

National Association of Letter Carriers

Branch 782

E.A. Baker Union Update



ARVIN
CALIFORNIA CITY
McFARLAND
TAFT

AVENAL
DELANO
MOJAVE
TEHACHAPI

BAKERSFIELD
EDWARDS AFB
RIDGECREST
TRONA

BORON
LAMONT
SHAFTER
WASCO

CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1901



NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2018

Keep Track of YOUR Hours

“Don’t Let Management Take Money Out of Your Pocket”

Part I was in the December 2017 Web Version of the NALC Branch 782 newsletter. Important? **YES.**

Should you probably check it out?
YES. (WWW.782NALC.COM)

Where? Page 3 in the December 2017 web version!

Even if you don’t, this is Part II...

By Rachael Coronado
NALC Branch 231 Vice President

I urge everyone to keep a close eye on your pay stub and make sure it matches up with the actual hours you worked!

One of the Carriers in my zone had “irregularities” in their hours. A grievance was filed. **AND????**

PAY ATTENTION: Management should NEVER tell you to not clock out, promising to fix your time. **IT’S YOUR TIME CARD AND YOU SHOULD BE THE ONLY ONE USING IT!!!!**

Continued on page 3...

OUT THERE



Minutes of the December 2017 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Branch 782 was called to order by President Mike Towery at 7:00 p.m. on the 20th day of December, 2017 at the branch office, Bakersfield. The flag salute was led by Sgt. at Arms, Frank Martinez. All members of the Executive Board were present. The stewards were present from Avenal, Brundage, Camino Media, Dole Ct. Downtown, East Bakersfield, Edwards, McFarland, Shafter, South, Stockdale and Taft. Also present was the Newsletter Editor, Basil Zuniga; Photographer, Anita Holderman; Assistant Treasurer, Debbie Guillet, Assistant Recording Secretary, Norma Hamer; and Frank Martinez of the Social and Recreation Committee. The minutes of the November 15, 2017 meeting were read by Assistant Recording Secretary, Norma Hamer. The minutes were accepted as read. Mike Meza reported that the tickets for the "Lights at Calm" were not available. Frank Martinez reported that the Social and Recreation Committee is having trouble setting up a checking account so they were unable to purchase the tickets.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP: Applications for membership were received from James Perkins, Wasco; Joshua Van Houten, Mojave; Latisha Gutierrez, Wasco; Rami Hamdullah, Taft; Traci Jean Thorold, Tehachapi; Siomara Salgado, Delano and Esteven Aceves, Downtown.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: Basil Zuniga reported that Retiree, Mario Muniz donated a guest book from the Retiree Dinner to the branch. He also reported that the funeral for Alex Trujillo will be Monday and the funeral for Spider Escalera on Thursday. Basil then discussed the article regarding the fires in Northern California. He asked that members donate to the "Relief Fund" set up by Br. 183. Mike Towery reported that Br. 183 received so many uniform donations that they are being sent to other areas that have a need. Kim Gerdes reported that one book was sold, 629 remaining.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: John Ortega reported that the By-Laws Committee will meet in January. Teresa Ortega reported that a gift card to The Black Bear Diner was donated to have a second drawing for MDA. Norma Hamer informed members that they can donate to the Postal Relief Fund through smile.amazon.com.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: Mike Towery reported that he, John Ortega, Paul Salazar, Mike Meza, David Treto, Shari Sharp and Norma Hamer attended the recent Leadership Conference. NALC President, Rolando gave an update. Mike also reported that the branch hosted a New Steward Training Class on December 10th. There were 28

stewards present at the class presented by Asst. Business Agent Alan Rios. Mike asked for a moment of silence for the members who passed away this month.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Anita Holderman reported that \$7,493.77 was collected for the month of December, 2017.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Molly Biggar reported for the month of:

	October	November
Beginning Balance	\$79,696.26	\$77,097.29
Dues and Income	\$19,330.86	\$16,154.59
Total Balance	\$99,027.12	\$93,251.88
Expenses	\$21,929.83	\$18,452.61
Ending Balance	\$77,097.29	\$74,799.27

The MDA 50/50 Drawing was won by Shari Sharp. The Drawing for the gift card to Black Bear Diner was won by Devin Patterson.

The Drawing for \$450.00 would have been won by Laura Carroll if she had been present.

There were 36 members present and 5 guests.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KIM GERDES
NALC Branch 782 Recording Secretary

"Out there"



Non-Members December 2017*

*CCA names are in italics

Downtown Station
Sarah Kirby
Javier Cruz

Dole Court
100% UNION!!!

