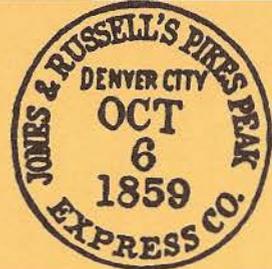


# Western Express



News-Letter of the Western Cover Society

This Issue consists \*  
of 15 pages, plus \*  
one photo page. \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

## THE EDITOR'S CORNER

\* Vol. VI, No. 4  
\* OCTOBER, 1956  
\*  
\* \* \* \* \*

It is with a light heart that I tackle the task of preparing this, my last editorial for "Western Express". The rest of this Issue is all ready for the printer; so it only remains for me to say the epilogue, take a short bow, and let the curtain fall. What can be said for the past six years?

Statistically, I have edited 24 issues in 6 years -- a total of some 300 pages of written matter, plus 42 pages of illustrations. Why, that's enough for a good-size book! Well, so what? What's really been accomplished? The important thing is that we have become a cohesive group of about 200 members, with rather well defined ideas of the various areas of Western Postal History which have still to be thoroughly explored and written up.

During these six years we have accomplished a few other things. We have compiled an extensive list of western express companies which are collectible -- it is the most up-to-date list available; and it endeavors to show areas and dates of operation. But certainly it can be added to as the years go by. Following the publication of Pep Thorp's fine catalog, we endeavored to illustrate as many additional printed franks and corner cards as was possible. There still remains the task of illustrating all the known handstamps used by the many express companies. And after that, the greater task of putting all that information into a single publication.

In addition to express material, we have gotten a good start on territorial history with a number of fine articles. But there still remains much to be done as regards illustrating territorial markings, with dates of use. When it comes to Ghost Towns, we have yet to get started. The same must be said of Postal Routes throughout the west. Walter Frickstad has given us a most scholarly book on California Post Offices, which should act as an inspiration to all of us. So while much has been accomplished, much remains to be done over the coming years.

Now a word about membership. Our latest member is #290; but 93 former members have dropped out! That's quite a goodly proportion. Of those 93, 12 have died and 1 has been expelled. Why did the other 80 drop out? A few had only a modest interest to begin with; so no need to worry about them. Another few have sold their collections of westerns, and are no longer interested. The bulk of the 80 appear to have dropped out because of two things; either they didn't like the increase in dues to \$5.00 per annum, or they thought that WCS was being run by a small clique for its own benefit. We know the latter is not true; so let's consider the dues. Maybe we should have two classes of membership -- \$5.00 for regular and \$2.50 for corresponding members. And perhaps a "Sustaining Membership" at \$10.00?

No, this is really not an epilogue, since there is so much left to be done. Rather it is a prologue to a new regime under the able guidance of Mel Nathan, who has been our president for the past two years. Mel has a wonderful enthusiasm for things western; so he should make a fine editor. And with a little help from the associate editors, he should have no trouble. Hold high the torch, Mel, and vaya con Dios!

H.H.C.

NEW MEMBERS OF WCS -- Continued from July 1956 Issue

- 286 - Warren H. Colson, Proctorsville, Vermont.  
 287 - Philip T. Manly, UNM Box 4, Albuquerque, New Mexico.  
 288 - Barrett S. Hindes, 140 Montgomery St., San Francisco, Calif.  
 289 - Morris Fortgang, 114 East 84th St., New York 28, N. Y.  
 290 - Dr. Charles D. Sneller, M.D., 320 Jefferson Bldg., Peoria, Ill.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS -- New Addresses Shown

Deane Bartley, 6111 21st Ave., N. E., Seattle 15, Washington.  
 Hugh Gore, 1160 Birch St., Apt. 21, Denver, Colorado.  
 H. Parker Johnson, 1076 Bannock St., Denver, Colorado.  
 Robert Beale, 1914 Greenwich St., San Francisco 22, California.  
 California Historical Society, 2090 Jackson St., San Francisco 9, Calif.  
 B. C. Pearce, 5909 Ross, Oakland 18, Calif.

DEATHS

It is our sad duty to report the death of Rudy W. Rex, WCS #182, in Santa Barbara during the past month. Rudy was an enthusiastic collector of Westerns; and his collection contained many desirable items. Word has just been received that O. A. Abbott, WCS #84, died in 1954 -- he had been reported as having resigned (see August 1954 Issue, page 4).

CORRECTIONS FOR 1956 WCS ROSTER

- Page 5 - Cavagnol's rank is "M/Sgt."  
 Page 12 - Hetherington is #113 instead of #133.  
 Page 17 - Murray is #230 instead of #203.  
 Page 18 - Oakley is #188 instead of #138.  
 Page 19 - Peterman is #125 instead of #25.

RESIGNATIONS NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED

WCS			
10 - Spring	104 - Habbert	142 - Wicker	184 - Lewis
19 - Gillardon	108 - Baker	147 - Granville	192 - Baker
23 - Burton	109 - Stanicich	154 - Myers	193 - Lemp
60 - Molitor	110 - Arnold	163 - Davis	194 - Bartlett
61 - McDonald	115 - Rogers	164 - Doertenbach	202 - Dohrmann
63 - Laichtman	121 - Russo	168 - Seebacher	207 - Berger
73 - Quigley	133 - Golden	169 - Thorne	215 - Perham
74 - Harris	134 - Cornell	173 - Patterson	223 - Sherry
82 - Hall	136 - Wardwell	174 - Wilson	242 - Whitney
97 - Sheer	137 - Richardson	178 - Weers	Deceased:
103 - Barr	139 - Michaels	183 - Iacino	122 - Willson

Editor - Henry H. Clifford, 639 So. Spring St., Los Angeles 14, California.  
 Assoc. Editor Territorials - Joseph M. Clary, 135 Polk St., San Francisco 2.  
 Assoc. Editor Ghost Towns - Mel C. Nathan, 200 Bush St., San Francisco 4.  
 Assoc. Ed. Auction Prices - James E. Berry, 1921 Franklin Ave., Las Vegas, Nev.  
 Assoc. Ed. Idaho - Art V. Farrell, 5821 Randolph Drive, Boise, Idaho.  
 Secretary - Dr. Sheldon H. Goodman, 323 Geary St., San Francisco 2.  
 Treasurer - Henry Chaloner, 2612 Ashby Ave., Berkeley 5, California.

