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Issue #2

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF CALGARY: PART 2. ANNEXED POST OFFICES

by Dale Speirs

This issue is a compilation of postal history articles about villages and towns annexed by Calgary as it grew. Also included are some extinct post offices just outside Calgary's boundaries as of 2015 but which will inevitably be swallowed up by the big city.

Although there were settlers arriving by the 1870s, it wasn't until the Canadian Pacific Railway transcontinental line reached into Alberta in 1883 that full-scale settlement was possible. Calgary became the dominant city because of a combination of factors. It was on the junction of the transcontinental railroad and the north-south rail line that went up to Edmonton and down to the American border. The city sits in the Bow River valley at the main entrance into the Rocky Mountains. It is adjacent to agricultural lands to the north, east, and south, and mineral resources such as coal and petroleum to the west in the mountains. It was initially the headquarters for the giant syndicated ranches surrounding the city, and is now the petroleum capital of Canada.

In the early days, roads were atrocious or non-existent, so the Canadian Post Office established small post offices anywhere there was any demand. It was common to establish ranch house post offices in the corner of someone's kitchen or living room. Every hamlet had a general store or grain elevator where a post office could be set up. As good gravel roads were built, settlers began doing their shopping in bigger towns, killing off many of the pioneer post offices. The grain companies administered the coup-de-grace from the 1970s onward as they consolidated into a few giant concrete silo operations rather than one elevator at every railroad siding. Conversely, from the 1990s onward, many small villages began growing again because they were within easy commuting distances of the big city.

The map on the next page shows the general area of Calgary in modern times.
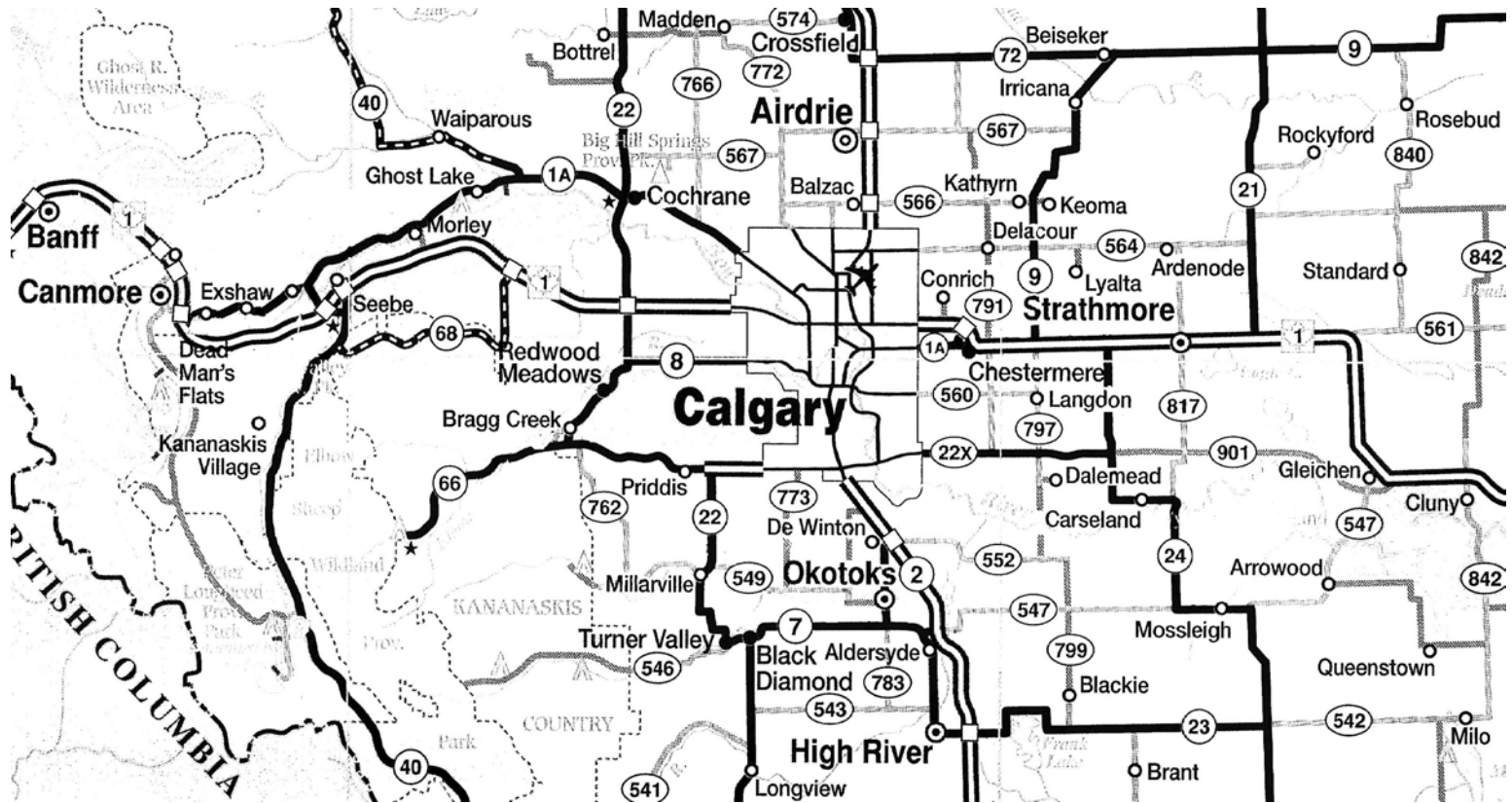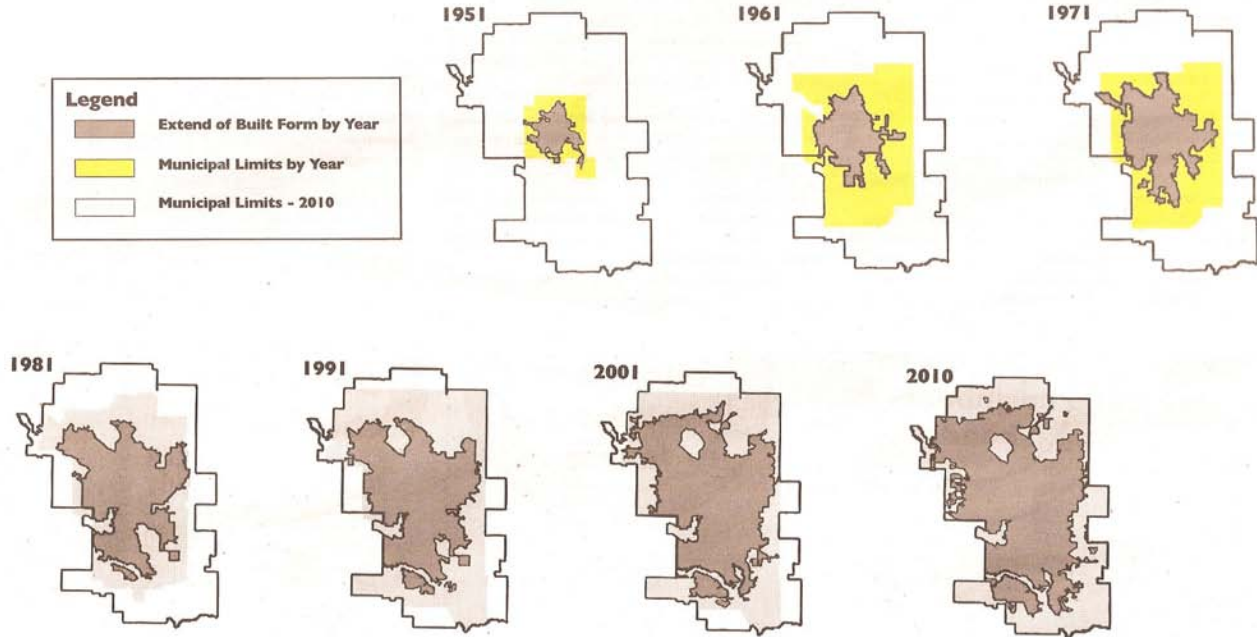
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Calgary is a single-unit city with a centralized government, not a metropolitan conglomerate of separate towns and cities. As Calgary grew, it annexed and absorbed surrounding towns and villages, which ceased to have any separate government. The post offices likewise became part of the Calgary post office.