South Station
100% UNION!!!

Stockdale
James Oh
Marty Martinez
Daniel Zuniga

Brundage/East Bakersfield
100% UNION!!!

Camino Media
100% UNION!!!

Hillcrest
100% UNION!!!

Arvin
100% UNION!!!

Avenal
100% UNION!!!

California City
100% UNION!!!

Delano
Cynthia V. Quebral
Daniela Barreto

Lamont
100% UNION!!!

Edwards AFB
Varline Reeder

Mojave
Alexander Keller

Ridgecrest
100% UNION!!!

Shafter
M. D. Voights
L. M. New

Taft
K. J. Kaczmarek

Tehachapi
B. C. Den Beeman

Trona
100% UNION!!!

Wasco
100% UNION!!!

*There are only thirteen
non-members in all of
the cities we serve...*

Two of them are CCAs.



“Don’t Let Management Take Money Out of Your Pocket”

The Carrier at my office was told by the manager not to clock off and that she would “take care of it”. He then asked the supervisor to check his clock rings for that day, and — as you might have guessed — *it didn’t reflect the time he had actually worked.*

We checked his last MSP scan and it indicated that he had scanned at 18:49 while the clock ring put him in for an end time of 17:08. **THEY EVEN CLOCKED HIM INTO THE OFFICE AT 17:00 AND THEN CLOCKED HIM OFF AT 17:08.** They had the sense to give him cleanup time.

Of course the supervisor whose ID was cited for the input said she did not do it nor was she told by the manager to input his time. It was a good thing that he asked to see his clock rings or they would have stolen his time!

I will be checking clock rings for any Carrier in my office that thinks they may be missing pay or that someone may be messing with their clock rings! As you can see, this does happen. So, if something seems suspicious, talk to your Steward. We know how they “fix” things to make their numbers look good.

Don’t be pressured in to running your route just to make their numbers. If they say they are going to follow you, don’t worry about it. They usually get tired of following a Carrier and go

back to the office. While they are out there with you, they should correct any deficiencies you may have. If nothing is said, then you were doing everything right.

When you think you may need overtime on your route, **YOU** make the estimate, NOT them. Many Carriers who have gone by their estimates have had to call in and ask for more time. Management then says, “Well, you said you only needed one hour and are now asking for *two* hours?”

Be prepared to explain to them that **THEY** were the ones that made the estimate. **Make your own estimate and don’t let them talk you out of it!!** Fill out your 3996 and demand a copy. If **YOU** asked for four hours and management is only approving two hours, if you call in asking for the other two hours you will have proof on the 3996 that your estimate was correct!

There **are** some things that happen out on the street on the route that may delay us which cause us to request more time. **You need to be prepared to justify your request.** Again, **YOU** are the one to decide/estimate how much time you need.

It’s very important to make sure that you are clocking on to the right route. If you are helping other routes, or are mandated to work off of your assignment (or ‘volunteer’ as they may say), **make the correct clock rings to reflect**

which route you are moving to and at what times.

In the case of a grievance, these clock rings are going to tell us what happened. If you are incorrectly mandated to work, tell your Steward. A grievance will be filed, if needed, and you very well might get some monetary compensation. Management often argues, “Why should we pay these Carriers if they got paid already?”. I tell them, “How do you think these Carriers will get this time back after working overtime when they are not even on the OT list? They chose not to work more than eight hours. They’ve now lost time that they could have spent with their families — time that can never be replaced. Filing grievances is the only way we can get them to stop violating Article 8.

We will be past the Christmas season and back to Penalty Overtime rules by the time you read this. CCAs should NOT be working more than 11 1/2 hours in a day and Regulars should NOT be working over 12 hours in a day. If this happens, this is a grievance and you should be compensated. **ALSO**, if management is taking mail out to you, or ordering a janitor or clerk to bring you mail, this is a grievance! You should let your Steward know if this is happening. This is money out of **YOUR** pocket...

Article courtesy of the Fresno, California NALC Branch 231 *Postman’s View* published in January 2018. Thank you, Gary Bottoms!!!



Jessie Subia is Retiring!

Hello Basil,

Jessie Subia from Brundage is retiring on January 31, 2018. Her last day at work was yesterday (January 5). I asked her if she minded being interviewed by you for the newsletter. She replied that would be great.

JOHN ORTEGA

Branch 782 Vice-President and Brundage Shop Steward

Next month we hope she'll share her story as well as her adjustment to retired life.

