

National Association of Letter Carriers

Branch 782

E.A. Baker Union Update



ARVIN
DELANO
MOJAVE

TEHACHAPI

AVENAL
EDWARDS AFB
RIDGECREST

TRONA

BAKERSFIELD
LAMONT
SHAFTER

WASCO

BORON
McFARLAND
TAFT



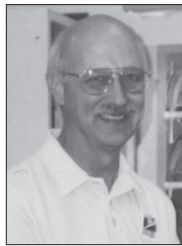
CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1901

VOLUME LXXX NUMBER 4

APRIL 2008

at the

Mike:



I wanted to share the following with everyone. The writer is a former station manager in Joplin, Mo., who read the “Confessions of a Station Manager” I think you will agree that he nails what is wrong with our employer. His response is as follows:

A Second Voice Speaks Out

“So very true.

If every manager or supervisor had to carry mail the one week every four months, the place would be so much better.

I got out because of the used car salesman scenario in the management field. Also, for {because of} the micromanagement of good employees by supervisors and managers sitting in their sacred-chairs, pecking on their computer.

The computer—as far as MSP points, DOIS, route adjustment programs, and all the impersonal programs that do not take the type of mail, weather, or anything else into consideration—was the worst thing that happened to the USPS.

It is great for communication, reports, etc., but not for determining what a person does. I know that my refusal to go along with it without question is one of the reasons I had to leave Joplin.

Continued on next page...

The former postmaster (Fuehrer) basically told me to do it this way—His Way: or leave.

After two unacceptable merits {?bonus reports}, a daily cursing on anything I did, being constantly yelled at, and spending 12+ hours a day at the station at his orders, I took the road out and developed an attitude that I wanted out of the USPS as quick as I could.

I retired eight days after my 55th birthday due to this a--hole and the people up above who supported him because he made his numbers. (I was never able to forget this, even though I went to two other great offices after leaving Joplin. I know I hurt myself only, but it is something that one is unable to forget).

No one cared how he did it; they were just happy with him because he did it. Everything that they say

about improving employee relations, making it a better place to work, and those silly employee surveys are lies—total hypocrisy.

I wanted to stay at the USPS until my 62nd birthday, but with the hypocrisy and lies coming from up above, and the larger offices promoting individuals who could not manage a kindergarten class...but are hateful enough to make the numbers...I grew to dislike the agency.

I had to leave.

In every office that I worked, I tried to get along with my employees, and can truly say that many of them are my friends. But the back-stabbing, lying, scheming supervisors, managers, district, area, and



If every manager or supervisor had to carry mail the one week every four months, the place would be so much better...



OUT THERE



headquarters personnel were way too much for me to take.

I retired.

I do miss my friends, and I realize that “out of sight, out of mind” is definitely true. But I do feel better, and I am enjoying life a lot more.

Jim Hight, Former Supervisor
Retired”

A special “Thank You!” to the folks in Cedar Rapids, Iowa from NALC Branch 373 who published the April 2008 *Parlor City News* which originally shared this opening section of my monthly message.

Additionally, this opening section is a springboard to other comments that I will share with you this month.

All of us share our “postal” world. We deal with many of the same issues and pressures on the workroom floor regardless of where our cases are in any city or town in this country. We also share what life throws our way from birth to death.

I offer my sincere condolences to the family members and friends of Branch member Jimmie Salie and former Letter Carrier Michael St. John who both passed away suddenly this last month. There are no words which can take away the pain of their loss. All that can really be said is I truly am sorry for their loss.

I, too, have been there. Those who have experienced a sudden and unanticipated loss of a loved one know that devastating feeling you are left with and the thoughts of what was left undone or unsaid.

When there is a traumatic loss of a loved one, whether a family member or friend, it reminds us that we tend to take for granted that there will always be time tomorrow to see our loved ones or make amends for any disagreements. We tend to forget that all of us are just passing through and could be gone tomorrow. All the little things which seem so important in our day-to-day rush of living (when viewed in perspective) are not really that important at all.

The old cliché “Life must go on” is true; but, life is forever changed for friends and family members.

The annual Food Drive is set for Saturday, May 10th. I am extremely proud of the Letter Carriers and the Post Office for joining together each year to help out all those in need. Kern County has among the highest hunger rates in the U.S. ***There should be no reason that anyone in the United States should have to go without food.***

I want to take this opportunity to thank Pam Mauck. She has been Branch 782’s Food Drive Coordinator for years. She did an outstanding job and did most of the work by herself. This year she has decided to take a break and I have appointed Teresa Garcia at Dole Court as the Coordinator. I also have appointed station coordinators at each of the stations to assist her in making all of us more successful.

Postmaster James Brouillard has given his full support to the Food Drive and wants to make this year’s Food Drive better than ever. Over the last several months we have met several times with the Partnership Food Bank which distributes food throughout all of Kern County. The last meeting was held at the Food Bank and included the station managers and the NALC station coordinators. After the meeting we received a tour of the facility.

There are plans to have stand-ups given by Food Bank volunteers at the stations in Bakersfield. T-shirts are being ordered that can be worn the week of the Food Drive. The coordinators will be contacting business and schools to set up collection points where food can be dropped off all week and then collected by the Letter Carriers on either Friday or Saturday.

There will be a kick-off ceremony on May 5th at the GMF and on the day of the Food Drive there will be barbecue at the GMF with media coverage being arranged by the Food Bank. Everyone is invited to assist on Saturday, May 10th at the GMF. I am sure that this year’s Food Drive will be better than ever.

MIKE TOWERY

Minutes of the March 2008 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Branch 782 was called to order by President, Mike Towery at 7:30 p.m. on the 25th day of March, 2008 at the branch office in Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Sgt. At Arms, Jerry Patterson. All members of the Executive Board were present.

The stewards were present from 01, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, Camino Media, Delano, McFarland, Shafter and Wasco. Also present was the Newsletter Editor, Basil Zuniga, Social & Recreation Committee members, Emma Gonzales and Frank Martinez, Safety and Health Representative, Danny Blair and OWCP Representative, Rick Gerdes.

