

The Crown
Collection of Photographs
of American Maps

The Crown Collection of Photographs of American Maps

Selected and edited by

Archer Butler Hulbert

Associate Professor of American History, Marietta College;

Author of "Historic Highways of America," etc.

Series IV

2



Privately printed by

The Arthur H. Clark Company
Cleveland, Ohio

1920

VOL. 2
IV

NORTH AND SOUTH PLATTE ROUTES

NO A

The Crown Collection
of
American Maps.

Series IV.

The
American
Transcontinental
Trails

Edited

by

Archer Butler Hulbert

Professor of History, Colorado College; author of
The Making of the American Republic; Historic Highways
of America, etc.

Volume 2.

North and South Platte Routes.

921595

Map
912.17
H912c
Ser. 4
V. 2

- The North and South Platte Routes -

Contents

Introduction	No. 3
Bibliographies	Nos. 4, 5.
Pt 1. North Platte - South Pass Route (Oregon Trail No. Platte Neb. to Idaho line)	Nos. 8-37
Pt 2. South Platte - Elk Mountain Route (Overland Stage Co Line, Julesburg Colo to Salt Lake City) . . .	Nos. 40-50
Key: Oregon Trail, North Platte, Neb. to Idaho line, - - -	No. 7
Key: Overland Stage Line - - -	No. 39.

Preface to Vol. 2

Volume 2 of Series IV continues the Oregon Trail from the junction of the North and South Plattes, at North Platte, Neb., across western Nebraska and Wyoming to the eastern line of Idaho.

We also give, on smaller scale, the line of the Overland Stage Road from Julesburg, Colo., to Fort Bridger, Wyo. and Salt Lake City. This route, with the Ormner Cut offs, became the common line of stage, freight and emigrant travel from the government's abandonment of the older roads in 1862.

For the lines of these routes we are indebted in good part (in Wyoming) to the checks afforded by irrigation surveys.

—A.B.N.—

Colorado Springs, Nov 2 1925

Bibliography®

(A list of the easily accessible works of travel cited in the following pages in abbreviated form. General and local histories will be found of great additional value.)

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date of Trip</u>	<u>Date of Publication</u>
Bryant, E., <u>Rocky Mountain Adventures</u>	1846-1847	1887
Barton, R. F. <u>The City of the Saints</u>	1860	1862
Clark, C. M., <u>A Trip to Pikes Peak</u>	1859	1861
Clayton W., <u>Journal</u>	1846-1847	1921
Crawford, M., <u>Report</u> S. Ex. Doc. 37 Cong. 3 Sess. 17	1862	
Cross, O., <u>Report</u> , S. Ex. Doc. 31 Cong. 2 Sess. Pt. 2	1849	
Delano, A., <u>Life on the Plains</u>	1849-1850	1854
De Smet, <u>Life</u> , by Chittenden and Richardson		1905
Dodge, H., <u>Journal</u> , H. of R. 24 Cong. 1 Sess., 161.	1836	
Eells, M. F. <u>Journal</u> , Ore. Pion. Assn. Trans.	1838	1889
Fremont, J. C., <u>Explor. Exped. to the Rocky Mountains</u>	1842-1844	1851
Greeley, H., <u>An Overland Journey</u>	1859	1860
Greer, W. A., <u>A Boy on the Plains</u>	1860	1917
Heap, G. H., <u>The Central Route to the Pacific</u>	1853	1854
Hewitt, H. R., <u>Across the Plains</u>	1862	1906
Horn, H. B. <u>Overland Guide</u>		1852
Inman, H., <u>The Great Salt Lake Trail</u>		1914
Kearney, S. W. <u>Report</u> , H. of R. 29 Cong. 1 Sess.	1845	

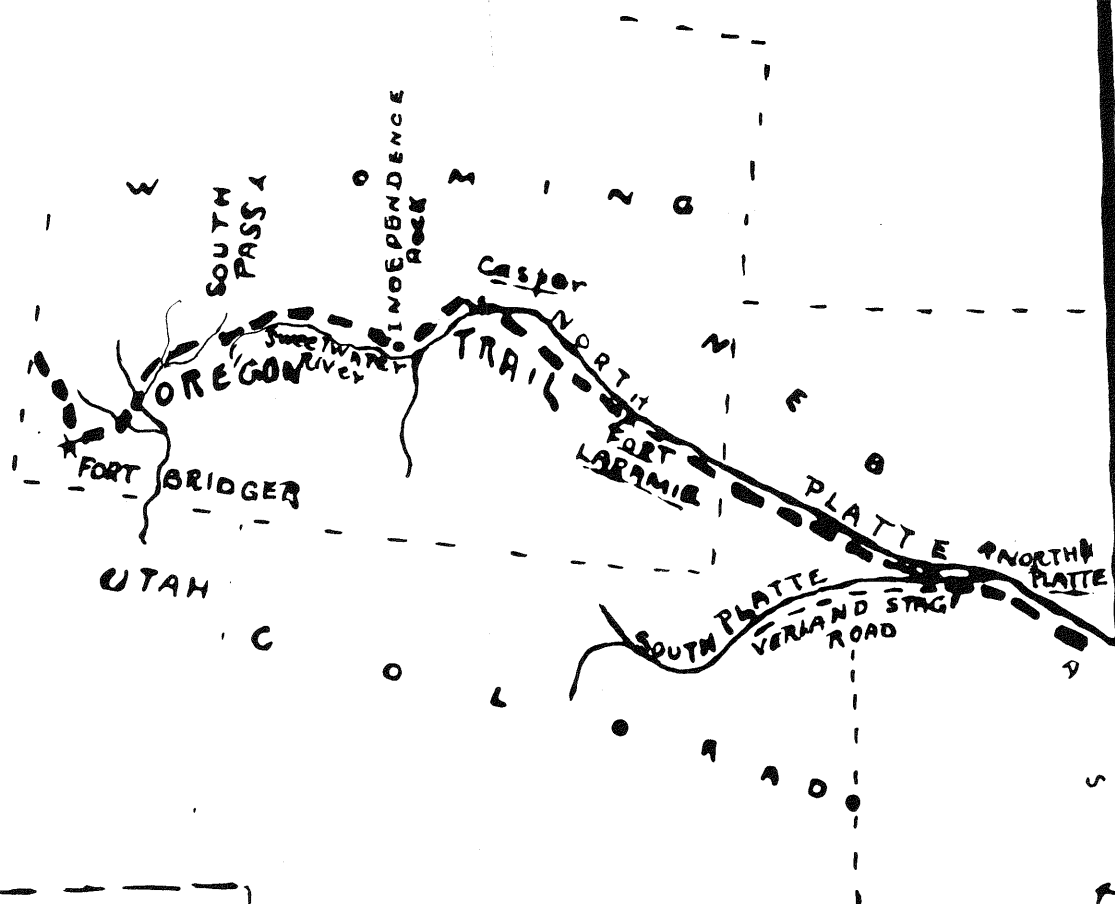
® The bibliographies heretofore mentioned present detailed lists. Our purpose here is to name a few of the easily accessible works, to be cited later, which describe the routes herein mapped, in the various periods of their history (1820 to 1865). Early Western Travels will be cited as E. W. T. The date of the edition used is added to facilitate checking.

Kelly, W. <u>Across the Rocky Mountains.</u>	1849	1852
Leonard Z., <u>Adventures</u> , by W.F. Wagner.	1834	1900
Long, S. H., <u>Account of an Expedition</u> James, 14	1819-1820	1823
Low, P. S., <u>Five Years a Dragoon</u>	1857-1869	1906
Ludlow, F. H., <u>The Heart of the Continent</u>	1867	1870
Marcy, R. B., <u>The Prairie Traveller</u> ,		1859
McClure, A. K., <u>Three Thousand Miles</u>	1867	1869
Meeker, E., <u>Personal Experiences.</u>	1852	1912
Melina, J., <u>2000 Miles on Horseback.</u>	1866	1868
Minto, J., <u>Reminiscences</u> , Ore. Hist. Quar. II,	1844	1901
Morris, M. O., <u>Rambles in the Rocky Mountains</u>	1863	1864
Parker, S., <u>Journal of an Explor. Tour</u> ,	1835-1837	1838
Root F. A. and Connally, W. E. <u>The Overland Stage</u> ,		1901
Ruxton, S. F., <u>Life in the Far West</u> ,	184	1848 (1855a)
Sage, R. B., <u>Wild Scenes</u> ^{a)} , <u>Rocky Mountain Life</u> ^{b)}	1841-1843	(1857b)
Stansbury, H., <u>Exploration and Survey</u> ,	1849	1852
Townsend, J. K., <u>Narrative</u> ,	1834	1839
Wright, N. J., <u>Correspondence and Journals</u> .	1831-1836	1899
Whitlock, T. B., <u>Journal</u> , S Ex Dec. 123 Long - 500	1834	
Young, C. E., <u>Dangers of the Trail</u> ,	1865	1912
Young, F. C., <u>Across the Plains</u>	1865	1905

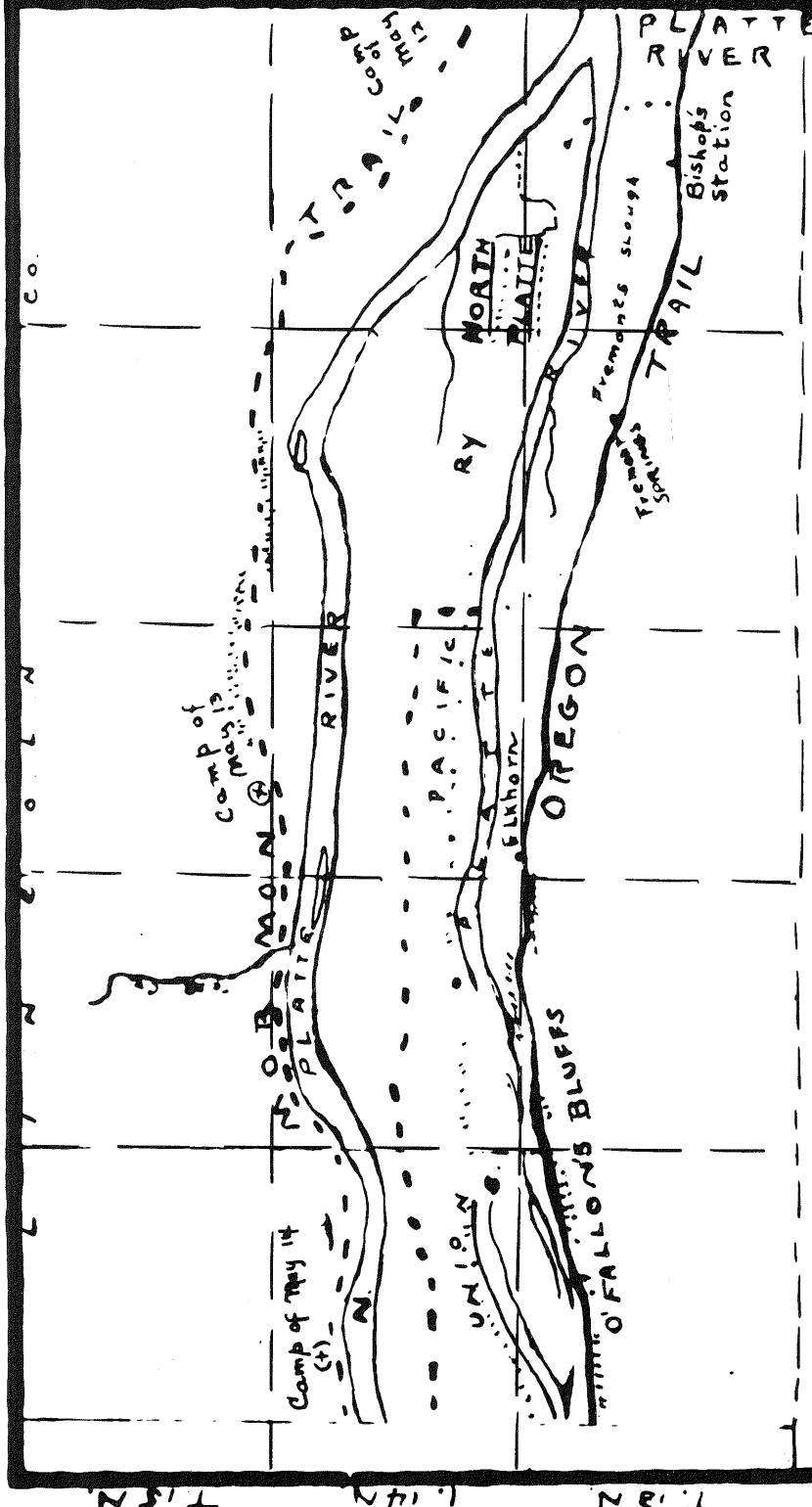
(Recourse to Indices of Early Western Travels R. B. Thwaites Ed. will always prove useful.)

Part 1.
North Platte - South Pass Route
(From Junction of North and South Platte
to Idaho Line)

Key: Map No. 7.

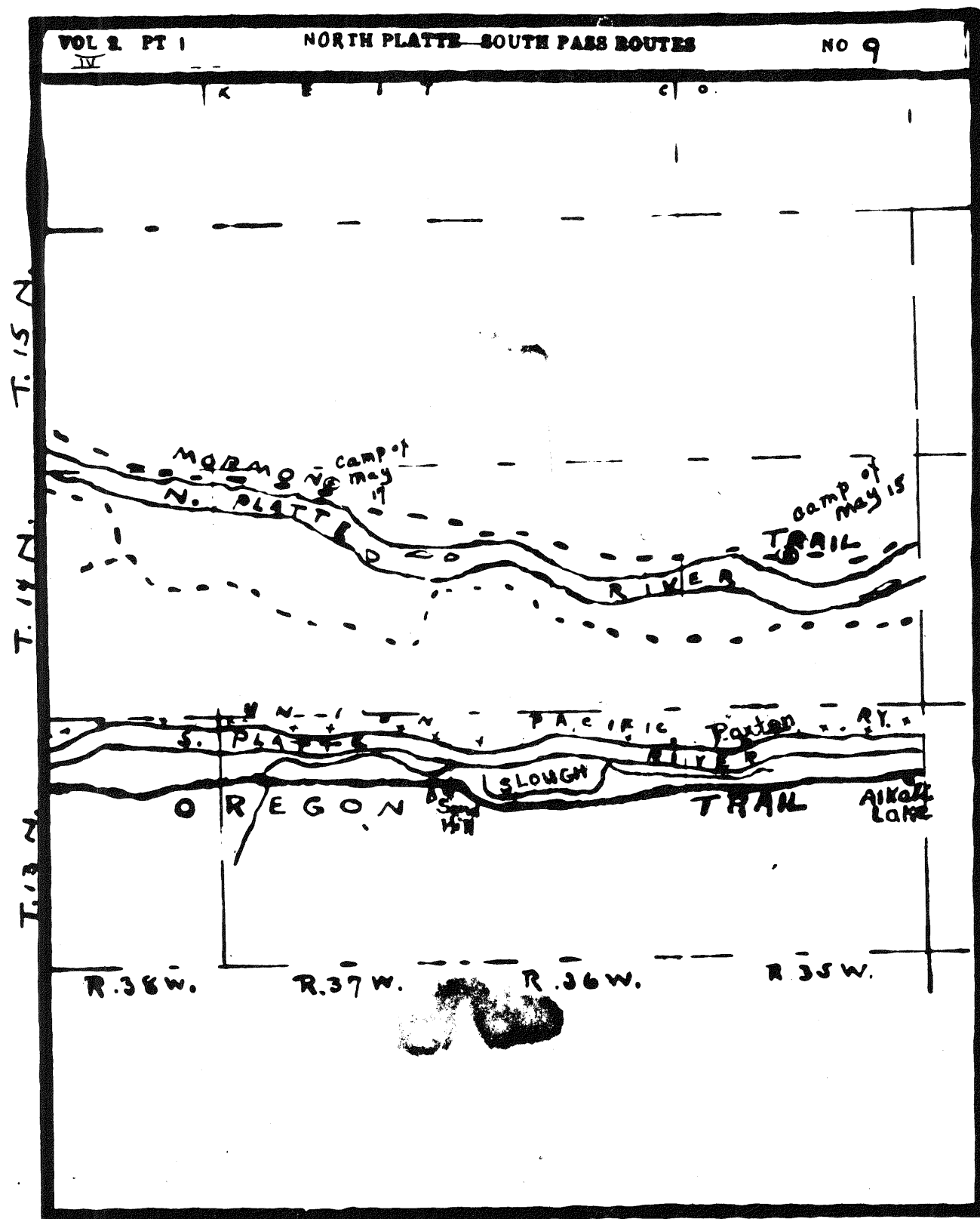


KEY TO
OREGON TRAIL
IN NEBRASKA
AND WYOMING

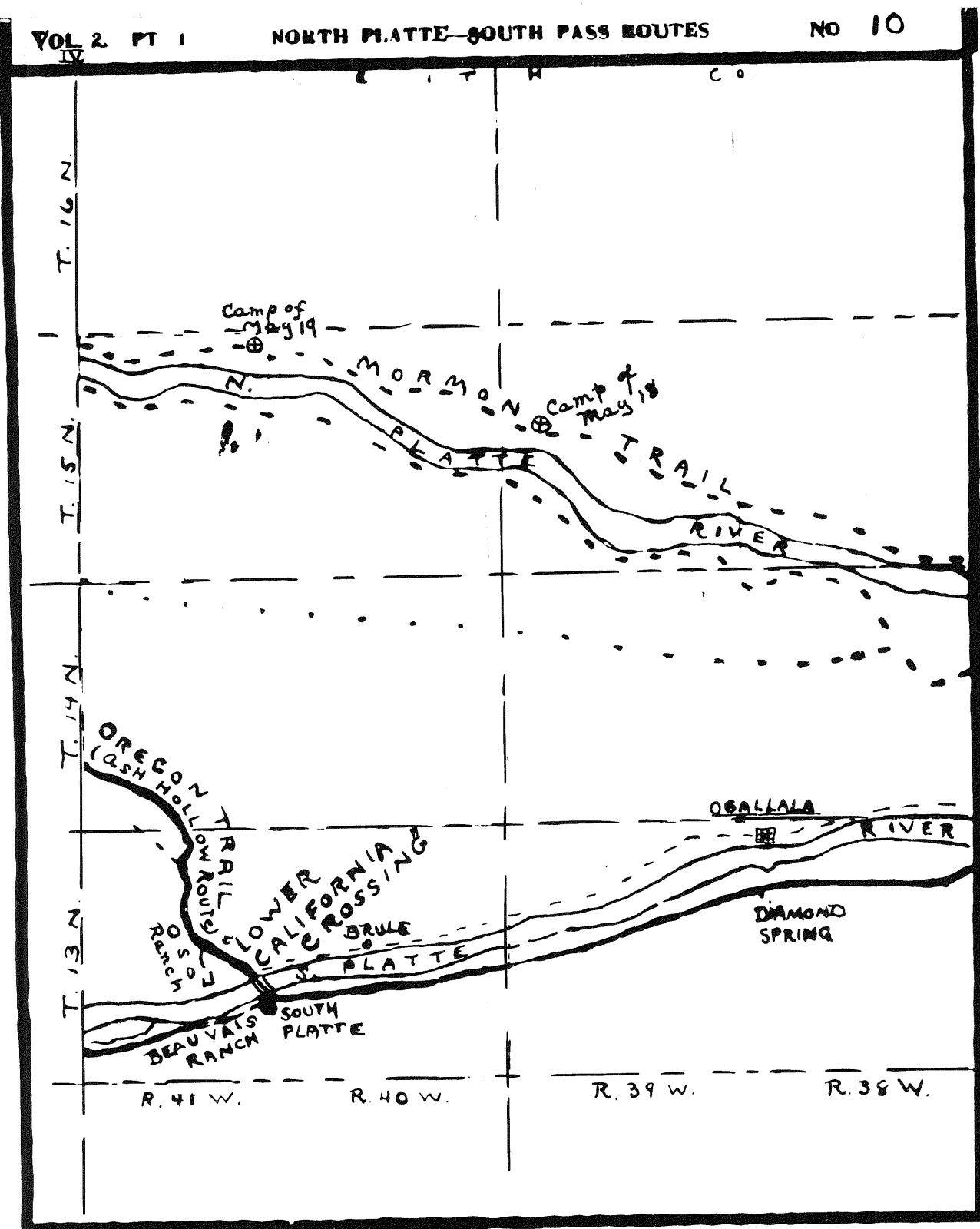


Every mile of these trails from the junction of the two
Plattas (Neb. Hist. Soc. 2 ser. V 176; Fremont Explor' Exped 25,
Parker, Journal St. Dodge, Journal, 14; Delano, Life 59) until the
main trail is firmly planted on the North Platte map No. 13)
is romantic ground. The Mormon Trail ^{clark} steadily took northern
bank (Clayton 143-149) + Famous O'Fallons Bluffs (~~Clark~~) 54-55) was one
of the most difficult stretches on the trail: Long Exped I + 68

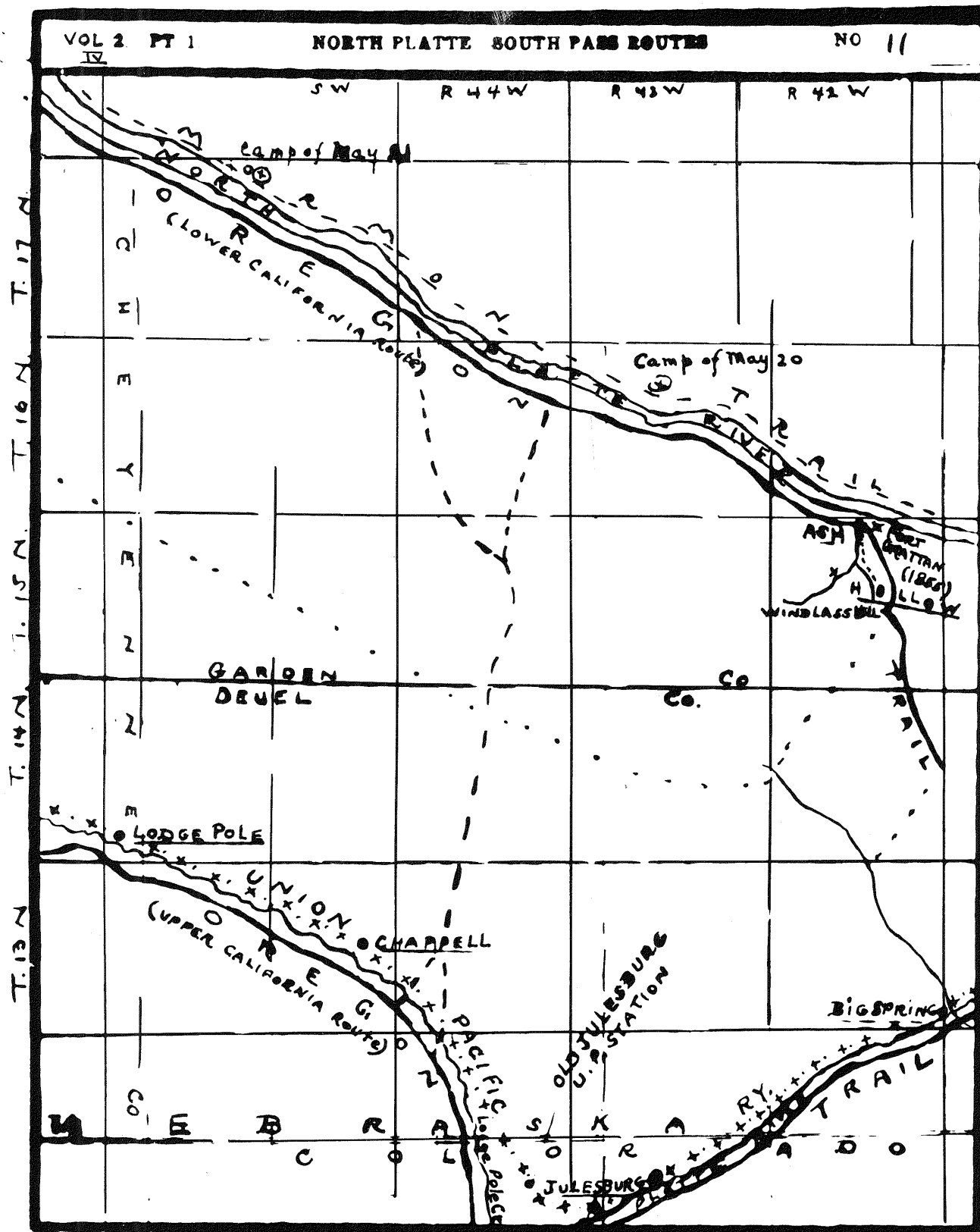
Continued from
Volume I, Map No.
63.



