We have always suspected that the USPS was mismanaged, what we didn’t expect was just how high up the leadership ladder this thing went. That is until Tuesday, March 2, when PMG Potter reported to Congress and the nation that the USPS is on track to lose 238 billion dollars by the year 2020. His plan for our future included kiosks in prominent public areas, a more flexible workforce and 5-day delivery.

After reading the plan Mr. Potter submitted to Congress, I was more confused as to what his plan actually was and how he had justified his predicted losses. He begins on page 1, paragraph 2 with the prediction of a 238 billion dollar loss, but wait a minute, by paragraph 3 he has already saved 123 billion and changed that loss to just 115 billion. The plan explains that this savings will be accomplished by taking steps already in place and allowed by current law. Assuming Mr. Potter is correct, then why did he tell the American public that we would lose 238 billion instead of the corrected amount of 115 billion. If you’re a little confused right now, just remember that the Postal Service owns a computer program called DOIS, and while he didn’t say that program had been used to make these calculations, you gotta wonder.

The plan continues by explaining that even with some growth in parcels, business mail and new products and services, we will miss the mark, therefore we need new legislation that will change the current laws, thus allowing us to concentrate on the big three initiatives that will save the service. First off, the plan would place kiosks in grocery and other stores or let them sell our products at their counters using their employees. They would also force customers to shop online at the postal Web site and use letter carriers to sell and deliver our products. This portion of the plan would result in a much lesser need for window service by contracting out jobs, at the same time showing a greater need to close and consolidate offices.

The second initiative states that we need to create a more flexible workforce and explains that over the next 10 years nearly 300,000 employees will reach retirement age. This will present an opportunity for the service to move towards a part time work force either through collective bargaining or arbitration. What they mean here, is that if we don’t accept their move towards a 50 percent or maybe even a 100 percent
part time workforce, then they will ask Congress to change the law and allow them to require an arbitrator to take into account the financial condition of the service, when making a decision on our next contract. This would tie the hands of an arbitrator and force him/her to go along with the service’s plan, allowing them to pretty much do whatever they damn well please. This initiative is perhaps the scariest because it makes no bones about going after our bargaining process and breaking the union.

The last initiative is of course, going to 5-day delivery and if won by the service will result in the second initiative becoming a reality. The plan calls for a change in the law, to afford the service the latitude to reassess and adjust the frequency of delivery. That means, they could go to 5-day delivery or they could decide on four or maybe even three days, after all it would be their decision. The plan even states that a recent Gallup survey showed that two-thirds of Americans would rather have delivery days reduced rather than have increases in postage. Two-thirds of Americans would be about 200 million people surveyed, therefore nearly 1,800 Branch 343 members should have participated in this survey. I was not surveyed and I have yet to talk to one of our members who was. Is Mr. Potter stretching the truth here or were all letter carriers and their families across the country miraculously missed in this survey.

While the NALC can support portions of this plan such as, new revenue growth through new products, cutting costs by reducing management positions and useless programs, pricing flexibility, getting back the 75 billion dollars we overpaid to the CSRS annuity fund and using it to fully fund future retirees’ health benefits. We simply cannot support, and must unite against, the three initiatives outlined above. These half-truths and outright lies spewed by Potter and included in this plan are nothing more than an attempt to make the future Postal Service a secondhand company by dissolving the service and breaking the unions. If he is successful, then this job will not be worth having, if the job will even be here at all.

The service will continue to lose money with our present management style. That is, to throw money at the unions for management’s numerous contract violations, proceed with automation that we don’t need, continue the pay for a performance bonus system that forces management to focus on useless programs like MSP, give lip service to customer connect and relying on DOIS computers instead of employing managers who know how to manage. When will they focus on getting rid of some of the top heavy one-third of our employees, who never touch the mail. As Postal Service employees, I believe we would be better served if Potter simply took his 12 or 14 million dollar bonus money, grabbed Donahoe, a few area VPs and walked out the door.

Perhaps the biggest fight we will ever have to save our jobs and the service, is now on the horizon. Every letter carrier and especially younger ones, had better get informed on this topic and prepare to fight Potter’s Folly. If we don’t or we aren’t successful, then our jobs, along with quite a few post office’s will end up in Potter’s Field. More! Later!
NALC continues to battle USPS plan to end 6-day delivery. There will be disastrous consequences to ending Saturday mail delivery. The NALC fully expects to engage the Postal Service in the months and years ahead to find win-win solutions regarding issues such as ‘workforce flexibility’ thru negotiations. We need more flexibility to provide new services and win new revenues. However, Congress must do its part to help stabilize the Postal Service by addressing the pre-funding issue!

If the leader of all letter carriers around the country can see what is necessary to FIX the Postal Service, why can’t the Postal Service leaders? For years letter carriers have been pro-active in saving the Postal Service from itself. The Postal Inspector General Report issued in January strengthens the case NALC made over the past three years that OPM badly miscalculated the postal surplus in the Civil Service Retirement Fund. The report found the Postal Service had been overcharged by $75 billion going back to 1971 (when the Postal Service was created) for pension costs associated with pre-1971 service by employees of the taxpayer-funded Post Office Department.

The IG recommended that the accurately measured ‘postal surplus’ in the Civil Service Retirement Fund be transferred to the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund, which would allow Congress to repeal the crushing $5 billion per year pre-funding payments for retiree health benefits now required by law. Then the USPS business model can be addressed thru serious and comprehensive debate in order to secure the long-term viability of the Postal Service.

We will have to deal with the lingering effects of the recession and negative impact of the Internet at the negotiating table, just as we have adapted to varying business conditions for some 40 years of successful collective bargaining. We need to do our part at the bargaining table and Congress needs to do its part on retiree health pre-funding reform.

**ATTEND YOUR APRIL BRANCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**ST. LOUIS CARDINALS TICKETS**

- Free drawings for attendance prizes
- OPENING DAY tickets — three chances to win for $5 donation — to benefit Muscular Dystrophy
- Immediately following branch meeting, ½ season tickets to be sold to members — 2 tickets for $100 — See details and available games in March MCC — Bring checkbook or cash to reimburse branch expense
April greetings to all of the brothers and sisters of NALC Branch 343. As of this writing, management has still not replaced the collection time labels on the mail chutes in St. Louis area businesses. Whatever happened to the so-called “Voice of the Customer”? Way to go Gateway management, just go ahead and tick off hundreds of influential business customers at a time when the USPS is supposedly losing 7 billion dollars!

