

# WESTERN EXPRESS

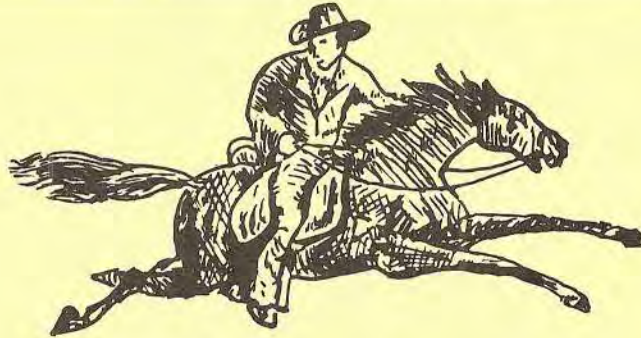
RESEARCH JOURNAL OF EARLY WESTERN MAILS

VOLUME XXV, NO. 1

Western Cover Society

JANUARY, 1975

Express  
Ocean Mail  
Overland  
Post Offices



Territorial  
Statehood  
Postal Rates  
Postal History

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is my hope that 1974 was a good year for all collectors and that each one of you acquired some new items which I know will be treasured and held in reverent respect. Acquiring new items many times opens up new challenges and leads one off into new and exciting avenues of collecting. Our Society can play an important role in this new pursuit especially if the new avenue leads to the area of Western Postal History. Through our research journal "Western Express" collectors and postal historians have a resource to turn to in seeking more information on frontier communications.

Today our Society has a solid membership base representing a broad spectrum of collectors and is in sound financial condition. As I have said before I am certain that the accomplishments of the Society have more than met the dreams and hopes of the original founders.

As we look to the future we should be thinking about other ways our Society can contribute for "the good of the cause."

We have coming up the Bicentennial — our Nation's 200th Anniversary. Is this something we should participate in and if so to what degree? I would welcome your suggestions and ideas.

Also in 1976 there will be an International Philatelic Exhibition held in Philadelphia (INTERPHIL). It has been suggested that our Society hold another general Assembly during that event. Again I solicit your suggestions.

During the past year many of our members and officers contributed their time and talents to keep up the Society's momentum. My special thanks to this group for their valuable assistance. Editor Everett Erle, Editor Emeritus Mel Nathan and Chief Contributing Writer Dr. Scott Pollard were particularly active in the interests of the Society.

Here's wishing each one of you good cover hunting in the coming year.

Basil Pearce



### EDITOR'S ARENA

**RECOGNITION** William Bauer of Westwego, La. has been hitting the "medal" trail. At NOPEX, held in New Orleans September 13-15, he garnered a silver for his entry "Westward Ho," plus the Bicentennial Philatelic Trophy. Then, south of the border, at EFLIMEX '74 his "Postal History of Colorado, 1859-1900" brought him a silver, together with a special award from the Philatelic Society of Chile.

**OCTOBER 1974** Enclosed with this issue of WESTERN EXPRESS is a corrected title page for the October 1974 issue. Please substitute and discard the misprinted title page.

### EDITOR'S ARENA

**ANNIVERSARY** Possibly of interest to no one but your Editor, is the fact that this issue of WESTERN EXPRESS marks the beginning of his second year of processing material for our members' reading pleasure. At least it is hoped that it has been for your reading pleasure. Whether or no, it has been a pleasure putting the information together each quarter. However it is a bit like working in the dark. Your comments would be appreciated. Should the features, such as "Contents of a Letter," "A Group of Expresses" and "Auction Results" be phased out, or continued. What type of article — what subject would you like to see on these pages? Is there a topic you would like discussed? A call has gone out for articles — just articles in general. Perhaps you could help us be more specific.

**WESTPEX '75** In connection with the 16th annual WESTPEX to be held, as usual, at the Jack Tar Hotel, next April, the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Exhibition or more familiarly ROMPEX, is offering a trophy for the best exhibit featuring Western Postal History. Here is a chance for an added award for your entry in WESTPEX '75 — for you are going to enter aren't you? WESTERN COVER SOCIETY will be in its 25th year, so it is fitting that WESTPEX be swamped with exhibits of good Western covers. President Basil Pearce will be one of the WESTPEX judges in 1975. Our annual meeting will be held on the closing day of the show.

**INTERPHIL '76** Every ten years, we in the U.S. have the opportunity to stage an International Stamp Exhibition. In 1966 Washington, D.C. was the site; Philadelphia has been chosen for the 1976 show. These large shows require considerable advance financing for the multitude of preparations — even now going on. The usual procedure is for a collector or Society to pledge a certain amount, and give the organizers confidence in their activity. Normally about 25% of this pledge is requested at time of making the pledge. Previous U.S. Internationals have proven popular, and when the receipts for frames, admissions, bourses etc. are finally totalled there is sufficient to refund guarantors advances. Why not send to "Guarantee Fund INTERPHIL '76, P.O. Box C, Philadelphia, Pa." for a guarantee form? Ask to be placed on the mailing list to receive the Prospectus, too.

**RECOGNITION** From the British weekly "Stamp Collecting" we learn that Wallace Knox was awarded a Large Gold Medal at the International STOCKHOLMIA 74 for his "Victorian Great Britain line—engraved, embossed and surface printed" and a Vermeil Medal for his "Mulreadys" (with Caricatures) and Victorian pictorial envelopes.

**DUES FOR 1975** As inevitable as death and taxes, dues are once again on the agenda. In addition to the formal notice enclosed with this issue of WESTERN EXPRESS you will find an envelope for your convenience in remitting the required amount to the Treasurer. In anticipation, we thank those who regularly renew as PATRON or SUSTAINING members and suggest to others the consideration of this voluntary means to provide additional funds for the operation of your Society and the publication of a bigger and better WESTERN EXPRESS.

## ELECTION RESULTS

The following are your officers and directors for 1975-1976

|                                |                        |
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| Director North West Area       | John Leutzinger        |
| Director - Pacific Area        | Mel C. Nathan          |

The Standing Committees have been re-appointed for 1975-1976  
(see list in January 1973 Western Express)

STOP PRESS Information on the awards at the 7th National Philatelic competition held during the 88th APS Convention in Chicago is finally filtering through (December 3)

We are happy to see that Mel Nathan's "Franks of the Western Expresses" was awarded a gold medal in the Handbook Class, while in the Philatelic Periodical Section, Volume 23 of Western Express, as edited by Mel, also received a gold.

Congratulations Mel - well deserved.

# Postal History of the Colorado San Juan

TEXT BY RAY L. NEWBURN, JR.

MAPS BY WILLIAM H. BAUER & RAY L. NEWBURN, JR.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*A great many people have contributed to this monograph in all sorts of ways. Careful reading of the entire text by William Bauer and David Jarrett has certainly improved its accuracy and clarity. Important help with the illustrations came from David Jarrett and James Young. Important contributions in many areas came from William Aichele, Forrest Calkins, and Leonard Persson. Special thanks are due to William Bauer for using his geologists talents to improve the maps and to my wife, Virginia, for typing the manuscript. Thank you, thank you everyone.*

*Ray L. Newburn, Jr.  
June 1974*

## POSTAL HISTORY OF THE COLORADO SAN JUAN

### Introduction

In 1776 the explorer Escalante gave the name San Juan to one of the principal tributaries of the Colorado River. The name was later applied to the mountains of southwestern Colorado drained on the south by that river and its tributaries<sup>1</sup>. The term "San Juan Country" has come to be applied to all the slopes of the San Juan Mountains, generally encompassing the nine modern countries of Archuleta, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Mineral, Montezuma, Ouray, San Juan, and San Miguel, plus portions of Conejos, Gunnison, Montrose, Rio Grande, and Saguache Counties. It includes essentially the area west of the San Luis Valley and south of the Gunnison River and Uncompahgre Plateau. (See Map 1)

The San Juan region is one of the most spectacular in the United States, containing 14 peaks over 14,000 feet in elevation. Superficially it is a high volcanic plateau which has been deeply eroded, but the detailed geology is extremely complex<sup>2</sup>. Through 1945 the San Juans had contributed 20% of the gold, 27.5% of the silver, 34.5% of the copper, 30.6% of the lead, and 14.3% of the zinc mined in Colorado, totaling over \$445 million in value<sup>2</sup>. The region remains similarly active at the present time, although in some of the principal towns tourism now contributes more to the local economy than does mining.

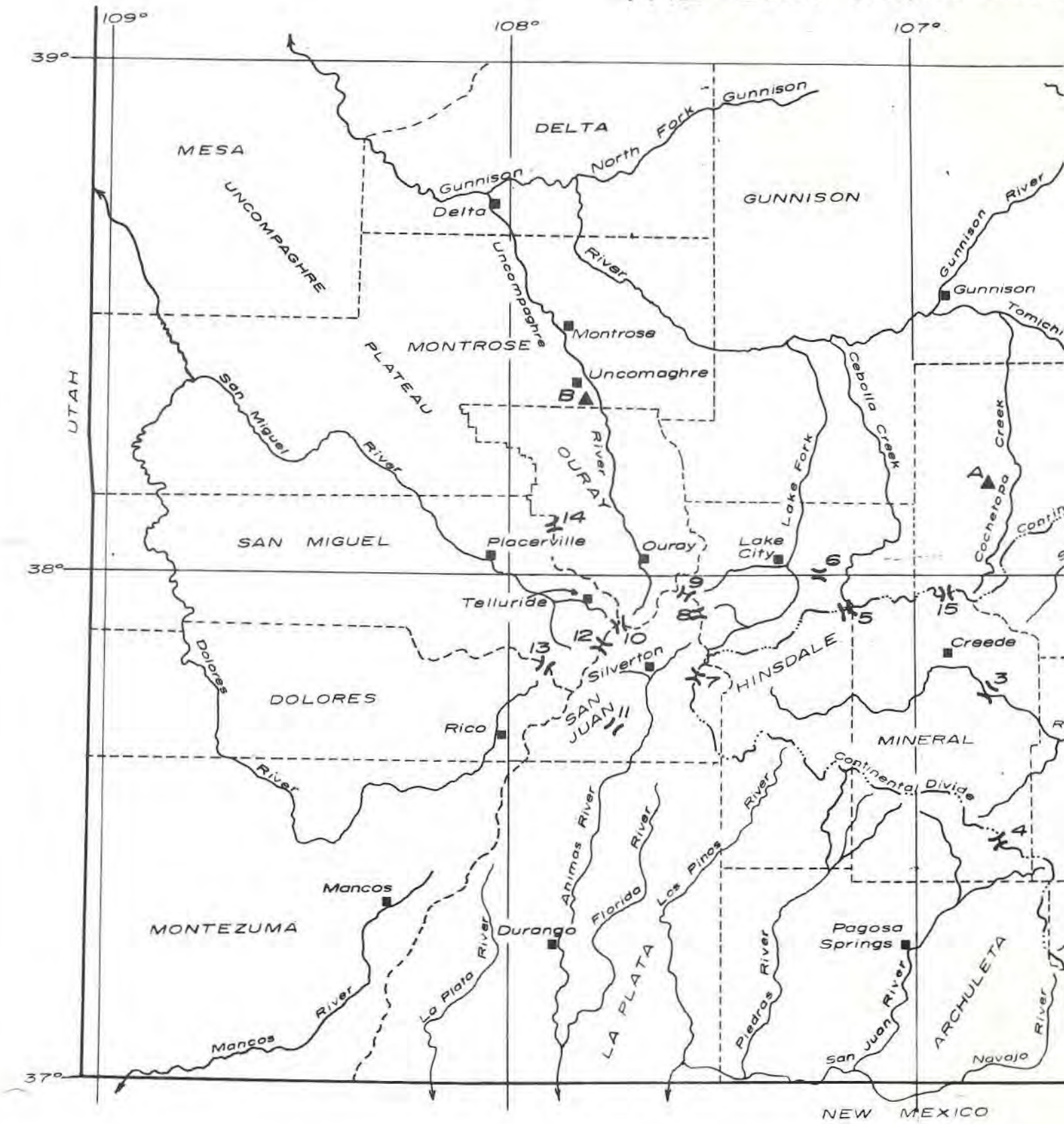
The ruggedness of the San Juans made communication a very serious problem, which the pioneers first tackled with spectacular trails, then with toll roads, and finally with the narrow gauge railroads. In the early years, the difficult terrain tended to result in development of a small mining camp at or very near every mine and most of the camps had post offices. The rugged beauty of the region, the fascinating roads and railroads, and the multitude of mining towns have combined to make the San Juans the author's favorite region of his favorite state. The history, the communications problems, and the postal markings of this area will be discussed in a series of articles during coming issues of WE.