Legend

	Extend of Built Form by Year
	Municipal Limits by Year
	Municipal Limits - 2010

1951 1961 1971

1981 1991 2001 2010

Source: City of Calgary

CALGARY: DUE WEST

The map shown below depicts Calgary in 1911. Shaganappi never had a post office, but Brickburn, Elbow River, Springbank, and Pirmez Creek did. All of those post offices are long extinct.
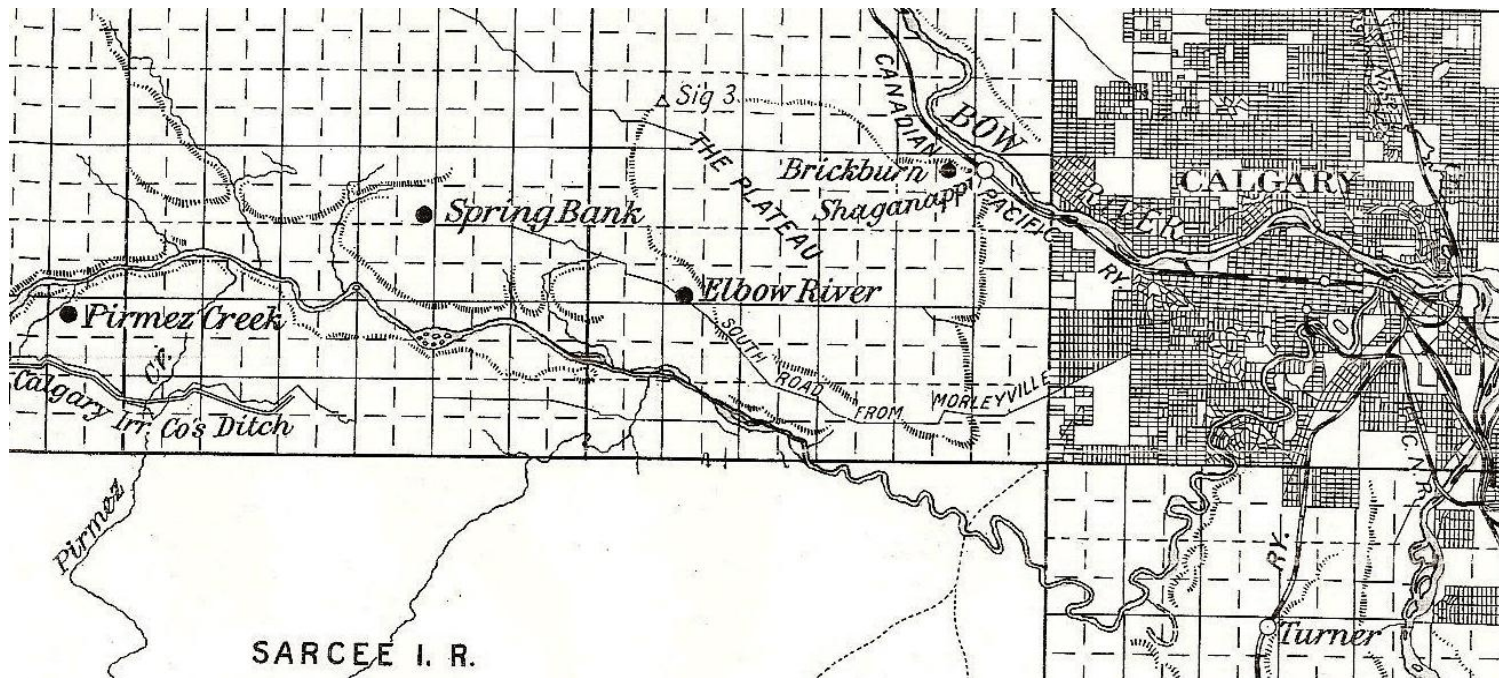
Brickburn.

Brickburn was only a couple of kilometres west of Calgary at 23-24-02-W5 and its major industries were brick kilns and sandstone quarries supplying its bigger neighbour. It was dying on the vine in the 1930s and the outbreak of World War Two finished it off. The site today is at the west end of a municipal park, Edworthy Park, and few traces of the hamlet remain. Only one history of it exists, compiled as an internal report of the City of Calgary Parks Dept., and which is the major source of information for this article [1].

Brickburn was on the south bank of the Bow River, and adjacent to the C.P.R. transcontinental mainline. It was within reasonable walking distance of the downtown core of Calgary. More than 100 people were employed in Brickburn, but the actual population living on site was about ten families at a given time. Those who remembered Brickburn all agreed that it was never a real settlement, but rather a few houses and miscellaneous buildings clustered near the kilns.

The brick kiln operators bought some of their land from the original homesteaders, Thomas and Mary Edworthy. The area is along the base of a high escarpment and has excellent deposits of sandstone and clay suitable for masonry. The kilns were supplied with coal from Bankhead, north of Banff and now just as non-existent as Brickburn. When the Bankhead mine shut down, no reasonably priced coal of equivalent quality could be located, which crippled the brick companies. Additionally, they were competing against the kilns in Medicine Hat, which were gas-fired. The Great Depression then sounded the death knell. There were two brick companies, as well as a few sandstone quarries nearby. The Calgary Pressed Brick and Sandstone Company produced 45,000 bricks per day. The owner of that company was Edward Crandell, who also operated a real estate agency in Calgary. The other brick company was Tregillus Clay Products, and the two were stiff competitors.

The kilns were serviced by a C.P.R. flag station originally known as Shaganappi but re-named Brickburn in 1907 at Crandell's request. The post office appears to have been located in the C.P.R. station, of which only a few pieces of the foundations remain. The station was not regularly manned; it was a flag station or whistle stop where trains only stopped on demand. It was located between the tracks and the Bow River. Directly across the tracks from it was the Crandell brick establishment. About a dozen shacks and houses were scattered to the west of the brick kilns.

The post office was open from 1910-08-15 to 1914-08-15.   David H.M. Little was its only postmaster [2].   He was employed by Crandell, originally as a realtor and then later in the brick company. Little is listed as a resident of Calgary in 1906 in the Henderson's directories, working for Crandell as a real estate manager out of the Burns Building in downtown Calgary. He is not in the 1910 directory, but the 1916 directory lists him still as an employee of Crandell but living in Brickburn [3].

With only about ten families on site at any given moment, and with Calgary in easy reach nearby, one wonders why Brickburn was ever given a post office. Personal mail could not possibly have justified opening the post office, although the kiln and quarry operators may have generated some business correspondence. In the absence of records, I speculate that Edward Crandell gave the postal officials a good sales talk (he was a realtor, after all) and convinced them that Brickburn was a boom town and could soon justify it. During the pre-World War One period, the prairies were booming. Newspapers everywhere were filled with display ads touting remote villages such as Bassano as the next Chicago. Real estate and natural gas were the dot.coms of their day. Now there are only foundations and Ozymandian rubble.

References.

1]   Clayton, Jill (1990) Brickburn: Part of Calgary's heritage.   City of Calgary Parks & Recreation. 87 pages.

2] National Archives of Canada (downloaded 2002-07-31) Post offices and postmasters.
ARCHIVIANET, www.archives.ca

3] Henderson's Directory Ltd. (1908 to 1916) HENDERSON'S CITY OF CALGARY DIRECTORY.
Various editions, unpaginated.

FAMOUS

POST V & SONS CARD

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

Address only

In W'p'g. again.
Dr. gone to Montreal
on account of sudden
death of some relative.
I'm mad. Nurse told
me to come Wed. but
I told her I'd come 2
weeks from today. I'll
just take bigger
doses of medicine.

Mr. Ernest Blue.
Brickburn,
Alta.

SELKIRK
PM
AP 12
11
MAN.

BRICKBURN
AP 15
11
ALTA.

9

Rosscarrock.

Rosscarrock is the neighbourhood between 17 Avenue SW and Bow Trail, from 33 Street SW to 45 Street SW. When it first bore the name, it was a ranch that included not only today's neighbourhood but also the adjacent suburbs of Westgate, Wildwood, and Spruce Cliff, plus what is now Edworthy Park but in those days was a railroad siding called Brickburn.

An English immigrant named William John Tregillus bought the ranch in 1902 and built a manor house in the tradition of his homeland which he called Rosscarrock, after a Scottish village. He was a pioneer entrepreneur who had a

wide variety of businesses and investments, and was active in civic politics. By the 1920s, the ranch had been broken up and was subdivided for acreages and housing developments. After World War Two, it was a suburb of Calgary, and in 1957 was annexed by the city [1, 2]. That year also, the Rosscarrock manor house was demolished due to neglect by subsequent land owners.

The low population of Rosscarrock did not justify a post office for many years, and in any event there were Calgary Sub offices in the adjacent suburbs. The first post office in Rosscarrock opened on 1953-01-02 with William Russell McClain as postmaster. The proof strike of the first postmark is shown at right. McClain resigned on 1956-11-26. His position was taken over by Robert Matthew Elder until the post office closed on 1958-09-18 as a result of annexation [3].

Both the McClain and Elder families continued to operate drug stores in the general vicinity, which intermittently had postal outlets in them, operated by the sons. John Leonard Elder owned Elder Drugs at 4702 - 26 Avenue SW in the Glendale district, which had Sub Post Office 82 from 1964 to 1974. Edward Russell McClain operated Westgate Drugs in a shopping plaza at 4623 Banff Coach Road SW. That road is today called Bow Trail SW but the plaza is still there. The drug store changed hands several times over the years. Elder opened Sub Post Office 83 in 1964 in the store. After two changes of owners, it closed in 1969, although the store kept going. The postal outlet re-opened in the store as Sub 164 from 1987 to 1991.

On the south edge of Rosscarrock, technically in the Killarney district, was Sub 36, which operated in Kirby Drugs at 3403 - 17 Avenue SW from 1954 to 1974. On the north side of Bow Trail SW, Gordon Victor Macaulay opened a postal outlet in his drug store. Sub 42 operated from 1956 to 1964. Macauley Drugs listed its address in the post office records as 11 Spruce Street, which is not a public street but a private access road off Spruce Drive SW along a strip mall called Spruce Centre. A few blocks west on Bow Trail, at that time an address called 3833 Banff Coach Road SW, a branch of Macauley Drugs operated Sub 46 from 1960 to 1968.

Where the Westbrook Mall now is, there were several drug store postal outlets in and around the shopping area. Tamblyn Drugs had a store on the east side of the mall area at 33 Street and 11 Avenue SW. This store included Sub 84 from 1964 to an unknown date. Southwest of the mall, at 37 Street and 16 Avenue SW, an outlet has operated inside a drug store since 1989, first as a Pinders Drugs (RePO 592374), from 1992 as Super Drug Mart (RePO 080799), from 2006 as Paragon Pharmacy (RePO 102010) until August 2012, and thereafter as a Shoppers Drug Mart (RePO 104338). This is the only remaining postal outlet in the area.

References.

1] Cawthorn, Violet (downloaded 2011-12-11) CAWTHORN FAMILY MEMORIES.
http://cawthorn.cawthorne.cross.jacwebpage.com/family/home/rosscarrock-story

2] various authors (1994) EARLY DAYS IN EDWORTHY PARK AND THE NEIGHBORING AREAS OF BRICKBURN AND LOWERY GARDENS. Published by Edworthy Park Heritage Society, Calgary. Pages 16 and 17

3] Library and Archives Canada (downloaded 2011-11-26) Post offices and postmasters. www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/post-offices

The Ranch House Post Offices.

Because of bad roads west of Calgary, three ranch house post offices operated west of the city at one time or another. These post offices were in a corner of a kitchen or living room, secured in a rolltop desk or cabinet.

The Elbow River post office was approximately where the modern-day Calgary suburbs of Lower Springbank and Westridge now are. Spring Bank, spelt as two words, was a post office next in line down the road where West Springbank now is. Pirmez Creek was on the south side of the river, roughly two-thirds of the way to Bragg Creek. It is today between the river and Highway 8, still some distance from the city. The three post offices were on the same mail route, which continued to Jumping Pound, another extinct ranch house post office out on today's Trans-Canada Highway but which is too far to consider as a Calgary post office.

