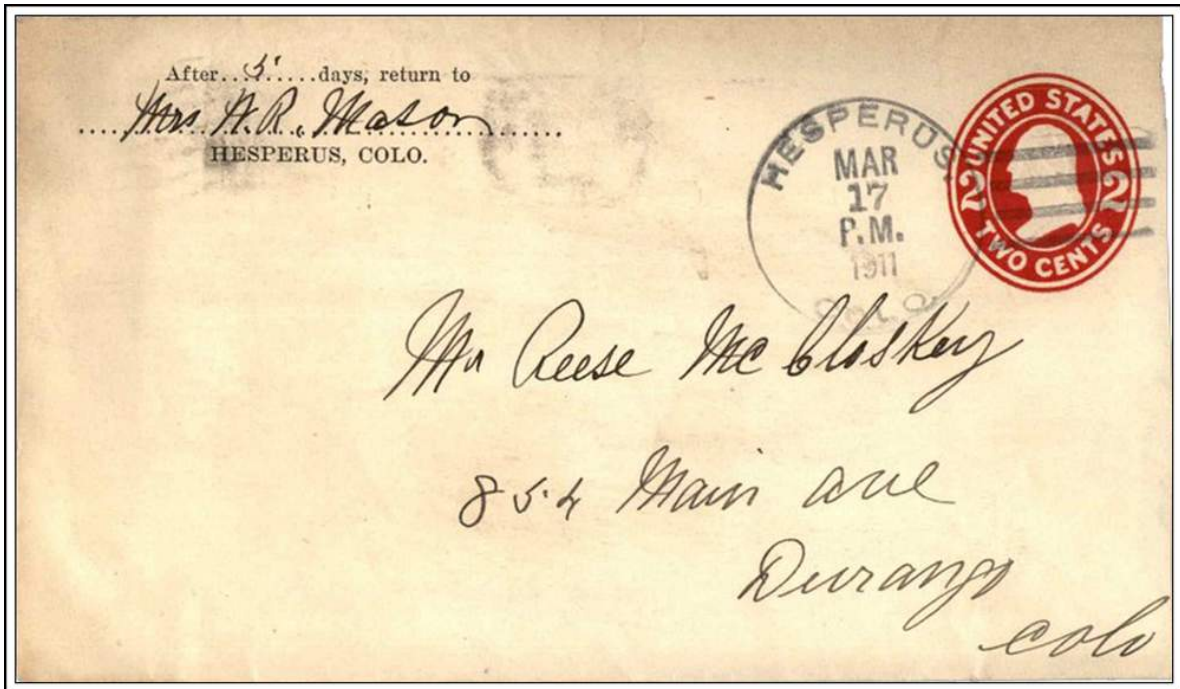
GROMMET, / COLO.

-- 8, 1906?



Hermosa Colo

February 11, 1881



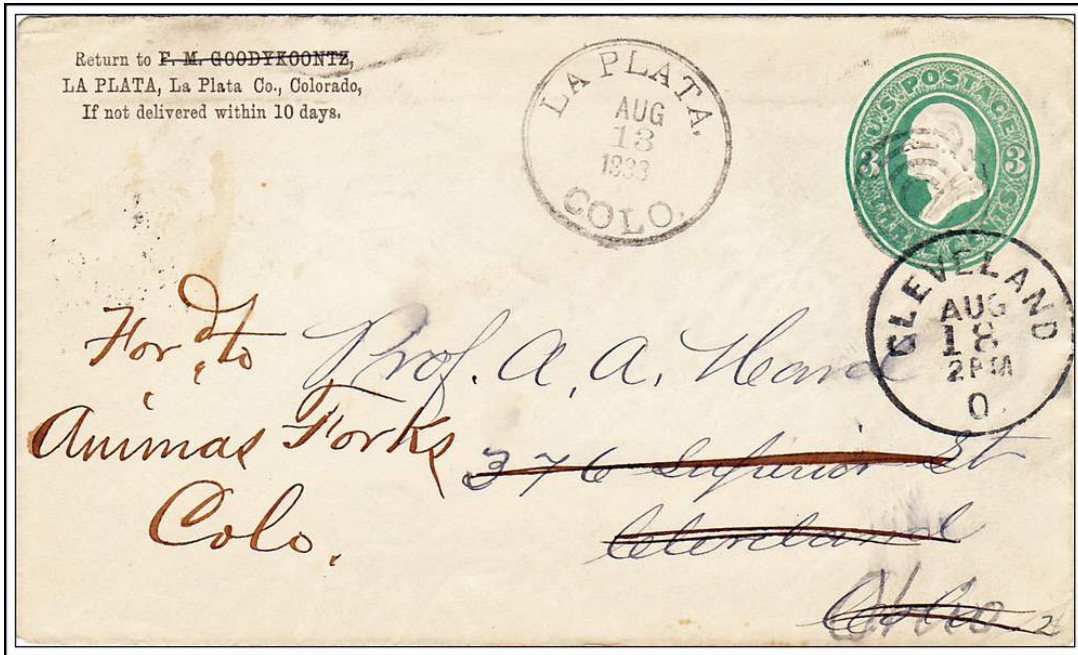
HESPERUS, / COLO.