UPCOMING EVENTS
Annual Ole Timers’ Day on Saturday, May 1. We will be recognizing our retirees who achieve milestones in their NALC membership. This year we will honor eight new 60-year members, and 27 new 50-year “Gold Card” members. Branch 343 retirees will also honor their own “Retiree of the Year.”

Letter Carriers Food Drive on Saturday, May 8. Please help in our annual “Fight Against Hunger” by collecting food for the needy in our area. T-shirts will be for sale again this year and carriers can wear them that Fri.-Sat.

PAY FOR PERFORMANCE OR BON-US
THE SAGA CONTINUES

Clearly, management will stop at nothing to keep their precious EXFC scores up and qualify for their unjust “pay for performance” bonuses. Ten years ago a carrier would have received discipline for working overtime to deliver two missorted letters. Now we have level 22 managers sitting on the back dock in sandals, instructing carriers to go back out and deliver two missorted letters on overtime. It’s all about them cheating for better EXFC scores, so they can make their PFP bonus. Real businesses don’t waste money this way. But hey, the USPS is not a real business is it? It’s supposed to be a government service for all Americans that operates with a break-even mandate. It’s just not possible to break even anymore when these shameless thieves will lie, beg, borrow, and steal to get their precious PFP bonuses. Instead of asking Congress to end 6-day delivery, how about we ask Congress to put an end to PFP!

PMG POTTER REAL EXECUTIVE MATERIAL??

PMG Potter has initiated his propaganda campaign by telling Congress and the American people that the USPS is going to lose 238 billion dollars over the next ten years. He is painting this bleak picture in order to convince Congress to pass legislation allowing the USPS to go to 5-day delivery. Except that even using the USPS’ own bloated numbers, we would only save 3 billion dollars by going to five days. So let’s see here, 238 - 3 = 235 more billion remaining in projected losses. It doesn’t seem like going to 5-day delivery is going to help us much, is it Potter? It is also being argued, by the NALC and others, that ending a day of service to our customers will actually cause us to lose revenue that more than offsets any projected savings.

PMG Potter did pay his pals at the Boston Consulting Group, yes Potter’s from Boston, to project mail volumes thru 2020 for his report. Hey Potter, I don’t need a multimillion dollar market study to tell me why the USPS is losing money. Just look in the minor, Potter! I think it’s past time for Potter to just retire and begin collecting his little multi-million dollar treasure trove of deferred compensation. Besides, Potter, other golden opportunities surely await you. I am sure lots of other Fortune 500 companies will be just lining up to hire an exec. like you who’s so good at losing billions of dollars. Oh, and don’t let the door hit you on the way out!
Greetings my fellow union brothers and sisters. Wake up carriers before the end is here and the door is locked. Is anyone out there listening or seeing what is going on? Have you read the five business plans that will be presented to Congress? Have you been to a branch meeting and heard the truth? If any of these plans are accepted, it marks the end of the USPS as we know it. I have read the proposed plans and they are very frightening and offer very little future for you and your family. The American public will really suffer with reduced or no service. If we go to a 5-day work week, what is to stop them from going to three days a week? One of the issues is the USPS wants to work with a flexible workforce. Can you see the writing on the wall? We are talking about a part-time workforce with no benefits and little pay. Are you ready for that? As NBA Mike Weir stated, we must put current legislators and prospective candidates on notice that our support is contingent upon their enactment of progressive legislation addressing the needs and concerns of working men and women. Now is the time to act when called upon to contact your representative and let your voice be heard! If you look at the big picture, there are forces trying to run us out of business. Some within the USPS and some outside, with an agenda to see the USPS go out of business, want to convince the public that it is a good thing. Private concerns are foaming at the mouth ready to carve us up. I’ll say it again “WAKE UP, ALICE, THIS ISN’T WONDERLAND.” Yours in unionism!
Health Benefits Plan ... By Mike David

May 23, 2010

Most letter carriers are under a great deal of stress from the changes that are related to our jobs. Our routes have been changing at least twice a year, some more than others. A carrier with 30 years seniority finally gets what he/she considers has the ideal route, whether it be a business route or an all mounted route with shaded streets, and then they get adjusted through this new process and everything has changed. Maybe the person whose route they are moving territory from is younger or faster than you and now your ideal route is a route from hell, even though on paper the numbers are the same. This whole process is causing everyone to go through changes that they have never had to do before. We are all getting the same script from management that this is all needed to save the post office and we have to be willing to sacrifice. This may be true, although I have yet to see any supervisors or managers sacrifice in any way, there seems to be the same amount of bosses running around and the only stress they have is when the person above them yells at them for not making the carriers work harder.

Our best effort during this time of change and acrimony is to remain professional and remember that we letter carriers are all in the same boat and we must stick together. There is much that is simply not in our control, like mail volume and the economy to name two. So we do our best and go on. We try not to stress over what we can not control and definitely not let the problems of the job follow us home and interfere with our family life. Do our best professional job at work and then leave it there when we get off.

OWCP News

I will continue to remind all carriers that they do not have to go to the post office medical unit until my term runs out or until I stop hearing horror stories about certain contract medical units. The choice of emergency treatment is your choice, if you have a traumatic on-the-job injury. You can use your doctor if they can see you immediately, or if not, you can demand to go to emergency. Your supervisor does not tell you where you get treatment, the choice is yours.

On another note, the post office started a new and not improved version of the NRP process today and I was fortunate to sit in on the first consultation. What a circus. The limited duty carrier and myself in a relatively small office with nine individuals from management. It took all nine of these management types, from an area manager to a floor supervisor, an hour to explain to the carrier and me how the post office only had two hours of work for her, on a daily basis. You can't make this stuff up. Okay, that's all for now.

You all be safe out there.
Spring is here, and none too soon. This has been a brutal winter all across the four-state region. Trudging through ice and snow in high winds and sub-zero temperatures, letter carriers found themselves working longer hours and experiencing extreme physical and mental exhaustion. You would drag yourselves home in the dark for a brief respite with friends and family before, somehow, summoning enough energy to report to work the following day where you were “greeted” with clipboards, numbers and dismissive attitudes. Rather than offer encouragement and express appreciation, supervisors added to the emotional stain by managing to make a difficult situation even more difficult. In the middle of the deep freeze, I asked a manager if she was instructing her subordinates to thank carriers for going above and beyond the call to provide service to their customers. Unbelievably, the question appears to confuse her. It was beyond the call to provide service to their customers.