Eventually the ranch house post offices faded away with the advent of gravel roads and rural delivery, and the route changed to terminate at Bragg Creek. In comparing the three ranch post offices, a look at their gross income for fiscal year ended March 31st, shows which was most viable [3]. Elbow River's post office gross income ranged from $16.11 in fiscal year 1907 to $35.64 in 1916, not much even for those days of uninflated gold-backed currency. Spring Bank's range for the same time period was $30.68 to $103.40. Pirmez Creek did $146.53 in its first year in fiscal 1910, but dropped to $57.75 the following year, and for most of its first decade was in the $60 range give or take. Based on their relative incomes, it appears that the Elbow River post office was least necessary, which makes sense when you look at a map showing their locations.

Elbow River Post Office.

Charles Ostrom was the only postmaster for this post office [1], which opened on 1905-11-01 and closed on 1916-07-31. It was located in his kitchen and was contained in a massive desk custom built for him by a Spring Bank neighbour. The desk had rows of pigeon holes across the top, then the writing surface, then the usual lockable drawers for the stamps, registered mail, and cash. Next to the desk were racks for mail bags. Letters for the neighbours were sorted into the pigeon holes. A sign at the front gate of the farm announced the post office.

During the tenure of the post office, there were a couple of large construction projects such as a water main and a power line. The workers were paid in cash in those days and sometimes a very substantial payroll was shipped into the post office, which caused no end of nervousness to the Ostrom family. In 1910 the farm was quarantined for three months due to smallpox, and as a result the post office was suspended. Residents had to go further to the Spring Bank post office [2].

Springbank Post Office.

A century ago, this area name was spelt as two words, not the single word as it is today. It opened on 1891-01-01 with Wheeler Mickle as the postmaster. The proof strike of the post office is seen at left. Mickle also doubled as the mail courier to Jumping Pound further west. Originally he lived in a log cabin, but eventually his family moved into a proper house, and the post office was set up in their dining room.

In 1902, William Young bought the Mickle farm and took over as postmaster until the post office closed on 1921-06-30. He first operated it from the house, then set up a small store to take advantage of the traffic coming for their mail. There was a school near the Springbank post office, and the older children were entrusted to pick up the mail on their way home. There would often be a dozen horses tied to the rail in front of the post office as the kids queued for the mail [2].

Pirmez Creek Post Office.

Raoul Pirmez was postmaster from 1910-05-01 to 1911-05-26. He was the Belgian Consul for Calgary, and the post office was a stud farm for purebred Belgian draft horses. At right are proof strikes of the postmarks. On the next page is a real-photo postcard of the ranch.
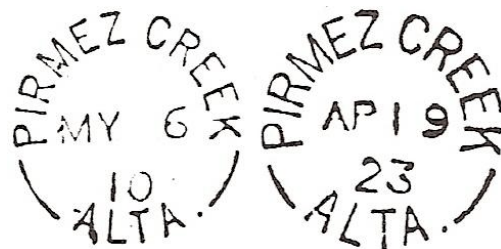
Belgian Horse Ranch - Calgary.

After Pirmez left, the post office was taken over by Cecil M. Cohen, who ran it until 1915-03-05, having bought out Pirmez's horse breeding operation. Meopham Gardner then took over the operation until 1944-01-22 when the post office closed [1]. The Gardner family was remembered by Camp Gardner, a Boy Scouts camp established just west of the ranch on the banks of the Elbow River. It closed in 2015. The Pirmez leg of the postal route was notorious for mud, muskeg, snow drifts, and just plain bad conditions [2].
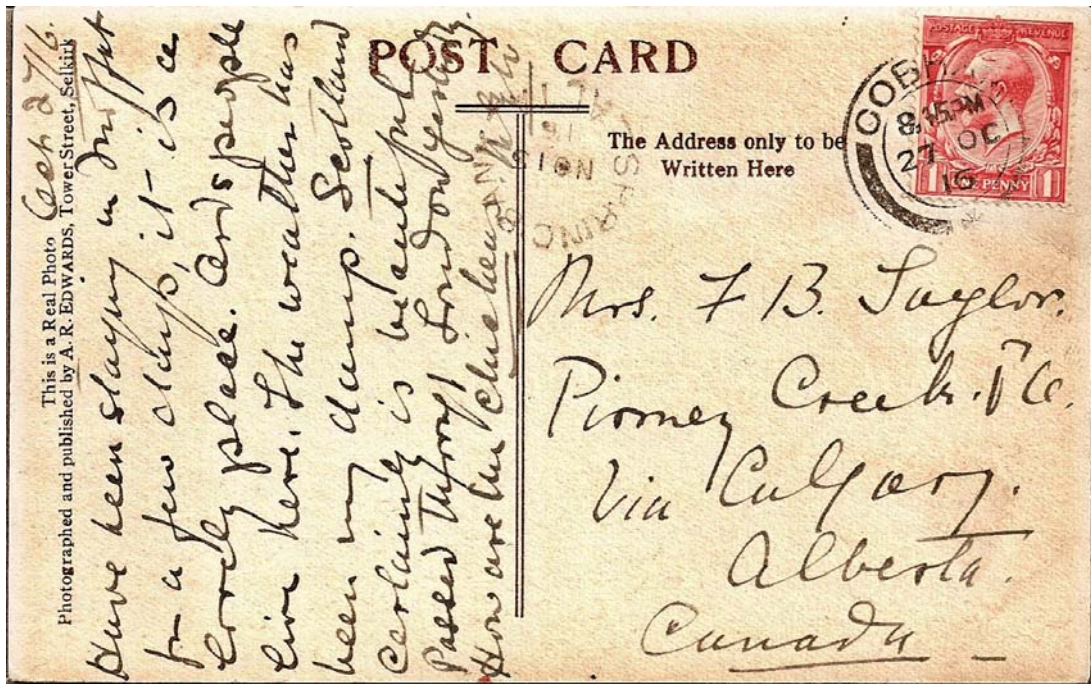

Shown here is a 1916 postcard from England to Pirmez Creek via the Springbank post office.

References.

1] Library and Archives Canada (downloaded 2011-06-11)   Post offices and postmasters.   www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/post-offices

2] various authors (1976) CHAPS AND CHINOOKS: A HISTORY WEST OF CALGARY.   Published by Foothills Historical Society. Vol. 1, pages 133 to 137.

3] Canadian Post Office (1891 to 1944) Report of the Postmaster General. SESSIONAL PAPERS OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA,   Appendices C and D

CALGARY: NORTHWEST
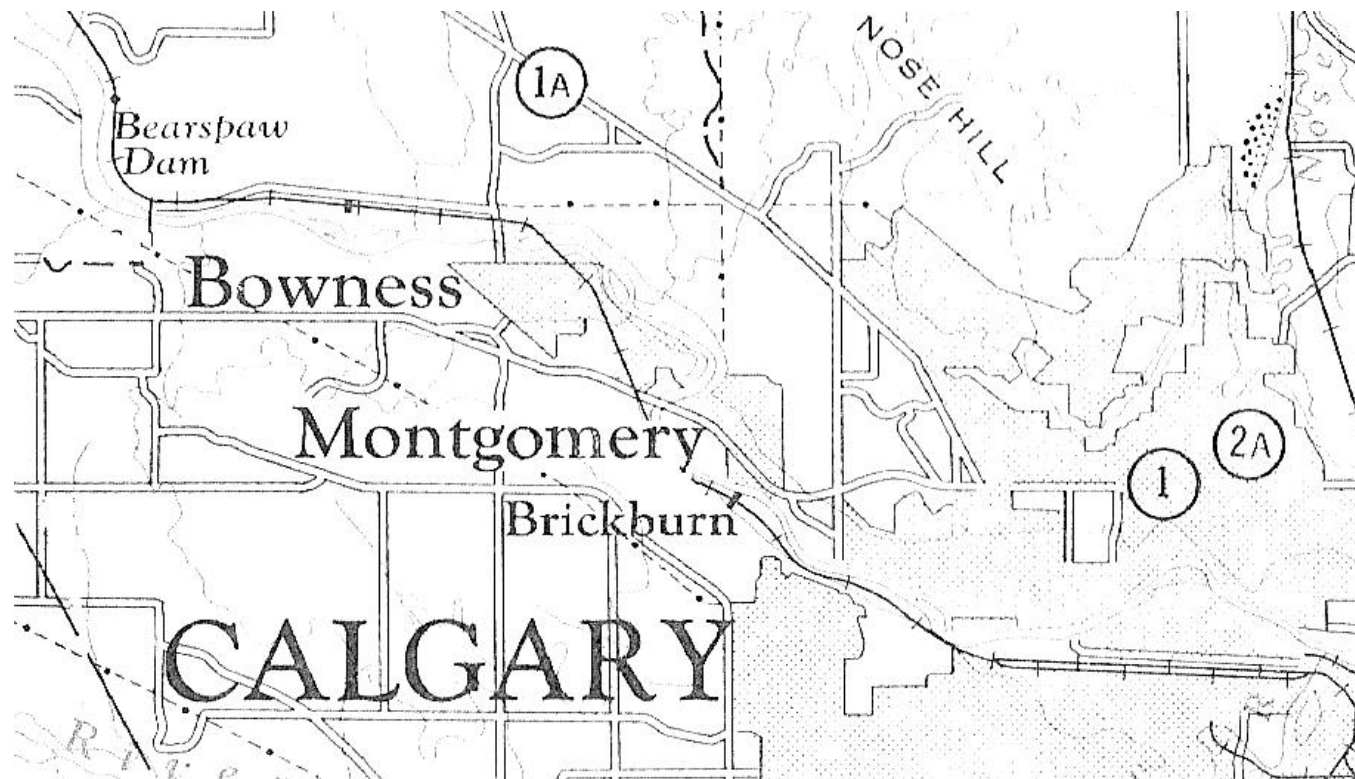
Bowness.