MINUTES OF WCS MEETING, SEPT. 24, 1956

Meeting at Elks Club, San Francisco. Called to order by President Nathan at 8:35 PM. Twenty-six Members present, including five Directors. President Nathan introduced our first president, Dr. A. Jay Hertz, and turned the chair over to him. Dr. Hertz gave an inspiring talk and turned the gavel back to Mel Nathan. Letter from Henry Clifford expressing his regrets in not being able to attend read. Henry Chaloner reported that we now have 196 members, and have \$1148.00 in the treasury. He also spoke on the APS Convention at St. Louis and that there were 16 WCS members there. Ed. Jessup said that the Nominating Committee's recommendations were in the mail to the membership. Joe Clary, who was one of the Judges at the APS, spoke about the show. Clary moved that both Past Presidents and the Editor be given a memento for their work and that the Secretary be empowered to order same. Seconded by Nat Levy, passed unanimously. Next meeting to be held in November at Col. Smith's Pony Express Retreat, San Rafael, for members and their ladies.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Sheldon H. Goodman.

\*\*\*\*\*

STEAMER ANTELOPE -- by Waddell F. Smith

This is in answer to Mel Nathan's query on page 22 of the July 1956 WE, with reference to the Steamer Antelope, which plied daily (or nightly) between San Francisco and Sacramento. The Answer is simple, and is found on page 276 of the 1861-62 San Francisco City Directory (California Historical Society Library). Alphabetically under the P's on that page will be found the following:

POOLE, Edward A., Captain Cal. S. N. Co's steamer Antelope, dwl 1005 Stockton.

Doing away with abbreviations, that would read: POOLE, Edward A., Captain California Steam Navigation Company's steamer Antelope. Dwelling 1005 Stockton Street. So it is simple. The steamer was owned by the California Steam Navigation Company, and carried express and mail for the express companies as well as the U. S. Mail, between Sacramento and San Francisco. The Antelope carried Pony Express mail both ways to and from these cities, connecting with or leaving the Pony Express at Sacramento.

The same page of that same Directory contains another entry that is extremely interesting. It reads as follows:

PONY EXPRESS (Semi Weekly) Wells Fargo & Co., agents.  
Cor. Montgomery and California Streets.

Wells Fargo & Company were also agents in Sacramento; and that is the only connection that they had with the Pony Express.

SESCAL -- LOS ANGELES -- NOVEMBER 16-17-18

Each WCS member has been sent a prospectus for SESCAL 1956, together with a mimeographed letter stating that WCS members are eligible to compete, and urging them to send in their entry blanks. Bob Myerson is the local WCS member to contact if you have any questions.

"SADDLES & SPURS" - A Book Review

By Fred J. Grumm

I have recently finished reading a fairly recent book entitled "Saddles & Spurs" The Pony Express Saga, by Raymond W. Settle and Mary Lund Settle. Published by the Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Penn., Copyright 1955 by the authors. The jacket says: "Saddles & Spurs is a vivid fast moving narrative of the Pony Express" . . .

The story of the Pony Express is quite well done and in very careful detail. For those who have only accumulated their information about the Pony Express, as I have done, piecemeal, disconnectedly, out of sequence and without too much regard for authoritative background, this book would be good reading. It would be a good way to orient and co-ordinate their information.

But what I really want to call to your attention is the revolutionary character of the information relating to the latter period of the Pony Express. On page 441 of the 1954 issue of Scott's Catalogue of United States Stamps /Specialized/ we read: "About April 1, 1861, Wells, Fargo & Company acquired the Central Overland, California and Pikes Peak Express Company and issued \$2 red and \$4 green stamps." This is in introduction to the Pony Express Stamps.

But Mr. Settle will have none of this. He discusses the matter quite in detail on page 184 et seq. He states that, concerning the statement that Wells, Fargo & Co. operated the Pony Express from Sacramento to Salt Lake City, "It did nothing of the kind." He says that the relationship of Wells, Fargo & Co. to the original Pony Express of 1861 was only as agent in San Francisco, for about ten weeks from April 15 to July 1.

He also takes to pieces the vague, general statement that Wells, Fargo & Co. "interests" took over the western half of the Pony Express on July 1, 1861.

It seems that we'll have to revise our generally accepted history of the "Pony" unless I'm way behind in my information. Maybe we can make a research project of it, or at least have a debate about it.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE MAIL BAG

Henry Chaloner writes as follows: "I just got home from St. Louis, Denver and Seattle. There were 16 WCS members at the APS Show. Saw some very nice covers. Met Parke Johnson, Hugh Gore and Stone in Denver. Then to Seattle, where I had the pleasure of meeting the members of the Collectors Club on September 14th. Had to show my covers and tell about them. Had nice visits with Wagner, Riswold, Semsrott, Langdon, Newman, Herst, Fox, Baughman, Bilden, Kimmel, Aichele, Clary and Apfelbaum in St. Louis.