Most Retirees will tell you that they have busy lives. One sure does...

When Guadalupe Arredondo retired in July 2006, he had no idea that he would embark on such a different — positive and fruitful — course in just a few months!



to be part of his life. If it's any consolation to anybody else, Lupe is just as amazed!

On December 23, he was the coordinator of an event at the St. Vincent de Paul Center on Baker Street in Bakersfield. That project was a collaborative effort by Knights of Columbus from four parishes.

Early that morning, one hundred and eighty-four breakfast meals were served to the homeless in the Baker Street area. The eggs were provided by Knights from Our Lady of Guadalupe, the hash browns came from the Sacred Heart Council, desserts

came from the generosity of the men from Our Lady of Perpetual Help and other items were provided by the Knights from St. Francis.

And, as Lupe points out, it's not just a once a year project! "The Knights feed people at St Vincent's the fourth Saturday of every month. Knights from Kern/Inyo Chapters take turns feeding the homeless."

Lupe is unapologetic as he emphasizes the core beliefs of the Knights of Columbus: Charity - Fraternity - Patriotism. "These are underscored by the guiding principles which are grounded in the underlying bedrock of our Family and our Church."

Lupe was asked to attend a meeting at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in October 2006. Some men that he knew were trying to organize a new local Council of the Knights of Columbus. He was told that it would be a big favor if he could show up. They needed to have 32 men in order to have a quorum.

Lupe was #32.

He was elected as an officer at that first meeting and his involvement has brought about some profound changes in his life.

He admits that most people who worked with him might find it hard to believe that he no longer does many of things that used



Looking back now at the journey he has been on, Lupe admits that he never thought that he would have been where he is now. "I didn't really go to Church until I became a Knight. It has been a really good thing for me."

The people whose lives have been impacted by Lupe would probably agree...

Ute Fritz is one Retiree who had quite a life before being a Carrier!!

This is a short recap about my early childhood years. They were not like many of yours. Some of you may find the reading interesting.

I was born in Gera, Thuringen which was part of East Germany (German Democratic Republic). I lived a normal, unexciting life there with my parents and sister for eleven years. *After that, everything changed drastically.*

My parents decided that life wasn't worth living if we had to do that in East Germany. They decided that we had to move. My dad and my sister, who was sixteen at the time, took off one night and crossed the border illegally and with great difficulty.

They were lucky and made it. Both of them found jobs in Goppingen, Wurttemberg and waited for my mom and me to follow. In the meantime, my mother and I went to West Berlin to live in the refugee camps until she could gather enough money and documents to be with the rest of the family.

We had to sleep on the floor on straw mattresses with ten or twenty other people in the room. I know my mother had a terrible time. But I actually had fun because there was no school, no housework, no dishes, etc. (Can you believe that I enjoyed that?)

Then, one day, my mother found a way for me to join my father and sister. A Red Cross childrens' transport smuggled me to the

West by train during the night. I was instructed not to speak one word to anybody during the border check and to pretend to be asleep.

I learned later that about forty Russian and East German police searched the train for illegals.

After I joined my dad and sister, our main concern was for my mother. She had a real hard time finding a way to be with us. I remember that I missed her a lot. She was finally able to get a plane ticket through the black market and we were a family again.

This all happened in 1952-53.

We stayed in Goppingen until 1956. Then we moved to Aachen. (I'm sure that the names of these towns mean a lot to most of you.) And, don't worry, I went to school all of that time.

My sister met a U.S. serviceman in Goppingen. He was stationed there from Auburn, Nebraska. They were married and moved to

the United States. Seven years later, I went to visit my sister and met my future husband. John and I were married and have two children: my son, Terry, and my daughter Andrea.

As you can see, my childhood was probably very different than what many of you experienced. I guess what I went through is what has given me the courage to be a Shop Steward.

In closing, I want to offer a word of caution. It might be beneficial to you and to your fellow employees if you do NOT give written statements to management so blindly. I would suggest that you ask your Shop Steward (that's me in Hillcrest) why management is trying to get written statements. My explanation may be different than the version that they give you.

UTE FRITZ
93306 Shop Steward in 1993

Originally published in our September 1993
Branch 782 E.A. BAKER UNION UPDATE.

From back in 1994

About a year and a half ago, I was asked to draw cartoons for the *E.A. Baker Union Update*. I thought it would probably only be for a couple of issues and that would be the end of it.*

Much to my surprise, the response to the cartoons has been overwhelming! I never expected my cartoons to be so well received or to be re-printed in Union publications all across the nation. I thank all of my Brother and Sister Letter Carriers for making that possible.

