



**Arizona State Postmarks**  
**Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only**



# Santa Cruz County



## Index

### Santa Cruz County

Alto	Elevation 3585 feet, founded in 1880 first post office July 26, 1880.
Amado	Elevation 2885 feet, named for Manuel H. Amado, first established as Amadoville June 17, 1910.
Calabasas	Elevation 3400 feet, first post office October 18, 1866.
Canille	First post office October 15, 1910 closed April 30, 1924.
Duquesne	First post office June 6, 1890 closed February 14, 1920
Elgin	Elevation 4710 feet, first post office February 12, 1910.
Mowry	Elevation 5500 feet, named for Sylvester Mowry, first post office as Patagonia May 7, 1866.
Nogales	Elevation 3689 feet, first named Isaacson, first post office June 4, 1883.
Rico Rico Branch	First post office February 11, 1974.
Oro Blanco	Elevation 4002 feet, first post office October 2, 1879 closed April 30, 1915.
Parker Canyon	Elevation 5000 feet, first named Parker Canon, first post office April 14, 1912.
Patagonia	Elevation 4050 feet, closely connected with Crittenden, first pos office March 3, 1900.
Ruby	Elevation 4219 feet, first post office April 11, 1912.
San Rafael	Elevation 4000 feet, first post office March 1, 1888 closed May 31, 1917.
Sonoita	Elevation 4865 feet, in Sonoita Valley, first post office May 8, 1912.
Tubac	Elevation 3250 feet, first post office February 21, 1859.
Tumacacori	Elevation 3500 feet, first post office July 14, 1905.

### Arivaca of Pima County

Arivaca	Elevation 3500 feet, first post office April 10, 1878.
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### Fraser Cover Section

Articles on Fraser Murders in Southern Arizona
Carmel California
Redondo Beach California
San Diego California
San Francisco California
Salida Colorado
Boston Mass
El Paso Texas
Arivaca Arizona
Oro Blanco Arizona
Ruby Arizona



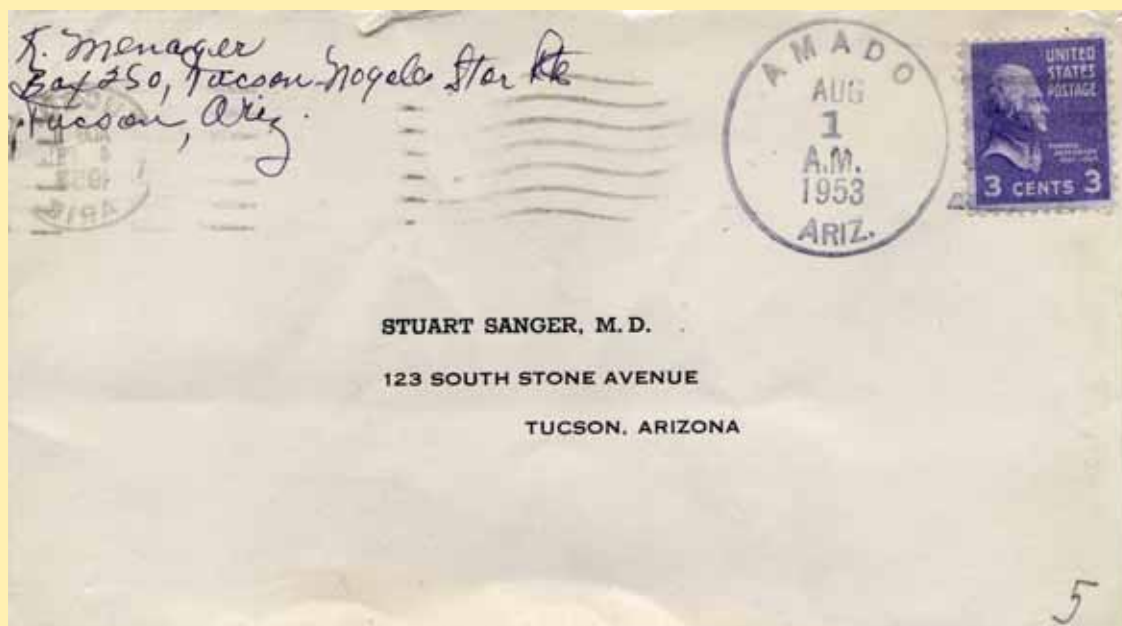
# Arizona State Postmarks

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## Amado — Amado Rural Station — Amado Rural Branch

4 & 55 Catalog Number:





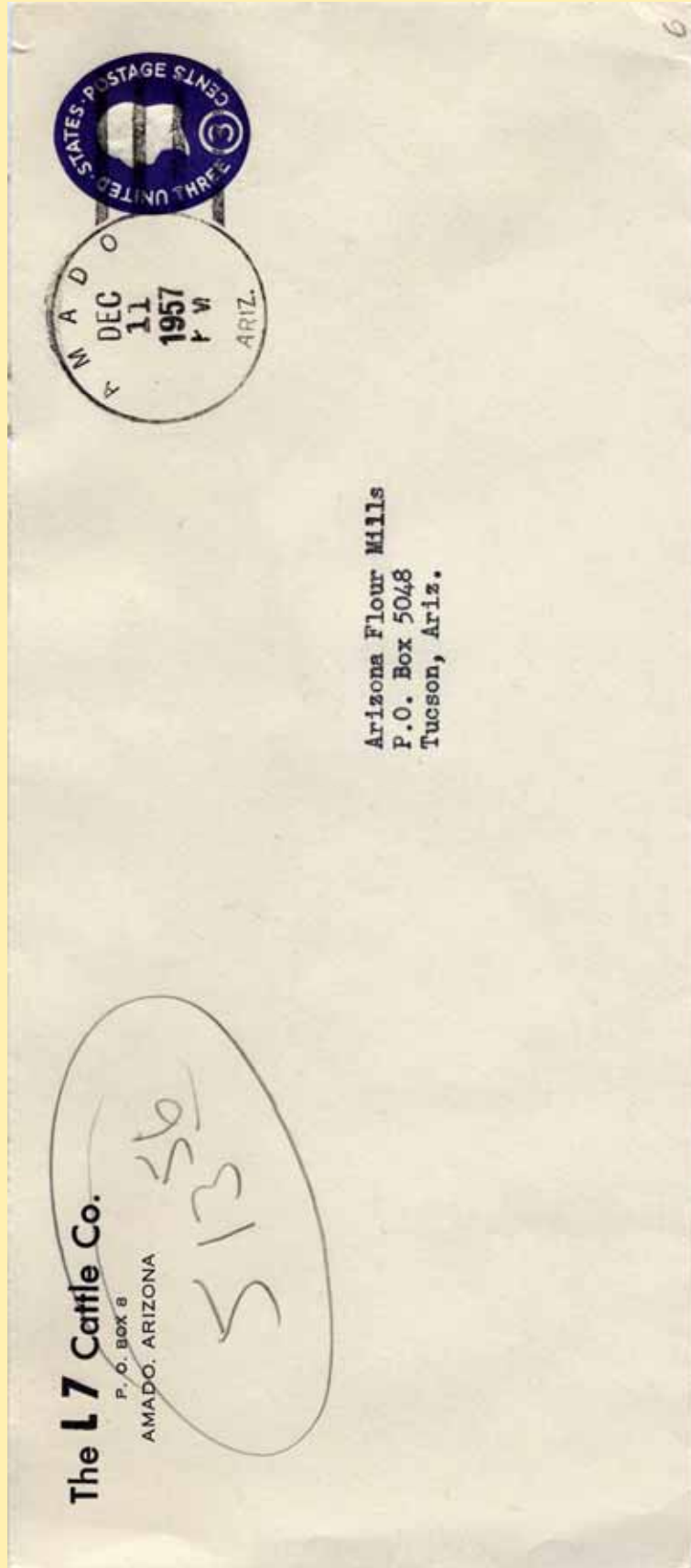
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Amado — Amado Rural Station — Amado Rural Branch

6 Catalog Number:





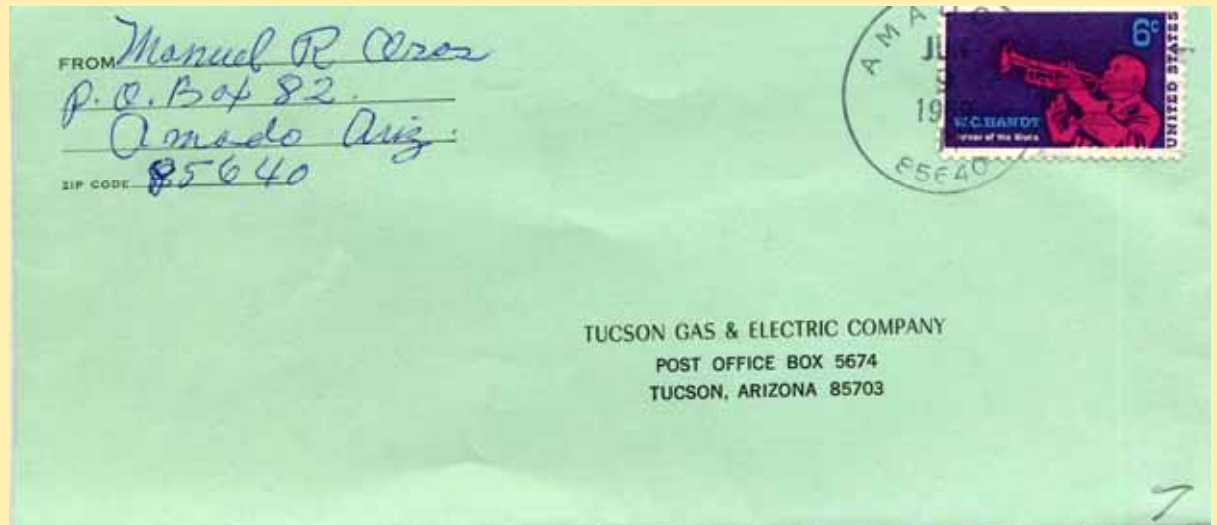
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## Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



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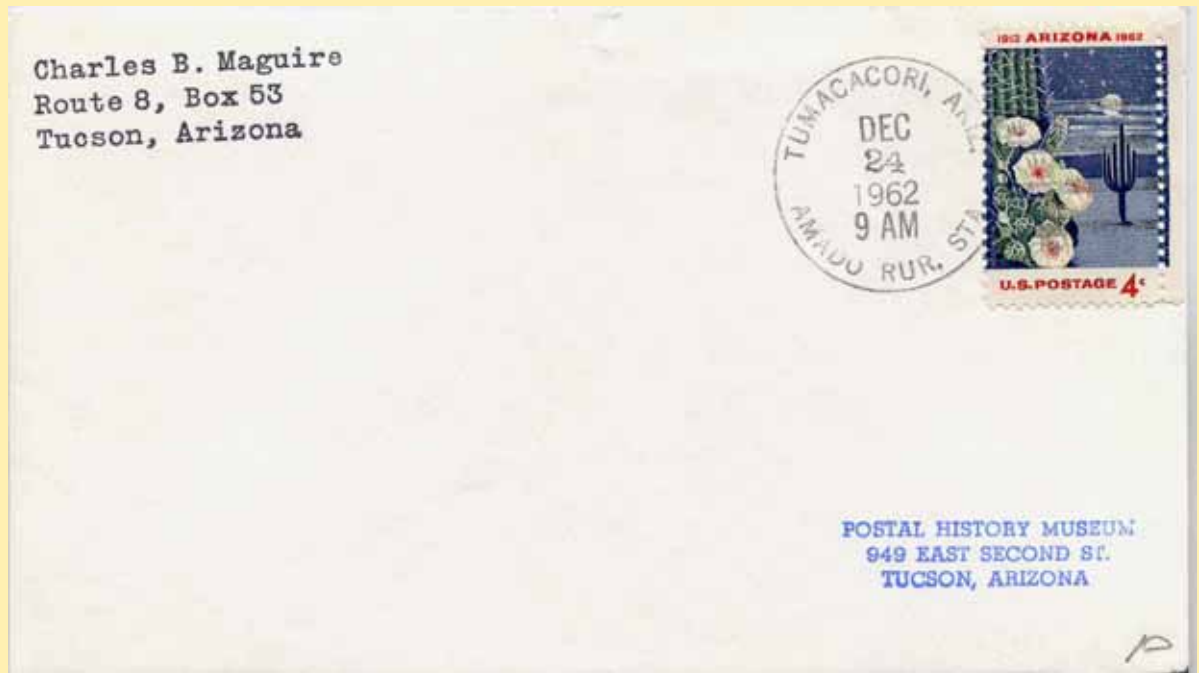


## Amado — Amado Rural Station — Amado Rural Branch



10 & 11 Catalog Number:

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# Arizona State Postmarks

## Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only

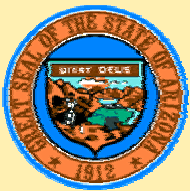


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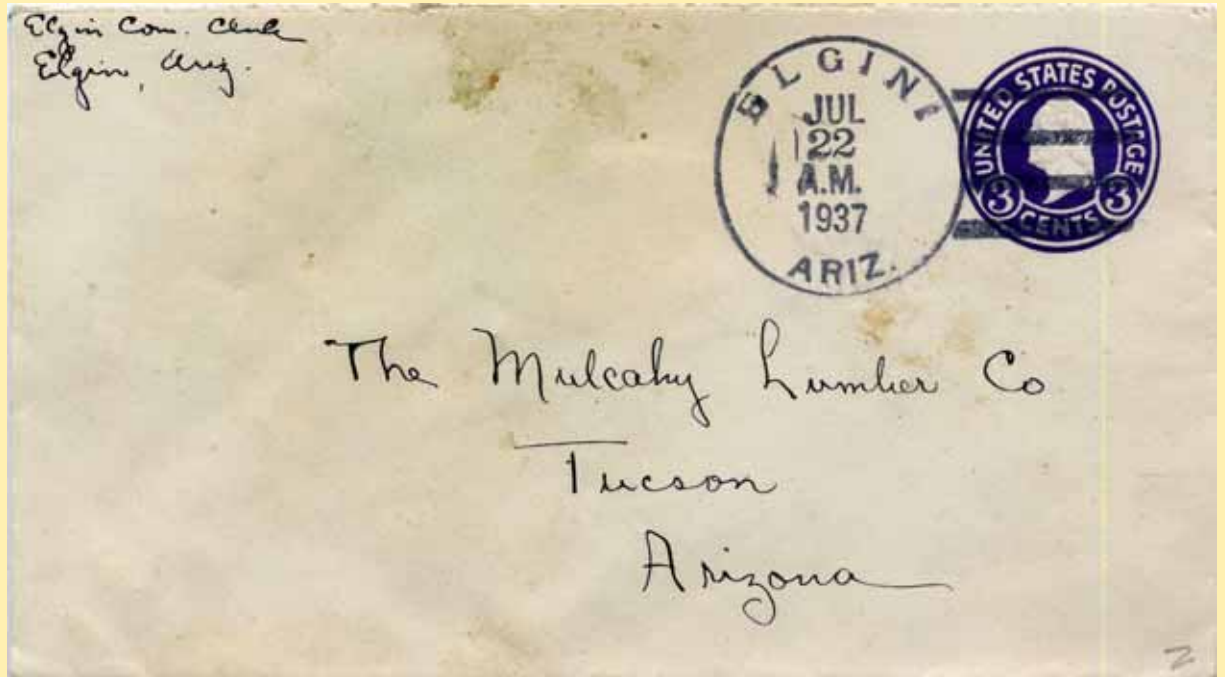
# Arizona State Postmarks

## Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



## Elgin

2 Catalog Number:







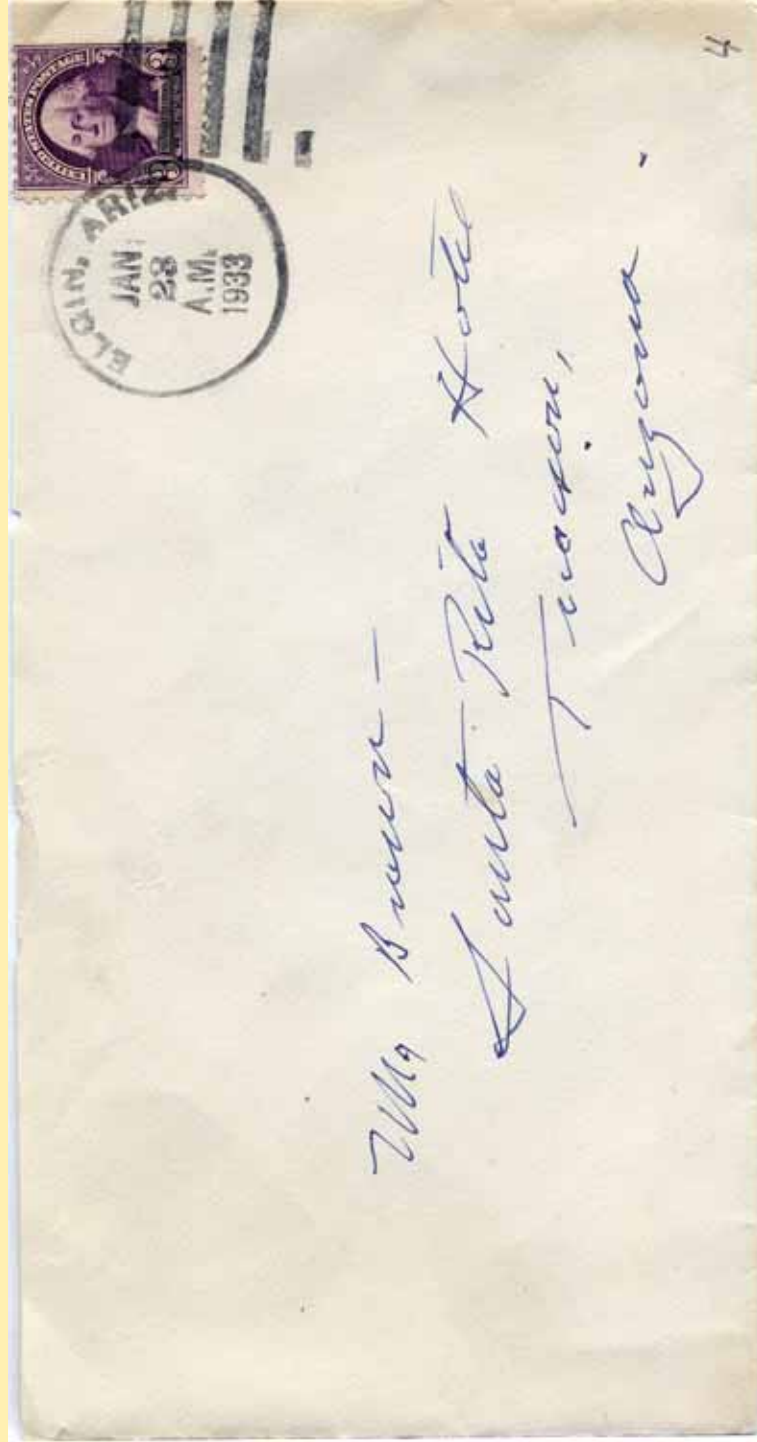
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## Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



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Elgin



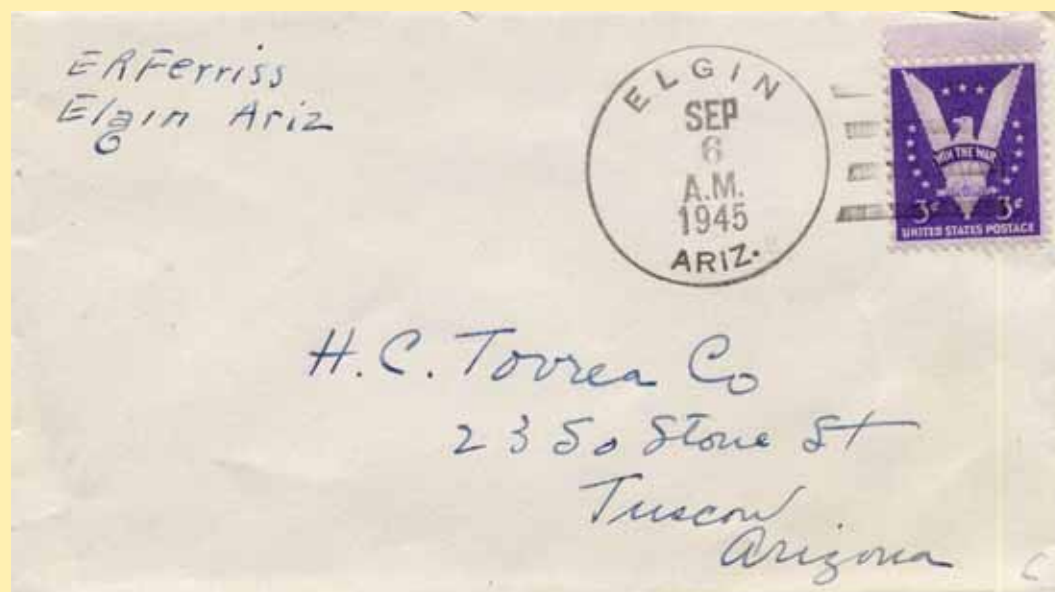
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5 & 6 Catalog Number:



## Arizona State Postmarks

Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only





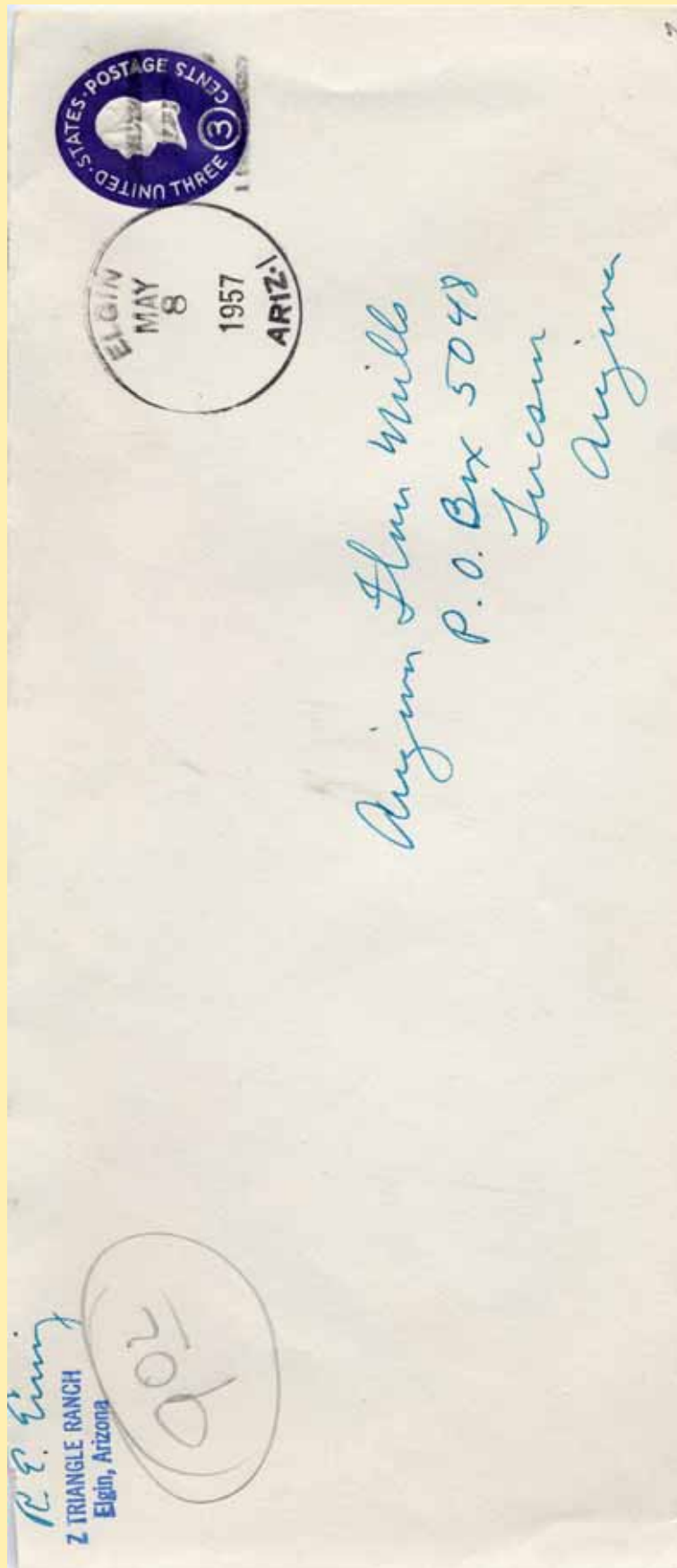
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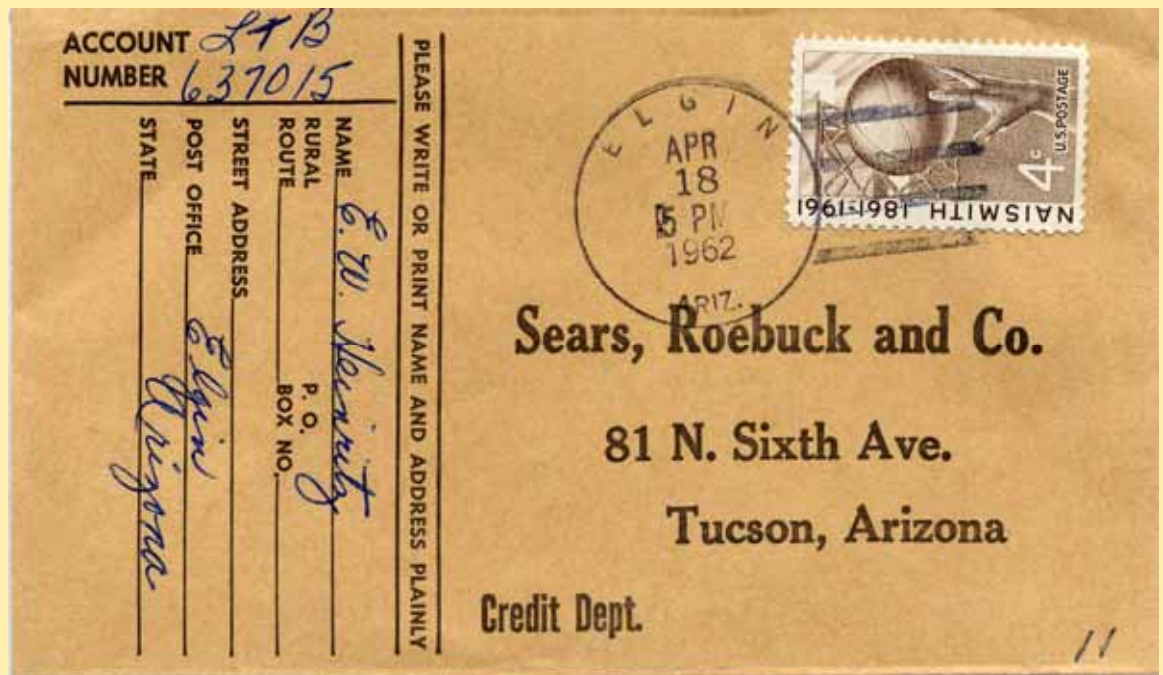
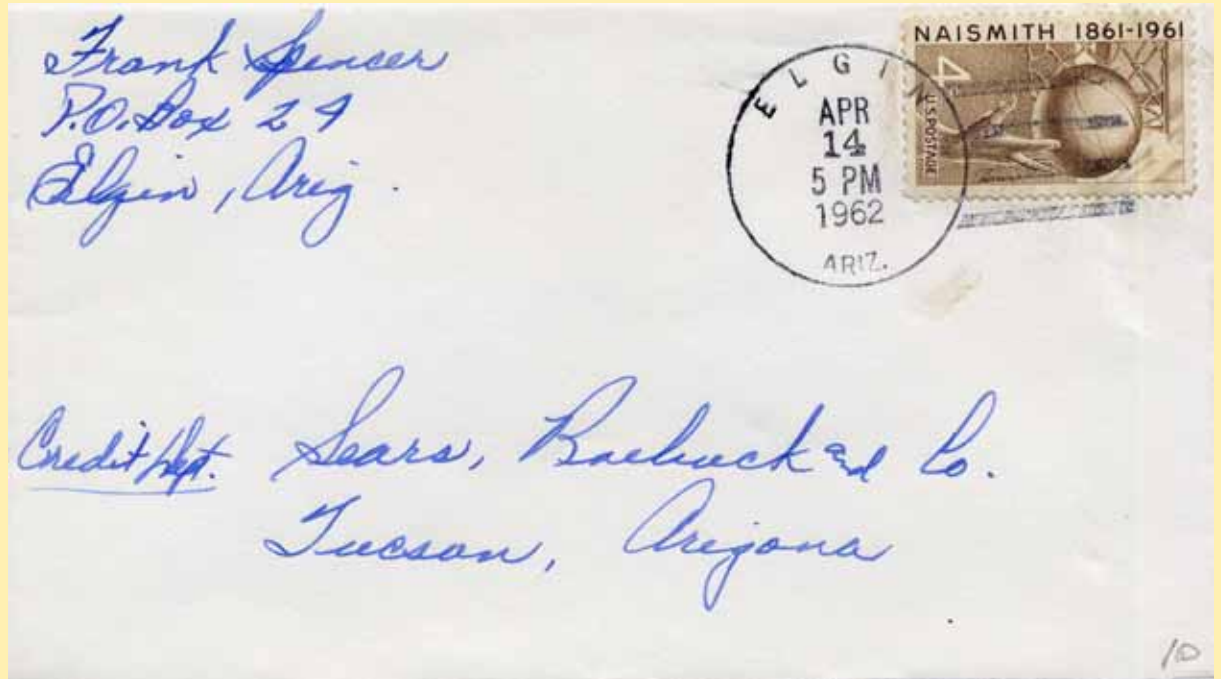


# Elgin



10 & 11 Catalog Number:

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Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only







# Arizona State Postmarks

## Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



12 Catalog Number:

Elgin





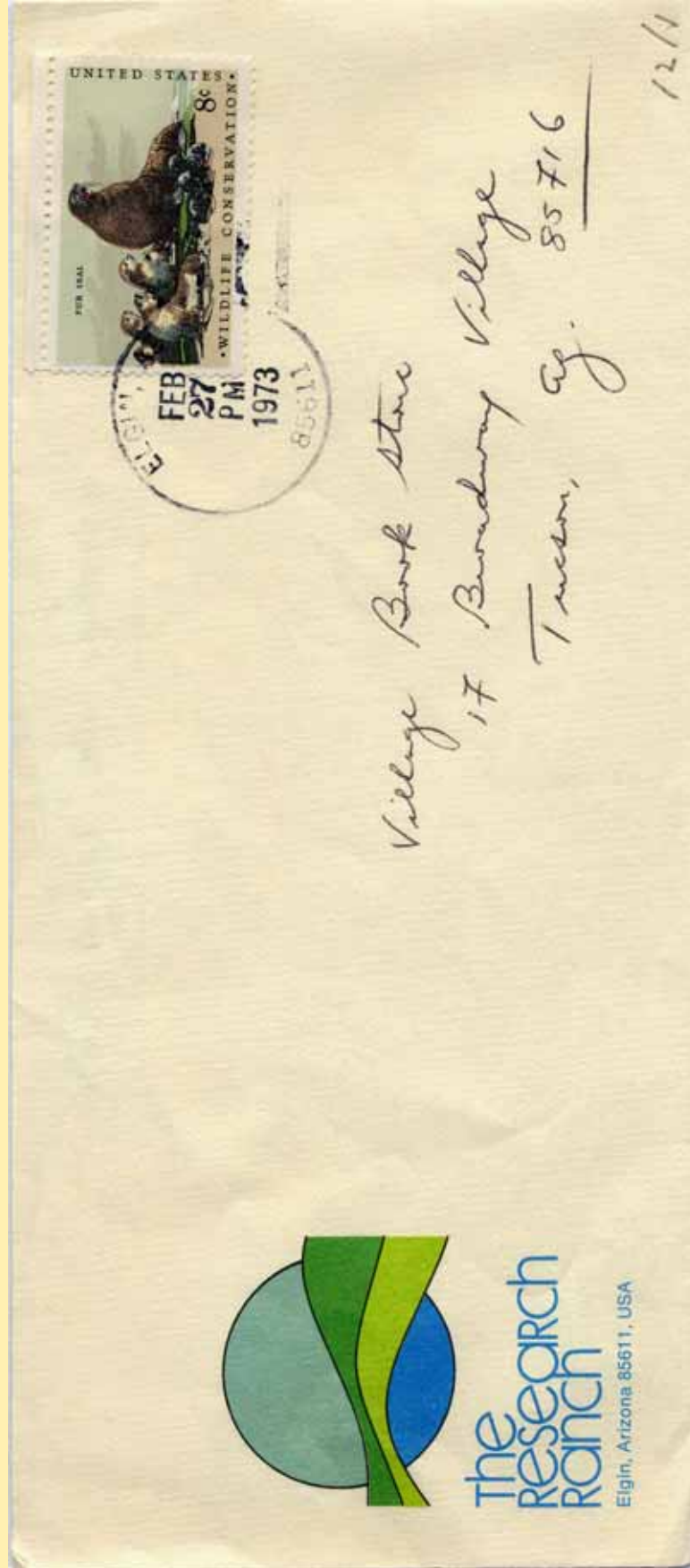
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12 Catalog Number:

Elgin



## Nogales



2 & 3 Catalog Number:

# Arizona State Postmarks Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



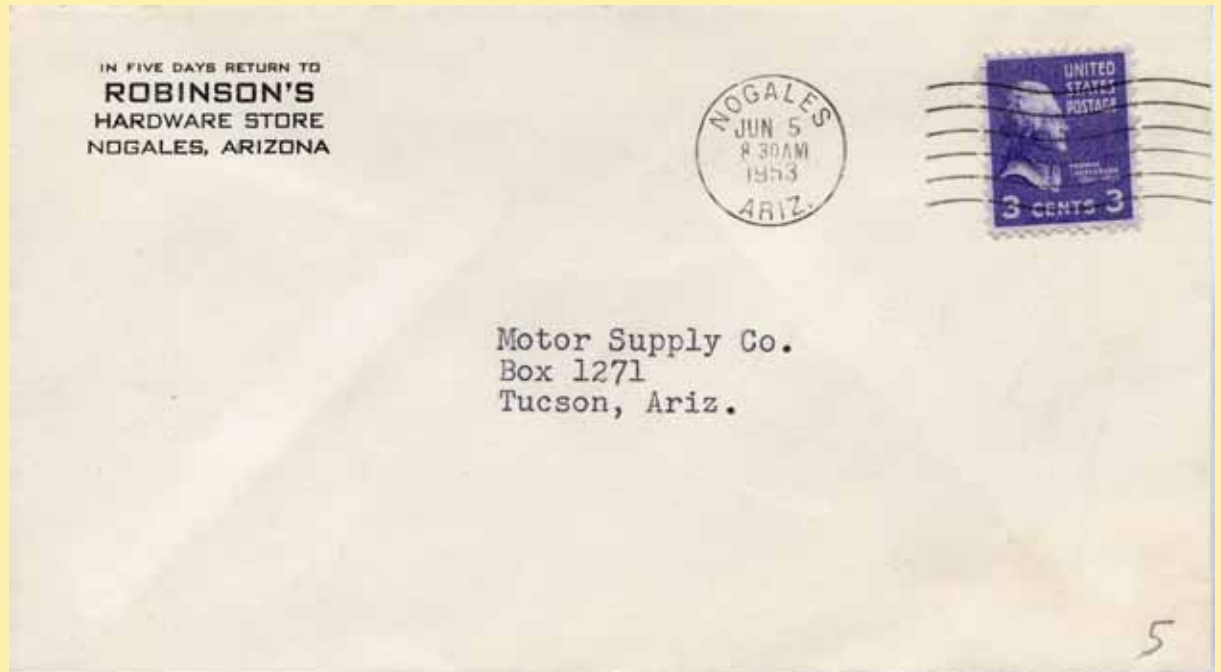


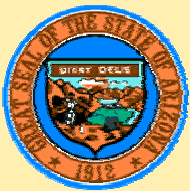
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5 & 6 Catalog Number:

Arizona State Postmarks  
Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only





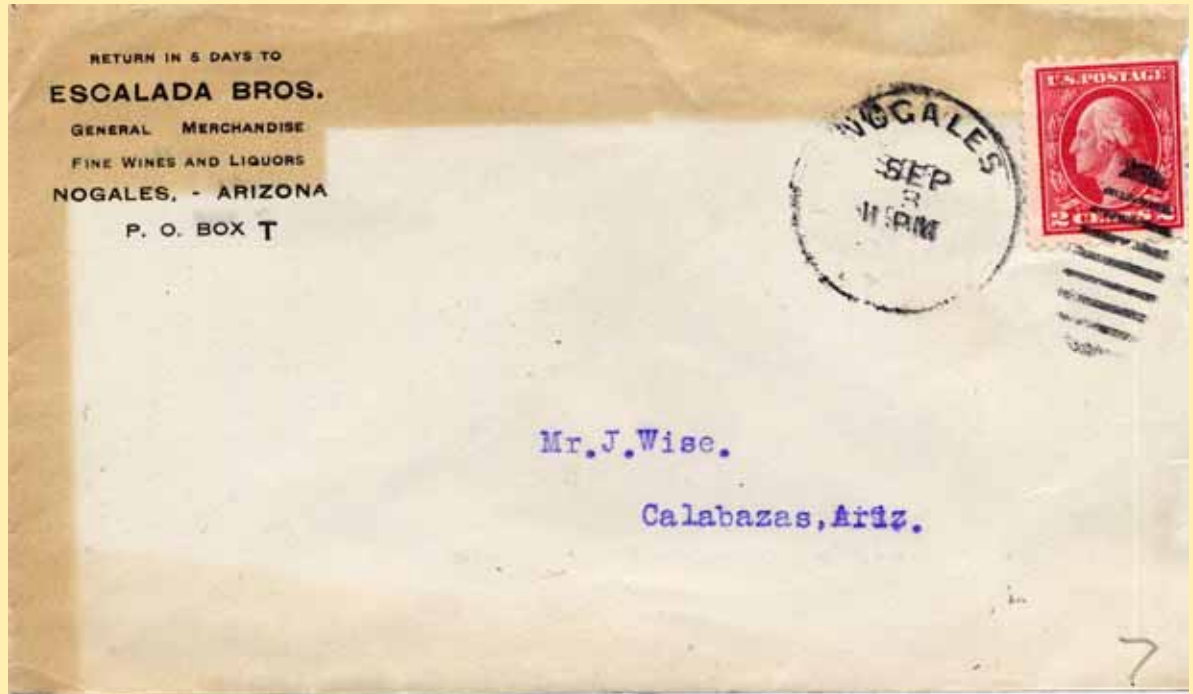
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## Nogales

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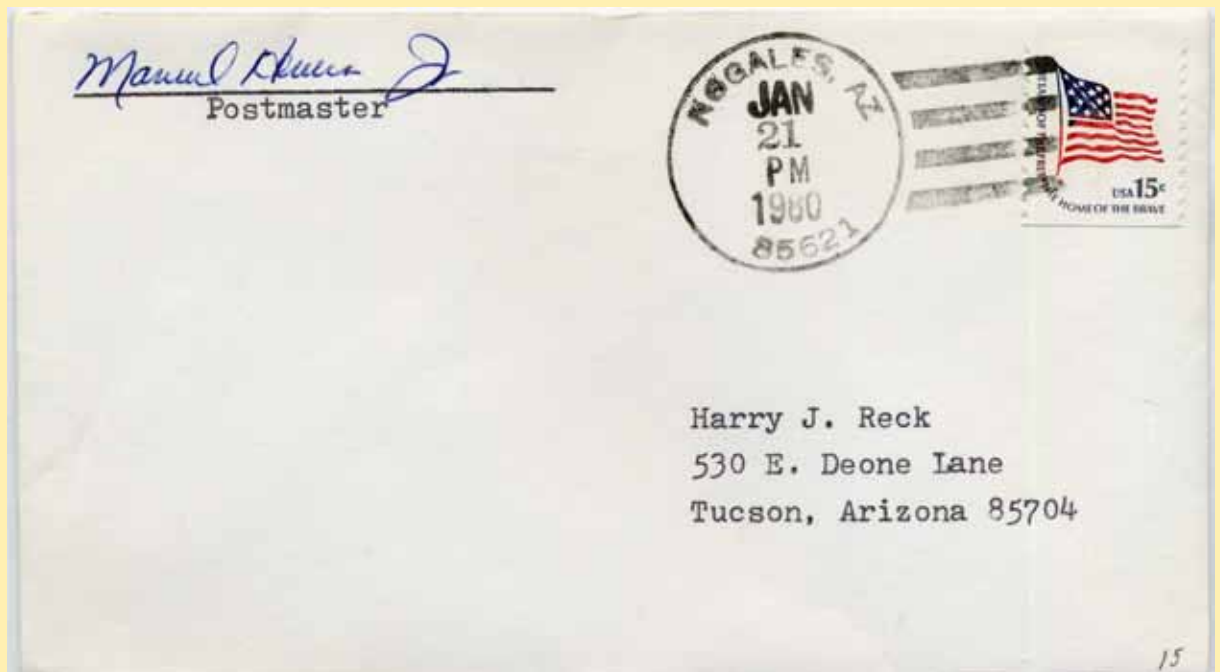


# Nogales



11 & 15 Catalog Number:

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# Arizona State Postmarks

## Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



14 Catalog Number:

Nogales





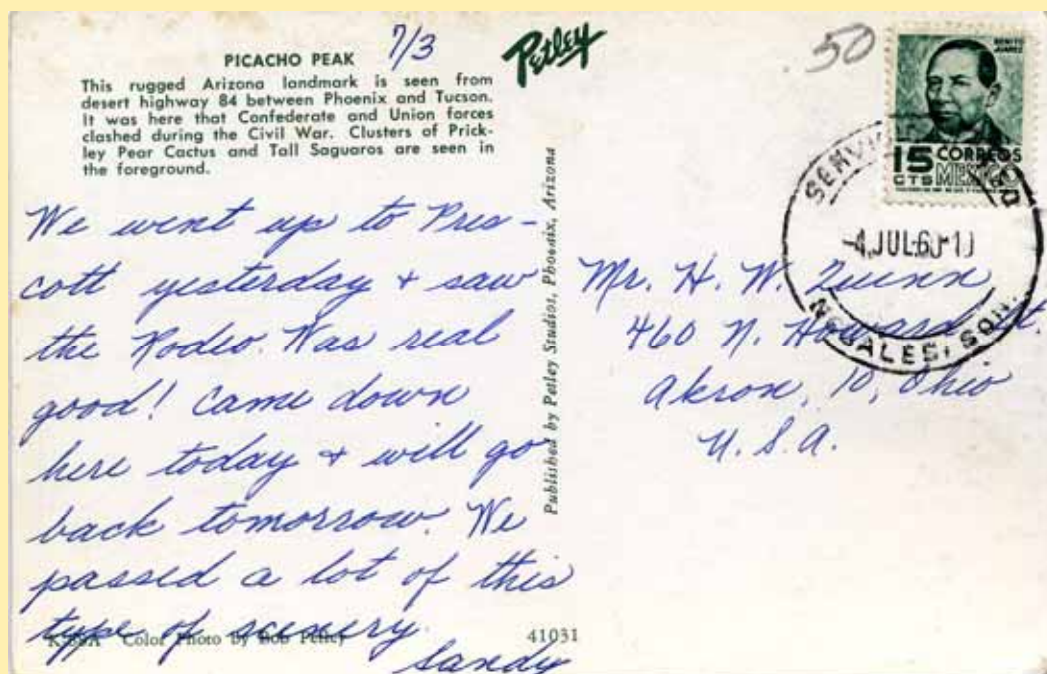
# Arizona State Postmarks Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



## Nogales

14 Catalog Number:

Nogales Sonora







# Arizona State Postmarks

## Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



1 Catalog Number:

## Parker Canyon





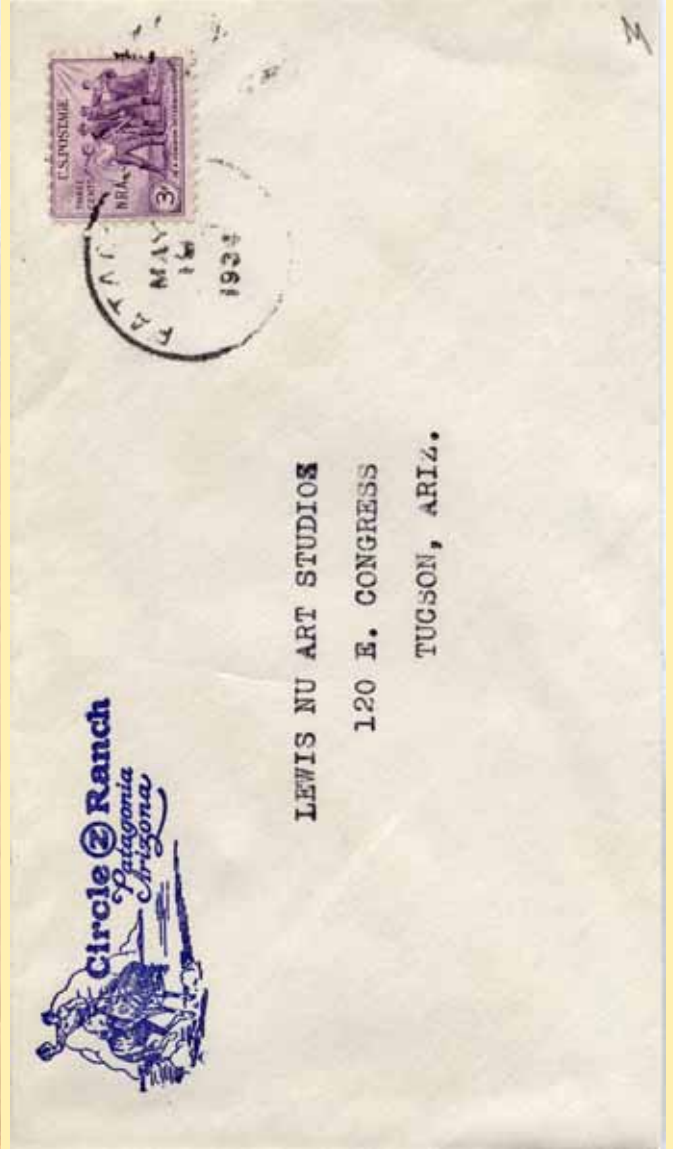
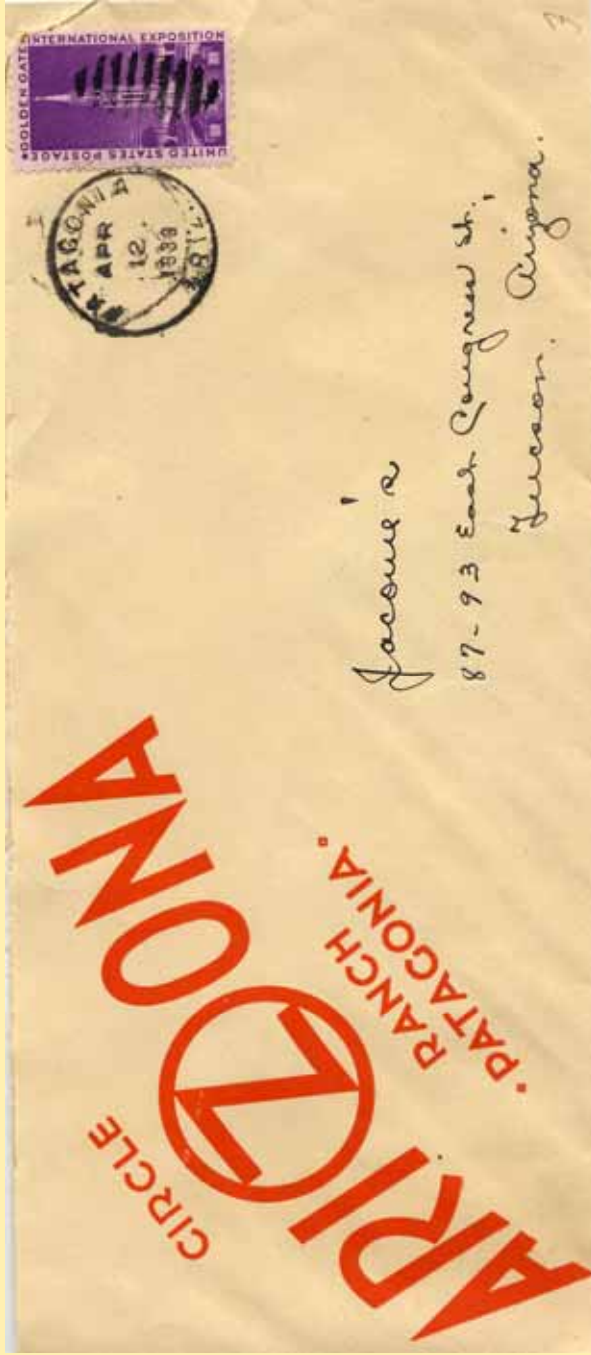
# Arizona State Postmarks

## Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



## Patagonia

3 Catalog Number:







# Arizona State Postmarks

## Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



6 & 8 Catalog Number:



Patagonia



# Arizona State Postmarks

## Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



## Patagonia

11 Catalog Number:



# Ruby



## Arizona State Postmarks Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



1 & 3 Catalog Number:

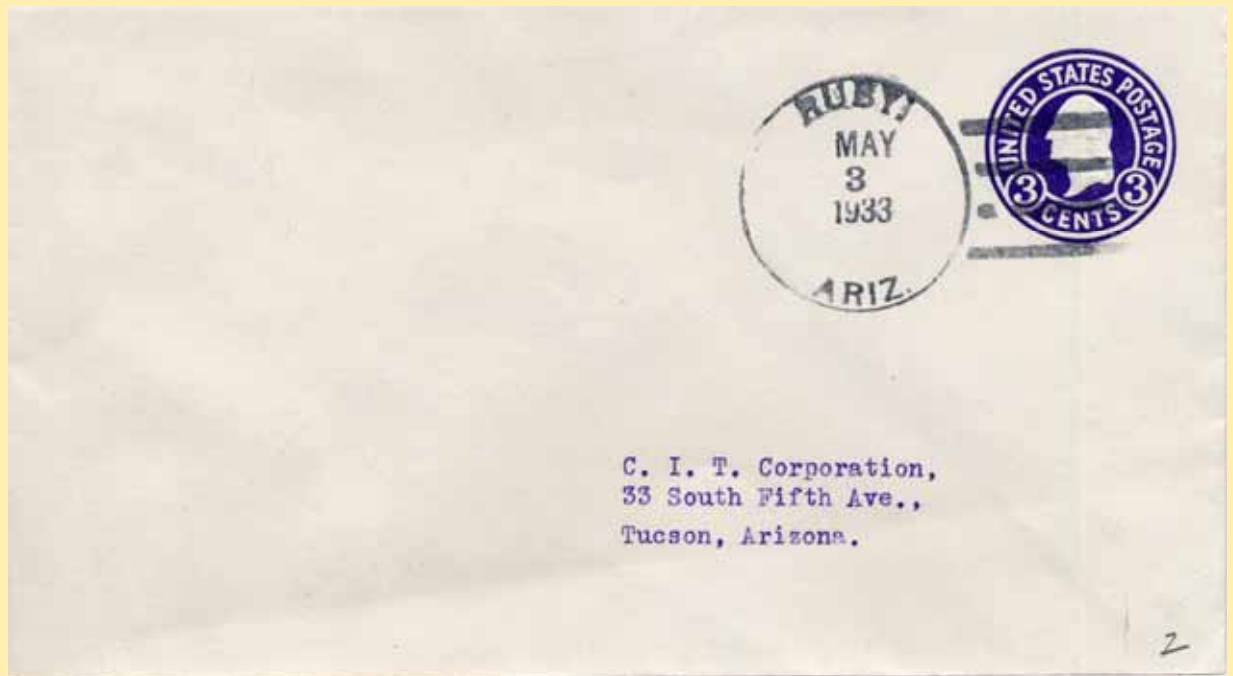


# Ruby



2 Catalog Number:

Arizona State Postmarks  
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# Ruby



