

# 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



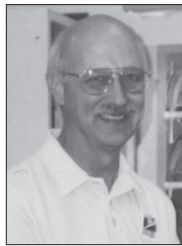
CHARTERED FEBRUARY 25, 1901

VOLUME LXXX NUMBER 2

MARCH 2008

at the

# Mike:



**Another month.**

**Another article...**

**Another month. A lot  
of Union business be-  
ing conducted by your  
Branch 782 President.**

**This is information  
which should be of  
interest to all of our  
Letter Carriers.**

## TE Questions and Answers

*1. When may TE's be hired under the terms of the 2006 National Agreement?*

TE's may be hired after the national agreement was ratified (9-11-2007) under either the provisions of Article 7 or the Memorandum of Understanding, RE: Transitional Employees (Flat Sequencing System), provided that the national and district caps are not exceeded.

*2. In determining the NALC TE caps are the number of employees "rounded up" for percentage purposes?*

No, Under Article 7.1.B of the 2006 National Agreement the number of TE's shall not exceed 3.5% of the total number of onrolls career city carriers nationwide, and may not exceed 6% of the total number of career city carriers employed in the district. Regarding FSS TE's the number shall not exceed 8% of the authorized city carrier complement for the district.

*3. The Memorandum of Understanding RE: Transitional Employees (Flat Sequencing System) includes the following requirement: "In any district, the number of these TE's shall not exceed 8% of the authorized city carrier complement for the district." What is the authorized city carrier complement for a district?*

For the purposes of defining the subject Memorandum, "authorized city carrier complement for that district" means the number of on-rolls career city carriers employed in the district.

*Continued on next page...*

**4. How will TE caps be monitored for compliance?**

The caps will be monitored at the national level. The Postal Service will provide the national union with separate reports for each type of TE (Article 7.1 and FSS MOU). These reports will be provided to the national union every other pay period and will identify both nationally and by district the number of TE's and percentage compared to career city letter carriers on-rolls.

**5. What are the occupational codes and designation activity codes for TE's?**

Transitional Employee occupational codes are as follows: TE's employed under Article 7.1.8 of the National Agreement are wither 2310-0030 City Carrier (Transitional Employee) CC-01 or 23100040 Carrier Tech (Transitional Employee) CC-02. TE's employed under the Memorandum of Understanding RE: Transitional Employees (Flat Sequencing System) are either 2310-0031 City Carrier (TE-MOU) CC-01 or 2310-0041 Carrier Tech (TE-MOU) CC-02. The designation activity code for all city letter carrier TE's is 834.

**6. Are TE's employed under the Memorandum of Understanding RE: Transitional Employees (Flat Sequencing System) limited to sites directly impacted by FSS?**

No, but the number of this type of TE is limited to 8,000 nationwide through the duration of all phases of Flat Sequencing System (FSS) implementation. In any district, the number of these TN;'s shall not exceed 8% of the authorized city carrier complement for that district.

**7. If casuals are "converted" to TE, must they have an immediate break in service?**

Yes, the casual must have at least a five day break in service prior to being appointed as a TE.

**8. May city letter carrier TE's be assigned to work in other crafts?**

Only under emergency conditions, as defined by Article 3 of applicable collective bargaining agreements.

**9. Is there a limit on the number of hours TE's may be scheduled on a workday?**

Yes, TE's are covered by Section 432.32 of the Employee and Labor Relations Manual, which states: Except as designated in labor agreements for bargaining unit employees or in emergency situations as determined by the PMG (*or designee*), employees may not be required to work more than 12 hours in 1 service day. In addition, the total hours of daily service, including scheduled work hours, overtime, and mealtime, may not be extended over a period longer than 12 consecutive hours. Postmasters, Postal Inspectors, and exempt employees

are excluded from these provisions. (Emphasis added)

**10. Do TE's have a work hour guarantee?**

Yes, Article 8, Section 8.D of the National Agreement provides the following: Any transitional employee who is scheduled to work and who reports for work shall be guaranteed four (4) hours' work or pay.

**11. Are TE's covered by leave provisions of Articles 10 and 30 of the National Agreement?**

No. The granting of annual leave to TE's is covered by the Memorandum of Understanding, Re: Transitional Employees - Additional Provisions.

**12. May TE's carry over leave from one appointment to another?**

No. TE's may be paid for any accrued leave pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding, Re: Transitional Employees - Additional Provisions.

**13. Are TE's covered by the Memorandum of Understanding, Re: Bereavement Leave?**

Yes, except that they do not earn any sick leave.

**14. Does a TE who received a career appointment go through a probationary period as a career employee?**

Yes.

**15. Does the Memorandum of Understanding, Re: Transfers, still apply?**

Yes, the Transfer Memorandum was not altered by either the revision of Article 7.1 of the National Agreement or the Memorandum of Understanding, RE: Transitional Employees (Flat Sequencing System). Accordingly, unless hiring TE's to fill or backfill for residual assignments being withheld pursuant to Article 12 of the National Agreement, the "at least one in six" rules for reassignments remain in effect when hiring.

**16. Will TE's have access to the grievance procedure if removed?**

Yes, consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding, Re: Transitional Employees - Additional Provisions, which states:

Transitional Employees may be separated at any time upon completion of their assignment or for lack of work. Such separation is not grievable except where the separation is pretextual. Transitional employees may otherwise be removed for just cause and any such removal will be subject to the grievance-arbitration procedure, provided the employee has completed ninety (90) work days, or has been employed for 120 calendar days, which-

ever comes first. Further, in any such grievance, the concept of progressive discipline will not apply. The issue will be whether the employee is guilty of the charge against him or her. Where the employee is found guilty, the arbitrator shall not have the authority to modify the discharge. In the case of removal for cause, a transitional employee shall be entitled to advance written notice of the charges against him/her in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 of the National Agreement.

**17. Can a TE serve as a union steward?**

Yes.

**18. Will the union be allowed to address TE's during new employee orientation?**

Yes. The provisions of Article 17.6 of the National Agreement apply to TE's. Accordingly, the union is to be provided ample opportunity to address newly hired city carrier TE's during orientation. This rule applies to city carrier casuals who are appointed to TE positions.

**19. Are TE's allowed to participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program?**

The Memorandum of Understanding, Re: Transitional Employees - Additional Provisions, provides the following: "After an initial appointment for a 360-day term and upon reappointment to another 360-day term, any eligible noncareer transitional employee who wants to pay health premiums to participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program on a pre-tax basis will be required to make an election to do so in accordance with applicable procedures. The total cost of health insurance is the responsibility of the noncareer transitional employee."

**20. To qualify for Health Benefits must a TE serve the entire 360 day initial appointment before a second 360-day appointment?**

Yes. TE's must serve the initial 360-day appointment and be appointed to a second 360-day term in order to be eligible to enroll in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program.