As interest in my cartoons has grown, so have the suggestions, ideas and criticism. I welcome this input because it shows me that my Brothers and Sisters are actually reading the newsletter. If I can help in that endeavor then I am pleased to do so.

One criticism that has been brought to my attention is that I do not draw enough female Letter Carriers. And, I admit, I am guilty as charged.



Truthfully, I was not aware I was doing this and I offer a sincere apology to my very capable Sister Carriers!

In my own defense, it was not a conscious attempt to omit you ladies from my cartoons but rather the view of postal life as seen through my own male eyes.

Originally, I started

cartooning simply to entertain myself. So, of course, the only critic of my work was me. Having no "real critics" to speak of, I drew everything from only my point of view and how life affected only me. Starting to see the problem?

When I was asked to draw cartoons to entertain other people, I was still drawing from my own personal experiences and adventures. Thirty years as a Letter Carrier have provided me with much cartoon fodder; but alas, I was still the main character of my little humorous scenarios.

To be honest, men are easier to draw, and (as you ladies probably know) we men can be quite comical at times. (Sorry, Guys...) Also, being an old-fashioned man from the 40's, I am reluctant to draw women in an un-flattering or disrespectful way.

Obviously, you ladies are able to take a joke as well as any guy. And, judging from the cartoon ideas I've received from some of you, you are willing to dish it out to yourselves as well as take it. I respect you for that.

It is never my desire to be disrespectful or vicious towards anyone male or female, or to any ethnic group. It is, however, my wish to entertain all of you with absurd situations and ridiculous cartoon characters.

With all the stress and pressure we endure in the workplace and on the streets, it wouldn't hurt to have a little humor to get us through the tough spots. Please join me in learning how to take ourselves a little less seriously and not let life kick us in the butt anymore.

I welcome your ideas, comments and complaints. Drop me a postcard.

I draw for you... Thank you!

FERNANDO ACEDO
S.A.N.E.* and now Retired!!
(*Special Assistant Newsletter Editor)
P.O. Box 6532
Bakersfield, CA 93386-6532

Article and cartoon originally published in our November 1994
Branch 782 E.A. BAKER UNION UPDATE

* Since 1993, we've published over 1600 of Fred Acedo's cartoons!

Do we now live in a Kakistocracy?*

Some change their Party for the sake of their principals. Others change their principals for the sake of their Party.

WINSTON CHURCHILL

Democracy is the only system that persists in asking the "Powers that Be" whether they are the powers that ought to be...

SYDNEY HARRIS

I once met an honest, caring politician that listened when I spoke and tried to help the country. Then? I woke up from the dream!

I am strong because I've been weak. I am fearless because I've been afraid. I am wise because I've been foolish. Life is a journey of learning.

UNKNOWN AUTHOR

They say St. Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland. I wonder if he would do the same with the U.S. Congress?

We need to show compassion for the mentally ill. Please don't allow them to run for public office!

There are always too many Democratic Congress members, and too many Republican Congress members. But, there are **NEVER** enough Patriotic, Morally Bound, Caring truly for the United States members in Congress!!

When there's corruption in government, somebody or somebody's making a lot of money. That makes it dangerous!

KENNETH EADES

"Is our government 'of the people, by the people, for the people', or is it a KAKISTOCRACY for the benefit of knaves (scoundrels) at the cost of fools?"

THOMAS LOVE PEACOCK

"You deserve complete honesty, so here it is: I don't care about you, unless you are a donor or a lobbyist who can write a big fat check." (*The honesty you'll never hear...*)

The results that you get from voting for me.....it's negligible." (*Ditto above.*)

HONEST GIL FULBRIGHT

NEVER CONFUSE EDUCATION WITH INTELLIGENCE!!!!!!

COMMON SENSE

Big money politics has damaged our Democracy. The U.S. Supreme Court's decision on "Citizens United" has infected our U.S. Democracy.

We have politicians and voters that question science. Fact checking is ignored. This can be disastrous to our way of life and to our Democracy!

The Campaign Finance System in the U.S. is flawed. The Millionaire and Billionaire class increasingly OWN our U.S. political process. The politicians ask for campaign dollars. We are changing from a Democratic Society — with one person, one vote — to an Oligarchy form of Society!!

From principals are derived probability. But truth or certainty is obtained **ONLY** from **FACTS!!!**

TOM STOPPARD

There is a big difference between "what you know and what you think you know." Learn the **FACTS** before you jump to conclusions.

