

## The Valentine postoffice tragedy

Thanks goes to Steve Kochersperger, researcher from the USPS for providing most of the information. This information is NOT copyrighted. I have no idea who made the old pictures, I made the new pictures and everybody is free to use them. If you have additional information please contact me on [dries@rte66.nl](mailto:dries@rte66.nl). Thanks!

The postoffice in Valentine dates back to 1901. On October 1<sup>st</sup> in that year it was opened as the Truxton postoffice and the postmasters since then have been:

Henry P. Ewing	01/10/1901
James S. Perkins	02/27/1902
Frances Potts	01/06/1905
Grace Murray	05/02/1908
Enos B. Atkinson	06/05/1909

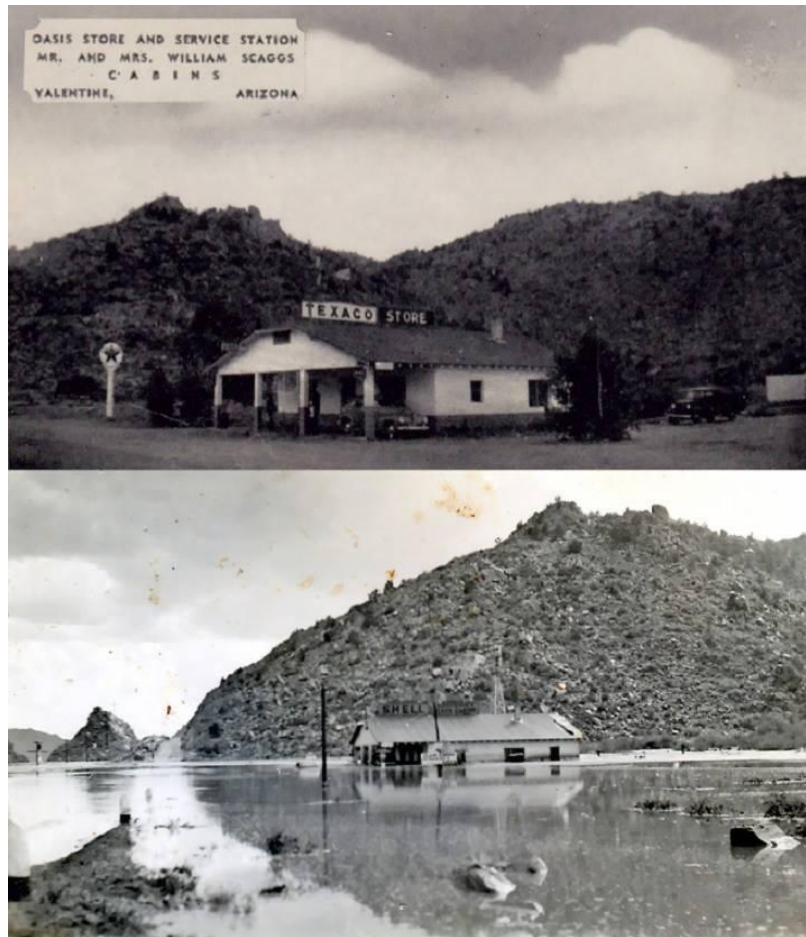
Then on February 24, 1910 it was changed to VALENTINE

Enos B. Atkinson	02/24/1910
Toler R. White	09/13/1910
Charles E. Shell	12/27/1910
Ira E. Bell	06/13/1919
U. L. Clardy	02/01/1923
William A. Light	12/09/1926
Mrs. Nellie G. Harshberger	06/13/1928
Frank R. Goldenstein Acting	08/01/1943
Mrs. Winfred Goldenstein	07/21/1944
Mrs. Barbara Esther Rutherford Acting	12/30/1968
Guy E. H. Mefford Officer-In-Charge	07/03/1969
Mrs. Marlene I. Saunders Officer-In-Charge	01/16/1970
Mrs. Marlene I. Saunders	07/31/1971
Mrs. Evangeline Neal Officer-In-Charge	07/27/1973
Mrs. Evangeline Neal	12/08/1973
Mrs. Rachael Archer Officer-In-Charge	03/28/1975

Discontinued on October 10, 1975.

Dating the following pictures is difficult but in both you can see a vague outline of cars. Perhaps somebody can make out what year/model they are and thus say something about the age of the picture.





If you look at the picture with the flooding you will see that the skyline is the same as in this Google Streetview picture:



This confirms the exact location of the original postoffice as being in front of the complex of 'Keepers of the Wild', 1.6 miles east of the closed building of the Indian School.