And although management failed to acknowledge your efforts, accolades came rolling in from customers and columnists who had the good sense to recognize and appreciate you for continuing to perform your duties while they were having difficulty just digging out of their driveways. When I am in Washington, D.C. on my upcoming lobbying trip, I intend to ensure that our representatives understand the quality of your work and the importance of your contributions. It will be the perfect segue to convince Congress to take the necessary steps to preserve the Postal Service and protect the jobs, wages and benefits of the workers who so faithfully serve the American public.

The winter weather also brought a spotlight to bear on the serious understaffing issues we face. It further exacerbated the contractual violations, particularly mandatory overtime, that are driven by the lack of complement. Unfortunately, after a brief break over the next month or so, we will be heading into prime time vacation scheduling. I have no doubt that understaffing will rear its ugly head again at that time. It will fuel the daily confrontations on the workroom floor over workload, pivoting and mandatory overtime. In recent and upcoming training sessions for stewards and local officers, we have been concentrating on preparing them to handle overtime and staffing grievances. We have also been focusing on harassment and Joint Statement violations. All too often, management has been taking the low road in response to USPS’ financial woes. Rather than cut some of our unnecessary overhead and trim unproductive fat from the budget (in other words, themselves), management prefers the tactic of trying to squeeze more work out of the most productive employees on the rolls (letter carriers). In their zeal to pinch pennies, they waste thousands to settle their contractual violations. This is not good business, and it is not appropriate behavior either. Knowledge is power. The education that we provide to the field will, ultimately, pay dividends in the quality of the representation provided to the membership and the completeness of the grievance files developed to enforce the National Agreement and protect letter carriers’ rights.

Lately, I find myself cringing every time the postmaster general releases an issue statement. It all started with his directive to the field describing collective-bargaining agreements as “our bond with our employees.” He detailed the importance of abiding by them and exhorted his managers to respect and protect the provisions of those agreements. Shortly thereafter, all hell broke loose on the grievance front. Management declared open season on the National Agreement, and we have been engaged in trench warfare ever since. Now, he has presented a ‘plan for the future’ to save the Postal Service, one which involves eliminating 6-day delivery, creating more “workforce flexibility” and restructuring wages and benefits. The last two are, obviously, directed at us. And, so is the first one, since it will ultimately result in the demise of the Postal Service. Unlike the PMG, I do not have two big-time consulting firms advising me on how to develop a strategy for “success.” Truth be told, I would rather rely on good old fashioned common sense anyway. And common sense tells me that raising revenue is not accomplished by cutting service. Unfortunately, during my 37 years in this company, I have not found that common sense often prevails. So, once again, NALC will have to take the lead in charting a legitimate strategy for putting the Postal Service back on a sound financial footing. It will not be easy; but I believe we are up to the task. In the coming months, we will lay out our approach and notify the membership as to how we can help each other accomplish this goal.

On another note, the annual NALC Food Drive is scheduled for Saturday, May 8. The recession has hit families very hard over the last year, and the need to fill the food banks across the country has never been greater. This is a chance for us to offer assistance to those less fortunate and to provide an additional service in the communities where we work. Please participate in this worthwhile undertaking, and help make life a little better, especially for the children who, too often, go to bed hungry. This is one way we can all help give them a feeling of hope for the future.
The audacity of corporate America, including the top executives in the Postal Service, boggles the mind. Following the government tax payer funded bailouts, Wall Street had the nerve not only to resume their dangerous and ill- advised business practices of hedge fund betting and risk management ventures, but they thought nothing of giving out obscene bonuses to its top executives. While America suffers in the throws of the worst recession since the Crash of 1929, the “Fat Cats” on Wall Street wallow at the trough of greed. This brings me to the U.S. Postal Service.

In last month’s *Mound City Carrier*, V. P. Barry Linan pointed out that while the Postal Service lost $2.8 billion in 2008, the top executives, including the postmaster general, wallowed in their own corpulence by awarding themselves over $1,142,000 in pay-for-performance bonuses. How can anyone have the audacity to steal that much money for services rendered when you managed the company into a deficit of $2.8 billion. And that was for the year 2008. What did they give themselves in 2009?

Now PMG Potter has the chutzpah to appear before Congress with his manifesto, “Ensuring a Viable Postal Service for America,” in which he outlines how we, the employees of the Postal Service, are going to have to sacrifice in order for the service to survive. Among our sacrifices: 5-day delivery, outsourcing craft jobs, reductions in pay and benefits, and a part-time workforce. Nothing in his proposal mentions the elimination of managerial positions or the sacrifice of bonus pay for running the company into the ground.

Potter’s got to go along with all his cronies in Washington who think that feeding at the trough of greed is somehow owed to them. We need someone who’s an advocate for the Postal Service. Someone who has a business sense about them and the initiative and vision to persevere through these economically challenging times.

Here are a few suggestions for starters: Let’s partner up with Starbucks and put a barista in the lobby of the post office. Starbucks could save millions on real estate costs, we charge them rent with a caveat to get $2.00 for every 98-cent cup of coffee they sell for $9.00. Offering the public a relaxed environment would make the postal experience less hurried and more inviting. Second, go to the second class publishers to put kiosks in the lobby, while we sell the latest edition of *Time* or *Newsweek* we also try to sell the public a yearly subscription at a reduced rate with the Postal Service getting a percentage of the subscription plus the revenue to deliver the publication.

While the public is enjoying a cup of coffee, reading a magazine and waiting in line, let’s go in partnership with Amazon where the public could order a book online through us. We get a percentage of the sale and exclusive rights through our Priority Mail boxes to deliver the books. Hell, there are a thousand and one ways to generate revenue. All we need is someone with brains to implement them.

