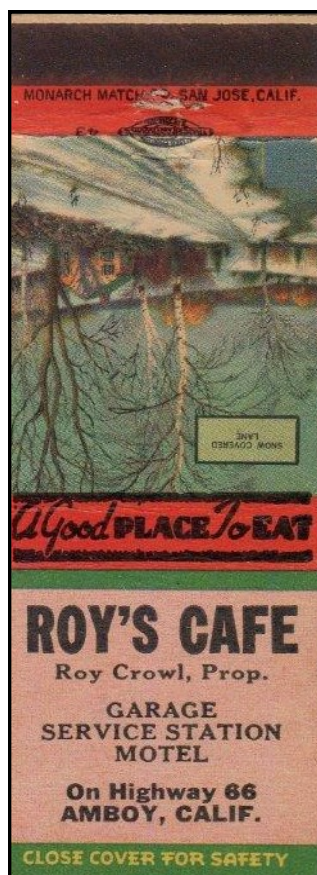


Collecting... Ghost Towns!

by
Mike Prero

I wonder how many Small Town collectors have these identified! After all, they are *the ultimate small towns* — population = zero! You can't get any smaller than that!! Did you know that there are over 1,000 ghost towns in the United States? They're in every state—even Hawaii, which has four, if you can believe that.

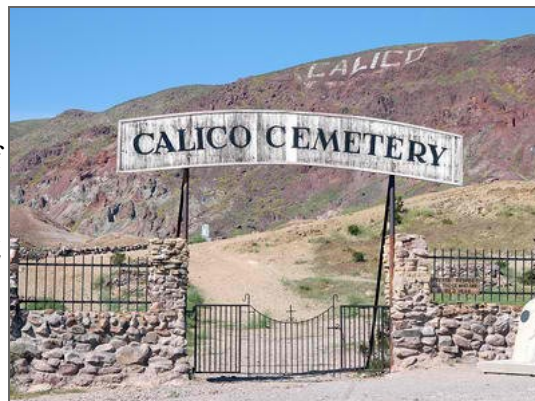
Now, about this time you might be wondering, “How in the world does one get matchcovers from ghost towns?” Well, they *do* exist. Shown here is one from Amboy, California. There are, in fact, a number of ways in which matchcovers might be available from ghost towns. They could have been issued as souvenirs by shops and vendors at the locations...and at least some of the nation's ghost towns have become state parks or state historical parks. Also, in some cases, the covers may have been issued before the town was abandoned.



And, you should be aware that, by definition, a ghost town is any town where the majority of buildings have been abandoned, so there could well still be a few remaining businesses in some ghost towns...and that means...matchcovers!...*maybe*.

What a fascinating town collection this would be! Just think of all the travel possibilities! Who needs Maui? You could be going to places such as Chalk Mountain, Eagle Nest, and Gay Hill (!).

Just to get you started, pages 2 and 3 has a list of California ghost towns. I've been to Calico, Bodie, and a couple of others, but that's it. Check your Small Towns and see if you have any. You can get other state lists from <http://www.ghosttowns.com>.