**21. Are TE's entitled to higher level pay under Article 25 of the National Agreement?**

No. Article 25 does not apply to TE's. However, Article 9.7 of the National Agreement requires that TE's be paid at Step A of the position to which assigned. Accordingly, if a TE is assigned to a vacant Carrier Technician position, the employee will be paid at Step A of CC-02.

**22. May TE's be assigned to vacant duty assignments?**

Yes, consistent with the following: The posting and bidding provisions of Article 41.1.A and the opting provisions of Article 41.2.B and provisions of Article 25 for temporarily filling higher

level vacancies still apply. However, TE's may be assigned to cover residual or temporary vacancies not filled through those procedures.

**23. Will TE's be allowed to opt on vacant duty assignments?**

No.

**24. May a TE be assigned to a residual vacancy rather than converting an available part-time flexible city letter carrier to fulltime?**

Unless the residual vacancy is being withheld pursuant to Article 12 of the National Agreement, the assignment should normally be filled pursuant to Section 722 of Handbook EL-312, which states: "A full-time residual position is filled by assigning an unassigned full-time employee or a full-time flexible employee. The conversion to full-time of a qualified parttime flexible employee with the same designation or occupation code as the vacancy should occur only after unassigned full-time employees have been assigned. Part-time flexible employees must be changed to full-time regular positions, if appropriate, within the installation in the order specified by the applicable collective bargaining agreement."

**25. Will city carrier TE's attend the carrier academy?**

Newly hired TE's will attend the carrier academy if it is part of the hiring and training process used in the district, provided the employee did not previously attend the training. This also applies to the classroom portion of the training for city carrier casuals who are appointed to TE positions.

**26. Can a TE act as a temporary supervisor (204-B)?**

Yes.

**27. Will TE's be assigned an Employee Identification Number and a PIN?**

Yes.



**TE's can be NALC members...  
and most of them are!!!**

# The Vice-Prez Sez...

I was recently appointed to finish out the term of Diana Chavez who resigned as Branch 782 Vice-President. I am slowly trying to do more things to help out Mike Towery. I'm discovering that this is hard to do since I am still the South Station Shop Steward.

For those of you who don't know me, let me take a minute to tell you something about my "Postal life". I will have twenty-one years with the Post Office in September 2008. Four or five years of that time were spent as the South Station alternate steward. The last one and a half years (since Margaret Romero left), I have been the actual Steward.

Being a Steward has definitely been an education!

Part of my message this month is to the Branch 782 Stewards: Gain as much knowledge as possible about the Contract! Do the best possible job that you can do. Expect criticism that you are not doing a very good job. Find a way to deal with the stress of being the Shop Steward. There is a certain amount of pain and suffering that goes hand in hand with this role. Try to do something to give yourself a "break". If you don't, you will find that you are burning out long before you have to.

The best possible feeling you will have as a Shop Steward comes from knowing that you have helped someone. Sometimes that may be because you know that you have saved that person's job. Often it will be those times that you were able to be a "buffer" between a Letter Carrier and the floor supervisor or the unit manager. Mostly, it will be because you were able to listen to someone share the frustrations with something and be in the position to do something constructive to fix the situation.

But, the single best thing that has ever happened to me is when someone says, "Thank You!" Unfortunately, this doesn't happen as often as you think it might. But, I guess that's part of the job, too...

What seems to deflate me the most is when somebody has told me about something that 'I should have done better'. But, being a Shop Steward is a process. We all learn from our experiences. Sometimes we may do things much differently when we are experienced than what we did when we were first starting out. Unfortunately, we find that we are less trusting. We learn to double check the information we receive. That includes information we receive from fellow Letter Carriers as well as from management folks.

As the Vice-President, I want to urge each of our members to contact me if you want to. Sometimes, you may feel that something isn't quite right at your unit. I was recently contacted a member who was really upset by the way that the supervisor is treating Carriers. There seems to be a lot of sarcasm directed at people. This particular supervisor has a long history of directing inappropriate remarks and actions towards females. I know that he has been talked to by many of his superiors in the past. This is something that should be looked into and dealt with.



In closing, let me give you a promise. I will do the best possible job that I can as the Branch 782 Vice-President for as long I will have this job. I also know that there will be a process of getting experience. I promise that I will give you my best. I only ask that you give me the support necessary to do the best possible job for you.

With that in mind, I want to share with you that my biggest assistance in the Branch will come from two individuals. First, my wife—Branch Financial Secretary Anita Holderman—is my most important supporter! And, without Branch 782 President Mike Towery offering me his help, this job would be impossible.

DARRYL HOLDERMAN

# Financial Secretary Note:

## *WOW! What a list!!!*

I have been working several months on a project that I thought would take just a short time to complete. BOY! Was I wrong!! There are still a few (hopefully very few) loose ends to tie up. I wanted to get this article to Basil to print in the newsletter. I want to acknowledge all the brothers and sisters that have received a certificate of recognition and a pin for 25 years or more of consecutive years as a member of Branch 782 NALC Union.

Now, if you don't see your name, or you feel your years of membership are wrong, or your name was overlooked all together, **PLEASE** let me know either by calling me at (661)589-1683 or sending me an e-mail to dholderman@bak.rr.com . I will make sure you get the correct pin and certificate and I will have a correction printed in the newsletter. Again, this has been a HUGE project and I anticipate an error or two. (Maybe three or four) I appreciate your help and patience.

In unison,  
ANITA HOLDERMA

### 25 YEARS OR MORE

Absher, Jean  
Anderson, Debra  
Arredondo, Guadalupe  
Biggar, Molly  
Clemons, Lorraine  
Courson, Randy  
Cruz, Robert  
Curtis, William  
Diaz, Diane  
Diffie, William  
Dorsey, John  
Drumheiser, Dale  
Edwards, Patricia  
Franey, Anne  
Franey, Raymond  
Galan, Cesar  
Gandera, Joe  
Gerdes, Richard  
Gomez, Donald  
Gonzales, L.E.  
Goulart, Patricia  
Harbour, Alice  
Hemingway, Gary  
Hernandez, Paul  
Herrera, Thomas  
Hogg, Paula  
Hudson, Lorinda  
Jones, Joseph  
LaForce, Michael  
Lavoie, Joseph  
Lopez, Juan

Lopez, Rufus  
MacLaughlin, Stephanie  
Mauk, Pamela  
Mitchell, Robert  
Newton, Michael  
Nusser, Leo  
O'Neal, Douglas  
Patterson, Jerry  
Plummer, Rick  
Ramirez, Mark  
Roberson, Judy  
Russell, Patricia  
Santa Cruz, Joe  
Scroggins, Vittle  
Shineflew, Mary  
Summers, Carl  
Thomas, William  
Trevino, Rolando  
Turner, Danny  
Varela, Joyce  
Villalvazo, George  
Webb, L.C.  
Wilder, Dicie  
Wiles, Deborah  
Zabala, Paul  
Zuniga, Basil