RASHIDA ROWE

"The only way out of ignorance is awareness which includes looking at the **FACTS.**"

SWAMI PREMODYA

"To be strong is to understand weakness. One who understands his weakness assumes power instead of circumstances having power over him."

DR. ANVIL KUMAR

"If there was one decision I would overrule, it would be Citizens United. I think in the nation that we have, all the Democracy that money can buy stays so far from what our Democracy is supposed to be."

RUTH BADER GINSBURG
U.S. Supreme Court Justice

"Right now Congress doesn't answer to us, it answers to the elite few. Members of Congress waste 30 to 70 percent of their time raising money from the tiniest fraction of the One Percent."

LAWRENCE LESSIG
University Professor

"Concentration of wealth yields concentration of power particularly. So, as the cost of elections skyrockets, it forces the political parties into the pockets of major corporations."

NOAM CHOMSKY

"History will show there is a very selfish game going on and that our government has been largely "PUT UP FOR SALE!"

JOHN DINGELL

"Do you know what '**PAID FOR BY**' really means on campaign ads? It means a **BILLION DOLLARS** spent in the last election. Our government is filled with people who have been '**PAID FOR**'."

JASON ALEXANDER

"Government is instituted for the common good; for the protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness of the people — and **NOT** for profit or private interest of any one man, family or class of men."

JOHN ADAMS

"When corporate leaders [bankers, media executives, academics, military officers, government officials, Congress members, Senators, Presidents and Prime Ministers] are liars and deceivers and are ruthless callous manipulators who have no regard for laws, truth or other people, the entire fabric of our society is twisted in their image and psychopathic behavior becomes the norm."

"In a time of polarization politics there's one thing more than ninety percent of Americans agree on — **THAT OUR GOVERNMENT IS BROKEN AND THAT IT IS BROKEN BECAUSE OF THE MONEY IN POLITICS.**"

LAWRENCE LESSIG
University Professor

"Shame on the misguided, the blinded, the distracted and the divided. Shame on YOU! You have allowed deceptive men to corrupt and desensitize your hearts and minds to unethically fuel their greed."

SUZY KASSEM

"When buying and selling are controlled by legislation, the first things to be bought and sold are legislators!!"

P.J. O'ROURKE



MARK RAMIREZ
"Post-Mark"

Retired Carrier &
NALC HBP Rep.
The Golden Empire
Branch 782

What would the Founding Fathers think about this?

**Look it up. If you dare...*

2018 NALC HBP Info

At a glance...



NALC Health Benefit Plan 1-888-636-6252
 *Hospital Pre-Certification 1-877-220-6252
 Mental & Substance Precertification 1-877-468-1016
 Prescription Drug Program 1-800-933-6252
 CVS/Caremark Specialty Pharmacy 1-800-237-2767
 Durable Medical Equipment 1-855-511-1893
"24/7 Nurse Hotline" **1-877-220-6252**
 CVS/CareMark Pharmacist 1-888-636-6252
 Solutions for Caregivers (24/7) 1-877-468-1016
 CIGNA PPO Locator Line 1-877-220-6252
 CIGNA Organ Transplant Approval 1-800-668-9682
 Quit for Life (Tobacco Cessation) 1-866-784-8454
 CIGNA Health Rewards (Discounts) 1-800-558-9443
CIGNA Plus (Dental Discount) **1-877-521-0244**
 Disease Management Program 1-800-227-3728
 OPM Retirement Info Center 1-888-767-6738
 Federal Information Center 1-800-333-4636
 Social Security Administration Info 1-800-772-1213
 PostalEase Human Resources USPS 1-877-477-3273
 Quest Lab Services (Bakersfield) (661) 631-8520
 LabCorp Lab Services Bakersfield (661) 631-9258
Shared Services Option 5 live person 1-877-477-3273

NALC Health Benefit Plan
20547 Waverly Court
Ashburn, Virginia 20149

NALC Prescription Mail Order Drug Program
P.O. Box 94467
Palatine, Illinois 60094-4467

NALC Drug Prescription "Claims" Filing
P.O. Box 521926
Phoenix, Arizona 85072-2192

OptumHealth Behavioral Solutions
P.O. Box 30755
Salt Lake City, Utah 84130-0755
Questions: 1-877-468-1016

NALC Consumer Driven Health Plan and Value Option*
P.O. Box 18223
Chattanooga, TN 37422-7223
Phone: 1-855-511-1893

** Call for approvals Organ Transplants, DME Surgeries InPatient*

Preferred Provider (PPO)
Cost: \$20.00 Co-pay per office visit

PPO Deductible: Per Calendar Year
\$300 "Individual"
\$600 "Self & Family" or "Self Plus One"

Many immunizations are Free (Adult/Child) when administered at a PPO pharmacy/facility. Some will require a prescription from the Doctor.