3 & 4 Catalog Number:

Arizona State Postmarks  
Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only





# Arizona State Postmarks

## Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



## Ruby

5 Catalog Number:

Last Day Cancellation

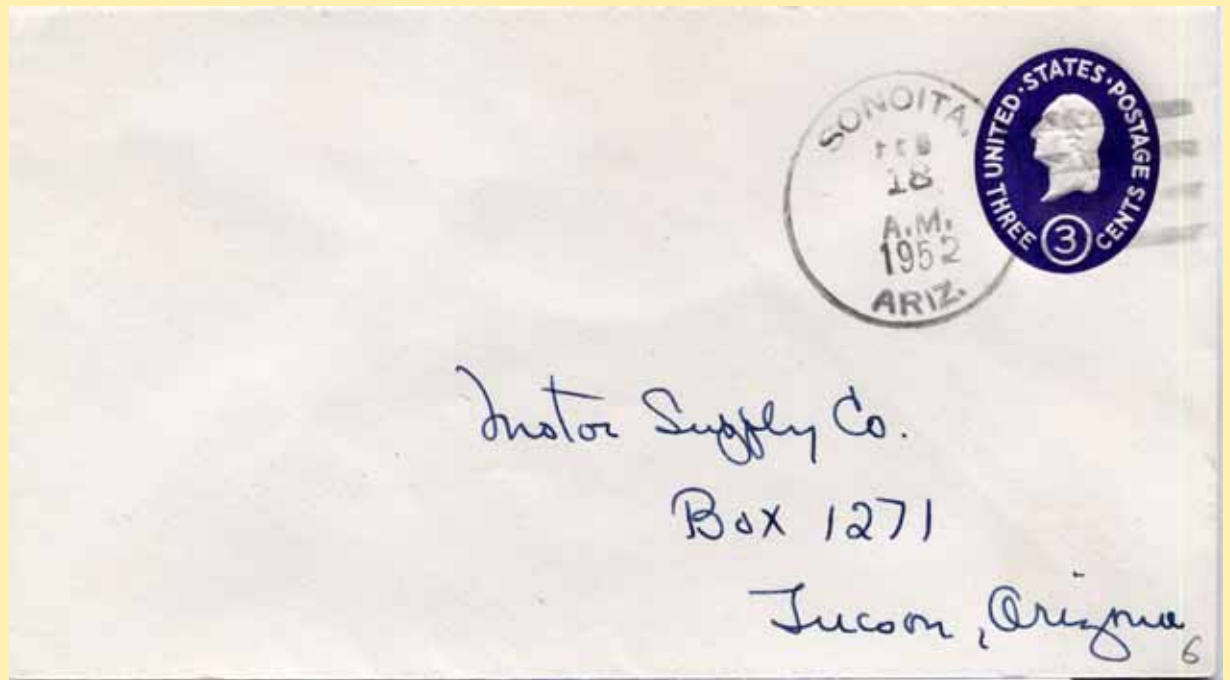
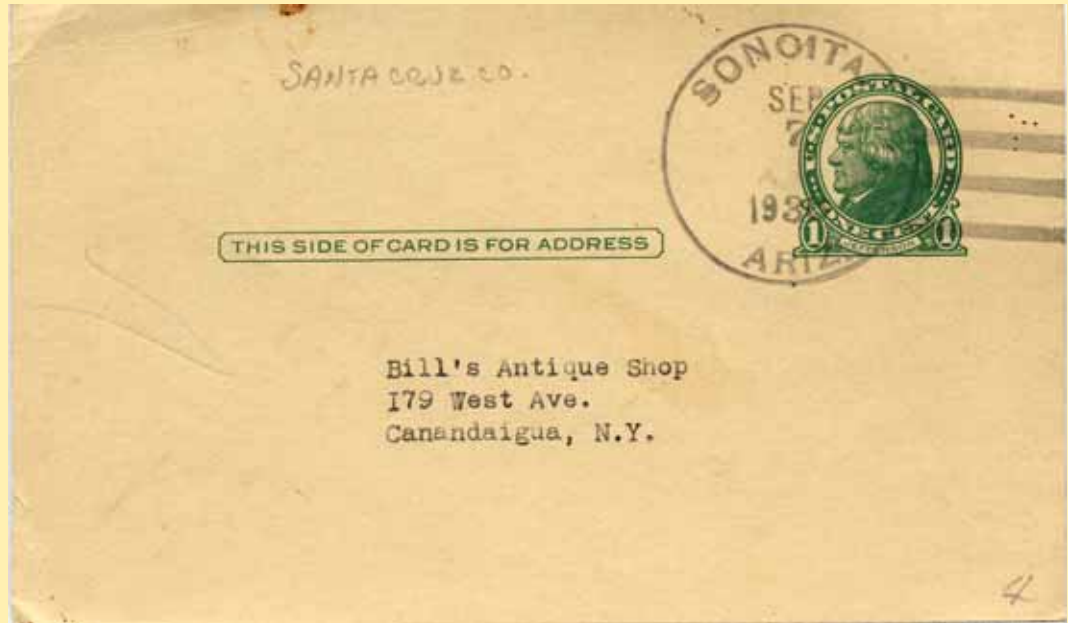


# Sonoita



4 & 6 Catalog Number:

Arizona State Postmarks  
Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only





## Sonoita



7 & 10 Catalog Number:

Arizona State Postmarks  
Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only





# Arizona State Postmarks

## Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



## Sonoita

8 Catalog Number:





# Arizona State Postmarks

## Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



Sonoita

12 Catalog Number:



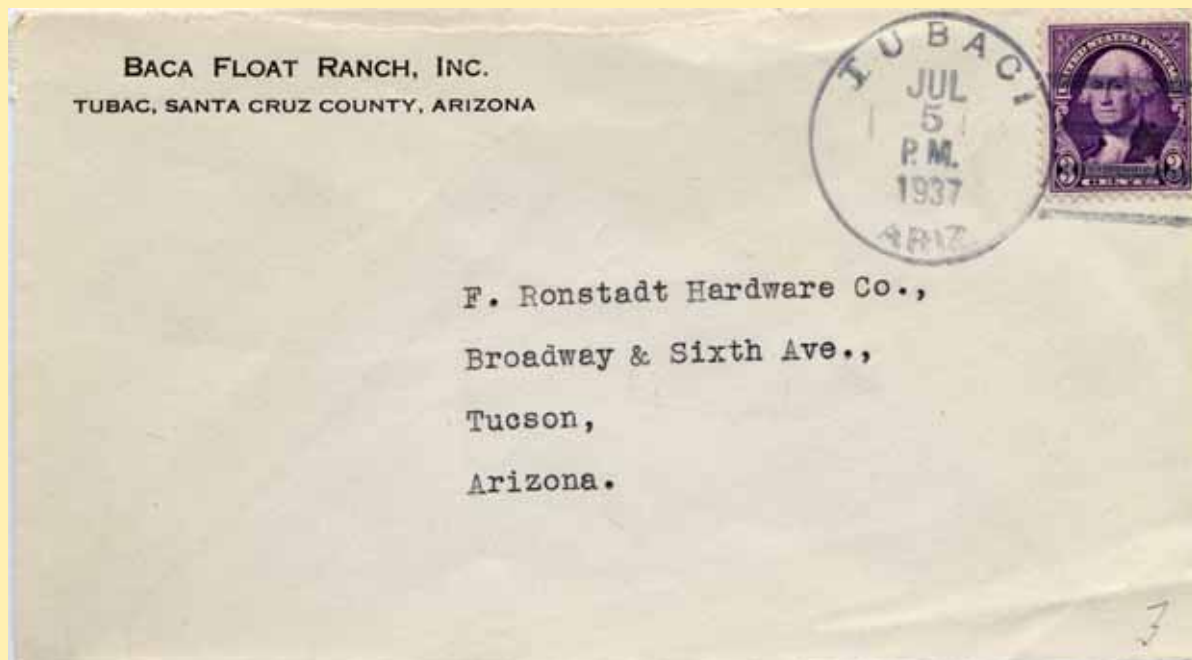
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# Arizona State Postmarks Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



3 Catalog Number:



4 Catalog Number:



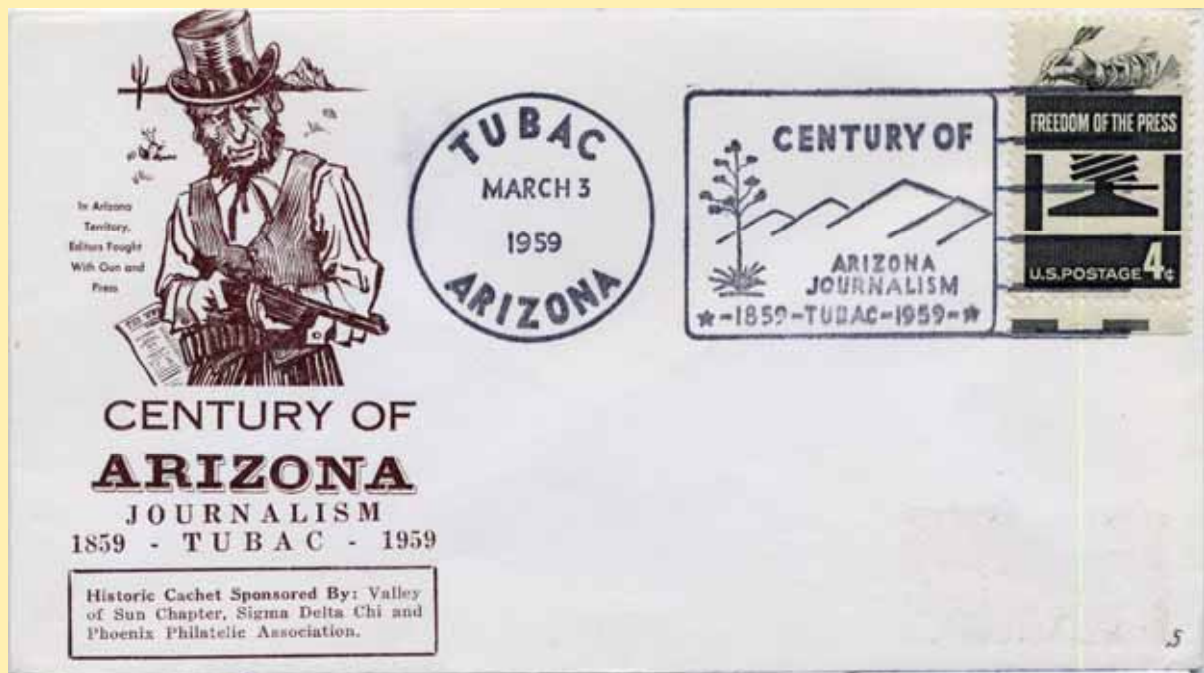
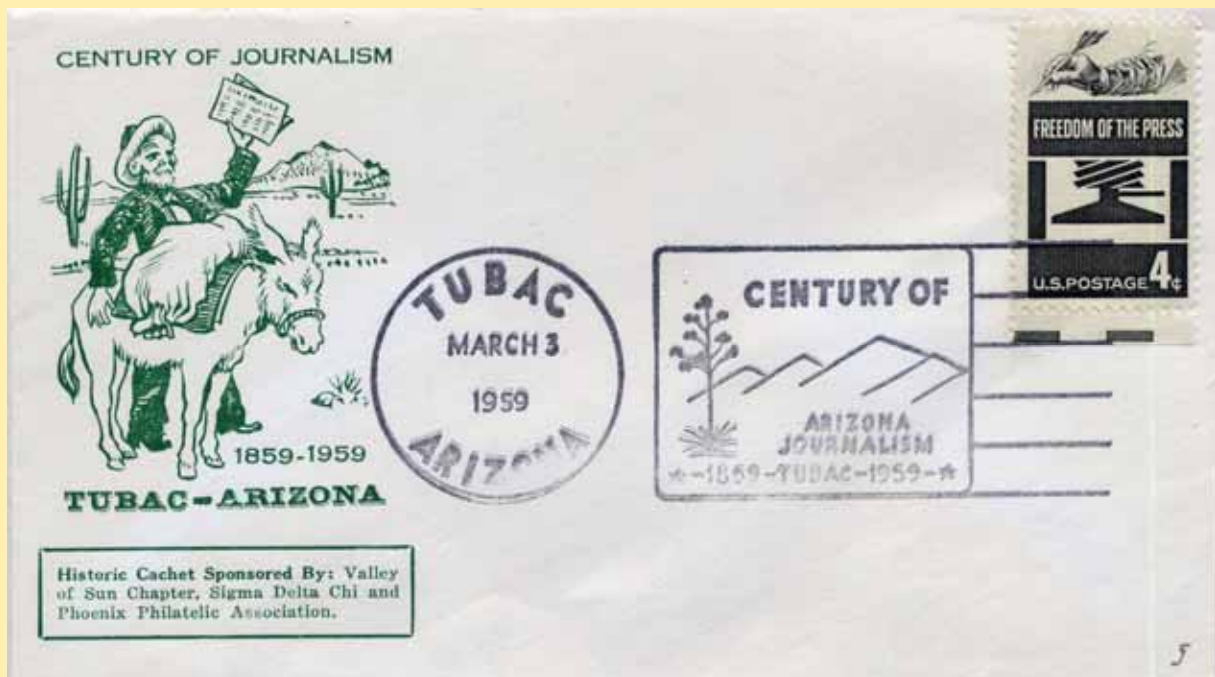
# Tubac



## Arizona State Postmarks Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



5 Catalog Number:







# Arizona State Postmarks

## Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



Tubac

6 Catalog Number:





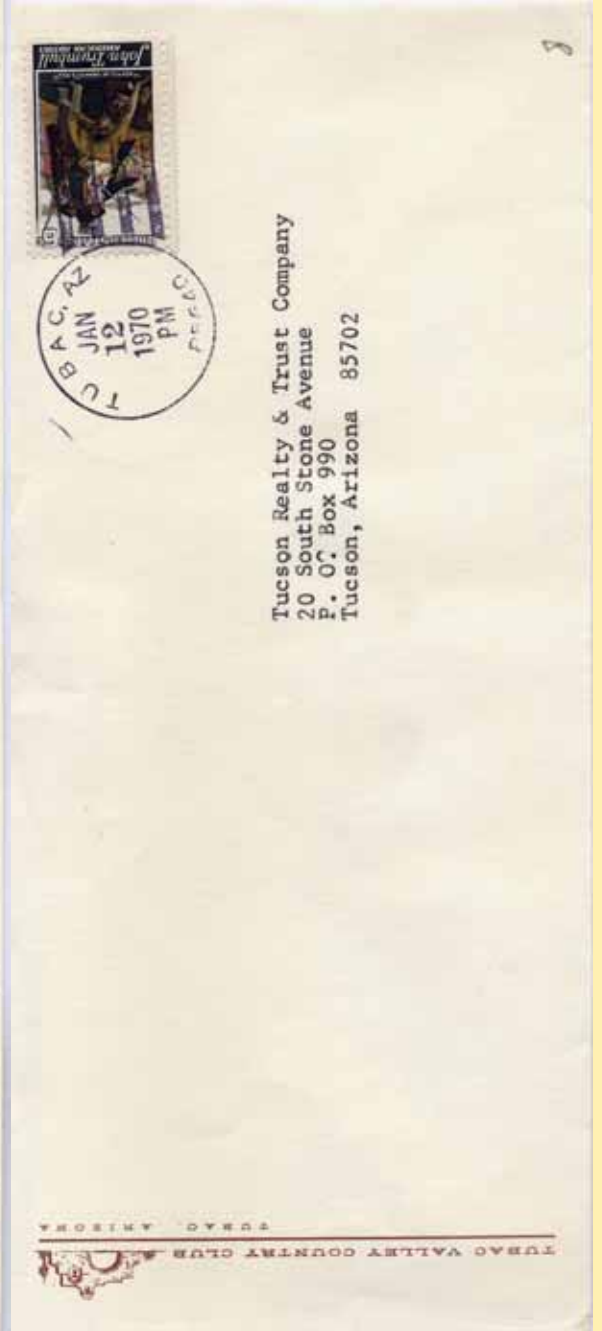
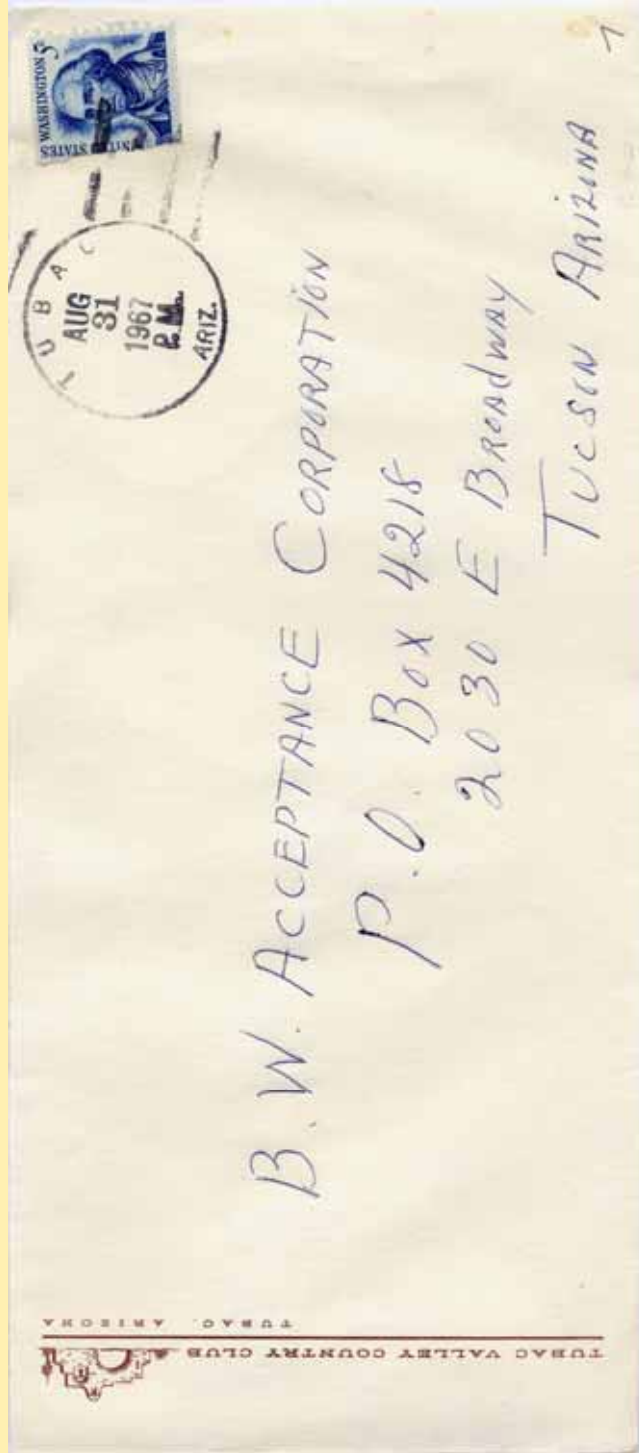
# Arizona State Postmarks

## Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



7 & 8 Catalog Number:

Tubac



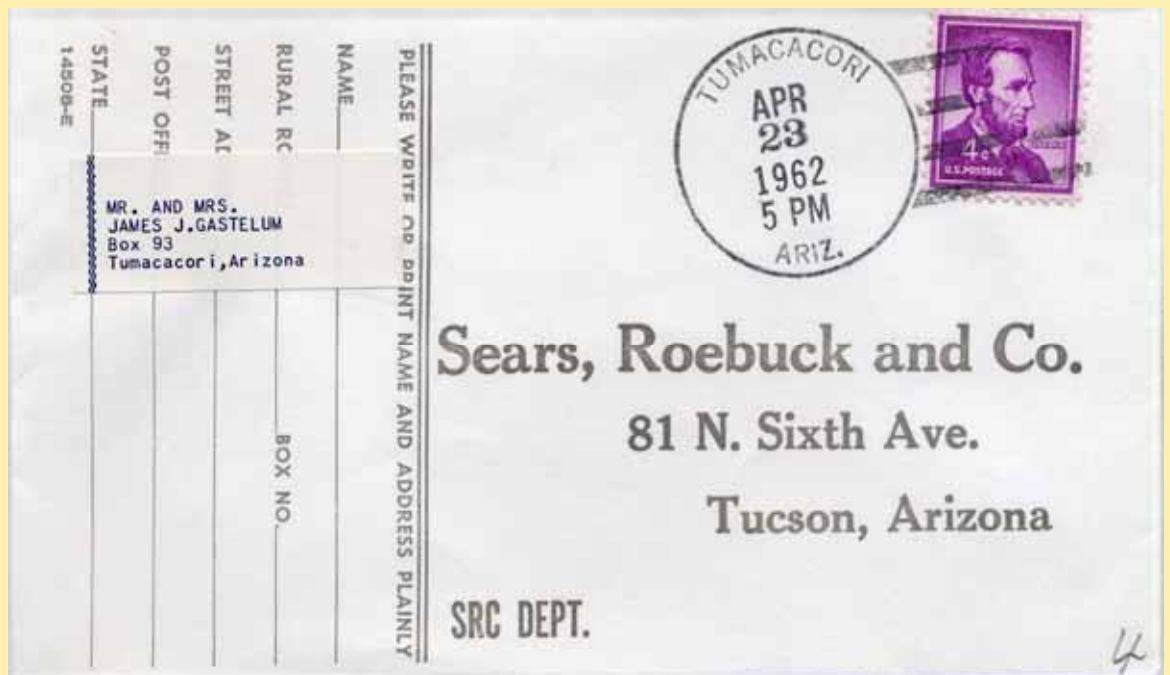
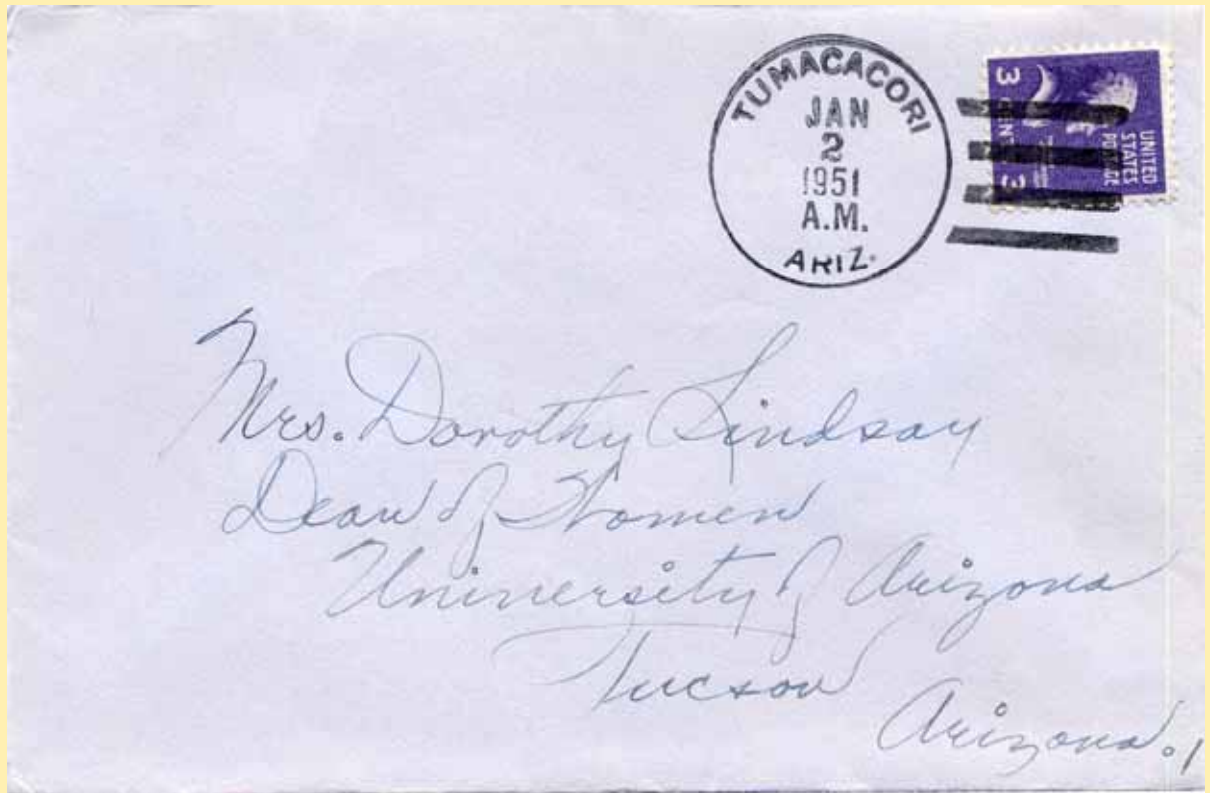


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1 & 4 Catalog Number:

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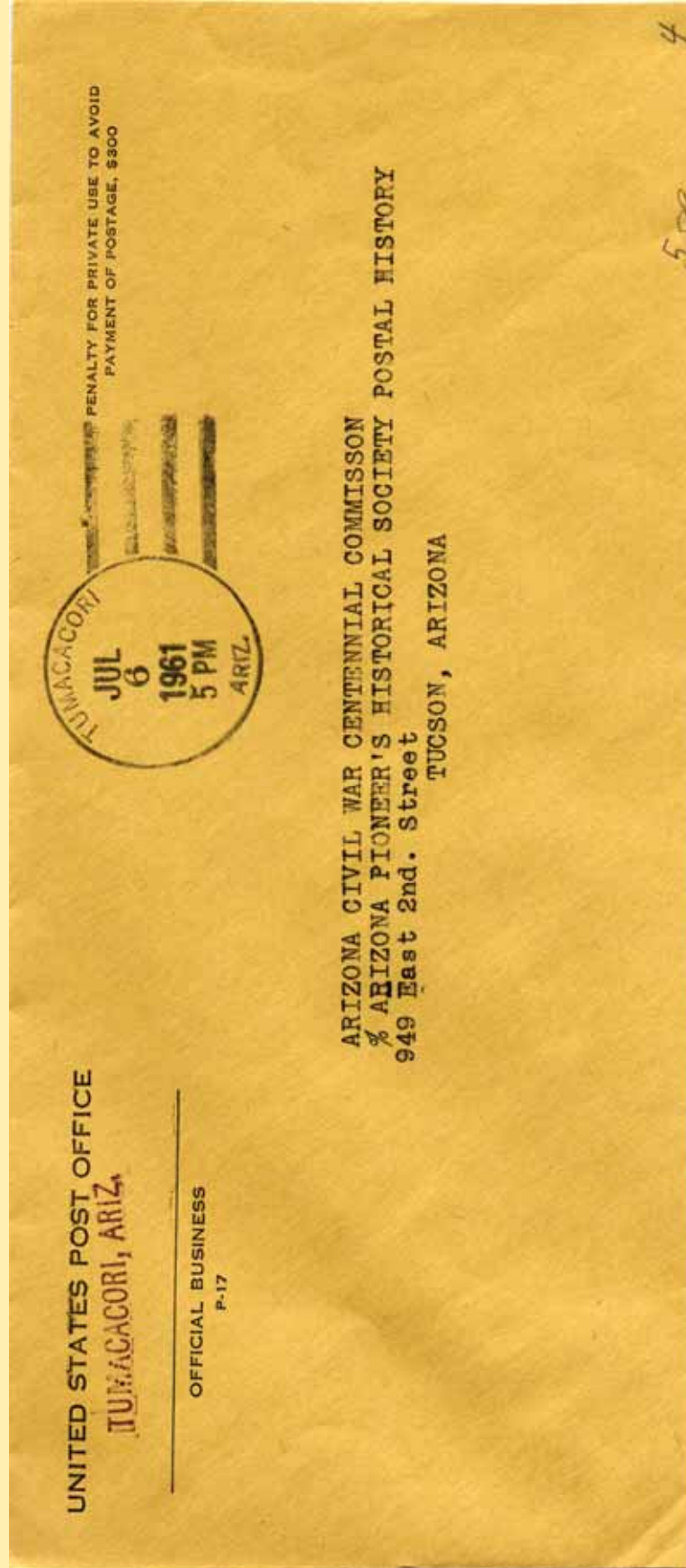


# Arizona State Postmarks

## Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



4 Catalog Number:



Tumacacori

# Tumacacori

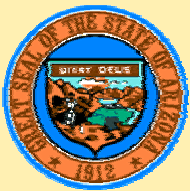


## Arizona State Postmarks Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



7 & 8 Catalog Number:





# Arizona State Postmarks

## Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



10 Catalog Number:



Tumacacori



**Arizona State Postmarks**  
**Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only**



# Arivaca, from Pima County

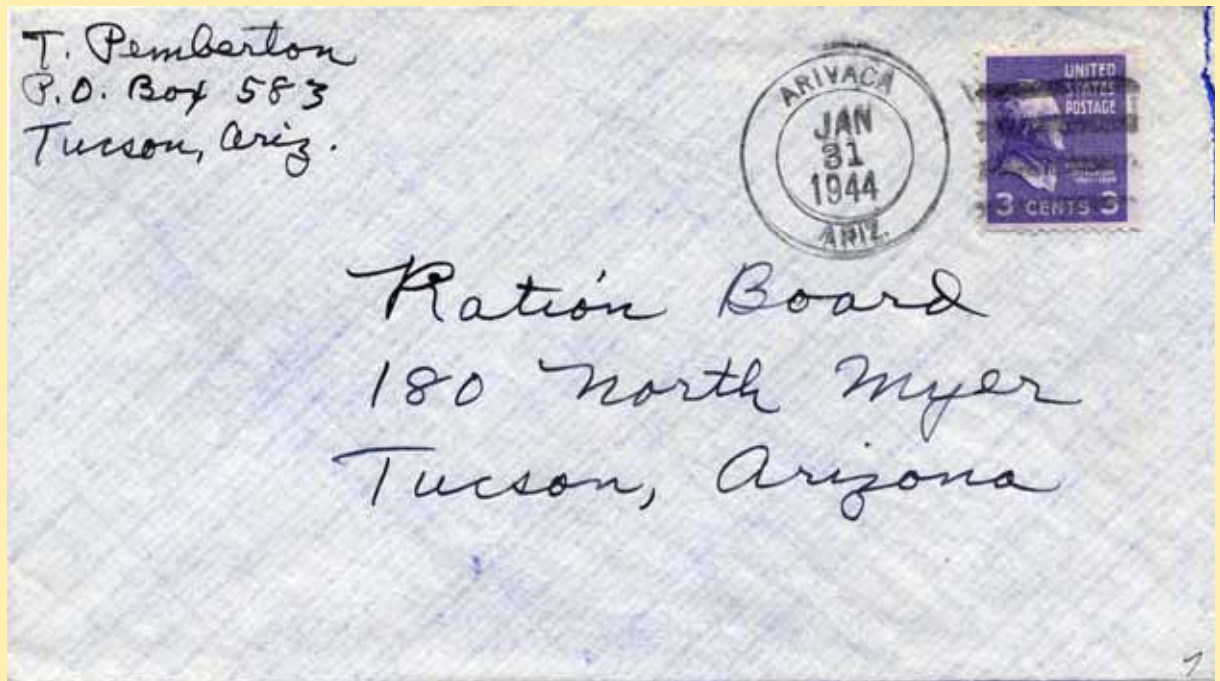
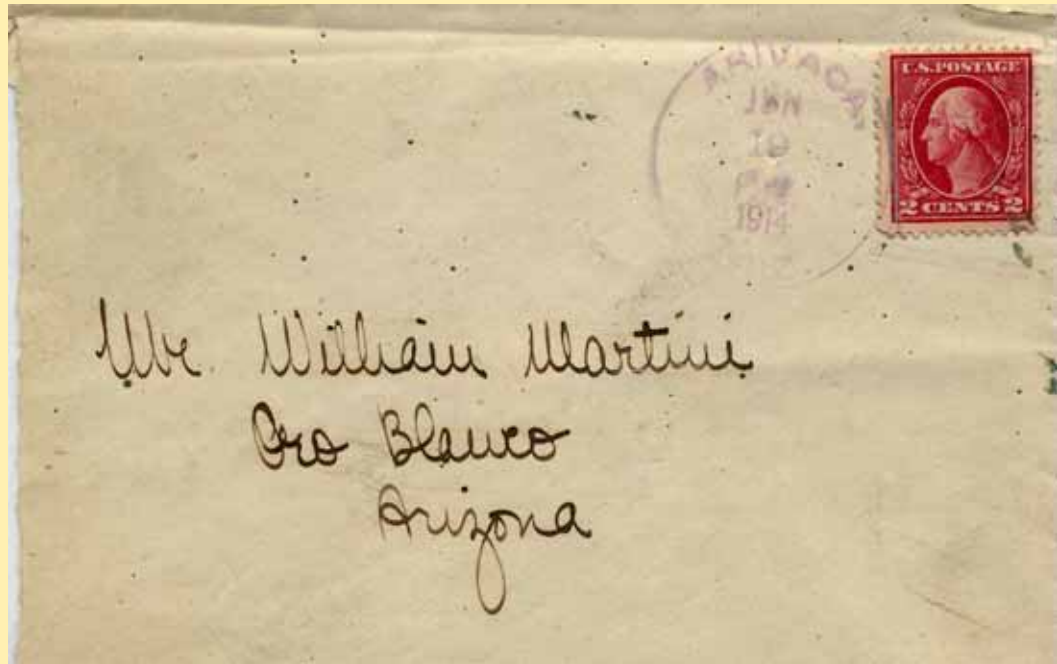


## Arivaca of Pima County



1 & 7 Catalog Number:

Arizona State Postmarks  
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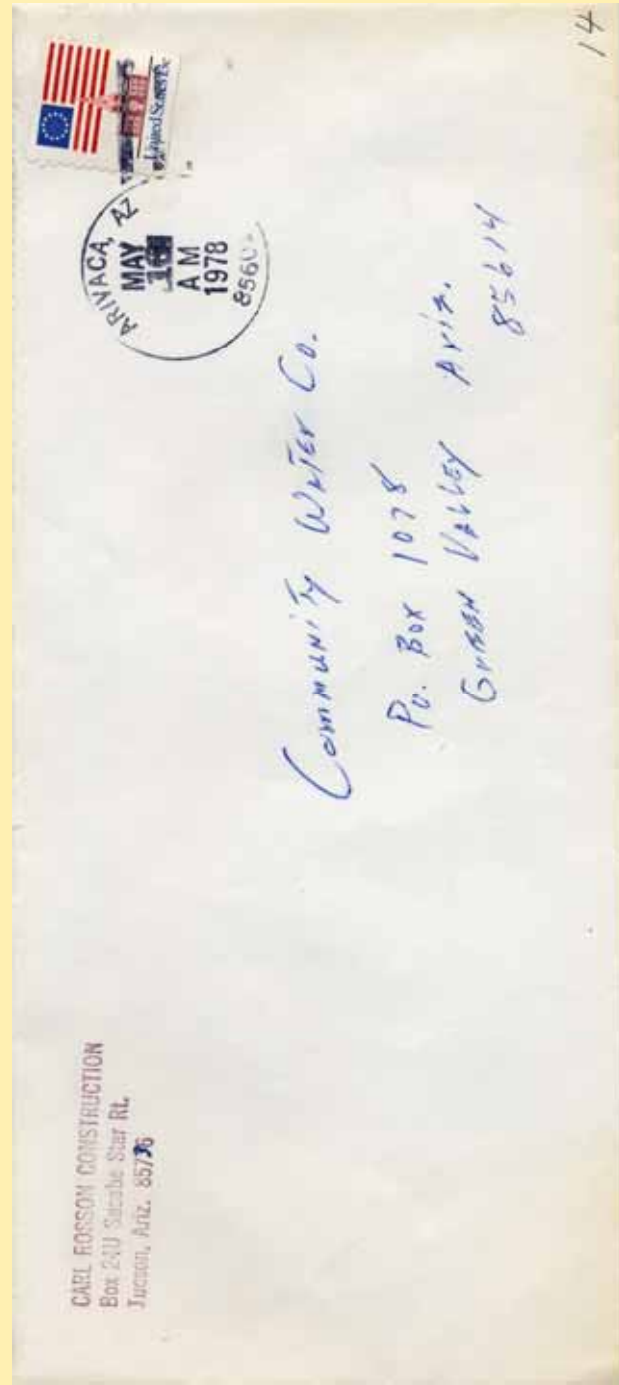


# Arizona State Postmarks

## Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



12 & 14 Catalog Number:



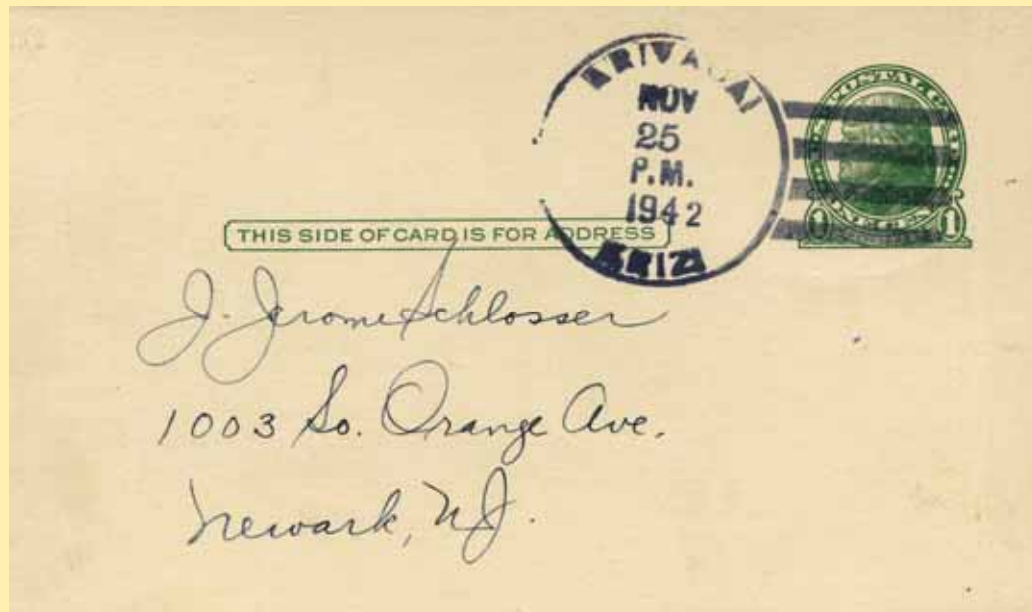
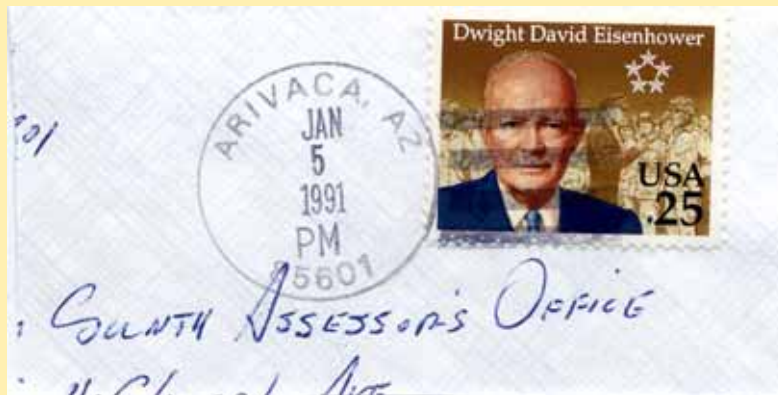
# Arivaca of Pima County



## Arizona State Postmarks Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



1991, 2003 Catalog Number:





**Arizona State Postmarks**  
**Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only**



# Fraser Cover Collection



## Fraser Cover Collection

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**FROM: *Green Valley News and Sun*, Friday, April 23, 2004: Column #15. *Along the Ruby Road—The Fraser Brothers begin mining in Oro Blanco District.* By Bob Ring, Al Ring, Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon.**

John A. Fraser and his older brother Alexander J. Fraser were born in Nova Scotia, Canada - John in 1863 and Alexander in 1860. Immigrating to the United States (Boston area) as children, they came west in the 1880's and began over 20 years of mining together in Colorado.

For John Fraser, the only interruption was a several-month (financially unsuccessful) exploration of the Alaskan Klondike in 1898. Fraser was one of over 100,000 optimistic "stampeder" participating in the Klondike Gold Rush that started in 1897.

Looking for "greener pastures," or in this case, more gold, the Fraser brothers came to the Oro Blanco Mining District (OBMD) in 1903. John Fraser was to be the superintendent for a Connecticut company that had just bought the Ragnarok gold mines from pioneering area miner James Kirkpatrick, the first American to locate the Montana mine in 1877.

The Fraser brothers' attempts to earn a decent living by mining in the OBMD are a study in perseverance. In 1904, Alexander Fraser located eight contiguous mines, listed in the records as Alamo Nos. 1-8, but referred to collectively by the Frasers as Los Alamos. Los Alamos was about four miles southwest of the Montana mine, on the western edge of the OBMD.

John and Alexander also retained a mine in Liberty, Colorado, on the south slope of the Sange de Cristo Mountains. It was at the Liberty mining camp grocery store, actually the post office in one corner, that John Fraser met Ines Chinn, a young schoolteacher in the camp. Years later, in a letter to her grandchildren, Ines recalled the meeting and the courtship that followed:

Well, one evening, a stranger to me, but well known to everyone else, was there waiting for the mail. . . the postmaster and store keeper of course introduced us, and we were "acquainted immediately." I was told that, very soon afterward, that the people present said right away, "There's a match if ever there was one," so I guess it was love at first sight. Anyway, from then on . . . [John] came every day for mail from his camp 2 ½ miles over the ridge . . . and you may picture him "walking me home" to the place where I was boarding and staying pretty late.

By December 4<sup>th</sup> we were engaged and my Solitaire had arrived (mail order) and everybody knew and talked about it. Next morning, when I reached the schoolhouse, the children were chanting: "Teacher got a marriage ring," over and over so I let them admire it, to see the prismatic glisten of the small diamond. They had watched or heard of the arrival of the package at the post office.

John Fraser married Ines Chinn, 17 years his junior, in 1904. It is from John's loving letters to Ines, written during many periods when they were apart, that we can follow the mining history of the Fraser brothers in the OBMD.

In 1904/05, the brothers were officers in the newly formed Gold Mining Assurance Company, attempting to operate the Old Glory gold mine, about two miles south of Ruby. In this venture, the Frasers met and befriended Ambrose and Grace Ring, Bob and Al Ring's paternal grandparents. Unfortunately, the mining of the Old Glory was not productive during this period.

Frustrated with lack of success at both Los Alamos and the Old Glory, the Fraser brothers made short exploration trips outside Arizona's OBMD in 1909-1911 to the Nevada gold fields of Pioneer, Rhyolyte, Ventura, and Nevada Camp. Unsuccessful in Nevada too, the brothers began looking at mining properties across the border in northern Mexico.

In 1914-1919, while still hopeful of the eventual success of Los Alamos, the Fraser brothers at various times did mining work in the OBMD for the (old) Oro Blanco, the Tres Amigos, the El Oro, and the Austerlitz mines.

In 1916 and 1917, mining engineer Alexander Fraser helped develop and check out the new milling operation of the Goldfield Consolidated Mining Company, which was about to begin serious mining of lead and zinc at the Montana mine.

The shooting incident at Casa Piedra, and subsequent restrictions of cross-border traffic by the U. S. military, curtailed the brothers' efforts to develop a productive mine in Mexico.



## Fraser Cover Collection

**FROM: *Green Valley News and Sun*, Friday, April 23, 2004: Column #15. *Along the Ruby Road—The Fraser Brothers begin mining in Oro Blanco District.* By Bob Ring, Al Ring, Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon.**

John Fraser's wife Ines alternated periods of difficult life in the mining camps with her husband with frequent stays in San Diego, California (where the Frasers had visited and established friends) with their growing family.

In later years, Ines wrote about the Alamos camp in a letter to her grandchildren:

I was the only resident white female, in all the years I spent there, and had no over-night visitors for years! . . . picture the isolation, the quiet, the often waterless camp . . . We walked five miles for the mail, often waiting till nearly sundown to avoid the heat, and coming home by moonlight.

When Ines was with John at the Los Alamos, she made the most of life there for her family. She had a piano shipped out from San Diego so she could teach her children to love music.

While Ines was in San Diego, John's letters to her were full of optimistic projections of mining success and hopes for the future.

In another letter to her grandchildren, Ines described John's letters from that period:

They were daily most of that time, though mail in that part of Arizona was only twice or three times a week. His letters were absolutely wonderful, not only as love letters, which were unexcelled even in literature, but were filled with anecdotes, descriptions, quotations in poetry and prose, parodies on many familiar verses and songs, allusions and quotable phrases from English authors I had learned a good deal about, so I could think, respond with some pleasure and satisfaction to both of us.

Unfortunately the Frasers' never realized their hopes and dreams of success in mining. John Fraser's letters show how lonely he was, without his wife for months at a time. Fraser was frustrated with the numerous attempts to make a success, and with how difficult conditions were in his crude mining camp accommodations.

By mid 1919, the Fraser brothers, now both in their late fifties, were ready to give up mining, declare themselves cured of gold fever, and move out of the area. But a new opportunity was about to present itself, one that would change their lives, in fact would end their lives. Phil Clarke was looking to sell the Ruby general store so he could devote full time to raising cattle.

Next time: The Fraser Brothers Acquire the Ruby Mercantile (Sources: Fraser family records, Nogales *Border Vidette*)

**Accompanying Figure 1:** Frasers on horseback

**Accompanying Figure 2:** Frasers washing gold

**Accompanying Figure 3:** Alexander Fraser

**Caption 1:** John and Ines Fraser (seated behind on the horse on the right) riding with Mrs. Ambrose Ring near Warsaw Camp – 1905. (Photo from Ring family private collection)

**Caption 2:** Ines Fraser (with shovel) is "gold washing" at the Los Alamos gold mine. John Fraser stands at the top of the bank of dirt. Circa 1911 (Photo from Fraser family private collection)

**Caption 3:** Alexander Fraser, in white shirt and tie, poses with miners at one of the Fraser brothers' Oro Blanco mines. Circa 1917 (Photo from Fraser family private collection)



## Fraser Cover Collection

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**FROM: *Green Valley News and Sun*, Friday, May 7, 2004: Column #16. *Along the Ruby Road—The Fraser Brothers Acquire the Ruby Mercantile*. By Bob Ring, Al Ring, Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon.**

For the last six months of 1919, Alexander and John Fraser thought about buying Ruby's general store from Phil Clarke.

The brothers had spent 16 years in the district trying to earn a living by mining, but never achieved any real success.

They were looking for something more profitable and much more dependable.

They thought that running the successful Ruby general store might be the answer.

John Fraser's letters to his wife Ines, in San Diego awaiting the birth of their fourth child, reveal the difficulties in coming to terms with Clarke.

In September 1919, frustrated with negotiating with Clarke about the business, Fraser wrote that "I have given up the store idea..."

But a few days later, he wrote of Clarke, "A good deal could be made with him if one had the money to back an offer ...Clarke gave every indication of being both eager and willing to accept any reasonable offer."

**Patrol shifted:** In a Sept. 15th letter, Fraser noted that the U. S. Army had shifted the Casa Piedra trooper patrol, stationed just south of Ruby on the border with Mexico, to another location. He viewed this positively, since it eased his border crossings to visit his mining interests in Mexico.

At the time he did not fully appreciate the protection value that the troopers provided for Ruby.

After unsuccessfully trying to get Ines' brother-in-law to come in on the deal to buy the store, John and Alexander agreed to go ahead on their own.

From San Diego, where John Fraser had gone to attend the birth of his child, he wrote his sister Annie in Boston, "We are about to take over the Montana store at Ruby, which has a pretty good business."

Returning to the Oro Blanco Mining District in January 1920, after the birth of his daughter Constance in San Diego on Nov. 19, 1919, John Fraser moved quickly to close the deal with Clarke.

Though the final papers had not yet been signed, by mid- January, the Clarkes had moved out of the store and John and Alexander had moved in, and begun to operate the place.

In a Jan. 23rd letter to Ines, still in San Diego, John Fraser wrote: "The Mexicans say the border is open to them now...The patrol is being taken away from Bear Valley today."

**Closed the deal:** The Army removed the two closest patrols of protective troops from the Ruby area just as the Fraser brothers completed their deal to take over the Ruby mercantile.

The brothers closed the deal with Clarke on Feb. 16. A first payment of \$765 was due on April 1st, a payment John Fraser hoped to make from the store's profits.

Recognizing that money would be tight for a while, he wrote Ines concerning her financial needs in San Diego, "I guess dear heart, you will have to draw on your savings deposits for a while."

Ines Fraser yearned to return to her beloved husband in Ruby. She expressed her sentiments in this beautiful poem:



John and Ines Fraser, with daughter Daphne, visited Julius and Lille Andrews, the Ruby storeowners in 1911.



John and Ines Fraser's older children, Richard and Daphne, pose with troopers of the protective 120<sup>th</sup> Cavalry in 1919.

## Fraser Cover Collection

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**FROM:** *Green Valley News and Sun, Friday, May 7, 2004: Column #16. Along the Ruby Road—The Fraser Brothers Acquire the Ruby Mercantile.* By Bob Ring, Al Ring, Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon.

Wide sky and far horizon,  
Mild air and shimmering light,  
Brown hills and yellow valleys,  
And close pricked-stars at night.  
The canyons cool and drafty;  
The friendly, silent moon;  
The peace, the room, the freedom;  
The clear-cut desert moon  
Far out from towns and traffic,  
I'm going back some day  
Remote, alone and quiet  
To live, to love, to stay.  
--Ines A. Fraser

**New career:** Back in Ruby, the Fraser brothers launched their new career. By Feb. 23, the Frasers' own letter-head appeared on the Ruby mercantile stationary. They purchased Clarke's goods and ordered their own first shipment of new goods. They kept cash received from sales, and money to make change, in a safe in the post office section of the store.

According to his letters to Ines, John Fraser kept busy planting vegetables and flowers around the store and residence. He happily planned for the day in the near future when his family would join him in Ruby.

Next time: The Ruby Mercantile - The First Robbery

*(Source: Fraser family records)*

*Do you have any related documents, photos, or personal histories that you could share with us? If so, please contact: Al Ring, 7686 E. Camino Amistoso, Tucson, AZ 85750, 520-529-0910, ringal@msn.com*

## Fraser Cover Collection

**FROM: *Green Valley News and Sun*, Friday, May 21, 2004: Column #17. *Along the Ruby Road—The Ruby Mercantile—The First Robbery.*** By Bob Ring, Al Ring, Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon.