If we’re going to survive, we need people who can think outside the box. We don’t need entrenched Neanderthals who look out for their own personal interest at the expense of the workforce. We need to sweep them out in Washington, and go with a fresh start. Our jobs … our livelihoods depend on it.
Meeting called to order by Chairman Jim McNeil at 12:47 p.m. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance led by Chaplain Brother Gus Frank. Jim thanked Divas, Raisch, Thompson, and Selby for lunch. Next month is Tom Greer. October is Rich Rhynerer.

Treasurer’s Report: Jim Kluempers reported a balance of $602.35. WW II veterans can still go on the Honor Flight trips.

New Members: Dennis Flanigan and Bud Frick from St. Clair

Branch 343 Report: President Bill Lister talked about “zero” bundles and the B team ruling that the post office must put pick-up times back on the chutes and boxes. Bill will meet the new P.M. on March 5, 2010. Bill talked about Potter’s 5-day delivery scheme and all the lies Potter told.

Chairman’s Report: We’re going to have to contact our congress persons and senators. No COLA. The Retiree of the Year Committee will meet after the meeting. We will only pay 50 percent of our state taxes next year.

The 50/50 of $22.50 was won by Vic Keitel. Closing prayer by Gus Frank. Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.
Greetings from Stalag 14. I’ve always been confused by the management concocted concept known as “undertime.” With this wondrous tool, your carrier supervisor suddenly becomes The Amazing Kreskin, Carnac the Magnificent, and Harry Houdini all rolled into one. The supervisor is transformed into a savant, able to simply gaze at a computer monitor and tell you, right down to the minute, how long it will take you to deliver your route on any given day. Armed with this astounding ability, the supervisor is then equipped to dole out time on other routes to the flummoxed carrier to make up for the “shortfall” on the carrier’s route that day.

Never mind that the carrier is not on the overtime list. Never mind that the carrier is unable to leave for the street as early as would be needed to complete his or her route, plus the “undertime,” in timely fashion. Never mind that the “undertime” which the carrier receives is on a route which is across town from the carrier’s route. Never mind that the “undertime” is not cased and pulled down when the carrier is ready to leave for the street. Never mind that the carrier has to locate the parcels and accountables for the route to which he/she is given “undertime.” Never mind the weather conditions. Never mind the fact that the “undertime” is often on a route that the carrier is totally unfamiliar with, and never mind conditions on the carrier’s own route that day — excessive accountables, DPS, drive-off parcels, and the like.

Never mind any of that! It simply doesn’t matter. Your carrier supervisor is God. This amazing human being has looked into the future and determined with unerring accuracy that you have 48 minutes of “undertime” that day. And there is absolutely nothing you can do about it.

Well, actually, that last sentence is not correct. There is something you can do about it. You see, the carrier determines how long it will take to do his or her route that day, plus the “undertime.”

Yes, you read that correctly! The carrier, by virtue of being the person who is actually doing the work on that day, will determine how long it will take to do that work. You determine this by how you go about your job. Are you going to turn management’s “undertime” forecast into a self-fulfilling prophecy? Are you going to skip or shorten your breaks, skip or shorten your lunch, postpone bathroom stops to the point of extreme discomfort, and race about in haphazard and unsafe fashion as if taking part in a Chinese fire drill?

In other words, are you going to absorb time in order to make your manager look good? That decision is very much yours, not management’s, to make.

Please keep in mind that the concepts of “undertime” and absorption go hand in hand. Normally, you can’t have one without the other. And keep this in mind as well: When you choose to absorb time, you are assisting management in its ultimate objective, which is to take your job away from you as you know it.

Do your job in a safe and professional manner at all times. And don’t be afraid to stand up for your route, your job, and to the bullies who run your station. Do these things with a clear conscience and the peace of mind that comes from knowing, in your heart as well as your mind, that you are doing the right thing.
MOUND CITY CARRIER

WEST COUNTY ... BY PAM STEPNEY

Greeting sisters and brothers of Branch 343. How’s everyone doing out there? Fine, I hope. What happened to our old United States Post Office? When did we stop being the Postal Service? I’d like to take a jab at figuring out where we went wrong.

Problem. No. 1: There are too many people at the top with too many titles that do not match their job description. For example every time we get a new postmaster, they all come with a new pet peeve (i.e. scans bar codes, delivery confirmation, office times, street times, scan red plum valassis (aka) advos bars scan to let them know you delivered your advos). Well, aren’t those things already part of our jobs anyway? And once they get the numbers they want on their pet peeves, they get a promotion and move to a different state to harass new workers who already know their jobs as well.

No. 2: Salaries are off the chart for some of these titles and jobs that don’t exist (managing people who already know their jobs). To top it off, they don’t even work eight hours per day and lately they hide them in stations and branches in an office with nothing to do for the whole day. Would a privately owned company allow this? Heck no.

No. 3: They never downsize them or give anything back, yet at the end of each week they want us to do under-time to pay for that big salary that does nothing.

No. 4: They are running our customers away by instructing the window clerks to tell the customer to go to Quick Trip or wherever to purchase stamps. Why not offer stamps by mail? Isn’t that our business?

No. 5: (Five-Day delivery) We are the only company in the world that delivers to each and every resident on a 6-day rotation. I see nothing wrong with that. We are covered from any other company coming in to steal a day to go door-to-door for a cheaper work force until the economy turns around, plus the customer loves the letter carrier. Maybe this new postmaster will make some of these issues her pet peeve and correct them.

Also on a sidebar, thank goodness for a little economic boost received from the mailing out of the census packages. This generated millions of dollars of revenue in postage for the Postal Service that did not go to one of our competitors. Please take the time and send these back and also encourage your family members, friends and neighbors to do the same.

Moving on, the Letter Carrier Food Drive is fast approaching. Are we ready to help the needy? I’m sure we are. So, remember to bring your family in to help with the packing, sorting, unloading of postal vehicles, the barbecuing, the T-shirts and most of all the joy and the fun of helping others.

John Haake Scholarships: Congratulations to the five winners. Go out and make us proud because you earned it.

Don’t forget to sign up today to become an e-Activist at www.branch343.org or go to www.nalc.com and take time to give to the Political Action Fund to help you and our great union save your job.

In closing, remember to do your best, leave the rest, don’t stress, GOD bless and thank you for coming.

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60 YEARS OF MCC — REPRINT FROM SEPT. 1961

INFIELD
W. G. Anderson

Since I've just returned from a 21-day vacation (15 days plus Saturdays and Sundays), I cannot be too sure of what has taken place around the old home plate. Also, I'm not in a particularly epic-mood, and this column will just have to fill a small space.