March 17, 1911



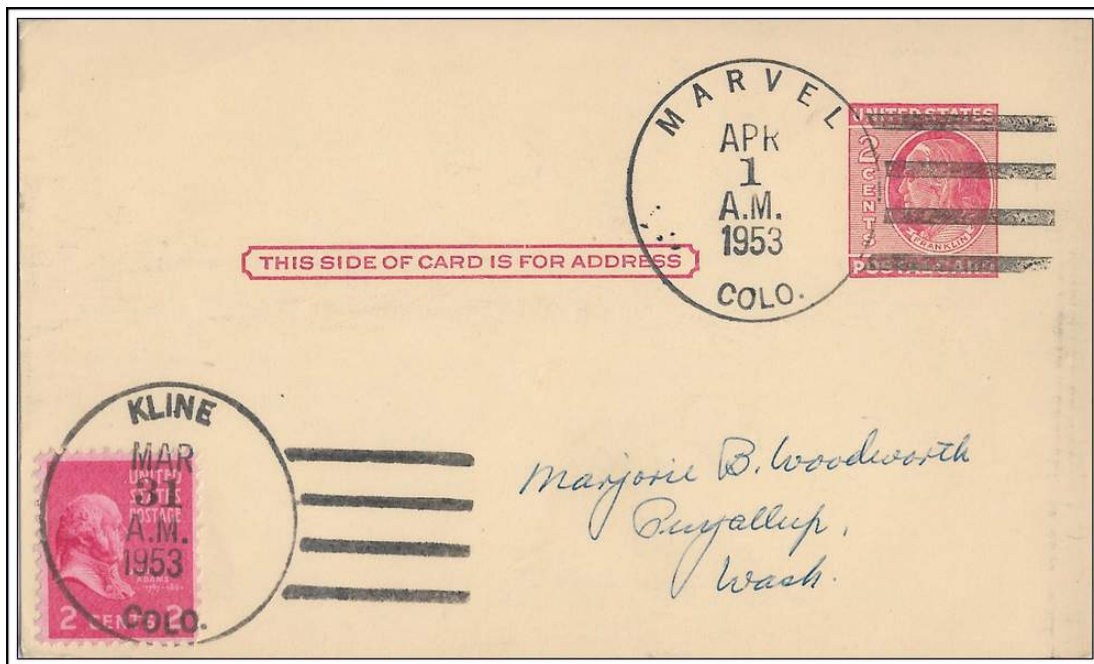
IGNACIO / COLO.