The minutes of the February 26, 2008 meeting were accepted as read with no additions or corrections. Application for Membership: Applications were received from Sabrina Bonilla, Jeodula L. Ticong and Cervando Gonzales.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: Teresa Ortega reported that it is still to early for Picnic plans. Molly Biggar will sign up for a park in June. She will try to get Jastro Park. Mike Towery reported that he will have a meeting tomorrow with the Food Bank regarding the Food Drive. He will have more information after the meeting. Theresa Gar-

OUT THERE



cia discussed getting business to be drop off points for the Food Drive. She then made a motion to purchase 100 Food Drive posters for a cost of \$45.00. The motion was seconded by Jerry Patterson and passed. Basil Zuniga reported that last month was Dole Courts turn to fold the newsletter, April will be Stockdale Station's turn. Basil thanked Kim Gerdes for "cooking" all the good Italian food. He also thanked those members who wrote a article for the newsletter. Mike Towery commented that the district manager remarked to him that our newsletter was the best in the district.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION: Mike Towery introduced a visiting retiree, Chuck Chandler, who retired from Br. 1100 in 1982!!! Mike reported that he attended a President's Meeting in Santa Clarita. The district has used 400,000 hours less of overtime in the last 4 weeks, there is a plan to reduce the TE compliment to 8, most of those will be converted to PTF's. They also watched a video on the new Flat Sorting machine. Mike then discussed the city/rural route boundaries. He is still working on getting the boundaries clarified and in writing. Mike acknowledge the large number of PTF's from Dole Court in attendance at the meeting. There will be a Route Count Class for Hillcrest Station on April 3rd, 7:00 p.m., at the branch office. Pam Smith made a motion that the branch furnish food for the class with a limit of \$100., seconded by Alan Smith and the motion passed. A question was asked about when the TE/PTF class would be held. Mike Towery responded that the plan is to have one every 3 or 4 months. But, because of the upcoming route counts, the next class would not be until the end of May or first of June. He then urged all members to request a steward if you are interview by the OIG, (Office of the Inspector General) recently a carrier was interview twice by the OIG, and did not request his steward either time.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Anita Holderman reported that \$13,175.28 was collected for February 2008.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Molly Biggar reported:

Beginning Balance	\$37,716.54
Dues and Income	\$12,010.71
Interest Income	\$ 11.79
Total Balance	\$49,739.04
Expenses	\$ 4,595.17
Ending Balance	\$45,143.87

Mike Towery asked that each station make a report on what's happening at their station.

The 50/50 MDA Drawing was won by Mike Meza.

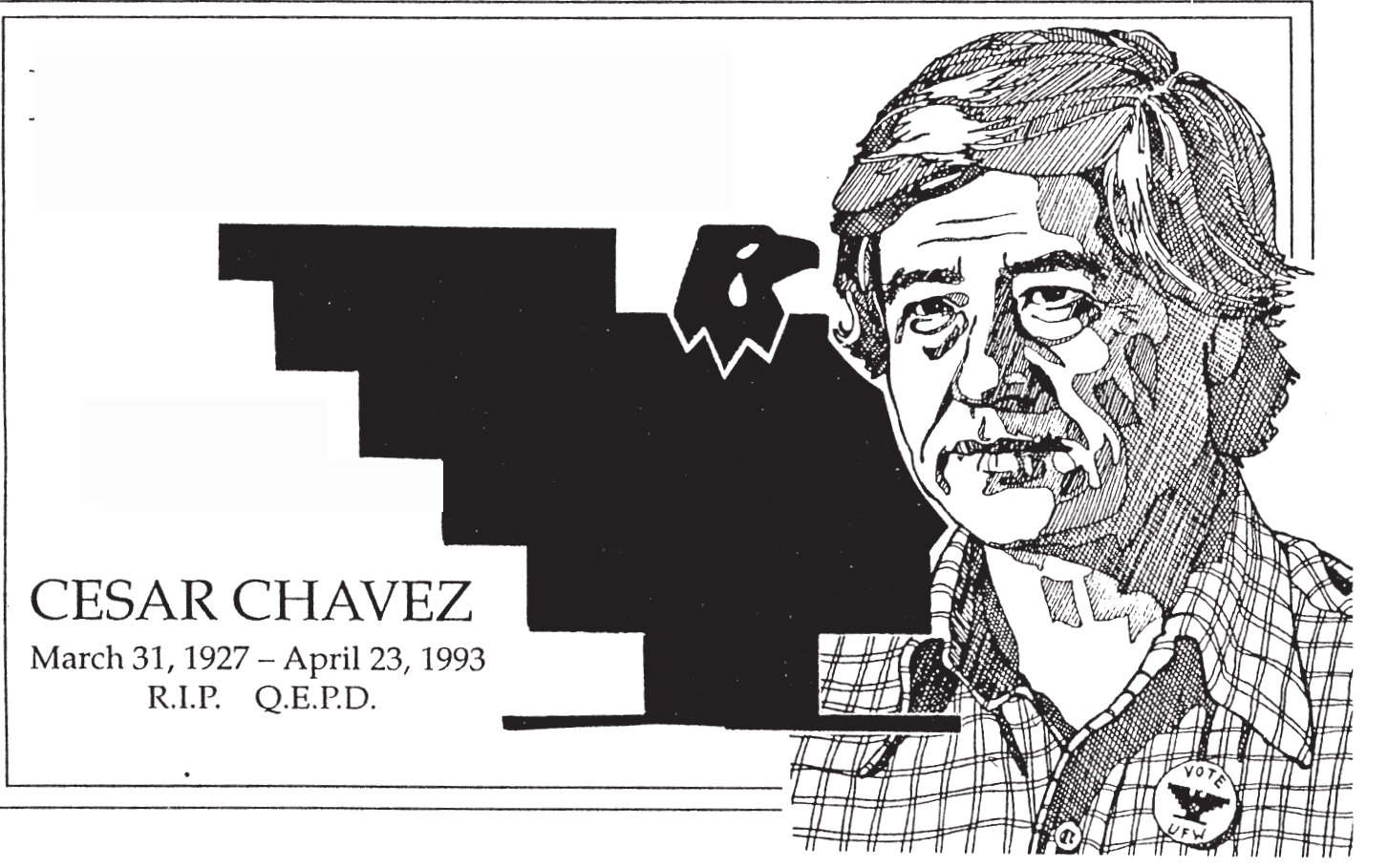
The Drawing for \$500.00 would have been won by Rene Villapando who was not present.