The ponds of the South Platte varied with the seasons (O.H. Coyner, Lost Trappers, 49; Meyth, Correspond. 222; Stansbury, Exploration, 32-33; Leonard, Expedition, 63; Dutton, City, 53-61). Later stations on the stage road, as Alkali Lake and Sand Hill, are inserted conjecturally. Local investigation ought to fix these authoritatively.



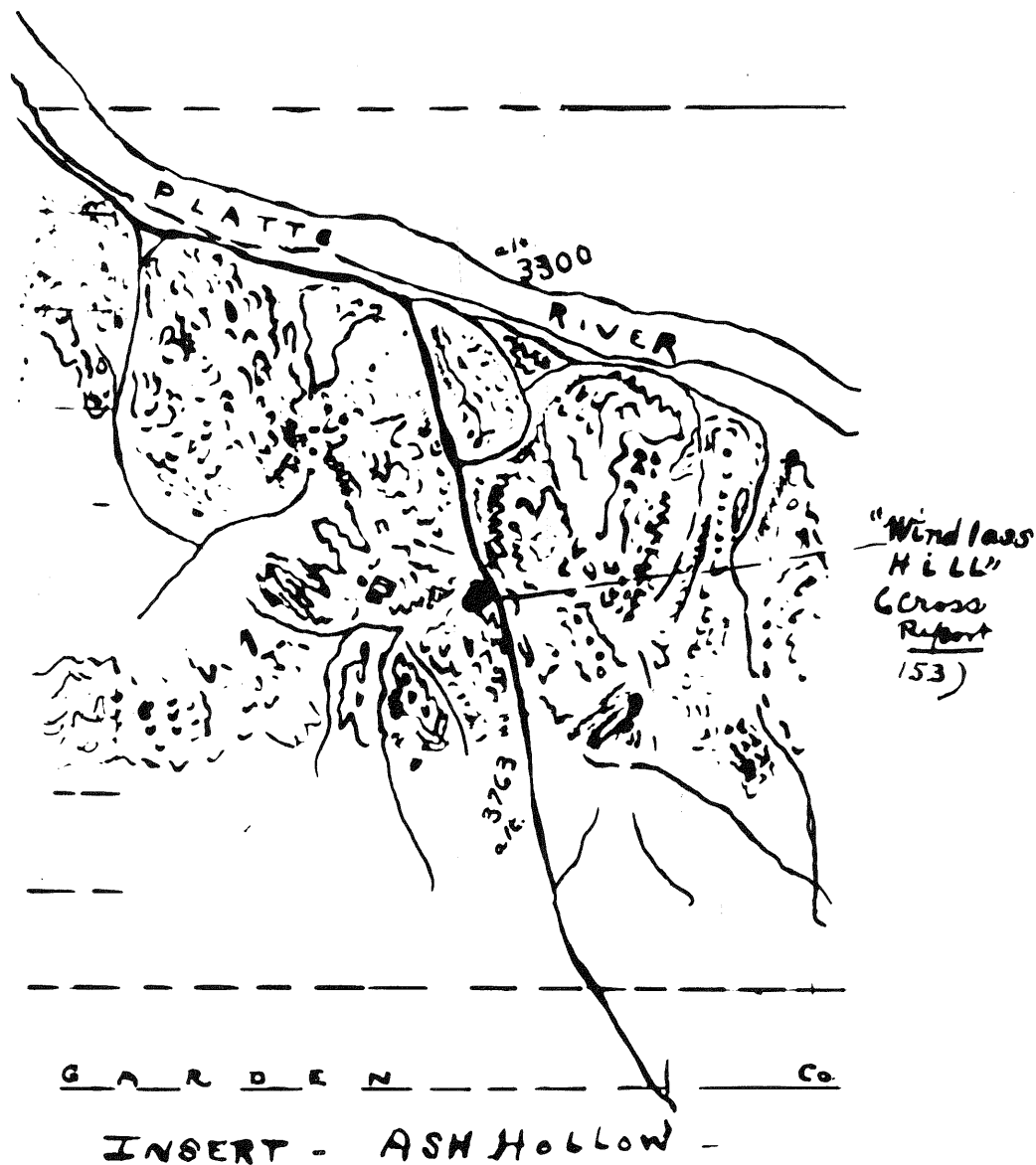
At Beaufort Ranch ("South Platte station" on the later stage line) was the first important ford of the South Platte on the Oregon Trail Kelly, 103-5; Burton, 62-63; Bryant 94-95; Cross Report, 148-153; Palmer, E.W.T. XXX, 52-53. In the days of the '49ers the name "Lower Calif. ornia Crossing" became common. This ford led to Ash Hollow on the North Platte. For Mormon Trail Clayton, 149-163.



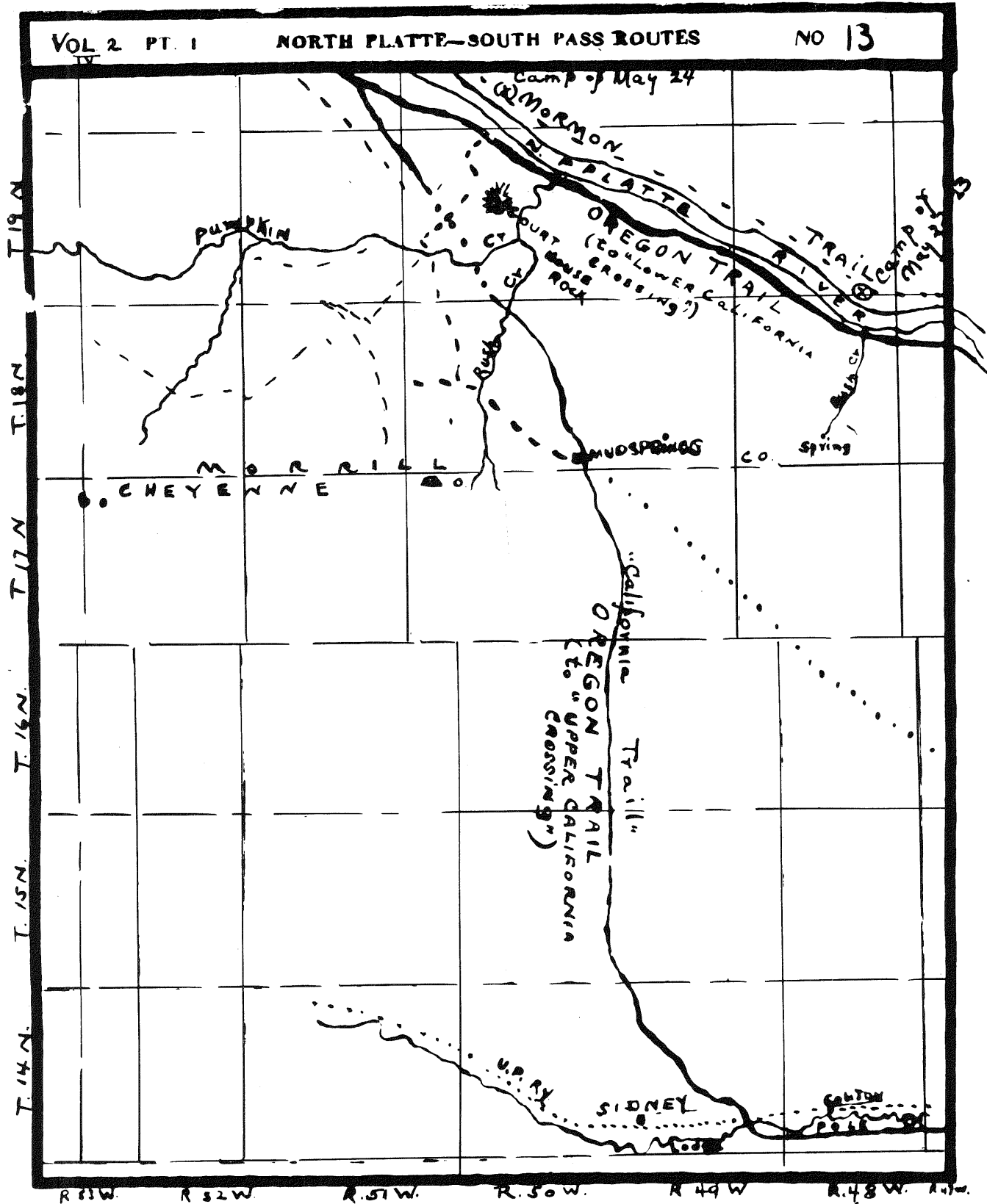
The trail by the "Lower" the North Platte at Ash
If the emigrant ascended the Platte to the "Upper California Crossing" he forded the river on the later side of Fort McPherson and the first Julesburg (Heb. Hist. 2 ser IV 267, 275; Inman 396; Sage, 49; Minto, 155; Palmer, 52; Lowe 257 Meline 34-36)

ford reaches
Hollow in Garden Co.

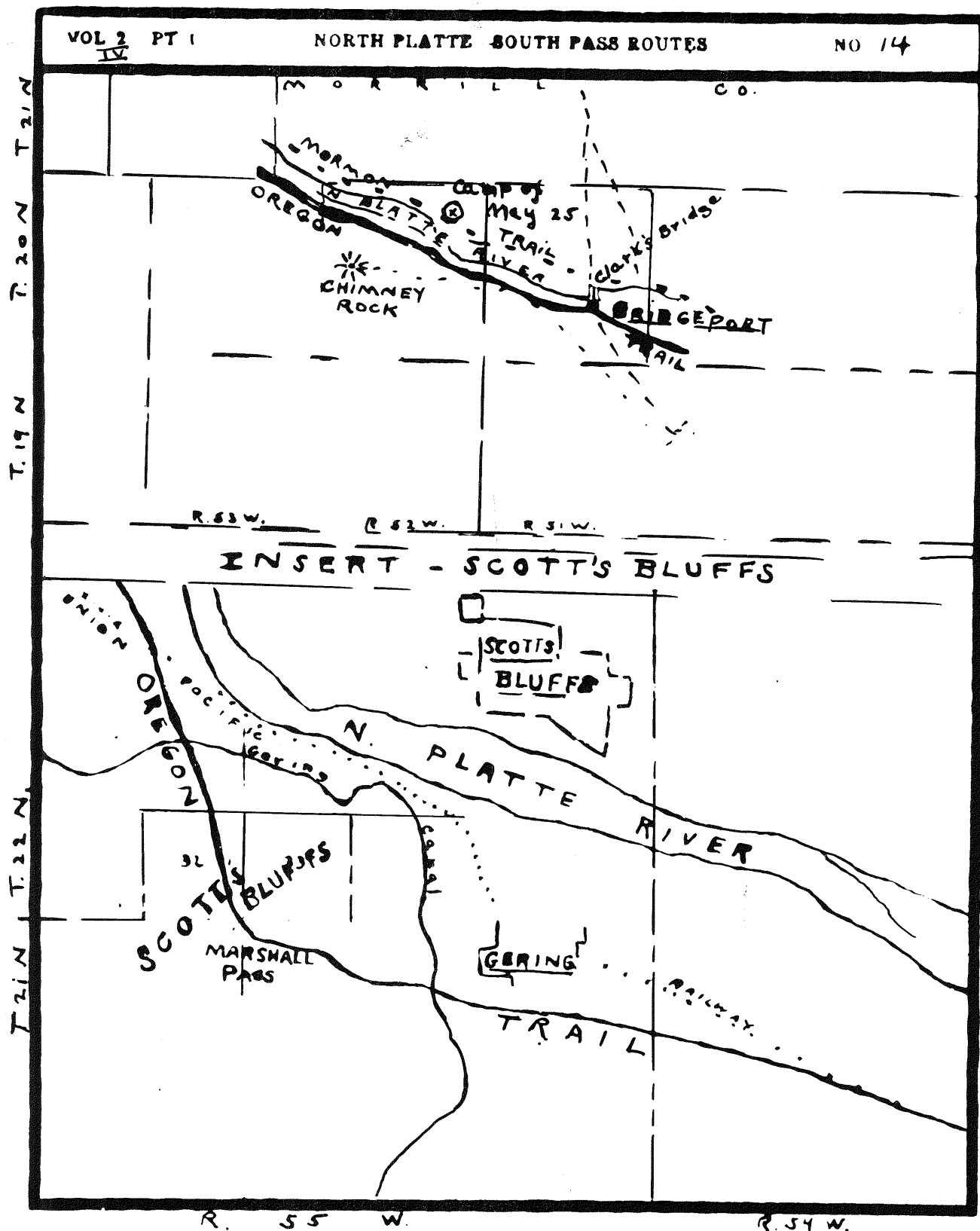
UPPER CALIFORNIA CROSSING



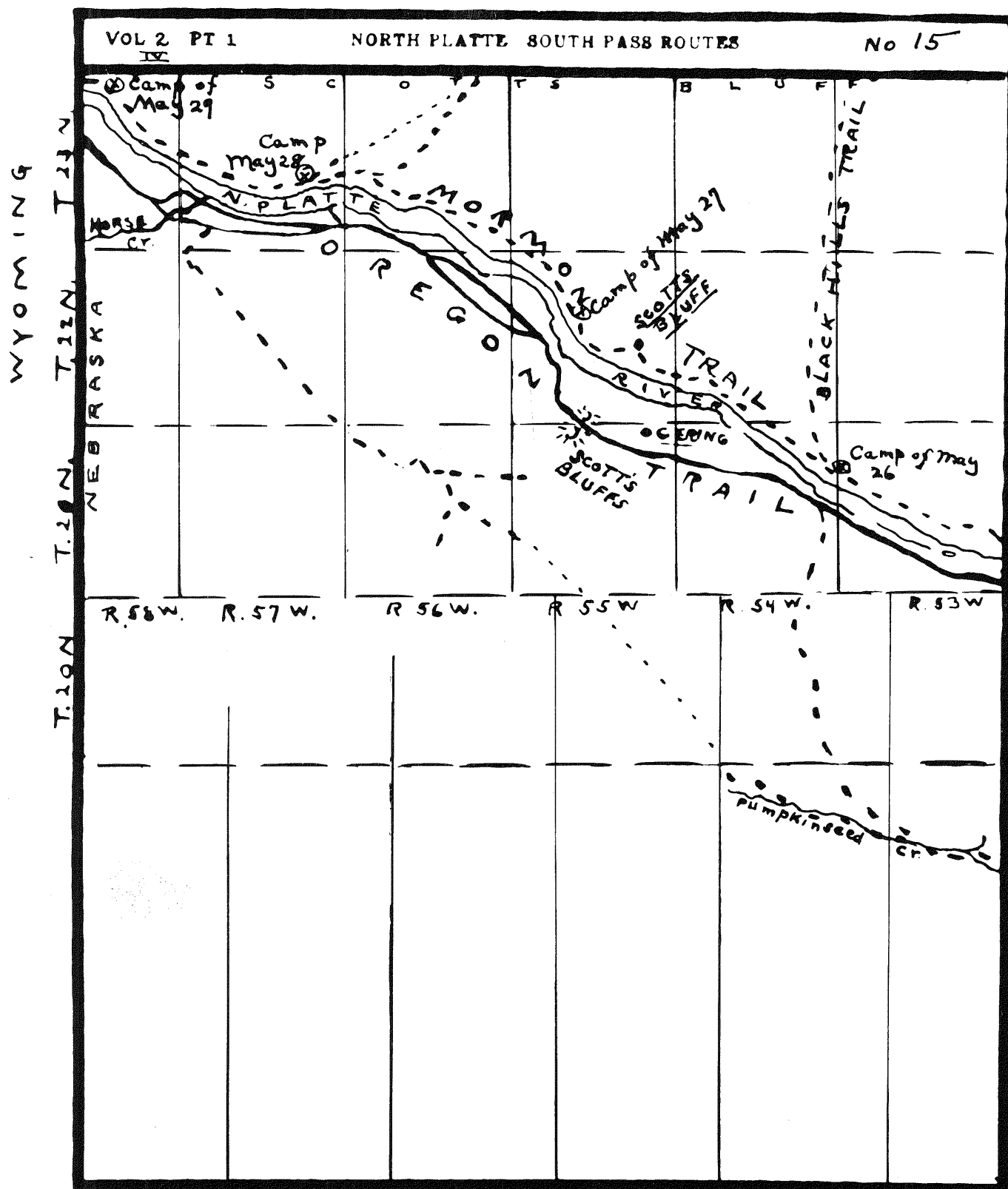
The detail of Ash Hollow shows the many pathways (still visible to the eye) by which the teamsters of long ago undertook to accomplish the perilous drop of from 400-500 ft to the banks of the North Platte: Cross 153-4; Lowe 27; Hewitt, 144; Palmer, 54-55; Townsend, 58; Kelly, 105-8; Sage, 49-50; Bryan 98.



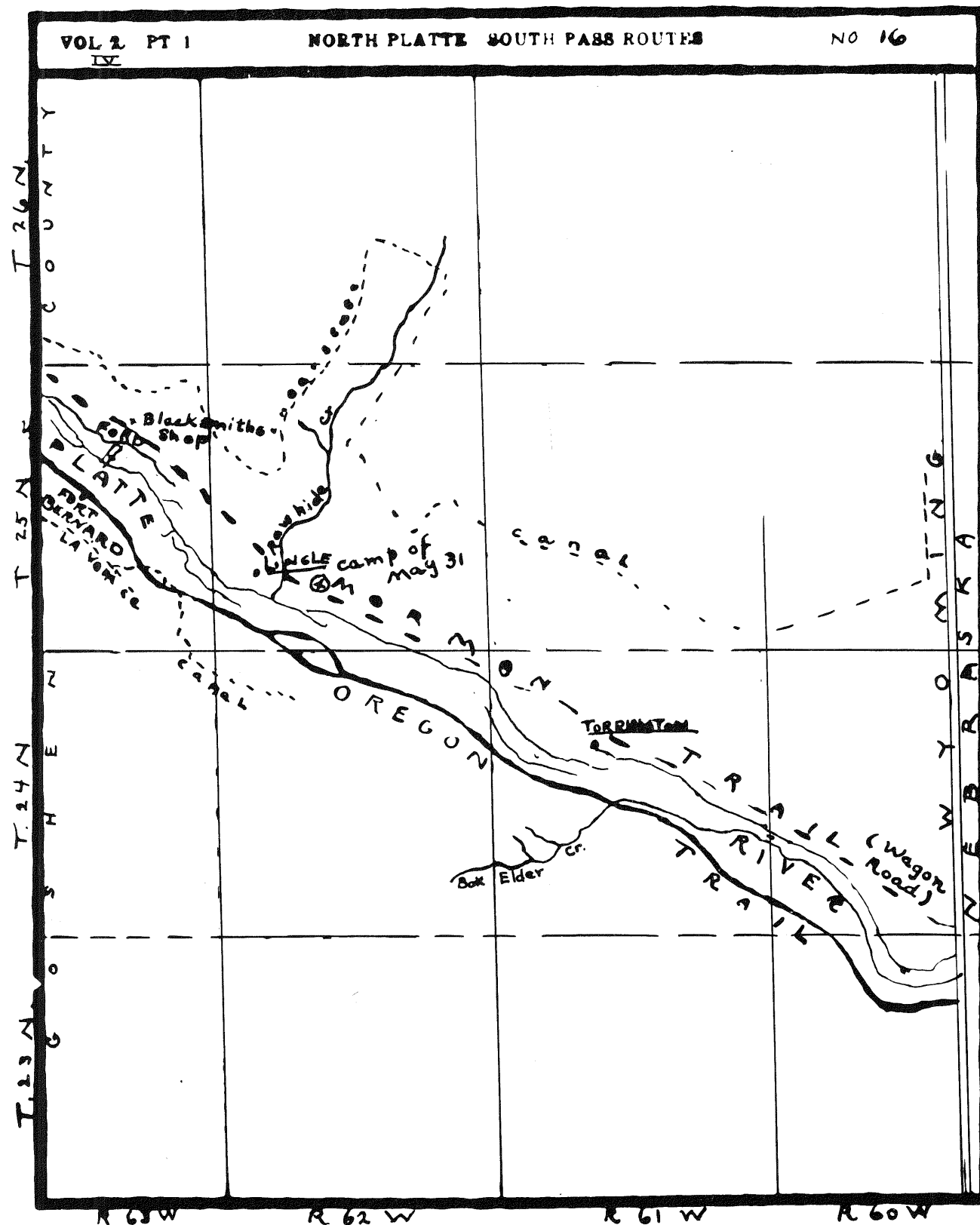
Spectacular Court House Rock ("McFarland's Castle", Sage, Mild Scenes, 55) was a prominent landmark near which all the scattered ganglia of the trails focused again on the North Platte: Kelly, Across, 108; Bryant, R. Mountains, 100; Sage, Life, 83; Hewitt, Across, 149; Palmer, Journal, 55. For Mormon Trail see Clayton, 166-176.