### 30 YEARS OR MORE

Krause, Phillip  
McCarthy, Paul  
Schroeder, Donald  
Sutton, Chester

Towery, Mike

### 35 YEARS OR MORE

Alvarado, Ernest  
Arneson, Robert  
Avalos, Jesse  
Brown, Harold  
Carter, James  
Clark, Forrest  
Combs, Edwin  
Corella, Armand  
Crawford, Frank  
Crawford, R.M.  
Curtiss, Larry  
Escalante, Ralph  
Escalera, E.J.  
Evans, Ronald  
Ewings, James  
Fedewa, Leo  
Firkins, Charles  
Foster, Jesse  
Gallegos, Blas  
Garcia, Tony  
Heer, Walter  
Jackson, Vernon  
Jimenez, Armando  
Jones, Vernon  
Knox, Charles  
Lane, William  
Lemoine, Floyd  
Loven, Charles  
Lujan, Daniel

Martin, Manfred  
Martinez, Alfred  
McCoy, Walter  
McDaniels, Eldon  
McKee, James  
Moreno, E.L.  
Muniz, Mario  
Nieto, Steven  
Osborn B.W.  
Osborne, Edward  
Putman, King  
Quinlan, W.H.  
Rinehart, Bruce  
Rivera, Rudy  
Ross, John  
Sanford, Richard  
Sasia, Roxanne  
Schiefelbein, John  
Scott, Larry  
Sluss, Bruce  
Stephens, Donald  
Stewart, Joseph  
Stigall, J.L.  
Stuler, Edward  
Suniga, Richard  
Tesch, F.W.  
Thomasy, Frank  
Tomlin, Richard  
Trombetta, Paul  
White, Connie,

### 40 YEARS OR MORE

Ary, Ottis  
Collaso, E.L.  
Diaz, Frank  
Fehdrau, Clifford  
Gregory, Ronald  
Oscars, David  
Shaw, Paul

### 45 YEARS OR MORE

Aguilar, Bennie  
Gonzales, Mike  
Huggins, Ronald

### LIFETIME MEMBER 50 YEARS OR MORE

***CURRY, MORRIS  
WILLARD, FOREST***

# Minutes of the February 2008 General Meeting

The regular meeting of Branch 782 was called to order by President, Mike Towery at 7:30 p.m. on the 26th day of February, 2008, at the branch office, 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, McFarland, Shafter and Wasco. Also present was Newsletter Editor, Basil Zuniga, Asst. Editor, Jason Munoz, Safety and Health Rep., Danny Blair and Social & Recreation Committee member Emma Gonzales and Frank Martinez. The minutes were accepted as read with no additions or corrections.

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Applications were received from Andrew Garcia, Rosaura Cardenas, David Rivera and Juana Veronica Willey.

**REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** Emma Gonzales reported that **OUT THERE**

there is nothing new from the Social and Recreation Committee. Teresa Ortega reported that it is too early to report anything regarding the picnic. Basil Zuniga reported that last month it was Brundage stations turn to fold the newsletter only one member showed up. Next month it will be Dole Courts turn. Basil asked that the members let him know if there is anything happening in your station. Basil asked that we observe a moment of silence for Gary Kelsey who passed away recently.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Kim Gerdes asked that those who will be attending the State Convention let her know. The reservations need to be made and the rooms cannot be cancelled. Molly Biggar reported that several items in the Budget have gone over. She made a motion that we move \$8000.00 out of the Rental Account to the checking account to over the over budget items. Seconded by Jerry Patterson and passed. Mike Towery reported that Theresa Garcia will be the Food Drive coordinator. He also reported that the Food Bank representative did not show up at the scheduled meeting. He will reschedule the meeting. He expects that the Food Bank will promote and advertise the Food Drive. Theresa Garcia asked if carriers are interested in T-shirts. Carriers will be allowed to wear them the week prior to the Food drive. Mike Towery reported that the turnout for the PTF/TE meeting was great. The Branch will try to have a meeting each quarter. He also reported that the Bowling Tournament "Battle of the Stations" also had a great turnout. Mike also reported that Darryl Holderman will be the new Vice President and Lucinda Martinez will be the new Trustee.

**IMPROVEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION:** Each steward gave a report about the happenings in their station.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Anita Holderman reported that \$13,284.21 was collected for January 2008.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Molly Biggar reported

Beginning Balance	\$37,327.47
Dues & Income	\$12,106.38
Interest Income	\$ 11.26
Total Balance	\$49,445.11
Expenses	\$11,728.57
Ending Balance	\$37,716.54

The 50/50 MDA Drawing was won by Hermie Encinas.

The Drawing for \$500.00 would have been won by Mike Copeland if he had been present.

There were 43 members present.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

KIM GERDES  
Branch 782 Recording Secretary



# NON-MEMBER LIST

## February 15, 2008

### DOWNTOWN STATION

Dale Pearce  
Javier Cruz

Alice Shultz  
J. Kaur

### SOUTH STATION

*100% UNION!!!*

### DOLE COURT

Susan Webb

### EAST BAKERSFIELD

J. T. Howery  
S. M. Aguilera  
B. Kaur  
J.T. Towery

### STOCKDALE

Ron Huston  
V. M. Calderon

### CAMINO MEDIA

F. Medina, Jr.

### HILLCREST

*100% UNION!!!*

### ARVIN

D. A. Velasquez

### BRUNDAGE

David Kinglee

### AVENAL

*100% UNION!!!*

### BORON

*100% UNION!!!*

### CALIFORNIA CITY

*100% UNION!!!*

### DELANO

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

### EDWARDS

*100% UNION!!!*

### LAMONT

*100% UNION!!!*

### Mc FARLAND

B. A. Ibarra

### MOJAVE

*100% UNION!!!*

### RIDGECREST

K. K. Treat

B. R. Dame  
S. R. Pierce  
H. G. Blanco

### SHAFTER

*100% UNION!!!*

### TAFT

B. W. Krier  
K. J. Hughes  
T. M. Phillips  
L. M. New

### TRONA

D. M. Brooks

### WASCO

M. D. Voights

Do you know where these carriers work? They are not paying dues!!

I. Cedillos, Jr.  
R. A. Day  
R. L. Ector

## Last of the Great Mohicans!

## Good Postmasters are Hard to Find...



Lee Guerra was one of the best Postmasters of all time!

Lee retired after thirty-five years of federal service (twenty-nine Post Office and six years in the military).

He started his career as a Letter Carrier in 1979 and then carried mail for three years before going into management.

He served in various management capacities in Bakersfield and was Lamont Postmaster before his assignment

as Postmaster of Wasco in 2002.

Lee is very dedicated and loyal to all of his employees. We will surely miss him! We wish him and wife, Jonnie, the best as they both transition to retirement from postal careers!

MABEL LYONS  
Wasco Shop Steward

Lee served well as a boss. He was at the "beck and call" for everyone. If the routes were down he was always ready to pick up a satchel and walk out on the street.

He could also be a clerk at the same time and served customers by the window. As most of his acquaintances say: He is a hands-on worker!