Tragedy struck only 11 days after the Fraser brothers completed the deal to buy the Ruby mercantile from Phil Clarke.

On Feb. 27, 1920, two Mexican bandits robbed the store and brutally attacked Alexander and John Fraser.

Former storeowner Phil Clarke later wrote about what happened: "On the morning (Friday, Feb. 27)...Alex opened the store as usual. While he busied himself arranging the shelves, two Mexicans entered with pistols in their hand.

"John, who was in the back room washing the breakfast dishes, heard the door of the store open and close, then a shot that was almost immediately followed by the ring of the cash register.

"Although I had cautioned them repeatedly and thoroughly about keeping guns in every room (they had taken my advice and placed a shot-gun or rifle in several corners), John rushed into the store without a gun.

He saw a man he knew as Lara standing over the body of his brother with a pistol still smoking in his hand. Lara seized John and forced him to open the safe. After he and his accomplice, Garcia, also known to the Frasers, cleaned out the safe, Lara shot John in the eye. John fell unconscious to the floor. The Mexicans took what else they could carry and started off for the border.

"Later, Jose Cuesta of Ruby entered the store and found that Alex was dead but that John still lived. He rushed for the Justice of Peace, (John) Moloney. I was also notified. John regained consciousness and identified the murderers (Mexicans Ezequiel Lara and Manuel Garcia). John was taken to Nogales ..."

**Appalled at sight:** County Ranger Oliver Parmer, at the scene of the murders soon after the crime, provided additional details on Alexander and John Fraser's wounds:

"Although we were prepared for the sight of death, we were appalled at the grisly scene within the post office. Alexander was dead. A bullet had entered his back, coursing to the front, and a second had penetrated his head. [Clarke's account did not mention a second shot.] This unquestionably had caused instant death.

"John had been shot through the left eye and the bullet had passed through his skull. He was alive . ..."

Parmer went on to say about the crime: "Gunplay was not uncommon in Arizona where, due perhaps to the lingering spirit of the Old West, men often faced each other and shot it out.

"But this was different. Alexander Fraser had been shot in the back in cold blood."

Phil Clarke's wife, Gypsy, added her perspective to the crime aftermath:

"Almost at once, the stage arrived and it was sent back to Arivaca, 12 miles away, with the alarm...Before five o'clock, the...doctor arrived from Arivaca...John Fraser explained everything to the smallest detail.

"Police Chief Bailey and his hounds from Tucson, and Santa Cruz County Sheriff Raymond Earhart formed a posse the day after the murders to search the border country. But the bandits had successfully escaped into Mexico."

Chief Bailey reported, "Approximately \$200 in cash and \$300 in merchandise was taken" in the robbery. Ironically, the bandits overlooked \$700 in thrift stamps in the post office safe.

Early on Saturday morning (Feb. 28), from Nogales, with John Fraser in the military base hospital there, Sheriff Earhart's office sent this telegram to Ines Fraser in San Diego: 1920 FEB 28 AM 9 01  
ALEXANDER SHOT AND KILLED YOUR HUSBAND SHOT BUT BELIEVE HE WILL RECOVER AS HE IS RESTING EASY

An hour and a half later, Earhart's office sent a second telegram from the hospital to Ines: 1920 FEB 28 AM 10 28  
YOUR HUSBAND HERE IN HOSPITAL HE REQUESTS YOU COME AT ONCE RUBY STORE ROBBED HE WAS WOUNDED



By the time the Fraser brothers took over in early 1920, the Ruby mercantile included additions for a Post Office and an icehouse. The view is to the south from the back of the store. The Mexican border was only five miles away. (Photo from Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon private collection.)



## Fraser Cover Collection

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**FROM: *Green Valley News and Sun*, Friday, May 21, 2004: Column #17. *Along the Ruby Road—The Ruby Mercantile—The First Robbery*. By Bob Ring, Al Ring, Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon.**

That same afternoon, Ines received a third and final telegram: 1920 FEB 28 PM 2 12  
CONDITION SERIOUS LEAVE SATURDAY TAKE STAGE TUCSON FOR NOGALES

Ines Fraser and her new baby daughter Constance arrived at the hospital in Nogales on Monday afternoon, accompanied by Ines Fraser's sister, Mrs. Mary Steele of El Paso, Texas.

Sadly, Mrs. Fraser arrived to find that her husband had died earlier that morning.

Following a double funeral, mourners buried Alexander and John Fraser in the Nogales cemetery on March 6th, the bodies having been held awaiting the arrival of the brothers' sister Annie from Boston.

**Limited assets:** On March 12, Ines and Annie "went over to Ruby to look out for the property interests" of the Fraser brothers.

The probate of the murdered brothers' estates on March 18 revealed that their limited assets consisted only of the stock of goods in the store and about \$1,500 each. John had \$500 in a bank; Alexander had \$1,000.

The brothers' mines brought no money; they just weren't worth anything at that time.

Ines turned the problem of what to do about the store over to Phil Clarke and on March 19, she departed for San Diego, Calif.

County Ranger Parmer later summed up the tragedy: "As to the characters of the Fraser brothers, I learned much from Justice Maloney and others whom I questioned later. They had lived in Ruby [the area] for a number of years, were unobtrusive, well liked, and had no known enemies. They were especially kind to the Mexicans...often extending them credit for food. Seldom, indeed, had a crime seemed more cold-blooded."

Next time: The Shootout with the Fraser Brothers Murderer

(Sources: Nogales Herald; Phil Clarke "Recollections of Life in Arivaca and Ruby, 1906-1926," Arizona Historical Society; Oliver Parmer and Kathleen O'Donnell, "How We Trapped the Deadly Border Bandits," *Startling Detective Adventures*, 1936; Gypsy Clarke letter to her brother, 1920, reprinted in *Southern Arizona Trails*, 1990; Tucson Citizen; Fraser family records; Nogales The Oasis; Santa Cruz County Probate Court Cases 442 and 443)

Do you have any related documents, photos, or personal histories that you could share with us? If so, please contact: Al Ring, 7686 E. Camino Amistoso, Tucson, AZ 85750, 520-529-0910, [ringal@msn.com](mailto:ringal@msn.com)



## Fraser Cover Collection

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**FROM: *Green Valley News and Sun*, Wednesday, June 2, 2004: Column #18.** *Along the Ruby Road*—The shootout with the Fraser Brothers murderer—By Bob Ring, Al Ring, Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon

On Feb. 27, 1920, two Mexican bandits, Manuel Garcia and Ezequiel Lara, robbed the Ruby Mercantile and brutally murdered the store's new owners, brothers John and Alexander Fraser.

The bandits quickly fled over the border (only five miles to the south) and escaped into Mexico.

County Ranger Oliver Parmer reported the initial results of the search for the murderers of the Fraser brothers: "In the months that followed, the investigation went on with Santa Cruz County Sheriff Earhart flooding the country with circulars describing the post office killings. Many suspects were rounded up by able officers, but no charges were made."

On March 11th, Mexican authorities stated that they wanted both Garcia and Lara in Mexico for crimes committed there. In fact, both fugitives were renegades from the Mexican federal army. Mexican authorities declared that they, "will never give up the hunt until both bandits...are captured and executed."

In October, there was a break in the manhunt. Officers learned that Garcia had re-crossed the international border from Mexico (perhaps driven across the border by zealous Mexican search efforts). Lawmen tracked Garcia to the ranch of a Mexican, named Bojorques, two miles west of Twin Buttes (about eight miles northwest of today's Green Valley).

Lara's mother lived in Twin Buttes. Garcia and Lara had both worked at the Twin Buttes mine before the Fraser brother murders, so that was one of the areas that authorities kept an eye on. Garcia must not have realized that he had been identified as one of the Fraser brothers killers.

**Long-time fugitive:** (Note: Garcia had long been a fugitive from justice. He was also wanted for the murder of a customer during a bank robbery on Dec. 9, 1916, in Buckeye, Arizona, a few miles west of Phoenix.)

On Oct. 12, 1920, officials assigned Pima County Deputy Sheriffs George McLure and George Holloway to make the arrest. The Tucson Citizen reported what happened: "They arrived at the ranch about eight o'clock and found the man they wanted in the corral."

"Garcia submitted quietly but asked permission to go into the small adobe shack and change his trousers."

"He went in ahead of McLure who was more or less blinded by the darkness of the house and did not see that Garcia darted for the bed and drew from the pillow a heavy revolver until Garcia whirled and fired point blank at McLure, who was close by his side. [McLure was wounded seriously, the bullet going in his right side, through his intestines and almost exiting in the region of the spine.] After he [Garcia] fired he struck McLure down with the butt of the gun. George Holloway was in the house at the sound of the shot with his hand on his revolver ready to draw. As he ran in, the Mexican met him with the butt of his revolver. He struck Holloway on the shoulder as Holloway instinctively ducked. As he struck, the revolver bounced out of the Mexican's hand and he grasped Holloway by both arms to prevent him from drawing. Together they wrestled over the body of McLure, who recovering raised on his elbow. Holloway shouted to him to shoot and then, believing he was getting the better of it told him not to shoot. Finally Holloway got hold of the Mexican by the topknot and putting all his strength, yanked him forward. The Mexican released Holloway's gun arm and backed away, his head down. He jerked loose and staggered back. As he did so, both McLure and Holloway fired. One bullet hit him on each side the chest and he fell dead."

**Deputy recovered:** For a few days there were fears that Deputy McLure would not survive the shootout. But, McLure did indeed recover. Two weeks after the incident he answered a letter of concern from murder victim John Fraser's widow, Ines Fraser: "I received your appreciated letter this morning and will say that I am very near recovery only a little weak...I am very glad that Garcia has run his race and will bother no one else. To say that he was cruel puts it mildly."

"You may rest assured that if Lara is heard of in this country that the sheriff's office here will do all in its power to capture or kill him... ."

Ezequiel Lara never did come back to the United States, at least not long enough to be caught. On June 11, 1921, the Nogales Herald reported that: "Ezequiel Lara, a Mexican on whose head there has been placed a bounty by the sheriff of Santa Cruz County, for the killing of the Frazer brothers of Ruby, Arizona has at last been apprehended (on June 7) and is at this time incarcerated at Ures, Sonora, Mexico, awaiting trial for the killing of a Chinese merchant."

## Fraser Cover Collection

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**FROM: *Green Valley News and Sun*, Wednesday, June 2, 2004: Column #18.** *Along the Ruby Road*—The shootout with the Fraser Brothers murderer—By Bob Ring, Al Ring, Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon

On Sept. 1, 1921, the Nogales Herald reported Lara's final fate: "Ezequiel Lara, leader of the two bandits wanted for the killing of the Fraser brothers at Ruby, Arizona, Feb. 27, of last year, is in jail at Hermosillo, Sonora (about 170 miles south of the border) according to word brought here today...it is alleged, [Lara] killed a Chinaman at Ures, Sonora. He was captured, escaped, and was recaptured four days ago . ..."

Though he was not put away for the murders of the Fraser brothers, Lara's imprisonment in Mexico effectively ended that crime saga.

But another, even more brutal crime, was about to take place at the same Ruby Mercantile.

Next time: The Ruby Mercantile - The Second Robbery

(Sources: Oliver Parmer and Kathleen O'Donnell, "How We Trapped the Deadly Border Bandits," Startling Detective Adventures, 1936; Nogales Herald; Arizona Republican; Tucson Citizen; Fraser family records)

Do you have any related documents, photos, or personal histories that you could share with us? If so, please contact: Al Ring, 7686 E. Camino Amistoso, Tucson, AZ 85750, 520-529-0910, [ringal@msn.com](mailto:ringal@msn.com)

**Caption:** In happier times, Ines Fraser and children pose for John Fraser on the front porch of their shack at the Los Alamos mine. Circa 1911 (Photo from Fraser family records)



# Fraser Cover Collection

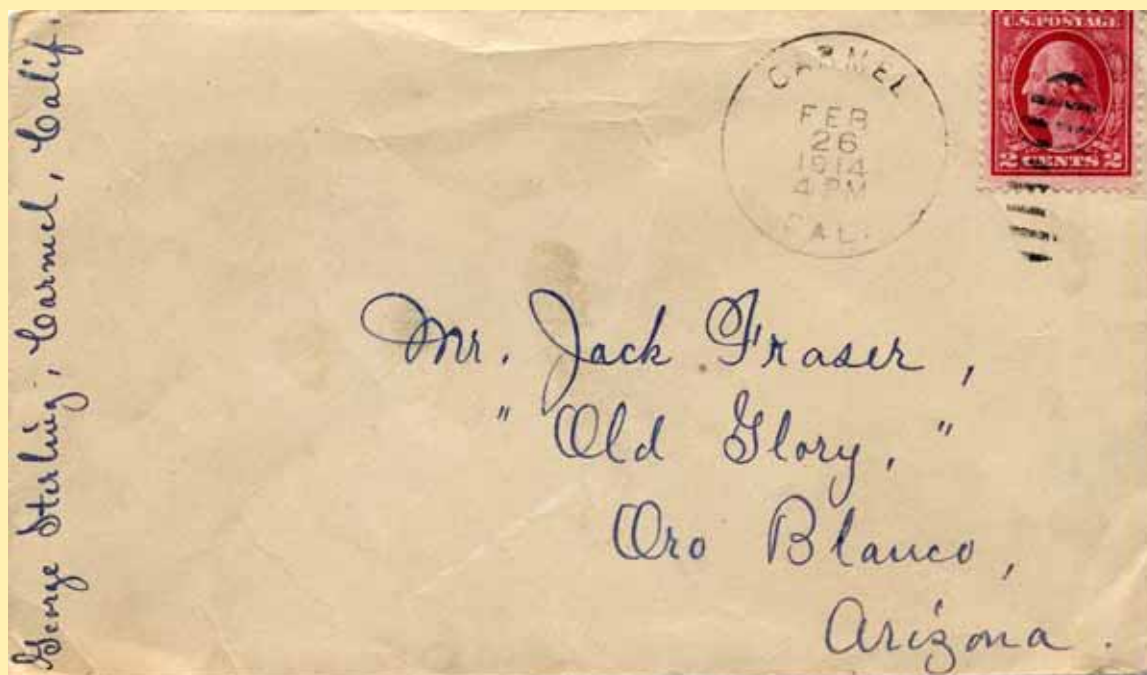


## Arizona State Postmarks

Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



Carmel & Redondo Beach California



# Fraser Cover Collection



## Arizona State Postmarks Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



San Diego & San Francisco



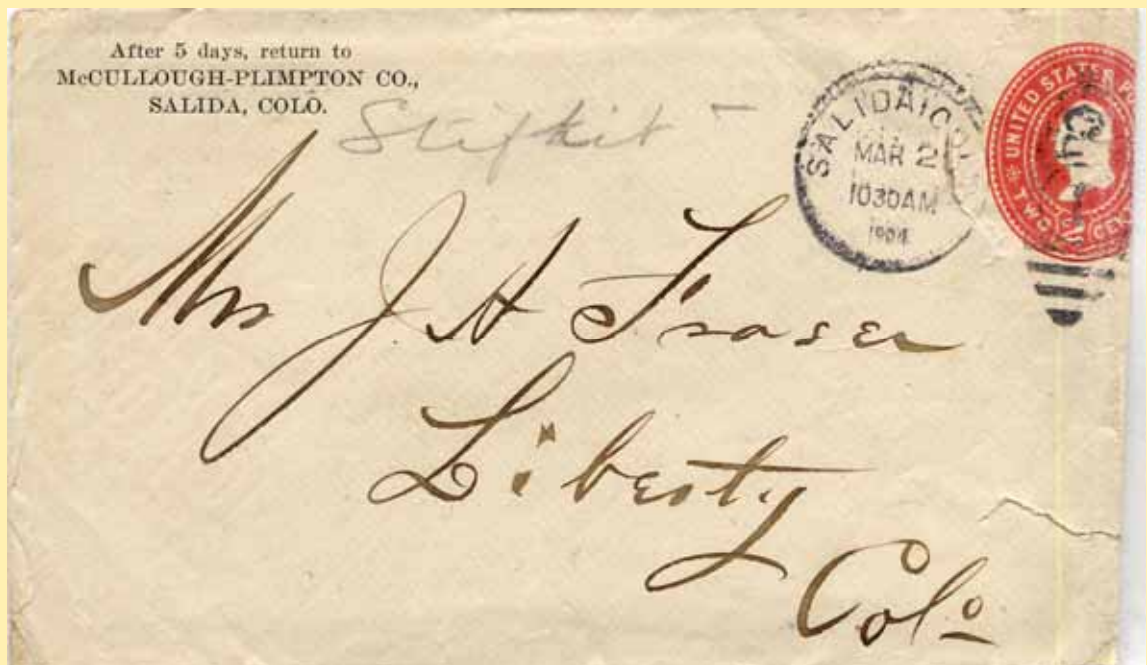


## Fraser Cover Collection



Salida Colorado

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Fraser Cover Collection



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Salida Colorado & Boston Mass



# Fraser Cover Collection



Arizona State Postmarks  
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El Paso, Texas & Arivaca, Arizona