Bowness was an independent town swallowed up by Calgary in 1961. The settlement of the area began in the 1890s as cattle ranches. The town was founded when John Hextall donated two islands in the Bow River (since merged into a single island) as Bowness Park, on condition that a bridge be built at Shouldice and a streetcar line run out from Calgary. The park was very popular and a village quickly grew up to service the day-trippers, as well as being a cheap place to live away from high property taxes of the big city. The village, however, was originally known as Critchley, after a ranch adjacent to Bowness Ranch. Oswald Asheton Critchley (1864-1935) was a pioneer rancher in the area of what is now eastern Bowness. Because the park was so prominent, the town name was changed to Bowness in 1942.

There is dispute over how Bowness got its name, whether from some town in England or Scotland, or because of the river (which is a translation of the Nakoda tribe name; the riverbank was a good source of wood for bows and arrows). The true answer will probably never be known. The earliest written reference is an 1896 land title for the sale of Bowness Ranch, which was that part of present-day Bowness directly south of the park. The Wood's Christian Home just to the west of the park was the original ranch house. Hextall died a true Canadian death in 1915 from infection arising due to a frostbitten nose.

The only postmaster for the area was Anthony P. (Tony) Schmaltz. He moved to the area in 1929 and opened a grocery store in 1932. He was a prominent citizen, active in both school board and town council politics, as well as numerous other activities for decades. Schmaltz became postmaster of Critchley on 1934-07-09 and ran the post office out of a corner of his store. The proof strike of Critchley is shown at left. The post office name changed to Bowness on 1942-07-02. It got its own building in 1952 and closed on 1961-04-22 when Calgary annexed the town.

Schmaltz then retired and two sub-post offices of Calgary started up. T.J.Kenny operated Calgary Sub #58 at the Bowness Drug Store at 6403 Bowness Road NW. This store is still in existence but the retail postal outlet closed in early 2011. Another drugstore operated Sub #55 at 78 Street NW and Bowness Road, long since closed.

The final postmark of Bowness, from the Bowness Drug Store, is shown at right.

References.

1] Historical Committee of the Golden Jubilee (1961) BOWNESS GOLDEN JUBILEE 1911-1961. Published by Bowness Board of Trade. Pages 5 to 20.

2] Anonymous (1961-04-21) Post office closes. ALBERTAN, page unknown

Not everyone updated their mailing lists after Bowness was annexed by Calgary.
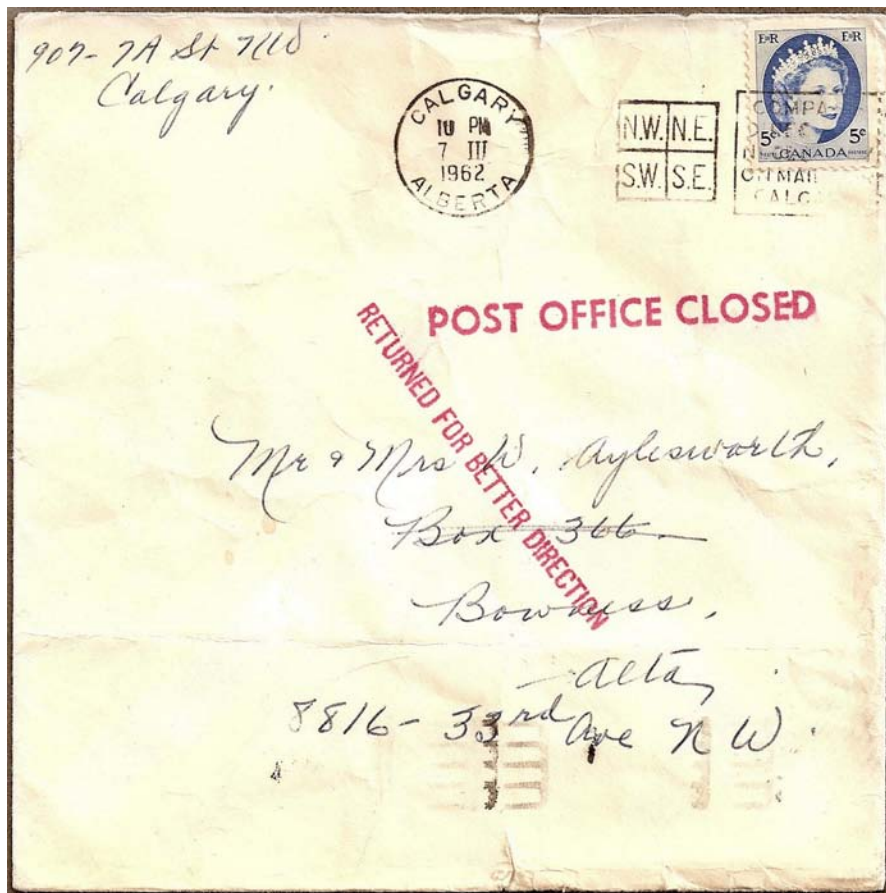
Montgomery.

Montgomery is where the Bow River makes an S-turn after passing Bowness. The river forms the south and west boundaries of the community, with Shaganappi Trail the eastern line and 32 Avenue NW the northern boundary. The land on both sides of the river was originally the Critchley Ranch. James Shouldice bought the eastern side in 1906; the western half is now Bowness. The Shouldice ranch eventually developed into a village named Shouldice Terrace. The photo below was taken circa 1900 from the cliff top of what is now Edworthy Park, looking due north across the river to the bottomlands and slope of Montgomery. At left is the S-bend of the Bow River, with the steep cliffs of Silver Springs in the background.

James Shouldice also owned another ranch about 80 km east-southeast of Calgary, just before Queenston, from which another village developed, also named Shouldice and with a post office from 1925 to 1968. When discussions first began about getting a post office for the Calgary namesake, the Canadian Post Office refused to allow a second Shouldice, so in 1943 the village changed its name to Montgomery, after the celebrated British Army general who had just won his great victory at Alamein [1].

Montgomery was quite late getting a post office for two reasons. The Bowness post office was a few blocks to the west across the Bow River bridge, a five-minute walk. The village didn't start growing until after World War Two, and had only sixty houses in 1947. Percy Bentley was the first postmaster when the Montgomery office opened in his Bow River Grocery Store on 1947-05-01, but he only kept the job a short time until 1948-04-06. The proof strike of the postmark is shown at right.

The store was bought by Clarence Anderson, whose wife Annie took over as postmaster until 1953-09-17. By then the village was a town, and in the early 1960s was in a state of crisis. It was almost entirely residential, for commuters working in Calgary, so it had an unbalanced tax base, no proper utility services, no room left to grow, and no potential for industry. After raucous debate, it was annexed by Calgary in 1963. All the streets were renamed and houses renumbered to match Calgary's streets.

The Canadian Post Office saw the writing on the wall a decade before, so after the Andersons sold their store, the post office became a standalone operation with civil servants under the Calgary post office. Kenneth James Fisher was the first postmaster on staff position, from 1954-08-01 until 1958-05-14. The address was 430 - 2 Avenue North, today called Bowness Road NW. After Fisher there were three short-term postmasters before the Montgomery post office ceased to exist and was converted to Calgary Sub 57 on 1959-08-03. Robert Cecil Menzies then became the new postmaster but not as a civil servant; the office was in the Cecil Drug Store at 4608 Bowness Road NW. Originally it was a standalone office but soon moved into the drug store where it stayed until 1971-05-25. At the same time Sub 57 opened, Sub 51 opened on 1959-09-23 at the southeast corner of Montgomery. A.L. Thompson operated it in his drug store until 1960-06-06. The address was 4123 - 4 Avenue NW, which no longer exists. The entire area was flattened and redeveloped a few decades later and is now about where Shaganappi Trail NW and Point Mackay are today.

At Sub 57, there were three postmasters from 1971 until 1974-03-30, when it moved into Best & Beaulieu Variety Store at 4614 Bowness Road NW. Claudette Beaulieu was the final postmaster of Montgomery until the store closed on 1975-03-14. With that, Sub 57 died and Montgomery has never had a postal outlet since. The Bowness post office handled its postal requirements until it closed in 2011. Nowadays the citizens of Montgomery have to go up the escarpment to the outlet in Market Mall on the north side of 32 Avenue NW.

References.

1] Anonymous (2006) MONTGOMERY MEMORIES: A HUNT FOR HISTORY. Published by Montgomery Community Association. Booklet, no page numbers.

CALGARY: DUE SOUTH

Calwin.

Calwin is an interesting case of a post office changing its address and winding up in a different municipality without physically moving. Calwin P.O. opened on 1947-07-14 in Burt's Store, operated by John Austin Burt, who was the postmaster as well. The store was and still is on the southeast corner of 50 Avenue SW and what was then 7 Street but is today Elbow Drive. At right is a facing slip from Calwin post office to show receipt for forty pre-stamped envelopes.

The initial address was 843 - 50 Avenue SW, which was the south side of the avenue. This point is important because at that time 50 Avenue SW was the southern city limits. People who lived on the north side of the avenue were citizens of Calgary, while those on the south side, such as Burt, were residents of Winston Heights. The post office name is an obvious contraction of the two names. Calwin P.O. was located at the extreme northwest corner of Winston Heights.
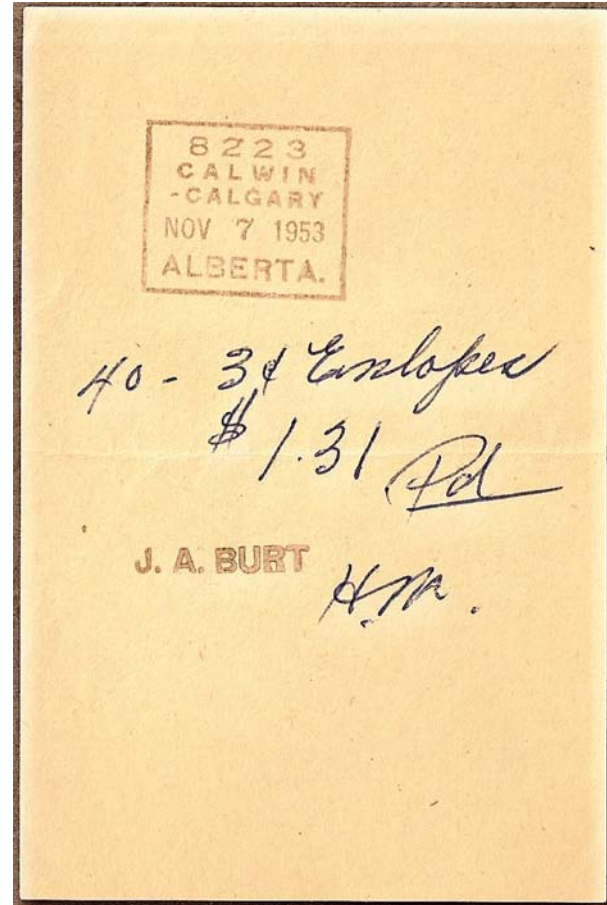
On 1951-12-24, Calwin P.O. officially became Calgary Sub #43. This coincided with an expansion of the city that swallowed up Winston Heights that year. Simultaneously, the Calwin P.O. changed its address to 743 - 50 Avenue SW. It might have been a move to a new building, but when I checked the Henderson's Directories for that time, I noticed that the 900 block addresses suddenly shifted to the 800s, just as the 800s went down to the 700s. It appears, therefore, that the address changes were a re-numbering to make the annexed avenue conform to the same type of house numbering as the City addresses north of it.