### Chapter I—Early History

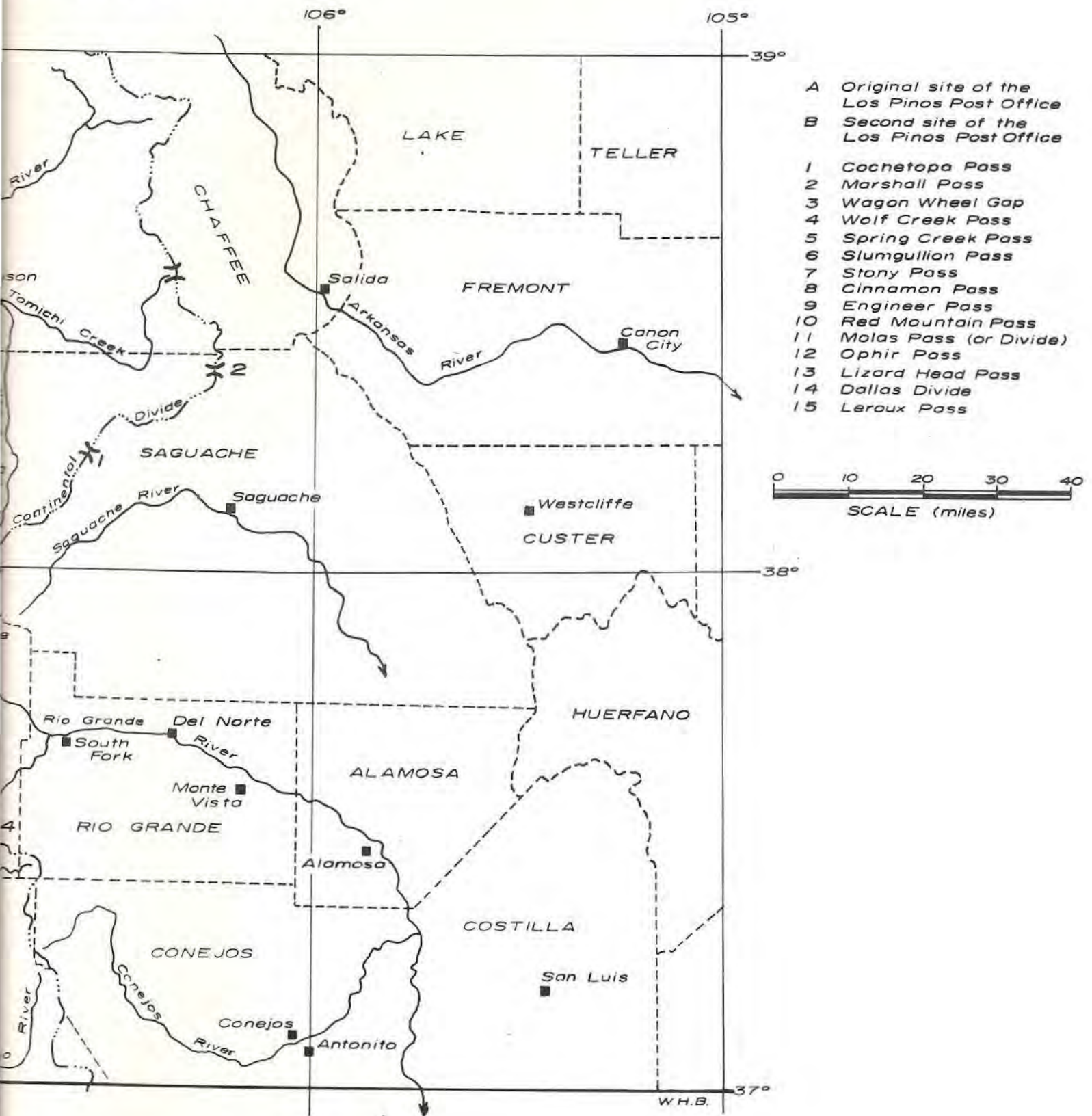
The first white men known to have entered the San Juan Country were in the party of Don Juan Maria de Rivera, Spaniards exploring out of Santa Fe, who moved through the southern foothills of the San Juans and then north along their western edge in 1765<sup>3,4</sup>. The expedition was apparently dispatched to investigate rumors by Indians of mines in the northwest<sup>3</sup>. The Dominguez-Escalante expedition of 1776 followed a similar route which in part became the "Old Spanish Trail"<sup>3,4</sup>. During the 1830s there were some "mountain men" present in the San Juans, although according to Chittenden the watershed of the Grand River (now the Colorado above Grand Junction) and its principal tributary the Gunnison River (then often called the Grand while the Grand was called the Blue) "were not so much frequented by the traders as were the streams further north"<sup>5</sup>. The trapper and trader Antoine Robidoux established a very crude post known as Fort Uncompahgre on the south bank of the Gunnison River about three miles west of the present town of Delta perhaps as early as the late 1820s<sup>6</sup>. This was burned by Ute Indians in 1846-47<sup>6</sup>. The mountain men on occasion, during the Summer, reached the Gunnison River from Taos using a rugged crossing of the continental divide (variously called Leroux Pass, Summer Pass, Williams Pass, and Pass of the Del Norte) which was ascended via Willow Creek (north from the present town of Creede) and led to Cochetopa Creek<sup>7\*</sup>. This was a direct crossing of the northeast San Juan mountains at an elevation of more than 11,700 feet. More often the mountain men followed the ancient indian trail over Cochetopa Pass, the easiest crossing of the continental divide in Colorado.

\*The exact location of many of these early routes is in some dispute, even among contemporary historians. Here I have followed Hafen who has made a lifetime study of 19th century exploration of the west.

# THE SAN JUAN COUNTRY



# COUNTRY



W.H.B.

## POSTAL HISTORY OF THE COLORADO SAN JUAN (continued)

In the 1840s topographers began to look for possible routes for a transcontinental railroad. The disastrous fourth expedition of John Charles Fremont was such a search, in the Winter of 1848-49 directly into the San Juan Country. The expedition apparently intended to attempt the previously mentioned Leroux Pass but turned north some 20 miles too soon and arrived on the crest of the La Garita mountains at 12,000 feet elevation, in sub-zero temperatures, with snow 15 to 20 feet deep, and without food<sup>7</sup>. Ten of the 33-man party died. The site of their final camp before retreating (Camp Desolation) has been apparently located at the head of Wannamaker Creek, a tributary of the Saguache River<sup>8</sup>. They never actually crossed the Continental Divide.

Captain John W. Gunnison was in charge of an official survey party for the War Department when he was killed by Indians in Utah in 1852. His party used Cochetopa Pass and followed the river later named after him, thus penetrating the northern fringe of the San Juan Country<sup>9</sup>. During the 1850s several military expeditions used this route. In 1854 Captain John N. Macomb led a survey party along the Old Spanish Trail through the San Juan foothills looking for an easier route from New Mexico into the Great Basin<sup>10</sup>. They noted some of the Indian ruins of present day Mesa Verde National Park. None of these army expeditions penetrated the San Juan heartland since they were looking for easy routes across the divide, and no such route exists through San Juan Range.

In 1859 came the "Pikes Peak Gold Rush." As is always the case, most of the gold seekers found the good claims already staked at the sites of the early discoveries and began ranging out to look for new bonanzas. Each rumor created new enthusiasm. In the spring of 1860 the "Santa Fe Gazette" printed an enthusiastic account of gold deposits in the San Juan, and other reports soon appeared in the "Rocky Mountain News"<sup>11</sup>. It may have been the first of these that led Charles Baker and a small party up the Lake Fork of the Gunnison and across to the headwaters of the Animas River during the Summer of 1860<sup>11</sup>. The broadened part of the upper valley of the Animas that contains the present town of Silverton is still known as Baker's Park. While in that "park" Baker and his men organized 11 mining districts each containing 200 claims, laid out three or four towns, and claimed the route from Baker's Park into New Mexico for a toll road<sup>11</sup>. Proceeding down the Animas River, Baker reported finding a group of 300-500 men at Animas (Animas) City (a place some 13 miles up river from present Durango, not the later northern "suburb" of Durango)<sup>11</sup>. He also observed the existence of the city of Pagosa (Pagosa Springs) and predicted there would "not be less than twenty-five thousand Americans" in the San Juan basin within a year<sup>11</sup>. He noted that "establishment of a private mail from the mines to a connection with the United States mail, to be succeeded by a reliable express for the transmission of gold is an immediate necessity"<sup>11</sup>.

Following his exploratory trip, Charles Baker proceeded to Denver and organized the "Baker Expedition" which left for the San Juan on Dec. 14, 1860<sup>11</sup>. The character of San Juan winters was sufficiently well known, following Fremont's well publicized fiasco, that this enthusiasm on the part of 100-300 persons (the number varied as some quit and others joined the expedition) is hard to understand. Furthermore Baker's party was not the only interested group, just the best known. Supplies were expressed to Abiquiú, New Mexico, the principal jumping off point, by St. Vrain and Company, and Hinkley and Company (well known to express collectors) promised they too would soon start service<sup>11</sup>. St. Vrain and Company actually undertook to improve the 200 miles of road all the way from Taos, New Mexico to the San Juan<sup>11</sup>.