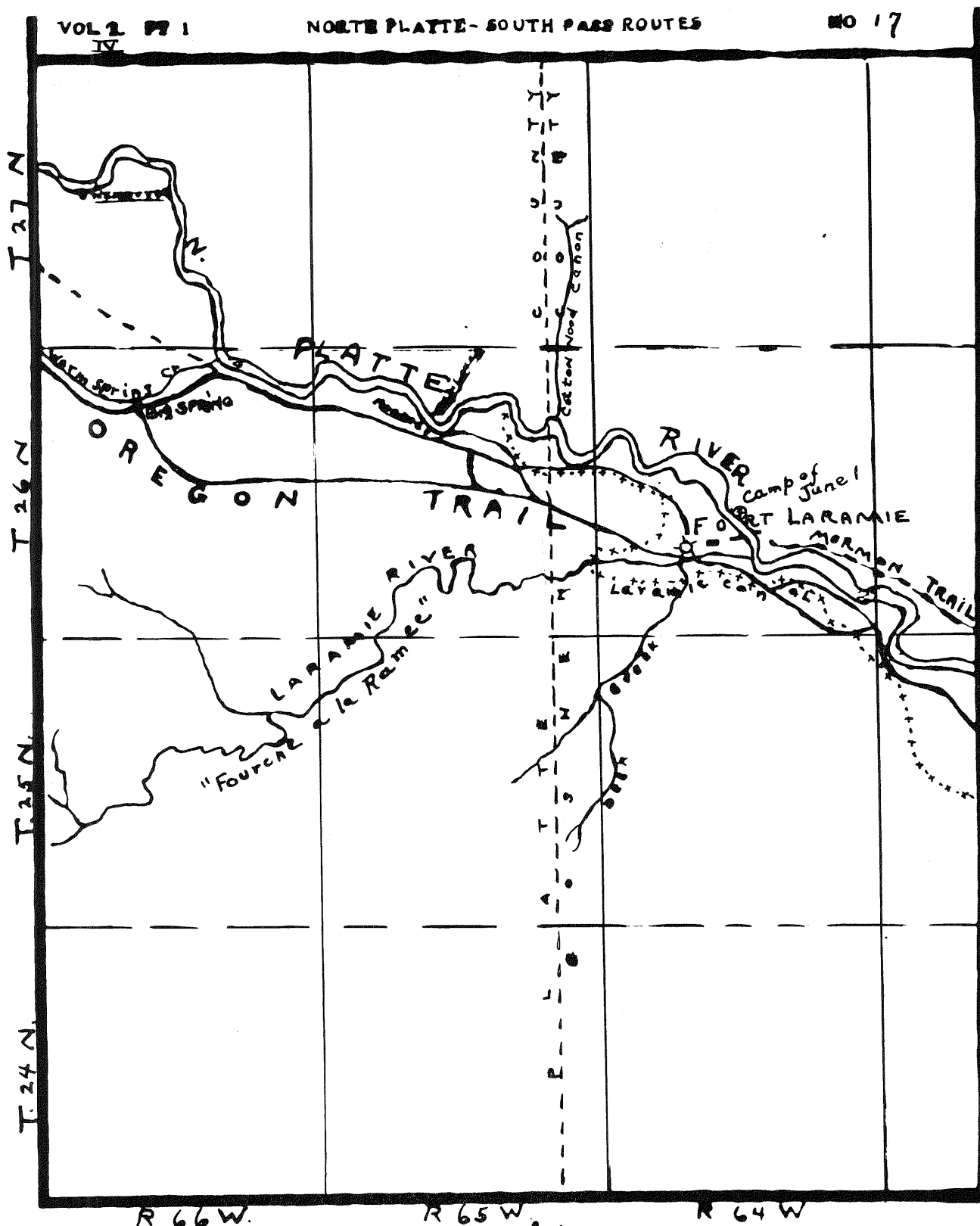
The monotony of the plains travel was broken by Court House and Chimney rocks, as well as the fantastic formations at Scott's Bluffs, further west. For Chimney Rock, in various years, see Mayhew, 155; Ellis, 72; De Smet, *Life*, I, 209; Bryant, 102; Cross, 55; Leonard, 64; Lowe, 318-319; Hewitt, 151.



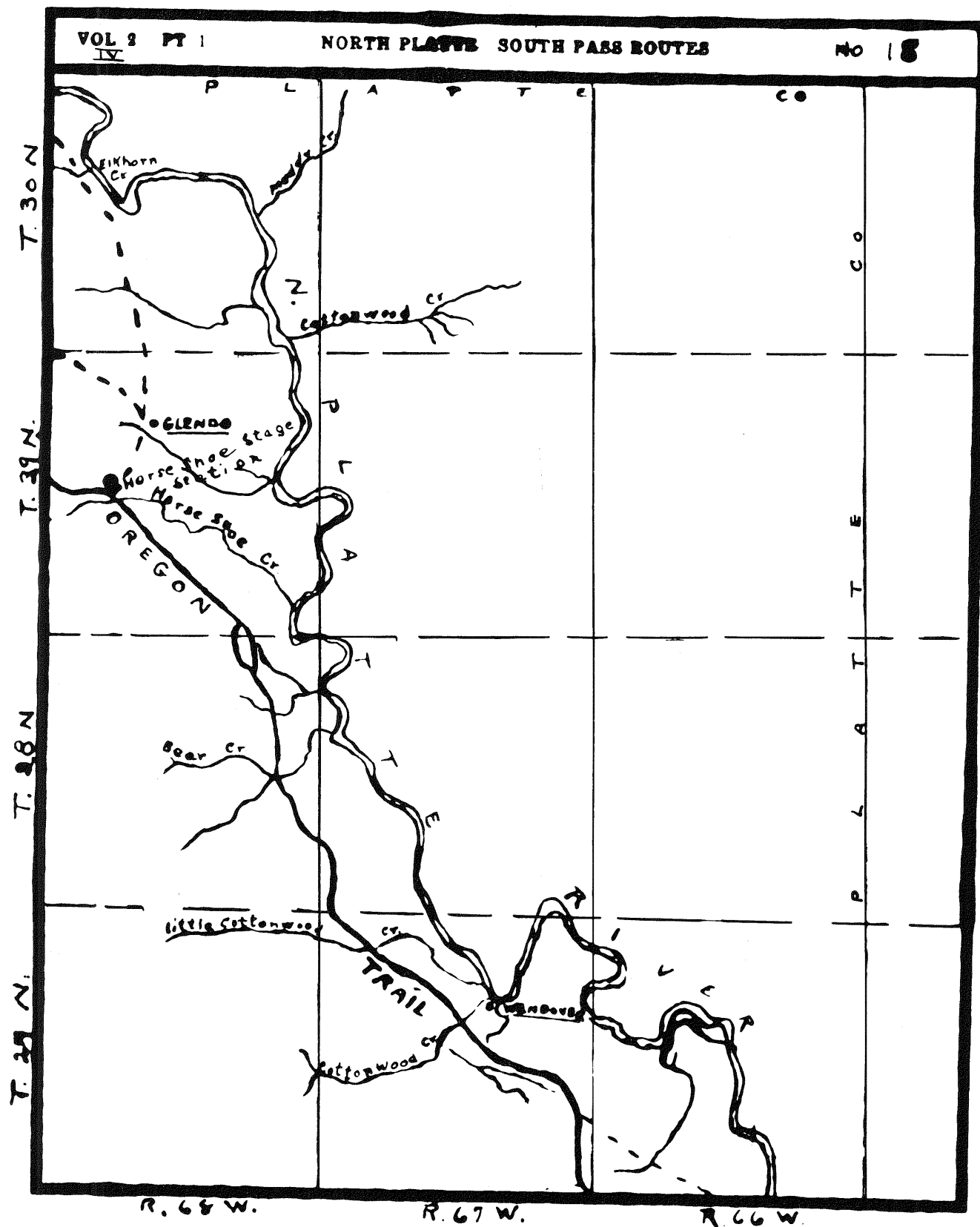
The last of the wandering prairie trails from the South Platte reaches the North Platte at Horse Creek, a tributary mentioned by practically every diarist. Scott's Bluffs is described with some care by Kelly, 112; Ellis, 72; Sage, 61-63; Bryant, 104-5; Parrish diary, Ore Pion. Trans 1888, 98; Hewitt, 154.



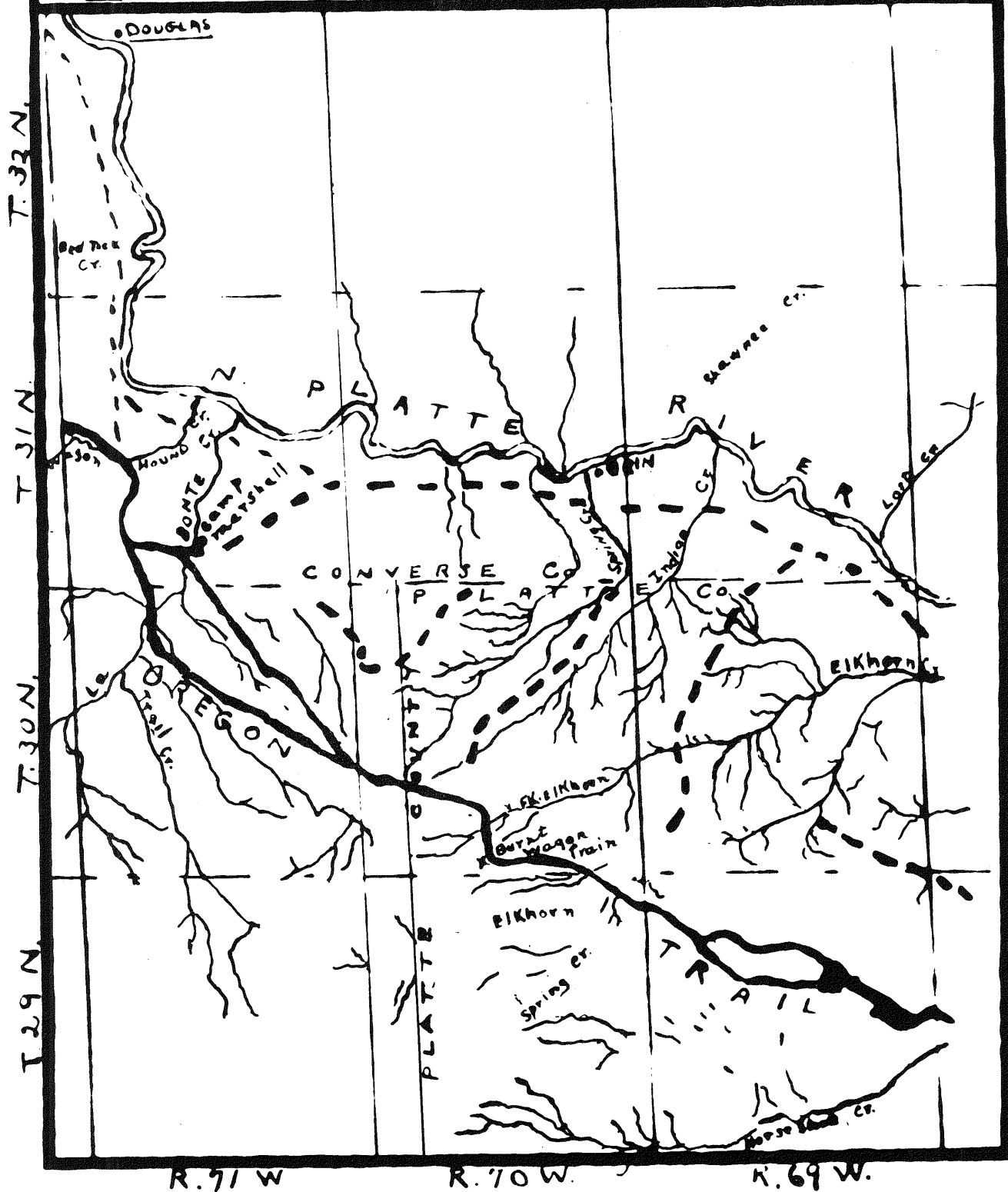
The Mormon pioneers of 1847 found their trail became a well-worn wagon road as Fort Laramie was neared, Clayton, 204-6. The region about Fort Bernard was a re-outfitting point for emigrants, fresh stock being supplied from Mexico, Hearn, Report, 213; Crawford, Report, 3; Bryant, 106, 112.



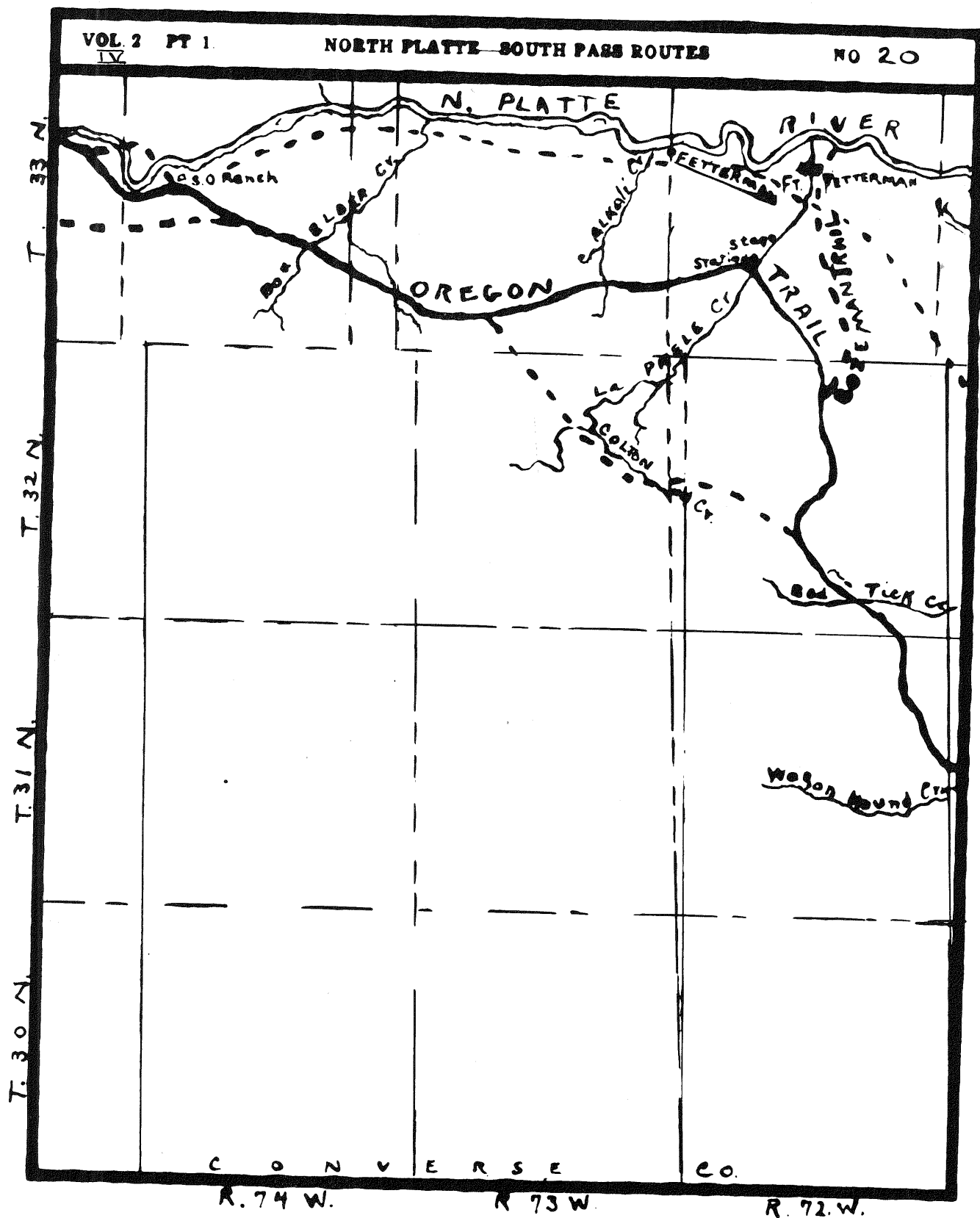
The many forts which ^{lay} on the Platte at or near the fork of the trapper La Ramée, Fort William, Fort John, Fort Lupton Fort Platte and Fort Laramie, are described by all travellers of the various years. Here, at Fort Laramie, the Mormon Trail joined the Oregon Trail; Clayton, 206-216. For the trail here note especially Fremont, 67; Capt. Bonneville, (1881) 51; Kearny, 212; Ellis, 73; Luman, 98; Greeley, 181-2.



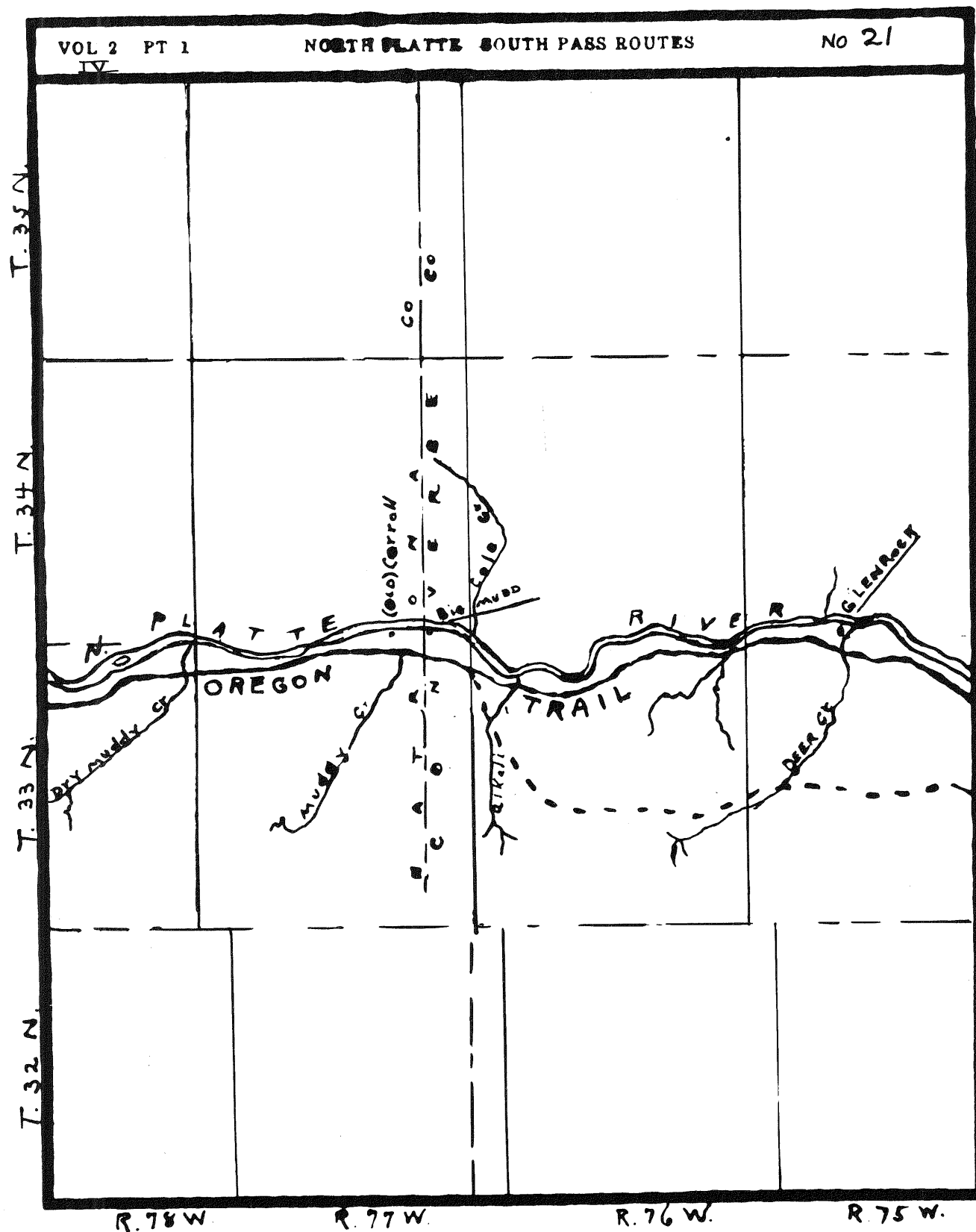
Faring westward from Fort Laramie, the early traveller entered the foothills of Laramie Mountains, then known quite commonly as "the Black Hills" or Black Mts (Humphreys + Warren, Examination, H. of R. Ex. Docs 33 Cong. 1 sess. Pt. 1. Doc. 129, 30). Horse ~~Shoe~~ Cr. was a noted camp in this section: Sage, 110; Leonard, 71; Lowe, 256-7; Palmer, 52; Cross, 159; Clayton, 214-222



Drainage detail here explains the devious courses of all the old trails many branches; Clayton spoke of these foothills as the roughest ground the Mormons had yet encountered (Journal, 224). Students of this section will have an interesting time attempting to place such travellers as Sage (Wild Beavers 114) Townsend (Narr. 65) Cross and Palmer Heroboute.