November 22, 1902

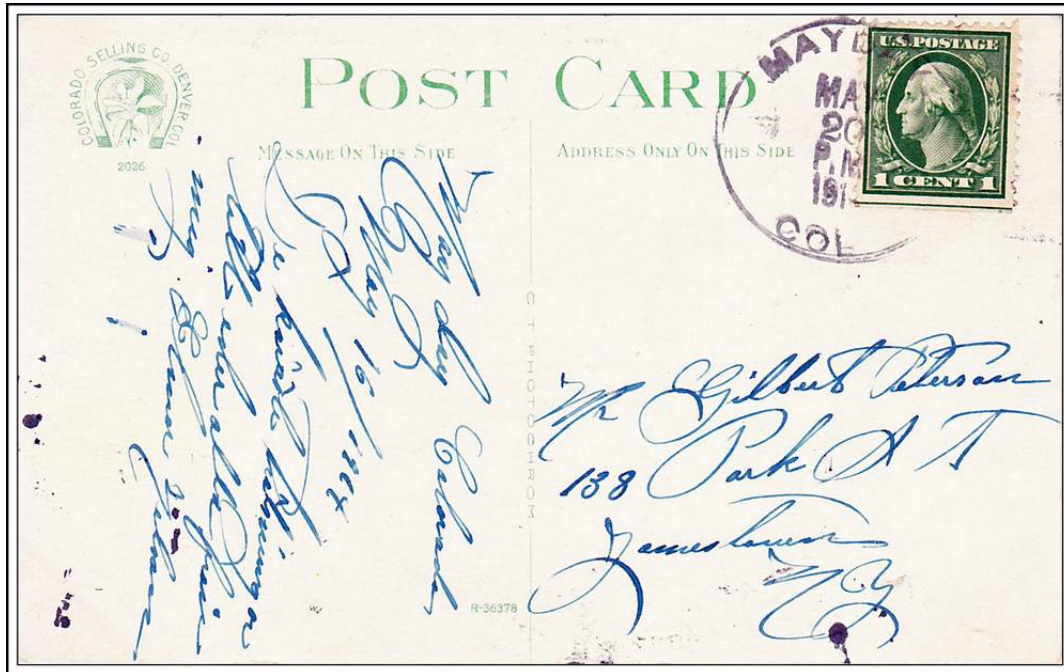


LA PLATA, / COLO.

August 13, 1883



MARVEL / COLO. April 1, 1953 and KLINE / COLO. March 31, 1953



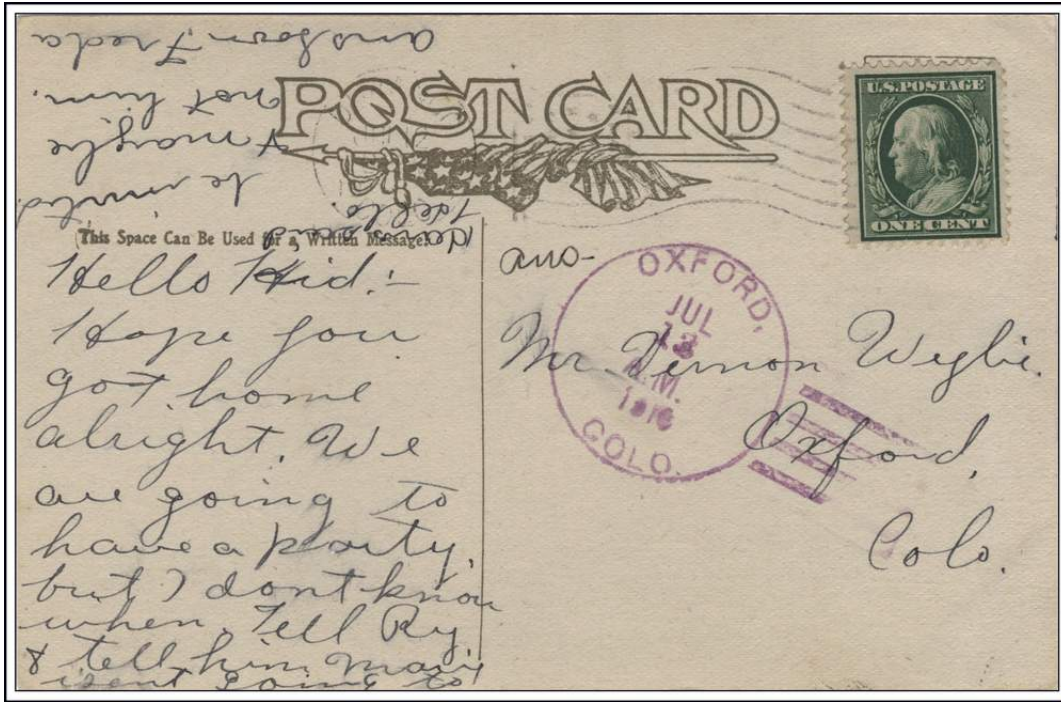
MAYDAY, / COLO.