Baker's expedition arrived at Animas City in mid-March 1861. They built a log bridge across the river just north of town that remained in use until a flood in 1911<sup>11</sup>! They then proceeded north to a point (about half way from Durango to Silverton) near the Hermosa Cliffs where they set up "Camp Pleasant" and most of the women stayed. The men went on to Baker's Park and

**POSTAL HISTORY OF THE COLORADO SAN JUAN (continued)**

proceeded to dig for gold in the area of what was to become Eureka<sup>11</sup>. Later the Camp Pleasant group moved back down to Animas City, which in the Summer of 1861 was the only real town in the area, having some 20 log cabins<sup>11</sup>.

From this point things proceeded "downhill." The men found relatively little gold. Provisions were extremely expensive, and conditions were primitive in this remote area. On two different occasions in 1861 various of Baker's companions talked of lynching him for his overly enthusiastic promotion of the San Juan<sup>11</sup>. The Civil War had begun, and as word of this reached the San Juans many men left to join up. In the Fall Baker himself left to join the Confederate army<sup>11</sup>. In fact significant mining activity in the San Juans was at an end for a decade without so much as a single post office ever having been established.

The position of the Southern Utes and Tabeguache Utes who inhabited the San Juans was rather anomalous in the period 1860-61. In 1849 the first treaty with the Utes confined them to "their accustomed habitat" unless given permission to move<sup>12</sup>. Agencies were established for the Southern Utes at Taos in 1851 and for the Tabeguache Utes at Conejos in 1861<sup>12</sup>. Yet reservation boundaries had never been defined, and quite obviously miners and Indians were overlapping. Finally on October 1, 1863 boundaries were proposed and agreed to by the Utes. In gross outline, that area north of the Rio Grande, east of the Uncompahgre and Gunnison, south of the Colorado and Roaring Fork, and west of the Sawatch and Sangre de Cristo Ranges belonged to the Tabeguaches<sup>12</sup>. Baker's mining claims escaped the Utes, but by this time it was academic.

The treaty of 1863 left the Utes in possession of the great San Luis Valley. This was soon found to be "inconvenient," and on March 2, 1868 a new treaty was negotiated which moved the Indians westward<sup>12</sup>. The new eastern boundary was the 107th meridian, a line running near the present towns of Crested Butte, Gunnison, and Pagosa Springs, and the northern boundary was the 40th parallel (just south of Steamboat Springs). The other boundaries were the territorial lines<sup>12</sup>. This new treaty obviously placed all of the Animas River drainage in the Ute reservation. A new agency for the Tabeguache and the Southern Utes was to be established on the Los Pinos River. The Tabeguache refused to go that far, however, so the Los Pinos Agency was actually established about 55 miles west of Saguache on a tributary of Cochetopa Creek, which was named Los Pinos Creek in order to agree with the stream mentioned in the treaty<sup>12</sup>! In fact it was later found the agency wasn't even on the reservation, being a few miles too far east<sup>12</sup>. Nevertheless that "misplaced" agency obtained the first post office in the San Juan Country.

Los Pinos post office was established in Saguache County on Nov. 20, 1872, the first of three offices in different counties to bear that name. A number of offices were established as early as 1862 in the San Luis Valley, but no one considers that valley part of the San Juan. Some might even argue that the Cochetopa Hills and La Garita Mountains are not a part of the San Juan Region, but I believe I am with the majority in including them. Unfortunately, no postmarks are known from the original Los Pinos.

As might be expected, the treaty of 1868 was ignored by those who wished to do so. The year 1870 found several former members of the Baker party prospecting in Arastra Gulch, a tributary of the Animas River<sup>14</sup>. They discovered the Little Giant and Mountaineer Mines, and the next spring returned to begin working them. The Las Animas Mining District was created June 15, 1871 with Miles T. Johnson as recorder, followed by the Eureka District on August 16, 1871<sup>16</sup>. Johnson officially recorded the "Little Giant Gold Lode" on July 24, 1871 in a book still in existence<sup>16</sup>. There were 40-50 miners in the area in 1871 and many of them spent the winter of 1871-72 in the newly organized town of Del Norte, which had been founded on the western side of the San Luis Valley in 1871 to serve as a supply town for the Summitville district (where gold

## POSTAL HISTORY OF THE COLORADO SAN JUAN (continued)

had been found in 1870)<sup>14,15</sup>. With a crude *arastra* some \$3000 in gold had been recovered from Little Giant surface quartz in about six weeks, and word of this soon spread<sup>14</sup>. Since the Summitville discoveries had been "disappointing," 1872 found perhaps 2000 miners crossing the divide to the new mining areas<sup>14</sup>. (Summitville itself is on the eastern slope of the San Juan Mountains in what became Rio Grande County, but its history is separate and distinct from most of the San Juan and will not be considered here. It did not get a post office until 1876.) The year 1872 also found a complete quartz mill being delivered for the Little Giant<sup>17,18</sup>. Quite obviously the treaty of 1868 had been thoroughly shattered. The Utes were decidedly annoyed.

In August 1872 the government opened "negotiations" with the Utes on the San Juan Problem. In September 1873 the Utes ceded to the government all of the San Juan country except a narrow strip along the New Mexico and Utah borders<sup>12</sup>. In return they received \$25,000 per year and the right to continue to hunt in the San Juans as long as they remained peaceful<sup>12</sup>. This Treaty of 1873, sometimes called the Brunot Treaty after the head of the National Board of Indian Commissioners who played a central role in its adoption, "legally" opened the San Juan to the miners and "civilization." The United States Senate ratified the treaty on April 29, 1874<sup>12</sup>.

During the summer of 1875 the Indian agency was moved to the bank of Uncompahgre River 12 miles south of the present town of Montrose, while the Los Pinos Agency remained as a sub-agency until 1879<sup>12</sup>. The post office of Uncompahgre was established at the new agency Dec. 20, 1875, with the spelling being changed to Uncompahgre on March 20, 1876. On Feb. 23, 1877 the post office name was changed officially to Los Pinos while that same day the sub-agency post office name became Cochetopa. In fact a Los Pinos marking is known from the site on the Uncompahgre as early as November 1876. A relatively large number of postmarks (all manuscripts) are known from this second Los Pinos as shown in Fig. 1 and a manuscript Cochetopa is also known (Fig. 2). From the time of its establishment, the county to which the Uncompahgre Agency belongs has been rather confused. Post office records carry it successively in La Plata, San Juan, Gunnison, and Montrose Counties. In fact the agency was probably in Lake County when established (see Chap. II) and in Gunnison County after that county was created in March 1877. Four maps of the period 1876 to 1881 show this to be the case as does a study by Hafen<sup>19</sup>. When the treaty of 1880 moved the Utes out of the area, the northern boundary of Ouray County was apparently moved north to its present location, which may include the site, but I doubt it. Mrs. Crum shows the site a bit north of the small town of Colona, which grew up in later years, and which is south of the boundary and definitely in Ouray County<sup>30</sup>. Calkins states that the site is just across the modern boundary and in Montrose County.\* Of course the agency post office was closed Jan. 13, 1881, before Montrose County was created out of Gunnison County, so in fact the correct county list is probably Lake and Gunnison, PERIOD.

Following the Meeker Massacre of 1879, a military post was established four miles north of the Uncompahgre Agency. This was known as the "Military Cantonment" until March 12, 1884 when the name was changed to Fort Crawford<sup>12</sup>. The fort post office, established on Oct. 14, 1880, was called Uncompahgre, and although the fort was abandoned in 1890 the post office remained until 1906. Many of these markings are known, but they are really outside the San Juan region and will not be listed.

With the signing of the Treaty of 1873 the real rush to the San Juan had legally begun. Now all the structures of formal government could be established, and, of course, post offices could be created. Thus ends the "Early History" of the San Juan Region.

\*Calkins, F. W., private communication

POSTAL HISTORY OF THE COLORADO SAN JUAN (continued)



Figure 1 Manuscript Los Pinos, Colo. of May 16, 1878. A number of covers, all bearing manuscript postmarks, are known from this second (Uncompahgre River) site of the Los Pinos office during the period 1876-1879.

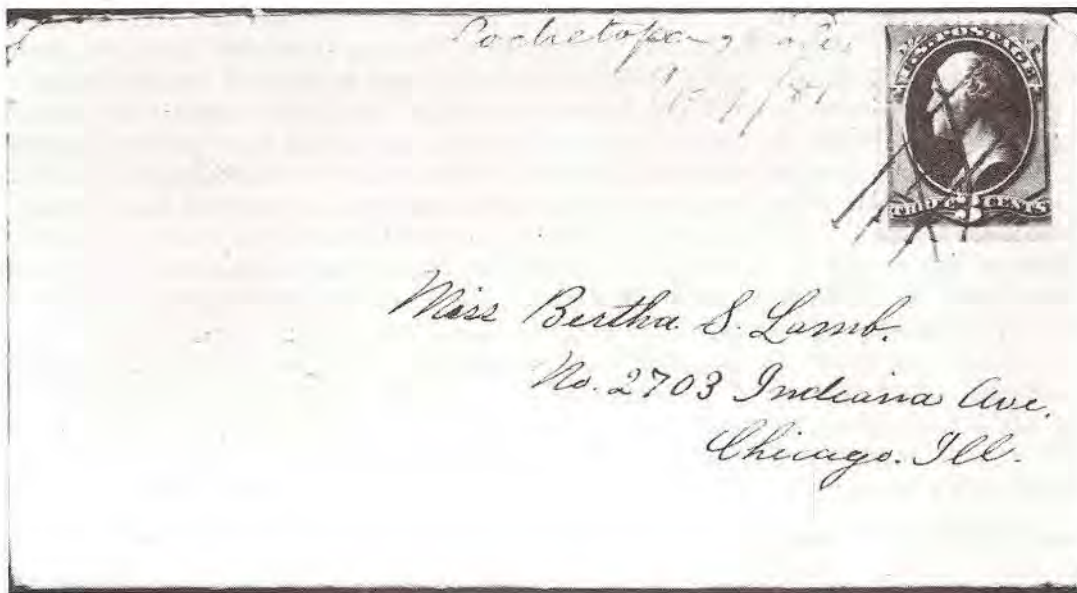


Figure 2 Manuscript Cochetopa, Colo. of Sept. 29, 1881. When the Los Pinos name was moved 75 miles west to the Uncompahgre River the old office was continued under the name Cochetopa.

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Only references actually consulted are listed below. Being neither a professional historian nor wealthy, the author has resorted to some use of secondary references where access to the original works seemed likely to be expensive or inordinately time consuming. He will be grateful for correction of any errors which may have resulted from this slightly debatable practice.

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\*This is one of the most valuable articles generally available on the early "rush" to the San Juans, as it is based upon original newspaper accounts, manuscripts, and other primary references as well as the standard texts.

†The author has a microfilm copy of the "Records of Postmaster Appointments" for Colorado from the National Archives, but this very fine new work by Bauer, et al. goes far beyond that basic listing (and can be opened freely on a desk). All dates in this series are taken from the book rather than the original records.