TERRITORIAL MAILS OF UTAH

By Nyal W. Anderson, Salt Lake City

PART I

It is my purpose in the series of articles to follow, dealing with Territorial Utah's postal history, to present an informative and authoritative survey of the handling and marking of mail during the period, 1847--96. It is my hope that it will be of equal interest to the general collector and postal history enthusiast alike.

To the student of postal history a necessary prerequisite for his study must be a thorough knowledge of the historical background of his particular area. Undoubtedly, it would be worth while to summarize, briefly, the beginnings of Utah history before proceeding.

Much has been written of the men who first explored the far west and the Great Basin of the Salt Lake. Perhaps the first white man to come into the present confines of Utah was the Spanish explorer Cardenas under specific instructions from Coronado. Following the Spanish explorer, Father Escalante made an extended trip into Utah, actually preaching to the Indians on the banks of Utah Lake.

The rich fur trade tempted many a trader into Utah. Some of the more important were Peter Skene Ogden, Jedediah Smith, William Ashley, Etienne Provost, Ross Cox, William Sublette, William Henry, Kit Carson and Jim Bridger. Names of many of Utah's towns bear lasting testimony to their passing. Easily recognizable are Ogden, Provo, Carson City, Fort Bridger, Ashley Park and Escalante.

Following these men came others, equally famous, Captain Bonneville, Fremont, Father de Smet and the ill-fated Donners. The frontier was moving West like a tide. By 1846 the crest had reached the Missouri and at its forefront, searching for freedom from religious persecution, the Mormons moved Westward.

Kanesville, later Council Bluffs, sprang up on the frontier. Here the Mormons prepared for the journey to the "promised land" of their prophets, Joseph Smith and Brigham Young. In the autumn of 1846 approximately 15,000 people had gathered on the Missouri river. Throughout this year sickness and plague decimated the camps of the pioneers, and it was with great hope that they welcomed the spring of 1847.

The first company left Winter Quarters on April 7, and followed a route along the Elkhorn River, a branch of the Platte, until April 16th when they moved along the north bank of the Platte River. On April 24th they crossed the Loup River and continued on to Fort Laramie. Leaving Fort Laramie they reached South Pass and on June 27th met Jim Bridger whose description of a new route to San Francisco known as "Hastings Cut-Off" persuaded them to follow his instructions and proceed through Echo Canyon to Weber and East Canyons over Big Mountain to Mountain Dell. From here the route led to Little Mountain through Emigration Canyon into the valley of the Great Salt Lake, which the main body reached on July 24th. Here inspired by Brigham Young's historic "This is the place!" the Mormons ended their journey.

-----

TERRITORIAL MAILS OF UTAH - continued

Shortly after the Mormons' arrival in the valley, on August 2nd the first letter was written and dispatched by Ezra Benson who started back with others to meet the next company of emigrants.

Excerpts from this letter, written to General Charles E. Rich and signed by Brigham Young, follow: "We have delegated our beloved brother Ezra J. Benson and escort to communicate to you by Express, the cheering intelligence that we have arrived in the most beautiful valley of the Great Salt Lake, that every soul who left Winter Quarters with us, is alive, and almost every one enjoying good health. That portion of the Battalion that was at the Pueblo is here with us, together with the Mississippi Company that accompanied them, and they are generally well. We number about 450 souls..." "We also want the mail, which will include all letters and papers and packages belonging to our Camp, general and particular."

For the first years in Utah all mail was carried by a returning emigrant, trapper or fur-trader. Often one of these men would meet an emigrant train headed West and volunteer to carry back a packet of mail to be posted in Fort Leavenworth or St. Louis, and mail for the residents of Utah would be entrusted to an emigrant train bound for the Rocky Mountains, Oregon or California.

Later, Salt Lake men went out as messengers once a month or oftener, depending on the weather, and in March of 1849 the Federal Government recognized the need of better postal facilities and established a Post Office at Salt Lake City. Joseph L. Heywood was appointed Postmaster. A bi-monthly mail between Salt Lake City and Council Bluffs was authorized and Almond W. Babbitt engaged to transport the mail at his own expense.

\* \* \* \* \*

PART II.

The Mormon Battalion should be mentioned, briefly, since it had considerable effect on the Mormons' attempt to get their people to California (that being the accepted name of all the territory west of the Rockies, north of Mexico and south of Oregon). The war with Mexico resulted in the formation of a battalion of 500 men recruited from the ranks of the Mormons encamped on the Missouri. Captain James Allen was placed in charge of the battalion and they marched to Fort Leavenworth where they were given uniforms, muskets and ammunition. Captain Allen never left Fort Leavenworth, falling ill and dying.

Under A. J. Smith at first and then under Col. Philip St. George Cooke, the battalion made an infantry march which has never been equaled; and which stands out as one of the historic movements in the development of the far west. Undergoing supreme hardships, they reached the Pacific on June 24th, 1847, having left Kanesville, Iowa on July 20, 1846.

At Santa Fe the battalion dispatched a group of 143 battalion members northward to Pueblo. This group together with a company of Mississippi emigrants, a total of approximately 218 persons, formed a company under command of James Brown and arrived in Salt Lake Valley just five days after the original group of pioneers.

## TERRITORIAL MAILS OF UTAH - continued

The remainder of the battalion, approximately 350 men and five women, completed the march to San Diego, where they found the Americans already in command of the city.

The majority of the battalion members began a march to Utah in July 1847. Eighty-one officers and men re-enlisted for six months and remained in San Diego, arriving in Utah in the summer of 1848. It is interesting to note that some of the battalion members on the way to Utah found suitable employment at Captain Sutter's Fort (Sacramento) and were among the group which discovered gold in California.

Those who remained until June of 1848 at Sutter's Fort mining gold, unhesitatingly laid down their mining implements and returned, at Brigham Young's request, to Utah. Thus by the late summer of 1848, all surviving members of the battalion had rejoined the Mormons in Salt Lake.