URGENT CARE

Sendas Urgent Care: 9450 Ming Ave., Bakersfield (661) 587-2500
 M-S 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. Saturday/Sunday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
ASK FOR OTHER LOCATIONS

Accelerated Urgent Care: 9710 Brimhall, (661) 829-6747
 9500 Stockdale Hwy, (661) 735-3943 8 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. daily
ASK FOR OTHER LOCATIONS

Our PPO doctors and facilities—through (OAP Network) CIGNA—save us and the Plan thousands of dollars and it is top notch care at a discount rate. You don't lose anything! You are saving money for the best care!!!

MARK RAMIREZ
NALC Branch 782 Health Benefit Plan Representative
(661) 398-6075

How do you find NALC/CIGNA (PPO) (OAP) Providers and Pharmacies?

Go to NALC.ORG.

Under "Member Benefits"
 NALC Health Benefit Plan,

Click on HBP Website (Center of Page)

Under Quick links,

Click on "Locate Network Retail Pharmacy" - or CIGNA.

Click on Healthcare (OAP) Online Provider Directory

The NALC Consumer Driven HP and the Value Option HP can utilize this **CIGNA PPO/OAP NETWORK** or by calling 1-855-511-1893.

OPTUMHEALTH BEHAVIORIAL SOLUTIONS is also available to the Consumer Driven/Value Option. You must pre-certify. Call 1-877-468-1016.

We DO have a Dental Discount Program!
 Call Mark Ramirez for details...



Edward was born in Brawley, CA and passed away peacefully at home on December 11, 2017 at the age of 91. He was the son of Casemiro and Agapita Escalera. He had 8 siblings. Edward was the husband of Helen Escalera, sharing 67 years of marriage. He retired from the United States Postal Service after 30+ years of service. He was an outgoing man with many interests. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, riding motorcycles, bowling and playing pool. **He also was the ultimate LA Dodger fan!!!**

Edward and Helen traveled all over the world and enjoyed many great experiences together. Included in these experiences were yearly trips to Shaver Lake with family and friends, along with many trips to Vegas and local casinos.

Edward is survived by his wife Helen Escalera and children Frank Escalera (Eleanor) and Yvette Aguilar (Ruben), along with many grandchildren and great grandchildren. We will always love and miss him deeply.

Viewing was held December 21st at 9 am, the memorial service followed at 10 am at Hillcrest Memorial Park, 9101 Kern Canyon Rd. Bakersfield, CA 93306.

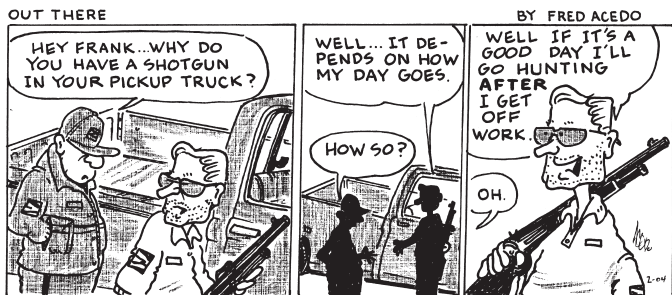
Published in *Bakersfield Californian* on December 19, 2017

Once again we've lost another Retiree. "Spider" was a friend that I worked with at East Bakersfield Station.

Eddie Escalera was a Carrier when I got my first route at E. B. in the early 70's after I transferred from the Orange County town of Stanton, CA where I'd been a Clerk. He helped me adjust to my new duties as I changed Crafts.

Eddie always had a smile and was so very good natured. He was liked by everyone, and I have some very special memories of some things that we did.

I remember when the White Front store that was on California Avenue closed. Eddie and I went to see what close out specials they might have. We bought shotguns because we both liked to hunt.



Eddie and I hunted several times together. One particular time we went goose hunting out in a field around Corcoran. We hunted in the morning and noticed the geese landed in the middle of the field, so we found a couple of gunnysacks and went back in the evening. We went and laid in the middle of that field covered with those gunnysacks. We didn't get any geese, but shared many a laugh about that hunt!

And, then there was the time we went duck hunting... My dog, an English Pointer named Stretch, was in Spider's truck and he was really worried that Stretch would tear up his truck because he wanted to get out so bad.