Burt's Store is still operating today in its original location and name, but without a post office. Sub #43 closed on 1957-06-27 at the store location. It then moved a block away and went through several more owners. Today, there is a postal outlet kitty-corner across the intersection in Britannia Pharmacy which opened in 1978 as Sub 131.

Note the mis-spelled postmark below compared with the building sign.

Subsequent versions of the postmark corrected the spelling error.
The postmark at right is, by the way, a first-day cancel for the
QEII Diamond Jubilee Accession stamp.

References.

1] City of Calgary (1948) VOTER'S LIST OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE CITY OF CALGARY. Page ii

2] Henderson Directories Ltd (1947 to 1952 editions) HENDERSON'S GREATER CALGARY DIRECTORY

3] Library and Archives Canada (downloaded 2006-12-14) Post offices and postmasters. ARCHIVIANET, www.collectionscanada.ca
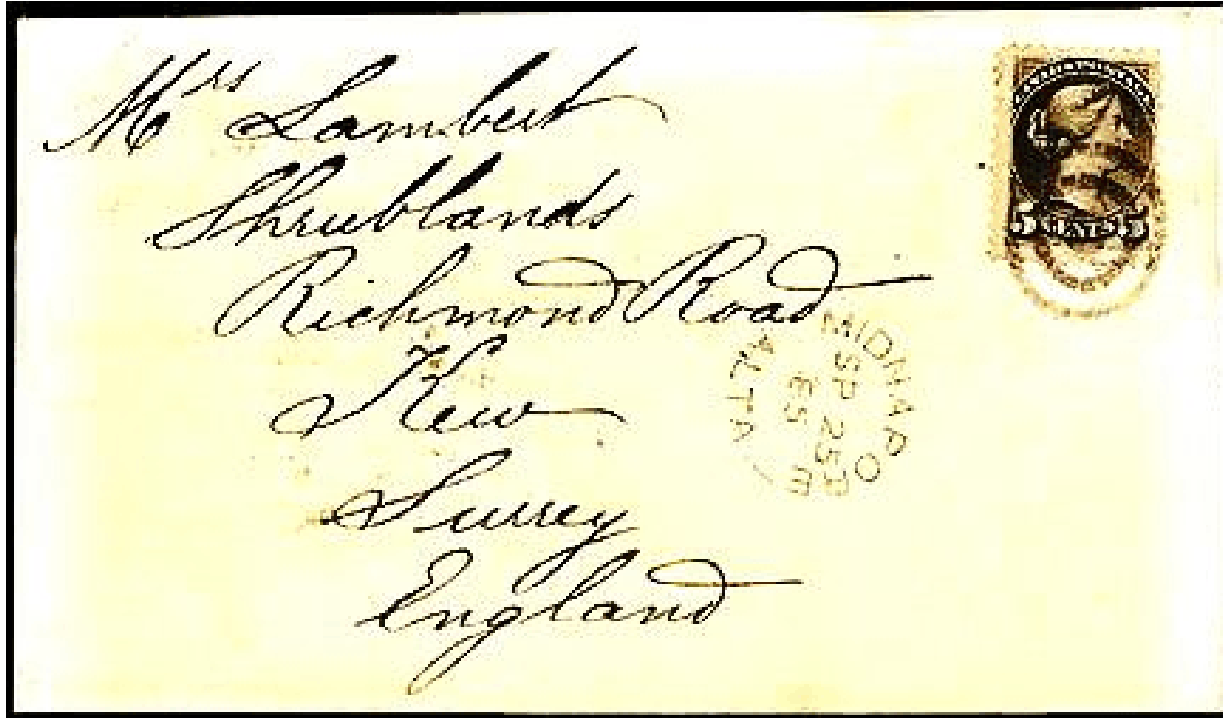
Midnapore.

Midnapore was technically annexed in 1961 by Calgary but didn't really get swallowed up until 1977 when the developers built out that far. Although it had its own post office, it was never incorporated as a village, and legally was only a place name, never an official settlement. Midnapore is today south of Fish Creek, west of Bow River and east of Macleod Trail, but in pioneer days it was a cluster of buildings west of Macleod Trail. The actual original location of Midnapore was the south bank of Fish Creek in the today's suburb of Millrise on the west side of Macleod Trail, not the suburb called Midnapore located today on the east side of Macleod Trail. All that is left is a mill pond and some irrigation ditches dug by a pioneer settler, John Glenn. This was the first irrigation farm ever built in Alberta, but nothing remains except the overgrown ditch.

The map at right shows Calgary and Midnapore in 1914. Halfway between them was a railroad siding called Turner, but it never had a post office. That siding is today the Heritage LRT station and the Midnapore siding is now the Millrise LRT station.
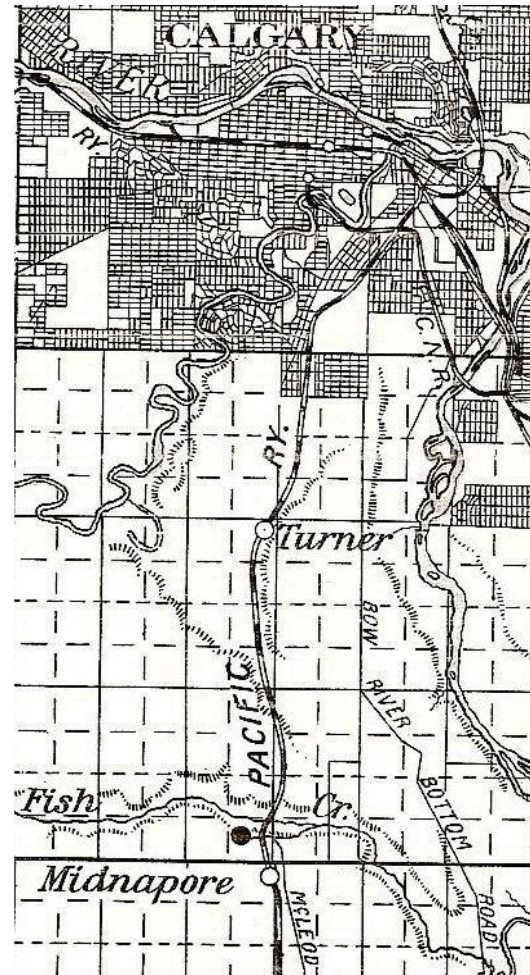
In 1884, when the post office opened, it was originally proposed to call it Fish Creek but the Canadian Post Office would not allow it because there already was a post office of that name in Ontario. The most popular legend is that the postmaster then took a pin and stuck it at random into an atlas, which landed on Midnapore, India. However, a more plausible explanation is that the postmaster's next-door neighbour was Col. Griffith Bointon, late of the British Army in India before emigrating to Canada. He had been stationed in the original Midnapore, hence the connection [1].

Midnapore was founded by William and Helen Shaw, who came to Calgary in 1883 from England and settled the following year with their eight children on the south bank of Fish Creek. They operated a woolen mill, general store, and post office in that location [2]. The woolen mill was the first factory ever built in Alberta. The new suburbs of Shawnessy and Millrise both derive their names from the Shaw family, and the section of Fish Creek Provincial Park on either side of Macleod Trail was their homestead. Samuel was the first postmaster from the opening of the post office on 1884-02-01 until his death on 1919-08-05.

Over the next three years a couple of short-time postmasters came and went. John Morton then served from 1922-08-29 until his death on 1926-02-26. His widow Margaret took over as postmaster until her retirement on 1944-07-15. After her, Frederick James Ratcliff was postmaster from 1944-10-16 to his retirement on 1958-07-03. His wife briefly took over, but on 1959-04-01 Hammond Wilfrid Jardine became the new postmaster until retiring on 1966-10-02. Dill Alton Stanley Johnson was briefly postmaster from 1966-10-18 to 1968-05-31. Margaret Mary Strauss became postmaster on 1968-06-01, but after that the records end due to Canada Post privacy laws [3].

The Midnapore post office closed on 1990-04-12. Sometime after this it was replaced by a retail postal outlet in a 7-Eleven store on Midlake Blvd SE just east of Macleod Trail. The outlet closed in late 2008 when the store itself closed, and the neighbourhood is today without a postal outlet. Residents now have to cross over to the west side of Macleod Trail to a postal outlet in the new suburb of Millrise, which derives its name from the Shaw woolen mill and is actually closer to the original post office.
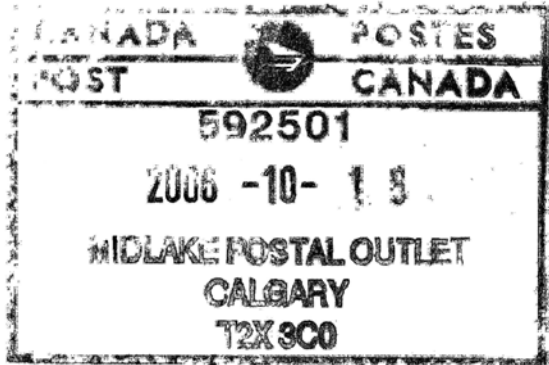
Defunct postal outlet in Midnapore suburb.
7-Eleven store, since closed.

