

National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 782



E.A. Baker Union Update



ARVIN
DELANO
MOJAVE

AVENAL
EDWARDS AFB
RIDGECREST
TEHACHAPI

BAKERSFIELD
LAMONT
SHAFTER
TRONA

BORON
McFARLAND
TAFT
WASCO



CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1901

VOLUME LXXXI NUMBER 6

JUNE 2010

at the



Mike:

***This really is
a new world
that Letter
Carriers find
themselves
in... What do
you need to
consider?***

SHOP TALK

Jim Falvey -
Chief Steward
NALC Branch 82

The Times we are living in now should be evident to us all. The Postal service is in trouble. To what degree of trouble is open to debate.

What is not debatable is that all of us, as employees of the Postal Service, have never been under the scrutiny we now face on a daily basis. When we punch on the clock each morning it brings a system to bear where EVERY FUNCTION we do as Letter Carriers is measured, scrutinized and analyzed by management as never before.

We hit the street with an electronic device that serves as management's eyes and ears when we are out of the office. The level of street observation by supervisors and managers may be at an all time high. Add in to this mix the attention level of the public now that the budget deficit and the 5 day delivery question are in the main stream news.

How do we cope with all of this? The first thing is that each day when we punch that clock we must as individuals be prepared to deal with the extra scrutiny in a way that we maintain our dignity and self respect. This can become difficult when we are harassed and--intimidated by management techniques and practices that test these principles.

There have been Carriers who—when faced with such scurrilous behavior—have made poor choices. Those choices have resulted in their being subjected to discipline that at times has led to being removed from the Postal Service.

No matter how hard we feel that management is pushing us we should never do or not do something in the performance our duties that put us in jeopardy of being disciplined; up to and including being removed from the Postal Service. This would include things like delaying or not delivering mail, not scanning items or working/driving unsafely.

Harassment is very subjective.

Continued on Next Page...

Some of us react to ANY scrutiny by management as being harassed.

When management is harassing a Carrier they claim they are only doing their job. There is truth to be found on both sides of that argument.

As Letter Carriers, we have a job to do for which we get paid. This is the very basic definition of our purpose when we punch on the clock.

In order to define this basic definition further we go to the M-41, M-39 and other handbooks and manual along with the National Contract and Local MOU. These show us how to perform our jobs and conduct ourselves while performing our duties as a Letter Carrier.

The break down occurs when management goes beyond the norms of work place behavior and use the cover of “just doing my job” to disrespect and intimidate the Carrier to get the desired effect. Sometimes this can be quite successful, which is why we see it used so much.

It is when the Carrier does not return the desired results that the conflict we see on the workroom floors throughout the city escalates into the harassment charge.

As professional Letter Carriers— we should not allow ourselves to be subjected to such treatment while we are doing our job in a manner consistent with our training, handbooks and manuals.

As we move into the lighter mail volumes we see in summer months, there will only be an escalation on manage-

ment’s part to get as much as they can from the Letter Carrier by any means necessary.

As long as we do our jobs in an efficient and safe manner there should be no reason for management to feel they have to squeeze us and get that last drop of productivity from what is an already overworked Carrier force.

If you feel management has crossed the line from supervising to harassing make sure you document what is said or done and, if you have a witness, get statements. You should contact your steward or the Branch office at 661-325-5526 as soon as possible.

This modified article is a just a portion of an article originally published in the NALC Branch 82 Portland, Oregon Branch 82 B-Mike published in June 2010.

Minutes of the May 2010 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Branch 782 was called to order by President Mike Towery at 7:00 p.m on the 25th day of May, 2010 at the branch office, Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Sargeant-at-Arms Jerry Patterson. All members of the Executive Board were present except Vice President Darryl Holderman, Financial Secretary Anita Holderman, and Chief Trustee Lucinda Martinez. Also present was the Newsletter Editor Basil Zuniga, S.A.N.E. Fred Acedo, Special Asst. Editor Chris Chretien, Asst. Treasurer Debbie Guillet and OWCP Rep. Richard Gerdes. The Stewards were present from Arvin, Avenal, Brundage, Camino Media, Downtown, Hillcrest, Oildale, Stockdale, Taft and Wasco. The Minutes of the April 27, 2010 meeting were accepted as read. The communications were read.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Teresa Ortega reported that the next picnic will be in October 2011. No more picnics in the spring. Emma Gonzalez of the Social and Recreation Committee reported that nothing new is happening.

NEW BUSINESS: Molly Biggar presented a change to the By-Laws, Art. 10 Sec. 4 to increase the blanket bond to \$40,000. The proposed change will be printed in the newsletter and voted on at the July meeting. Molly presented the 3rd Quarter Budget, monies need to be moved to cover shortages. Molly Biggar made a motion to accept the changes to the Budget as stated. Seconded by Jerry Patterson and the motion passed. Molly then presented the 2010 – 2011 Budget; the amounts have been adjusted from the two previous quarters. The fiscal year will begin on July 1st. A vote will be taken at the June meeting.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: Diana Chavez reported on the 5 day delivery, she asked everyone to contact Congressman Kevin McCarthy. He will be having a Town Hall meeting on Tuesday at the Icardo Center at Cal State, 6 p.m. Contact Diana if you can attend. She encouraged everyone to donate to COL-CPE at least \$5.00 per pay period. Basil discussed the progress in getting Fred Acedo’s book published. Chris Chretien said the first volume will be about 150 pages with 400 – 450 cartoons and will cover the first 7 years of cartoons. Basil Zuniga made a motion that all money over the cost of publishing the book be donated to MDA. Seconded by Pam Smith, and passed. Basil asked all members present to stay and help fold and label flyers after the meeting. Basil reported that Stockdale folded the newsletter in May. Next month will be Camino Media. He also reported that the July and possibly August newsletter will be very small, maybe a one page flyer. The members who attended the Pasadena training gave reports. Jerry Patterson – “very good,