He did not let anybody down but kept the spirits of the whole office soaring.

Good luck!

MARILYN CACAL

Lee is really a people person! He was very courteous to the public and to the employees!

LINDA NEWCOMB

# 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

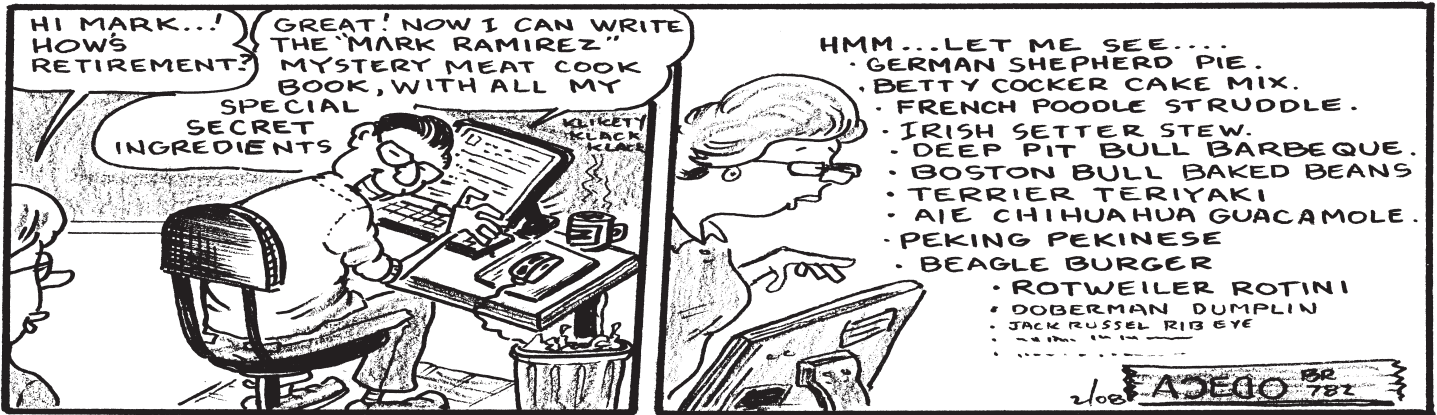
\$500 Self & Family

Per Calendar Year

## Contact Information

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

**OUT THERE**



# Cancer: simple ways to cut your risk

We can limit our risk of certain cancers by following some simple life changing steps. We can lose weight, a little at a time, and see how much better we feel. We can exercise a minimum of 30 minutes a day, five times a week. Protect our skin, if you work outside, wear an SPF sunscreen 20 or higher Limit our consumption of red meats, as they have been linked to prostate cancer

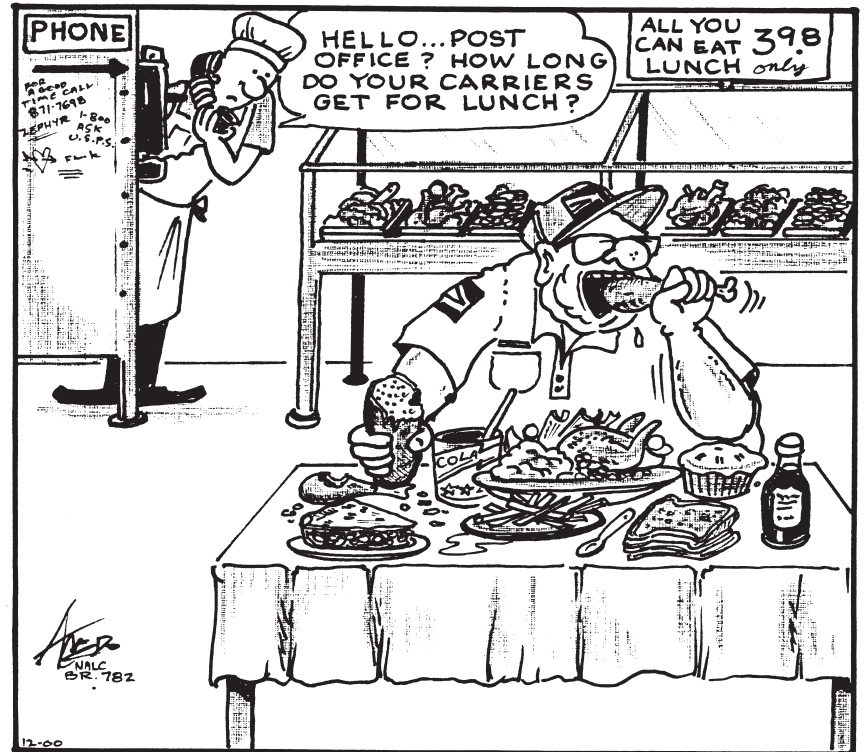
Limit our consumption of alcohol, linked to cancer of liver, breast, mouth, and voice box Always inform your physician of family's cancer history

If your doctor suggests certain screenings be conducted, have them done Stop smoking, is the big one, and it's up to each individual to quit

Our NALC Health Benefit Plan offers Smoking Cessation through United Health Care's QuitPower program and it's "FREE" to our plan members, and (no deductible) To join call 1- 877-784-8797

Think about it; we work until we are able to retire, and to be able to enjoy our retirement. But, we need to invest in our health also.

**OUT THERE**



MARK RAMIREZ (retired)  
NALC Branch 782 HBP Representative

# Guest Editorial

## How on earth could Eric be a Democrat?

By Eric Ellis, Fresno Branch 231  
Steward Zones 1/21

Have you ever been labeled or perceived as something you're not? I think that has happened to everyone. In politics, it happens all the time. We label politicians as conservative, liberal, populist, moderate, yellow-dog, blue-dog, bleeding-heart, etc. Yet these labels are often inaccurate.

Consider Jimmy Carter. Growing up, I heard all this talk about him being a "liberal" Democrat. Yet a close perusal of his record indicates the opposite. He deregulated the airline industry; he favored fast-track authority for presidents to negotiate free-trade agreements, he banned abortions at overseas military bases and opposed Medicaid funding for abortions; he gave speeches encouraging couples to marry as opposed to living together. Sounds like a conservative Democrat to me.

Not that there's anything wrong with that. Recently, a friend said to my wife, "How on earth could Eric be a Democrat? How could he, given how liberal they (Democrats) are?" He presumed that because my lifestyle is on the conservative side, that I would naturally be a Republican. After all, I attend church every Sunday, I lean conservative on certain social issues, and I am pro-gun. No one would confuse me for a bleeding-heart liberal.

So why do I campaign on behalf of Democratic politicians who don't agree with me on issues such as gun control and abortion?

First of all, I state here that if anyone is involved with groups such as the National Rifle Association or National Right to Life, etc, I think that's great. There's nothing wrong with having strong feelings on those issues. But there's one issue that trumps the ones I just mentioned if you plan on making the postal service your career: the ability to put food on the table and earn a decent living.