Eddie was such a good person! I'm sure he will be missed by many people. Rest In Peace my friend.

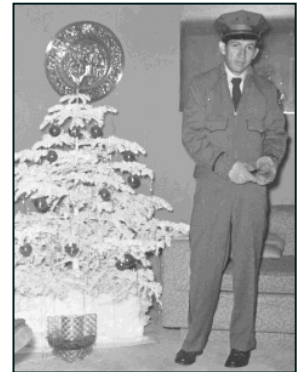
FRANK THOMASY

Spider carried mail in the 93305 area of town known as the "Hill".

The guys would always tease him that he couldn't walk without bobbing up and down on a flat floor because he had been on his route so long that it was like walking on the side of a hill. They would walk and bob up and down making fun of him.

He was on that route for many, many years and he always said he was going to bid off. The guys would then let him have it with jokes about how he didn't know how to walk on flat land anymore. They would say that, if he tried it, people would be calling in to report a mailman walking around in a circle...sort of like a man on a rowboat with only one oar in the water.

We would go hunting, and the guys would always say he was right at home on the side of the hill. At the campfire at night — while we were having a few "root beers" — they would say he could dance around the fire real good because of his defect. They never let him forget it.



I must say that Spider was a very dedicated, hard working mailman! I am proud to have carried mail with him! After being his supervisor as well as his Station Manager, I can honestly say that he was, more than anything, "A good friend!"

ESEQUIEL "ZEKE" LOPEZ

I forgot to add that — because of the slope on the hill — he had to have one leg shorter than the other, thus the bob while walking on level ground...

I first met Spider in September of 1970. That was the month I started working for the Post Office as a Letter Carrier at the East Bakersfield Station which was then known as Station A.

I have a lot of fond memories of having worked at E.B. over 33 years on the same assignment — Route 521. Spider had route 523. Until he retired, we were always talking back and forth.

It was an all male Carrier force back then and it didn't take me long to learn the system as all the guys there would caution me of what to do and of what not to do. Spider and all the rest of them were all real helpful.

I remember the nicknames of some of our Carriers: Indio, Big Foot, Motor Mouth, Old German, Bald Eagle, Road Runner, Tommy Turtle; and, of course, some of us did not have any.

I have many fond memories of all of the many friends that I got to know well during my career. I remember Spider as a very funny person who was always laughing, making jokes and — of course — he really liked his beer!

Everyone got along with each other and even our supervisors were fair and good people. As I got to know most of the guys and their backgrounds, I found that these people were good and professional at what they were doing. Most of them were military Veterans who had served in WWII and Korea. Because I was a Vietnam combat veteran, I seemed to fit right in although it took me a while to become socially involved with my fellow workers. Irma and I had just had the birth of our first child, Sandra, and I spent most of my free time with them.

As time went by, E.B. formed a softball team in July of 1970. We called ourselves "The Serban Redeyes" (Serbans's is an old established bar in East Bakersfield which had become a "base of operations"...). I remember that Spider played infield for us and was a pretty good player and was a *very* enthusiastic Dodgers fan.

We were called the "Red Eyes" because we drank beer before and after our games. Because of that, the other stations thought they had us beat before the game even started. But, we surprised them because our drinking skills matched our athletic abilities and we won more games than we lost!!



The "Serban Red Eyes" softball team featured quite a few characters! Back in the early 1970's, Mario Muniz and Sandra, on the far right, were "caught" sitting next to Spider.

I remember people coming up to me when delivering mail and asking me if I was Spider's son. I guess he told some friends I was his son because I was thin and resembled him in his younger years.

We had many good times back then. We celebrated everything!! As a station, we celebrated birthdays of our wives, our own Halloween parties, retirement parties and had parties to just celebrate our friendship.

I remember one thing that Spider never forgot. We laughed about it for years.

I think it happened the last week before he retired. Paul Hernandez and I were at our cases talking out loud. Spider came up to me and Paul and said, "I do believe I should retire." I remember putting my arm around his shoulder as I said to him, "I think you should, too. You're starting to smell like Vinegar." (It sounds even better in Spanish!)

Enjoy your rest now that you're in Heaven, Spider! Maybe, we will see each someday, Brother.

MARIO MUNIZ

from the editor-guy

I am not one who goes to the obituaries in the local newspaper. Some of you are.

Homer Ruiz is one of my "obit sources". He texted me because he'd seen some information about an Edward Escalera. He later got back to me and said it must have been another guy with that name. Another text from him confirmed that it had indeed been an obituary for "Spider".