learn something new each time, new speakers. The PMG is talking about 4 day delivery, no Tuesday delivery that would mean no full time positions, all carriers would be PTF's." Emma Gonzalez said the training was very informative and wishes more members could attend. Norma Hamer said she is still learning stuff, wish there was more on Article 8. John Ortega reported that PMG Potter has said that 4 day delivery would be a larger savings, 5 day delivery would save money for a few years but 4 day would save much more. Molly asked that all those who attend the Pasadena Training turn in their receipts. Basil discussed the possibility of driving Carriers to the convention so that they could attend both the training and the convention. John Ortega reported on JARAP, the consultations will be sent out Monday. The local contacts should clarify the comments. A discussion was held on JARAP. John was asked what carriers can do he said "Be consistent, don't run and don't rely on supervisors to enter swings."

There were 40 members present.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45. p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

KIM GERDES

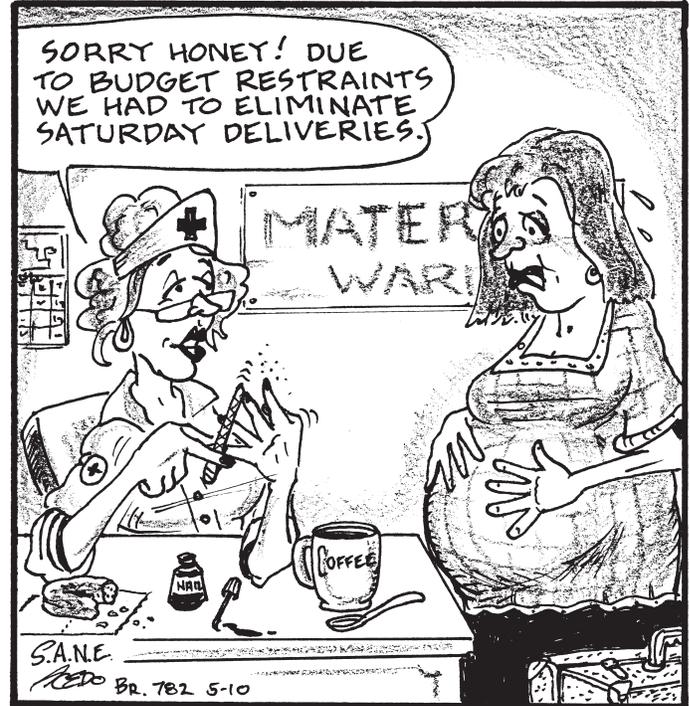
FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Anita Holderman will give her report at the June Meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Molly Biggar reported:

Beginning Balance	\$56,303.27
Dues and Income	\$17,310.46
Interest Income	\$ 6.59
Total Balance	\$73,620.32
Expenses	\$16,757.06
Ending Balance	\$56,863.26

The MDA 50/50 Drawing was won by Chris Chetian. The \$500 Drawing would have been won by Retiree Forrest Willard if he had been present.

OUT THERE



NON-MEMBER LIST

April 2010

403 OF THE 427 CRAFT EMPLOYEES IN CITIES WE SERVE ARE NALC MEMBERS!

WE HAVE ACHIEVED A TOTAL OF 94.4%.

DOWNTOWN STATION

Dale Pearce
Javier Cruz

DOLE COURT

100% Union!!!

BORON

V. L. Johnson

McFARLAND

100% Union!!!

TAFT

B. W. Krier
K. J. Hughes

SOUTH STATION

100% Union!!!

STOCKDALE

James Oh
G.S. Saran
A. White

CALIFORNIA CITY

100% Union!!!

MOJAVE

100% Union!!!

TEHACHAPI

V. L. Johnson

EAST BAKERSFIELD

100% Union!!!

CAMINO MEDIA

F. Medina, Jr.

DELANO

C. V. Quebral
L. A. Campos

RIDGECREST

S. R. Pierce
H. G. Blanco
L.M. Montano
Y.P. Chea
T.P. Garcia

TRONA

S. L. Walent
B. R. Dame

HILLCREST

100% Union!!!

ARVIN

100% Union!!!

EDWARDS

100% Union!!!

WASCO

100% Union!!!

BRUNDAGE

David Kinglee

AVENAL

S.R. Bejarano

LAMONT

100% Union!!!

SHAFTER

L. M. New
M. D. Voights

5-Day is the Wrong Way

I want to share this message with all our union members that our President Fred Rolando put out. Please read carefully.

NALC is taking its campaign to preserve the long-term viability of the Postal Service to the streets this summer. President Fred Rolando launched the "Save Saturday Delivery" campaign with a national mailing to branch leaders and state-level legislative activists. Included in the mailing is a comprehensive toolkit designed to help local leaders weigh in with Congress on the need to keep Saturday delivery and mobilize support for our position with the Postal Regulatory Commission.

"This fight cannot be won in Washington alone," Rolando said. "We need every member to help us prevail – giving up Saturday delivery to competitors is the most short-sighted idea imaginable. We must stop the Postal Service from making such a big mistake."

The "Save Saturday Delivery" toolkit contains fact sheets, talking points and instructions for activists. NALC congressional district liaisons and state legislative chairs will organize in-district visits with House and Senate members and organize letter-writing campaigns aimed at key legislators.

Branch leaders will conduct community outreach to encourage opposition to the elimination of Saturday delivery, both in Congress and within the PRC, which is conducting a formal review of the USPS proposal for weekday-only collections and delivery. Its advisory opinion, which will be released by the end of the year, could be influential in Congress – the only body with the power to approve the USPS plan.

The NALC believes that eliminating Saturday delivery would do more harm than good – it will simply push more mailers out of the postal system by making it less valuable. "Slower service and higher rates is not a business strategy," Rolando said. "Congress must reform the retiree health pre-funding provisions of the law. And we must do our part to preserve the excellent level of service we provide, six days a week, and seek to add new services that will generate new revenue for the USPS."

