□ Witnessing over a century of hustle and bustle in Holyoke's downtown, the building located at 110 S. Interocean Ave. has one of the oldest histories in Holyoke. Housing everything from hardware stores to the post office, it has accumulated its share of Holyoke memories standing just south of the intersection of Highways 6 and 385 or Denver St. and Interocean Ave. □ "Things have changed over the years—lots," said Nora Deaver who currently owns the building with her husband Steve. No one will argue that Holyoke's main street certainly has come a long way since the town's early days in the late 19th Century. □ According to Those Were the Days, a history of Phillips County, the original structure was built in the 1880s and was much smaller than the present-day building. What we know as 110 S. Interocean Ave. today was initially two separate buildings. Deane Anderson, former owner of the building, said the north half of the structure was constructed in 1912. □ A variety of businesses occupied the building in its early history. One of the first owners, Dr. F.M. Smith, bought the building in 1907 and used it for a drug store for some time. It then sold in 1918. Those Were the Days reports, "During the next 11 years it housed several businesses, including a clothing store, second hand store, restaurant and bowling alley." A later owner of the building, Ralph Anderson, set pins in the bowling alley as a boy. Holyoke's Post Office
changes locations
☐ Holyoke's history wouldn't be quite complete without mention of the United States Post Office which also makes the list of occupants of 110 S. Interocean Ave.
☐ According to the history of Phillips County Post Offices compiled by Doris Scott, Holyoke's
Post Office was established in 1887. From its first location at 207 W. Denver St., it moved to
110 S. Interocean in the early 1900s.
☐ The Post Office operated from the north building which is the northeast section of present-day
Deaver Hardware Hank.
□ Nora Deaver of Deaver Hardware Hank noted the Post Office had a skylight as well as a tin
ceiling that can still be found under the ceiling there today.
□ Postmasters around this time period included F.M. Smith, appointed in 1911; W.A. White,
1914; Cecil M. Richardson, 1922; Dwight L. Willis, 1926; and Ralph Anderson, 1929.
Initially, the Post Office Department fell under the Treasury Department in the United States.
From 1829 to the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, postmasters were political appointments.
According to the Phillips County Post Office history, the person selected was usually an active politician in his community and was often the central committee chairman of either the
Democratic or Republican party. Therefore, when national politics changed, so did the
postmasters.
☐ The third and fourth locations of the Holyoke Post Office were the buildings known as the "Big
Brick Drugstore" and the "Kelly Building" (the former Phillips County State Bank). They were
located on either side of present-day Scheunemann's, and the original structures have both
burned down. Before moving to the present-day location, the Post Office was in the building
which now houses Colver and Killin's law office.
Gambles store established
☐ After serving as postmaster, Ralph Anderson took on a significant career change. On May 22,
1934 he opened the Gambles store at 110 S. Interocean Ave. in the former Post Office building.
BRIDE CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRA
Ralph's original Gambles store was only a 25 by 40 foot structure in the northeast part of