May 20, 1914



NEEDLETON, / La Plata Co., Colo.

August 15, 1884



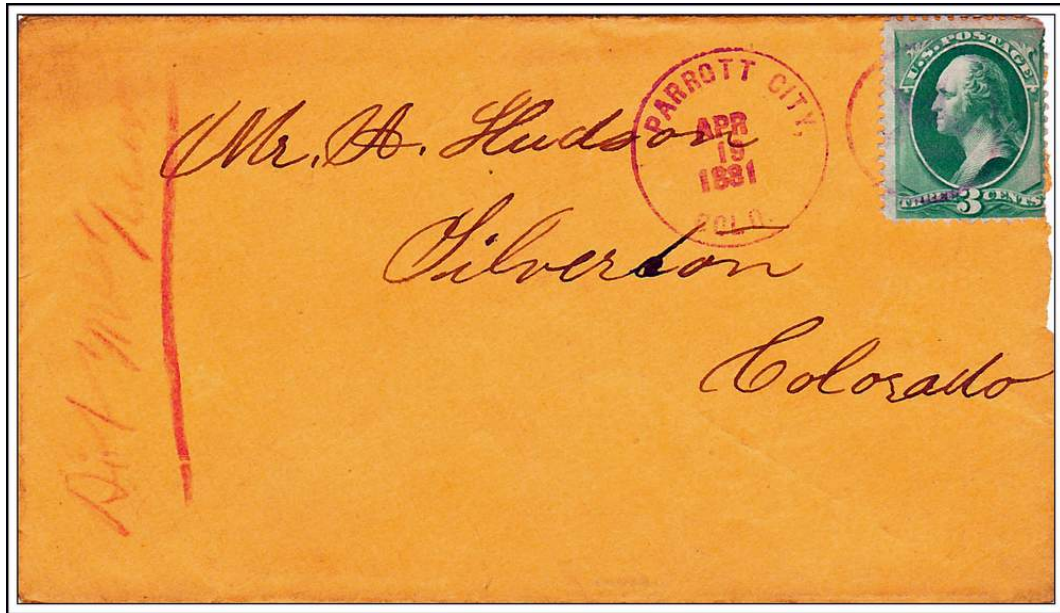
OXFORD, / COLO.