Through the "Save Saturday Delivery" campaign, NALC aims to educate members of Congress, as well as the general public, about what it's really going to take to fix the Postal Service.

"The Postal Service is a vital national service and we have a responsibility to fight for its future," Rolando said.

In closing on June 2 approximately 10 fellow union members attended a town hall meeting with Congressman Kevin McCarthy and approach him with this issue. He stated he believe the Postal service should stay with 6-day delivery but would not commit until he read the resolution HR 173. I think that once the Congressman knows the facts he maybe sway over to commit but our job is not done. I have a follow-up meeting

with his aide on June 14th and plan to give numerous facts at that time. I ask you to do same and continue calling the local office (Phone: 661-327-3611) and writing him to safe guard the mail delivery days

Here is a copy of a letter I wrote and a sample letter for the union members to write. Thanks.

In Solidarity,

DIANA CHAVEZ
Legislative Liaison

Honorable Congressman Kevin McCarthy
4100 Empire Dr #150
Bakersfield, CA 93309

June 10, 2010

Dear Congressman Kevin McCarthy:

I live in Bakersfield and I am a constituent of your congressional district. I am writing you in concern of some current remarks and articles being published concerning the possibility of reducing our nation's mail delivery services down to 5 days a week. 6-day mail delivery service is an essential service that the American people have relied on since 1912. Reducing mail delivery service to 5 days a week would inevitably cause not only delays in the delivery of mail, but higher postal costs, due to the many hours of additional overtime that the Postal Service would require in order to handle the resulting back-up of mail.

Also our senior citizens rely heavily upon the steady delivery of mail service 6 days a week. Social Security is the primary or sole source of income for many senior citizens, and any delay in the delivery of their Social Security checks would make it difficult for them to purchase even essential items, such as food and medicine.

Taking into account these items and other serious consequences that would result from reducing mail delivery services. I am asking you to please sign on as cosponsor for H Res 173. This bill sponsored by Representative Samuel Graves from Missouri, clearly expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its 6-day mail delivery.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. A return response to this letter would be sincerely appreciated.

Thank You

Sincerely,
DIANA CHAVEZ

2212 Steven Ct
Bakersfield, CA 93306-3448

changes to the interest arbitration process provided for by law.

I hope you will consider the views of postal employees and customers before taking any position on the Action plan. As a letter carrier and as an NALC leader I am concerned about the Postal Service's Action Plan ("Ensuring a Viable Postal Service for America). Congress and the Postal Regulatory Commission should be given ample time to study these issues before making any hasty decisions that will strike at the core of the United States Postal Service and its mission. Thank you very much for your consideration. A return response of this letter would be greatly appreciated.

Your Name
Your Address



Honorable Congressman Kevin McCarthy
4100 Empire Dr #150
Bakersfield, Ca 93309

Date: _____

Hello my name is _____ and I am a letter carrier in Bakersfield, CA. I am writing in response to the Postal Service's proposed Action Plan that was recently released. I want to relay to you Congressman Kevin McCarthy that Letter Carriers in California.

1) Oppose the elimination of Saturday delivery. It would adversely affect small businesses, senior citizens and people who rely on prescription drugs delivered through the mail and it would unnecessarily eliminate tens of thousands of good jobs.

2) I urge you Congressman McCarthy to oppose the elimination of Saturday delivery or to refrain from taking a position on it until Congress and the Postal Regulatory Commission have time to carefully study the issue.

3) Letter Carriers support many components of the Postal Service Action Plan, specifically the call for Congress to reform the crushing and unfair burden to pre-fund future retiree health benefits that is the main cause of our financial difficulties.

4) Letter carriers support many of the other suggestions in the USPS action plan. For example, NALC fully supports Congressional action to fix the onerous and unfair retiree health benefit pre-funding schedule. The payment schedule was based on flawed OPM methods and is the biggest financial challenge facing the Postal Service -- costing \$5.5 billion per year. Greater product and pricing flexibility is also important.

5) In addition, we agree with the Postal Service regarding the over-funded CSRS pension fund. A recent OIG study concluded that the Postal Service CSRS pension fund remains over-funded by \$75 billion. A transfer of these funds to the retiree health benefit fund would fully fund that liability and place the Postal Service on firm footing going forward.

6) The Postal Service's plan also calls for greater "workforce flexibility." NALC is committed to seeking win-win solutions on all workforce issues in the appropriate venue, which is at the bargaining table. NALC and the USPS have effectively responded to the economic crisis over the past 18 months in a flexible way within our existing labor contract and will continue to do so when the contract is renegotiated in 2011. (For example, we negotiated MIARAP -- an "expedited process to align routes with mail volume levels.")

7) Congress should not interfere with postal collective bargaining, and should not make any hasty or unbalanced

OUT THERE



Something to Think About...

Most people don't know what's going to happen with the Postal Service in the next six months to a year. With all of the changes (JARAP, route checks, continued drop in volume), it's impossible to know. The Postmaster General has proposed a cut from six-day delivery to five-day delivery...and he has even shared in a speech that going to four-day delivery would save even more money.

To me, the recent timing of the training classes that we took in Pasadena came just at the right time. I learned a lot that really opened up my eyes! There is quite a big battle going on! It made me think quite a lot about the Postal Service. It also made me realize that each and every one of us needs to think seriously about what we need to do to protect our jobs!

I don't care how many years you think you might have left in your career. Some of the things which are being sought by the USPS will radically change everything that you've come to expect about your job, the rules that we operate under, and certain assumptions that we have about how our careers will progress.

None of what the USPS wants to do can be done without the approval of Congress. *That* is why it is so important to use one of our strongest tools: COLCPE. We need to actively support those politicians who will support us!

