

# Those 'Hard-To-Get' California Towns

by  
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There are lots of Small Town collectors, and lots of those who live in California are, not surprisingly perhaps, *California* Small Town collectors. And, that brings us to those pesky places that you know are (or were) valid towns—but you've never managed to see any covers from them! (Of course, the fact that we're looking ONLY for 20-strikes adds to the difficulty...*[I wonder who started that rule, anyway.]*)

Or, perhaps you're like me. I've just started in on collecting California towns, one of each, big or small.

I know there's a lot [*some 1,352, and that's not counting the towns that don't exist anymore*]. It's a big challenge, but which, exactly, are the ones that are going to give me trouble? I don't know, so I've turned to some collectors who are noteworthy pursuers in this category and asked to see their want lists. Comparing these various lists, it seems to me, should give me, and you, an idea of which California towns are the most difficult to hunt down.

And, if you *are* just beginning to dabble in this daunting area, it'll be helpful to have a checklist of California towns to work with. The Post Office's Zip Code listing comes to mind. Seems to me I recall seeing that they've gone to two volumes, and it's more expensive than it was a few years ago [*so what else is new?*]. I'd try and photocopy the California pages from a friend's copy first. Or, you can simply print out the listing available at: [http://dir.yahoo.com/Regional/U\\_S\\_States/California/Cities/A/index.html](http://dir.yahoo.com/Regional/U_S_States/California/Cities/A/index.html) (By the way, did you know that there are no California towns beginning with "X"? There's a void just asking to be filled!)

Looking through the resulting list on the following page,



and keeping in mind that I've lived in California for 54 years, I've never heard of many of these places! On the other hand, a couple of these towns, at least, are right down the road from me, but I've rarely seen any covers from them over the years I've been a collector—and I've gone through *a lot* of covers during that period.

Well, let's take a look at the list:

- |                  |                      |                      |                 |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| -Acampo          | -Baker               | -Bridgeville         | -Delta          |
| -Acton           | -Ballico             | -Brockway            | -Denny          |
| -Adelanto        | -Bangor              | -Browns Valley       | -Derby Acres    |
| -Adin            | -Banta               | -Brownsville         | -DeSalba        |
| -Agoura Hills    | -Bard                | -Buck Meadows        | -Devils Den     |
| -Agua Dulce      | -Bassett             | -Buntingville        | -Devore         |
| -Aguanga         | -Bay Point           | -Burrell             | -Diablo         |
| -Ahwahnee        | -Bayside             | -Burson              | -Dinkey Creek   |
| -Albion          | -Baywood Park        | -Cadiz               | -Discovery Bay  |
| -Alderpoint      | -Bear Valley Springs | -Cahuilla            | -Dobbins        |
| -Aliso Viejo     | -Bel Air             | -Cajon Junction      | -Dominguez      |
| -Alleghany       | -Belden              | -Calabasas Highlands | -Dos Rios       |
| -Alpaugh         | -Bell                | -California Valley   | -Drakesbad      |
| -Alpine          | -Bell Canyon         | -Callahan            | -Eagleville     |
| -Alta            | -Bell Gardens        | -Calpine             | -East Highlands |
| -Alta Loma       | -Bella Vista         | -Campo               | -Edna           |
| -Altaville       | -Belvedere           | -Cantil              | -Elderwood      |
| -Alturas         | -Benton              | -Capetown            | -El Granada     |
| -Amador City     | -Bermuda Dunes       | -Caribou             | -Elk            |
| -Amboy           | -Berry Creek         | -Carlotta            | -Elk Creek      |
| -American Canyon | -Bethel Island       | -Carnelion Bay       | -Elmira         |
| -Angel's Camp    | -Bieber              | -Carrville           | -El Mirage      |
| -Angelus Oaks    | -Big Bar             | -Cartago             | -El Nido        |
| -Angwin          | -Big Bear City       | -Chambless           | -Enterprise     |
| -Annapolis       | -Big Bend            | -Cima                | -Estrella       |
| -Antelope        | -Biggs               | -Clay                | -Etna           |
| -Anza            | -Big River           | -Clio                | -Eugene         |
| -Applegate       | -Blackwells Corner   | -Cobb                | -Fairmead       |
| -Arleta          | -Blocksburg          | -Copco               | -Fairmont       |
| -Armona          | -Bodega              | -Crane Flat          | -Fallen Leaf    |
| -Aromas          | -Bodie               | -Cross Roads         | -Fallon         |
| -Artesia         | -Bolinias            | -Dairy Valley        | -Farmington     |
| -Artois          | -Bonny Doon          | -Dairyland           | -Feather Falls  |
| -Arvin           | -Bonsall             | -Dales               | -Fenner         |
| -Atherton        | -Boulevard           | -Dana                | -Fernwood       |
| -Atwater         | -Bowman              | -Danby               | -Flournoy       |
| -Atwood          | -Bradbury            | -Darwin              | -Forbestown     |
| -Auberry         | -Branscomb           | -Davenport Landing   | -Ford City      |
| -Avery           | -Bray                | -Day                 | -Fort Dick      |
| -Badger          | -Briceburg           | -Dedrick             | -Fruto          |
| -Bagdad          | -Briceland           | -Del Loma            | -Gallatin Beach |