July 13, 1916

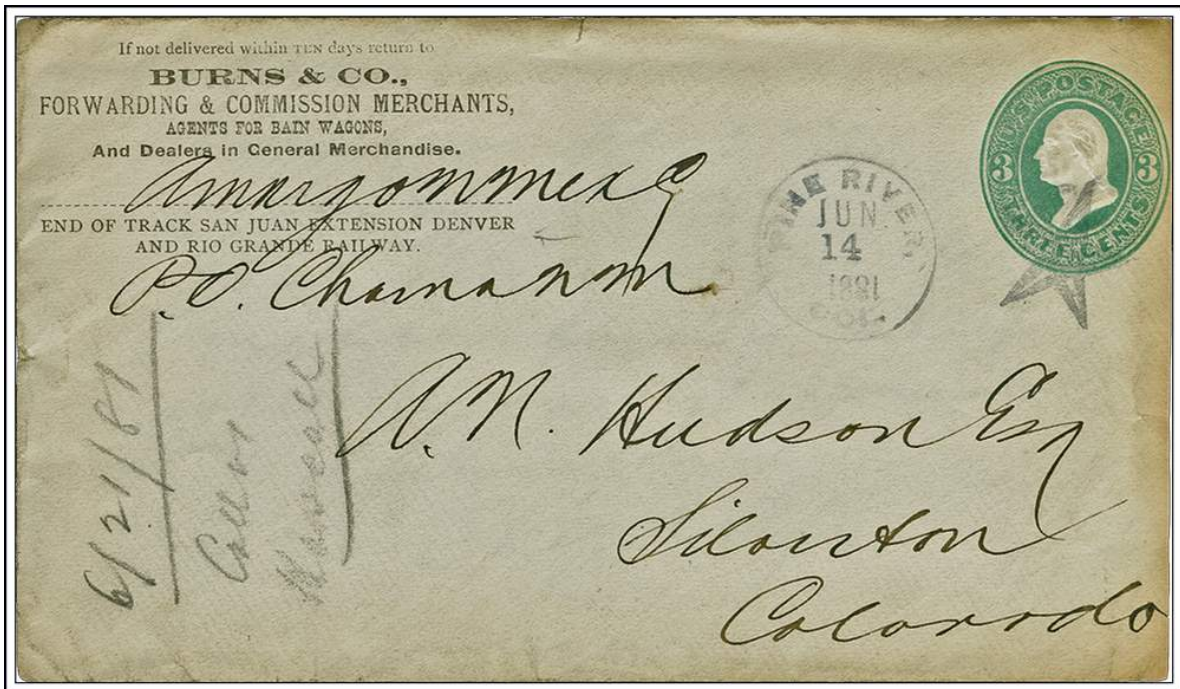


PARROTT / COLO

February 21, 18--

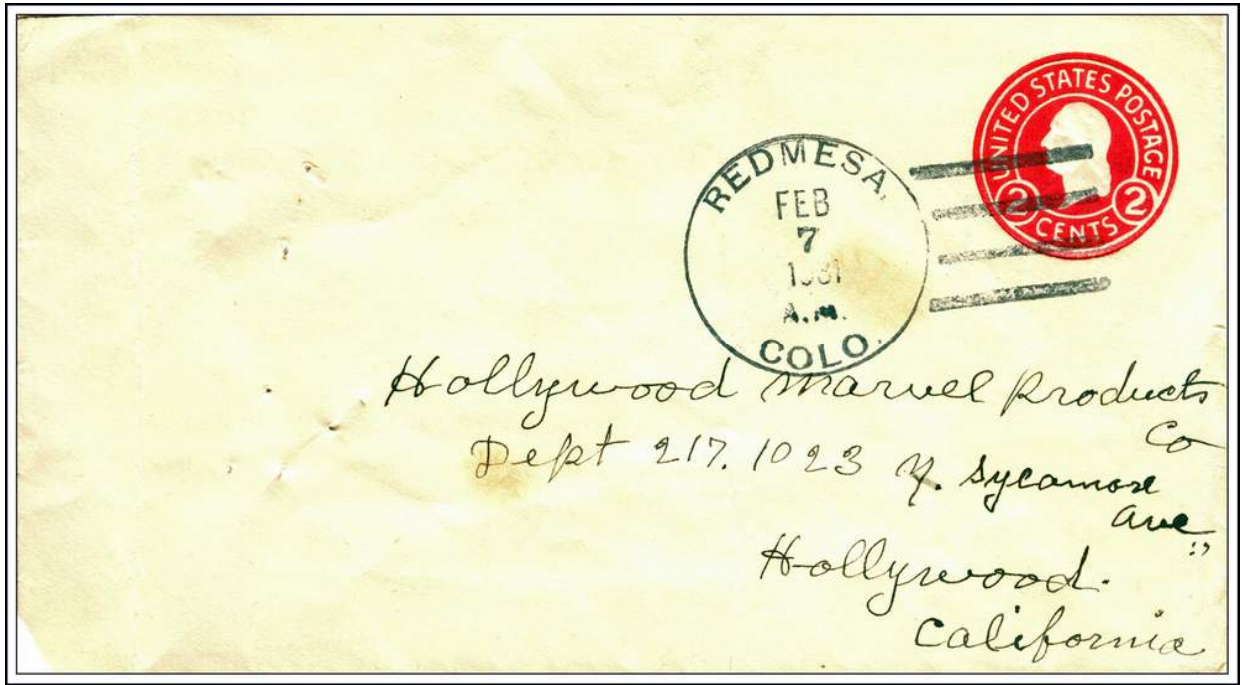


PARROT CITY, / COLO. April 19, 1881 The unique Parrot City



PINE RIVER, / COLO.