Do not bury your heads in the sand! You need to be aware that if we do nothing, we are going to get nothing. We will lose many

of our hard-won benefits. We all need to be NALC E-Activists so that we stay informed about crucial events that need to be addressed quickly. Organize with others who know that labor-friendly Republicans or Democrats are what we need.

Think about it. Postmaster General Potter has said that he would even like to go to four-day delivery. What should you think about? If the USPS goes to four-day delivery—and we are guaranteed to have eight-hour days...every Postal employee (except for those in management) would become part timers. There would no longer be medical benefits. Other things we take for granted would also change. Think about it.

Just in case you haven't noticed, things in our world have changed a lot in the past few years. How many fellow employees who were dealing with long-term, job-related injury issues are no longer here because of the Postal Service's efforts to do away with them? With the drop in volume, how many people around the country have been excessed out of their units? How many withheld positions are on the books in anticipation of excessed folks from other cities who may have to be offered a job? Clerk are converting to Letter Carrier jobs because their clerk jobs no longer exist. PTFs are looking at having to wait years and years before they have a chance of becoming

Regulars.

We were told in the training that 43% - 50% of our workforce will be eligible for retirement in the next five years. What kind of jobs are new people going to be looking at?

Your job security isn't assured. Think very hard about your future and the future of the USPS. Do something to save your jobs by giving to COLCPE, signing up for E-Activist and by getting involved with your Union! Go to the meetings. Ask questions. Get answers! Act on your knowledge and encourage others to do the same! Learn enough so that you can't have the wool pulled over your eyes! Learn how to fight back!



Wearing his trademark hat, Jerry Patterson and Pam Smith listen intently as Congressman McCarthy responds to a question by John Ortega.

JERRY PATTERSON
Wasco Shop Steward

NALC DELIVERING FOR AMERICA

On May 21 & 22 seven Branch 782 union members attended the Pasadena Training & Rap session sponsored by the CSALC. We attended a day and a half of classes and the Rap session on Saturday afternoon with our National Vice-President Gary Mullins. In the session our VP outlined the Postal crisis. Even though there are more deliveries and we received relief from HR 22, the revenue still declines. Well, we all know the USPS plan is to eliminate Saturday delivery, close Post offices down and replace full time career employees with casual part timers. But, this is only part of their plan.

The NALC plans is to work with Congress such as extending HR 22, fixing the retiree health prefunding schedule and fighting to keep 6-day delivery. These are just some major factors of keeping and securing jobs.

I believe that Congress and the American people want to continue the 6-day delivery and don't want more job losses after going thru this last recession. We can contact our Senators & Representatives and ask them to stand behind 6-day delivery and let them know that we too are doing part such as route evaluations.

Our success will depend on strength & unity!



DIANA CHAVEZ
Legislative Liaison

Food for Thought...

With all of the talk of declining mail volume and fiscal crisis coming from the PO, and with contract negotiations practically around the corner, I think we—and the Union—have to take a good look at economic issues for ourselves. The Union has been uncritically echoing the PO's viewpoint in these matters. I, for one, am not convinced that we need to cut jobs and pay. We need to start asking questions and getting answers.

OUT THERE



I offer a few thoughts of my own on these issues: 1) How bad off is the PO financially? Question 1a) Is there a crisis?

Postal stats for 1989: 162 billion total pieces of mail handled. 86 billion billion pieces of first class mail. 764 thousand career employees. The PO ran a small percentage surplus (half a billion dollars on \$38 billion revenue). No crisis. (Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1991)

Postal stats for 2009: 177 billion total pieces of mail handled. 84 billion pieces of first class mail, 623 thousand career employees. The PO ran a 5.5% deficit. Crisis? (Source: PO website: <http://www.usps.com/cpim/ftp/ar09html/welcome/htm>).

Hmmm...in 2009, the PO handled more mail with fewer employees than in 1989. 1982 was the last year the PO accepted government subsidies. So, why is there a crisis now when there wasn't one then?

QUESTION: WHERE HAS ALL THE MONEY GONE?

In recent years, the PO has taken a number of steps to save money to increase revenue...they have eliminated thousands of clerks with the introduction of DPS, have replaced thousands of regular City Carriers with cheaper Rural Carriers, they have greatly reduced overtime.

After years of lobbying on behalf of management by the NALC, we got Postal Reform—which we were told would save our jobs.

This is an excerpt of points from a much larger article by John Adams, NALC Branch 294 in Flushing, NY. The reprint was taken from the Rockville, MD Branch 3825 *Unity* published in Spring 2010.

What Happened Out There???

Dear Basil, have I got some ideas runn'in through my mind!!!

Ya see, management has been ON me for ten minutes over my "base time". Base time?? What the blink does THAT mean?? Something made up to try and MICROMANAGE Letter Carriers—as in ME then.

The bosses expect me to carry my route EXACTLY down to the gnat's eyelash the same. I have All walking, about 12 miles, 24 park and loops, that is less than 30 SECONDS per swing! So here is where the cartoon ideas have taken over my working walking state of mind. As if in answer to the voice on the other end of the phone—the proverbial "*What happened out there?*" when I call in—here is a list of things that *have* happened that could take me merely seconds more per stop or up to 10 or 20 seconds longer for each delivery.

I am a customer service concious Carrier, my people are all minimum age 55 and up to 103 years old, I know this is where I'm supposed to be for such a time as this. To them I am still representative of this great American Institution called The United States Postal Service...um ya...*SERVICE!*

These are all going to sound like lame excuses; but hey, how lame is it to have to explain to the supervisor about any of this? Oh right! So soon they forget what it's really like out there!

