

Kosmos Post offices

From: Postmarked Washington
Lewis and Cowlitz Counties
Guy Reed Ramsey

Fulton

Established Sept. 14, 1891. Homer Fulton;
Charles W. Hopkinson, Dec. 26, 1896;
renamed Kosmos, June 15, 1903.

Location: Fulton post office was at a ferry landing on the north shore of the Cowlitz River 3 ½ miles southwest of present Kosmos (NW ¼, Section 6, T11N, R5E). The Fulton report (Aug. 5, 1891) gave its location as 12 miles southeast of Morton, 9 miles southeast of Osborn and 8 ½ miles southwest of Verndale. It was moved when renamed Kosmos.

Mail was brought by stage on Star Route #71149 from Mossyrock to Verndale, at first weekly, then on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, returning on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The Chehalis BEE of May 31, 1895 carried the following item:

“Seth Catlin, only son of the owner of Catlin (Cowlitz County) townsite, left Fulton May 19 with the mail in a boat and was not heard from. His father (also named Seth Catlin) left Napavine May 24 with nets and a party of men with intentions of dragging the river until the body is found.”

The elder Catlin was the second postmaster of Monticello (serving Feb. 18, 1854 to Jan. 15, 1855). We might conclude from the BEE's item that mail at that time was going by boat down the Cowlitz River, but the accident might have occurred as young Catlin was attempting to cross the stream. At that season the river could have been high.

Kosmos

Established Jun 15, 1903, Charles W. Hopkinson;
closed Jan 15, 1913, mail to Glenoma;
reopened Aug. 4, 1921, Mrs. Minerva Bogle (Mrs. E. S. Bogle);
James Albert Ulsh, June 26, 1923;
Mrs. Lissa E. Barrett (nee Edmiston, Mrs. James H. Barrett), June 23, 1927;
Mrs. Elizabeth Barrett (nee Carnahan, Mrs. Kenneth W. Barrett), July 15, 1927;
Mrs. Ethel Looney (nee Stiltner, Mrs. John Looney), Jan. 1, 1967;
discontinued June 2, 1967, mail to Glenoma.

Location: The original site is in a ravine near the mouth of Rainey Creek, a half-mile southwest of its later location (SW Section 28, T12N, R5E). Its last site: seven miles southeast of Morton, 11 miles east of Riffe and two miles southwest of Glenoma on Steffen Creek (center of Section 28).

Charles W. Hopkinson built a water-driven sawmill on Rainey Creek, operating it by fluming the water. In 1911, the post office was moved to the right bank of Rainey Creek and about 200 to 300 feet south of Steffen Creek Bridge where it was conducted in a store located opposite the Kosmos School. Rainey Creek and Steffen Creek converge near this point. When reopened in 1921, the post office was placed in the James Albert Ulsh general store. Its final quarters were a building which had been erected in 1940 at the same site. All buildings in the village were razed in 1967 prior to inundation of the area by water behind the newly erected Mossyrock Dam.

Kosmos post office had mail service supplied by the Chehalis to Packwood Star Route. The office was Third Class for over 27 years.

On July 15, 1930, the Barrett store/post office was burglarized.