Current postal outlet in Millrise suburb.
Shoppers Drug Mart

References.

1] Heritage Community Foundation (downloaded 2011-03-01) Fur Trade and Mission History: No. 212: MacLeod to Calgary Trail: Part Two. ALBERTA ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA

2] Historical Committee (1993) PIONEER FAMILIES OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA. Published by Southern Alberta Pioneers And Their Descendants. Page 187.

3] Library and Archives Canada (downloaded 2011-02-18) Post offices and postmasters. www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/post-offices

The final postal outlet in the Midnapore subdivision before it closed in 2008.

Shepard.

Shepard is on the extreme southeast corner of Calgary at 84 Street SE and 114 Avenue. It was so far from Calgary even until recently that it was a rural hamlet, not a commuter suburb of the city. The CPR ran a track angled northeast in the area in 1884 and in 1910 opened a railroad station at the siding.   They named it after one of their contractors, Shepard & Langdon, the latter of whom also got a town named after him in the area [1].   Historically the hamlet of Shepard was always a poor cousin, in the early days sometimes called Poverty Flats. Shepard was an unincorporated hamlet within Rocky View County until it was annexed by the city in 2007.   As of 2013, Shepard was semi-rural residential, but the highway system is undergoing major rebuilding in the area, which will affect the place.

The post office opened on 1903-05-01, with S.A. Grimmond as the first postmaster. He didn't stick and it closed after four months. P. Rochon re-opened the post office on 1905-01-01 in a store. W.H.E. Whiting was the next postmaster, from 1907-06-15 until 1909-07-26. James O'Connor Mooney homesteaded in the area in 1895, where the Riverbend and Douglasdale suburbs now are. He bought the store/post office from Whiting and became postmaster on 1909-09-01. When the railway station was opened in 1910, it became the distributing point for the local mail. Mooney also had the telephone agency. In those days, farmers didn't have their own telephones; they came into the village and paid to use the store telephone. After Mooney's death on 1937-03-08, his spinster daughter Mary Veronica Mooney took over the store. She was postmaster until 1963-03-07 when she retired [2].

Howard Ivan Cates then became postmaster from 1963-10-01 until 1965-07-14. He was succeeded by Mrs. Ellenynea Henderson, the last postmaster. The economy of the area was terminal, and after she gave up the post office it was permanently closed on 1966-03-08 because no one could be found to take it over.

References.

1] Read, Tracey (1983) ACRES AND EMPIRES Published by Tall-Taylor Publishing, Irricana, Alberta. Pages 89 to 90.

2] various authors (1975) OGDEN WHISTLE. Published by Ogden Area History Committee, Calgary, Alberta.   Pages 93, 122 to 123

CALGARY: DUE EAST

Albert Park And Forest Lawn.

Of the plethora of subdivisions on the eastern flatlands of Calgary that were plotted out by real estate speculators just before World War One, only a few ever left the drawing board. The main problem was lack of transportation since roads in those days were muddy wagon ruts, not good gravel, and paving didn't exist even in the city. A proposed Inter-Urban Railway (streetcars) to connect the eastern flatlands with the city never happened. Two subdivisions did manage to survive, those of Forest Lawn and Albert Park, both of which also happened to be the closest to Calgary and within reasonable walking distance. Forest Lawn is roughly the area four blocks deep on both sides of 17 Avenue SE between 48 Street and 28 Street. Albert Park is on the west end of Forest Lawn, on the escarpment overlooking the irrigation canal and Deerfoot Trail. Its boundaries are 17 Avenue SE to Memorial Drive, from 28 Street westward to the escarpment.

Albert Park was named after Albert Smythe, a real estate speculator who plotted out the community in the first decade of the 1900s. Once he had sold enough lots, he skipped town with the money and development came to a halt until after the Great Depression. Forest Lawn was named after the famous Hollywood cemetery, the name being relatively fresh and prestigious back then. The developers disappeared without building the promised streetcar line and it stagnated for decades. In 1934, the provincial government incorporated Albert Park, Forest Lawn, and Hubalta as three separate villages, but no one would stand for office when the first election was called. The province then merged all three into the single village of Forest Lawn, and an election was successfully held in 1935. Forest Lawn became a town in 1953 and in 1961 was annexed by Calgary [1].

The Albert Park post office opened in a general store on 1913-12-01 with George Palmer as the first postmaster. The proof strike of its first postmark is shown at left. He stayed two decades, until 1937-06-29. Mrs. Grace Armstrong Evans then took over for a decade until 1946-10-23. In the next two years, three postmasters came and went, so Mrs. Evans resumed her duties from 1948-06-30 to 1950-01-05. John Monish then took over until 1953-09-22, followed by Barbara Rose Marte until 1957-03-21. The final postmaster was Isabelle Irene Marte until the post office closed on 1959-09-30. Subsequently a Shoppers Drug Mart retail outlet opened on the southern boundary at 3012 - 17 Avenue SE on 1992-11-26 and is still in business today (photo and postmark shown on next page).
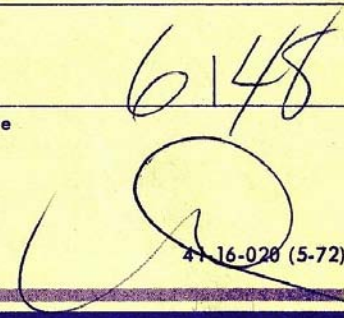
The Forest Lawn post office opened in a general store on 1913-04-01 with Wilfrid Marsden as postmaster until 1919-04-30 (proof strike at left). W.H. Rourke took over until 1925-06-02. His brother-in-law George Henry (Harry) Dalton and sister Bertha then bought the store from him, and Harry was postmaster until his death on 1934-10-15.

His widow Bertha succeeded him and stayed until 1941-07-08. Bertha nearly lost her job in 1936 when an audit revealed the accounts were short $86.36, which was big money in the depths of the Great Depression. She was allowed to stay on with a caution after making good the deficiency [2]. Stanley Davies bought the store from her and stayed until 1954-09-25, at which time the Calgary post office took over in a new building with John Henry Hooper as acting postmaster [3].

On 1959-10-01, the Forest Lawn post office became Calgary Sub #50. It was renamed Station J in 1975 and shut down in 1992 when Canada Post privatised its outlets. At left is a counter receipt with the Station J postmark. The Albert Park retail outlet at Shoppers, next door to Station J in the same shopping plaza, took over and still is the only postal outlet in the area. This is ironic since Forest Lawn was always the bigger and more dominant community, yet is now postally part of its smaller neighbour.

References.

1] Elliot, Jean (1975) HUB OF THREE HAMLETS. Published by Century Calgary Publications, pages 3 to 5

2] Library and Archives Canada (downloaded 2011-08-06) Post offices and postmasters. www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/post-offices

3] Chestermere Historical Society (1971) SADDLES, SLEIGHS, AND SADIRONS. Pages 197, 209, 391, 426

Hubalta.

Hubalta is an industrial neighbourhood in east-southeast Calgary that was at one time a separate post office, until it was swallowed up by Calgary in the great annexation of 1961 that also took in various other villages such as Bowness and Forest Lawn. Hubalta was one of many land speculation schemes that started around Calgary in the first decade of the 1900s. They all went sour, demonstrating not for the last time that house prices don't always go up. The various land schemes on the flatlands to the east of Calgary, including Hubalta, were all predicated on a streetcar line being built, which never happened. Since the roads were all gumbo in wet weather, the failure to build good transportation killed off the real estate boom.   The last time that Hubalta made the news was on 1999-08-09 when its oil refinery blew up, killing two workers, destroying two fire trucks and a police cruiser, and forcing the evacuation of thousands of people in eastern Calgary.

The post office opened on 1912-04-01, with Olaf Willison as the first postmaster. The next page shows a cover mailed that year from the village of Killam to his daughter Mary in Hubalta. As seen by the address, the post office was in a corner of a general store, the Hubalta Trading Company.

Olaf (1860-1944) was born in Sweden, emigrated to Canada in 1886, and eventually wound up in Calgary in 1900. He and his wife Augusta had six daughters, two of whom became nurses and the other four, including Mary, became schoolteachers. The cover depicted in on the next page contains a letter from a fellow student of Mary's written on Mount Royal College letterhead, where both had been studying. It was dated August 25, mailed at Killam the next day, backstamped (not shown) with a Calgary machine cancel dated August 27, and given a receiving postmark by Mary's father on August 28.

The Hubalta post office closed on 1915-12-21 and re-opened on 1919-04-15, with Olaf as postmaster again. No reason is given in the post office archives [2] but presumably the war had something to do with it. Olaf continued as postmaster until 1930-10-07.
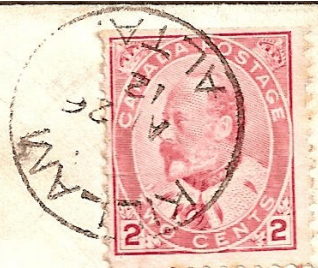
Miss Mary Willison

Hubalta Trading Co

Calgary

Alta

John Valentine Campbell took over until 1941-04-30, when he was granted military leave. His daughter Margaret was then postmaster until he returned to the position on 1945-04-02, to serve again until his death on 1949-02-16. His wife Edith then became postmaster until March 1950, by which time she was of advanced years. John Goacher took over on 1950-04-01, and was the final postmaster to the annexation of Hubalta by Calgary.

When the Calgary post office took over operations on 1961-02-28, they set up a new sub-post office #69, in the Zellers department store at 5115 - 17 Avenue SE, since closed. There is no postal outlet in Hubalta today but the area is served by nearby retail postal outlets a few minutes down the street. A century ago, it would have taken half a day to travel the distance now driven in ten minutes (outside rush hour, of course).

References.