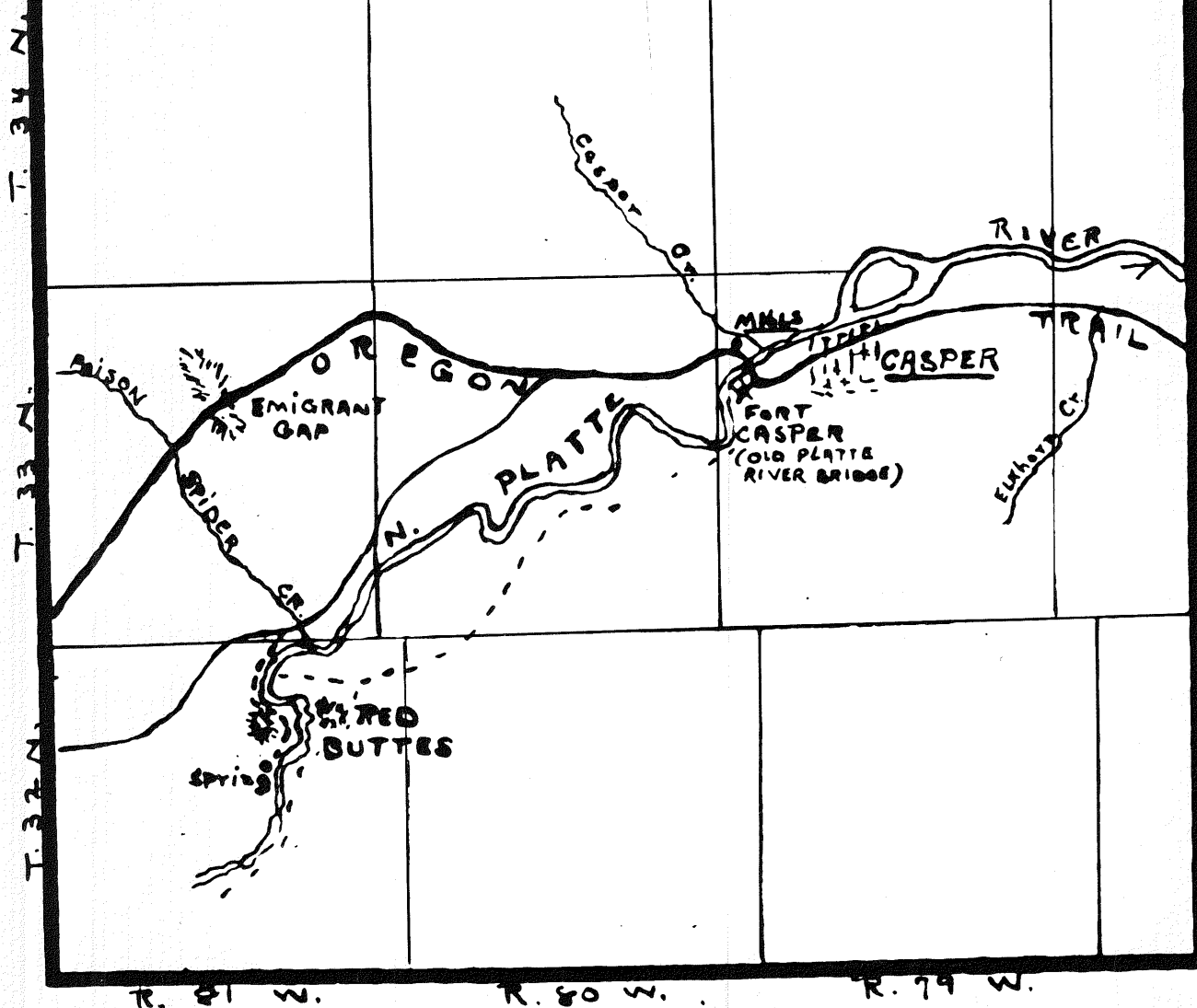
The original trail crossed Wagon Hound, Box Elder, La Poudre and Box Elder at the points indicated or at a further distance from the Platte than the later trail near Fort Fetterman and the present Fetterman shown as a dotted line. Cross Report, 161; Clayton, 225-230; Meline, 32; Lowe, 322



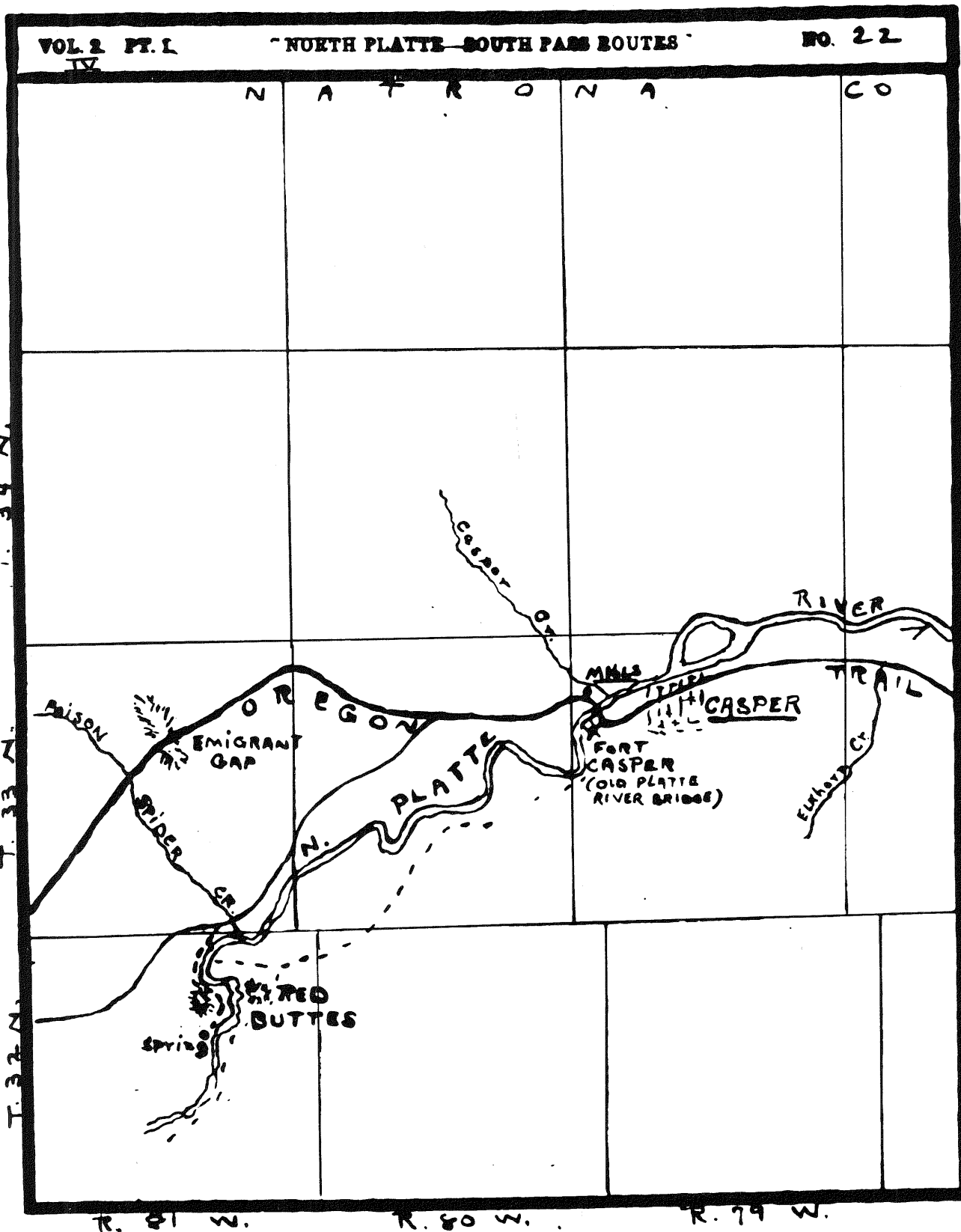
From the standpoint of fuel and forage, Deer Creek offered a bonanza to the emigrant seldom paralleled on the entire 2000-mile trail: Clayton, 229-230; Sage, Wild Scenes, 114-115; Palmer, Journal, 65. Cross Report (170) stated that the cholera scourge of 1849 did not extend westward of Muddy Creek.

2	A	+	R	0	2	A
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

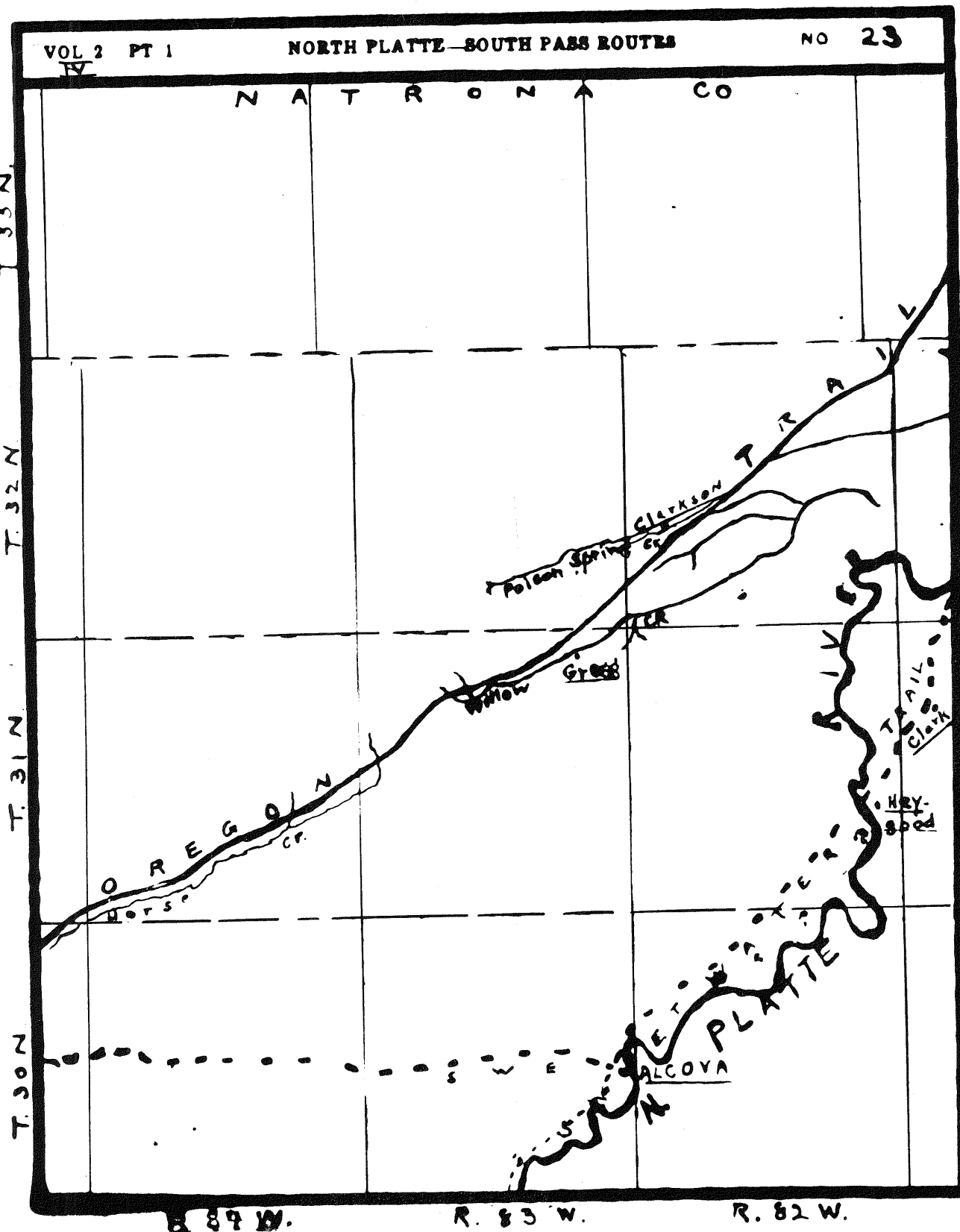
CO



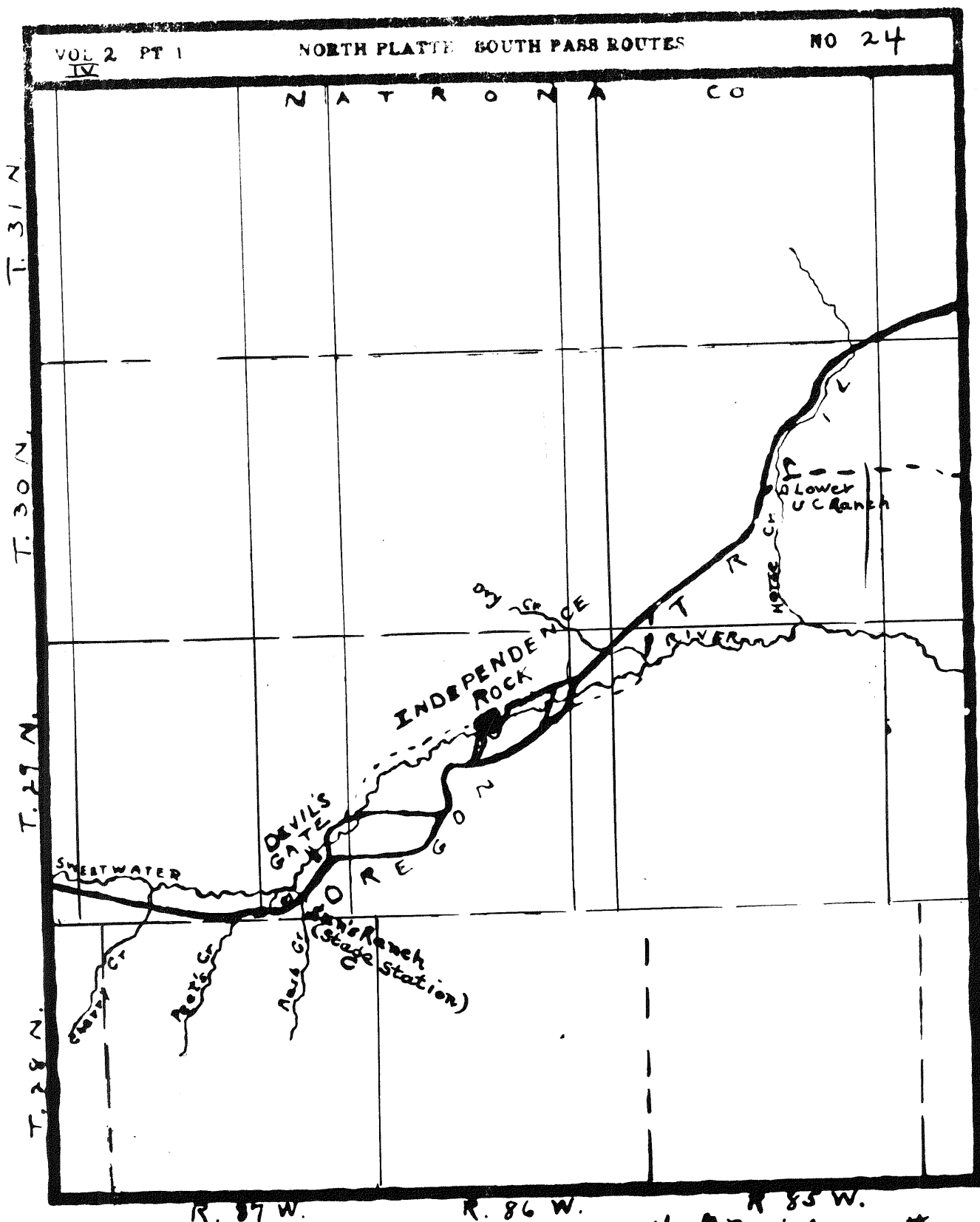
For the famous old ford and ferry near
Casper (later marked by Platte River Bridge and Fort Casper)
cf. Ellis, 74; Palmer, 66; Kelly, 126; Cross, 164; Sage, Wild Scenery,
120; Clayton 234-242 & Emigrant Gap: Clayton, 243; Bryant,
123. Red Butte: Townsend, 67; De Smet, Life, I, 213, Cross, 166;
R.S. Ellison in Casper Herald Dec 15, 1924; Parker, 38; E.W.T. ~~XXI~~, 103



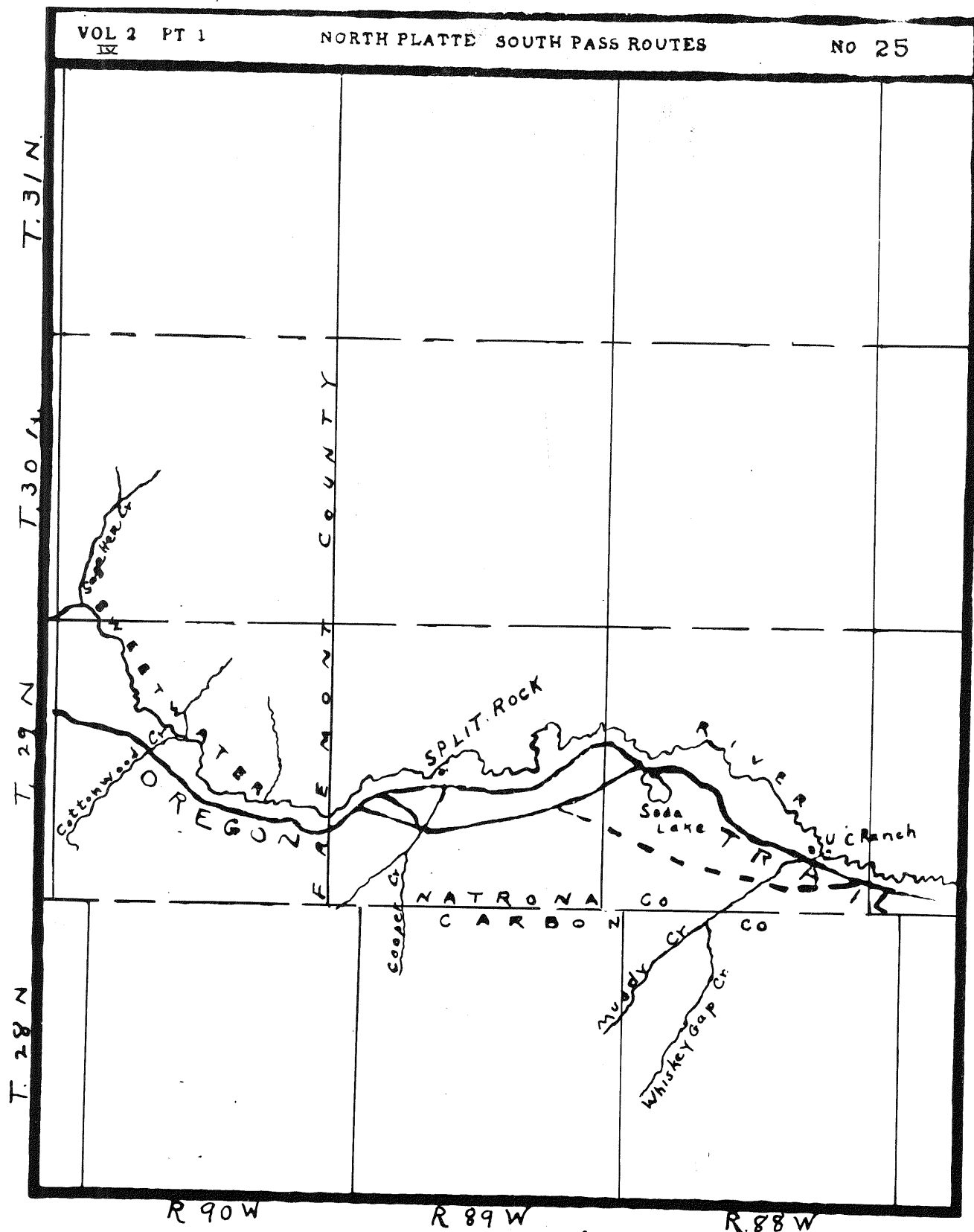
For the famous old ford and ferry near
Casper (later marked by Platte River Bridge and Fort Casper)
cf. Ellis, 74; Palmer, 66; Kelly, 126; Cross, 164; Sage, Wild Scenery,
120; Clayton 234-242 & Emigrant Gap: Clayton, 743; Bryant,
123. Red Buttes: Townsend, 67; De Smet, Life, I, 213; Cross, 166;
R.S. Ellison in Casper Herald Dec 15, 1924; Parker, 38; E.W.T. XXI, 103



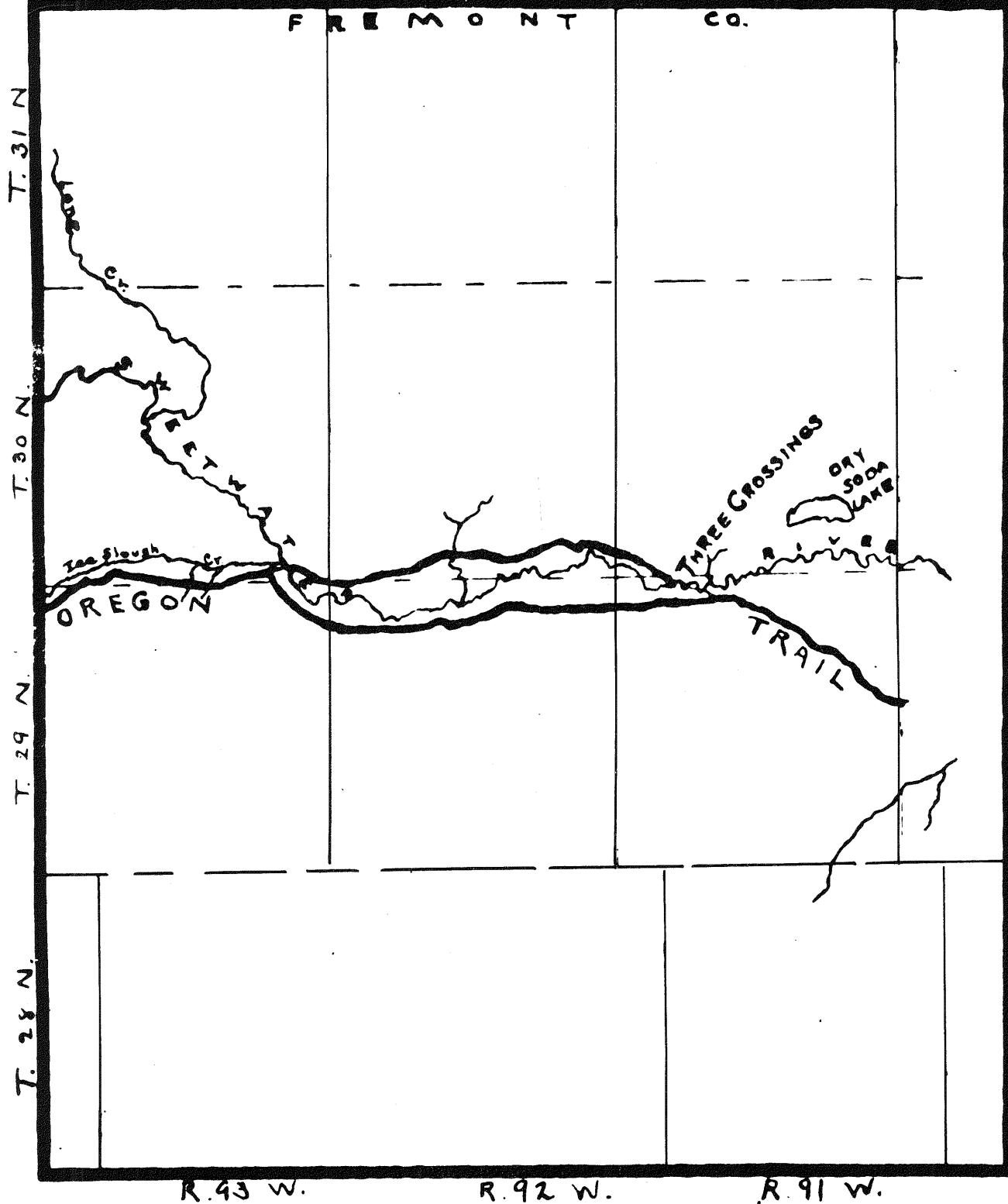
The ~~North Platte~~ trail from the Platte across to the Sweetwater (Map No 24) was broken for every emigrant by the cold spring which made Willow Creek famous. Although being the first arrivals, Orlando, a '49'er, (June 21) (p 96) describes fifty tents as arising near the Spring in the space of fifteen minutes. Cf. Palmer, 67; Cross, Report, 167.