When the Mormons arrived in the Great Basin, the territory technically belonged to Mexico. Following the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848, the vast territory of California (composed of the present states of California, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and part of Colorado) was ceded to the United States. From the conclusion of this treaty until September 1850 there was not even a pretense at civil authority. The United States failed to enact any legislation to form a territorial or any other type of government.

Into this legislative void, Brigham Young brought together the people of the Utah area in a convention in March 1849. This convention decided to petition the government for a territorial form of government. They asked that the new territory be named "Deseret" and that it include all that vast region extending from Oregon on the North, to Mexico on the South; and from the watershed of the Rockies on the East, to the Sierra Nevada on the West, embracing, as it did, a considerable portion of the seacoast of Southern California. The convention also adopted a constitution which was to remain in effect "until the Congress of the United States shall otherwise provide for the government of the territory hereinafter named and described by admitting us into the Union".

The petition to Congress was signed by 2,270 individuals. It was taken to Washington by Dr. John M. Bernhisel in the spring of 1849. While in Washington, Dr. Bernhisel visited Col. Kane, long time friend of the Mormons, who advised him not to submit his petition to Congress asking for a territorial form of government. He advised Dr. Bernhisel to petition the government to grant statehood to the people of "Deseret."

Acting on Kane's advice, Dr. Bernhisel did not present his petition but attempted to have "Deseret" admitted as a state. In the meantime, Almond W. Babbitt came to Washington with a copy of the constitution of the State of "Deseret" and a memorial asking for admission into the Union. On Dec. 27th, Stephen A. Douglas presented the memorial and the constitution to the Senate, making application for admission of "Deseret" as a state, with territorial status as an alternative. Mr. Linn Boyd of Kentucky presented the same documents to the House, together with Babbitt's credentials, asking that he be given a seat in the House.

# Utah Mail

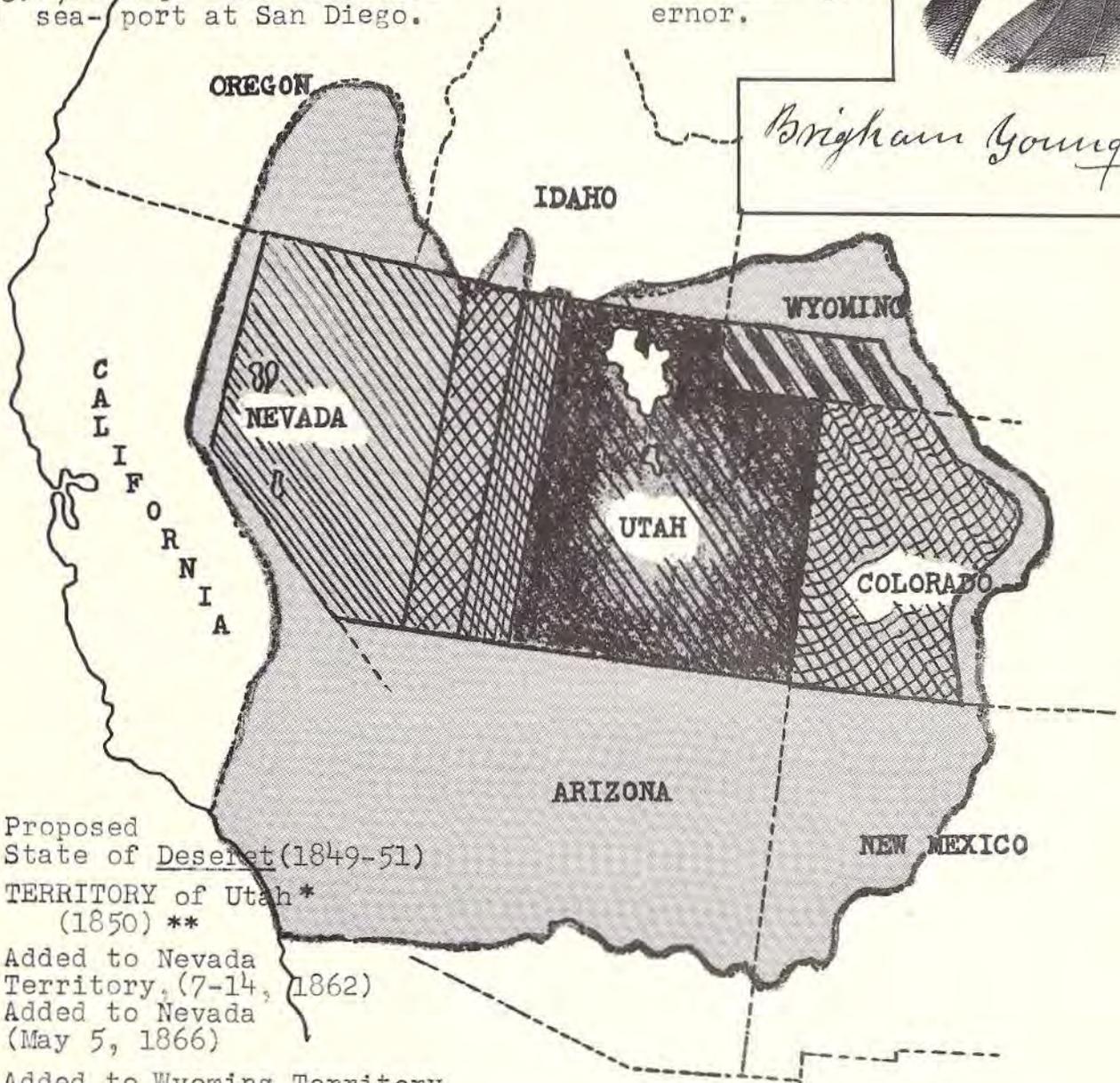
1847 1900

THE PROPOSED STATE OF "DESERET" and various reductions in the Territory of Utah until present boundaries were established in 1866. The proposed state of "Deseret" would have encompassed some 350,000 sq. miles and have had a sea-port at San Diego.