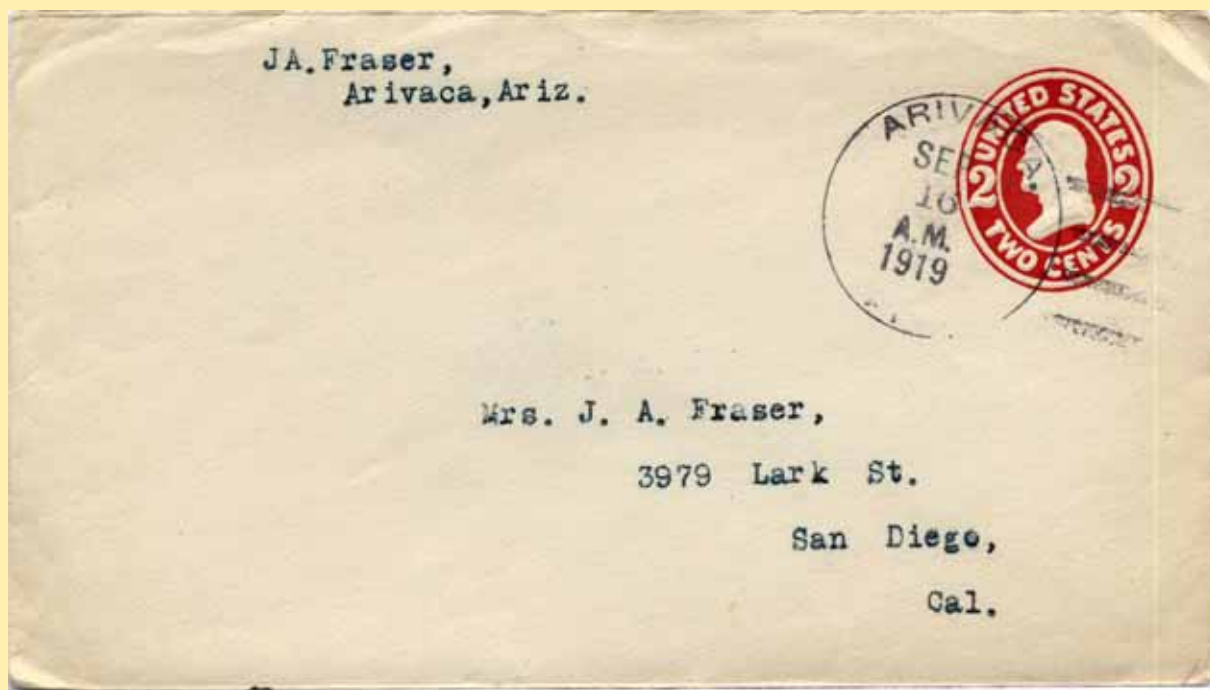
# Fraser Cover Collection



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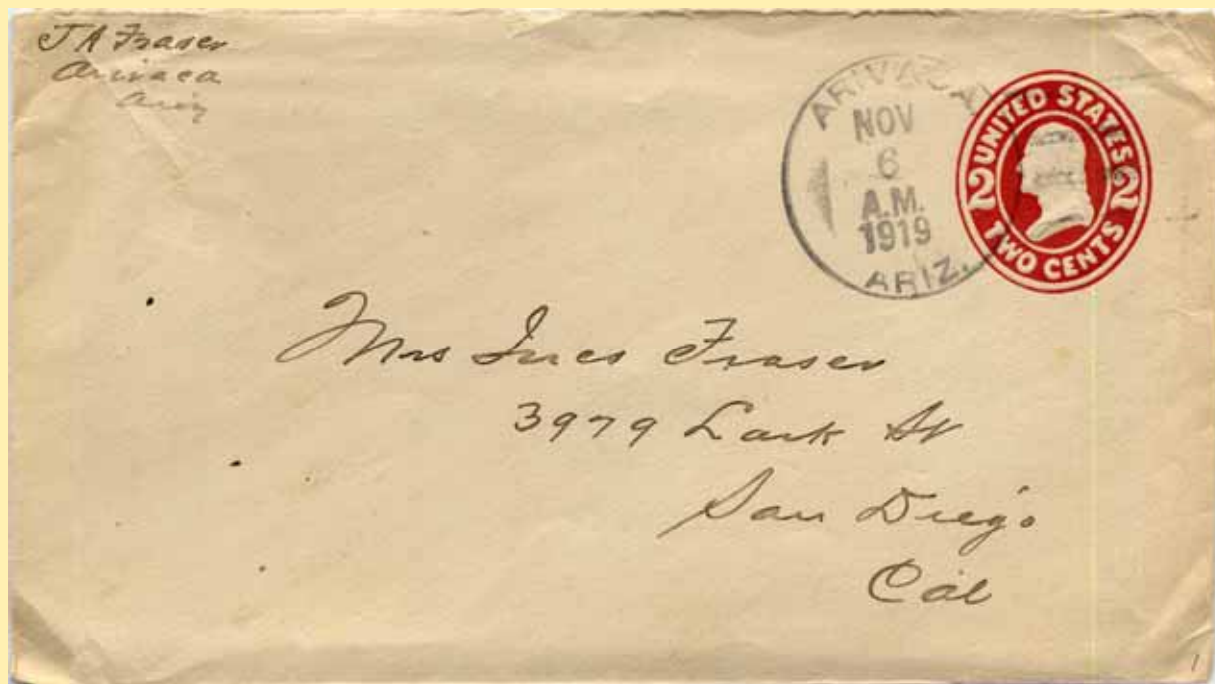


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## Arizona State Postmarks

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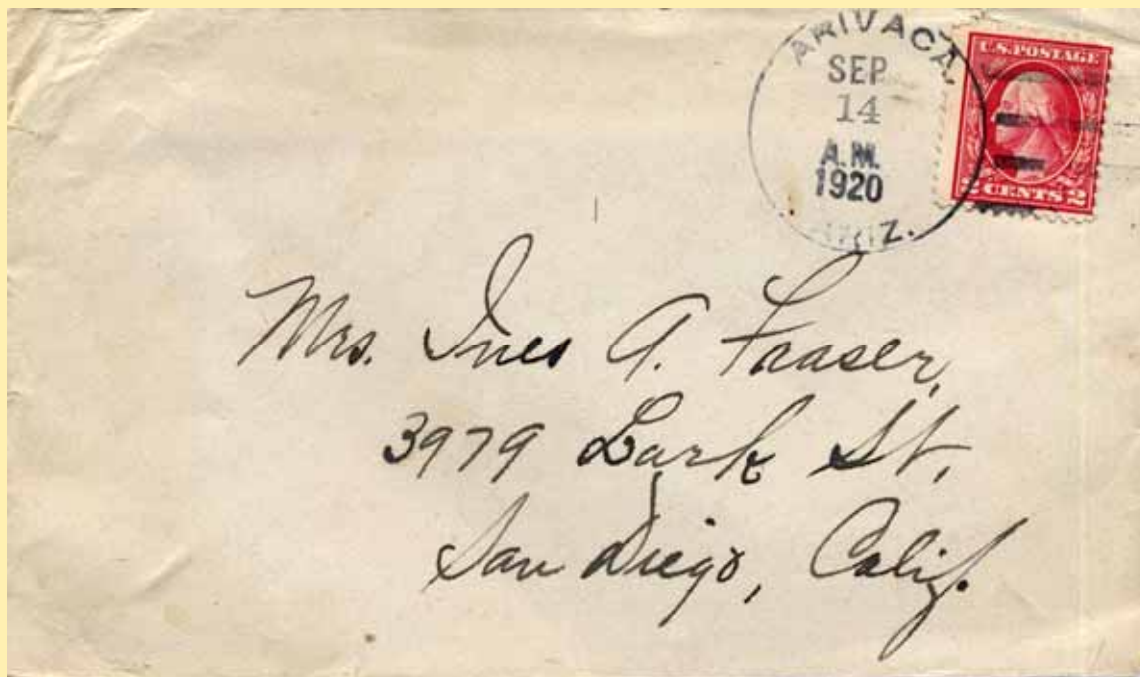


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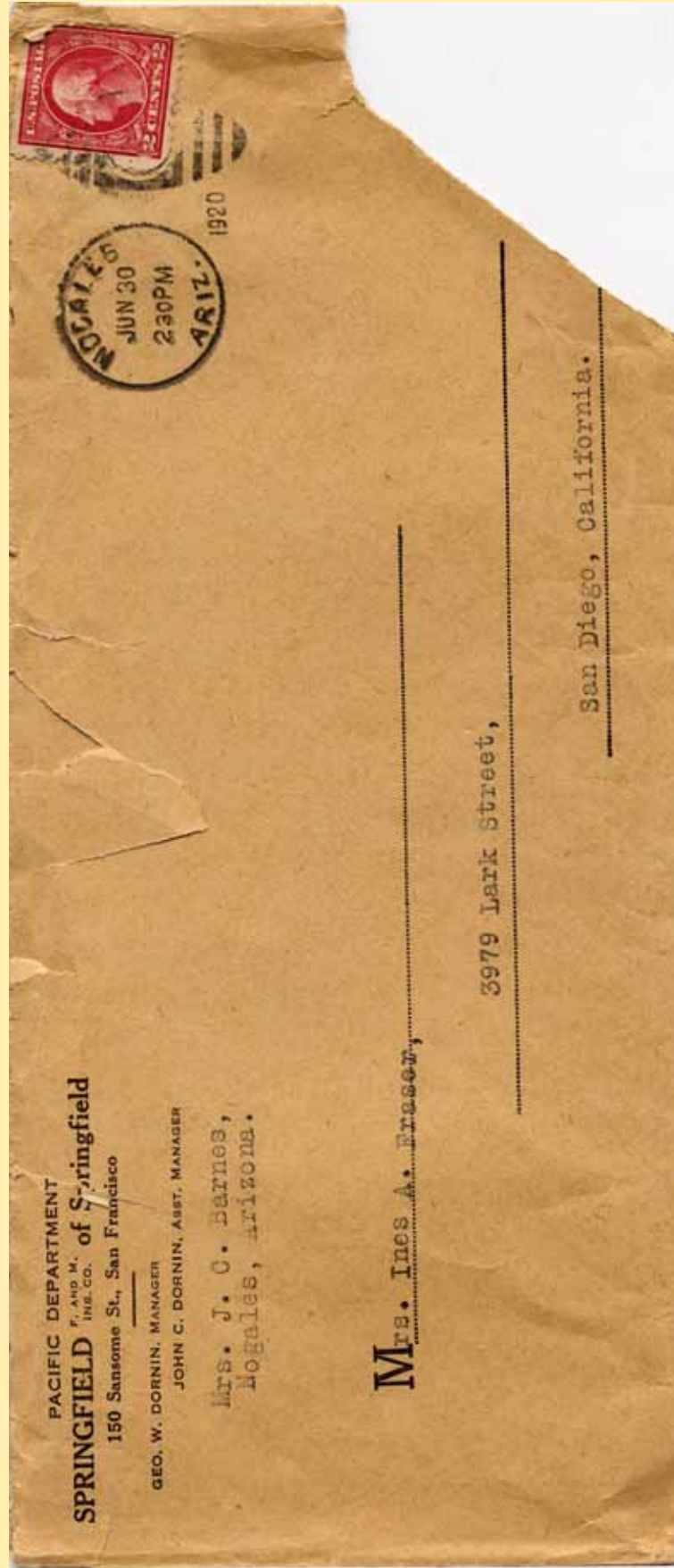


# Arizona State Postmarks

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3 Nogales Catalog Number:



# Fraser Cover Collection



1 Oro Blanco Catalog Number:

Arizona State Postmarks  
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# Fraser Cover Collection



1 Oro Blanco Catalog Number:

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# Fraser Cover Collection



Arizona State Postmarks  
Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



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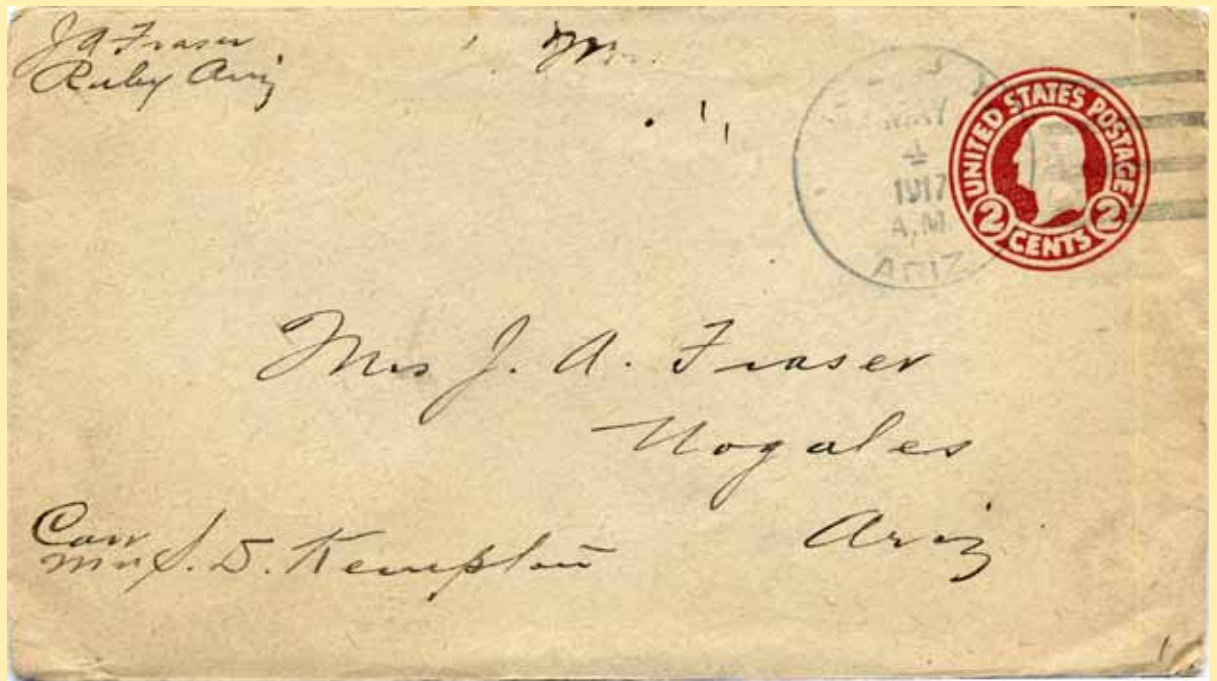
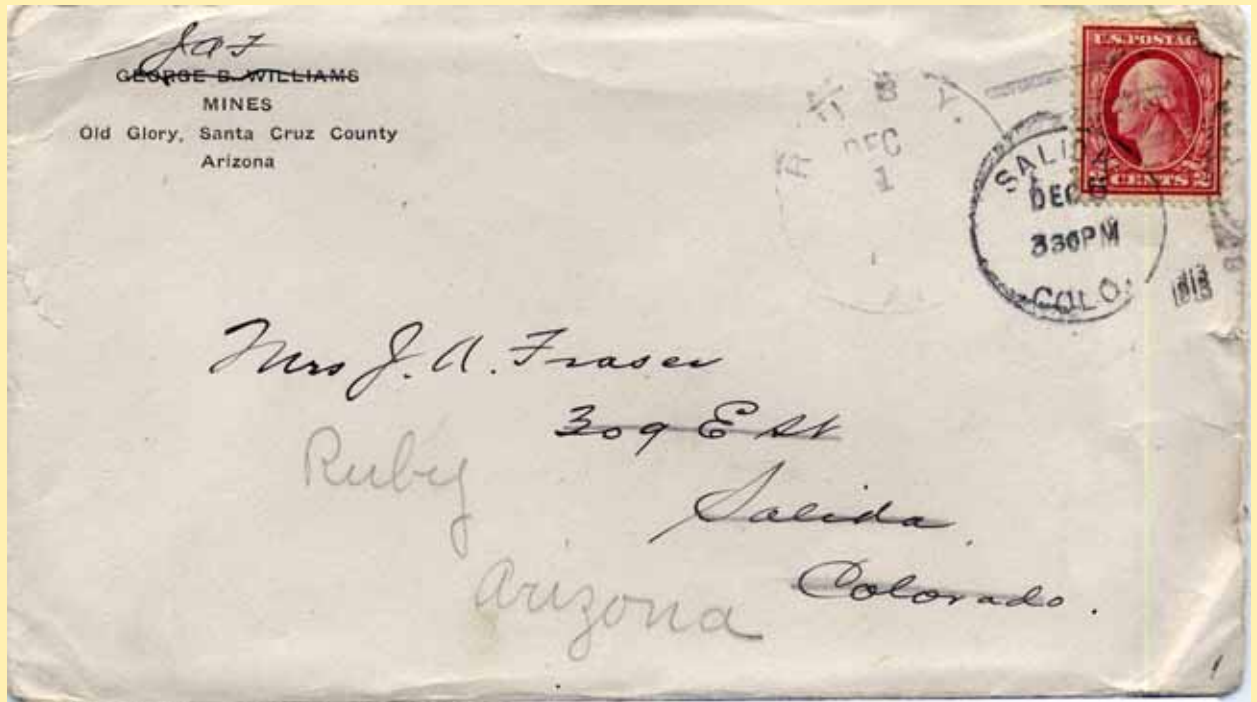
# Fraser Cover Collection



Arizona State Postmarks  
Cochise & Santa Cruz Co. Arizona & Special Collection Only



1 Ruby Catalog Number:



# Fraser Cover Collection



Arizona State Postmarks  
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1 Ruby Catalog Number:



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1 Ruby Catalog Number:



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