1] Glenbow Museum (downloaded 2011-02-18) Willison family fonds. ARCHIVES MAIN CATALOGUE ww2.glenbow.org/search/archivesMainResults.aspx

2] Library and Archives Canada (downloaded 2011-02-18)   Post offices and postmasters.   www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/post-offices

Weno.

A lot of the villages swallowed up by Calgary still exist as neighbourhoods under their original names, such as Hubalta, Bowness, Midnapore, Forest Lawn, and Montgomery. It takes a real historian of Calgary to recognize the name of Weno, long since vanished in both name and physical structure from the city. Weno was one of a string of failed subdivisions east of pioneer Calgary, plotted out in the decade before World War One. Most of them reverted to farmland until the city expanded over them in the building boom of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Weno began as a real estate speculation by Lavender & Horner in 1910, and was located east of Hubalta along the railroad tracks. It was originally called Victoria Square. Today's geographical reference would be east of 60 Street SE and along 17 Avenue SE. It had a brief existence as a railway repair shop and, during World War One, was a site for munitions factories. A large factory building was erected for the Pioneer Tractor Company, but no assembly line ever started up and it eventually became a dance hall with what was probably Calgary's first indoor carpark. The area began depopulating as World War One drew to a close [1]. It never succeeded and changed hands to Alberta Financial Brokers, whose slogan was "We Know". The name Weno comes from that slogan.

Today the area is a warehouse district where the old Corral drive-in theatre used to be, and what is now Elliston Park. The drive-in theatre was damaged beyond economical repair on 1999-08-09 when the adjacent Hub Oil refinery blew up. The park is built on recycled land of the East Calgary solid waste landfill, and is named after the Ellis family, who homesteaded in the area and one of whom was a postmaster of Weno. All of the original buildings of Weno are gone, either moved elsewhere, dismantled for building materials, or burned down. Nothing beside remains.

Weno was very short-lived as a post office and a coherent community. The post office opened on 1914-05-01 and closed on 1926-12-20. Since Hubalta was immediately to the west, it is a wonder that the post office was ever opened in the first instance. The Hubalta post office was only a few minutes walk from Weno and had already been open for two years. There were great plans for Victoria Square/Weno during the real estate boom.

The first postmaster of Weno was William M. Case, but he lasted only a few months. Peter B. Mather took over on 1914-08-20 and continued until the post office closed, except for a brief period from 1920-05-29 to 1921-09-17, when Samuel S. Ellis was postmaster [2]. Why this was so I haven't been able to find out.

References.

1] Chestermere Historical Society (1971) SADDLES, SLEIGHS, AND SADIRONS.   Pages 400 to 406

2]   Library and Archives Canada   (downloaded 2011-02-18)   Post offices and postmasters. www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/post-offices

CALGARY: NORTHEAST

Way out yonder, in the Conrich-Delacour area just past the present-day suburbs of northeast Calgary, there were several ranch house post offices, long since vanished.

The map shown at right is modified from a 1922 map to show these extinct post offices and a much smaller Calgary. Calgary has long since expanded overtop Beddington and Hubalta, although Conrich and Delacour are still semi-rural.

Melba.

I previously discussed the Hubalta and Weno post offices, which were hamlets at the extreme east end of present-day Calgary. From there, the road, or linear mudhole as it often was, turned northeast. Victor Ellis, who had relatives at Weno, kept a post office in his ranch house a few kilometres northeast of Weno and named it Melba. I have not been able to find out why. He did not have a wife or daughter by that name. I suspect he named it after the Australian coloratura Dame Nellie Melba, the most celebrated singer of her time, who sang in all the major opera houses. Two foods that we still have today, Peach Melba and Melba Toast, are named after her.

Ellis was the only postmaster, and operated it from 1913-12-01 to 1916-08-23, when rural mail delivery started. Twice a week he would haul milk and cream into Calgary, stopping along the way at Weno, Hubalta, Forest Lawn, and Albert Park post offices to distribute and receive mail, repeating the process on his return [1]. The proof strike of the postmark is shown at left.

Rocky View.

This ranch house post office was where the Monterey subdivision in northeast Calgary is today. The name should not be confused with today's hamlet of Rocky View, located further north on McDonald Lake where a Turbo oil refinery once was. The only postmaster was John Redmond, who operated the post office from 1906-01-01 until 1916-05-31 when he resigned [2].

Freshfield.

Freshfield was named after the English alpinist Sir Douglas Freshfield, who also has a mountain and icefield on the Alberta-B.C. border named after him. This seems rather amusing as the post office was on the flatlands far from the Rockies. Joseph H. Johnson was the only postmaster, running it at his house from 1908-08-15 until 1919-06-30. He also had the contract to haul mail to and from Calgary, which was quite lucrative, such as $321.49 for fiscal 1910, good money in those uninflated days [3]. During that same time period, the gross revenues of Freshfield post office totalled $22.95. Not much of a cost-benefit ratio!

Delacour.

Delacour was founded in 1914 as a railroad siding and the post office opened in a general store the next year. It is named after the railroad section foreman, surname De Lacour. This means the correct pronunciation should be "day-la-coor", not the common "dell-ah-coor" used by Calgarians today. The major business was the grain elevator, and when it closed in 1981, the hamlet might have died instantly but for all the acreages in the area owned by Calgary commuters [4]. Mrs. Mabel McKinnon was the first postmaster from 1915-11-15 until 1920-04-16. The proof strike of the postmark is shown at right.

Wellington Cleveland then took over until 1932-01-28. He was succeeded by Percy David Scott until 1941-01-21. There were then two revolving-door temps, but John Alden Wallace took over on 1942-02-01 and stayed more than three decades until 1976-02-27. He was succeeded by his widow, then two more postmasters until the office closed on 1991-06-05. It will be a matter of when, not if, Delacour is annexed by Calgary, whose northeastern suburbs are now within sight.

Conrich.

Conrich was named after two real estate developers during the pre-World War One boom, Connacher and Richardson. It started as a railroad siding in 1913 for farmers to haul in their grain. The post office didn't open until quite late, when Frank Mogensen began it on 1925-08-15 and served until 1929-07-12. The proof strike of the postmark is shown at right. Henry Thomas Protheroe lasted a few months as the second postmaster until Mogenson returned from 1930-12-10 to 1946-05-20. The final postmaster was Leith Fraser McLean until the post office closed on 1960-12-12. Today it is semi-rural, with lots of acreages for commuters.

References.

1] Chestermere Historical Society (1971) SADDLES, SLEIGHS, AND SADIRONS. Page 408

2] Library and Archives Canada (downloaded 2011-08-06) Post offices and postmasters. www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/post-offices

3] Canadian Post Office (1885 to 1923) Report of the Postmaster General. SESSIONAL PAPERS OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA, Appendices C and D

4] Read, Tracey (1983) ACRES AND EMPIRES: A HISTORY OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ROCKY VIEW NO. 44. Published by Tall-Taylor Publishing, Irricana, Alberta. Pages 67 and 71.

CALGARY: DUE NORTH

Balzac and Beddington.

When the Calgary and Edmonton Railway opened in 1891, the first three railroad sidings north of Calgary were Titian, Beddington, and Balzac. At right is a 1922 map of the area, when Calgary was still a compact town, not the sprawling mess it is today. Titian is approximately Edmonton Trail at 32 Avenue NE in what is now the Greenview Industrial district. There has never been a post office there.

The Beddington siding still exists and is southeast of the Harvest Hills suburb where West Nose Creek (formerly Beddington Creek) flows into Nose Creek. Balzac is a hamlet just outside the new suburbs sprawling northward and will be destroyed by developers in the next couple of decades. Balzac didn't begin as a settlement until a decade after the siding was built. By 1916, a coal warehouse and train station were built, then later a loading ramp for grain, and by 1925 a grain elevator [1].

The history of the Beddington and Balzac post office (singular; there were never two of them at the same time) is complicated. It moved between the two railroad sidings and occasionally away from them completely. Before the post office opened, homesteaders got their mail from Airdrie or Calgary.
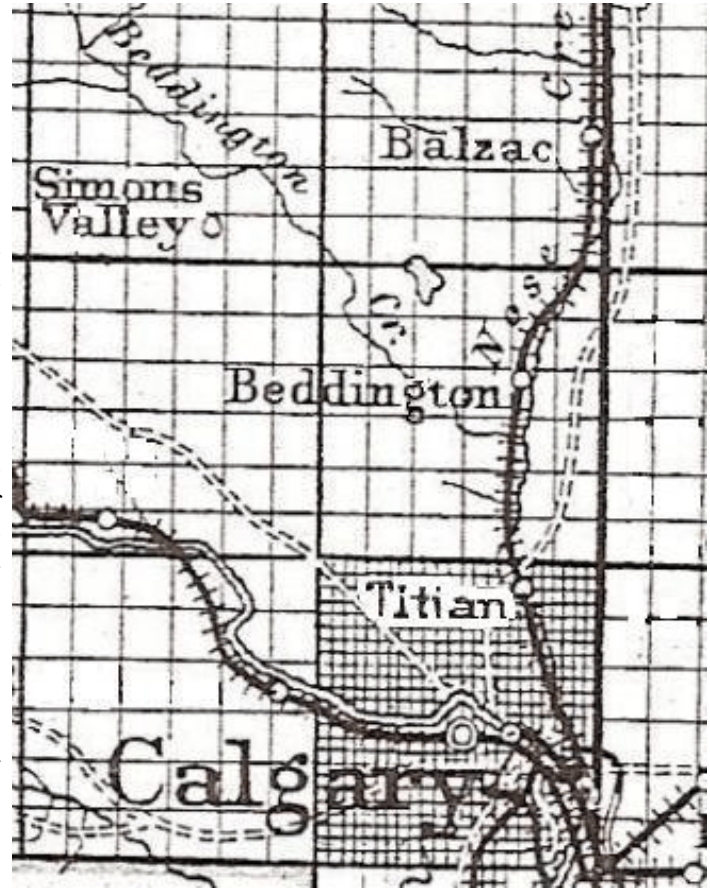
Balzac was named by William C. Van Horne, president of the CPR, after one of his favourite authors, the French novelist Honore de Balzac. Beddington was named after a town in Croyden, England [2].