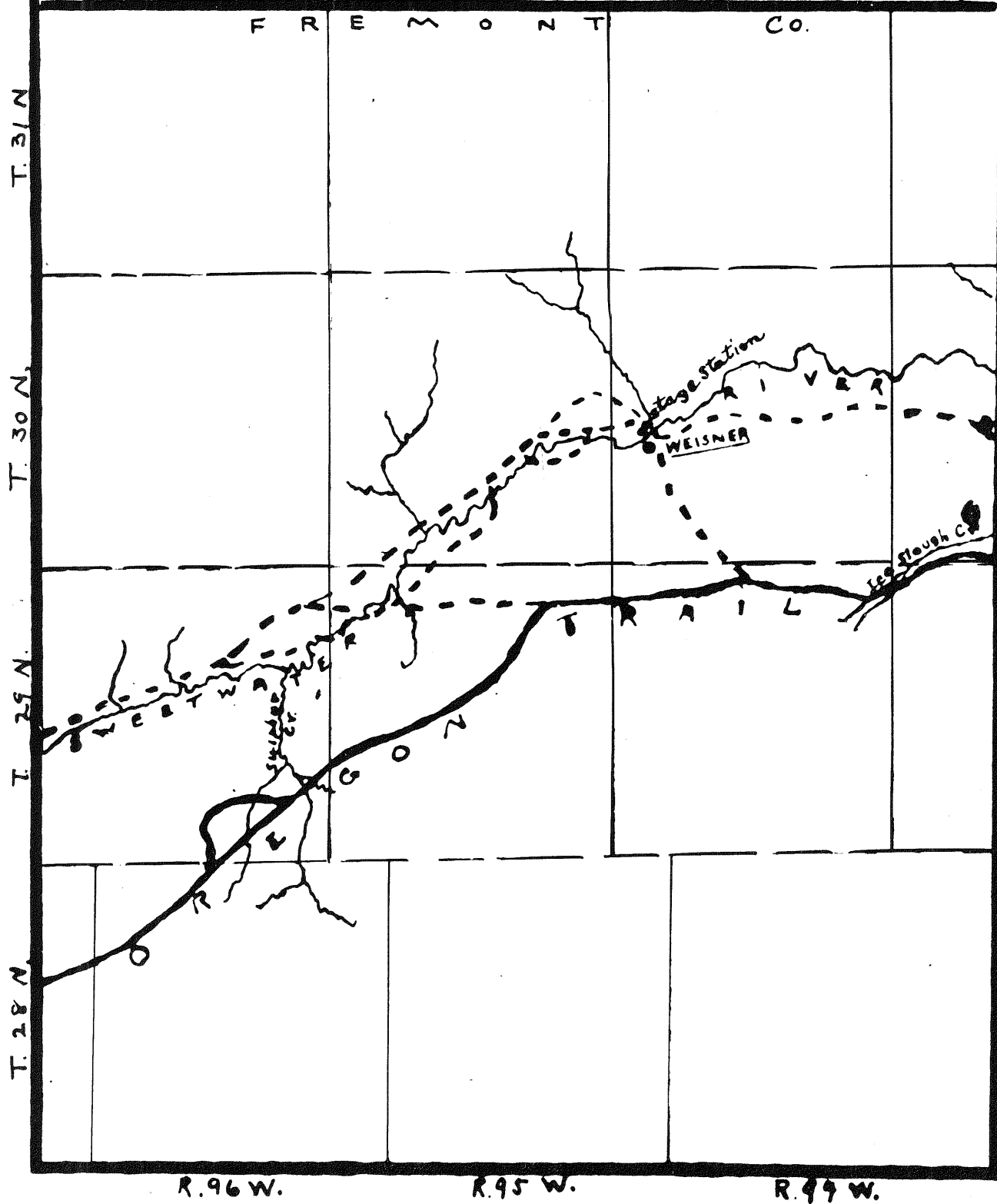
Noted Independence Rock became the "Register of the Desert" at a very early date as Fremont, in 1842, found names inscribed on it "everywhere within six or eight feet of the ground" (Expl. Exped. 82). Cf. Kelly, 133-4; Colayton, 253-254, Palmer, 67; Inman, 236-241, Bryant, 125; Cross, 168-170. For Devil's Gate: Kelly, 134; E.W.T. XXVII, 241; Colayton 254-255. See also J.R. Hebard, Marking the Oregon Trail, 32-33.



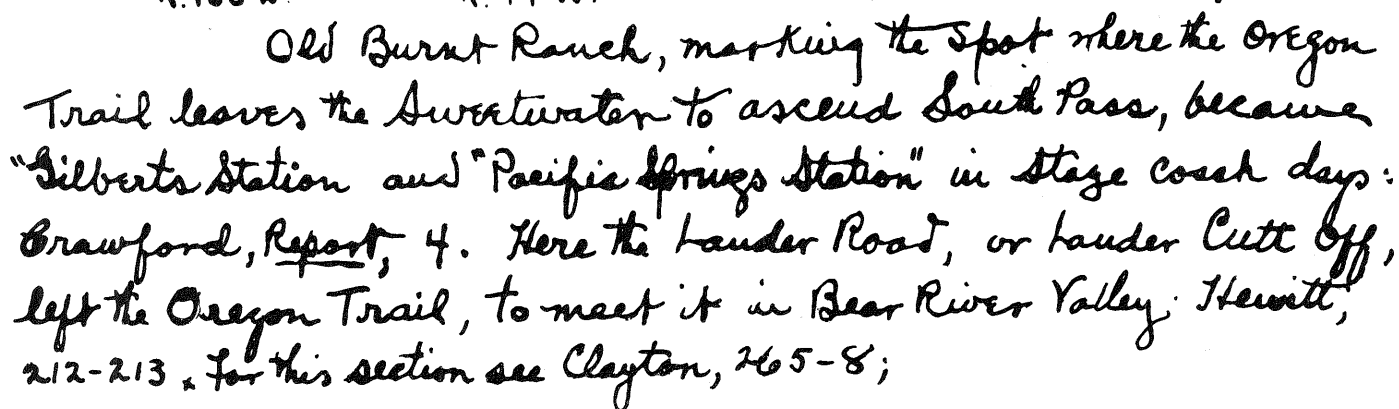
The trail ascending the barrens of the Sweetwater and by the soda lakes, dreaded by the emigrant (Clayton, 257; Cross, Report, 172) became now a test of endurance for the ill-equipped traveller. For Cooper Cr., called Sage Cr. by the Mormons, see Clayton, 158. For Cottonwoods of Hewitt, 199. For quantities abandoned along the trail here in 149, see Cross. 174

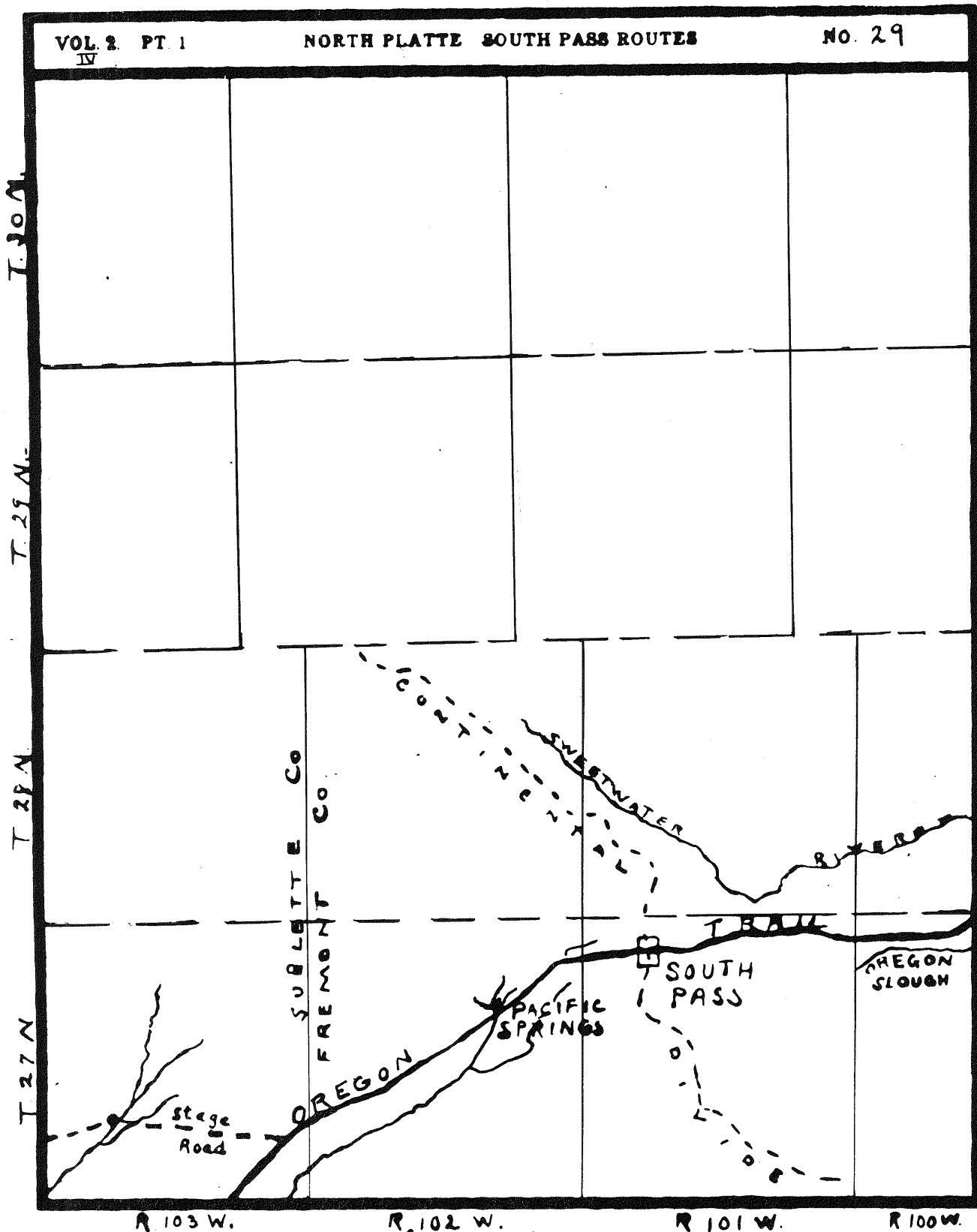


The dangerous "Three Crossings" of the Smritwater was never forgotten by those who took that branch of the trail: Palmer, 68; Orland, 105. Also Cf. Jansen, 179 and Greeley, 186. The phenomena of digging ice in midsummer from Ice Slough was commented on by most travellers; Kelly, 140; Clayton, 161; Orland, 107; Cross, 174; although, in 1862, Hewitt found none and refuted the story; 202-203.

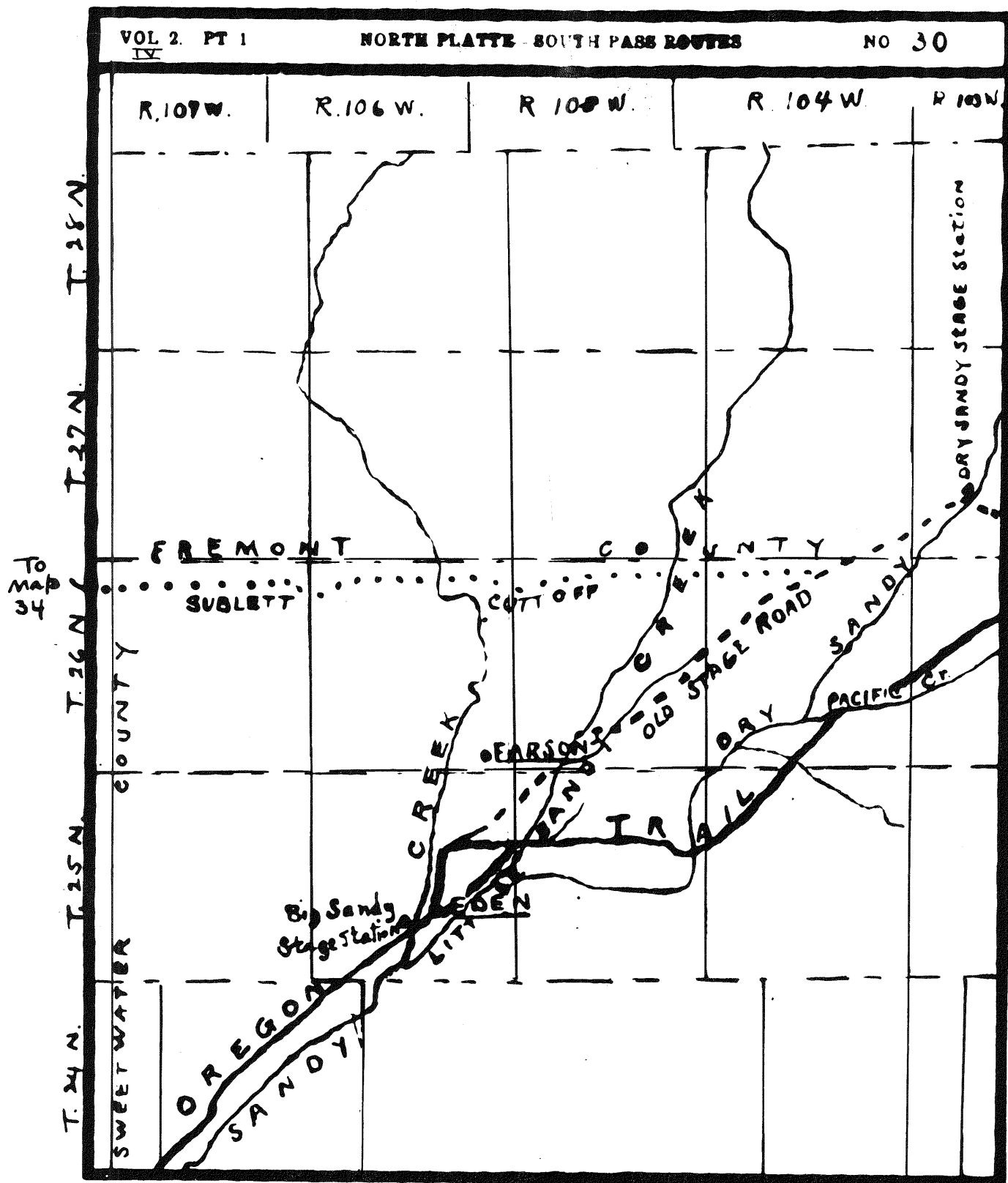


From Ice Slough onward to South Pass the older Oregon Trail lay to the southward of the river while the later stage, pony express and telegraph lines followed trails lying for the most part north of the river. Clayton 762-4; Cross, Report, 174; Hewitt, 206, Palmer, 69.

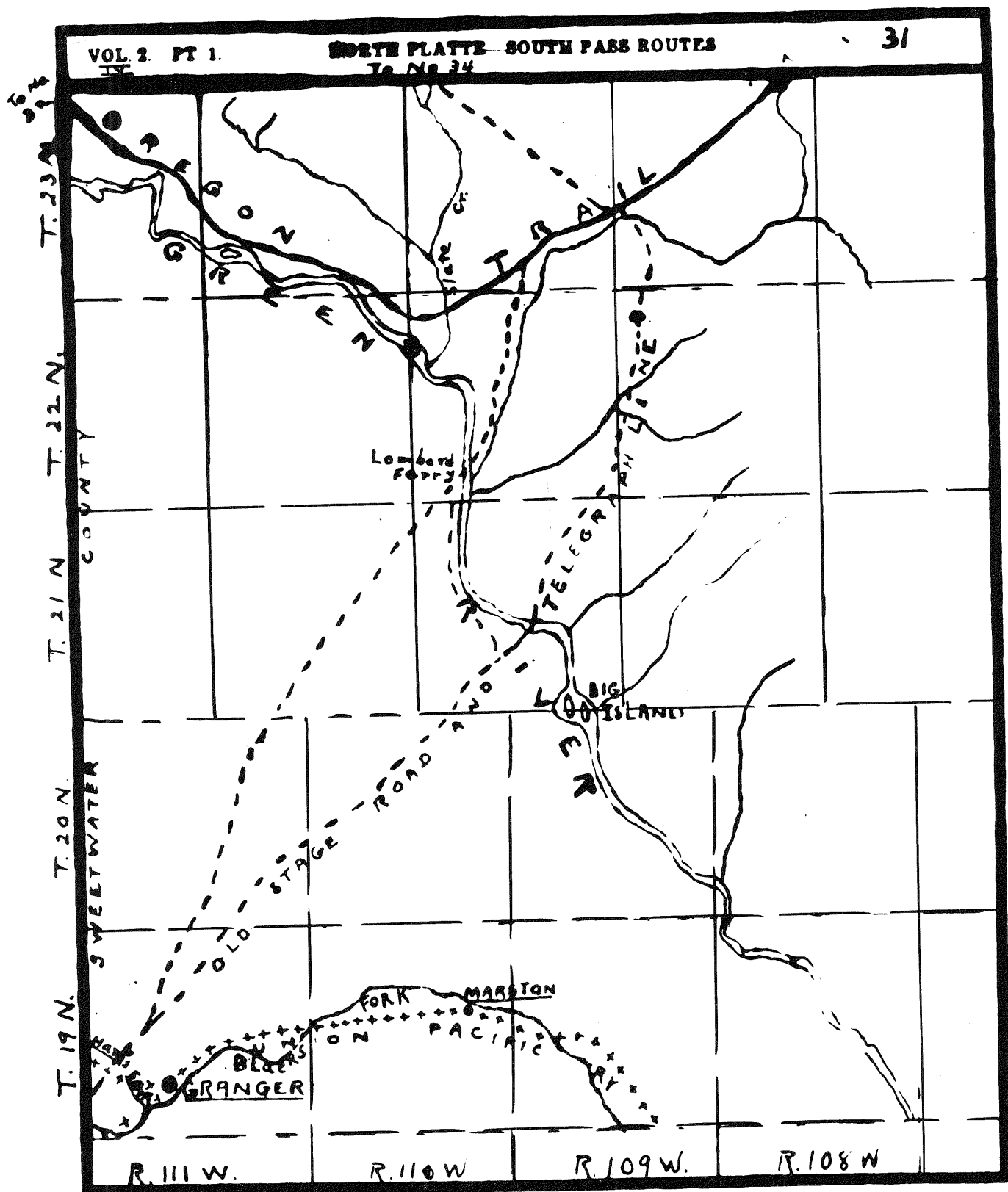




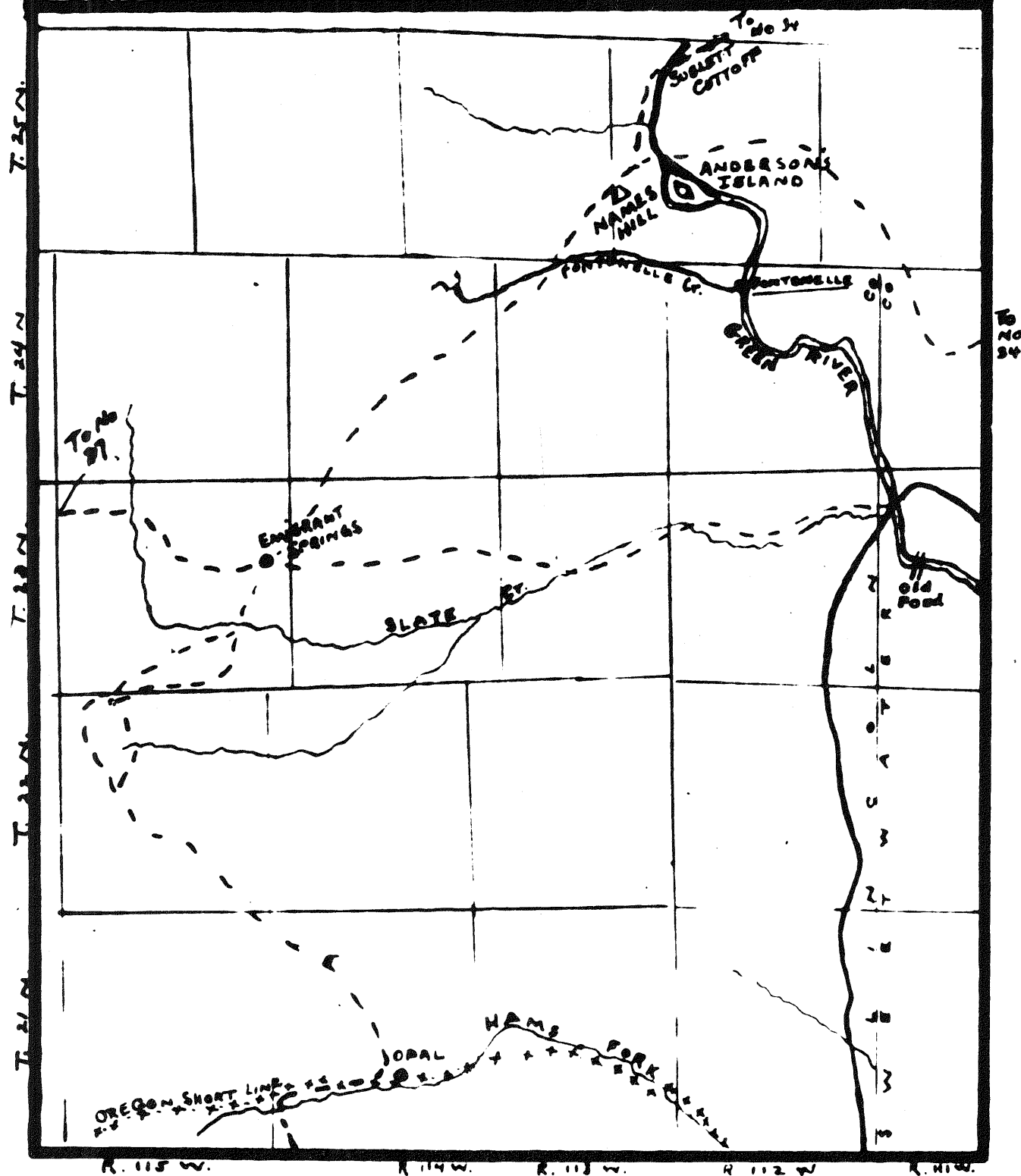
The Crossing of the Continental Divide proved common-place to the eager emigrants to Oregon and California. It is described by one of them as passing from one rounded knoll to another similar in design and height. The ascent is compared by Fremont to the climb to the U.S. Capitol from Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington D.C. Fremont, 88; Kelly, 139; Clayton, 269; Cross 176; Bryant 132; Greeley, 192; De Smet, Life, II, 215; Meeker, Personal Experiences, 74-76, Palmer, 71.