You see, if you can't feed yourself and your family and make a decent living, you cannot contribute or involve yourself with causes you believe in. Do you understand that? If you vote for candidates who oppose your existence as a postal employee, guess what will happen? You won't have a pension, or a TSP match, or OSHA regulations, or union protection, or vacation time to spend with loved ones, or sick leave to use when you're incapacitated. **YOU'LL HAVE NOTHING!** Remember that the next time you cast a vote.

### Bush Administration Intends to Change FMLA

Before the Bush administration exits a year from now, it intends to modify a major employee benefit—the Federal Medical Leave Act—for the first time since it was enacted 15 years ago.

...bosses would no longer have to get permission from employees before contacting their health care providers to confirm the authenticity of a medical certification.

In the Postal Service that means FMLA coordinators trained in circumventing the law would have free rein to not only harass and argue with workers seeking FMLA leave but also with their health care providers.

Other benefits would be modified as well...

# *In Jerry's World...*

For the last few months, I have heard Union members say, "What has the Union done for me?"

Well, I don't know where to start.

The main thing that the Union does is educate people about their contractual rights. We always have classes and meetings for people to learn.

Branch 782 also sends out a newsletter each month. Basil, the Branch 782 Editor-guy, makes sure that it is full of all kinds of information.

The other day a person asked for an old grievance file which dated back to 2003. I kind of knew where to look. Not knowing the case number, I decided that I should start to look back around the year of the grievance.

I walked into the storage room. There were *boxes and boxes and boxes and boxes full of grievances!*

It made me realize that even I didn't realize just how much this Branch does which represents around five hundred members.

I know that now only a small portion of the membership gets into trouble. But, there are many people whose Rights are violated when management makes some of the decisions that they do. Grievances are filed, in many cases, to make a grievant "whole". Other grievances are filed to ensure that management will abide by the contract.

If the Union wasn't here, no one would coordinate the actions needed to ensure that the Rights of everyone would continue to be in place.

But the Union can only do so much...

There are some people who seem to get into trouble time after time. Many don't seem to realize that it *is* a big deal if they get a Letter of Warning, or a paper suspension. Some, perhaps out of embarrassment or because they

think that it will just go away eventually, don't tell the Shop Steward or other Union Representative.

The Union only has fourteen days to initiate action to deal with a potential grievance. If the fourteen days pass, the action is a done deal. And—and this is important—**discipline is progressive!**

If you have "agreed" to the charges in a disciplinary action by doing nothing to initiate a Union-filed grievance, you have agreed to the charges and to the consequences. If no are charged again, the price tag can go the next level. And the Union, despite not knowing about prior discipline, has very little room to argue that the discipline is excessive.

This "little" situation can cause a big problem for the Steward for the Step 2 person.

The best way to protect yourself is to do what is right the first time by helping yourself first.

If management calls you in for a "meeting", there are two questions that you should ask: "Could this meeting result in disciplinary action?"; and, "Can I have my Shop Steward present?"

You have the Right to representation.

Ask to have a short meeting with the Shop Steward so that you can inform him/her of what you think you might have been called in for. Be honest! If you have actually done something wrong (hit a mailbox, had an argument with a customer, misdelivered a letter, run over a dog, etc.), let the Steward know what you've done. Lying about something takes everything to a whole different level and can complicate the whole situation enormously.

Take notes on your own of what is said. These notes may be crucial in front of an arbitrator.

Don't believe that the manager is your friend. What you say can and will be held against you... And, management will give you discipline in a heartbeat!

I know that, last year, Mike Towery was handling a Termination/Removal about every month. This takes a lot of time to prepare for. I would like to thank him for doing such a fantastic job. I know that it took a lot of his own time to work on them even when working as a full-time Letter Carrier.

It makes it so much easier if things don't get that far. Remember, Rights also come with Responsibilities: It is your Responsibility to follow the rules.

This year we have had Postal Inspectors come into offices. They are not working for us. They are working for the USPS. If you think they want to talk to you, don't treat it like it is not a big deal. *It is!!* Never, never, never ever talk to them unless you have your Steward. You never have to talk off the clock if it is going to lead to disciplinary action. And—if you're talking to them—it usually will...

Finally, the question that you should be asking is not, "What has the Union done for me?"

Your real questions should be, "What have I done for myself?" and "What do I need to do better to protect myself?"

Attend the Union meetings.

Take classes to become a professional Letter Carrier. Invest in your future!

Help other Letter Carriers to do what is right. Remind them to protect their jobs.

Support Shop Stewards and other Branch officers. Don't make their jobs harder.

Report to work when scheduled. If you can't make it back to the office by the time established, for whatever reason, call and let them know early in the day.

You can make it easier for the Union to help you by doing a very simple thing. Get Involved!

JERRY PATTERSON  
Branch 782 Shop Steward

# Harrington's Spotlight

## Battle of the Stations ACT II

As the President Day Holiday weekend approached a flyer was sent out to all the stations for the 2nd annual "Battle of the Stations" of bowling. After last years buzz of fun and excitement. Teams from all stations including 3 A.O.'s started signing up for the event. Last year we had 17 teams representing all stations and 1 A.O. 2008 brought out 26 teams. Some having the same team members from last year but for most had changed things up. Last year most teams did not come up with team names so I made one up for them. This year was a pleasant surprise that all the teams came up with very creative name for themselves most noticeable "Cotton Candy on a Stick, 2 Cute Chicks & 2 Old Goats, Strike It Like it's Hot, and the Gutter Girls". This year I also saw the competitiveness spirit rise as a lot of teams got together prior to event to get practice on the weekends. It was great to hear that co-workers got together outside of work in a positive atmosphere in which that was the whole purpose of starting Battle of the Stations.

As each team arrived and checked into their lane. The smiles were from ear to ear. Carriers seeing other carriers for the 1st time since last years event. Everyone was wondering what lane they were bowling in and who they were bowling next too. Just like last year a lot of teams came in with color coordinated shirts to show off their team spirit. Some of my favorites included Brundage D-Vas, South's Gutter Girls, and Auburn's Cotton Candy on a Stick. This year I doubled the prizes which included Free pizzas, MP3 player, Movie tickets for 2, extreme bowling packages, and a portable DVD player. As the event started the Dole ct BowlFrogs jumped out to an early lead led by Glen Ryder and Ed Vitson followed closely by E.B.'s Peaches and Herbs , 3rd South's The Strike Masters, rounding out 4th Auburn's 7-10 split. As the 2nd game ended the Bowlfrogs had cooled off and top five teams caught some ground on them. During the first two games I ran a 50/50 drawing to help raise money for Relay for Life (American Cancer Society) in honor of Paul Chavez who was the son and nephew of long time city carriers Gilbert and Tony Chavez. \$300 was raised and the winner of the drawing was won by Downtown's Steve Friedle. I would like to thank everyone who participated in raising money in finding a cure for cancer.