About my vacation: I did get a bit farther than last year. A friend and I went power-boating on the river in the vicinity of Elsberry.

Others who have been are now on vacation: Frank Engel, who went over into Illinois; Woodrow Shelton, Harold Hutchings, John Kettler and Ervin Schmittzehe, who, also, recently joined the ranks of the dog-bitten.

We all feel especially sympathetic with Mathis Paradise, who, some weeks ago suffered the loss of his mother, now is in Normandy Hospital. We wish him a quick and complete recovery and hope he will return to us as soon as possible.

One of my old time acquaintances, from the days at old Cass, Leon Henley, has now taken over on 883. This is the route Floyd Spain just retired from. Seems we are getting old. Not you, fellows!


Subs come and subs go, and we regret to say we have lost Robert Haskin to Nagel and Harold Turner to Hannegan. However, we still have Nicholas Druzek, who is to be congratulated on his new N.A.L.C. membership.

We understand some of our non-member friends have enjoyed nice vacations, but details concerning these cannot be disclosed.

BACK THE NIMS PROGRAM
NINE

GRAVOIS NEWS
by Walt Gemmer

On August 13, our athletes participated in their first event since that infamous day two years ago when our bowlers were convincingly defeated by our neighbors on Meramee Street. However, after a 17-12 victory over Jim Cassaday's Central Station Softball team, we are looking ahead to more challenges with confidence (slow pitch). The game was much closer than the scores would indicate. A batting Central team tied the score at 10-10 in the last of the ninth, but a three-run double by Charley Ries climaxsed a seven-run Gravois rally in the first of the tenth. "Rocky" Sadowiecke drove in five runs with two hits and a sacrifice fly; Joe Mueckl had a home run and a double, batting in four runs, and Tom Julius had a perfect four-for-four day and was voted Most Valuable Player. The cup (bucket) that was to be presented for MVP was given instead to Mel Casarower, who will undoubtedly put it to much better use than Tom would have.

With another school year just around the corner, vacations have begun to taper off somewhat. We are happy to welcome back Cliffy Griffin, our custodial engineer, after a much deserved rest and Supt. Tony Kreft is due to return in a few days from his three week vacation which we all hope has been most enjoyable.

Thanks to the nimble typing fingers of my wife Joan, Gravois Station sent about forty letters to Missouri Senators and Congressmen asking for their support of our nation. We should know by the time this issue is published whether or not we have had any success. If not, you can be sure Gravois will be ready the next time there is a call for action.

We were very interested and impressed with the progress that is being made at our building. You owe it to yourself to attend the branch meeting now more than ever, because every time we vote an appropriation of money for improvements or repairs on the building, we are spending your money. If you attend the meetings you can air your opinions on how your money should be spent. Besides, the Branch wants and needs your opinions and ideas on these matters. See you at the September meeting.

FOR CLAIM FORMS OR INFORMATION ON NALC HOSPITALIZATION
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Parkview 5-9104
SMALL INVESTMENT YIELDS A LIFETIME OF SUCCESS
20 YEARS AND COUNTING – THE JOHN H. HAAKE SCHOLARSHIPS

For the last 20 years, Branch 343 has acknowledged the success of the sons and daughters of letter carriers through the vision of former Branch 343 President John Haake in the establishment of the John H. Haake Scholarship program in 1990.

As the old adage goes, “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day … Teach a man to fish and you feed him for life.” It would be presumptuous for anyone to conclude that a $1,000 scholarship could, in any way, be solely responsible for the success of any student. But, it’s not a stretch to see that any financial contributions towards a student’s education help that student attain his or her goals.

Throughout the rest of 2010 the Mound City Carrier will be profiling the accomplishments of our past winners of the John H. Haake Scholarship. We hope the financial support of the membership of Branch 343 through the vision of our past president will bring us all great pride.

TAMI CARTER BLASI - 1992

Following graduation from Cor Jesu Academy, Tami Carter a 1992 winner of the John H. Haake Scholarship attended St Louis University. Tami is the daughter of George and Linda Carter. George was a letter carrier at the former Lemay Station now Coyle. Tami graduated after three years with a bachelor of arts degree in biology. She was immediately accepted in the accelerated nursing program, also at St. Louis University. After one intense year of study, Tami graduated with a bachelor of science degree in nursing.

Tami began her nursing career in Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, where she decided to specialize in pediatric oncology. After many more hours of study and tests, she became a certified pediatric oncology nurse (CPON).

Tami met and married the love of her life, Peter Blasi. Following his graduation from the John Marshall School of Law (Chicago) the couple moved back to St. Louis where Tami accepted a position in the oncology department at Cardinal Glennon Children’s Memorial Medical Center. Peter is currently a partner in the law firm of Roth Evans P.C. with offices in Granite City and St. Louis.

Tami and Peter have three beautiful children (and one on the way). She is currently working for Washington University at St. Louis Children’s Hospital in the Oncology Clinic. In addition to her many rolls as wife, nurse and mother Tami has found time in her hectic schedule to also serve as the Daisy Girl Scout leader for a troop of 22 girls.

Pictured (L to R) Tami, Peter, Maggie (2) on Mom’s lap, Marie (6) and Andrew (3)
JENNINGS JIVE ... BY CHET DRAIN

I hope that when I wake up in the next life, I don’t find myself still working for the post office, ’cause working here now sometimes sure seems like I’ve already died and gone to hell.

I’ve been trying for months now to come up with something positive to write about, but there is so much negativity, so much crap going on, there’s not much good to say. It’s amazing the consistent effort management puts forth to make life miserable for us carriers. Do you ever feel that way? The atmosphere in the P.O. is so tense these days that a paycheck every two weeks is the only positive thing you can talk about, unless maybe you are on vacation next week.

I could go on and on about stuff that happens from day-to-day: The asinine mandates, procedures that constantly change, and the ridiculous managerial decisions we are forced to put up with. You all know them too well. Take example, last month’s gas card fiasco. Last month, when management suddenly decided to change all the gas cards, no one from management had the foresight to have the vehicles filled prior to making the transition to the new cards. Four trucks ran out of gas, which cost more time and money. The solution was to borrow two gas cards from Ferguson Br. for only one day mind you, to gas everyone up. We literally had a convoy of postal vehicles headed to the gas pump only to find out the cards were only good for $75. We could go on and on and on.