There were 49 members present.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Gerdes



CESAR CHAVEZ

March 31, 1927 – April 23, 1993
R.I.P. Q.E.P.D.

**NON-MEMBER LIST
March 15, 2008**

DOWNTOWN STATION

Dale Pearce
Javier Cruz

SOUTH STATION

100% UNION!!!

EAST BAKERSFIELD

S. M. Aguilera
B. Kaur

HILLCREST

100% UNION!!!

BRUNDAGE

David Kinglee
Alice Shultz
J. Kaur

DOLE COURT

Susan Webb

STOCKDALE

Ron Huston
V. M. Calderon

CAMINO MEDIA

F. Medina, Jr.

ARVIN

100% UNION!!!

AVENAL

100% UNION!!!

BORON

100% UNION!!!

CALIFORNIA CITY

R.A. Day

DELANO

J. E. Fleming
C. V. Quebral
D. Y. Soriano

EDWARDS

100% UNION!!!

LAMONT

100% UNION!!!

Mc FARLAND

B. A. Ibarra

MOJAVE

100% UNION!!!

RIDGECREST

S. R. Pierce
H. G. Blanco

SHAFTER

I. Credillor, Jr.
L.M. New
M.D. Voights

TAFT

B. W. Krier
K. J. Hughes
T. M. Phillips
D.A. Velaszuez

TRONA

D. M. Brooks
B.R. Dame
K.K. Treat

WASCO

M. D. Voights

All of the above listed Carriers are not paying dues. You pay for their benefits with YOUR dues... Branch 782 has 411 active duty members—91.4% of all Carriers in the cities that make up this Branch belong to the NALC.

Thank you for being a member of Branch 782. WE APPRECIATE YOU!!

2008 NALC HBP Info

NALC Health Benefit Plan	1-888-636-6252
*Hospital Pre-Certification	1-877-220-6252
*** Mental & Substance Precert.	1-877-468-1016
Drug Prescription Retail	1-800-933-6252
CareMark Hearing Impaired	1-800-238-1217
*** CareMark Specialty Pharmacy	1-800-237-2767
*** Durable Medical Eqpt.	1-888-636-6252
CareMark Specialty Pharmacy	1-800-237-2767
Durable Medical Equipment	1-888-636-6252
Nurse Assistant (24/7)	1-877-220-6252
CareMark Pharmacist	1-888-636-6252
Enhanced Eldercare Services (24/7)	1-877-468-1016
CIGNA PPO Dr's & Facilities	1-877-220-6252
***CIGNA Transplant Approval	1-800-668-9682
Quest Diagnostics (Lab Services)	1-877-220-6252
Quit Power (Smoking Cessation)	1-877-784-8797
CIGNA Health Rewards (Discounts)	1-800-870-3470
CIGNA Dental Discount Program	1-877-521-0244
**** Disease Management Program	1-800-227-3728
MEDICARE Managed Care Plan	1-800-633-4277
OPM Retirement Info Center	1-888-767-6738
Federal Information Center	1-800-688-9889
Social Security Administration Info	1-800-7721213



Branch 782
Health Benefit
Representative

Mark
Ramirez

(661)
834-5011

NALC Prescription Drug Program

P.O. Box 94465
Palatine, IL 60094-4465

Out of Network Pharmacy Claim NALC Drug Prescription Program

P.O. Box 52196
Phoenix, AZ 85012-2196

United Behavioral Health

P.O. Box 30755
Salt Lake City, UT 84130-0755
1-877-468-1016

NALC Health Benefit Plan

20547 Waverly Court
Ashburn, VA 20149

* Failure to pre-certify will result in a \$500 reduction in benefits paid by the Plan. Must notify the Plan prior to hospital admission with doctor name and dates. ** Mail order drug prescription program long term (maintenance drugs) 60 day supply: \$8 generic, \$24 name brand; 90 day supply: \$12 generic, \$35 name brand. Retail Pharmacy, you pay 25%. MEDICARE 60 day supply: \$7 generic, \$20 name brand; 90 day supply: \$10 generic, \$30 name brand. Network Retail Pharmacy you pay 15% of the cost of the prescription. Prior approval required for some drugs. Must call the Plan. *** **Prior Approval Required.** **** Asthma and Diabetis.

Preferred Provider (PPO)

Cost: \$20.00

Co-pay per office visit

Preferred Provider (PPO)

Deductible

\$250 Individual

\$500 Self & Family

Per Calendar Year

Contact Information

Center for Disease Control	http://www.cdc.gov
National Library of Medicine	http://www.nlm.nih.gov
American Public Health Assoc.	http://www.alpha.org
American Cancer Society	http://www.cancer.org
American Heart Association	http://www.americanheart.org
American Lung Association	http://www.lunusa.org
Diabetes Foundation	http://www.diabetis.org
Muscular Dystrophy Association	http://www.mdausa.org
JAMA Asthma Information Center	http://www.ama.assn.org/special/asthma
Your Personal Health Record	http://www.nalc.org/depart/hbp
National Patient Safety	http://www.npsf.org



NEW CONFERENCE DESK DELIVERED TO BRANCH 782

A new custom made 17 foot red oak conference desk was delivered to our branch office on March 20th.

Tony's Cabinet Shop built this office furniture for Branch 782, and it is a great piece of oak craftsmanship, and a worth while investment, adding a real touch of professionalism to your union office.



MARK RAMIREZ
MBA/NALC HBP Representative
NALC Branch 782

Tony's Cabinet Shop
3405 Di Giorgio Road
Bakersfield, Calif. 93307
661-831-9191

Good-bye, Jimmie!!!

For over a year now, East Bakersfield Station has been embroiled in a civil war. Understaffed, and over-worked, we have faced an atmosphere of suspicion and hostility which has pitted carrier against management, management against union, and carrier against carrier.