I then received a call from another Retiree, Connie Crimmins. She told me Spider's daughter, Yvette, had asked her who she could call to ask some questions about when her dad had retired from the USPS. Connie gave her my number. When I talked to Yvette, I gave her Mike Towery's phone number and told her that he was her best source.

Eventually, I was contacted by Zeke Lopez, Mario Muniz, Frank Thomasy and others because they wanted to make sure that WE acknowledged Spider in a special way.

My point: I am impressed that a 91 year old retired Letter Carrier left his mark when he wore the clothes of a younger man! And, I remind **you** that you won't always be young. Spider carried mail for over thirty years before he retired in the mid-1980s. (Do the numbers. He started out in the 1950s.) World was different then? Yup. But...

Spider made me laugh when he shared that he'd been bitten by dogs thirteen times...

BASIL ZUNIGA

12th Annual BATTLE OF THE STATIONS

February 18

Southwest Lanes

3610 Wible Road, Bakersfield, CA 09

\$100 per team
Lanes are limited

FIRST TO PAY TO PLAY

Deadline FEB 12

LET'S
BOWL!

RAFFLE
PRIZES

**Check In
10AM**

Previous Winners

2017 Dole Ct.
2016 Camino Media
2014-15 Dole Ct.
2012-13 Brundage
2009-11 Kentucky
2008 Dole Ct.
2007 Stockdale

**Start Time
11AM**

Rules

Each station must have at least 2 teams to qualify for Top Station award. Team must consist of 3 of 4 players from that station (includes retired employees). Top 2 scoring teams from that station will be used. The more teams you have, the better chance you have to win.

Categories

There will be 3 categories. Men, Women, and Co-Ed. Awards will be presented to the top team from each category. Top individual female and male bowler awards will also be presented.

Send Your Entries To

Jeff Harrington
PO Box 81221
Bakersfield, CA 93380

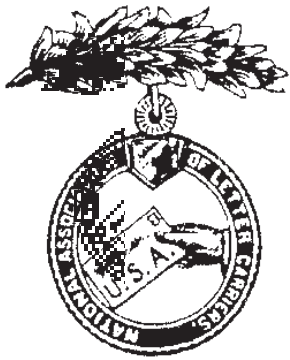
1. Team Name
2. First & Last name in bowling order.

More Information

Ralph Ramirez 661-340-3186
Jeff Harrington 661-378-0975



2017 Memories



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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.

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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. E-mails are preferred...

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).

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**Branch 782
Website
www.782nalc.com**

Rick Plummer, Webmaster





National Association of Letter Carriers
 "Golden Empire Branch 782"
 2628 "F" Street
 Bakersfield, California 93301
 (661) 331-9171

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Bakersfield, California
 Permit Number 32

General Meeting

Wednesday

January 24, 2018

7:00 p.m.

Branch 782 Office
 2628 "F" Street
 Bakersfield, California

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

In Memorium

Alex Samora Trujillo
 1939 - 2017

Alex Samora Trujillo, 78, passed away on Dec 9, 2017 at home in Bakersfield, Ca. He was born on August 2nd 1939 in Grant, New Mexico to Juan and Antonia



Trujillo. Alex grew up in Delano, Ca. He graduated from Delano High School in 1958. He worked for the US postal service in Los Angeles and Bakersfield for 37 years and retired out of the Bakersfield 93307 Brundage Station. Alex was an avid golfer. He was a faithful member of the

Lamont Apostolic Assembly Church. Alex is survived by sons, Tim Trujillo, AJ and wife Shari Trujillo, Paul Trujillo. Grandchildren Jaklyn, Pauline, Gehrig, Kayla, Peyton, Dylan and Audrina Trujillo. A funeral service was held at Mount Vernon Apostolic Church (519 Mount Vernon Avenue) Bakersfield, CA at 10 am Monday Dec 18, 2017. Burial followed the funeral at Greenlawn Southwest on Panama Lane. **Acts 2:38**

Published in the December 14, 2017 *Bakersfield Californian*

"Out there"



Each and EVERY month, Branch 782 sponsors a drawing to encourage **YOU** to come to our Meeting*

This month YOU could win \$500!

*THE FINE PRINT: To win the money **YOU** have to be present when **YOUR** name is drawn...

In Memorium

Edward "Spider" Garcia Escalera
 July 2, 1926 - December 11, 2017

Details on pages 8 - 9

If you are at WWW.782.NALC, you've made the "Jump to Current Month's Newsletter". Cool!!