BRIGHAM YOUNG, founder, President of the Mormon Church, and first territorial governor.



*Brigham Young*



-  Proposed State of Deseret (1849-51)
-  TERRITORY of Utah\* (1850) \*\*
-  Added to Nevada Territory, (7-14, 1862)
-  Added to Nevada (May 5, 1866)
-  Added to Wyoming Territory (July 29, 1868)
-  Included in Colorado Territory (Feb. 28, 1861)
-  Present boundaries of State of Utah (Jan. 4, 1896)

\*All portions within second solid line including all of Nevada and a portion of Wyoming and Colorado.  
 \*\*Nevada created from portion of Utah Territory, Mar. 2, 1861.

-----  
TERRITORIAL MAILS OF UTAH - continued

After much debating, a resolution was adopted in July 1850, stating "that it is inexpedient to admit Almond W. Babbitt to a seat in this body as a delegate from the alleged State of Deseret."

Later that year, on September 9, 1850, the Omnibus Bill was passed, which considered all of the territory acquired from Mexico. In this bill, Utah was granted territorial status but with much reduced boundaries and the name "Deseret" rejected. The name "Utah" was used instead.

A final session of the provisional government of "Deseret" was held after the passage of the Omnibus Bill. The territorial dream of the tremendous state of "Deseret" came to an end with this session. It had lasted for a little more than two years; the date: April 8, 1851.

Postal markings during this period exist (1848-1851) and are indicative of the questionable status of this area. One such letter in the collection of C. Corwith Wagner has a manuscript cancellation reading, "Salt Lake Deseret, Nov. 19, 1850," with the numeral "10" also in manuscript.

A manuscript, "Salt Lake, Cal." has been noted dated July 16, 1849. Some P. O. lists included Salt Lake City in California and it is possible that the postmaster at Salt Lake assumed this to be so, since there existed no formal government at that time.

Another method of marking must be mentioned here. In the fall of 1847, it was decided to move the settlement from Winter Quarters, which was on the Indian Reservation, to the East side of the river. This was done and the new settlement was called Kanessville in honor of Col. Thomas L. Kane.

In January 1848 a signed petition was sent to the Iowa legislature, asking for the organization of a county. A post office was established with Evan M. Greene as postmaster. Later a county was formed which was called Pottawattamie.

Almond W. Babbitt who delivered the mail without charge from Salt Lake carried it, often, to Kanessville, where it was dispatched on to its final destination. The possibility that letters exist bearing the Kanessville, Iowa postmark and headed, Salt Lake City is good indeed. Kanessville was almost entirely abandoned by the Mormons by 1852. (Note: Harry M. Konwiser in an issue of Mekeel's, Feb. 4, 1946, deals with this city. He noted the post office was named Kane and was so listed in the 1851 Postal Guide. Kane or Kanessville became Council Bluffs on February 9, 1853.)

\* \* \* \* \*

---

HISTORY OF THE BOUNDARIES OF NEW MEXICO

By S. H. Dike

## PART TWO

Mexico gave up the struggle in November 1847. The last great stand near the Rio Grande was the Taos Rebellion in which Governor Bent and eleven other Americans were massacred. At the city of Guadalupe Hidalgo a treaty was signed on February 2, 1848. At this time the United States was in possession of Mexico City, Chihuahua, the eastern seaports of Mexico, as well as all the territory now forming the states of New Mexico, Arizona, and California, together with Lower California. The treaty was ratified by the United States Senate on March 10th, and by the Mexican Senate on May 5, 1848. In that same month, gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill (now known as Coloma), California. Article V of this treaty described the boundary line between the two nations. Because of its great historical interest, it is quoted here in full:

" Article V: The boundary line between the two Republics shall commence in the Gulf of Mexico, three leagues from land opposite the mouth of the Rio Grande, otherwise called the RioBravo del Norte, or opposite the mouth of its deepest branch if it should have more than one branch emptying directly into the sea; from thence up the middle of that river, following the deepest channel, where it has more than one, to the point where it strikes the southern boundary of New Mexico; then westwardly, along the whole southern boundary of New Mexico (which runs north of the town called Paso) to its western termination; thence northward, along the western line of New Mexico, until it intersects the first branch of the River Gila (or if it should not intersect any branch of that river, then to the point on the said line nearest to such branch, and thence in a direct line to the same); thence down the middle of the said branch, and of the said river, until it empties into the Rio Colorado; thence across the Rio Colorado, following the division line between Upper and Lower California, to the Pacific Ocean.

"The southern and western limits of New Mexico, mentioned in this article are those laid down in the map entitled 'Map of the United Mexican States, as organized and defined by various acts of the Congress of said Republic, and constructed according to the best authorities. Revised edition. Published at New York in 1847, by J. Disturnell'; of which map a copy is added to this treaty, bearing the signatures and seals of the undersigned plenipotentiaries. And, in order to preclude all difficulty in tracing upon the ground the limit separating Upper from Lower California, it is agreed that the said limit shall consist of a straight line drawn from the middle of the Rio Gila where it unites with the Colorado, to a point on the coast of the Pacific Ocean, distant one marine league due south of the southernmost point of the port of San Diego, according to the plan of said port made in the year 1782 by Don Juan Pantoja, second sailing master of the Spanish Fleet, and published at Madrid in the year 1802, in the atlas to the voyage of the schooners Sutil and Mexicana; of which plan a copy is hereunto added, signed and sealed by the respective plenipotentiaries.