And—if that wasn't enough—just when I thought things couldn't get any worse...EB was blindsided with the news that one of our own, Jimmie Salie, had tragically taken his own life.

Shaken to my knees, life that week was just a blur for me. I was lost in my own grief and confusion and trying to make sense of something that made no sense. I kept asking for answers to questions which really had no answers.

Slowly and gradually, light began to shine for me. It was just a glimmer, but it was a hope in my darkness. Perhaps...just maybe...Jimmie's death would not have been in vain. Perhaps, he himself (in death) would be the instrument of life. Perhaps he could begin to bring peace to everyone in our office

It is my hope, actually it is my prayer, that Jimmie's life will be a testimony to the fact that one many can make a difference in the lives of others.

But that doesn't mean that Jimmie should be idolized as some kind of a saint. He would have had none of that! He would have had us make more of him than he was in life; but, let us rather stand hand-in-hand and heart-to-heart and dedicate ourselves to the simple proposition that a healing *can* take place in our own lives if we want it to.

Let us lay aside our petty differences and the problems that so easily entangle us. Let us try to remember, in the difficult times, what a blessing Jimmie was to us. And, let us truly try to live our lives as a prayer for all of us at EB: "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred—let me sow love; Where there is injury—pardon; When there is sadness—joy; And, grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the Courage to change the things I can, and the Wisdom to know the difference."



Jimmie, getting his message across, at Bakersfield's Downtown Station during informational picketing.

We love you, Brother!

RICHARD DELREY
East Bakersfield Station,
93305

Jimmie Lee Salie **1946 - 2008**

Jimmie Lee Salie Nov. 13, 1946 - Mar. 30, 2008 Born to James and June Salie in Broken Bow, OK. Moved to Weedpatch CA prior to starting kindergarten at the Vineland School District, Sept. 1951. Grew up in Sunset labor camp attending both Vineland and Sunset schools. Graduated from Arvin HS in 1964. Where upon he briefly attended Bakersfield College prior to enlisting in the USAF, Dec. 1964. Graduated Yale University language school with honors as a linguist in the Air Force. He began as a Chinese linguist and switched over to Korean later in his career. He served a tour of duty in Vietnam with the majority of his enlistment spent on assignment in Korea, where he met his wife to be Haeng Im So. They married Sept. 5, 1978. He retired from the USAF as a Msgrt in June 1990 after 21 years of service and returned home to live in Bakersfield CA. In the the early 90's he began his second career as a letter carrier with the US Postal Service. His hobbies include fishing with family and friends, playing cards and listening to various genre of music. He adored his granddaughter, Ashley, who he spent as much time with as possible. He enjoyed taking vacations with family and friends to Pismo Beach which was one of his favorite locations to relax. He was very proud of his sons Will and Paul and he spoke highly of them often. He loved his wife dearly and was constantly seen laughing and joking with her. Survivors include his wife, Haeng Im Salie; sisters, Nadra Halterman and Joanne NesSmith; sons, William Salie, Paul Salie and Kevin Vincent; daughter- in-law, Toni Salie; granddaughter, Ashley Salie; Life time friends, Roger and Sharon Combs. A special thank you to Toni Salie. A graveside service will be held Friday, April 4th, 1:00 p.m., at South Kern Cemetery in Arvin, CA.

Published in the *Bakersfield Californian* on 4/3/2008.

1529 Bernard Place
Bakersfield, Ca 93305-4027
September 16, 2006

Supervisor
US Post Office
727 Kentucky Street
Bakersfield, Ca 93305-9998

Re: Postman Jim Salie and nice substitute

Dear Sir,


I am writing to let you know how much Mr. Salie is appreciated as my postman and the substitute that was on for him today was the nicest sub I have ever seen.

Please see that this letter and its copy, for the sub (I'm sorry I didn't get his name) become a part of their personnel files.

Mr. Salie is courteous at all times, as was the sub today, as I gave him three letters and asked him to save me a trip. Mr. Salie will even bring a package, that won't fit into the box on the street, up to my door if he sees my car there as he knows I have a lot of arthritis and sometimes walking is a little bit hard.

Thank you for having well trained and courteous people such as Mr. Salie and today's sub as postmen!

Sincerely,


Victoria Anderson

Jimmie was a good friend of mine for many years at our EB station.

I always considered him like my big brother. He always joked around with me and other Carriers on our side of the office.

I will miss his humor most of all. I remember when I had a shaving accident and I had to shave my mustache and beard.

Jimmie quickly got his famous I-Pod and said, "Listen to this song, Juanito!"

The song was: "I Wish I Had a Pencil Line Mustache".

Miss you, Buddy!

JUAN RIVERA

A Tribute to Jimmie

I knew Jimmie Salie for almost ten years, but I never really got to know him on a personal level. That's just the way it is in an office where you spend most of your morning tucked into a cubicle that we call "our case".

My case is at the west wall and Jimmie's was at the far east end of the building. So, for most of the morning, he was out of sight and out of hearing range also.

But, I don't think you have to be close to someone to be comforted by their presence in your work environment. He was, in essence, part of our "postal family"...as dysfunctional as it is at times.

I always knew him as a good man and a gentleman at heart. I can honestly say I never heard a cross word directed in anger towards anyone.

He got along with everyone, especially his fellow Carrier and friend, Richard Delrey. They would always appear every morning just before our check-in time after sharing a smoke break outside. I suspect that Richard would probably test his corny words of wisdom and jokes on Jimmie before sharing them with the rest of us later in the day. I can't say that he did this for sure.

But, I *can* say that Jimmie's passing hit us all hard.

I'm sorry to say it took his untimely death for me to size up what an honorable man he was. I already knew him to be a dedicated worker, who seldom called in sick and never caused any harm with words or actions.

He never took sides or joined a clique. He was there to do a job and he did it to the best of his ability. I remember less than a year ago when our supervisor read a letter of appreciation that one of his customers wrote about him.

Jimmie served his country honorably and stayed married to the same wife for over thirty years. Jimmie was a church-going, family man and had a new baby grand-daughter. He was so proud of her! He had a life-long friend who spoke at his funeral and I could see his inconsolable grief.