Last month, we all got the news that Postmaster Cavinder was leaving for another post. The March edition of the Gateway District City News contained pictures showing the big going away gathering that was held downtown with all the managers attending. Boy! That looked like more fun than a barrel of monkeys!

Now enter new Postmaster Nancy Fryrear. Scuttle-butt has it that Fryrear has come in with stern intent to make the Gateway more uniform and more adherent to policy. Already, carriers have had to make a clean sweep of their cases. Personal items and photos were pulled down and put away as we all prepare for a more uniform, more regimented image. Of course we did a lot of belly-aching about removing the personal items from our cases, but in actuality, it has always been postal policy that personal items had to be placed in your locker before you entered the workroom. Yeah, it’s knit-picking, and couldn’t hurt to have something around to boost morale these days, but we can’t buck long-standing policies already established in the M-41.

Lastly, if you think the things we say about working for the P.O. aren’t serious, listen to this. I walked in Lisa’s Chop Suey here in Jennings one day to order lunch. One rather attractive woman was already sitting there waiting for her order, holding a cane and wearing dark shades. From the way she looked, I thought she might be blind. After ordering, I stood near the door to wait for my food. When they called her number, the woman got up, limped her way to the counter and started for the door where I was standing with her two companions. Out of the blue, she suddenly stopped and looked me in the face and said, “You see? The post office did this to me!” Then she clumsily made her way on out the door. I stood there stupefied. You see brothers and sisters, this job ain’t no joke. We face more peril in the performance of our duties than management even seems to be cognizant of. Take your time! Be careful! Don’t let that lady’s fate be yours. If you get seriously hurt, the post office is not going to make things easy for you. Too many people can attest to that ... trust me.

We send get-well wishes out to Priscilla Bailey. Congratulations to Sollie Welch on the acquisition of much sought after Rt. 36047. Welcome to my big brother in faith “Cool Hand” Louis Clarke, and sincere condolences to Ivy Harris on the loss of her husband.

GOD BLESS ALL AND PEACE!
One of the most gratifying days of our job is almost here, May 8 is our union’s annual Food Drive to help those less fortunate. Nationally, we will surpass the one billion mark in pounds collected. The Food Drive is a perfect example of how important this job is to the communities that we serve on a daily basis. If we can all just find any way to do just a little bit more; it would mean plenty to those less fortunate. We are very fortunate to have the job that we have with the pay and benefits. There are many families hurting this year; we have the opportunity to make a huge difference. Here at Clayton we have collected 20 times the amount of food collected 10 years ago. I am positive that the 63117 carriers are going to step up to the plate to replace the Ladue carriers. We use many ideas to keep raising our totals. Throughout the nation, the one method that shows considerable success is the use of bags.

I have found some quotes that directly relate to the Food Drive.

“You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.”

Kahlil Gibran

“Challenges make you discover things about yourself that you never really knew.”

Cicely Tyson

“When you are through trying to improve, you are through,”

Vince Lombardi

“The time is always right to do what is right.”

Martin Luther King

“If you judge people, you have no time to love them.”

Mother Teresa

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life but what we give.”

Winston Churchill

In closing, I would like to throw out some congratulations to two Clayton retirees. Recently, Tom Beaver was inducted into Bishop Dubourg High School’s Hall of Fame; Mister Soccer extraordinaire. John Jeffries recently retired after a very, very, very, very long career. John was the number one carrier in our area for many years; way to go, John, you deserve to enjoy yourself.

“FIRST CALL”
2nd ANNUAL BRANCH 343
MDA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
Sunday, May 30, 2010
Location TBA
8 teams maximum
Free throw and 3-point contest
Please contact Terrance Pastchal or Paul Pitts
at Jennings Branch (314 867-6302)
to set your team rosters and contest members.
Final deadline is May 15, 2010
At the last union meeting, we went over the plan the Postal Service has in store for us. If you would like to read it for yourself, your shop steward has a copy. The coming months are going to tell the tale, so to speak. The union will need every postal worker and their families to pitch in and contact their representatives. We all need to be strong. I had a lot of faith in Customer Connect. I thought it would help us. However, when they took the carrier out of the picture downtown, they lost me. The leads we have given to the head of Customer Connect have not been contacted to my knowledge. This is really a slap in the face to all carriers who put in leads. Your customer may become excited about saving money using the Postal Service and no one calls them. Wow, way to drop the ball. The last time they were at Maryville I had a carrier say, “Hey, the last time you were here I gave you a lead and no one called the customer.” The lead still has not been followed up even though the Customer Connect representative said they would.

I really am not surprised. It seems management is doing everything they can to break the Postal Service. There has been advertising about Click-N-Ship on TV, but I still have a customer who is waiting for his boxes to be delivered so he can use them. It just goes on and on. Did you read Bill Lister’s article in the newspaper? It was a good article. Thanks Bill, for all you do, but I guess I am preaching to the choir once again. We need to take seriously what Bill stated in his article.

I hope everyone helps out with the Food Drive this year. It really is just around the corner. People in our area could really use the food due to the current economy. Let’s hope it gets better. Be safe.
We had four people honored last month. Each one has worked for the USPS for more than 40 years. They are carriers Mark Hazen, Ron Boden, Cecil Harris, and clerk Clara M. Jones. Forty years is a remarkable achievement by incredible people.

Management honored them with a short ceremony and a certificate, but I have a feeling that getting honored by their fellow workers might mean more to them. To each of them on behalf of everyone at our station, I offer our congratulations, deep appreciation, and well wishes for their future.

At a recent meeting, management let us know that at another station a postal inspector saw an employee entering his post office through the front door, and we must all be sure to enter the building through the rear doors only. My question is: did the postal office really pay the inspector to come up with this? Perhaps — just perhaps — this individual could find out why the plant is still sending out mail days after the required delivery dates. With the postmaster pushing for delivering all letters every day, wouldn’t delivering dated mail on time also be a priority? But of course this would mean looking into management doing their job at the plant.
Greetings from the Pointe. There are two Postal Services. Management’s version encompasses things like: MSP scans, PFC scores, DOIS percent to standard, base time, linear count, COR, re-color coding curtailed/delayed mail, hiding hot case mail, changing clock rings … etc. … you get the picture. The letter carrier’s version entails things like: delivering the mail on time, delivering the mail accurately, not getting hurt, being treated fairly, not doing things that are counter-productive, taking care of our customers … etc. … you get the picture. One thing is apparent. What motivates us is completely different than what motivates management. They are driven by numbers while carriers are driven by service.