"In order to designate the boundary line with due precision, upon authoritative maps, and to establish upon the ground landmarks which shall show the limits of both Republics, as described in the present article, the two governments

-----  
HISTORY OF THE BOUNDARIES OF NEW MEXICO - continued

shall each appoint a commissioner and a surveyor, who before the expiration of one year from the date of exchange of ratifications of this treaty, shall meet at the port of San Diego, and proceed to run and mark the said boundary in its whole course to the mouth of the Rio Bravo del Norte. They shall keep journals and make out plans of their operations; and the result agreed upon by them shall be deemed a part of this treaty; and shall have the same force as if it were inserted therein. The two governments will amicably agree regarding what may be necessary to these persons, and also as to their respective escorts, should such be necessary.

"The boundary line established by this article, shall be religiously respected by each of the two Republics, and no change shall ever be made therein, except by the express and free consent of both nations, lawfully given by the General Government of each in conformity with its own constitution."

For this vast territory the United States agreed to pay \$15,000,000, of which \$3,000,000 was to be paid when the treaty was ratified and the remainder in annual installments of \$3,000,000 each, with interest at 6 per cent. The United States also assumed liability for certain claims against Mexico, not to exceed a total of \$3,250,000.

At 6 o'clock, A.M., June 12, 1848, the flag of the United States was taken down from the National Palace in Mexico City, and replaced with the colors of Mexico. American troops were withdrawn, and the occupation of Mexico by the United States was at an end. On July 4, 1848, President Polk proclaimed the treaty.

The area of territory obtained by this treaty (exclusive of the area claimed by Texas) was estimated at 622,568 square miles.

Mail routes were being established out of Santa Fe and Taos as early as 1846. Regular freighting service was also being established. One of these freighters was Alexander Majors whose first trip was in August 1848, and who later became a partner in the famous firm of Russell, Majors, and Waddell. Monthly stage service to Fort Independence was established in May, 1849.<sup>5</sup> In October of 1849 the first post office was established in New Mexico at Santa Fe with William S. McKnight as postmaster. In the summer of 1850 the first contract for monthly mail service between Missouri and Santa Fe was let to Waldo, Hall and Company.

Since Texas claimed all the territory east of the Rio Grande, she sent a Texas judge to hold court in New Mexico. But New Mexico ignored the claim of Texas and the presence of her jurist, and elected a New Mexican delegate to Congress, hoping to achieve territorial status. Texas was incensed and declared she would seize New Mexico to the Rio Grande by force. But the government in Washington warned her against this sort of action. Then the southern states threw in with Texas in her sense of injury and, in modern day parlance, a "rather large flap" ensued out of which evolved the Compromise of 1850. Under its provisions California became a State without slavery and New Mexico was separated into two territories. One comprised the later statehood areas of New Mexico and Arizona; the

---

5. Duffus, R. L., The Santa Fe Trail, Tudor Publishing Co., New York, p. 223; 1930.

## HISTORY OF THE BOUNDARIES OF NEW MEXICO - continued

other, the areas of Utah and Nevada. The disputed lands between Texas and New Mexico were given to New Mexico, with \$10,000,000 being given to Texas. This payment was for all land lying north of the parallel of  $36^{\circ} 30'$  and west of longitude  $103^{\circ}$  as far south as the parallel of  $32^{\circ}$ . Texas was given until 1 December 1850 to accept these provisions, and although not happy about it, she did on November 25. In this same month the post office at Las Vegas was established with Levi Keithley as postmaster.

On 13 December 1850 the Territory of New Mexico was officially formed by presidential proclamation. The words were as follows: "That all that portion of the territory of the United States bounded as follows: Beginning at a point in the Colorado River, where the boundary line with the Republic of Mexico crosses the same; thence eastwardly with the said boundary line to the Rio Grande; thence following the main channel of said river to the parallel of the thirty-second degree of north latitude; thence east with said degree to its intersection with the one hundred and third degree of longitude west of Greenwich; thence north with said degree of longitude to the parallel of thirty-eighth degree of north latitude; thence west with said parallel to the summit of the Sierra Madre; thence south with the crest of said mountains to the thirty-seventh parallel of north latitude; thence west with said parallel to its intersection with the boundary line of the State of California; thence with said boundary line to the place of beginning--be, and the same is hereby, erected into a temporary government by the name of the Territory of New Mexico."<sup>6</sup>

Note that not only was the major eastern boundary of New Mexico specified as the 103rd meridian, but that the original territorial boundaries encompassed all of what is now Arizona, part of what is now southern Nevada, and a portion of what is now southeastern Colorado.

As provided by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, a joint commission was formed to establish and mark the boundary. Unfortunately the Disturnell map allowed serious differences of opinion as to where the southern boundary should lie. The town of Paso (El Paso; now called Juarez) was located about  $30'$  too far north and nearly  $2^{\circ}$  too far east. The commissioners (John Russell Bartlett for the United States and General Pedro Garcia Conde for Mexico) agreed to compromise by accepting the latitude on the map of  $32^{\circ}22'$ , even though this latitude was some 28 miles north of El Paso, and to run  $3^{\circ}$  west on this line (about 175 miles to longitude about  $109^{\circ} 30'$ ) even though the western terminus of the southern boundary of New Mexico was shown on the map to be at longitude  $107^{\circ}40'$ , thence north to the intersection with the Gila River. In accordance with this decision a durable monument was erected on the bank of the Rio Grande in latitude  $32^{\circ}22'$  and the marking of the line to the west begun. Soon, however, the government in Washington heard of this Bartlett-Conde compromise line and disapproved it. The marking of it was suspended. The United States claimed that the boundary should be marked with reference to the town of Paso which was the only definite point named in the treaty. The United States also claimed that since the map was off some  $2^{\circ}$  in longitude, the western boundary of New Mexico