Jun 14, 1881



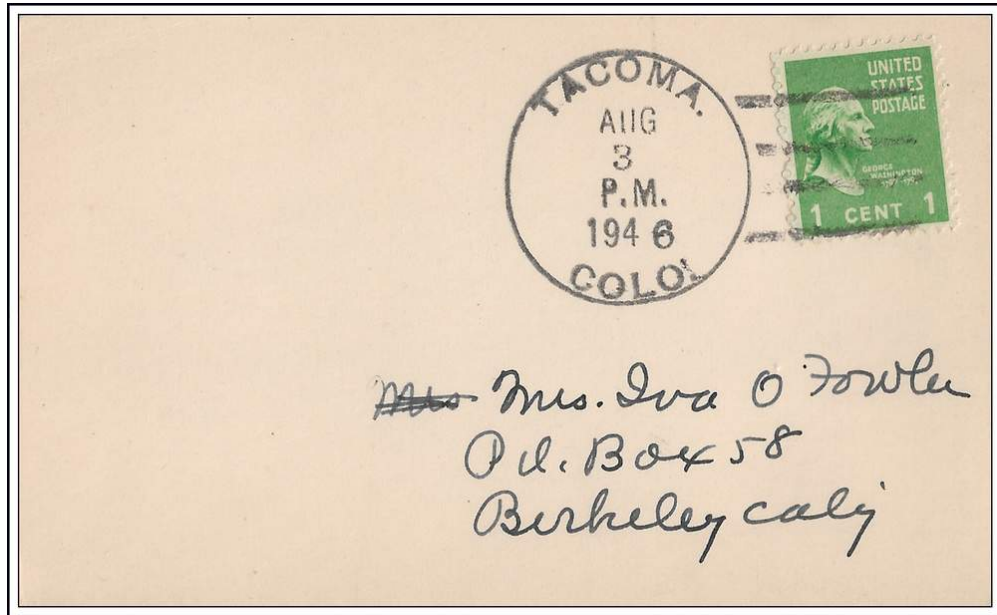
REDMESA, / COLO.

February 7, 1931



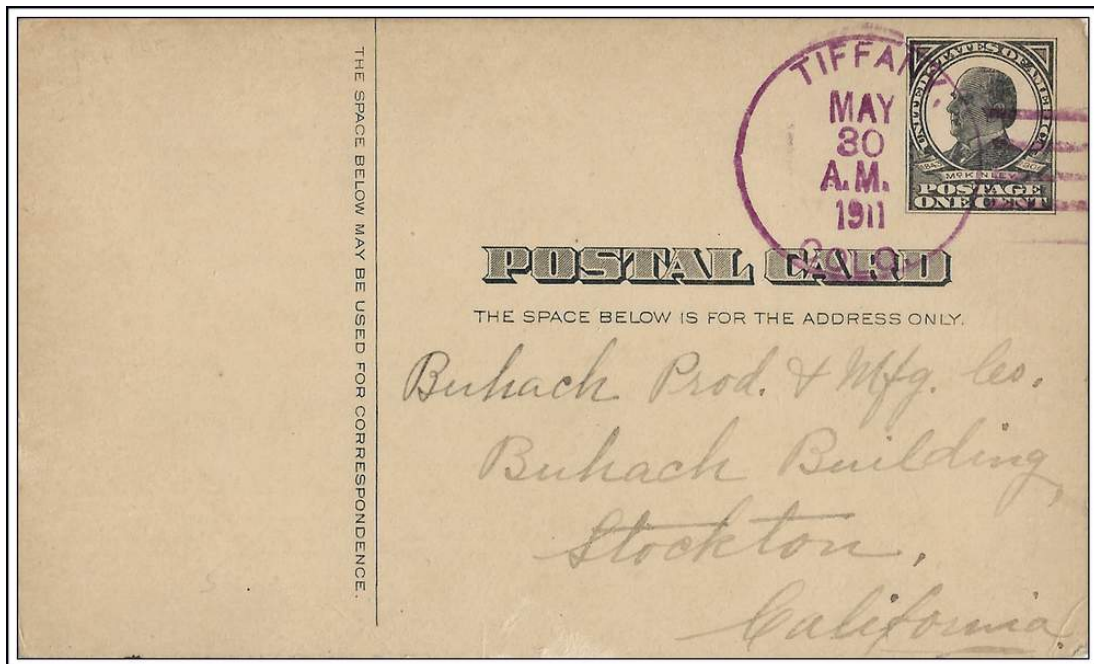
ROCKWOOD, / COLO.

May 4, 1883



TACOMA, / COLO.

August 3, 1946



TIFFANY, / COLO.

May 30, 1911



TRIMBLE, / COLO.

November 5, 1883