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**“THE 26 mm DOUBLE CIRCLE POSTAL MARKING OF SAN FRANCISCO”**

Clifford L. Friend

During the 1860's, the San Francisco Post Office employed a postal marking handstamp which has become readily distinguishable by its DOUBLE CIRCLE features when displayed on covers of that period. The inner circle of the marking measures about 14mm in diameter, whereas the outer circle measures approximately 26mm in diameter. As this marking was applied by hand, the diameter measurements of each circle may vary by as much as a full millimeter. Such variations in the measurements exist because of the pressure which the postal clerk exercised as he applied the handstamp to the cover, the angle in effect between the handstamp and the paper as it was applied, and the amount of ink which happened to be adhering to the handstamp at the time of application, etc.

The 26mm D.C. postal marking of San Francisco may be found on a cover of its usage period without any canceller, or it may be found used with an 11-bar encircled grid canceller, a 4-ring target canceller, or one of the three types of COG cancellations associated with the San Francisco Post Office. These latter cancellations of the COG-type have brought delight to many a philatelist over the decades. The late Stanley B. Ashbrook was especially interested in this canceller, and he is generally given credit for classifying the COG cancel into three (3) basic types, viz; I, II, and III. The three types were described in detail in an excellent article by Dr. W. S. Polland in the April 1966 issue of WESTERN EXPRESS. Another article by Dr. Polland entitled “The San Francisco Cog on Demonitized Stamps” appeared in the July 1971 issue of WESTERN EXPRESS.

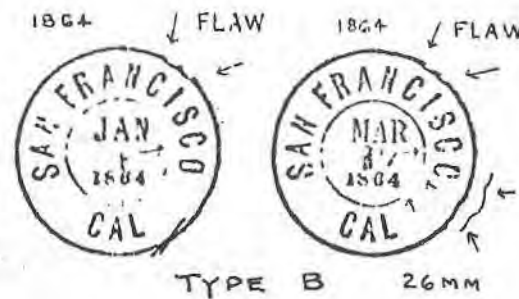
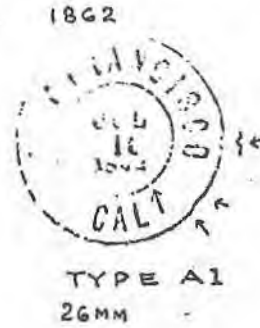
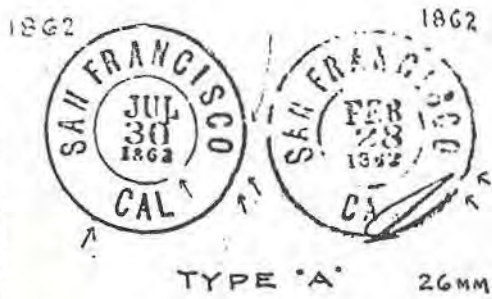
In the interest of learning as much as possible about the association between the San Francisco COG cancels and the 26mm D.C. postal markings, this writer sent out a number of inquiries to several postal history students. It was through this means of communication that J. David Baker of Indianapolis, Indiana very graciously offered his San Francisco postal marking material for further study. The majority of Mr. Baker's material had been originally assembled by Stanley B. Ashbrook, in conjunction with E. B. Jessup, and it contained several drawings and tracings, as well as photo reproductions of covers, pieces of covers, etc.

Included amongst the material was a “chart” apparently put together by Ashbrook which displayed a number of the San Francisco double circle postal markings. It also outlined what he considered to be the differences in the three basic types of COG cancels. Ashbrook's “chart” has been photo-copied, and is shown here as Figure #1.

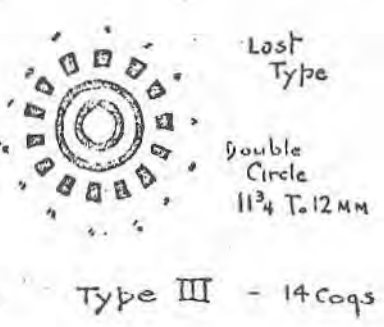
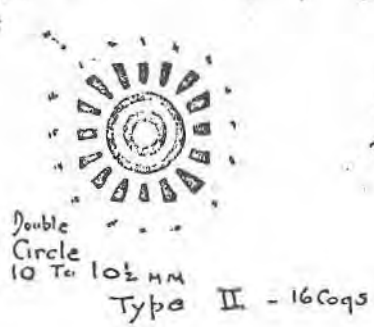
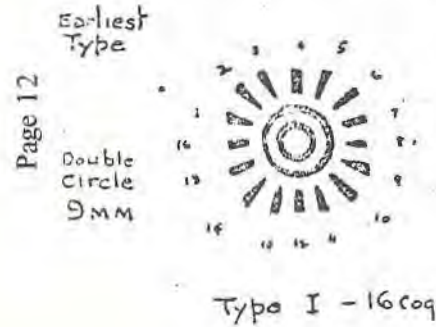
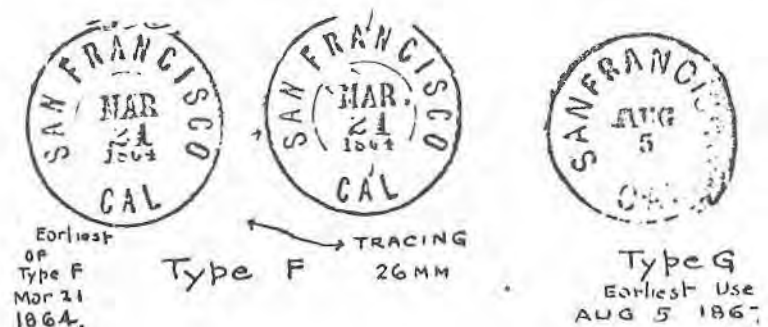
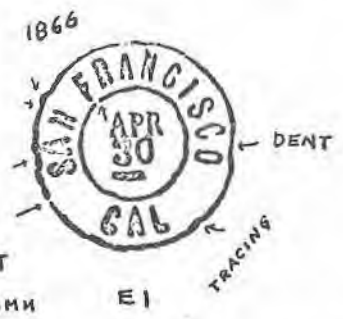
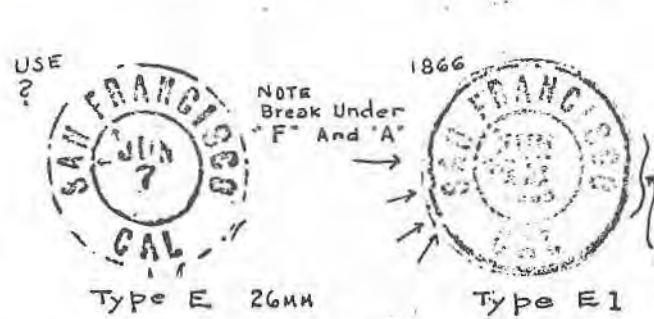
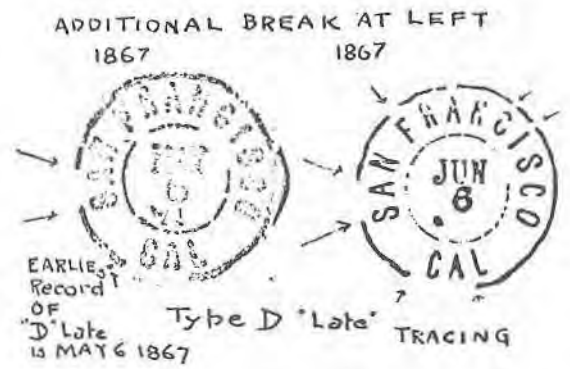
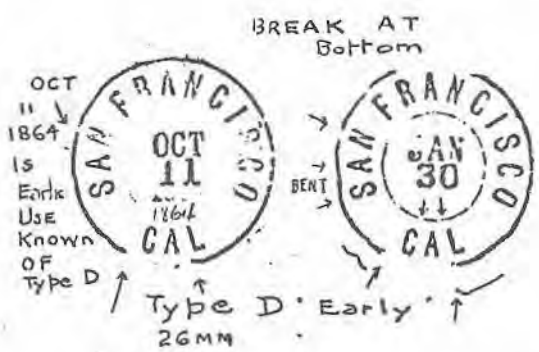
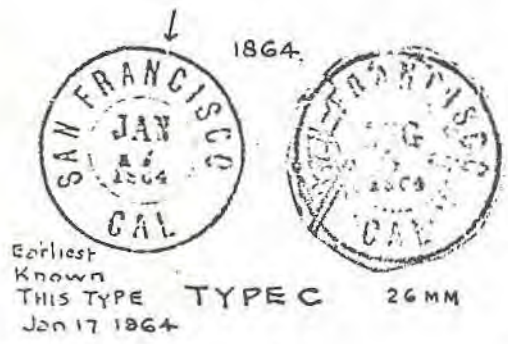
A notation in the lower right hand corner of this chart would seem to indicate that this was the extent of his information as of August 27, 1943. At this point in time, he (Ashbrook) had taken note that the “Earliest Record of Use of the San Francisco Double Circle Post Mark” was November 2, 1861, and that the latest usage took place on September 16, 1867. Additionally, Mr. Ashbrook noted that his earliest recorded usage for the San Francisco COG cancel was December 27, 1861.

After Mr. Ashbrook had put his “chart” together, he learned that the earliest usage of a DOUBLE CIRCLE postal marking at San Francisco was reported to be September 19, 1861. A cover is known which shows this date of usage, but the whereabouts of this cover is unknown to this writer. The latest known usage on cover of the 26mm D.C. postal marking of San Francisco is listed by Dr. Polland as being June 6, 1868.

For the record, the earliest known usage of the 26mm D.C. postal marking of San Francisco is displayed upon a cover addressed to a Mrs. Henry Wetherbee at New York City. It was franked out of San Francisco by a horizontal pair of the 10¢-1857 issue (Scott's #35). It was later forwarded out of New York City on October 17, 1861 to Westfield, Massachusetts, and carries a single copy of the 3¢-1861 issue. It also carries a “DUE 3” marking which would seem to indicate



EARLIEST RECORD OF 'B', Dec 27 1861.  
All Strikes of This Type show Year Date. No Use Known Later Than 1864.



Earliest Record of Use of The San Francisco Double Circle Post Mark is Nov 2 1861. - MY RECORD OF LAST USE OF THE DOUBLE CIRCLE TYPE IS SEP 16 1867.  
My EARLIEST USE OF THE "COG" IS DEC 27 1861.  
(August 27 1943)

FIGURE I

**“THE 26 mm DOUBLE CIRCLE POSTAL MARKING OF SAN FRANCISCO” (Continued)**

that the cover was double-weight; properly prepaid out of San Francisco, but not so out of New York City!!