Case in point: Many months ago I noticed some undelivered mail on a route I had thrown and set up for a TE to deliver coming from another station the prior day. I brought it to the attention of the supervisor. Upon arriving at the case, he looked at the mail and said with a touch of relief, “That explains why the MSP scan was missed.” Without missing a beat, he continued his rounds and just said it’ll go out with the other mail today.

In a recent arbitration case I did, management had changed some business deliveries from door to door to an NDCBU. Incredible, huh? That’s what I thought. It gets better. After hearing testimony from one of those businesses about how much they were inconvenienced and that they had begun using FedEx now, their advocate very pompously stated that the customer was of no concern to the carrier. He belittled the minor inconvenience to the customer and said that the USPS can’t respond to every problem a customer may have. My jaw just dropped. I looked at my assistant and she couldn’t believe the cavalier manner in which he just summarily dismissed the customer’s claim.

Management has their own incentive driven reality. It is similar to the people on Wall Street. They don’t have a clue. Just like the big shots on Wall Street, the USPS is still doling out bonuses even though we have record-breaking losses which now warrants 5-day a week delivery. Get this, the postmasters are up in arms that their bonuses were arbitrarily reduced in 2009 and they are appealing.

Lastly, the USPS recently hired some consultants who have been credited with helping put together a campaign advertising Priority Mail flat-rate box services that helped increase revenue by 5 percent to almost $1.3 billion in the last quarter of 2009, arranging to sell greeting cards in post offices, reorganizing the division’s sales staff (who knew there was one) and launching an effort to overhaul the USPS Web site. I don’t know about you, but I think the “if it fits, it ships” ads are very effective and these other ideas sound good as well. The only problem with success is that the USPS does not like spending money on outside firms, when the post office already has someone being paid $90,000+ in house to do this job. Outsourcing doesn’t sound so smart, when it’s your ox that’s getting gored.

This is the dis-connect between management and the carriers I hope is exposed over the next six months. The USPS has until Sept. 2010 to convince Congress to go to 5-day a week delivery. I have faith in our national officers to get out in front of this issue. Our own president, Bill Lister, sent the first shot across the bow with an OP-ED letter to the St. Louis Post Dispatch last month in response to PM Potter. I fully expect every carrier to do their part as well. For all of you OT hogs, there will be no 8-hr. OT on your SDO if we go to 5-day delivery. This affects every single member of this union. Ask your shop steward what you can do to help.

Keep all or our fighting men and women overseas in your thoughts and prayers. Until next month, do your job safely and accurately. We don’t write the rules; we just have to play the game.

A.H.
40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1970 POSTAL STRIKE

On March 18, 1970, Local 36 of New York City’s National Association of Letter Carriers began a wildcat strike protesting low pay and poor job advancement. Postal workers in more than 30 cities joined the strike, crippling businesses nationwide. President Richard Nixon tried using the National Guard to process mail in New York City before negotiating with workers to end the strike almost two weeks after it began.

Reprint From the Smithsonian NPM

In March of 1970, 1,800 letter carriers from St. Louis Branch 343 gathered at the old Kiel Opera House. While the wildcat strike ended in New York the previous week, a vote was taken to withhold services should the post office renege on its promises. The vote was 562 yes votes and 374 noes.

In the minutes of the March 1970 regular branch meeting it was recorded that brother Charles J. Coyle thought the results of the vote should be sent to NALC President James Rademacher immediately and that any branch officer who didn’t go along with President Rademacher on the withholding of services should vacate his office.

Above are four Br. 343 members who took that historic vote to withhold services. They are (L to R) Jim Kluempers, Tom Harman, Ray Breakfield and former Br. 343 President John H. Haake.
BRANCH 343 CARDINALS TICKETS

ON SALE 9 p.m.   APRIL 8, 2010

Immediately following Regular Branch Meeting

40 GAMES AVAILABLE
APRIL THRU OCTOBER
3 CUBS GAMES

GREAT SEATS
Sec. 249, Row 6, Seats 5 and 6
2nd Level Behind Home Plate

$100.00 for two seats, must be present and paid for on April 8
These same seats resold by the Cardinals would be up to $140.00 for premium games.

Branch 343 split season tickets for over 20 years. When our previous partner decided
to give up their half of the season, we thought it would be a good opportunity to offer
those great seats to you, the membership. The branch’s 41 games are raffled off as atten-
dance prizes at the regular branch meetings.
The remaining 40 games will be sold to the members. Just show up by 9 p.m. on April 8
after the regular branch meeting and enter the drawing. Order of choice will be by
lottery and limited to two games. Any games left after the first round will be available
in the same order for an additional two games. Payment by check, money order or cash
must be tendered on April 8.

Only one set of Cubs tickets per pick of two games.
REDBIRD CLUB SEATS, SECTION 249, ROW 6, SEATS 5 and 6
No sales before April 8, 2010, at 9 p.m.

AVAILABLE GAMES AND DATES VS. OPPONENT

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>APRIL</th>
<th>MAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 HOU</td>
<td>1 CIN</td>
<td>2 CIN</td>
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<tr>
<td>16, 18 NY</td>
<td>11, 13 HOU</td>
<td>5, 6 MIL</td>
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<tr>
<td>27, 29 ATL</td>
<td>18 WSH</td>
<td>15 SEA</td>
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<td></td>
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<th>JULY</th>
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<td>1, 3 MIL</td>
<td>1 PIT</td>
<td>3, 5 CIN</td>
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<tr>
<td>15, 17 LAD</td>
<td>3 HOU</td>
<td>14 CHI</td>
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<tr>
<td>19, 21 PHI</td>
<td>13, 14 CHI</td>
<td>16, 18 SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 PIT</td>
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<td>21 SF</td>
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<th>OCTOBER</th>
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40 GAMES A V A I L A B L E
APRIL THRU OCTOBER
3 CUBS GAMES

REDBIRD CLUB SEATS, SECTION 249, ROW 6, SEATS 5 and 6
No sales before April 8, 2010, at 9 p.m.