The first post office was opened near Beddington siding on 1912-04-01 with Wesley T. Rogers as postmaster [3]. It used the name Beddington. The proof strike of its first postmark is shown at right. Rogers only stayed as postmaster a few months and resigned on 1912-09-07. His place was taken by Mrs. A Johnston, who served until 1913-12-09. She in turn was succeeded by R.R. Tindall who served until 1916-12-04. These were all farm house post offices.

At that point, the new postmaster was George Washington, who served until 1921-06-10. He didn't like hauling the mail needlessly back and forth from Airdrie or Calgary, and since settlement was concentrating at the north end of the district, he moved the post office to a farm a couple of kilometres north of Balzac. This meant that the Beddington post office was nowhere near the Beddington district but was in fact halfway between Balzac and Airdrie. Washington cut a deal with the Balzac Trading Co. for a general store at the siding, and in 1920 the Beddington post office was moved to the Balzac siding but kept its original name. This must have been confusing to travellers on the railway. The mail was now delivered by train, which would slow down at the siding so the mail clerk could snatch the bag from a catch post and kick out the bag of incoming mail for Balzac and district. If he missed picking up the outgoing bag, the engineer would have to stop the train and wait for him to run back down the track and get the bag. Children on the way to school would gather on their ponies to see what would happen and were gleeful when the postie missed.

The next postmaster was O.A. Halford, serving until 1924-03-20. He kept the Beddington name. He didn't like being a storekeeper and postmaster, so he traded the business for a farm owned by E.D. Evans, who became the new postmaster [4]. It was during Evans' tenure that the name of the post office was altered on 1925-07-01 to Balzac to match its location. Shown at left is the proof strike of the first postmark to bear the Balzac name.

Evans also had the rural mail route and used his buggy as a rolling store, carrying not only the mail but tobacco, candy, and whatever else might sell. In 1928 he changed over to an automobile for the mails, although if the roads

were muddy or snowy then he would switch back to horses. After his wife died, he employed Miss Gladys Margaret Barker to look after the store and post office at the siding while he was out delivering the mail [5].

Evans died in harness and Barker became the new store owner and postmaster on 1935-06-01. She married in 1936 and as Mrs. Gladys Campbell stayed on as postmaster until 1948-04-26. Her siblings Russel and Ida delivered the rural mail routes. In 1948 she and her husband sold out to Jim and Jennie Kirby, both of whom had served in the RCAF, and Jennie became the postmaster until 1951-08-14. They sold the store to C.J. Davy, whose wife Viola took over as postmaster until 1962-12-27. It was during her tenure that mail by rail was abandoned in 1954 and was thereafter delivered by highway truck.

Bill and Stella Murphy bought the store and Stella served until 1966-11-01 as the postmaster. Winston Lea McElroy then had the store and job until 1978-07-21, followed by Karen Roberts. The post office ceased on 1989-10-17 and became a retail outlet (RePO) thereafter [6]. Shown at left is a postmark from the early RePO days.

The RePO went through at least two more store owners before the postal outlet closed sometime during the first decade of the 2000s. Shown on the next page is the final stage of the RePO building. On 2011-10-17, Canada Post changed the name of the rural routes in the area from Balzac to Rocky View County, so all postal traces of Balzac have now vanished [7].

References.

1] Read, Tracey (1983) ACRES AND EMPIRES. Published by Tall-Taylor Publishing, Irricana, Alberta. Pages 57 to 58.

2] Karamitsanis, Aphrodite (1992) PLACE NAMES OF ALBERTA. VOL. 2 SOUTHERN ALBERTA. Published by University of Calgary Press. Pages 5 and 8.

3] Library and Archives Canada (downloaded 2011-11-26)   Post offices and postmasters.   www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/post-offices

4] Wilk, Stephen (1997) 100 YEARS OF NOSE CREEK VALLEY HISTORY. Published by Nose Creek Historical Society. Pages 85 to 86.

5] various authors (1961) THE NOSE CREEK STORY FROM 1792.   Published by Beddington Farm Womens' Union, Alberta. Pages 153 to 155.

6] Hughes, Neil (1998) ALBERTA POST OFFICES 1876-1998. Privately published by the author, Edmonton, Alberta.

7] Smith, Dawn (2011-10-17) Changes to mail service coming for Balzac. ROCKY VIEW WEEKLY

Simons Valley.

Simons Valley, north-northwest of Calgary, is today being overrun by new suburbs such as Kincora, Evanston, and Sage Hill. Not only is its ranchland character being lost by typical urban sprawl that makes it look like any suburb in Mississauga or Edmonton, but the city bureaucrats changed the spelling of the main road through the area to Symons Valley Road.

The map at right shows the relationship of Simons Valley to Calgary in 1914. Today the city fills the entire map. The Nose is one of the Rocky Mountain foothills, and is now Nose Hill Park.

W.E. Simons was the first postmaster when the Simons Valley post office opened on 1907-04-01. The photo on the next page shows his ranch house wherein the post office was located. The Simons ranch was located along what was then called Beddington Creek but which is today mapped as West Nose Creek.
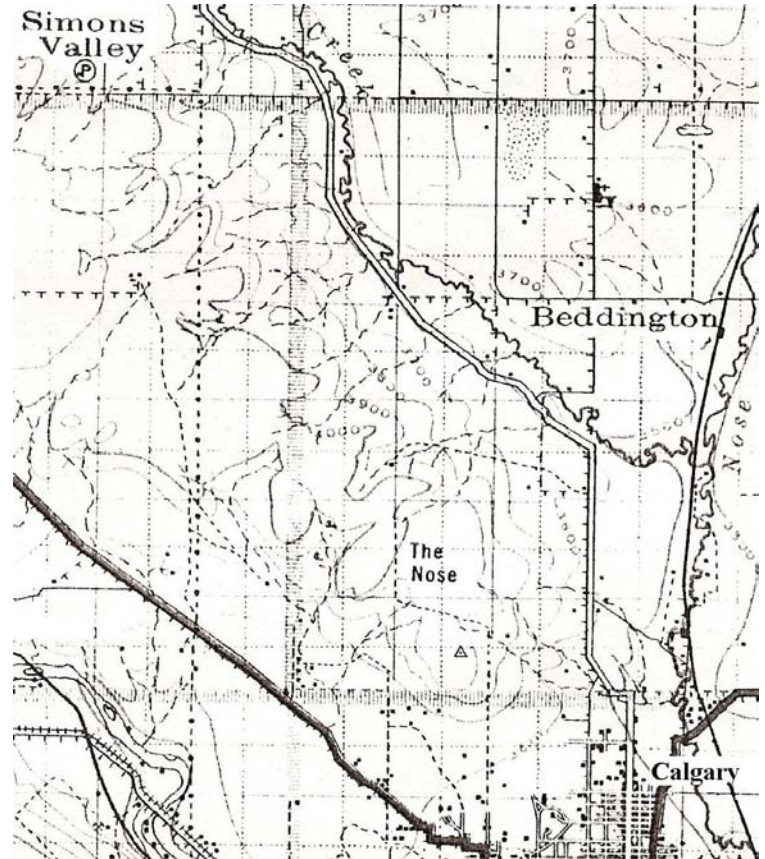
In the era of ranch house post offices, the average gross revenue for them was about $50 to $100 per year, not much even for those days of un-inflated gold-backed dollars. The postmasters also picked up extra money hauling the mail in from the nearest distributing point. However, the case of W.E. Simons is interesting. He made about $300 to $400 per year hauling mail between his ranch and the Calgary post office, which was about average for the area.

What waves the red flag though, are the gross revenues of the Simons Valley post office [1]. In 1907 when the post office opened, gross revenue was $7.00, admittedly low because it was just starting up. Frustratingly, the 1908 figure is omitted from the Postmaster-General's annual reports, but in 1909 the Simons Valley post office reported $644.35 in gross revenue. This was incredibly high for a remote ranch house servicing perhaps thirty ranches, and was what small towns were reporting. In 1910, Simons claimed $757.00 and in 1911 it was $721.00.

Early that year Simons resigned and the post office moved to the ranch of George Gray. The gross revenues then dropped down to more realistic levels and for the remainder of the post office's life the annual report fluctuated between $40 and $75 per year. That year, 1911, Malcolm Miller, the first postmaster of Millarville (a hamlet southwest of Calgary), was prosecuted in court for the same sort of thing [2]. I haven't been able to find any court cases involving Simons, so he may or may not have been prosecuted. Since Calgary's first postmaster William Bannerman had to skip town when postal inspectors found a discrepancy of a couple thousand dollars in his books, it seems that creative accounting is a time-honoured tradition among southern Alberta postmasters.

The question arises: did Simons jump or was he pushed? How did Simons' scam work? Postmasters received their stamp supplies at a discount. In those days, many businesses accepted payment as sheets of stamps because they had so much mail, so a smart storekeeper or rancher who had a post office could see the benefit instantly. As long as they weren't too greedy, postal inspectors might let it go. I suspect what Simons was doing was not only paying his bills with discounted stamps accepted at face value, but he was re-selling them to Calgary businesses at a slightly less discount and pocketing the difference.

On the next page is a postcard mailed during Simons' tenure as postmaster. Note the simple address on the card. There was no mail delivery to individual ranchers in those days, and they had to come by Simons' house to pick up their mail.

POST CARD

THIS SIDE FOR CORRESPONDENCE   THIS SIDE FOR ADDRESS.

M. W. Buchanan
Simons Valy
Alberta
Canada.

58

George Gray became postmaster on 1911-08-01 and stayed until 1924-10-28. He was succeeded by James Fairweather, who was the final postmaster. Simons Valley post office closed on 1926-02-27 and the area was henceforth served by Calgary Rural Route #4. As of 2014, the closest postal outlet to Simons Valley is the Shoppers Drug Mart in the buffer zone between the Kincora and Evanston suburbs. It uses the name Creekside, after the shopping plaza it is located in.

References.

1] Canadian Post Office (1907 to 1923) Report of the Postmaster General. SESSIONAL PAPERS OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA, Appendices C and D

2] Speirs, Dale (2006) Sharp practice in Millarville, Alberta. PHSC JOURNAL 127:42-44