Using Ashbrook's original "chart" as the background for further research and other detailed studies, the 26mm D.C. postal markings of San Francisco have now been "re-charted" as to several major TYPES and "family" SUB-TYPES into a somewhat different format. The major TYPES are still assigned different letters of the alphabet, which is similar to Ashbrook's method. However, in direct conflict with Mr. Ashbrook, NO consideration was given the minor variations in any of the *inner circle* impressions of the markings to establish a major TYPE. Only predominant and/or flaw impressions pertaining to the *outer circle* of 26mm diameter were given any consideration in designating the major postal marking TYPES. In addition, an attempt has been made to list major differences within "family" groupings, such as TYPE B-1, etc. Last, but not least, the "time-range" of the known dates of probable usage for the various markings influenced the assignment of the alphabetical letters. Other major TYPE differences can be determined from the new chart, and are self-explanatory.

Hand-drawn tracings of all the known major TYPES of the 26mm D.C. postal markings of San Francisco are shown in Figures #2 and #3, and supporting data for these various TYPES of postal markings is given in Tables I and II.

Approximately 350 examples of the 26mm DOUBLE CIRCLE postal marking of San Francisco have been examined in minute detail. We have to assume that at least several hundred more examples exist, and that they will be recorded in due time. Perhaps from their listing, we will develop additional major TYPES of the 26mm D.C. postal marking of San Francisco.

Meanwhile, nine (9) major TYPES of the 26mm DOUBLE CIRCLE postal marking of San Francisco have been identified. The total number of different postal marking handstamps in use at San Francisco during the 1860's, and which resulted in the establishment of the major marking "TYPE" chart, has never been determined. The number of handstamps could not have been too great, because many of the major postal marking TYPES associated with the 26mm DOUBLE CIRCLE impressions found on cover are really the result of the extended usage of the same handstamp. In other words, the handstamps received permanent damage of one form or another during their course of usage, such as being dropped upon the floor, etc. All of which brought about different impressions on cover as the handstamps were struck by the postal clerks.

Significantly, however, three of the major San Francisco postal marking TYPES of the 26mm D.C. variety are identified as TYPES "F," "K," and "M." All of these major TYPES of postal markings under discussion reflect the employment of a duplex-type handstamp. (See Figures #2 and #3).

With all of this in mind, a few notes of further explanation are in order. For example, the marking types classified as TYPES "A" & "G" are very similar in appearance. Each marking has no apparent flaw in its respective outer circle. However, by measuring the space taken up by the letters "CAL" at the bottom of the marking, and between the inner and outer circles, one can determine that TYPE "A" has a "CAL" which measures 7mm, and the spacing for "CAL" in TYPE "G" measures 9mm.

"THE 26 mm DOUBLE CIRCLE POSTAL MARKING OF SAN FRANCISCO" (Continued)

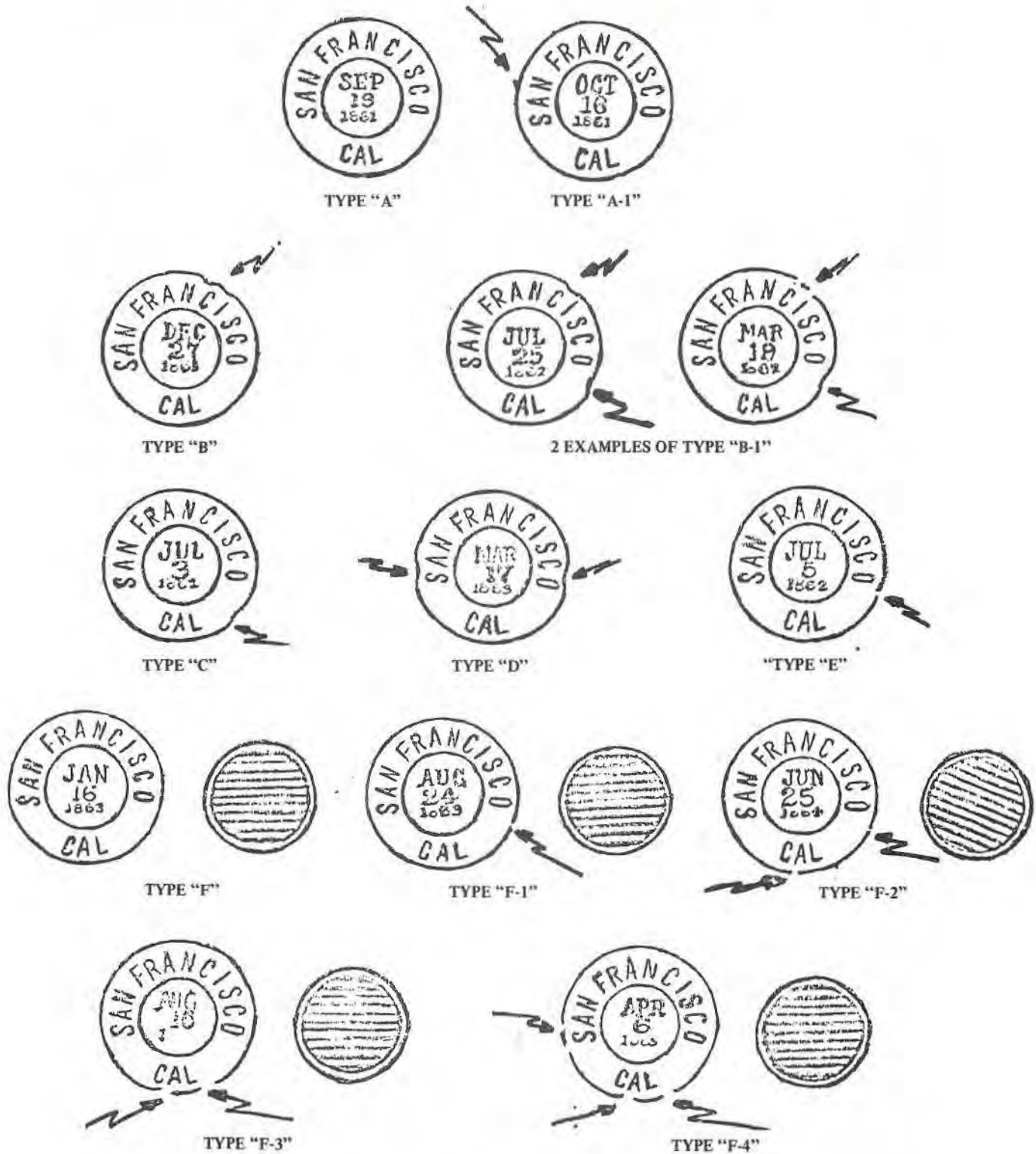


Figure 2.

“THE 26 mm DOUBLE CIRCLE POSTAL MARKING OF SAN FRANCISCO” (Continued)

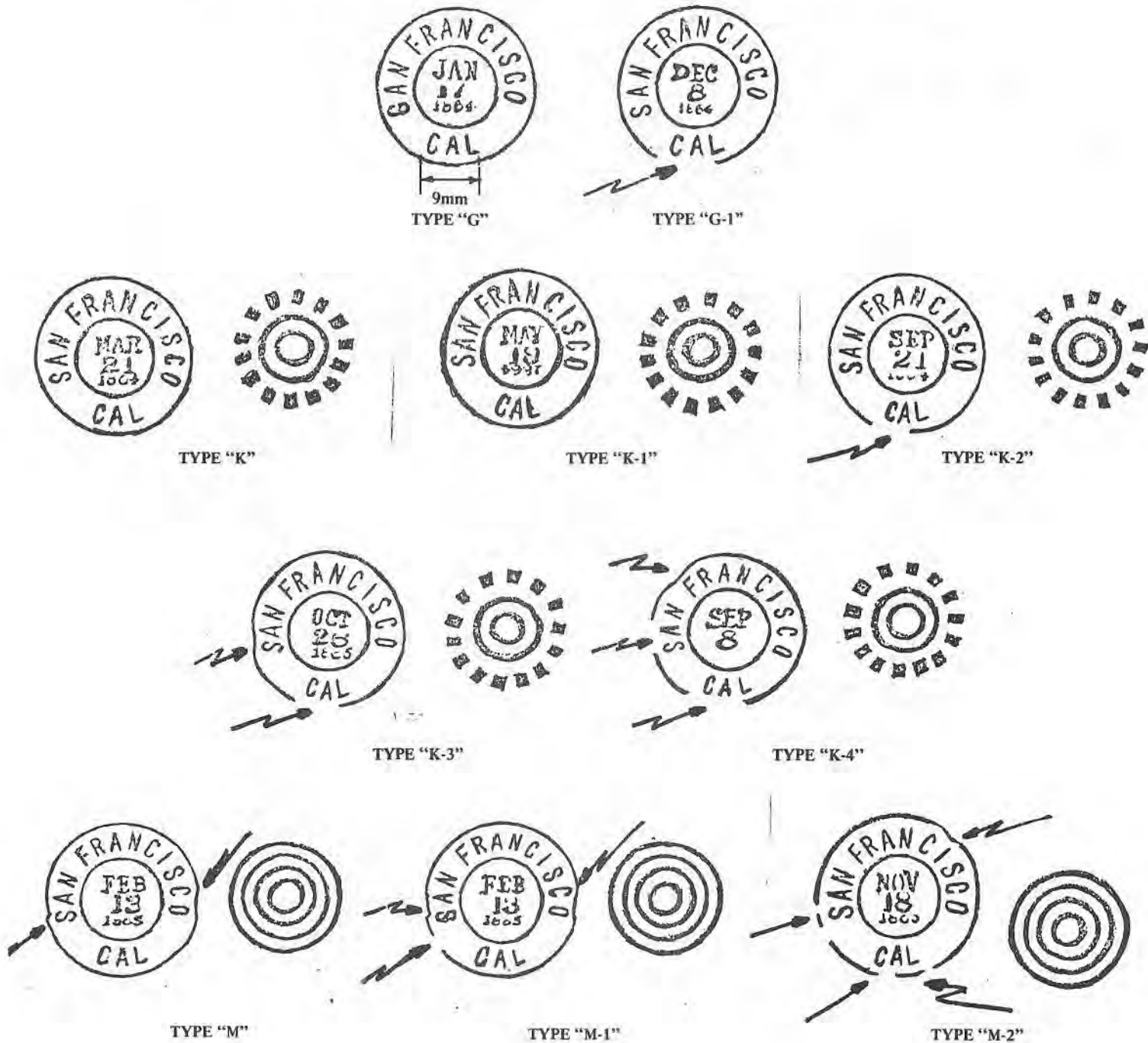


Figure 3.

“THE 26 mm DOUBLE CIRCLE POSTAL MARKING OF SAN FRANCISCO” (Continued)

Many examples of the TYPE “B-1” may be found, as this writer’s study has determined that at least one-third of all the 26mm D.C. postal markings of San Francisco can be identified as being of this major TYPE. This is probably due to the fact that so many minor variations exist in the degree of the flaws in the outer circle which distinguish the TYPE B-1, and that all such minor variations of these flaws have been grouped into one major TYPE of 26mm D.C. postal marking of San Francisco by this writer. The differences in the degree of flaw were not considered to be of any great significance to warrant any individual listing, etc.