Here goes: one comfort stop with up to 3 or 4 parcel deliveries on the way for efficiency could take 15 minutes; just one certified with the customer in a wheelchair, or walker, or sporting an oxygen tank...you get the picture! *That* could take twice as long 4-5 minutes; same with Signature Confirmation; and, how about VOLUME? Volume happens! I will have twice as much mail some days and it takes 1 1/2 to 2 hours longer, overall. Lucky for you, boss man, it's not twice as much longer. Try putting several inches of product through a one inch slot. Wait, that does take twice or three times longer per stop. As opposed to one or a few pieces that don't "argue" with you on their way into the "knuckle

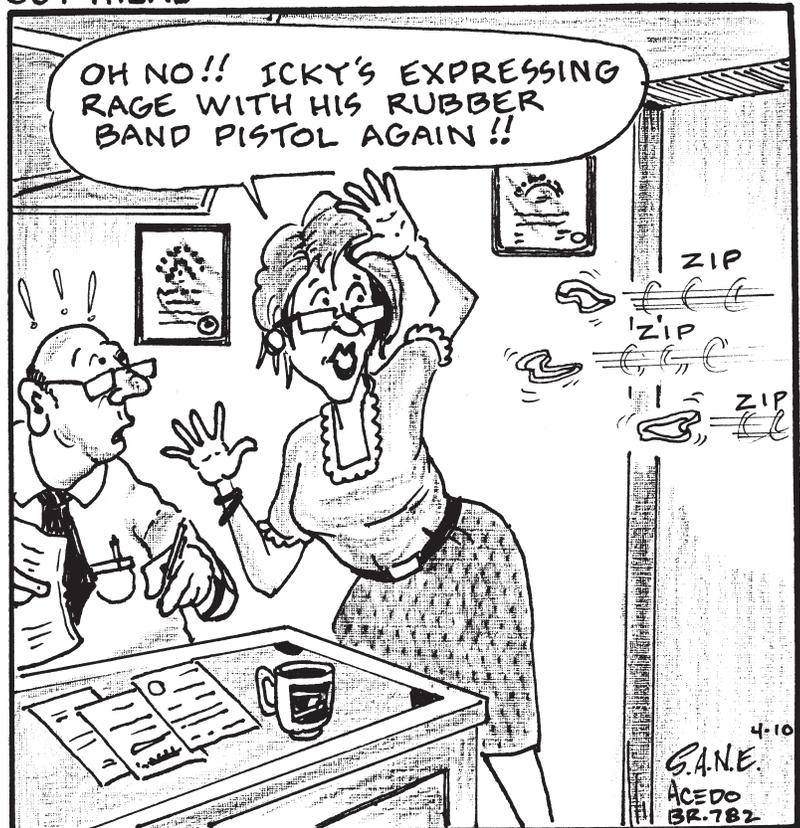
grabbing, finger snapping wall slot lid! Oh look! This one letter is junk so to save some steps I'll just skip it today. The customer sees me scoot on by, "Did I get any mail today?" holding me up only 'a second' ah but darn the bad luck. Sure, I could save a lot of time by just not delivering the mail...but, what kind of SERVICE is that?

How about, "I got a rock in my shoe, my shoelace came untied, I got a foxtail in my sock, it's really hot out here and I drink for thirty seconds and breathe a moment between streets. Ya, how about tired, after trekkin' for seven hours this human factor of the equation is going to be tired.

I'm better at the end of the day if I've paced myself, oh NO! Not the P word! Yes, boss man, I pace myself. Seriously, it's 11 to 12 miles long. Besides, my pace is 116 steps per minute, that's not slow! With volume I stand in front of the box and still finger mail and I have no less than 40 steps between houses and up to 200 and more of deadheading!

Merely exchanging pleasantries with a person takes only 5 seconds—but a customer that has a question or a problem could hold me up for a couple minutes. Oh, I know, there is the one about folks stopping me and asking for directions. When I am

OUT THERE





right there when the 88 year old widow is unloading groceries I grab a few bags without even missing a beat for maybe 20 seconds. BIG DEAL!!! Actually it means very much to these

what about any time anything falls out of the ADVO. I keep getting paper cuts; I'm developing almost a phobia so I am trying gloves and they feel really good but still getting use to them and they are hot now too, and they help with all those snapping rubber bands, too, so that might be a few seconds, you know, putting them on, taking them off, putting them back on again. Oh, I know, some of my customers had a lot of company today and it took me longer to walk all the way around the drive-ways; and, then to save some steps, I walked through a sprinkler and—wouldn't you know it—I dropped piece of mail; my luck the other piece of mail for this address was already in a "We're sorry" body bag and I had to explain to the customer about that, too! So I knew I had some seconds to make up so I stepped it up a tad. But still, Boss Man, I'm little. My legs are only 28 inches long. How much more ground at a time do you think I can cover anyway? The hurrier I go, the behinder I get! Haste makes waste, well gosh !!! There is just no margin for error!"

I am **NOT** a machine!!! Mail delivery is not an EXACT science. It's not science at all.

folks, they have all been on God's green and blue planet for a very long time and they deserve respect!

For such a time as this. I am damnsnanky good at what I do!!!! Consistent to the gnat's eyelash. I am still proud to be a Letter Carrier, being responsible and safe. I don't take my job for granted; I do take my job seriously.

If by "base time: they mean bare minimum time with no more than 10 -12 feet of mail, with NO variables, optimum conditions, the time it was ONE day when I was followed, then okay. Other than what I've mentioned for "what happened out there", Boss Man, you are going to need Swiss Precision Timing to find the nano-seconds!