I also witnessed the tremendous love that others had for him.

The sum of all these observances shows a man of good character and makes what happened seem unexplainable. What a tragic ending to someone who served his country and worked for so many years. He should have been getting ready to retire and reap some rewards at this point in his life.

The one question that we all have is, "Why?"

We will probably never be able to answer this. We can only speculate knowing that we will never really know why.

All we can try to do is accept and see if we can learn anything from this tragedy. Maybe we can start by being more friendly towards one another.

People are hurting at times and we don't even know it. Offer an encouraging word or lend an ear to people you come in contact with. At the very least, "Do no harm."

It might make the difference between life and death... That may be how close the margin may be sometimes. Little things really can make a difference.

I hope that the Postal Service makes its Employee Assistance Program (EAP) known to everyone and really publicizes that EAP is for all employees. It is an option to deal with many of the problems that life can throw at us.

Any problem can be solved if only people know where to turn for help.

What happened to Jimmie was even more tragic because it didn't have to happen. No one is to blame. He just needed help and—for whatever reason—wasn't able to get that help. It could happen to any of us but should never have to happen.

God bless Jimmie! We will all often think of our friend and brother and will miss him dearly.

BRIAN SHELLCROSS
EB Carrier



April 12, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in recognition of Jimmie Salie. Mr. Salie was an outstanding carrier at East Bakersfield Post Office. I had the privilege of working with Jimmie for approximately six months. He was an exemplary employee. Jimmie was always on time and ready to work. If he had undertime, he always told me as soon as I walked up to negotiate with him. His granddaughter was his pride and joy. He talked about her all the time. The things that I noticed most about him was his honesty, sincerity, and that I could count on him to get the job done.

Sincerely,

SUPERVISOR:
EAST BAKERSFIELD POST OFFICE

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MIKE NUNNELLY-ST. JOHN



This is a hard article to write due to the fact that Mike and I were friends for years and Sally Herrera and I were the first people to discover him after he had passed away in his home.

Mike and I, along with several others from Hillcrest, travelled together on a couple of cruises and tried to stay in touch even when Mike left the Postal Service.

Mike was a Carrier at our Station and many years. He was previously a 204B. Mike was very unique. He was a very generous person. He was always the highest contributor to the Combined Federal Campaign.

He went back to school to get his degree in Sociology, which took him years while working full time and raising a daughter. He had a very quick wit and an off-the-wall sense

of humor. Because of that sense of humor, he and I got along great.

About six or seven years ago, he left the Postal Service to use his degree to do different work

Sometimes, we lose contact with friends and loved ones. I think it is very important to keep in touch with our friends and family, even if just to say hello and to ask, "How are you doing?" We don't always know what's going on in everyone else's minds and sometimes just being there for someone helps more than we know.

With two such confusingly tragic deaths in the same week, it really reminds us how short life can be.

Mike, you are missed and we will remember you and your family in our thoughts and prayers.

DEBBIE WILLIAMS
Hillcrest Station

Rest in Peace



State of California Assembly Resolution

WHEREAS, Five million Californians, including two million children, live below the federal poverty level and face the daily threat of hunger; and

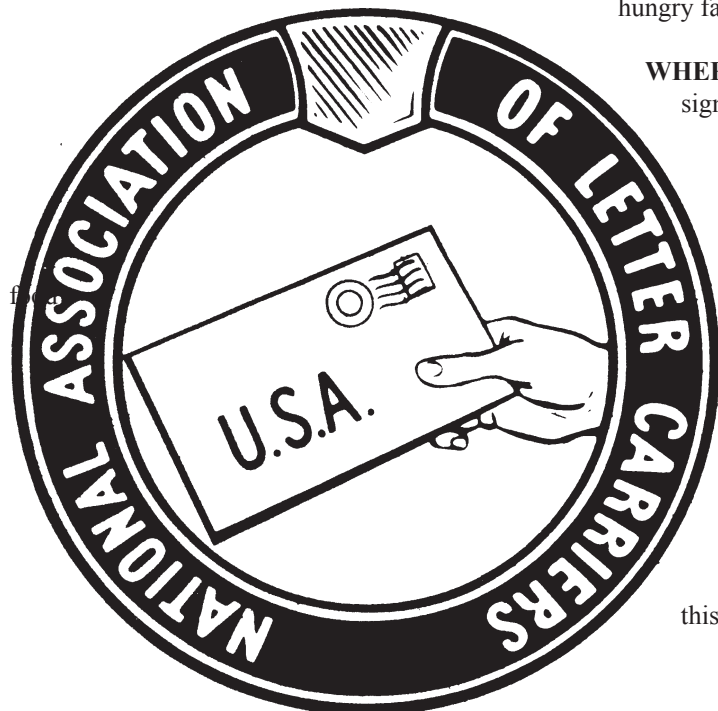
WHEREAS, The number of Californians unable to meet their basic nutritional needs is growing and requests for food assistance continues to rise in California's communities; and,

WHEREAS, The annual National Association for Letter Carriers (NALC) National Food Drive, also known as the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, plays a critical role in America's effort to aid families in need, especially in providing high-quality and high-protein food; and

WHEREAS, Letter carriers and numerous volunteers help take donations collected from citizens along the carriers' postal routes and deliver them to community food banks, pantries, and shelters; and

WHEREAS, The NALC Food Drive is the largest one-day food drive in the nation and has delivered over 70 million pounds of food to community food banks, pantries, and shelters in each of the past four years; and

WHEREAS, California food banks are critical to local communities, distributing over 200 million pounds of nutritious food and fresh produce every year to more than two million hungry families; and



WHEREAS, Food donations to California food banks have dropped significantly, including United States Department of Agriculture commodities falling 60 percent over the last four years; and communities; and

WHEREAS, The NALC Food Drive will help fill this gap and provide thousands of pounds of food to California banks and ultimately help families, seniors, and children put healthy food back on the table; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the California Legislature recognizes May 10, 2008, as the day of the California Letter Carriers Food Drive, which is part of NALC's annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

Food Drive??? Why should Branch 782 Members Care???