As the third and final game ended you can see people walking around to see how each team was doing and to see if they had a chance at winning the prestige event. But when the final frame was done it was the Dole Ct. BowlFrogs taking home the trophy followed by E.B.'s Peaches and Herbs just edging out South's Strike Masters. Last years winners Stockdale's Fab 4 made an valiant effort defending their title coming in 5th place. Most of the feedback I got was not only positive but people asking why we can't do this twice a year. LOL I hope that everyone had fun and had a good time. Congradulations to the Dole Ct. Bowlfrogs and hope they return next year to defend their title. I would also like to invite back this years entertainment "The Gutter Girls" ( never saw so much excitement about knocking over 2 pins) They did keep most of us entertained.. LOL. All pictures of the bowling event can be seen at [www.782nalc.com](http://www.782nalc.com) under the Harrington's corner link.

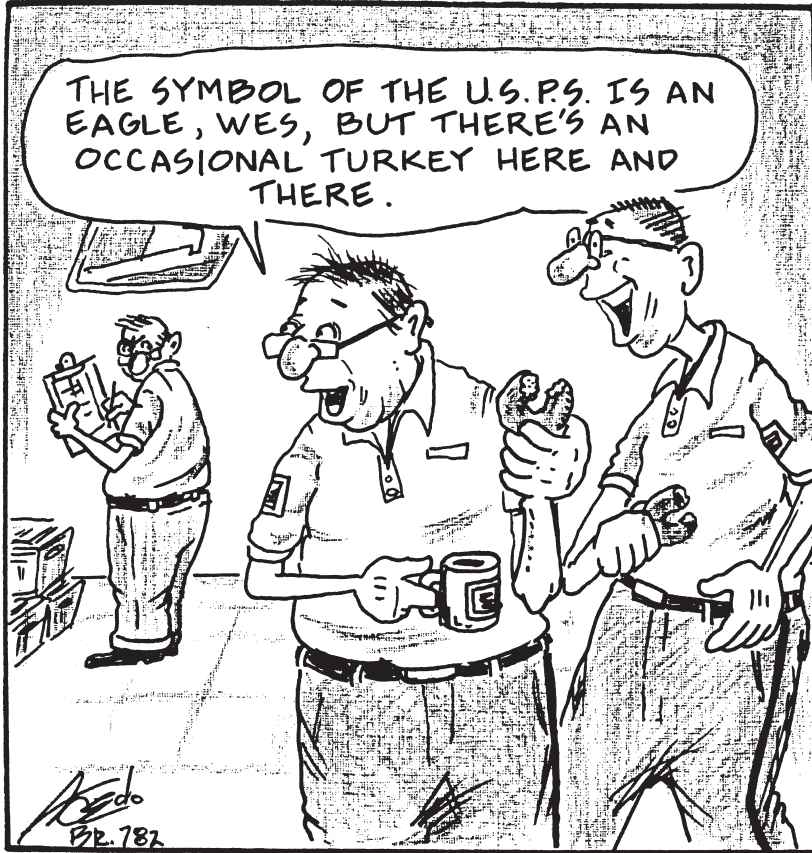
"Just Another Day in Paradise"

Jeff Harrington (93305)



# "OUT THERE"

OUT THERE



OUT THERE



**HAVE AN IDEA FOR FRED???**\*

FRED ACEDO  
BR. 782 S.A.N.E.  
P.O. BOX 6532  
BAKERSFIELD, CA  
93386-6532

OUT THERE



OUT THERE



\* YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU MIGHT GET.

BUT YOU KNOW THAT IT WILL BE A LITTLE "OUT"

# Confessions of a Former Station Manager

by Guy Nohrenberg, PTF Carrier  
Simi Valley/ Branch 2902  
(received in edited form)

It was the middle of the most sweaty part of summer. You know, when coverages tattoo your arm and you see mirages of swimming pools. My wife called me. She's a Letter Carrier. She asked me if I knew what the temperature was. I looked at the thermostat and told her, 72! Like it always is!" She hung up on me.

Well, I thought it was funny. I was a Manager then. It's like rolling down your window just a little to hand out a 4584 driving observation so the chilled air doesn't escape.

- Six Shelves full of flats .... No problem.
- Five Shelves jammed full and extra bundles all over the case? .... No problem.
- Not making street time?. ..Street time is street time. You have to make street time.
- Heavy mail?.... How much heavier is it? It doesn't feel heavier than yesterday.
- Most carriers don't try to make 5:00.
- Nationally Creating the Managed Service Points barcode system for everyone to scan was fun!
- I wonder if I'll get a new desk?

Well that was last year. See, Upper Management doesn't like it when you disagree with them.

After 20 years of Managing... I'm a Letter Carrier now! You may have worked for me. I've been in many of the offices in this District. (Sierra Coastal District)

Soak that up for a moment.

Yes, A Level 22 Station Manager has requested, for the third time, to become a PTF Letter Carrier and *THIS TIME* they finally let me do it. This time for wanting to go to the good place when my less than 100 years is up.

It was a good decision. One I do not regret. Letter Carriers are the heart and soul of our organization and I can attest that the pencil pushers only look down upon us in disdain. It's like the Marine Corps saying they'd be just fine if it wasn't for all those doggone Marines running about.

Well, guess what I'm learning?

**Mail, can be Heavy!!**

Two coverages bursting out of a full satchel and a boss yelling that each street only takes 12 minutes! (No, he can't even walk the sidewalk empty-handed in 12 minutes in his K-Mart jogging outfit).

## Heat?

I carried last summer. No longer is it 70 degrees in my world. I did get a 4584 driving observation though... slid through the cracked window of a smiling supervisor's vehicle. (Yes, I thought it was funny too.)

Who in the WORLD decided that a magazine should be shoved into little 6-inch tall slots? (Irwin, I understand now.)  
DPS Counts do matter! Coverages DO affect times.. especially when they arrive looking like something my dog played with.

What do you mean I missed that MSP scan? Who invented how we use this stuff?

Dogs, cars, supervisors raising their voices and making smart-alecky remarks, sweat running down my brow, and learning mounted routes like Lucille Ball flipping pancakes!

## Street time is street time?

Oh, that one came back at me too. Who doesn't try to make 5:00? ...Most carriers DO! Wow.... Carriers really DO care! They only say they don't when they're discouraged that nobody else does. You deserve to have an article like this and be able to enjoy reading it. You work HARD! You really DO deserve some credit! My wife used to remind me of that every day and while I believed it, I didn't "feel" it. You know?

It is so apparent, now, when faced with the adversity of weaker-minded Managers and Supervisors, compensating for something—as Shrek would say—who then take it out on the Carriers.

I believed that you should be the kind of manager you'd want your kids to have when they entered the workplace. If a Carrier is trying, you help them with everything you have. Now look at me! I'm carrying mail... I thought it would be easy! It isn't...

*The Carriers who worked for me just made it look that way.*

Sure, you can do route inspections, run units, be successful. But can you really help effect positive change without perspective? Perspective can be lost too! A long-time friend of mine just made the move from Letter Carrier to ASP graduate and I heard from her lips that telltale cliché ... "Oh, all routes can be done in undertime on any day if the Carriers wanted to."