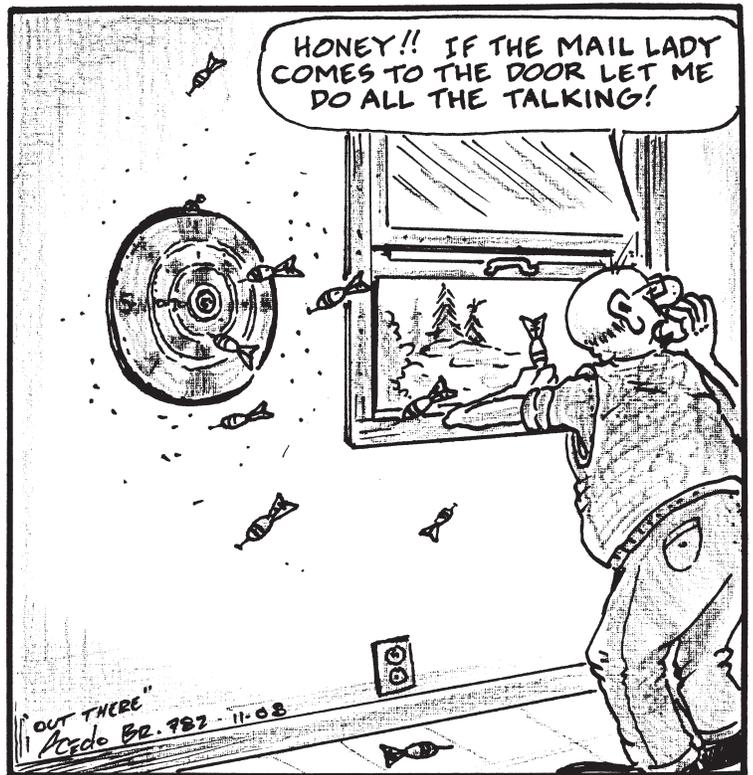
Remember me
Jay PW

Dear Basil, I have so much more to say on the subject of "What happened out there?"

I was just tired of sitting at the computer for so long the last time. Now, it seems as if I simply cannot rest until I get these answers out of my head!

So here's a string of "things" in the form of a long, whiny, run-on sentence:

"Well a lot of rubber bands broke on me today—and every time that happens, it takes a few seconds longer; and I did have to double strap out for every swing because DPS was really heavy today; and I have really small hands and all those business reply cards kept falling out of all those catalogs and the magazines; and



Mail Delivery is in the real world (paper, parcels, tangible, etc.) and it can't be manipulated by the virtual world where DOIS lives! Did DOIS know I had to get gas today? Seriously, I am out here giving 110%! Nobody blazes between bushes, trims through trees, clear-cutting my way the shortest distance like me! I am a BEAST! Determined. On a mission!

I feel a good night's sleep comin' on. Thanx, as always, for letting me share.

Jay P W

Paul McCarthy Retirement Dinner

**When: Saturday June 26, 2010 @
6 p.m.**

**Where: Benji's French Basque Restaurant
4001 Rosedale Highway, Bakersfield**

**Cost: \$30.00 per
person includes
dinner and gift**

**Contact:
AnneFraney 834-2905**

**Deadline:
June 22, 2010**

OUT THERE



Warning!!!



MAKING A LEFT TURN, EVEN ON A **GREEN** ARROW IS THE MOST DANGEROUS DRIVING MANEUVER!

We even have a rule that—if you are the first to go, wait three seconds before entering an intersection from a stop when your light turns green. The other driver ran a **RED** light at about 50 mph.



I told my daughter (driver, 15 1/2 years old with a learner's permit who was not at fault), "I cried when I saw the car." She said, "I, sorry I wrecked the car, Daddy."

I told her, "I didn't cry for the car, it was the thought of you and your Mother in that car." By the grace of God, they are both still alive. They are very battered, bruised, sprained and cut—physically as well as emotionally. Fortunately, no broken bones or internal injuries. My daughter was not too banged up due to the fact that she was the driver and has youth on her side. My wife, not as lucky, was on the impact side, pinned in and then there's that *youth thing*...

With God's grace and your prayers we will get through .

Oh....that "Three Second Rule: just became a "Six Second Rule"!

Bakersfield Letter Carrier David Bridges wants to make sure that this information is shared with ALL Postal Service employees.

from the editor-guy

I never really know if anyone ever really reads what is in the newsletter each month. More to the point, I never know if what I write is ever “digested” by anyone. However, this month I know that I want to make sure that I address a project that I have become involved in. It’s been a pretty cool endeavor.

Mike Towery commissioned Chris Chretien, one of our Branch 782 members, to put together a book of Fred Acedo cartoons. Along the way, I have gotten to do a lot of the “grunt work”. One of the steps along the way has been to try to figure out how many books we could print without losing money. (This is obviously a very important thing to “manage” when we are working with money that belongs to some other people—all of YOU!)

I am happy to report that we are well along the path of birthing this baby by our target: the NALC National Convention in August. More importantly, many of you have responded by good old U.S. Mail to tell us that you intend to buy a copy of the book. When we mailed out the flyers to “advertise” the book, there was no way of really knowing if we would get any response at all...

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! To date, we have received more of a response than we could have anticipated!