The earliest known usage of a duplex-type handstamp at the San Francisco Post Office is November 1, 1862, and is reflected in the major TYPE marking resume by the TYPE “F.” The 11-bar encircled grid type of cancelling device was employed in the duplex handstamp along with the 26mm DOUBLE CIRCLE postal marking. For more information regarding the 11-bar encircled grid canceller when it was in use at the San Francisco Post Office, may we please recommend the fine articles of Dr. Polland’s in the April and July 1971 issues of WESTERN EXPRESS.

The TYPE “K” postal marking of San Francisco with a 26mm D.C. may not have been the first example of the duplex handstamp at San Francisco, but TYPE “K” surely has to stand as the one which has become the most famous. It is due to the admiration of those for the COG cancel — Type III. This particular type of COG canceller was part and parcel of another duplex handstamp which was put into use during the latter part of 1863. The earliest known usage of TYPE “K” marking is shown in Figure #5. Although a single copy of the 1¢ - 1861 issue is missing from this cover, it holds a significant position in the postal history annals of San Francisco. It should be noted that the COG cancels Types I and II were never employed as part of any duplex handstamper at San Francisco.

TABLE I  
Non-Duplex Handstamp Types

| Postal Marking Type | No. of Recorded Examples | Type of Cancellor Used With Marking                | Known Dates of Usage |              | Notes  |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------------|--------------|--|
|                     |                          |  | Earliest             | Latest       |  |
| A                   | 3                        | None   | Sep. 19, '61         | Oct. 9, '61  | Flawless markings<br>7mm spacing for “CAL”                     |
| A-1                 | 12                       | None   | Oct. 16, '61         | Dec. 5, '61  | Similar to Ashbrook’s “A”                                      |
| B                   | 15                       | None, 11-Bar Grid & Cog—Type I                     | Nov. 2, '61          | Jan. 28, '62 | Earliest known usage of Cog-Type I is reported as Dec. 27, '61 |
| B-1                 | 121                      | None, 11-Bar Grid 4 ring Target & Cogs—Type I & II | Feb. 11, '62         | Oct. 13, '64 | Similar to Ashbrook’s “B”                                      |
| C                   | 12                       | None, 4 ring Target & Cogs—Types I & II            | Mar. 1, '62          | Aug. 29, '63 |  |
| D                   | 16                       | None, 4-ring Target & Cogs I & II                  | May 19, '62          | Oct. 28, '63 |  |
| E                   | 2                        | Cog—Type II  | July 5, '62          | Oct. 27, '63 | Several currently unidentified markings could be Type E        |
| G                   | 4                        | None & Cog II                                      | Jan. 17, '64         | Aug. 5, '64  | Flawless marking<br>9mm spacing for “CAL”                      |
| G-1                 | 4                        | None & Cog II                                      | Dec. 8, '64          | Nov. 12, '65 |  |

## "THE 26 mm DOUBLE CIRCLE POSTAL MARKING OF SAN FRANCISCO" (Continued)

TABLE II  
Duplex Handstamp Types

| Postal Marking Type | Number of Recorded Examples | Type of Cancellor Used with Marking | Known Dates of Usage |              | Notes  |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|--|
|                     |                             |                                     | Earliest             | Latest       |  |
| F                   | 4                           | 11-Bar enclosed grid                | Nov. 1, '62          | Feb. 17, '63 | 7mm spacing between D.C. and enclosed grid cancels               |
| F-1                 | 10                          | 11-Bar enclosed grid                | June 13, '63         | Oct. 28, '63 |  |
| F-2                 | 7                           | 11-Bar enclosed grid                | May 10, '64          | Aug. 10, '64 |  |
| F-3                 | 6                           | 11-Bar enclosed grid                | Aug. 16, '64         | Oct. 13, '64 |  |
| F-4                 | 19                          | 11-Bar enclosed grid                | Nov. 17, '64         | Feb. 5, '66  | 7mm spacing between D.C. and Cog Spokes<br>Year of 1864 inverted |
| K                   | 18                          | Cog-Type III                        | Nov. 17, '63         | Aug. 6, '64  |  |
| K-1                 | 2                           | Cog-Type III                        | May 19, '64          | May 23, '64  |  |
| K-2                 | 19                          | Cog-Type III                        | Aug. 24, '64         | Feb. 22, '65 |  |
| K-3                 | 73                          | Cog-Type III                        | Mar. 23, '65         | Jan. 30, '67 | Similar to Ashbrook's Type "D-Early"                             |
| K-4                 | 29                          | Cog-Type III                        | Mar. 13, '67         | June 6, '68  |  |
| M                   | 9                           | 4-ring Target                       | Nov. 16, '63         | Oct. 13, '64 | 5mm spacing between D.C. and outer ring of target                |
| M-1                 | 34                          | 4-ring Target                       | Oct. 27, '64         | Nov. 19, '66 |  |
| M-2                 | 30                          | 4-ring Target                       | Oct. 28, '65         | Oct. 10, '67 | Target canceller is on same imaginary horizontal plane line.     |

The spacing measurement between the cancelling devices and the outer circle of the 26mm DOUBLE CIRCLE postal marking device which went into the makeup of all three duplex handstamps is most important. The spacing should always measure 7mm for types "F" and "K," and the spacing should always measure 5mm for type "M." In addition, the cancelling device's position, as reflected by the impressions so noted on cover, should always be the same millimeter distance from the imaginary horizontal plane line of reference upon which the outer circle of the postal marking rests. The only exception is involved with postal marking type "M-2," and this is given its own major postal marking type identification of the 26mm DOUBLE CIRCLE postal markings of San Francisco because all impressions of the cancelling device, as seen on cover, are on the *same* horizontal plane line of reference. (See Figure #3.)

A number of so-called "mystery" 26mm double circle markings have developed during this writer's period of study. Whether or not such markings can be directly related to the usage of a postal marking device at San Francisco, which resulted in certain unusual impressions upon covers of the period, has yet to be determined. Apparently this was also the situation during the time when Ashbrook was conducting his own studies. One such "mystery" marking impression is currently listed by the writer as his type "W," and another such "mystery" marking example was listed by Ashbrook as type "Y." (See Figure #4).

## "THE 26mm DOUBLE CIRCLE POSTAL MARKING OF SAN FRANCISCO" (Continued)



S. ASHBROOK'S TYPE "Y"



Figure 4.



C. FRIEND'S TYPE "W"



Figure 5.

It should be noted here that a number of the 26mm D.C. postal markings of San Francisco, which are shown on covers still in existence, are just too messy to be clearly identifiable. This is due to the smeary impression of the marking after the handstamp had been applied by the postal clerk. None of these covers have been recorded into the data of this particular study. Interestingly enough, many of the so-called "unidentified" markings did have Type "E" characteristics, but none of them were clear enough impressions to warrant proper listing.

It is the sincere desire of this writer to be advised of any corrections to his data, or to any additional information which will assist him in expanding the data already recorded regarding the 26mm D.C. postal markings of San Francisco. Meanwhile, the writer is indebted to the following postal historians for their excellent cooperation and assistance during the past few years while the data was being formalized for this article.

T. J. Alexander  
M. E. Arthur  
J. D. Baker  
J. H. Beal  
W. O. Bilden  
H. Brickles  
L. Brookman\*  
Dr. V. C. Carr

W. C. Clatterbuck  
S. Gallagher  
R. B. Graham  
G. Hargest  
H. Herst  
W. K. Herzog

J. Molesworth  
M. Neinken  
G. Prescott  
W. S. Polland, M.D.  
R. Rustad  
N. Sampson

R. A. Siegel  
T. Simpson  
Dr. G. B. Smith  
H. Spelman III  
T. Wierenga  
A. Zimmerman

\*Deceased

## AUCTION ACTION

By Robert Lewenthal

There were only two auctions in the last few months that contained substantial offerings of Western Covers. They were Robert A. Siegel's sale of Sept. 20-24, 1974 and my auction of Sept. 8, 1974.

The market for this material continues to be strong. Many record prices were obtained, and there appears to be no slackening of demand for fine covers.

The sales are identified as follows: L = Lewenthal, S = Siegel.

## EAST TO WEST MAIL

|  |   |        |
|--|---|--------|
| New York, Dec. 25 in clear red circle. Large Ms. 40 on 1848 folded letter to S.F. V.F.   | L | 45.00  |
| Wilmington, Del. Bold strike ties extremely fine 10¢ 1855 (14) to cover to Alcatraz Island. Light stain, otherwise V.F.                                | L | 110.00 |
| Denmark to Mendocino, Cal. 1870. Denmark 11, 12, 15 tied by 1 in three ring circle. Various rate and transit markings. Fine.                           | L | 150.00 |
| Malta to Mendocino, Cal. 1870. G. B. 2d, 6d (30, 51) tied by black Malta, Dec. 21, '70, red New York Paid All; black A25 in grid and red 2 cents. V.F. | L | 110.00 |

## CALIFORNIA TOWNS

|  |   |        |
|--|---|--------|
| Auburn, Aug. 7 (1853). Neat Ms. pmk. Ms.5 to Gov. of Calif. at Vallejo. Early use. V.F.  | S | 50.00  |
| Blue Tent. Small magenta circle. 3¢ green canc. matching star. Soiled and irregular at right. Very scarce.   | S | 42.50  |
| Centreville, Cal. Sep. 22 and 5. Neat ms. pmk. on 1852 folded letter. V.F.   | S | 60.00  |
| Clifton, Nov. 16, 1866. Neat ms. pmk. on U58 to S.F. V.F.  | S | 80.00  |
| Coloma, Oct. 8, 1858. Bold strike on cover to J. W. Denver at Lecompton, Kans Terr. Endorsed "Overland Mail via Placerville" V.F. Ex Clifford  | S | 300.00 |
| Coon Creek, Cala., Jan. 30. Bold ms. pmk. Matching "Paid 10cts" on V.F. cover to Maine.  | S | 72.50  |
| C.P.R.R. Pino, Jan. 26, 1879. Clear blue D/L circle. 3¢ green tied. Tiny fault still fine.   | S | 47.50  |
| Crystal Lake, Aug. 15. Neat ms. cancel. 3¢ 1861 pen canc. Fine.  | S | 62.50  |
| Gold Run, Cal. June 8, 1864. Neat ms. pmk. 3¢ 1861 pen canc. V.F.  | S | 52.50  |
| Illinoistown, Bold strike in D/L circle. 10¢ (15) pen canc. affixed over "Paid 10" on small Lady's env. Minor aging. Fine.   | S | 75.00  |
| Last Chance, Cal. Apr. 20, '67. All in ms. Strip of three 1¢ (63), end stamp cut into, pen canc. V.F. appearance.  | S | 47.50  |
| Mokelumne Hill. Bold strike on U18a. Curious oval cancel of small solid V's. V.F.  | S | 220.00 |
| Mountain Springs. Clear strike in 39mm. D/L circle. 3¢ 1851 pen canc. V.F.   | S | 52.50  |
| North Columbia, Oct. 26, 1860. Neat ms. pmk. Just ties 10¢ (35) to cover to Wisc. Interesting letter. Fine.  | S | 40.00  |
| Ophirville. Clear strike in large red circle. Pair 3¢ 1851 pen canc. Fine.   | S | 62.50  |
| Placerville. Fairly clear strike ties 10¢ (33), pen canc. Endorsed "Via Salt Lake." Fine.  | S | 180.00 |
| Rattlesnake. Bold strike in D/L circle on U18a to Maine, V.F.  | S | 62.50  |
| Red Dog, Sept. 19. Clear ms. pmk. on U10 to Oroville. V.F.   | S | 57.50  |
| San Francisco, Cal., Oct. 26, 1861. Clear strike in D/L circle. Bold, tall SHIP on cover datelined Tacna, Peru. Bold straight line "Paid to Panama" to N.Y. All transit markings. V.F. | S | 170.00 |
| San Francisco, May 6. Clear strike. 3¢ grill (94) tied. Ms. By 1st through train from S.F. to New York, May 6, 1869. Wrinkled, otherwise V.F.  | S | 220.00 |
| Marysville, Cal. Paid by Stamps. Excellent strike in blue. Pair 3¢ (11) canc. matching grid of bars. V.F.  | L | 45.00  |
| Marysville. Nice strike in blue. 3¢ 1857 (25) tied by dotted grid on cover with San Francisco and Marysville Railroad Co., office, Marysville Cal." across top. V.F.                   | L | 210.00 |