- ***Kern, Fresno and Tulare Counties are often referred to as “Appalachia West” because of our poverty and hunger rates.***
 - ***Kern County has among the highest poverty and hunger rates in the US.***
 - ***Kern County’s poverty and hunger rates are growing.***
-
- 713,445—Population of Kern County, children 283,288
 - 373,800—The total number “touched” by hunger and food insecurity)
 - 125,214—The number of Kern County residents living in poverty (18.1 %)
 - 84,000—The estimated number of low income adults reporting hunger or food insecurity
 - 91,952—The estimated number of eligible for free/reduced price school breakfasts.
 - 56,245—The number of food stamp recipients in Kern County in November 2002.
 - 54,514—The number of Kern County children living in poverty (25.6%)
 - 31 Schools in Kern County do not have the School Breakfast Program

Kern County is the second worst county in California for adults living in food insecure households!

Food WE Gather Stays in the Communities WE deliver to!!!



Partnership Food Bank

Serving over 135,000 income-eligible Kern County residents through 82 pantries and 40 commodity distribution sites
Mailing Address: PO Box 134, Bakersfield CA 93302
Phone: 661-398-4520

PROGRAMS

The food bank offers the following program to people that needs emergency food or food insecure. The programs are:

- **Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP)** – Provides Federal food, to people in need of emergency food.
- **Emergency Food & Shelter Program** – Federal funds are used to purchase food to be distributed through 80 food pantries
- **Senior Brown Bag** - provides food to more than 1100 seniors of restricted income, 400 our homebound.
- **Snack Attack Program** – Providing healthy sacks to 25 After School operated by non-profits agencies. **(We have 330 kids, receiving snacks 5 days each week or 144,000 individuals per year)**
- **Provider Pantry** - The Food Bank provided food to 50 licensed low-income child care providers.
- **Foster Care** - The Food Bank offers access to healthy food to more than 40 licensed Foster Care parents.



FINANCIAL CUTS AND FOOD REDUCTIONS

The USDA Commodities EFAP food program has had a major reduction of 2 million pounds of food. Below is a year by year reduction food pounds to the food bank from this program.

Year	USDA Pounds Received	Other Food
• 2003 - 2004	3,246,090	1,296,020
• 2004 - 2005	2,132,672	1,283,772
• 2005 - 2006	1,990,118	2,369,717
• 2006 - 2007	1,382,629	2,702,396
• 2007 - 2008 -	1,200,000 (Projected)	2,600,000

In January 07, we distributed 215,000 pounds of USDA food to all EFAP sites and in 2008, we distributed 97,000 pounds to all sites.

Freeze numbers included in 2007 non duplicated numbers of 39,345 Households and 484,246 Individuals. More than 3.5 million pounds of food was distributed to freeze victims.

Year	Households	Individuals
• 2007*	110,000	484,246

Funding Challenges

- In 1995-96, \$105,000 per quarter was allocated to purchase USDA commodities.
- in 2007-088, \$105,000 per quarter was allocated to purchase USDA commodities.
- Emergency Food and Shelter funds reduced by \$30,000 used these funds to purchase food.
- Emergency Food Assistance Program funds reduced by \$47,000 for operations.
- The amount and variety of food available from the USDA (EFAP) has been reduced by close to 2 million pounds for Kern County.
- Fresno and Tulare Counties received similar levels of financial cuts and food reductions.

Letter Carriers Food Drive

**Saturday,
May 10, 2008**

PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATION IN
A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX. WE'LL DELIVER
IT TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK FOR YOU.
YOUR LETTER CARRIER.



UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE



Dondey Phandanouvong, a member of South
Florida Branch 1071 in Miami, is featured on
this year's official Food Drive poster.

Preparations picking up for 16th NALC Food Drive

The pace of preparations is picking up in nearly 1,200 NALC branches across the nation for the annual NALC "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive to be conducted Saturday, May 10—the day letter carriers will tackle hunger in a manner unsurpassed by any group or organization in the country.

This year, the NALC hopes to exceed the 70.7 million-pound collection of food donations a year ago and take a bold step toward reaching the goal set down by President William H. Young to one day soon top 100 million pounds to help stock local food banks and pantries.

The second Saturday in May has become the one day in the year that can make Americans stop and think about hunger—how fortunate they are to have enough on the table and how unfortunate it is that, even today, more than 35 million men, women and children, are food insecure, meaning they can not depend on obtaining adequate or nutritious food.

Just how bad is the hunger situation in the United States?

With demand increasing, the supply of donated food is at its lowest level in memory, according to a recent article in the *Los Angeles Times*.

In that article, one of the leading anti-hunger advocates in the nation, Eric Shockman, said that food banks in America, and in Los Angeles in particular, are "really in dismal shape."

Shockman, who heads up Mazon, a non-profit group that funds hunger relief agencies, said the nation's emergency food system "has really been unraveled over the last few years."

The majority of people using food banks are the working poor, often families with two members employed. The cause of the distress often is related to the high cost of transportation and housing.

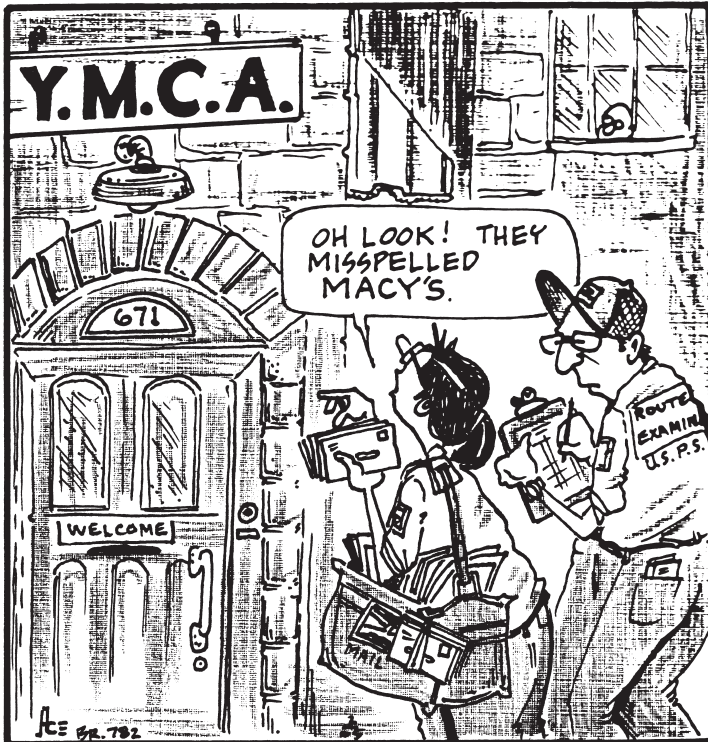
Food bank officials are concerned that the nation's sputtering economy will further reduce donations and push more people toward hunger.