Yes, in less than a year, she's already forgotten yelling at me just the opposite when she was hauling mail on an overburdened route.

To effect real positive change, you need to obtain and reinvigorate perspective. Anytime you hear "I was a Carrier" or "I carried mail", then you're talking to someone who has done it so long ago that they are clueless as to what it's about. They cannot help this organization and I thought I'd never say that.

Think about it. What if each pencil-pushing, keyboard-dancing employee carried mail for a week every 4 months, on a route of *OUR* choice. Things would improve. Why? Because the poor sap would have to do it again in 4 more months!

I'd bet most of them are too donut-filled to be even capable of performing the task. Me? I've lost 22 pounds on the "PTF Diet Plan!" and I am losing more fat while gaining more perspective.

It is clear that our organization is in need of obtaining and maintaining true perspective.

Think of your Supervisor, Manager, or Postmaster having to do what I am doing now; casing and carrying mail. It's good, hard, work, but with the peace of mind of a sense of accomplishment. If you're treated with decency then there is hope of a diminished idiocy in the decisions which affect you.

I was a dinosaur. I believed in being straight with people. Now, things are much different. "Dinosaurs" have been replaced by "Used Car Salesmen". Like that old song, "Smiling Faces... Sometimes". Remember it? By the "Undisputed Truth" from back in the 70's. Can you sing it?

I have no plans of ever supervising or managing again. Not after making Carriers like you scan endless barcodes. Not after thinking that carrying was easy. Not after failing to defend you from all the stupid policies which slowed you down and tripped you up. I should have spoken up long ago. I had a responsibility to our organization, a group of hard-working Carriers, which I should have heeded, instead of bowing to the whims of power-intoxicated bosses.

A wise man recently told me, "If you're lucky, you'll pay for your sins in this life." I shall, in the heat, the cold, and on the streets with you.

For the next 10 years until I retire, I will carry mail, but after my 100 years on this planet, I do hope to do good and go to the good place.

Now, when my wife calls me and asks if I'm ok. I tell her I'm fine and I'm proud to be in uniform once again. What would it be like if all our Executives obtained such perspective...and maintained it?

Reprint courtesy of the Branch 2902 *Mail Bag News* published in February 2008

## OUT THERE



## What to do in case of active carrier's death

1. Notify employee's immediate supervisor.
2. Notify postmaster.
3. Notify personnel section (if any).
4. Contact the following for accounts or benefits:
  - a. The local NALC union office;
  - b. If veteran, the veterans' Administration local office;
  - c. Local bank or postal credit union;
  - d. Social Security Administration local office;
  - e. Insurance companies for policies on life (if NALC Mutual Benefit Association, write 100 Indiana Ave., N.W., Room 510, Washington, DC 20001-2144 or call 202-638-4318; if Federal Employees Group Life Insurance, contact local personnel office): hospitalization (if NALC Health Benefit Plan, write 20547 Waverly Court, Ashburn, VA 22093 or call 703-729-4677); house; and automobile;
  - f. Internal Revenue Service local office;
  - g. U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Employee Service and Records Center, Boyers, PA 16017 or the NALC retirement office, 100 Indiana Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20001-2144. You can phone the NALC retirement office toll-free at 800-424-5186 on Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday. 10 a.m.-12 noon and 2-4 p.m. (Eastern time).
5. Change name on all important papers to survivor's name.
6. Notify station superintendent (or supervisor) or postmaster of the time and place of memorial services.
7. Have mortuary officials obtain enough certified death certificates for your needs. They can advise how many.
8. Give immediate supervisor locker keys and badge.
9. Fill out these forms (available in some post offices from personnel section or postmaster): SF 2800—application for death benefit; SF 1153—claim of designated beneficiary for unpaid compensation; SF 1155—claim for unpaid compensation, no designated beneficiary; FE 6—claim for benefits, Federal Employees Group Life Insurance.
10. Check with USFS personnel section or postmaster for annuity for yourself and any minor children.
11. If previous marriage, have divorce papers. If present marriage, have marriage license.
12. Contact the station's personnel office about your potential eligibility for Annuity Protection Plan payments.

## What to do in case of retired carrier's death

1. Notify Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Retirement Programs, Employee Service and Records Center, Boyers, PA 16017. In your letter include: full name of deceased; exact date of birth; exact date of death; CSA claim number, address, relationship and signature of person entitled to survivor benefits.
2. For quicker action, notify NALC's Director of Retired Members, 100 Indiana Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20001-2144, or call toll-free 800-424-5186 Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday. 10 am.-noon and 2-4 p.m. (Eastern time). NALC will alert OPM so that survivor benefits will commence as quickly as possible, and will send you Forms SF 2800—application for death benefit, survivor annuity and FE 6—claim for benefits, Federal Employees Group Life Insurance. Remember that survivor annuities are not paid automatically. You must apply to OPM to receive benefits.
3. Return any uncashed checks to the address on the accompanying Treasury Department envelope. If payments are made directly to a financial institution, notify it of the retiree's date of death and request any future checks be returned to the Treasury Department.
4. Contact the following for accounts or benefits:
  - a. The local NALC union office;
  - b. If veteran, the Veterans' Administration local office and the commanding officer of local military installation;
  - c. Local bank or other financial institutions;
  - d. Social Security Administration local office;
  - e. Insurance companies for policies on life (if NALC Mutual Benefit Association, write 100 Indiana Ave., N.W. Room 510, Washington, DC 20001-2144 or call 202-638-4318); hospitalization (if NALC Health Benefit Plan, write 20547 Waverly Court, Ashburn, VA 22093 or call 703-729-4677); house; and automobile;
  - f. Internal Revenue Service local office.
5. Change name on all important papers to survivor's name.
6. Have mortuary officials obtain enough certified death certificates for your needs. They can advise how many.
7. Gather miscellaneous necessary papers such as birth certificate, marriage license, divorce decree, death certificates of deceased children or spouses or other documents establishing identity of relationship of survivor.

**NOTE: If spouse of retired carrier dies, call NALC retirement office to obtain the forms to: restore annuity to full amount switch health coverage from family to self (unless dependent children); change beneficiary of government life insurance.**

**KEEP THIS PAGE WITH YOUR IMPORTANT PAPERS**

# Harrington's Corner



## Sierra Coastal Ad Hoc Driving Safety Instructors

Standing (left to right): Tom Davey, Gustavo Talavera, Glen Lopez, Robbie Elsaleh, Tim Palmatier, Bill McMullen, Jorge Vaquera, Willie McIntyre, Carlos Delgado  
Sitting (left to right): Rick Bienkoski, Jeff Harrington, Phil Lehman, Emma Gonzalez, Prince Vann, Lee Robertshaw (Not shown: Joe Elias Jr.)