Postmaster General John Potter announced Tuesday, that the Postal Service will lose billions of dollars over the next decade. I would like to say a few things about what he didn’t say. Mr. Potter failed to inform the public that while he predicted a decline in mail volume, he also spent billions on automation equipment to handle volume that he predicted would be gone. Volume actually spiked upward during that time and only declined after Postal Reorganization in 2006. Reorg. itself accounted for much of that decline, but the drastic drop in volume over the last two years was due to the economy and not the Internet as Mr. Potter stated.

Potter also did not mention the raises he and other top officials received after arguing to Congress that they are under paid. And what about those pay for performance bonuses that all managers receive, while the service is hemorrhaging money. Nothing was said of the letter carriers union partnering with the service to right-size routes to the drop in volume, by adding deliveries to each carrier and eliminating thousands of routes across the country.

Mr. Potter suggested that the service needed assistance on pre-funding retirees’ health benefits, but did not mention the over funding of annuities by 75 billion dollars, an amount that would resolve the pre-funding issue with about 40 billion dollars leftover. The 7 billion dollars projected to be lost this year included 4 billion dollars of the pre-funding requirement.

We cannot continue to lose 3 billion dollars a year, however, if Potter concentrated on gaining new business and using Saturday delivery as an asset, then perhaps we could attain new growth income. Mr. Potter’s strategy appears to be an attempt to scare Congress and the public into allowing him to dismantle the service, break the unions and become a subsidiary of our competitors. Mr. Potter should follow the lead of our first PMG, Ben Franklin who’s mission was to deliver the nations mail to every citizen, everywhere in this country at a break even rate. So let’s be clear about two things, the Internet is not solely responsible for the service’s present financial condition and especially, that going to five day delivery will not fix it.

William M. Lister, Pres. NALC, Br. 343 St. Louis, MO
### Summary of Branch Action

- **MSC** To pay the Branch Bills
- **MSC** That the Branch purchase, a 10 game plan, Blues tickets for the 2010 season for attendance prizes.

### New Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Branch</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthony S. Axton</td>
<td>TE-Des Peres</td>
<td>03/05/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Carter</td>
<td>TE-Gravois</td>
<td>03/05/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa L. Clemons</td>
<td>TE-Kirkwood</td>
<td>03/05/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sabrina R. Crenshaw</td>
<td>TE-Maryville Gardens</td>
<td>03/05/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew S. Dobos</td>
<td>TE-Maryville Gardens</td>
<td>02/25/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce A. Faddis</td>
<td>TE-South County</td>
<td>02/25/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JeBryant J. Hudson</td>
<td>TE-Mackenzie Pointe</td>
<td>02/25/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott A. Jansen</td>
<td>TE-Gravois</td>
<td>03/05/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leigh A. McDonnell</td>
<td>TE-South County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valerie A. Pennington</td>
<td>TE-Maryville Gardens</td>
<td>03/05/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kendra R. Phillips</td>
<td>Sikeston</td>
<td>02/02/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marcia B. Stewart</td>
<td>TE-Creve Coeur</td>
<td>03/05/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leodis Tucker</td>
<td>TE-Kirkwood</td>
<td>03/05/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keith Wyatt Jr.</td>
<td>TE-Mackenzie Pointe</td>
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### Recently Retired Members

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beverly J. Cowling</td>
<td>01/15/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mae F. Helm</td>
<td>02/19/10</td>
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### Deceased Members

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David A. Cullen</td>
<td>02/16/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regis F. Forester</td>
<td>11/18/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert M. Frederick Jr.</td>
<td>03/28/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert P. Hagen</td>
<td>03/09/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George W. Lindle</td>
<td>02/22/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonard G. Shepard</td>
<td>03/03/10</td>
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### Highlights

NBA Mike Weir stated that the two most important issues in the five business plans are allowing more flexibility to the workforce and the issue of 5-day delivery. National will be fighting the five plans in Washington. Brother Art Buck talked about Congress using the reconciliation rule with Heath Care Reform. Brother Ray Breakfield announced that Ole Timers’ Day will be May 1, 2010 at the Hall. Five winners will be announced, stated by Sister Pam Stepney, of the Haake Scholarship award at the next regular branch meeting. Executive VP Nicki Prado announced the Branch will be staying at the Double Tree Hotel at the National Convention. VP Barry Linan stated that the carrier bids are on the branch Web site and be cautioned that they close on Sunday. President William Lister stated that two issues, from the new postmaster’s agenda, will be watched and addressed are the 5 o’clock window and drafting of non-ODL employees.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth W. Johnson, Recording Secretary

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Attend Your Union Meetings
The above honor roll gives special recognition to those members who give $50 or more. Each star represents $100.

IS YOUR NAME LISTED? WHY NOT?
SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE TO BRANCH 343, P.A.C.
TOM HARMAN 2225 BLENDON PL. ST. LOUIS, MO 63143

(Donations are not tax deductible)

EDITOR’S NOTES … BY RAY BREAKIFELD

There’s something sinister going on. No company in the history of the United States has had its CEO and managers enthusiastically strive to put their company out of business and put themselves out of a job. It doesn’t make sense to me. Does it to you? They can’t all be that intimidated or stupid. Somebody somewhere has to see the handwriting on the wall and say, “Wait a minute, I’m going to be out on the street just like everybody else when this company folds up.” Even PMG Potter has to see that another company will see his resume and say, “I’m not hiring that guy! He already ran one of the best companies in the United States into the ground. I’ve even heard he did it on purpose. Tell him he’s overqualified and burn that application.”

Don’t we all wish we could look into Potter’s head and see what’s going on? Somebody with a lot of money and/or a lot of power is feeding him a line of bull and he’s swallowing it in big hunks. I’d never believe that he’s been bought. I wouldn’t believe he has big money in offshore accounts. There have to be insiders somewhere rubbing their hands together in anticipation of getting a big piece of the mail delivering business. Something is going on that will hurt all Americans. Something sinister.
Deadline for articles for the MAY issue is APRIL 12, 2010

REGULAR BRANCH MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2010
7:30 pm

SHOP STEWARD MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2010
The Letter Carriers Building
1600 S Broadway