"It's such a dichotomy," Brian Smith, of the Capital Area Food Bank, told *The Washington Post*. "In a recession, we get less funds [and] we get less food. But at the same time, in a recession, more people are becoming at risk."

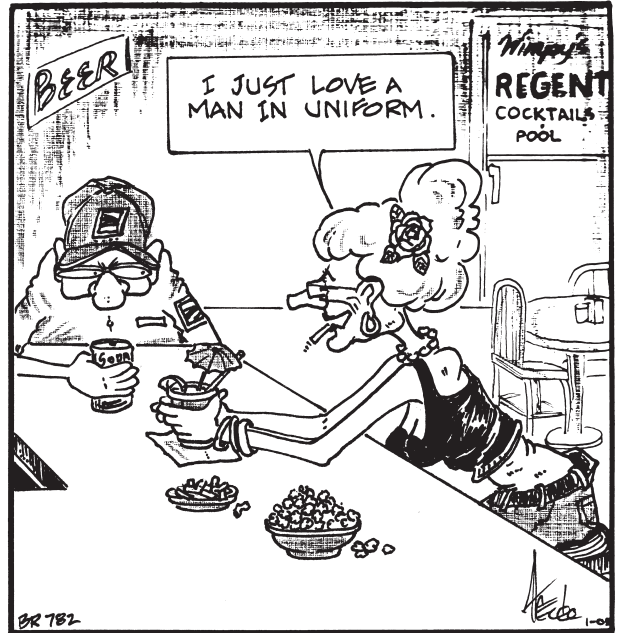
***Branch 782 members are a part of
a much bigger "whole". Together,
we accomplish so much!!!***

"OUT THERE"

OUT THERE



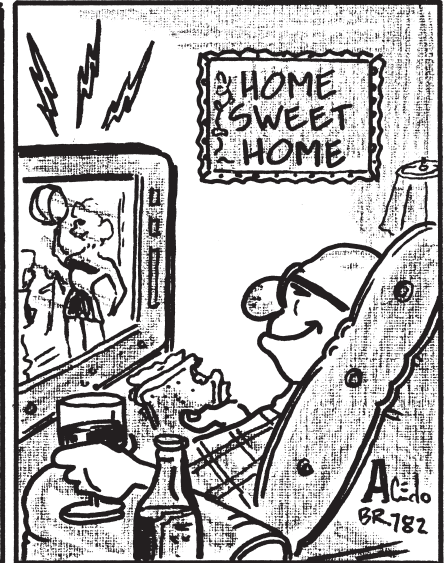
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OUT THERE



WHY WOULD YOU EVER WANT TO RETIRE???

Harrington's Spotlight

Coaching and Mentoring

Last months Harrington's Corner had an article to explain a new "Safe Drivers Training" program that was implemented last summer for the entire nation. The Sierra Coastal District Safety Department had posted bid offers for 12 District Driver Safety Instructors. 4 of which would cover the areas of 933's, 932's, and 935's zip code.

The DSI's selected for your area were Emma Gonzalez, Jorge Vaquera, Jeff Harrington, and Phil Lehman. Our job title description includes giving pre-hire road test to applicants seeking employment, we also teach class for safe drivers training along with defensive driving, give vehicle familiarization and skills course training to certify that person on the LLV or whatever vehicle they will be using and input it into the National Training Data Base. Take care of the D.E.P. (Driver Enhancement Program) We also do driver refresher for people that have a accident or a severly negative 4584 (Observation) .

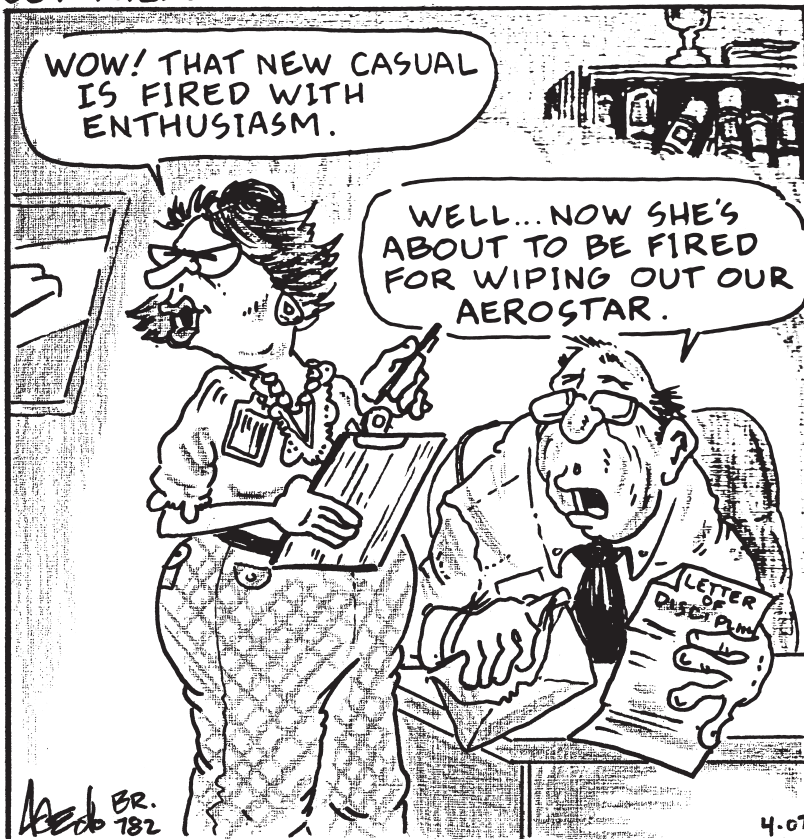
Another part of DSI's job discription includes a "Coaching and Mentoring" observation program that district safety likes for us to do. Which brings me to this months article.