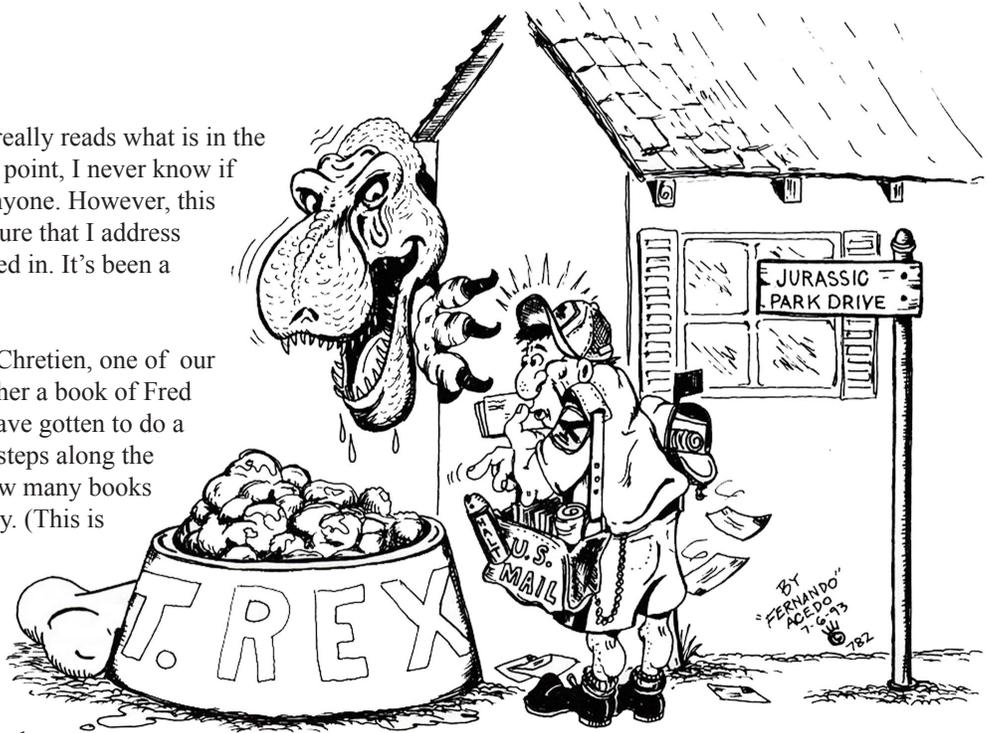
This is going to give us some kind of way to make a real-world assessment of how many books to have printed.

And, now, about the book itself. Chris has had to limit this book to the first seven years of cartoons that Fred has created. Even at that, there should be over 400 cartoons! And, Chris envisions color cartoons, too!

Well, guess what? Fred has stepped it up, too. He has been “colorizing” cartoons for Chris to use in the book. He has even had to re-draw some of his earlier work because to color in the cartoons he needs to do the work on linen stock paper which doesn’t degrade with the use of the color ink.

Fred has even produced a banner to be used at a booth where the books will be sold. (If you’re curious, that banner will be on display at the June meeting on June 22. Come take a look!)

Additionally, as I noted in a note to someone about this project recently, it looks like this is going to be a miracle when it actually gets done. And—like most miracles—it’s going to have numerous miracle workers along the way. Mike Towery has been extremely supportive since he launched this mission. National Business Agent Manny Peralta has had to jump through



quite a few hoops to help us maneuver through various administrative hurdles to be able to get a booth to sell the books at the Convention. Pam Smith volunteered to do anything to help...and guess what? I took her up on her offer and she has been tracking the responses to our flyers. Molly Biggar, Branch 782 Treasurer, has shown a willingness to make sure that we can keep track of the costs so that (at project’s end) we will know that this project hasn’t been a burden to Branch 782 or that we have spent Branch money inappropriately. We will know that the money we finally donate to MDA will actually be a true donation.

So, what about the book itself? The cartoon on this page is the artwork that will be on the cover of the book. It is the first cartoon that Fred Acedo ever did for our newsletter.

Just as importantly—and to give you a heads up on what you will be seeing—Chris asked Fred if he could draw a new cartoon for the back of the book. Chris’s concept would take the original cartoon and show the scene as it would have appeared if you were looking at it from the backyard. Fred did that, and it has worked out pretty well.

So, from front-to-back, this book is will showcase Fred’s “Out There” view of our Letter Carrier world.

To piggy back on language in the flyer which was sent out: “More than a few years ago, then-Branch 782 President Frank Thomasy won a grievance for Fred Acedo—Fred asked him if he could do anything to show his thanks. Frank told him he could draw a few cartoons... Well, Fred followed through and it *HAS* become an adventure! “Out There” is an apt description of Fred’s view of our Letter Carrier world: Dogs,

Supervisors, Uniforms, Mail Volume, Employee Interpersonal Interactions, Injuries, Customers, Our Vehicles, Potlucks, T-6's, 3996's...and the list goes on and on... Fred captures much of what goes on in our every day existence. And, we want to let you share in that! ***This is your chance to chuckle over and snicker at more than four hundred of Fred's cartoons from the first seven years!!!!***"

Another thing which has been personally interesting to me are those conversations that I've had with Fred and his wife, Toni. I had never really spent all that much time with them. But, in order to keep on top of all of the little things along the way, it's been a real joy to hear various funny stories and the memories that they have shared.

Also, you may not realize that his drawing style is different now. Fred is amazed at how much what he does, as a cartoonist, has changed through the years. He sees subtle things that have evolved through the course of producing probably a thousand cartoons. He chuckles at some of the cartoons that he had forgotten about.

And, that has been an unexpected silver lining to becoming involved in trying to get this dream to come true.

And, now, hopefully you won't mind if I shift gears and take this in a different direction.

I guess doing that is part of my prerogative as the Branch 782 Editor-guy. But, as I share this I'm hoping that you won't find it to be a needless use of space in this newsletter.

Paul McCarthy is retiring soon. That, for any Letter Carrier, is quite an accomplishment! But, I want to make sure that I make the time to acknowledge Paul in a special way. Or...at least...I am going to try to do what I can to make note his retirement in a special way.

Paul was my assistant editor for quite a few years. He and I used to do all of the things that we needed to do to get the newsletter finished and out to the membership. I remember that while he told me that he could type, he didn't write, but that he wanted to help me if he could. ***And, he really did do a lot to help me!***

I have many memories of Paul through those years of helping me.

He was the guy who would coordinate the colating, folding, stapling, labling, counting, banding, and traying/tubbing/sacking which had to be done. He would do the paperwork to take the newsletters to the Bulk Mail Center. He would transport newsletters; "sweet talk" the clerks who were working there; and make sure that the newsletter got into the mailstream.