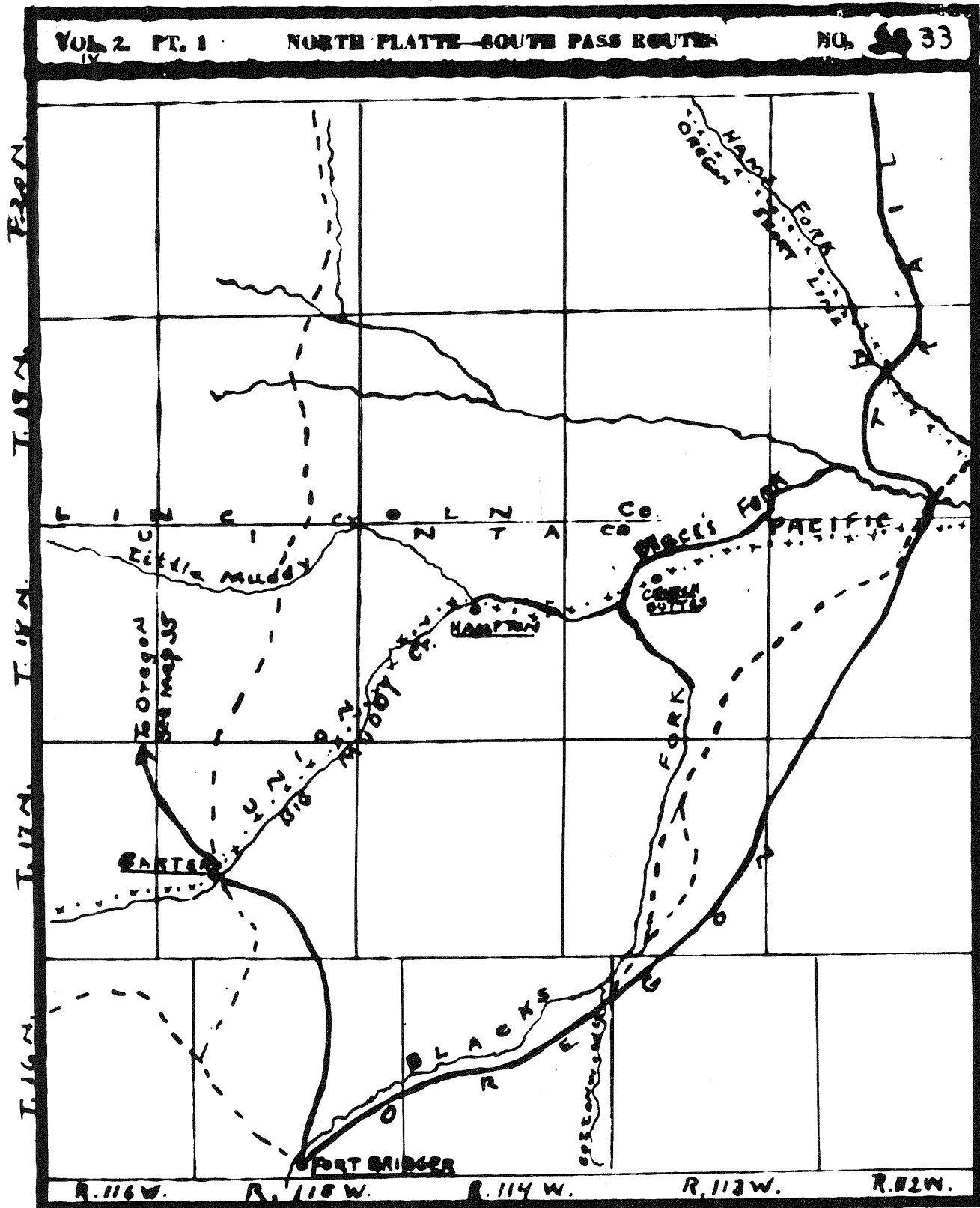
The main Oregon Trail and the parallel line of the later stage road can be located in the valleys of Pacific and Sandy Creek. There is much work to be done to fix the lines of the various cut-offs across to Bear River, Landers', Sublett's, Greenwoods, Head path's or Thew's path's etc. Cf. Bryant, 135; Cross, 176; Palmer, 72; Kelly, 142; Clayton, 273; De Smet E.W.T. XXVII, 242.



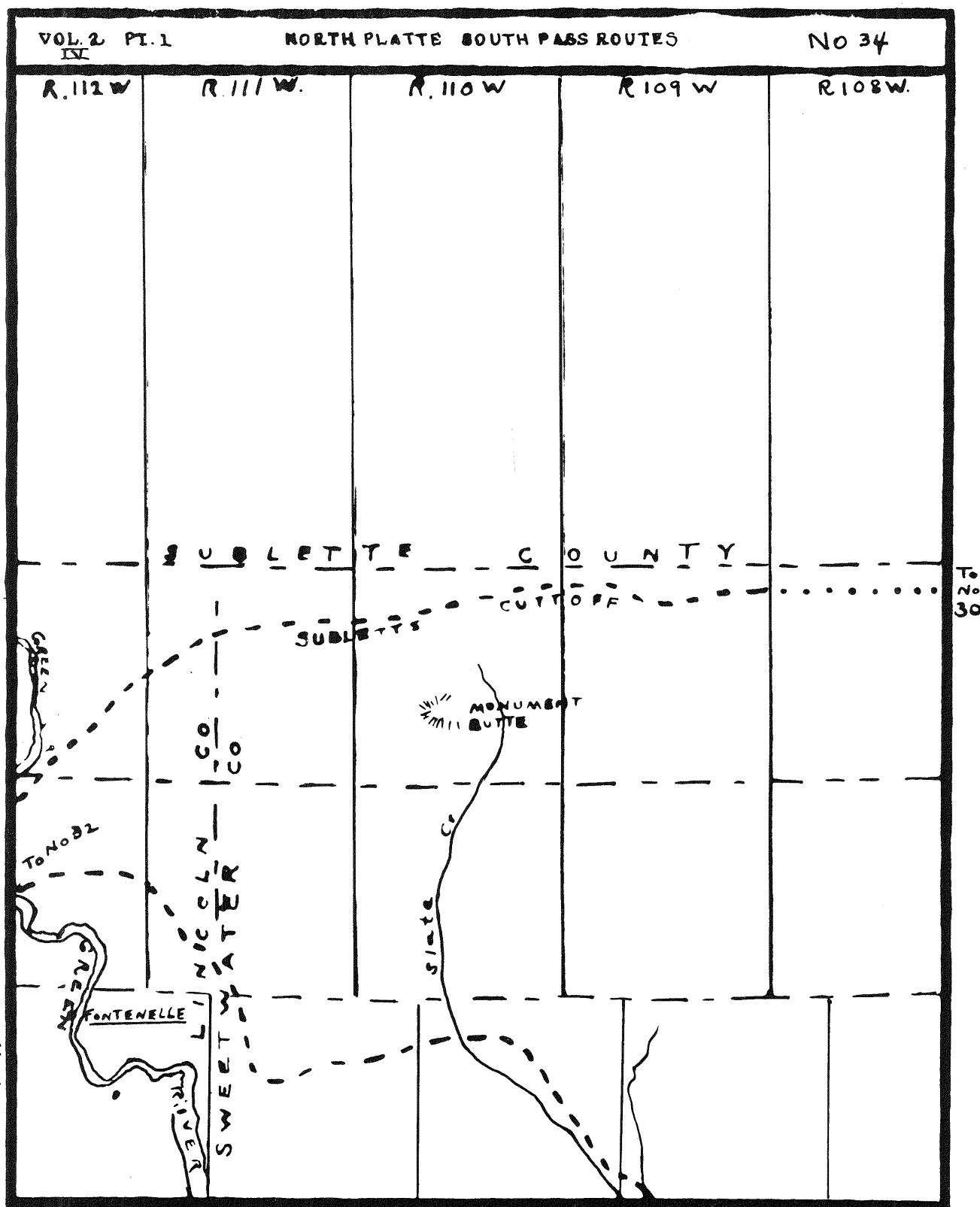
While the original Oregon trail swung up the
 Green to the crossing places in T. 23 N. (Map No. 32) most
 travellers who left journals followed the "Lombard Ferry"
 route, or the "old stage road" to Black's Fork and Fort
 Bridger. For the Mormons at "Lombard Ferry", Clayton, 283;
 Also cf. Kelly, 145 and Bryant, 138. See Townsend, 72; Palmer, 73.



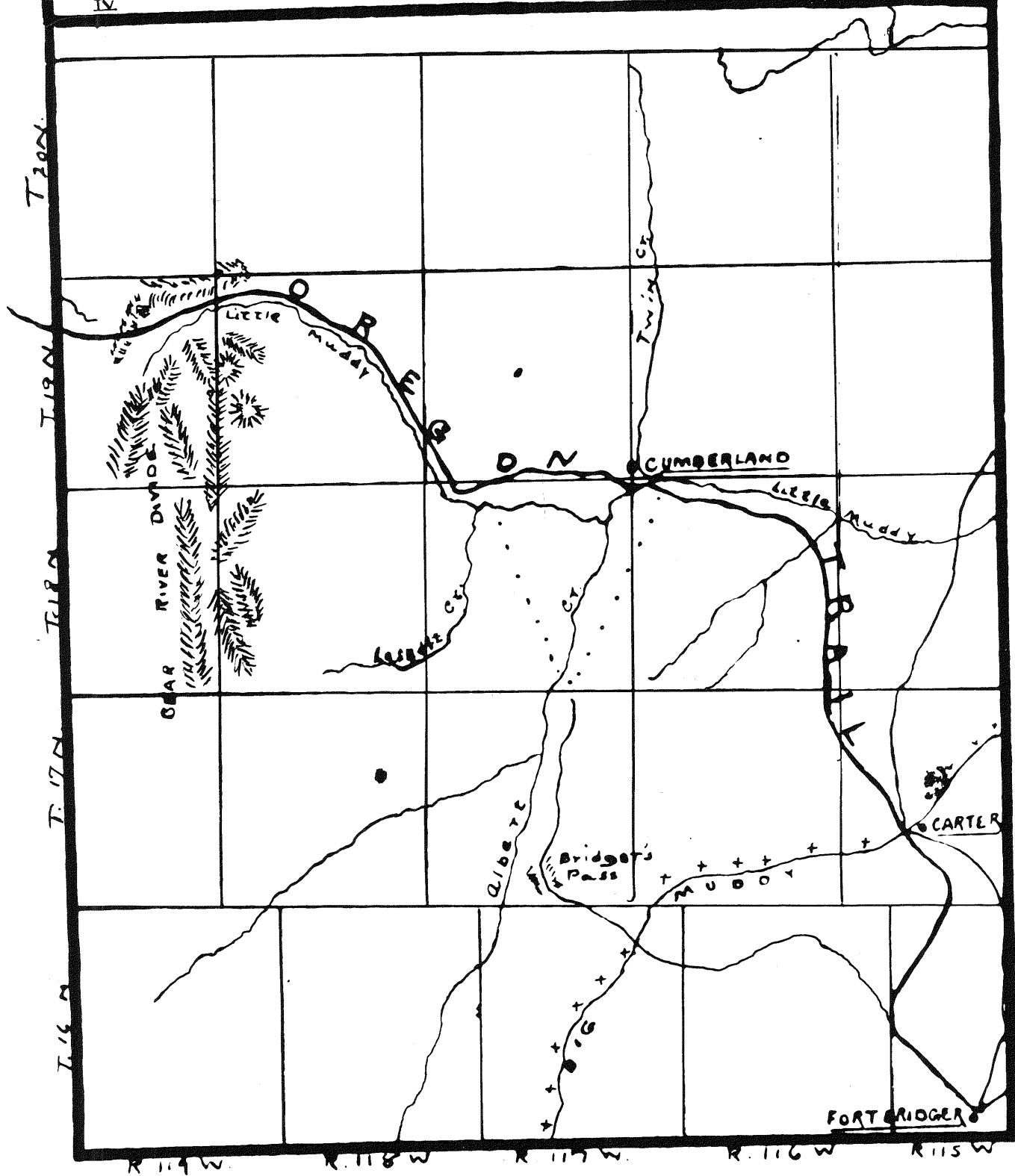
Later Mormon trains followed the Sublett route (Map. No. 30) and established a "Mormon Ferry" at Anderson's Island: Cross, Report, 177. The crossing of Fontenelle Co. near Names Hill is mentioned by Cross, 178; also Emigrant Springs, 179. Of special value here as in all Wyoming, is J. R. Hebard Marking the Oregon Trail (Pub. by Mus. B. A. R.)



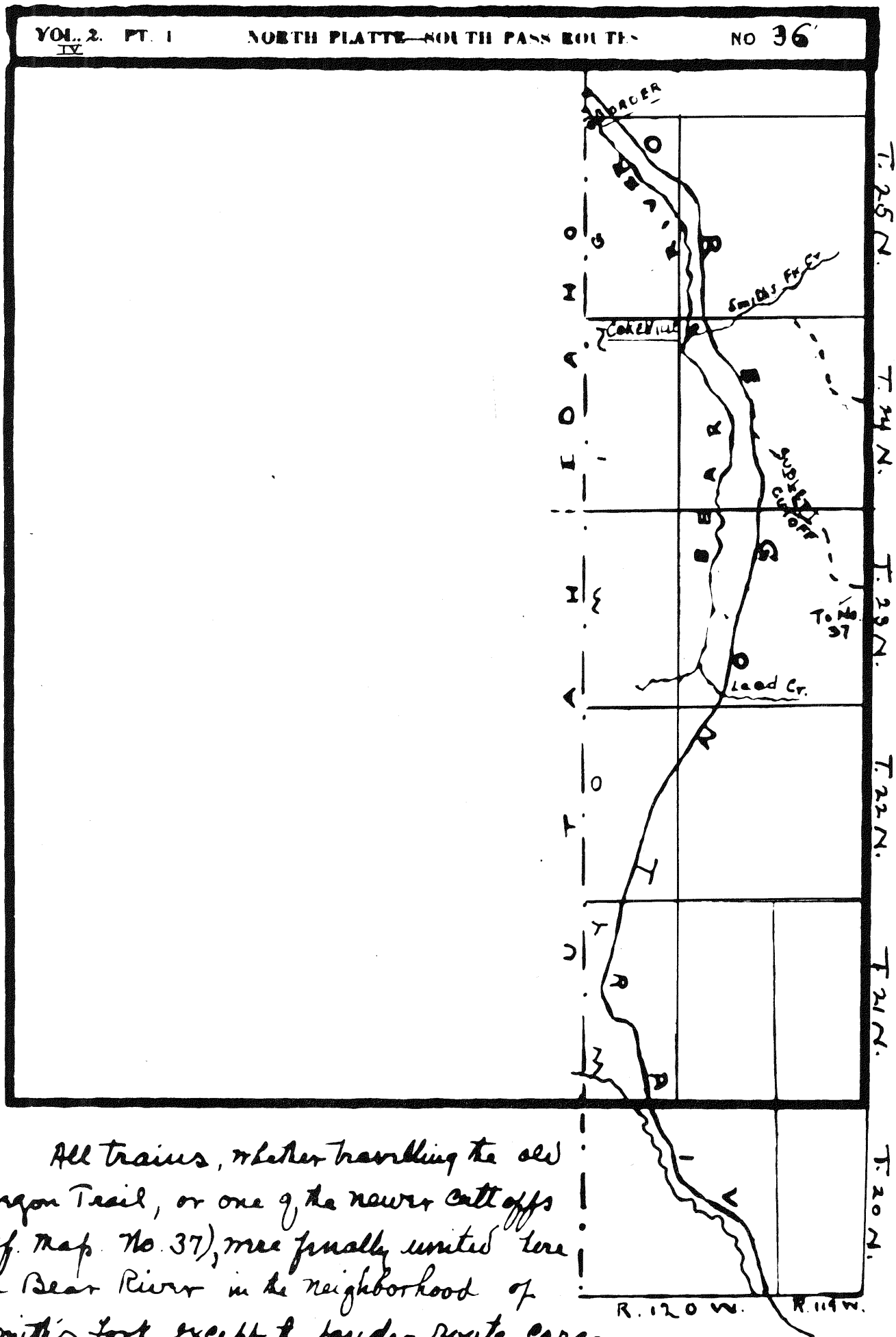
For the Church Butte - Fort Bridger section of the old trail all diarists are usually minute: Kelly, 146-7; Bryant, 140-3; Clayton 283-6; Palmer 74; For importance of Fort Bridger on this line of communications see Wyoming Hist. Soc. Collections, I, 68 ff. of Hebard, Marking the Oregon Trail, 14-15.



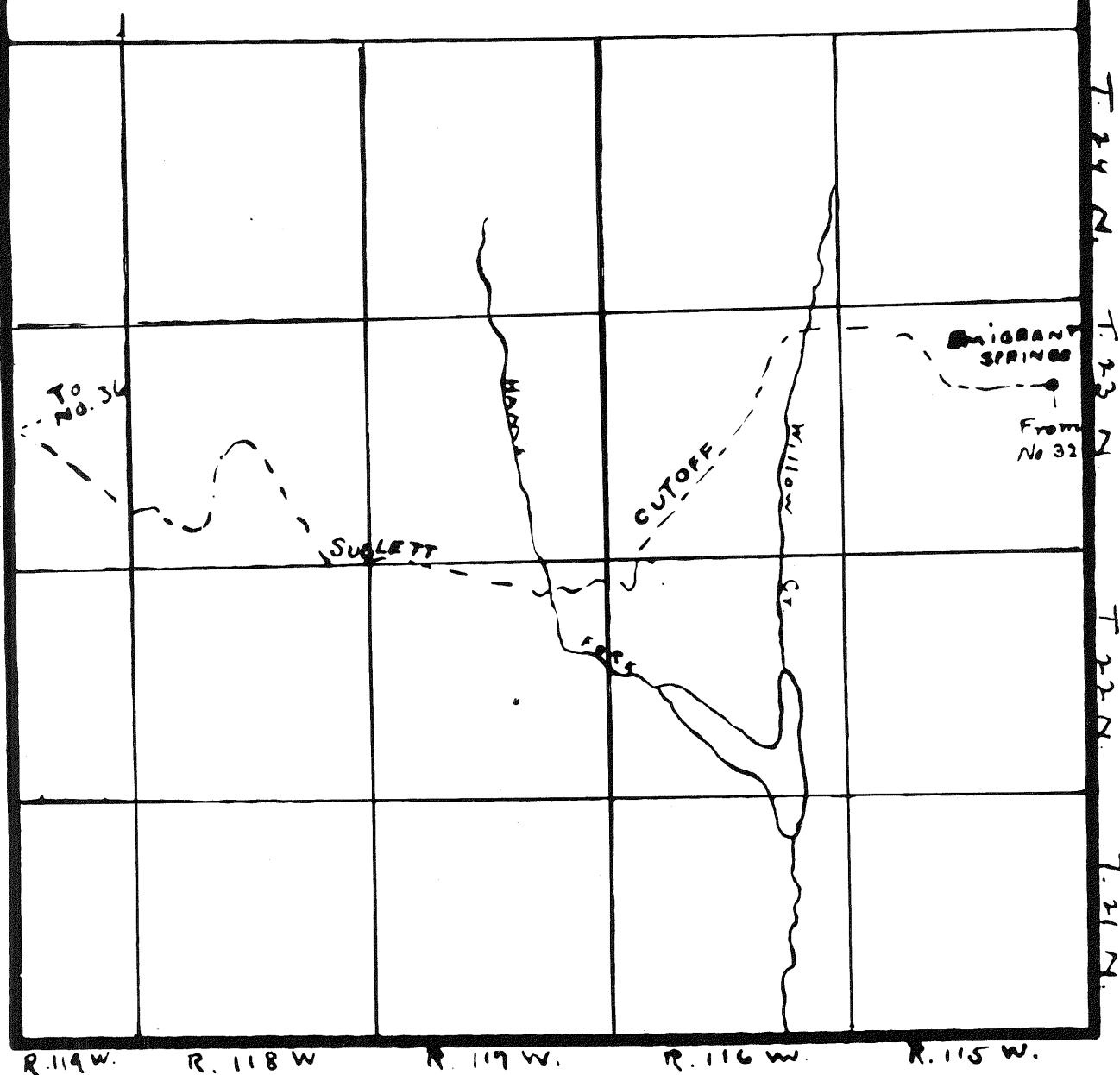
The fifty four desert miles on the Sublette Cutoff R. 103 W. (Map No 30) to R 112 W. gave that line a hard name despite the distance saved; Orlano, 178-179. "From the time we left the Big Sandy [mole Cross in '49] until we arrived on Green River, we met with no water having marched through the day and night, a distance of fifty miles without it" - Report, 177.



The line of the trail up Little Muddy to the divide leading to Bear River is well described by Fremont (Expl. typed 1166-1168), Minto, (Reminiscences, 210) and Palmer, (Journal, 74-76). Fort Bridger came into added prominence with the opening of Mormon migration (Clayton 286-7) and establishment of the Overland Stage line (see Maps Nos. 40-50).



All trains, whether travelling the old Oregon Trail, or one of the newer cut-offs (cf. Map No. 37), were finally united here on Bear River in the neighborhood of Smith's fork, except the tender route caravans. Cf. Gen. & Docs. 17 37 Aug 3 Seas; Palmer, 76; Cross, 180; Ellis, 81.

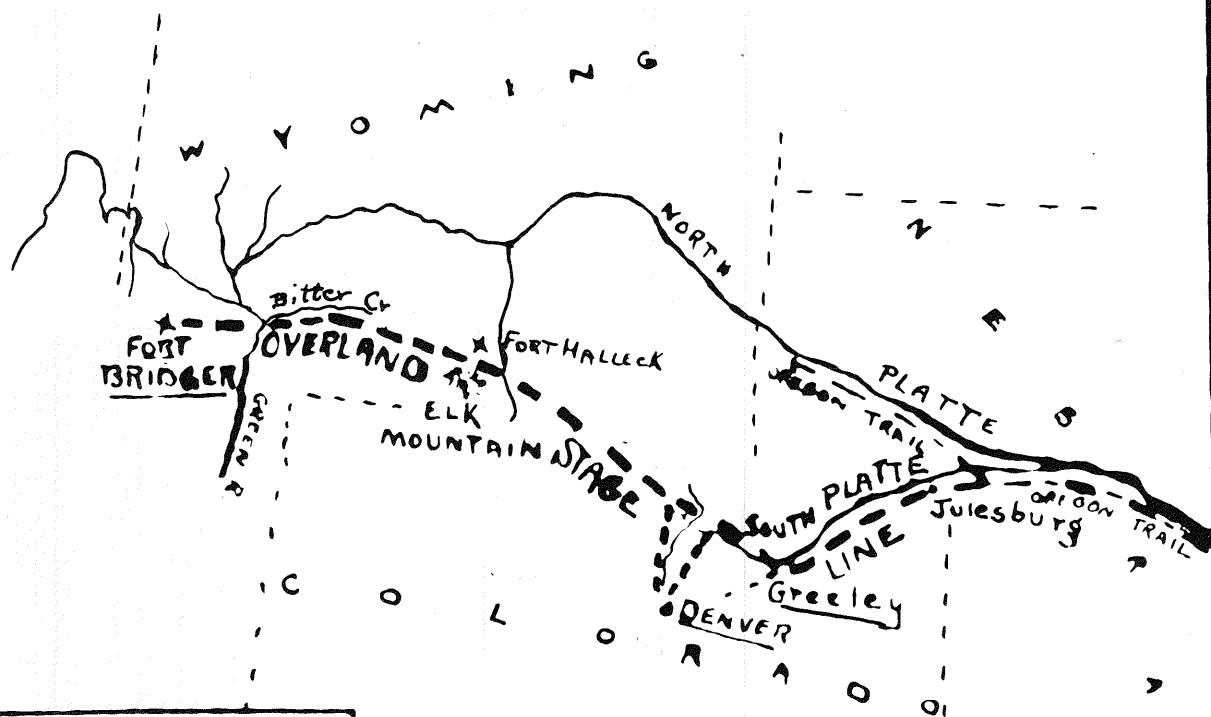


See Cross, Report, 180 ff. also Wagner Map
 H. & R. Ex. Docs. 35 Cong. 2 sess, Orleans
 gives good description of this Cutoff in 1849:
 pp 128-130. See Herbert, Marking the Oregon Trail, 13.