## AUCTION ACTION (Continued)

|   |   |        |
|---|---|--------|
| Mount Ophir Aug. 29, 1856. Legible strike in red with ms. date. 10¢ (14), four margins pen canc. Very early use. F./V.F.  | L | 57.50  |
| Nevada City Cal, 3 paid with bold 6 over the 3. Excellent strike on Hutchings "Mining Scene" cover. Bit worn. Fine.   | L | 145.00 |
| Nevada City, Cal. 3 paid. Excellent strike. Ms. "Paid" and handstamped 6 on Barber & Baker "Miner's Coat of Arms" cover. Closed tears and repairs at top. Fine app. | L | 100.00 |
| Oak Springs, Cal., June 8 (1851) and 12½. All in ms. on interesting folded letter to Monterey. Very early use. Possibly unique use of 12½¢ rate from this P.O.      | L | 510.00 |
| Rich Gulch, Cal., Jan. 13, 1860. Neat ms. pmk. on U16. V.F.   | L | 140.00 |
| Rough & Ready, Cal., 14 Sept. 1854. Neat ms. pmk. on uncanceled 6¢ Nesbitt(U14) Ex. Berner. V.F.  | L | 52.50  |
| Sacramento City, Cal. Mar. 26. (1851) 40. Bold, perfect strike in brick red on folded lettersheet to Illinois. V.F.   | L | 50.00  |
| San Diego, Jan 22nd 1846, Capt. E. Libby. Ms. marking on back of folded lettersheet to Boston. Ms. "Per Ship Admittance" on front. No postal markings. Fresh, V.F.  | L | 90.00  |
| San Francisco 6 Jun. Perfect strike ties 1¢ 1851 (13L2), large margins. Striking example of the "big crack" on immaculate folded lettersheet. V.F.                  | L | 220.00 |
| San Francisco. Two fine strikes tie strip of four 3¢ O.B. (10) to cover to Ohio. Nice margins. F./V.F.  | L | 100.00 |
| San Francisco. Three strikes tie 6¢ Nesbitt (U13) and strip of four 1¢ (9), left stamp defective at top. Margins mostly complete. Fine.                             | L | 130.00 |
| San Francisco 1855. Clear strike ties 12¢ (17), three large margins, frameline cuts at right on folded lettersheet to Philadelphia. F./V.F.                         | L | 105.00 |
| San Francisco Free. Bold strike on 1856 stampless cover to J. W. Denver. Ms. "per Golden Age. Letter encl. Bit soiled, otherwise V.F.                               | L | 50.00  |
| Snellings Rancho, Cal. Excellent strike in D/L oval with ms. date. Nice pair 3¢ (11) on cover to Stockton. F./V.F.  | L | 80.00  |
| Steinbergers, Cal. Oct. 4, 1856. Neat ms. pmk. on U18 to Vermont. Very scarce. V.F.   | L | 400.00 |
| Table Rock, Cal., Jan 1st '58. Neat ms. pmk. on U16 to Maine. V.F.  | L | 55.00  |
| Woods Diggings, Cal., May 27, '52 and 10. All in ms. on long, interesting folded letter. F./V.F.  | L | 135.00 |
| Bolinas 1870. Perfect strike in D/L circle. 10¢ 1869 tied by target on cover to Switzerland. Various transit cancels. F./V.F.                                       | L | 90.00  |
| Camanche 1860's. Perfect strike in blue on W.F. franked U58. Fresh and extremely fine.  | L | 60.00  |
| Downieville 1861. Excellent strike. 3¢ 1857 canc. bold "Downieville Star." Long, interesting letter encl. F./V.F.   | L | 52.50  |
| Los Angeles 1864. Good strike in 35mm. circle ties freak perfed 3¢ 1861 to cover to S.F. Letter encl. headed Fort Tejon, Cal. F./V.F.                               | L | 80.00  |
| Pescadero, Sep. 12 (1867). Perfect strike in blue. Three pairs and single 5¢ 1863 (76) tied or tied together on cover to Switzerland. Ex Burrus. Rare & F./V.F.     | L | 260.00 |
| San Francisco, Feb. 1, 1864. Excellent strike in D/L circle. Strip of three 5¢ black brown (76a) tied by cogs to cover to Canada. Fine.                             | L | 100.00 |
| San Francisco. Excellent strike in D/L circle on U59, tied by cog. Bold large DUE 7 and Steam Acapulco in oval. Closed tear at top. F./V.F.                         | L | 155.00 |
| Spanish Ranch 1864. Excellent strike in green. 3¢ 1861 pen canc. on fresh cover to Virginia City, N.T. V.F.   | L | 62.50  |
| Taylor's Ranch, Cal., June 24, 1863. All in ms. on cover to Wisc. 10¢ 1861 pen canc. V.F.   | L | 67.50  |
| Copper City 1878. Excellent strike in magenta D/L circle. 3¢ green tied. Bit worn and tears at right. Fine app.   | L | 55.00  |
| Zucker 1898. Perfect strike. 2¢(267) tied. F./V.F.  | L | 45.00  |
| Golden Gate, Alameda Co., Cal. 1889. Perfect strike. 2¢ (213) canc. matching target. V.F.   | L | 42.50  |

## AUCTION ACTION (Continued)

Ocean View, San Francisco Co., Cal. 1887. Bold strike 2¢ (210) tied. No back flap, otherwise V.F. L 47.50

## EXPRESS COVERS

Arizona & New Mexico Express Co. Printed frank on U163. Blue oval A.&.N.M. Ex. Co., Prescott on V.F. cover to S.F. S 400.00

California Penny Post, 5¢ Black on Buff on U10 (34LU3). Blue "Penny Post Co., Sacramento" to S.F. Slight aging. Fine. S 400.00

Jones & Russell's Pikes Peak Express Co., Denver City. Bold strike on U10 to Auraria, K.T. Sealed tear. Attractive. S 850.00

Per Pony Express, Paid 2.00. All in ms. on U10. Bold green St. Joseph, Mo. pmk. to Gov. of Virginia at Richmond. V.F. S 800.00

Via Nicaragua in Advance of the Mails, Sullivan. Clear blue oval. Pair 3¢ (11) tied by New York Ship on cover to Mass. Small faults mostly on back. Nice app. S 300.00

Adams & Co's. Express, Coloma in blue and Adams & Co's. Express, Normon Island in black. Bold D/L ovals on interesting 1852 folded letter to Mormon Island. V.F. L 155.00

Adams & Co., Nevada. Excellent strike in red oval. PAID in D/L red oval on 1854 folded letter to S.F. 3¢ (11) precancelled by ruled penstroke. Fresh. Extremely Fine. L 165.00

Adams & Co., San Francisco. Excellent strike in blue D/L circle directly on 3¢ 1851. Addressed to "Pueblo de San Jose." V.F. L 205.00

Cram, Rogers & Co., Express, Shasta. Perfect strike in D/L oval on stampless cover to Yreka. Pmkd. San Francisco, Cal. V.F. L 240.00

Crawford's Middle Fork Express, Paid. Fancy frank in black on U10 to Sacramento tied by W.F. Greenwood (L3-2). Red D/L oval "Crawford's Middle Fork Express" with ms. date. Rare & V.F. L 1900.00

English & Wells' Moore's Flat and Eureka Express. Type 1 frank on U58. Clear W.F. Nevada (L11-9). Fine. L 77.50

Eureka Express Co. Type 2 frank on U277. Clear purple W.F. Nevada (L16-26) ties. Extremely Fine. L 105.00

Freeman & Co's. Express. Type 3 frank on U10. Clear blue co. canc. Coulterville. Extremely Fine. L 65.00

Freeman & Co's. Express, Panama. Cova & Co., Agents. Excellent strike in red oval on folded lettersheet to S.F. V.F. L 270.00

Freeman & Co's. Express. Type 4 frank on U10. Bold Mok Hill co. canc in black oval. No flap, otherwise V.F. L 120.00

Freeman & Co's. Express. Type 4 frank on U10. Perfect black co. oval Volcano V.F. L 220.00

Gregory & English's Moore's Flat & Eureka Express. Type 2 frank on U58 Rimless postal 'Eureka South' canc. in black and blue oval W.F. Nevada (L11-9). F./V.F. L 175.00

Horn's Yreka, Fort Jones and Scott River Tri-weekly Express. Magenta handstamped frank over W.F. frank on U163. Clear W.F. Yreka (L11-9) Scarce. V.F. L 190.00

La Porte Express. Printed frank on U59. Excellent blue co. oval La Porte. Scarce. V.F. L 230.00

Langton's Express. Type 4 frank on U34. Perfect Washoe City canc. in blue co. oval. Bit worn. F./V.F. L 100.00

Pacific Express Co., Columbia. Bold strike in 53+32mm oval. PAID in D/L rectangle. Both in blue on cover to Jamestown. V.F. L 200.00

Pescadero and Half Moon Bay Stage Co's. Express. Bold strike in blue oval ties U35. V.F. L 145.00

Pony Express. "W.F. & Co. (Thorp, type K) ½ ounce Paid from St. Joseph to Placerville per Pony Express." Frank vertically at left on 10¢ (U40). Bold postal New York, Sep. 7, 1861. Good C.O.C. & P.P. Ex. Co., St. Joseph, Mo. Sep. 13. Addressed to "Grt. S.L. City, Utah Terr." Wonderful letter "drop you a few lines by P. Express." Cover has closed tears, but is of nice appearance. L 2400.00

Salmon River & Nez Perces Express, Paid 50 cents. Thorp type 2 frank at lower left of W.F. franked U34. Bold W.F. Lewsiton (L11-9) ties. F./V.F. L 360.00