---

6. U. S. Stat. at Large, Vol. 9, p. 447.

## HISTORY OF THE BOUNDARIES OF NEW MEXICO - continued

was actually at about  $109^{\circ}30'$ , and that is the point to which the east-west line should be run. Various negotiations followed but no agreement was reached before 1853 when a new line was agreed to under the Treaty of Mesilla, better known as the Gadsden Purchase. The purchase negotiated by James Gladson, United States minister to Mexico, "was for the purpose of more correctly defining and making a more regular line and certain boundary between the United States and Mexico," because of the desire "to remove every cause of disagreement which might interfere in any manner with the better friendship and intercourse between the two countries, and especially in respect to the true limits which should be established, when, notwithstanding what was covenanted in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in the year 1848, opposite Interpretations have been urged, which might give occasion to questions of serious moment, to avoid them and to strengthen and more firmly maintain the peace which happily prevails between the two republics..."

Mr. Gadsden returned to Washington with the drafts of three treaties. The acceptance of any one by the United States was to void the other two. It is interesting to speculate on what acceptance of either of the first two would have meant to the history of the Southwest. These treaties were numbered according to the size of the territory and the amount of payment mentioned in them:

First: Starting from a point in the center of the Rio Grande on the parallel of  $30^{\circ}$  north latitude, thence west to the Gulf of California, thence to take in the whole of Lower California, for which the United States was to pay the sum of \$25,000,000.

Second: Starting from the center of the Rio Grande in north latitude  $31^{\circ}47'$ ; thence west one hundred miles; thence south to north latitude  $31^{\circ}$ ; thence west to the Gulf of California, for which the United States was to pay the sum of \$15,000,000.

Third: This was the treaty finally agreed to which gave to the United States the area generally known as the 'Gadsden Purchase' for which Mexico was paid the sum of \$10,000,000.

The following is quoted from Farish's, "History of Arizona":<sup>7</sup>

"The argument advanced for the adoption of the treaty which gave us the land embraced in the Gadsden Purchase, was that the United States would have a port on the Colorado River. At that time the Gila River was also supposed to be navigable, and the land embraced within the purchase, according to the surveys which had been previously made, and the expedition of Capt. P. St. George Cooke, with his wagon train, proved it to be easily adapted for a railroad. The whole country was thought to be barren: great statesmen of that day declared that Arizona was almost exclusively a desert, and so also was New Mexico; that neither of these great States could ever support any large population. This, however, was the argument advanced by all those who were opposed

---

7. Farish, T. E., History of Arizona, Phoenix, Vol. 1, p. 197; 1915.

-----  
HISTORY OF THE BOUNDARIES OF NEW MEXICO - continued

to the extension of slavery and regarded all territory that might be acquired by the United States, south of the 33rd parallel, as future slave territory. Could they have realized that in the short period of twelve years thereafter slavery would have been abolished in the Southern States, there is little doubt but that the first treaty submitted by Gadsden would have been adopted. This would have given to us the port of Guaymas on the Gulf of California, the major portion of what is now Sonora and Chihuahua, and all of Lower California."

The boundary as finally accepted is given in Article I of the Treaty of Mesilla as follows:

"Article I. The Mexican Republic agrees to designate the following as her true limits with the United States for the future: Retaining the same dividing line between the two Californias as already defined and established, according to the 5th article of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the limits between the two republics shall be as follows: Beginning in the Gulf of Mexico, three leagues from land, opposite the mouth of the Rio Grande, as provided in the fifth article of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo; thence, as defined in the said article, up the middle of that river to the point where the parallel of 31°47' north latitude crosses the same; thence due west one hundred miles; thence south to the parallel of 31°20' north latitude; thence along the said parallel of 31°20' to the 111th meridian of longitude west of Greenwich; thence in a straight line to a point on the Colorado twenty English miles below the junction of the Gila and Colorado rivers; thence up the middle of the said river Colorado until it intersects the present line between the United States and Mexico."

The treaty was proclaimed on 30 June 1854, having been ratified by the United States Senate by a very narrow margin. The price paid was about 34 cents per acre. The boundary was marked in 1855-56.

The northern boundary of New Mexico was still obscure in part because of uncertainty as to which mountain range was intended by the name Sierra Madre. Maps of the time show various boundary lines in this area. It later appeared clear that the intent was to include the entire RioGrande basin, that the mountain range actually meant was the Sierra de San Juan, and that the boundary in this region was the continental divide.

With the establishment in 1861 of the Territory of Colorado, the headwaters of the Rio Grande were lost to New Mexico, as the Colorado-New Mexico boundary was set at the 37th parallel.

In 1863 the Territory of Arizona was proclaimed, and the western boundary of New Mexico was set at 32 degrees of longitude west of Washington, D. C. (about 109° west of Greenwich).

New Mexico Boundaries remained constant for many years thereafter. Then began a long series of disputes concerning the eastern boundary which was set by previous statute as the 103rd meridian. Apparently somebody (probably Texas) began to worry about this and caused Congress to adopt a measure which resulted in a shift of the Texas-New Mexico boundary on all government land office maps after 1891. After this date one finds on the land office maps of

## HISTORY OF THE BOUNDARIES OF NEW MEXICO - continued

the early '90's the following notation along the shifted boundary line:

"103rd Meridian as established by Clark's Survey of 1859 under the Act of June 5, 1858 and confirmed under act approved March 3, 1891."