Recently my ears and eyes that I have out there have brought to my attention the concerns or complaints that carriers have out there. Why are DSI's out there observing us? The main part of this program is to go out and observe newer carriers and watch their driving habbits. Our district is one of the worst districts when it comes to accidents. We avg. 360 accidents (80% preventable) a year. (that's 1 per day) Most due to poor or unsafe driving habbits. A lot of those accidents are from carriers with 2 years or less of service.

Our job is to "Coach and Mentor" these carriers to commend them on a good job they are doing or to remind them of postal policies and help them to correct any bad habbits that they may have occurred. Every once in awhile we run into older carriers that are doing a great job or have some bad habbits themselves. We commend them and coach them as well.

Next question many carriers have been asking Mike Towery is, "Can we get in trouble or be discipline from DSI's Observation?" Let me answer that for you, "No you cannot be discipline for a DSI's Observation". Our observation is for data purposes that district takes and inputs to see the affect of how the new program is performing verses how older carriers may do. We don't go out there to get any carriers in trouble. We are on your side and out there to promote SAFETY!

OUT THERE



Recently we have had carriers removed for unsafe driving. There are carriers that are out there that have been doing a lot of the same things that the carriers were doing when removed. And we want for you to avoid that. The shop stewards would love for you to drive safely out there as well. It is hard to fight something when a carrier is observed no seatbelt, talking on cell phone, leaving engine running, no hand brake, leaving door open going through an intersection. And it makes more work for the union.

When all in simple we get paid to do all of those things correctly and safely. No Excuses! If there is a lot of data that shows there is a lot of carriers not wearing seatbelts (a serious infraction) There can be management from another station or a safety specialist from District out there observing you and can write you up for those unsafe driving practices.

Just be safe out there. Do your job correctly and safely. An accident or unsafe driving habbits isn't worth getting disciplined or removed. So if anyone that have concerns or questions you can call Emma, Jorge, Phil, or I at 392-6198.

Jeff Harrington and Emma Gonzalez

from the editor-guy

Recently, I wrote two letters to two couples.

(Maybe more of us should try this...if each of us would write only one letter a week, and get one letter back a month: That would be about \$2.00 a month multiplied by the total number of people who work for the USPS. That would generate a little income for our company. Oh, well. That's an entirely different direction than I am going to go this month.)

In each of those letters to those people, a thought occurred to me that I shared with them. And the thought apparently continued to percolate and seems to be coming out of my fingers as I type this month.

Don't know if any of this will resonate with you or not.

My wife and I have had numerous address books through the years. Looking at an old address book is definitely a look back at where we've been. People are listed who were a part of our lives. Some are family members who are now deceased. Others are folks who were important because our lives and theirs were interwoven because of our children's activities. As our kids grew older, what we did shifted and new names were added to the book.

As pages become tattered, it becomes time for a new book. Some of the names don't make the transition to those lines on the new sheets. New names are added. Couples we knew are no longer together and no longer fit on the same page together. Sometimes, because we move to a new location, an entirely different world of people find their way into phone numbers and addresses which we need to quickly access.

Occasionally, we've run into people who used to be in our old address books. There are shared hugs, questions about how life has been treating everyone, astonishment at how old the kids have become, a sense of wonder of why it's been so long since we've been in touch. And then—not so surprisingly—we again get caught up in the daily joys and struggles of wherever we happen to be.

The recent deaths of both Jim Salie and Mike Nunnely-St, John came around the time that I had written those two letters and was thinking about connections that we make in life.

Both Jim and Mike had carried at South Station early in their careers. Although it's been years since I had any contact with Mike, I ran into Jim about two weeks before he passed away. My wife needed to pick up some kind of craft products at Michael's. As I pulled into the parking lot, I saw a Letter Carrier going into LensCrafters. I told her I was going to go and see who it was while she was shopping. When I walked through the door, there was Jim Salie and he saw me right away.

Jim and I spent between five and ten minutes talking about our Letter Carrier world. He told me that the nose-piece on his glasses had broken and that he was getting the glasses repaired. For those of you who knew him, you many not be surprised to hear that we talked a little bit about his I-Pod and about how many songs he had compiled.

The biggest topic we discussed was grandchildren. He shared a picture, and never lost his smile or the twinkle in his eyes as he told me about how great it was to have one particular little individual be such an important addition to his world.

Although Jim was never in my "address book", Jim was a part of my life. He would show up for the folding and stapling of the newsletter when it was East Bakersfield's turn. When we did an informational picket a few years ago to highlight issues which were important to Letter Carriers, he was there. On those occasions that I would drop by East Bakersfield and he was there, we would touch base. Our worlds were linked by our common cause as Letter Carriers.

He wasn't there the day that I went to EB to ask if anyone could share their memories in the newsletter. It was a sad occasion. And yet, the sadness I sensed there went to the issue that Jim had been important to everyone there. To take this further, each of us "adds to the mix" of where we are. Our lives touch the lives of others. It further reminds me that I need to make sure that I remember to occasionally go through that old address book to renew those ties which bind me to others.

BASIL ZUNIGA



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The information contained in this publication is true and complete to our best knowledge. All recommendations, on equipment and procedures are made without guarantees on the part of the authors or of the organization. Because the quality of equipment, services and methods are beyond our control, the organization and its publication authors disclaim all liability incurred in connection with use of this information.

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We invite all members to contribute articles for publication. Copy, if possible, should be double-spaced (but doesn't have to be) but **MUST** be signed by the contributor.

The Editor retains the right to edit, delete, or reject the article for the good of the Branch (and even this is subject to persuasion).

In the hope that material contained herein may be of benefit to the goals of the National Association of Letter Carriers, permission is hereby granted to other NALC Branches to copy or use material and/or cartoons promulgated in this publication with our best wishes...but remember to cite/give us some credit.

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