## AUCTION ACTION (Continued)

|   |   |         |
|---|---|---------|
| Forwarded by Todd's Express, San Francisco. Bold strike in blue oval. Not Paid in D/L blue oval on 1852 stampless cover to Sonora. F./V.F.  | L | 125.00  |
| Tracy & Co's. Express, Paid. Frank in fancy rectangle on U10 to Walla Walla, W.T. Bold blue oval Tracy & Co's. Express, Portland ties. Tiny closed tears at top. Rare. V.F. appearance.   | L | 800.00  |
| Via Nicaragua Ahead of the Mails. Clear strike in blue octagon on 1854 folded letter to Boston. Pair 3¢ (11) tied by N.Y. pmk. Fresh. V.F.  | L | 140.00  |
| Washington Express. Black frank on U82, canc. excellent W.F. Nevada, Cal. (L12-3) to San Jose. Backstamped perfect black W.F. San Jose (L12-3). Extremely Fine.   | L | 450.00  |
| Wingate's Oakland Express. Perfect strike in D/L circle on Pacific Union Express franked U58, which is tied by excellent blue D/L circle Sac. Messenger. See "Franks of Western Expresses" by Mel Nathan, pg. 239 which states "this is the only cover known of this express." Tear at upper left, otherwise V.F. | L | 1150.00 |
| <b>WELLS, FARGO &amp; CO.</b>   |   |         |
| W. F. Express, Ophir. (L1-17) and Free (L7-7) on 1854 stampless cover to Gold Hill. Nevada City 5 postmark. V.F.  | S | 230.00  |
| W.F. Steamboat. Fancy blue shield (L2-4) on U10 to Nevada City. V.F.  | S | 180.00  |
| W.F. Boca Station. Clear strike on U59. Scarce & V.F.   | S | 55.00   |
| W.F. Arroyo Grande (L10-8). Excellent strike on U163. Light stain, otherwise V.F.   | L | 65.00   |
| W.F. Austin, N.T. (L12-3). Fine strike on Thorp type 0-3 franked (PAID 25cts.) U34 to S.F. Slightly trimmed at right. F./V.F.   | L | 95.00   |
| W.F. Bannock City, I.T. (L12-3). Fine strike on Thorp type 0-5 red franked U35. Boise Mines—Paid 50cts." in red below frank. Right edge restored. Fine appearance.  | L | 100.00  |
| W.F. Bodie, Cal. (L12-3). Excellent strike in purple on U164. V.F.  | L | 60.00   |
| W.F. Carson City (L11-9). Fine strike on Thorp type 0-3 franked (PAID 25cts) U35 to S.F. F./V.F.  | L | 170.00  |
| W.F. Carson City (L11-15). Perfect strike on U35. Extremely Fine.   | L | 60.00   |
| W.F. Coulterville (L11-9). Excellent strike in black on U59. V.F.   | L | 80.00   |
| W.F. Fort Bragg, Cal. (L10-18, unlisted). Perfect strike in red on Thorp M-3 franked U349. Front only.  | L | 55.00   |
| W.F. Hornitas (L3-1). Excellent strike on U10. Tiny repair UL corner, otherwise V.F.  | L | 62.50   |
| W.F. Howlands Flat (L11-9). Excellent strike on U59. V.F.   | L | 75.00   |
| W.F. La Porte (L11-9). Perfect strike on unfranked U59 to Oroville. V.F.  | L | 75.00   |
| W.F. Los Angeles (L11-9). Clear strike on U10. Printed "Overland via Los Angeles (Thorp 0-1) at left. No flap, otherwise V.F.   | L | 210.00  |
| W.F. Markleeville (L11-9). Excellent strike on U59. Very scarce. V.F.   | L | 145.00  |
| W.F. Nevada (L1-24, unlisted). Excellent strike in blue D/L oval. Paid L7-12) in D/L oval on stampless 1852 folded letter to S.F. Interesting contents re appointment of postmaster. V.F.   | L | 185.00  |
| W.F. Nogales, Ariz. (L16-1). Perfect strike on U312. Opened at sides, otherwise V.F.  | L | 90.00   |
| W.F. Phoenix, A.T. (L12-3). Good strike in purple on U164. F./V.F.  | L | 60.00   |
| Forwarded by W.F. & Co's. Express from Portland, O.T. Buff adhesive label on W.F. Type E franked U26. Addressed to "Fort Point, San Fran." Ms. "Pd. 50¢" and "Val. \$310." V.F.   | L | 330.00  |
| W.F. San Quentin (L32). Excellent strike on U35. Nick at BR, otherwise V.F.   | L | 60.00   |
| W.F. Spanish Ranch (L11-9). Perfect strike in blue on U58 to N.Y. Postal New York ties. Interesting 1870 'begging' letter. Stained at right, otherwise V.F.   | L | 70.00   |
| W.F. Umatilla, Or. (L12-3). Clear strike on U59. Another light strike ties 3¢ on cover to S.F. Ms. "per Steamer." V.F.  | L | 95.00   |
| W.F. Victoria (L11-9). Clear strike on U35 to Sacramento. Beautiful strike of blue oval "Post Office Victoria, V.I" coat of Arms. V.F.  | L | 200.00  |
| W.F. Whatcom Bay (L3-3). Fine strike on U10 to Oakland, Cal. Also bold black oval Bamber & Co., Contra Costa Express, San Francisco and Collect 12½ cts. in diamond. Neatly repaired. V.F. appearance.  | L | 155.00  |

## AUCTION ACTION (Continued)

## OTHER STATES AND TERRITORIES

|  |   |                 |
|--|---|-----------------|
| Nome Alaska 1905. Three perfect strikes tie 10¢ (282) and Spec. Del. (E5) to cover to Chicago. V.F.  | S | 160.00          |
| Seattle & Yukon River R.P.O. South 1899. 2¢ (267) tied R.M.S. in oval of bars. Corner card of "Hotel Fort Get There, St. Michaels." Badly nicked at left. Very rare. | S | 80.00           |
| Sitka 1886. Clear strike. Two 2¢ (210) tied. Early use. Bit worn. Fine.  | L | 50.00           |
| Camp Thomas, A.T. 1879. Bold strike in purple. 3¢ green canc. matching star. V.F.  | S | 57.50           |
| Camp Verde 1887. Two strikes tie 2¢(210) to cover to Ohio. V.F.  | S | 80.00           |
| Prescott, A.T. Clear strike. 3¢ 1861 not tied. Governor's office corner card. Letter encl. signed by Gov. J.M. Goodwin. V.F.   | S | 230.00          |
| Oro Blanco, A.T. 1880. Neat ms. pmk. on U163. V.F.   | S | 105.00          |
| Yuma, Arizona 1905. Perfect strike in red on W.F. franked U278. V.F.   | S | 135.00          |
| Fort Apache 1898. Excellent strike on U314. Interesting letter encl. V.F.  | L | 50.00           |
| Superior 1909. Exc. strike ties 1¢ (331) to comic postcard. V.F.   | L | 55.00           |
| Denver, Col. 1869. Fine strike in 23mm. circle. 3¢ 1869 tied. Corner card of "U.S. Branch Mint, Denver." V.F.  | L | 65.00           |
| Black Hawk Point, Col. T. Bold strike on U35 to N.Y. V.F.  | S | 50.00           |
| Fort Collins, Col. 1869. Fine strike on U59 to N.Y. V.F.   | S | 30.00           |
| Fort Garland, Col. 1878. Bold strike in blue on U164. Striking X in box over stamp. V.F.   | S | 80.00           |
| Fort Lyon, Col. Perfect strike. 3¢ 1861 canc. target. V.F.   | S | 57.50           |
| Fort Sedgwick, Col. Clear strike. Defective 3¢ 1861 tied. Fine.  | S | 60.00           |
| Julesburg, Colo. Clear strike. 3¢ grill (94) tied. Nick at bottom. Fine.   | S | 52.50           |
| Nevada, C.T. Bold strike in blue. 3¢ grill (94) tied. Small closed tear. Fine.   | S | 42.50           |
| Fort Abercrombie, D.T. Clear strike. 3¢ 1861 canc. matching target. Fine.  | S | 37.50           |
| Fort Buford, D.T. 1880. Clear strike ties 3¢ green. 3¢ P. Due (J3) tied. V.F.  | S | 40.00           |
| Fort Laramie, Dak. Bold strike on U59. Badly stained at top, otherwise V.F.  | S | 40.00           |
| Fort Totten, Dak. 1882. Bold strike and solid star tie 5¢ (185) to neat cover to England. V.F.   | S | 105.00          |
| Piti, Guam, Aug. 24, 1930. Clear triple circle ties 2¢ (M4) to buff cover to Agana. V.F.   | L | 155.00          |
| Sumay, Guam, 1930. Perfect strike in triple circle ties 4¢ (M6) to extremely fine cover to Agana (Cats. \$10 on cover)   | L | 150.00          |
| Hawaii. 10¢ official (0-3) tied by clear Honolulu duplex 1898 to cover to Oregon. Corner card of 'House of Representatives, Republic of Hawaii. Fine.                | L | 60.00           |
| Max, Ind. T. 1892. Excellent strike on U311. Fancy illustrated mining corner card. Fine.   | L | 57.50           |
| Prairie City, K.T. Bold strike on U10. Tiny tear at T., otherwise V.F.   | L | 50.00           |
| Quindaro, K.T. Good strike with ms. date ties 4 margin 3¢ 1851. V.F.   | L | 45.00           |
| Fort Assinaboine, Mont. 1882. Perfect strike. 3¢ green canc. matching "propellor" used to Canada. Bit trimmed at left, otherwise V.F.                                | L | 55.00           |
| Nevada: Bullion 1883. Perfect strike on U227. V.F.   | L | 52.50           |
| Galena, 1880. Perfect strike in D/L circle. 3¢ green canc. matching star. V.F.   | L | 50.00           |
| Virginia City, N.T. 1863. Perfect strike in D/L circle. 10¢(68) tied by odd 20 segment rimless cork. F./V.F.   | L | 50.00           |
| Ft. Laramie, O.R. Legible strike in crude circle. Boxed Paid and negative 5 within grid on 1852 interesting folded letter to Penna. V.F.                             | S | 550.00          |
| Star City, U.T. Mch. 26, '73. Neat ms. pmk. 3¢ (147) pen canc. on cover to Ohio. V.F.  | L | 100.00          |
| Port Townsend, Wash. and Kicking Mule. In this auction, there were seven covers (1883-1884). Prices varied accordingly to strike and condition of cover.             | S | 57.50 to 190.00 |
| Fort Bridger, Wyoming 1877. Fine strike. 3¢ green tied by target. V.F.   | S | 65.00           |
| Fort Laramie, Wyo. 1869. Clear strike. 6¢ 1869 (115) tied by target on small neat cover to England. Part of flap off, otherwise V.F.                                 | L | 70.00           |

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