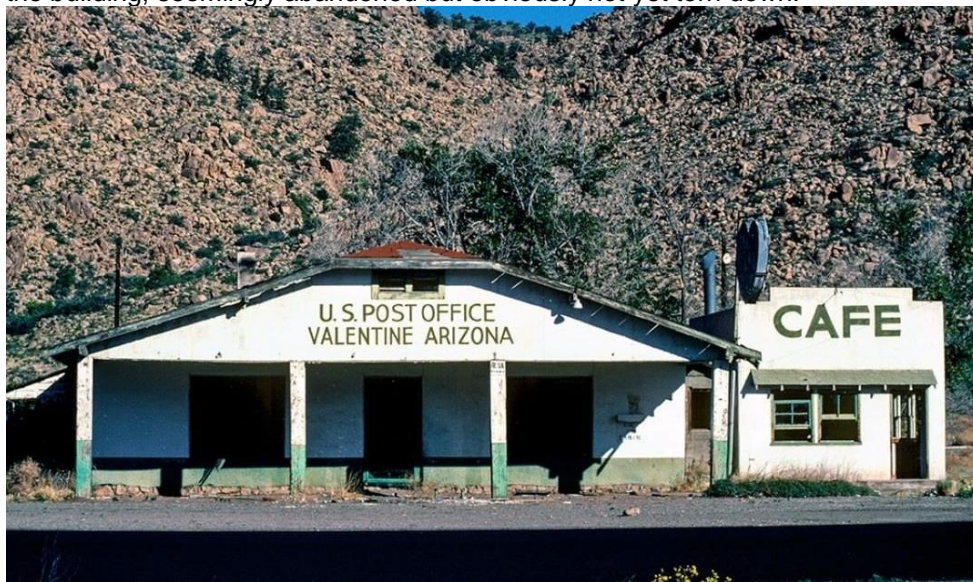
From 1901 until 1975 it was operating as a 4<sup>th</sup> class postoffice but in October 1975 it was converted to a contract branch from the postoffice in Kingman.

A 4<sup>th</sup> class postoffice means that the postmaster does not receive any salary from the government but receives commission on sold stamps postal cards, stamped envelopes, etc.

A contract branch is not staffed by US Postal Service employees and the building is not owned by the US government. Therefore the USPS does not have records of the person(s) acting as postmaster as from 1975 but it is known that in 1990 the persons acting as postmaster were Jacqueline Grigg and her sister in law. During the year it was just a smalltown postoffice but in February it became busy because of the Valentine stamp that was added to most postal pieces.



On August 15<sup>th</sup> in 1990 their postoffice was robbed and Jacqueline was murdered by the robber. After the murder the building was torn down. This picture must have been taken somewhere early 1990's as it shows the building, seemingly abandoned but obviously not yet torn down.



Jacqueline Grigg was buried in the Hackberry cemetery.



# Man pleads guilty to murdering clerk in tiny post office

By Bill Goodykoontz  
The Arizona Republic

**KINGMAN** — A Tennessee man pleaded guilty Friday in Mohave County Superior Court to first-degree murder in the shooting death of a postal clerk in August.

The prosecution agreed not to seek the death penalty. State law allows only one other penalty, life imprisonment, defined as a minimum of 25 years.

Bryan Allen Buckingham, 19, of Smyrna, Tenn., admitting killing Jacqueline Ann Grigg, 44, who was the clerk in the post office in Valentine, about 30 miles northeast of Kingman.

Several members of Grigg's family attended the court session and said afterward that they thought the plea agreement was unfair.

"It's not justice as far as I'm concerned," said Fred Grigg, the victim's husband.

Grigg said he was upset that Buckingham would be eligible for parole in 25 years.

"It's kind of an unfair deal," Grigg said, his voice breaking. "If he was to be (paroled), he would be basically the

same age Jackie was when she was murdered."

Renee Diggs, Grigg's daughter, agreed.

"My mom won't be back in 25 years," she said.

Jacqueline Grigg was working alone Aug. 15 when she was shot once in the chest. About \$40 in cash and \$800 in money orders was taken.

Prosecutors dropped an armed-robbery charge against Buckingham as part of the plea agreement.

The tiny post office, which was torn down after the murder, had been busiest around Feb. 14, when it served thousands of people who wanted Valentine's Day cards stamped with a Valentine postmark.

Buckingham turned himself in to authorities in Laguna Beach, Calif., two days after Grigg's death, and confessed, they said.

In admitting guilt Friday, Buckingham quietly answered questions from Judge James Chavez and at times was told to repeat his responses louder.

Sentencing in the case is set for March 22.

2.1 miles further west is an old abandoned petrol station which has stickers in the front window claiming it to be a postoffice also. This likely has been a replacement for the Valentine postoffice (a 4<sup>th</sup> class I presume) but that is to be confirmed.

