

Building of Many Uses

In the 55 years the post office building has been standing (as of 1971), many have passed through its door. This little abode has been used for many things other than its original purpose.

Mr W W Bramlette built this little place for his father and mother, Mr and Mrs. Andrew Jackson Bramlette, in 1916. The older Bramlettes operated an Ice Cream Parlor for several years from this building located along the Midland Trail (now *in 1971* Highways 395 and 6), this must have been a wonderful sight for the weary traveler.

Grandpa and Grandma Bramlette continued to run the parlor until Grandpa's arthritis became so bad he was bed-ridden for ten years. At this time the parlor was moved to the store building across the road.

Behind the building, and across the road a little to the south, is a small room with two concrete tubs that were used to give Grandpa warm mud baths for his arthritis. The mud was brought in from Coso Hot Springs and then rewarmed. The springs today are part of the Naval Ordnance Test Station at China Lake, but with permission from the main gate at the base you will be able to see these springs.

Between 1922 and 1924 a school was provided for the local children. What a great thought for a child--an Ice Cream Parlor for a school! Of course, the refreshment counter turned into desks and the dream was shattered.

In 1937 the now quiet school house became the post office for the first time under Postmasters Nina Reid and Clara Linn. How the building was used between the time it was a school and post office I do not know.

After the post office was moved across the road in 1943, the building may have had another use which I also have not been able to discover.

Earl Sullivan (Sully) needing a place for his service station employees to live, remodeled the building for use as a bunk house, adding, as Sully said, "Sears best bathroom." From 1946 to 1948 the walls absorbed the secrets of a bunkhouse.

1948 to 1954 we must also leave asleep in the past, to awaken the structure again in 1954 to serve the people as a post office under three Postmasters, Pauline Harris, Ann Pherson Fjeld and myself, Jane A. Thomann until the present day in 1971. For twenty-six years this humble, tired, little building has served as a post office, brought news from far and near, and often presented the opportunity for wide spread residents to greet their neighbors.

With the zig-zagging back and forth of the post office, from one side of the road to the other, as befitting each person's desires, having several face lifts and a couple internal changes, it has continued to carry the soul and spirit of the past with many of its secrets retained forever.