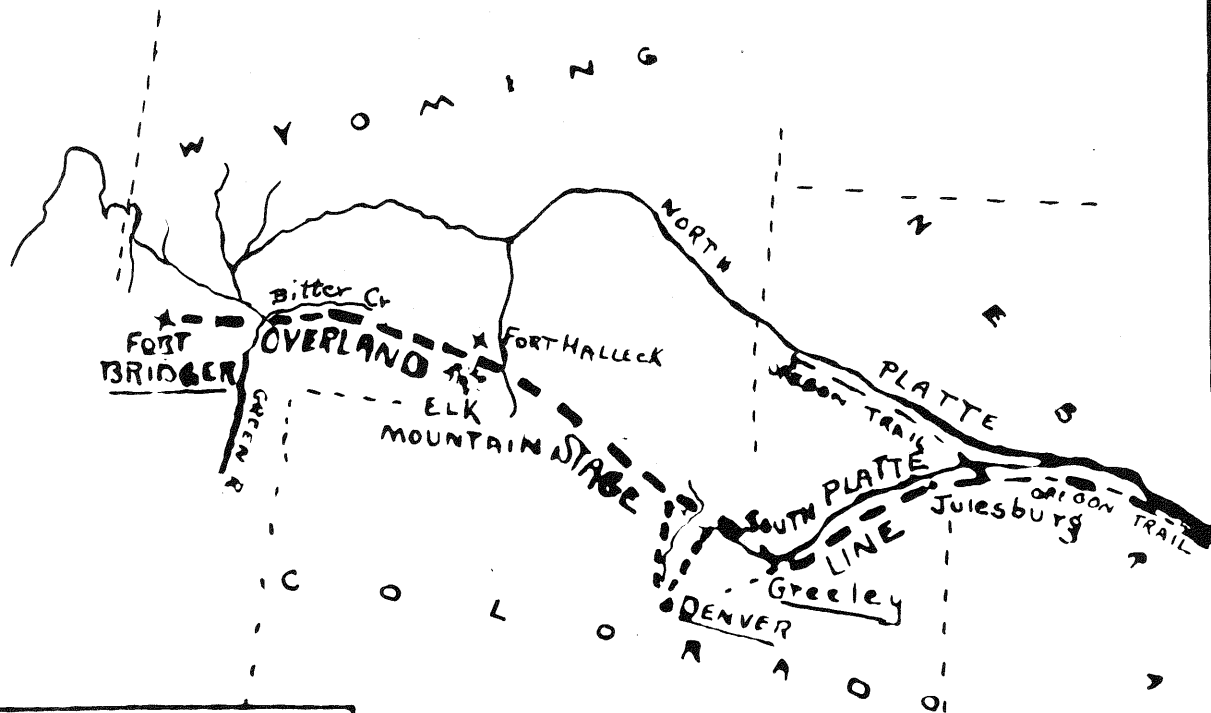
Part 2.

South Platte - Elk Mountain Route
(Overland Stage Company line Julesburg,
Colo. to Salt Lake City)

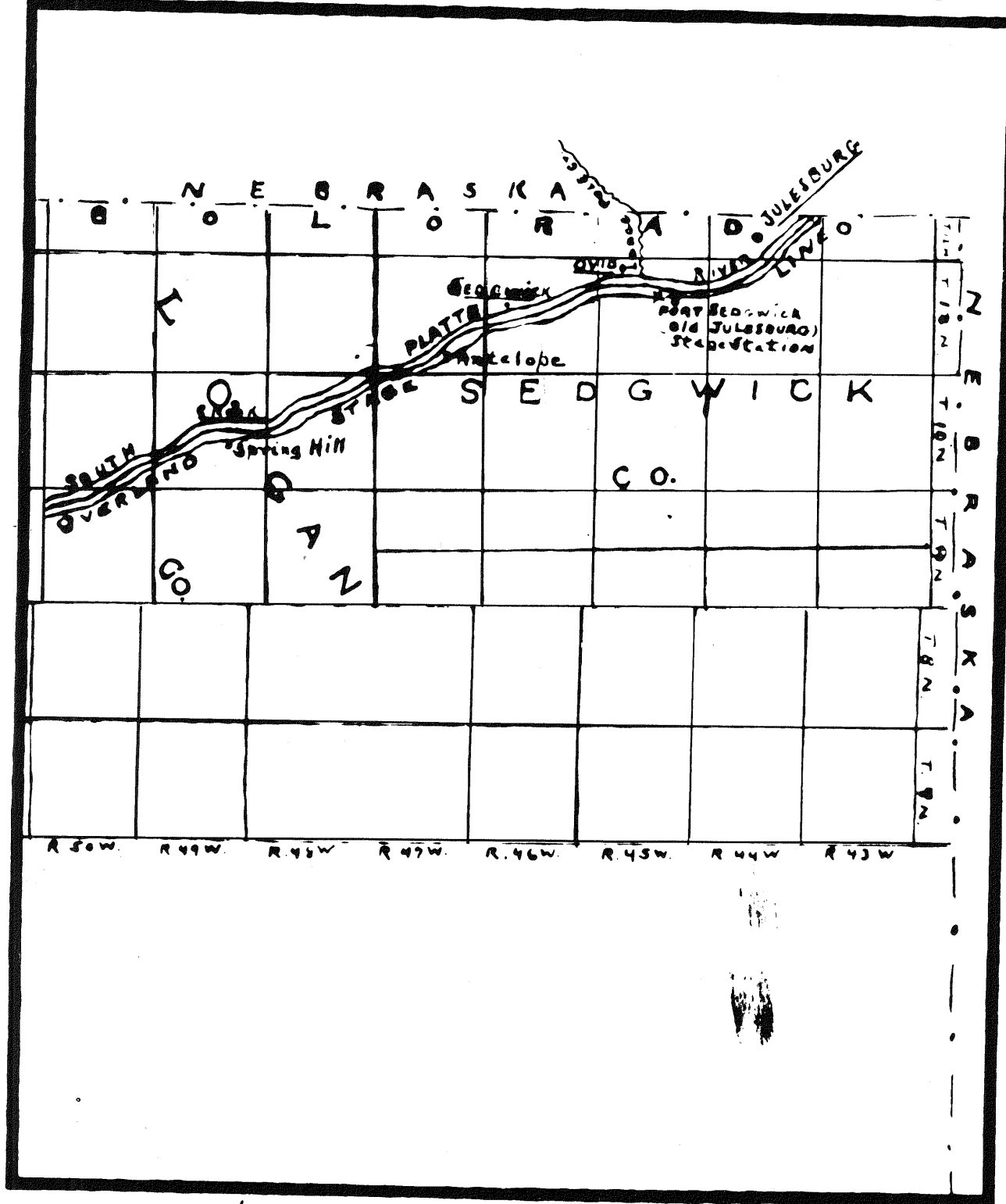
Key: Map No. 39



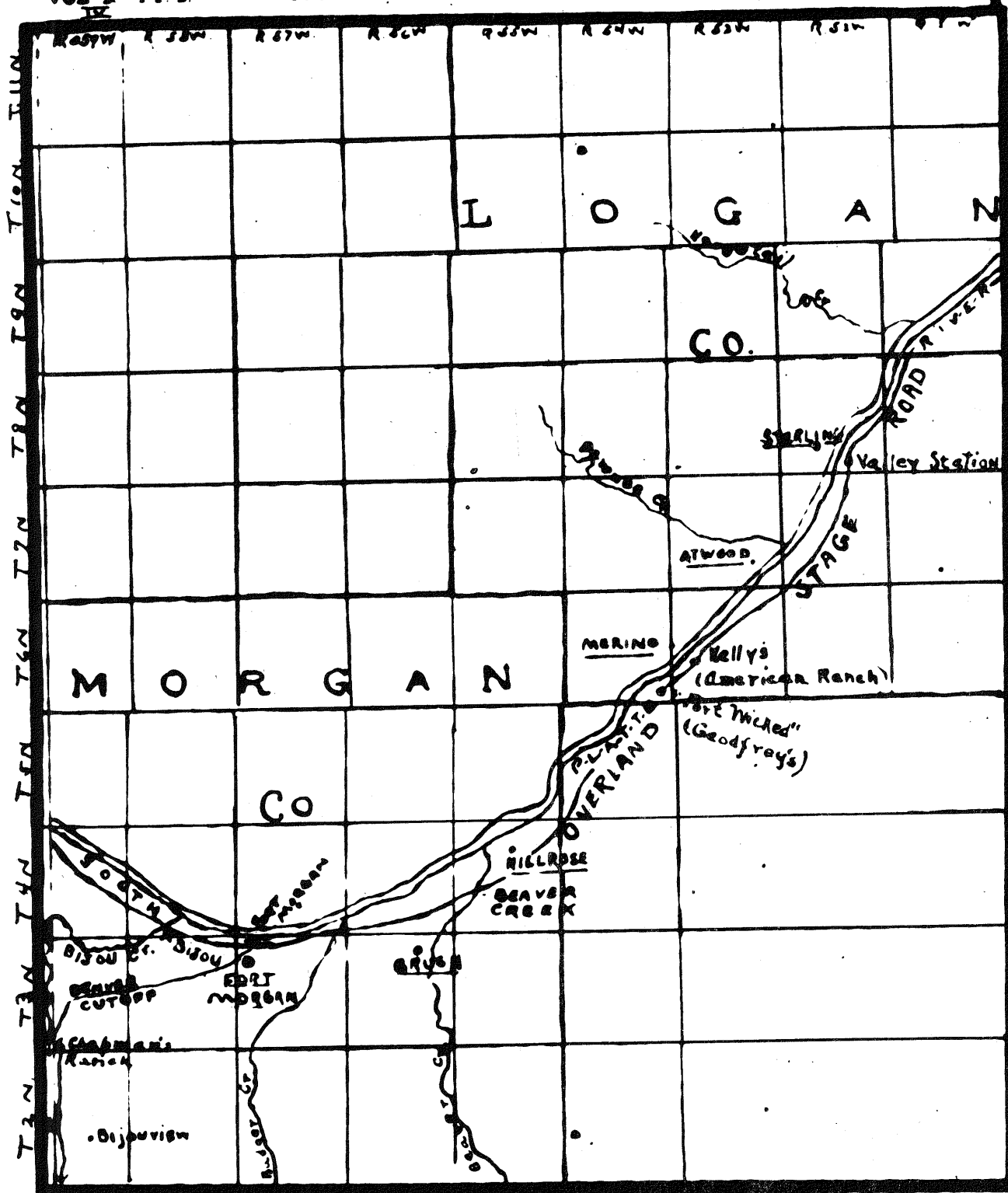
KEY TO
OVERLAND STAGE
ROAD IN
COLORADO AND
WYOMING



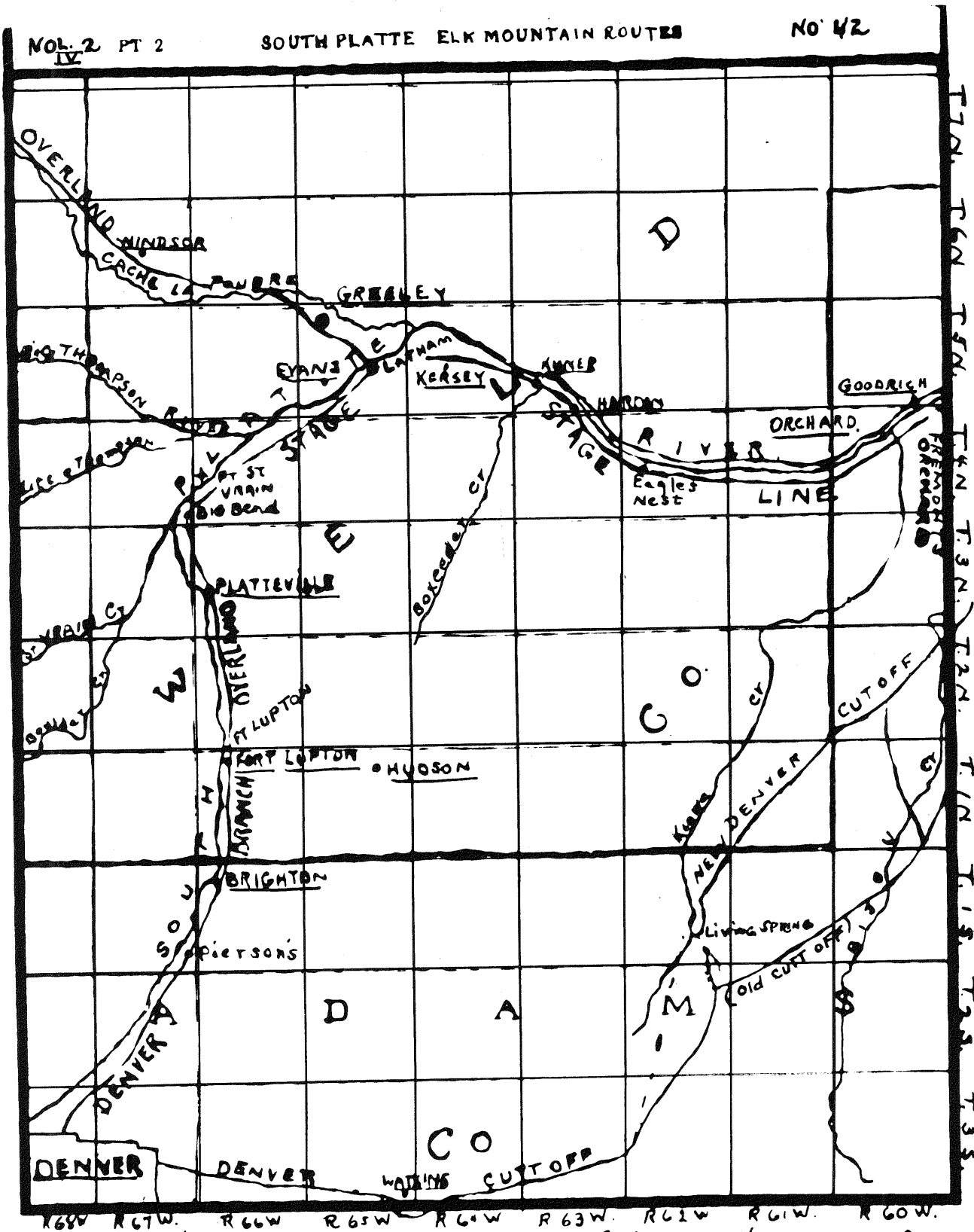
KEY TO
OVERLAND STAGE
ROAD IN
COLORADO AND
WYOMING



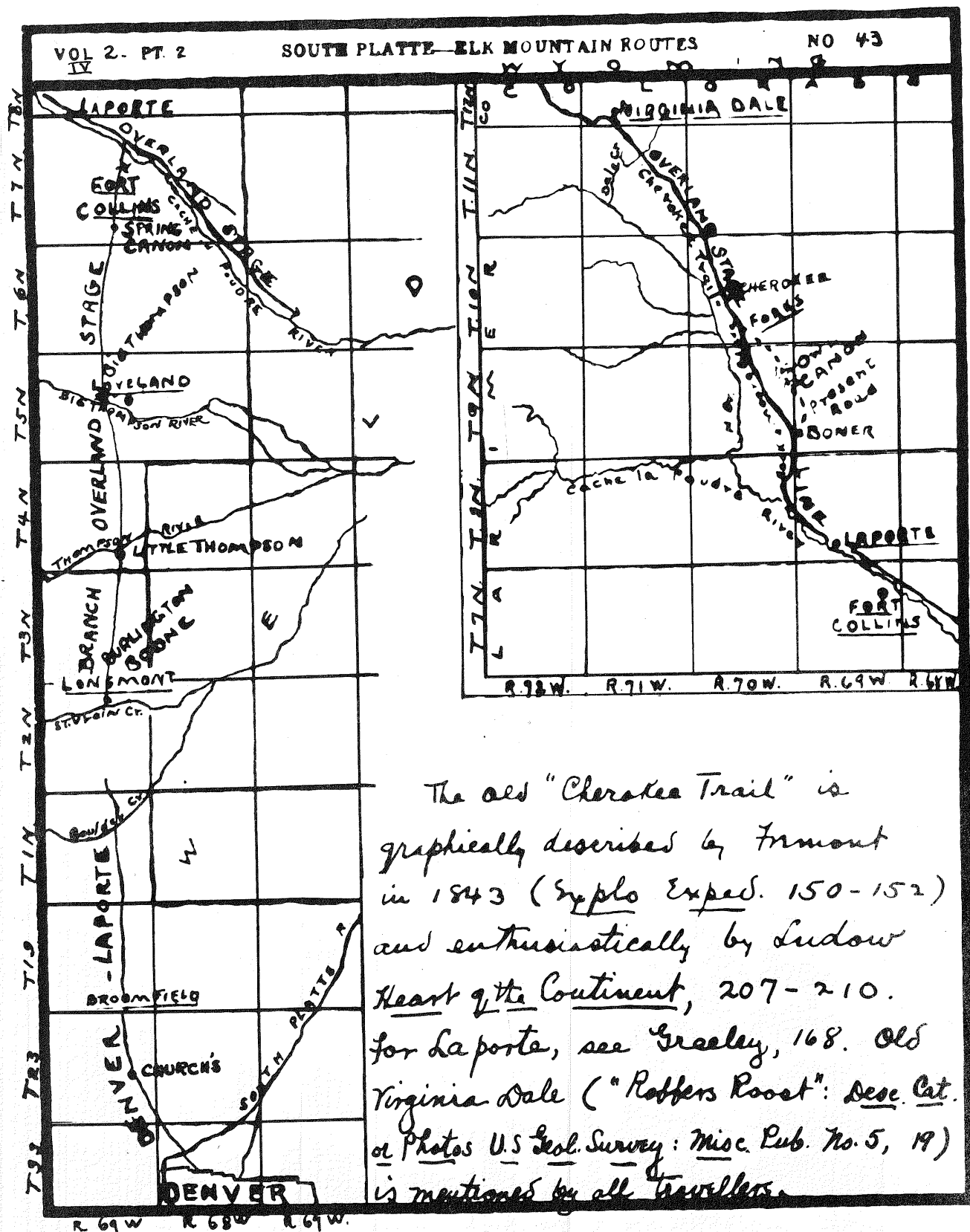
Root and Connelley The Overland Stage is replete with the annals of this later spur of the Oregon Trail and famous from 1862 to 1869 and later. The stage stations are very difficult to locate. Julesburg lay one mile east of Fort Sedgwick: Neb Hist. Soc. 2 Ser. V, 275; Melvin places it at a greater distance in 1866: 2,000 Miles, 66. Cf. Root and Connelley, 102, 222, 342; Burton, 61; C. M. Clark, 61.



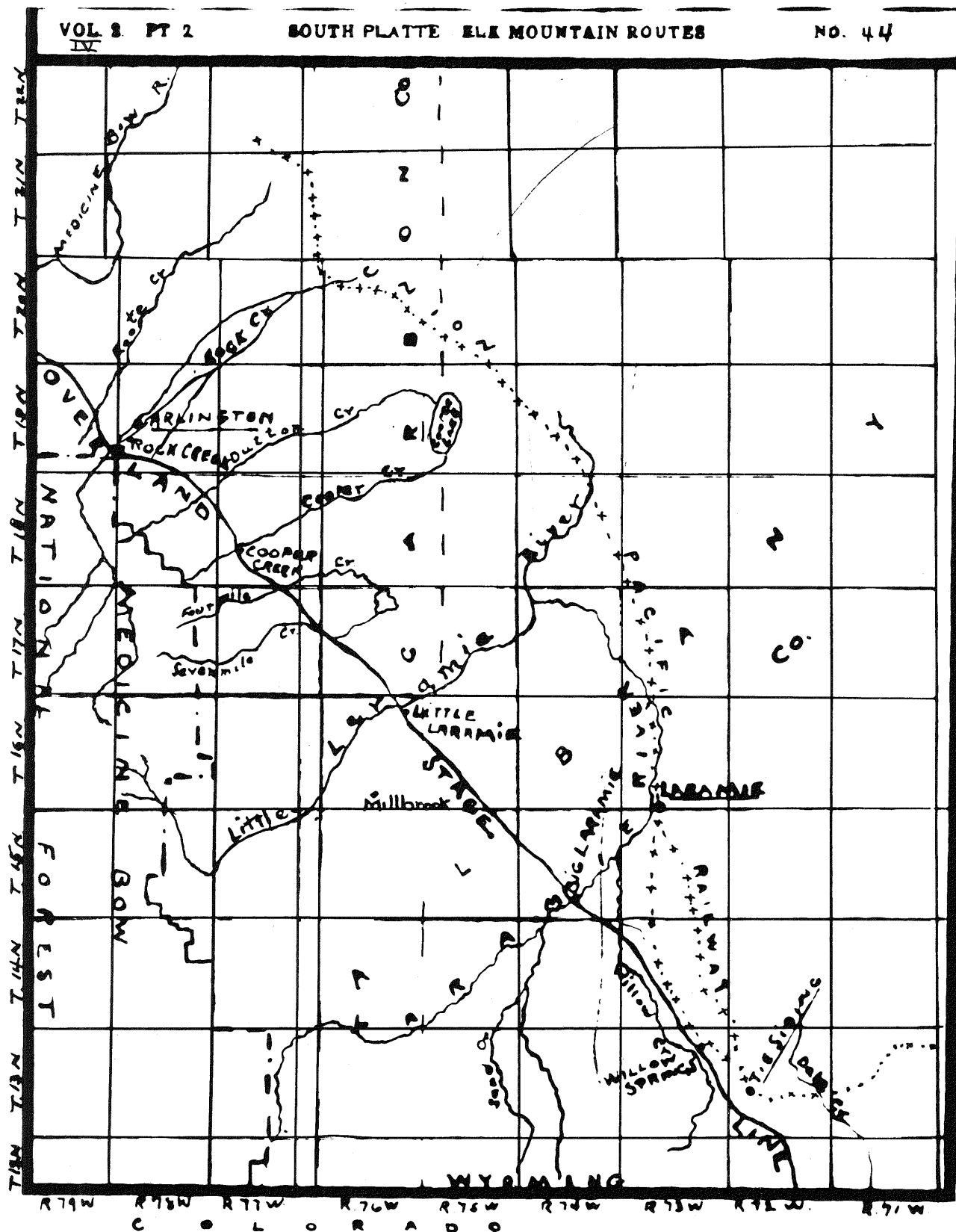
Early mention of this old South Platte route are made by Long (Exped. I) 485) and Fremont (Expto. Exped 29-41); also Sage, Mild Beaver 157. The Denver Cutoff from Fort Morgan was surveyed by Majors, Russell & Co. Clark, A Trip, 65. Beaver and Bison creeks were well-known old landmarks: Sage 157; Root and Connelley, 102; Ludlow, Heart, 128. For Ft. Wick see Melina, 43; for Valley Station, R. & C. 102. Denver Cutoff, C. E. Young, 67.