9 Mile Station	Cerro Gordo	Fluhr	Slough	Mill Valley
18 Mile House	Landing	Fountain Springs	Kernvale	Minear
Agua Fria	Chambless	Fram	Kernville	Mount Ophir
Agua Mansa	Chanz	Freeman Junction	Kearsarge	Miramonte
Allard	Cherokee	Fremont Valley	Keeler	Monterio
Alma	Chichi	French Flat	Kelso	Moore's Flat
Amalie	Chinquapin	Furnace	Kingston	Mountain House
Amboy	Chinese Camp	Furnace Creek	Kocher	Moseman
Antelope House	Chloride City	Inn	Kumaini	Muroc
Artwell	Chrysopolis	Gamba	Kyan	Nadeau
Ashford Mill	Clark	Garlock	Lane Mill	Narka
Asphalto	Clarkson	Gibsonville	La Panza	Neil
Atolia	Code	Girard	La Rose	Negro Flat
Avena	Coleman City	Goffs	Langdon	Neuralia
Bagdad	Copperfield	Gold Town	Lavers' Crossing	New Almaden
Balaklava Hill	Coso	Goler Heights	Leadfield	Newburyport
Ballarat	Cox & Clark	Greasertown	Lee	New Idria
Banta	Trading Post and	Greenwater	Lee Camp	Newtown
Barnes	Steamboat	Greenwich	Leliter	Nome
Settlement	Landing	Gerstley	Leon	Noonday Camp
Beeks Place	Coyote	Grub Gulch	Leonards	North American House
Belleville	Craft	Guillion Bar	Levee	North Muroc
Benita	Cuttens	Gyle	Levee Spur	North Shore
Bennettville	Darwin	Haiwee	Lexington	Nortonville
Bend City	Deadwood	Halfway Camp	Linda Rosa	Norval
Benton	Dechambeau	Hamilton	Lila C	Notomidula
Bestville	Ranch	Hart	Little Dixie	Olig
Big Blue Mill	Denny	Hatfields Camp	Llano Del Rio	Opie
Blue Mountain	Desert Spring	Hodson	Lone Pine Station	Oregon Bar
Bodie	Dogtown	Hokokwito	Lookout City	Owensville
Bondville	Domino	Holy City	Lower	Packwood
Borel	Drawbridge	Horseshoe Bend	Calaveritas	Packwood Station
Bradford Siding	Drum	Hollands	Ludlow	Page
Branson City	Drytown	Horton	Lyons Station	Paloma
Brownsville	Dunmovin	Independence	Macheto	Panamint City
Buckeye Hill	Eagle Mountain	Flat	Mammoth Cave	Parsons
Burkeville	Eastwood	Indian Gulch	Mammoth City	Pasinogna
Cabernet	Eaires	Indian Springs	Manchester	Patchen
Calico	Echo	Inmans	Manzanar	Pattees Ranch
Camanche	Eightmile	Intake	Martendale	Petersburg
Cambio	El Dorado Bar	Iowa Hill	Masonic	Petro
Camp Spirito	Eldoradoville	Isabella	McLeans Bar	Petroleopolis
Canebrake	Elevenmile	Ivanpah	McLeans Ferry	Phillip's Flat
Canfield	Elkhorn	Jay	Melones	Picacho
Carnegie	Elna	Joe Walker Town	Mentryville	Pine
Carthage	Emory	Joyfull	Merced Falls	Pinacate
Carson Hill	Eric	Kasson	Midland	Piute
Cerro Gordo	Essex	Kern River	Midway	Politana

Port Chicago	Rogersville	Siberia	Swansea	Valley Wells
Port Wine	Sage	Silver Lake	Taylor's Bar	Vanderbilt
Proctor	San Carlos	Skidoo	Teagle	Vaughn
Prado	San Joaquin City	Skyles	Tehichipa	Vernette
Progress	San Miguel de los	Sloss	Tejon	Warren (Mojave)
Providence	Noches	Smyrna	Temescal	Water Station
Purissima	Sakaya	Sodan	Terese	Wenger
Pylema	Sandy Bar	Solon	Terese Siding	West Baker
Quartzburg	Sand Cut	Sorrell's	Terra Cotta	Westville
Rincon (Prado)	Sawmill Flat	Spanish Bar	Timbuctoo	White Mountain City
Redrock	Scheelite	St. Louis	Toolwass	Willard
Reefer City	Schwaub	Stewarts	Tremont House	Wingo
Reilly	Scovern Hot	Stickneys Ferry	Trescape	Winter Garden
Reservoir	Springs	Stony Bar	Treves	Wiskala
Rice	Second Garrotte	Stoutenburg	Tule Station	Woolsey Flat
Ridleys Ferry	Sedwell	Strader	Tumco	Wrights
Rincon	Seneca	Strand	Una Siding	Wycoff
Rio Bravo	Shady Rest	Sullivan	Unadilla	Yaqui Camp
Riverview	Shale	Summers	Vaca Adobe	You Bet
Roachville	Shamrock	Sunland	Vaccaro	Yosemite Mill
Rock Springs	Shasta	Sunset	Vallecito	Zurich

...And this isn't even a complete list! [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ghost_towns_in_California]



[Ghost Town covers courtesy of John Boal, Ca]

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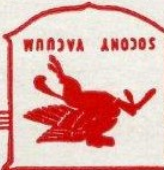
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