-Garlock	-Marin City	-Planada	-Stirling City
-Gazelle	-McArthur	-Plantation	-Stonyford
-Glamis	-McCann	-Plaster City	-Strathmore
-Glenn	-Mecca	-Pond	-Summit
-Goffs	-Meeks Bay	-Pope Valley	-Tahoe Pines
-Gorda	-Menifee	-Posey	-Tecate
-Grant Grove	-Mercy Hot Springs	-Poza	-Tennant
-Guatay	-Michigan Bluff	-Pulga	-Terra Bella
-Harris	-Minkler	-Purisima	-The Willows
-Havilah	-Mokelumne Hill	-Quail Valley	-Tobin
-Haber	-Monolith	-Quaking Aspen	-Toms Place
-Helena	-Moonridge	-Rainbow	-Traver
-Henleyville	-Morena Village	-Rancho Bernardo	-Triangle
-Herald	-Mormon Bar	-Randsburg	-Trimmer
-Hidden Hills	-Mountain Springs	-Ravenna	-Tudor
-Highway City	-Mt. Bullion	-Red Rock	-Tunitas
-Hobart Mills	-Mt. Signal	-Red Top	-Tuttle
-Hodge	-Nelson	-Rice	-Two Harbors
-Horse Creek	-New Idria	-Rich Bar	-Two Rock
-Hub	-New Washoe City	-Rio Oso	-Vallecito
-Hume	-Nicasio	-Ripperdan	-Vidal
-Igo	-Nipton	-Roads End	-Viola
-Indio Hills	-Nord	-Robbibs	-Washington
-Ingot	-North Edwards	-Rollin	-Weott
-Ivanhoe	-Nubieber	-Rolling Hills	-West Hills
-Jamul	-Nuevo	-Ross	-White River
-Jenny Lind	-Oasis	-Round Mountain	-Whitley Gardens
-Johnsondale	-Ocotillo	-Rovana	-Whitmore
-Jolon	-Ocotillo Wells	-Rumsey	-Wildomar
-Kaweah	-Olive	-Ruth	-Wildrose
-Keddie	-O'Neals	-Ryan	-Wildwood
-Keeler	-Ordbend	-Salyer	-Winnetka
-Kelseyville	-Orinda Village	-Samoa	-Yetterm
-Kelso	-Orleans	-San Onofre	-Yolo
-Kent	-Oro Grande	-Scott Bar	-Yorkville
-Kneeland	-Orosi	-Scottys Castle	-Zamora
-La Costa	-Otay	-Searles	-Zenia
-La Grange	-Owenyo	-Seneca	
-Lake Alpine	-Pacific House	-Seven Oaks	
-La Moine	-Paicines	-Sheep Ranch	
-Lanore	-Pajaro	-Shingletown	
-La Selva Beach	-Palomar Mountain	-Sierra Madre	
-Laws	-Paraiso Springs	-Silver City	
-Linda	-Peanut	-Sisquoc	
-Lodoga	-Pedley	-Sloat	
-Lomo	-Picketts Juncton	-Soledad	
-Los Olivos	-Piedra	-Somes Bar	
-Lotus	-Pine Knot	-Standish	