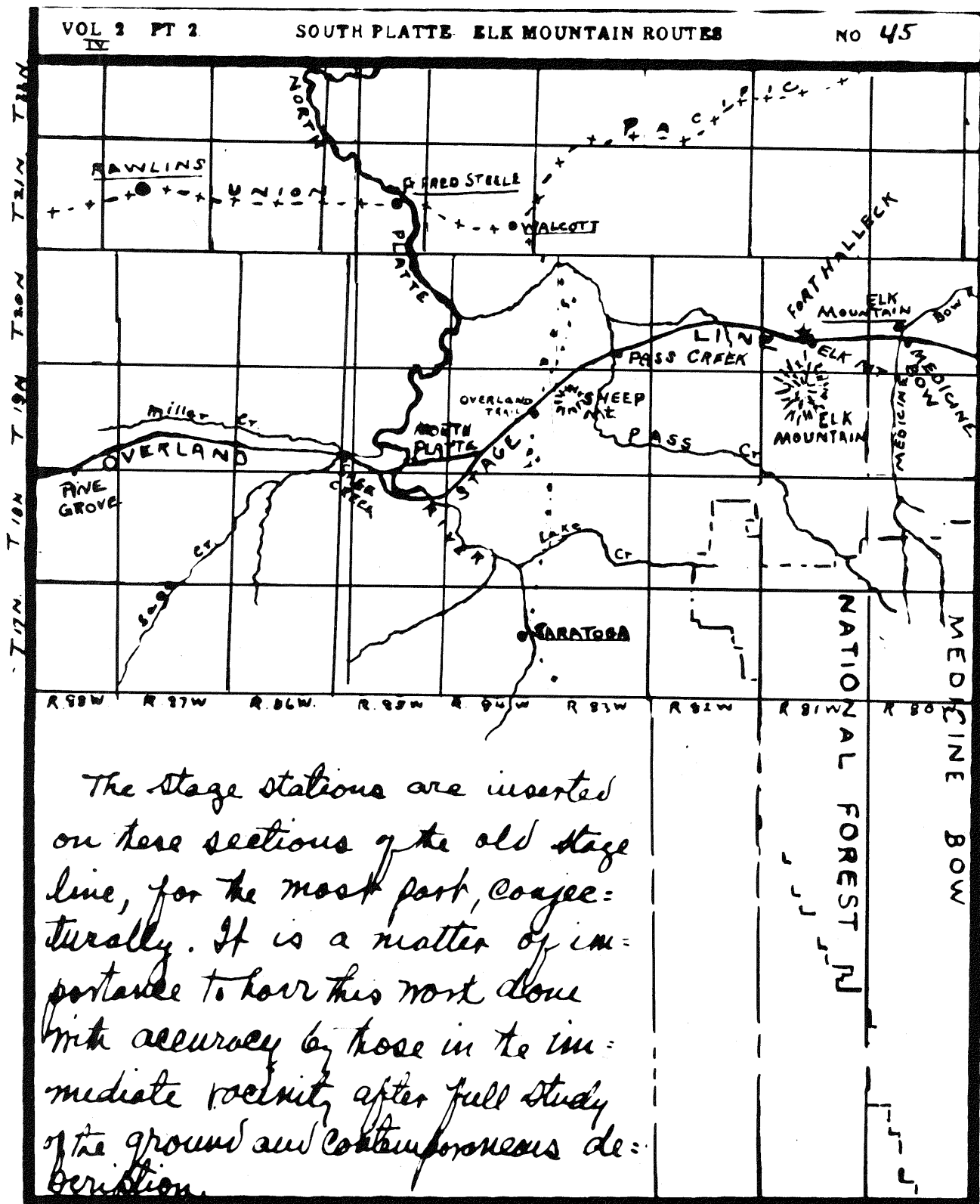
For old Latham ("Cherokee City"), on the present O.A.
Gordon place (R 6S T 5 Sec 15), see Root and Counolley, 319-348.
Old Ft St Vrain: see Fremont Explor Exped 42-43. Hutton (R 6S
T 2 N Sec 31) Root and Counolley, 225. Junction of cutoffs near
Living Spring given in Field Notes of Public Survey (1865) Vol. N.
For details on locations: Clark, A Trip, 67, 71; Greeley, 166; Meline, 55,
Ludlow, 136, 200. Crossing place Cache la Poudre, Fremont, 43.



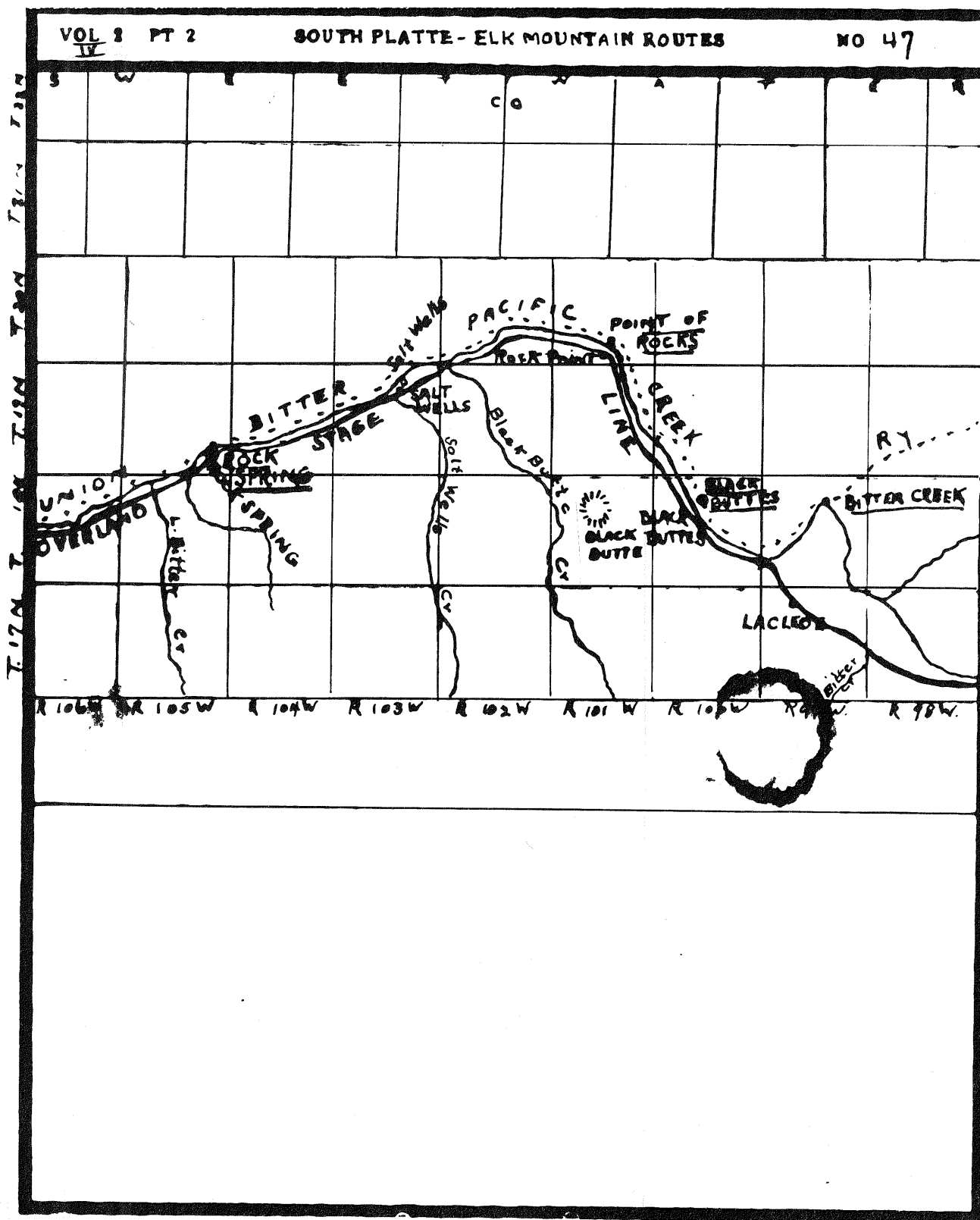
The Denver-Laporte branch of the Overland Line paralleled closely the modern road to Fort Collins, crossing "Cannon Ball Creek" (Long, Exped I, 500, now Boulder Creek), the St Vrain, at Burlington or Boone stage stations (Longmont), the Little Thompson and Big Thompson near the present Loveland.



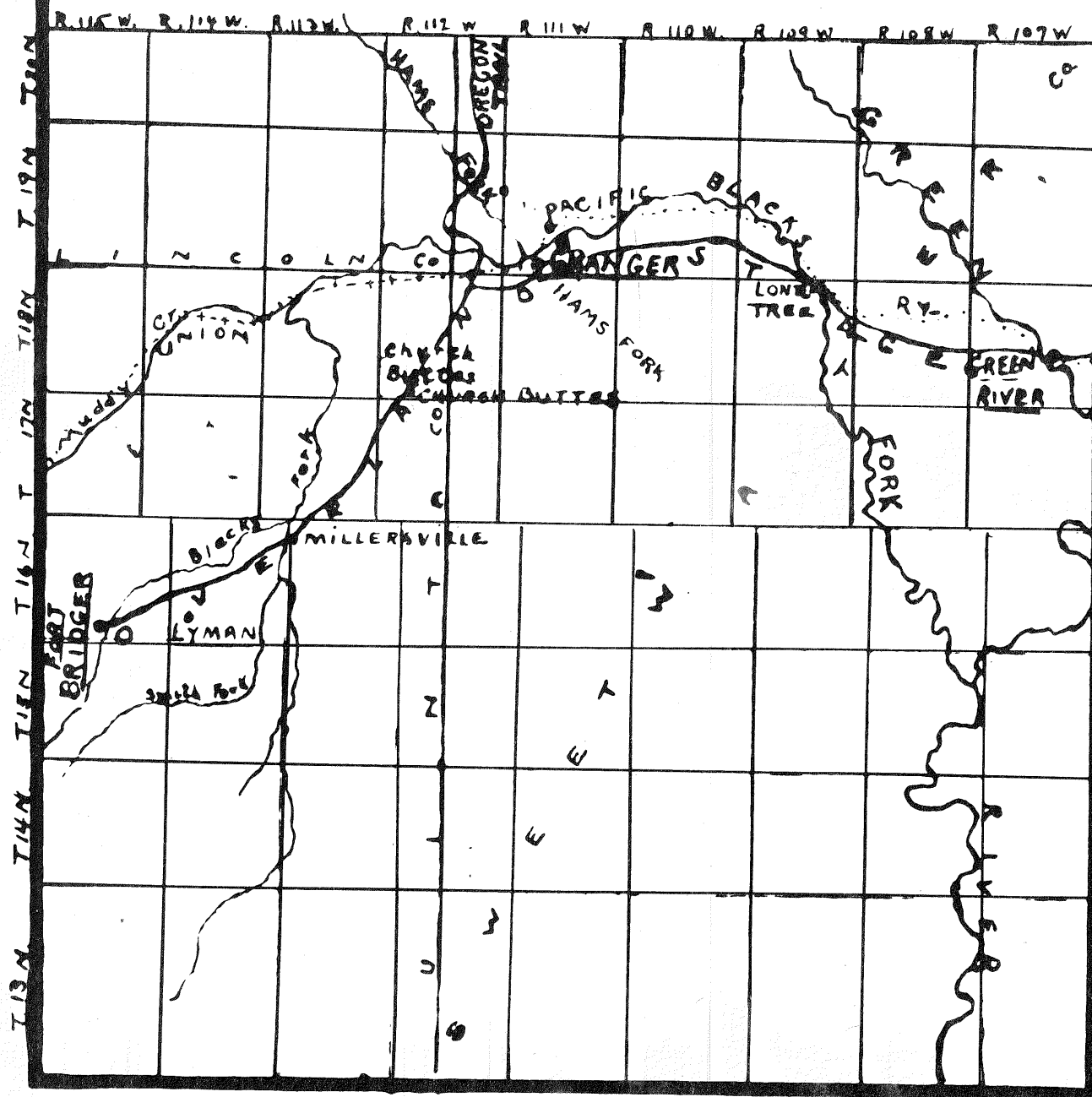
The history of the old stage line is closely linked with that of the Union Pacific Railway which was building at from one to fifteen miles to the northward through the years 1867-9. Indian hostilities consequent on railway building at times closed the highway to travel entirely: Ludlow, 243; Barnes 41-46; Greeley, 187.



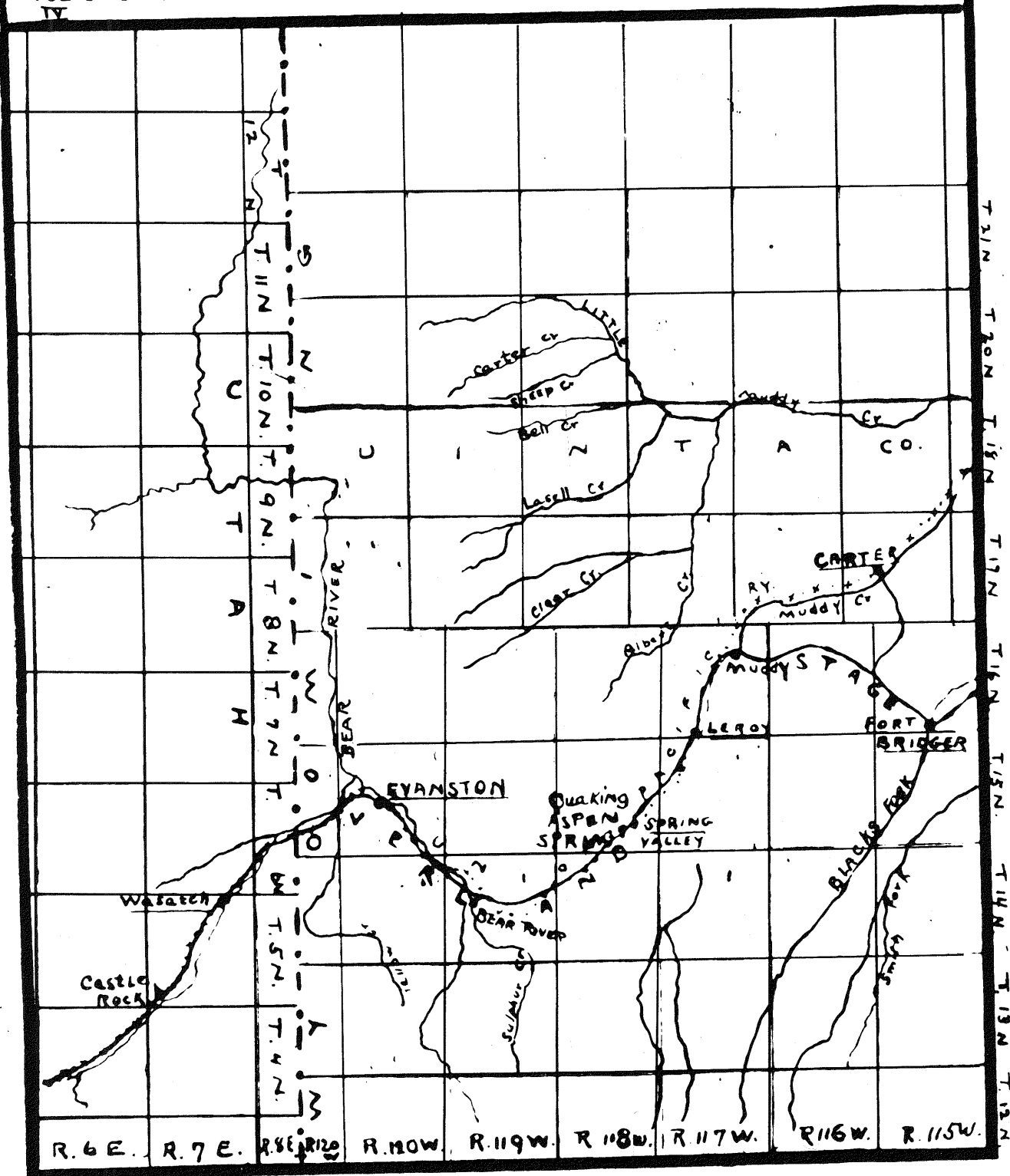
Elk Mountain, that beautiful sentinel of the Medicine Bow Range thrust far out into the plains receives the comment of all travellers by his route. Root and Connelley, 311, 587; Sudlow 224 pp for the entire route is very useful. For Fort Halleck and other sites see J. R. Hebard, Marking the Oregon Trail, 4, 17, 30.



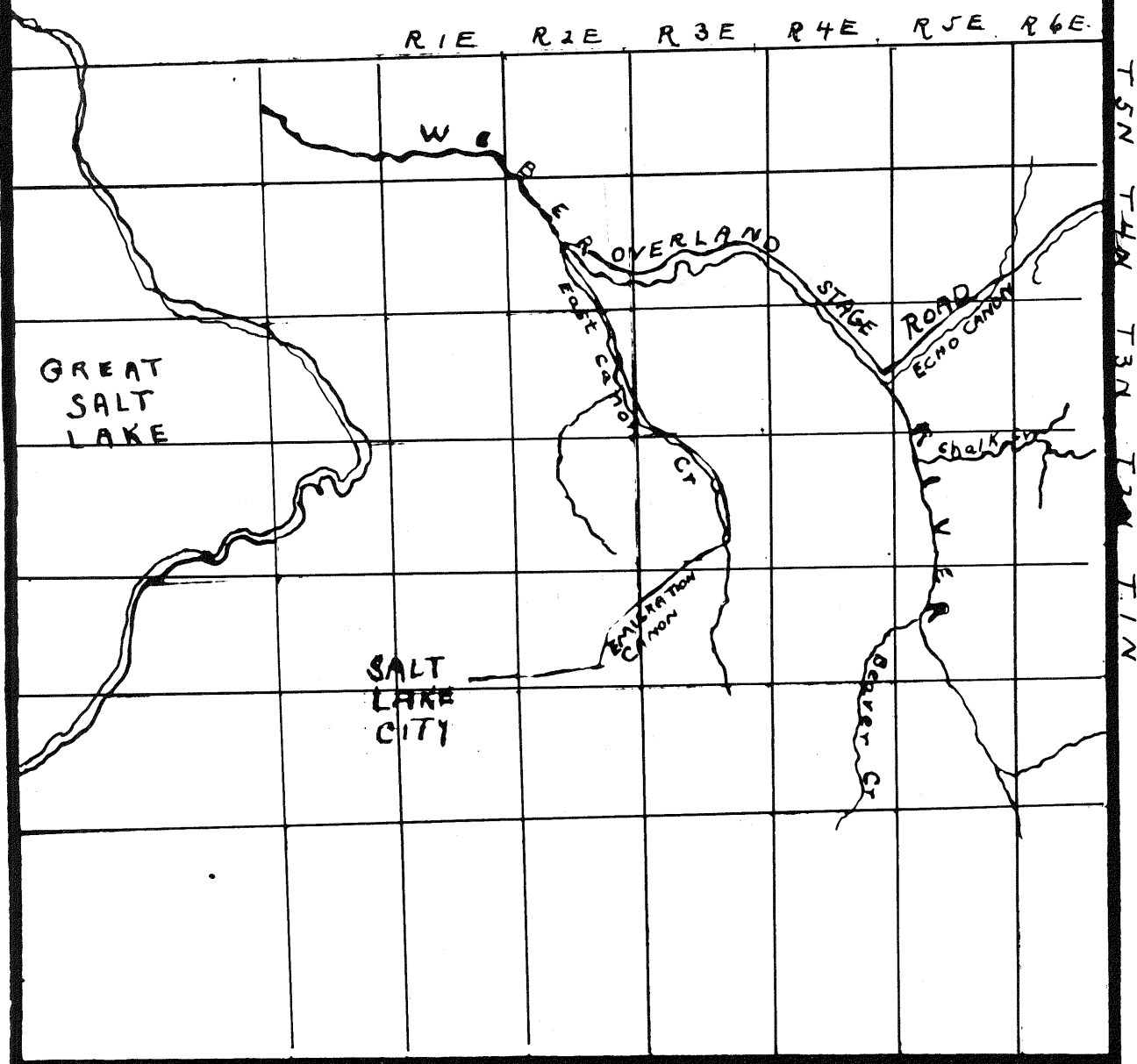
The old stage road swings north out of Red Desert on to Bitter Creek near Black Butte and parallels the modern Lincoln Highway down the stream to Rock Spring and Grainger. For the old route C/o Ludlow, 272-3; Greeley, 197 H.



Crossing Green River (cf. Suddow, 274-5)
the Overland Stage Road strikes the Oregon Trail (see
Map No. 33) on Black's Fork. Suddow gives full description
of the spectacular Church Butte, the chief landmark of
stage drivers and freighters coming out of the desert
to the eastward. For Fort Bridger and Marker see G. R. Hebard,
Marking the Oregon Trail 24-25



The overland line from Fort Bridger followed the Bridger Pass fork of the Oregon Trail to the Big Muddy (see Map No. 35) of Greeley, Overland, 199, 200, 202. The Echo Canon road is uniformly well described by all Salt Lake City travellers, as Burton, Clayton, Greeley etc.



All emigrant diarists to Salt Lake City give space to accounts of Echo and Emigration Canon and Weber River. One of the best of these is the Thomas Flint diary in Pub Hist Soc of So. California, 1923.