The Postal Service implemented a new Safe Driver Program last summer nationwide. The driving instructors are now called DSI's (Driving Safety Instructors) and the old D.I.E. (Driver Instructor Examiner) position is obsolete, with the exception of a re-certified modified D.I.E. who can do the DEP (Driver Enhancement Program), Driver Improvement, and vehicle Refresher.

With this program the new Carrier applicants must pass three tests before reporting to their offices to work. 1) A pre-employment Road Test (804) which is conducted in the applicants vehicle, 2) They are then hired. After completing the 8 hour Safe Driver Class (805) a CBT (computer based) written test is given, followed by an 8 hour Defensive driving 8 class and last, the End of Training LLV Road Test to make sure they have the skill and ability to drive for the Postal Service in a right-hand drive vehicle (806). This program is designed to not only to weed out the bad drivers before they start to deliver mail but to turn good drivers into professional drivers for the postal service.

Most of the Postal Services accidents happen to our new drivers with two or less years of service so the emphasis is on this group of drivers. The DSIs also Coach and Mentor the new and older drivers by going out and observing their driving and discussing the good and poor driving maneuvers. A lot of us have become complacent in our driving and have develop bad or unsafe habits while driving. The objective is to be proactive and prevent an accident before it occurs. The bottom line is safety.

So be safe and drive safe.

Jeff Harrington

### OUT THERE



# Oildale Launches First Carrier Service



The Oildale post office force, including its two new mail carriers, stands in front of the Oildale office as city carrier service is begun for the first time in the history of the community. From left to right are H. E. Basham, F. K. Pugh, clerks; C. N. Hamblet, postmaster; and Kenneth Chambers and C. J. Dobbs, carriers.

## from the editor-guy

As more and more years go by, I find that I have become more reflective. Some of my thoughts center on my own childhood. At other times, I chuckle over things that my own children did. And, occasionally, I wonder where the years went.

Sometimes, when I hear about someone retiring, I wonder if I am going to get to that point. I jokingly tell people that I don't think about retirement because there is still an eight-year old daughter who is a part of my life. Yet, an event will sometimes occur which makes me stop and think about the "notion" of retirement.

Sometimes this occurs when I hear that someone is retiring who has worked for the Postal Service for less years than I have. *That's* something that can make me ponder a thing or two...

Recently, Lee Guerra (the Wasco Postmaster) retired. This also gave me a reason to "percolate" on the way that my life is going. Lee Guerra, Alan Connor and I all started our Postal careers on the very same day. Lee went on to become a Postmaster. Alan is the long-time station manager at Hillcrest. And, me? I'm a short, little old fat guy, with a grey, grey beard who happens to still be carrying mail.

Pictured above are Kenneth Chambers and C.J. Dobbs. They were the first city Letter Carriers when Oildale started that service and were both long gone by the time that I started this gig as a mailman. To the right is the obituary for "Tony" Garcia. He was still carrying mail when I started.

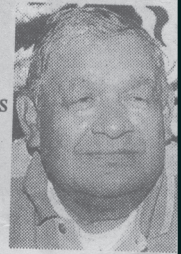
The only thing that I think this really means is that each of us is just passing through. But—for me—whether I leave any kind of a legacy or not, it is just a reminder that I need to do the best that I can every day that I have. Because that one day is all that I really have to work with. Eventually, there will be no more.

BASIL ZUNIGA

## Antonio Gilbert Garcia "Tony"

1932 - 2008

Tony Garcia, age 75, died on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 in Bakersfield, CA peacefully at home with his family by his side. Tony was the third born son to Telesforo and Mary (Aguilar) Garcia on June 27, 1932. He graduated from East Bakersfield High School in 1950 and played varsity football all four years. He took pride in being a member of the first football team that defeated Bakersfield High School. In 1952, Tony enlisted in the United States Army. He served in the Korean War as a Platoon Sergeant Company M of the 35th Infantry. Tony received his Combat Infantry Badge, Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, a ROK Presidential Unit Citation and the Good Conduct Medal. He was Honorably discharged in 1954. Tony married the love of his life, Juanita Valdez on April 23, 1960. They lived in Bakersfield, where he worked for the United States Postal Service as a Letter Carrier for over 30 years. Tony and Juanita took pride in raising their one son and celebrated his accomplishments. Tony was an avid East Bakersfield High school sports supporter and enjoyed attending his sons swimming meets. He was also a loyal Rams and Lakers fan. Tony was fortunate to have a knack for growing beautiful roses and enjoyed working in his magnificent rose garden. Tony is survived by his wife, Juanita; son, Anthony Gilbert and his wife, Karen; his loving grandchildren, Emilio and Mateo Garcia, all of Hayward, CA; special daughter, Joan Canfield and her husband, Ron Hill of Cypress, CA; two brothers, Pete Garcia and his wife, Margaret, Gill Garcia and his wife, Dora; and sister, Beatrice Garcia, all of Bakersfield, CA. He was also surrounded by numerous brother and sister-in-laws, nieces, nephews, godchildren, as well as countless friends.



The Garcia family would like to send special thanks to Paul Chavez and the John Duran family for their dedication and support during Tony's final days.

A church service and rosary will be held at Saint Joseph's Church on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.. A graveside service will follow at Greenlawn Cemetery, 3700 River Blvd., Visit [www.legacy.com/bakersfield/obituarie](http://www.legacy.com/bakersfield/obituarie) to send a word or share a story about Tony.

Greenlawn Mortuary  
[www.bakersfield.com/obits](http://www.bakersfield.com/obits)

Obituary courtesy of Bill Curtis and his pen...



# Branch Officers

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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.

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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Lamont (93241)	Vacant	
McFarland (93250)	Steve Carter	(661) 321
Shafter (93263)	Jerry Patterson	(661) 599-6859
Taft (93268)	Vacant	
Wasco (93280)	Mabel Lyons	(661) 900-8892
Downtown Station (93301)	Kim Gerdes	(661) 834-2059
Downtown Station Alternate	Vacant	
South Station (93304)	Darryl Holderman	(661) 589-1683
South Station Alternate	Bonita Lewis	(661) 589-1683
East Bakersfield (93305)	Teresa Ortega	(661) 201-3086
Hillcrest Station (93306)	Pam Smith	(661) 979-5854
Brundage Station (93307)	Emma Gonzalez	(661) 834-8658
Dole Court (93308)	Mike Towery	(661) 862-8033
Dole Court Alternate	Debbie Guillet	(661) 542-4975
Stockdale Station (93309)	Randy Courson	(661) 381-0798
Stockdale Station (93309)	John Ortega	(661) 809-8140
Camino Media (93311/13)	Mike Meza	(805) 664-7014
Camino Media Alternate	Teresa Ortega	(661) 201-3086
Mojave (93501)	Vacant	
California City (93504)	Paula Hogg	(760) 373-8963
Tehachapi (93561)	Mary Morphis	(661) 822-6614
Trona (93562)	Vacant	
Boron (93516)	Paula Hogg	(760) 373-8963
Ridgecrest (93555)	Lynnell Howell	(760) 371-1039

## Branch 782 Website

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