This boundary shift was apparently not widely publicized because, as far as the author knows, it was indicated for many years only on government maps. For example, Rand-McNally maps of the period do not show the shift until after 1910. The first commercial map known to the author which shows the boundary shift is one published by Mathews-Northrup in 1902.

It wasn't until New Mexico was about to become a state that the issue was clearly stated. A joint resolution of Congress on February 16, 1911 declared that "these boundary lines as run and marked by John H. Clark in 1859-60 shall remain the true boundary lines of Texas and New Mexico."

Now it happened that Clark had surveyed the northern end of this line for about 170 miles, and the southern end for about 69 miles, but left a gap of about 69 miles unmarked. Most of the marks he established were merely piles of stones or mounds of earth. Some of these have been identified only in recent years.

Implementing the above joint resolution commissioners were authorized to re-mark the north-south line as determined by Clark, so far as it could be identified. Where no marks were found or where no survey had been made, straight lines were to be run connecting the recovered points. Therefore surveys were run north from the Clark marker identifying the intersection of the 32nd parallel and the 103rd meridian up to the 33rd parallel which is as far as Clark had gone. Similarly, a survey was started from the known northern boundary mark south to the 34th parallel where Clark had stopped. Between the ends of these two lines a straight line was drawn. These surveys indicated that the north end of the line was at longitude 103 degrees, 2 minutes, and 28.28 seconds, and that the southern end was at longitude 103 degrees, 3 minutes, 55.02 seconds. Hence there is an east-west difference of about 1-1/2 miles between the two parts of the line, and both of them are west of the originally specified boundary. Between the 33rd and 34th parallels a straight line was run which bears east of north by 1 degree, 42 seconds. Large markers of concrete were set up at a number of points along the entire line and prominent marks were established every mile. The difference between the present boundary and the true 103rd meridian represents an area (gained by Texas) of nearly 900 square miles.

There was apparently no argument with Oklahoma for the eastern boundary there was established by the General Land Office in 1881 at longitude 103 degrees, 6.78 seconds. This is only about 500 feet off the original boundary specification.

It was similarly agreed that the Clark survey for the 32nd parallel representing part of the boundary on the south be made the legal one. However, the difference between it and the true line are trivial. There are also minor differences in the present northern and western boundaries (from the statute values).

In 1919 New Mexico brought suit against Colorado for settlement of the northern boundary. The Supreme Court opinion of January 1925 was in favor of Colorado and a resurvey of the Colorado-New Mexico line was started in 1927.

HISTORY OF THE BOUNDARIES OF NEW MEXICO - continued

All was still not settled for in 1920 New Mexico filed suit against Texas concerning the interstate boundary which follows the Rio Grande river for about 20 miles above El Paso. In this case New Mexico claimed that since the boundary was specified in 1850 as being the river channel, it should remain on the line which marked the channel in 1850. Texas felt that it should be established at the current channel location. New Mexico's opinion was upheld by the Supreme Court in 1927 and the line was surveyed and marked in 1929-30. Since the channel had shifted since 1850, New Mexico gained back from Texas some 4 square miles.

WESTERN COVER SOCIETY AT BOGOTA

About a year ago, your Editor received a prospectus for the Exhibit to be held in Bogota, Colombia, November 7, 1955. It was printed in Spanish, French and English, and contained a section entitled "Concurso de Literatura Filatelica". Being of a curious nature, your Editor bundled up a year or two of "Western Express" issues, and sent them on down - nothing ventured, nothing lost. As the months slipped by, it began to look as though we were out a little postage and a little time. Imagine our surprise about the middle of August to receive a large envelope from The Foreign Service of the United States of America, Washington, D.C., a division of the State Department. Inside was a diploma, about 10" x 14", stating that "Mencion Honorifica concedida a Western Cover Society - Los Angeles - U.S.A. - Por su revista, Eastern Express, con Felicitacion especial del Jurado." How they came out with "Eastern Express" I'll never know. At any rate, what do I do with it?

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* G E N E R A L S T O R E \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 Rates are two cents per word per insertion, with a minimum charge of 50 cents. Send payment with copy, unused 3¢ commems acceptable. Mail direct to the Treasurer, Henry Chaloner, 2612 Ashby Ave., Berkeley 5, California.

WESTERN COVERS WANTED: Expresses, Ships, Territorial Packets, Postmarks, Covers of all Types during 1845-70 period. Letter Sheets and other collateral material also desired. We can supply Western Material for the collector who is first beginning to accumulate Western covers, and we can add rare and choice items to enhance the albums of a well known collection, anything from a ghost town cover to a rare Pony Express cover. Write and let us know your wants or ask for our auction catalog which often contains fine Western items. JOHN A. FOX, 173 Tulip Ave., Floral Park, N.Y.

I will buy, sell, or exchange express and territorial covers from Idaho, Montana, Wyoming. LYNN CRANDALL, Box 687, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Arizona Territorial Covers wanted, also books, Documents of Historical interest, New Mexico to 1864. Check or answer return mail. Send items and price. JOHN C. THEOBALD, 95 Encanto Blvd., Phoenix, Arizona.

WANTED: Territorial Markings from Montana Territory. All types and varieties, Postal, Express, Manuscript etc. Correspondence invited. HARRY L. FINE, 2324 Spruce St., Billings, Montana.

AMERICAN HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS wanted at all times, Civil War, American Revolution, West Diaries and Journals of Exploration and Travel. Correspondences covering important Events, Outstanding individual Letters or Documents (no covers) HAYWARD, 35A Rye Colony, Rye, N. Y.

WANT AT ALL TIMES: The autograph letters (not covers) of pioneer westerners. The correspondence of "just plain folk" will be fine. Of course I'll also buy autographs of Presidents, etc. HAYWARD, 35A Rye Colony, Rye, N. Y.