My wife, Marcelle, will be eternally grateful for this because if he hadn't done it she would have had to do a lot of it since I was working mostly eleven and twelve hour days for many

of those years and couldn't have gotten the newsletters to the Bulk Mail Center before they closed. Paul came through time after time after time!

There are many memories I have of working with Paul to get these newsletters done.

One memory stands out starkly.

If you have ever been involved in the folding and stapling of the newsletters process, you know how it works: I take sheets of newsletters out of boxes; I arrange pages on tables in a certain order; people colate the pages into the proper sequence; pages are stapled; labels are affixed in zip code order; newsletters are counted; USPS mailing forms are filled out; newsletters are prepared for mailing; and, the whole thing is taken to the GMF to mail.

Obviously, the more people we have, the easier it is.

One night, the ***only*** people who were there were me and Paul. It took the two of us hours and hours and hours...and then even a few more hours! And, I can't say that I was trying to keep up with Paul in drinking beer, but I think that as he would pop open another can I would, too. That was a fun night.

Another time (when we used to use the Branch Xerox machine to print out the newsletters) we had to fight continual "jamming". That was another night that seemed to take forever!

More importantly, while he did this he also became my friend.

One night I remember vividly. I went by Mercy Hospital to see how he was doing. Paul's wife, Julie, was being hard-hit in her battle with cancer. That was a night that I wished I wouldn't have had to share with him. It was so very sad when Julie died.

Funny thing, though. I remember him telling me about Julie at—I believe it was—Allison's graduation. Julie was *very* proper and reserved. She was on a *lot* of morphine at the time because she had told her doctor that she needed to be able to be at the graduation. Anyway, an announcement had been made to the audience at the graduation that the officials wanted to ensure that there would be proper decorum at the graduation. When Allison came walking out on the stage for her diploma, Julie started out with a loud whooping and cheering. *That* for Julie was extremely unusual! Julie was the epitome of proper!

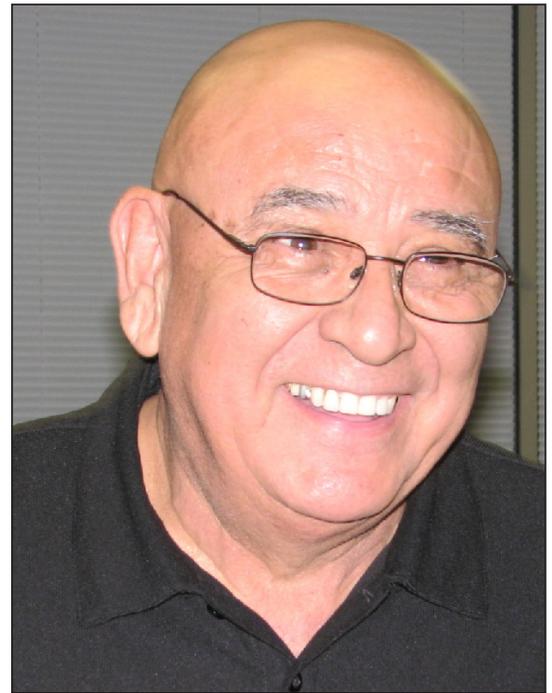
Paul, Bill Curtis and I have celebrated a few of my birthdays at Norriegas. You haven't celebrated a birthday until you have a Norriega's breakfast complete with wine! And, then there were the times we also went to the baseball games together.

Who knows? Maybe we can make some more memories? I may need some coaching on how to be a retired "Old Fart".

BASIL ZUNIGA
Branch 782 Editor-guy

And...

OUT THERE



Do YOU Have an idea for an "Out There" cartoon???

**Fred Acedo
BR. 782 S.A.N.E.
P.O. Box 6532
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OUT THERE



OUT THERE





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E.A. BAKER UNION UPDATE is published monthly by Merged Branch 782 of the National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writer and are not necessarily those of the publication staff or of the Officers of the Branch.

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.

Information in this publication may not be used for illegal purposes.

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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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

General Meeting
Tuesday
June 22, 2010
7:00 p.m.

Branch 782 Office
2628 F Street
Bakersfield, California



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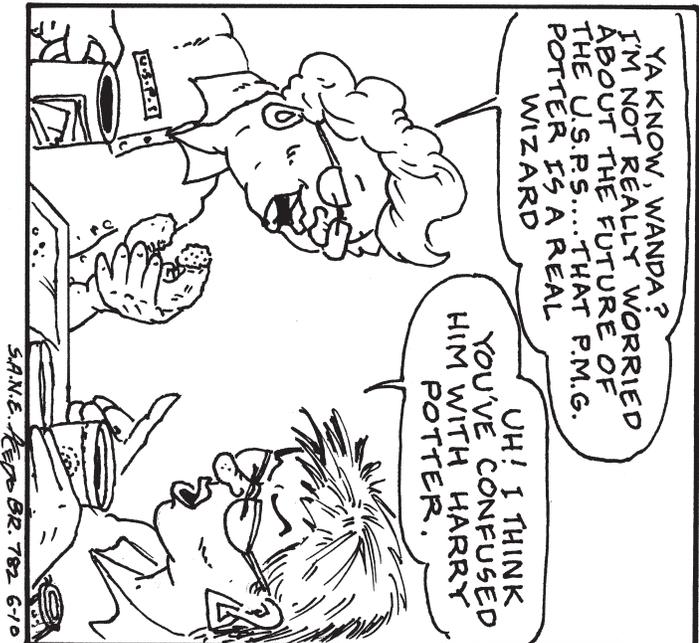
**PAUL
McCARTHY**
is retiring!

*After a whole
lot of years,
he's decided to
hang up that
satchel for the
last time!*

*More details on
page 10... & 13...*

TIME-VALUE MAIL—PLEASE EXPEDITE

OUT THERE



June 2010
Branch 782
General
Membership
Meeting
Drawing

\$500

THERE IS ONE "CATCH"...
YOU HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.