

THIS SPECIAL ISSUE IS AN IRREVERENT LOOK AT LIFE AT THE POST OFFICE, BY LETTER CARRIERS

## USPS and NALC Sign Landmark Agreement! Non - Union carriers must negotiate their own labor agreement with Management

After years of using the excuse “the union is useless, they never did anything for me!” to justify not paying their fair share in union membership dues, these SCABS will now get to prove it. In a historic agreement between the USPS and the NALC, NON MEMBERS (SCABS) will no longer be covered by the NALC Contract that provides decent pay and benefits to city letter carriers. Instead, these SCABS must accept whatever the USPS feels is fair. SCABS will no longer be covered by any Federal healthcare plan, will have no defined pension plan, no annual leave or sick leave and will no longer have the ability

to contribute to any TSP account. Unless of course they can get their boss to take the necessary costs of providing these benefits from the retail window till without anyone in the Western Area finding out. The USPS is excited about this new agreement and are projecting to save billions in labor and benefit costs.

This new agreement, referred to as “GETTING WHAT YOU PAY FOR” improved morale among NALC members as a large weight has been taken off their backs.

*Story by Norma Rae Desmond*



## Seeking Faster Street Times - Postal Service Awards Contract to Toyota

*Story by: Harry C. Zech  
page 18*

## North Minneapolis Boy Sees Santa Claus USPS Investigate Fraud

*By: T. Eller Truth*

On December 24<sup>th</sup> at about 6PM a young boy in North Minneapolis ran to the window. As he pressed his face to the window, he saw an older, highly over weight man with a white beard, a satchel over his shoulder and wearing a red and white stocking cap approaching his house. He screamed in excitement “*Its Santa Claus!*”

When asked to comment on mail carriers being out delivering mail after dark in a high crime area, a spokesman stated. “*We are very concerned about the possibility that someone might have been impersonating a letter carrier.*” He then went on to say that he could not comment, on the record, any further about an ongoing investigation. He did note that early information has caused serious concerns. It seems that Santa Claus has a number of aliases and seems to always have an alibi. He did say the investigation has been stymied by the fact that there have been no “*Santa sightings*” since December 24<sup>th</sup>.

*Continued on page 7*

## Supervisor Breaks Down After Carrier misses Performance Goals.

*Carrier promises to try harder next holiday*

Supervisor, Elizabeth Wetsy just couldn't keep the tears from falling when Carrier Smith missed the five o'clock window. "I just couldn't believe it! He used to be such a good carrier. I would ask him to carry an extra split and he would not only do it, but get back early. What happened on Martin Luther King Day...I just don't know."

Carrier Smith didn't have much of an explanation either. "Gee, management let us start at the normal time so we could get plenty of sleep! So, I know I was well rested. MIARAP had just adjusted the routes so obviously everything was okay there." He could only shake his head in disbelief.

The steward thought that maybe Smith was being a little hard on himself. "The city was recovering from a snow storm and the streets were a bit icy. Usually the ice and snow don't slow him down one bit. He just plows right through the mess. Management doesn't seem to mind the occasional mailbox down; as long as he doesn't hit anyone. So far, his record on that is pretty good."

"I knew I had let Betsy down, that morning. I told her that maybe the 15 trays of DPS might take me past five o'clock. Her lower lip quivered a bit, so I promised to really try. She wiped a tear and I felt inspired to make it." Smith said that he shortened his lunch and only took one break, but still he missed that window of opportunity. "I could just kick myself. Did I really need that break? I have asked myself that

a million times."

All is well, though. Supervisor Betsy has accepted Smith's apology and his promise to do better on the next holiday. It won't take long for him to redeem himself because President's Day is coming in February. "I'm ready!" Smith beamed. "My plan right now is to sneak in a bit early and start work before I clock in. The supervisors don't seem to mind that, so why not make Betsy Wetsy proud!"

**Submitted by: Carry More**

## Supervisor's Attend Dale Carnegie Institute.

Seeking to soften the barbaric attitude of managers, Northwoods Manager, Sid Vicious has ordered station managers to attend a local Dale Carnegie Institute class. During the eight hour class, participants are required to *role play* while Institute staff evaluate and make recommendations on how to improve their communication skills with employees without sounding abusive and condescending. Sid Vicious says that this will improve the "Big Picture" that he envisions for the Northwoods District

**Reported by: F. Lintstone**

### Northwoods District Job Posting

**Position:** Supervisor/Manager

**Qualifications:** Lack of compassion, understanding, math skills, contractual knowledge. Lack of respect for women, differing cultures, differing views and people older than you.

\* Is carrying mail too difficult?

\* Do you like to bully people?

\* Do you like to yell and be yelled at?

\* Do you like to use catch phrases like:

*"Pull and Go; Get out by 9; It's coming from downtown, Denied- Needs of the service; DOIS says; Pivot; or Be safe but hurry."*

**If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you can become Management, and be able to say "yes" to all of them**

**No Experience or Training Required**

**Caution:** Those with people skills need not apply.

**Submitted by: The Fonz**

## District Manager and Postmaster Hold News Conference

### *“All We Need Is Love”*

Local postal reporters, including this writer, were treated to a wide-ranging news conference held yesterday in Minneapolis by the Postmaster Lucy Van Pelt and District Manager, Sid Vicious. Actually, the District Manager himself was not present. “He had a last minute appointment,” an aide confirmed. “But he will be here shortly.”

Postmaster Lucy opened by reiterating her commitment to her employees and her managers. “We are very proud of the commitment of our employees. We may have some temporary problems and issues, but plan to address them aggressively.”

Asked about the rumors of low morale among the work force, she could just shake her head. “There may be some malcontents, but the level of service we provide shows the dedication of the vast majority of our workers. As for the discontented, we will soon introduce some motivating symbolism for their benefit.” As those amassed tried to make sense out of that last sentence, the Postmaster pressed on. “Well, sometimes the old methods work best. We had thought that perhaps each station could put up some stocks or a whipping post. Perhaps even a pillory for underachieving employees.”

Reporters, incredulous at this barbaric proposal, stopped scribbling and just stared. “What!” the Postmaster cried, “It’s

not like we intend to put up a stake or a gibbet in the parking lot. We just hope to remind all employees how fortunate they are to be working for us.”

One reporter postulated that perhaps abusive management might be counterproductive and causing part of the problem. “No,” she responded. “Look,” she continued. “After another couple rounds of MIARAP, clerks and carriers will be so few they’ll practically be one supervisor for every employee. Eventually, we will reach a point where the concept of someone walking around to every home in America to drop off mail will be obsolete.”

Asked if this would prove fatal to customer service, the Postmaster scoffed. “Puh-lease! We’re just gonna make them come downtown and pick stuff up. Like they did in Mayberry on that show. Or was it Hooterville? I forget.”

It was then that reporters saw the District Manager outside through a window. He’d apparently stopped to smell the roses on his way in. The press corps fled outside, leaving the Postmistress standing alone atop the dais.

The District Manager greeted the mob. “Welcome to you all, brothers and sisters. Isn’t this a beautiful day to be outside? And all of us together. Like a family. You know what we all could use? A little trust and love. Trust and love, brothers and sisters. Let’s focus on trust and love. Love for everybody. Love for the loftiest manager to

the lowliest TE, and everyone in between. Even that crazy woman over there screaming at us through that window.

Everyone turned and saw the Postmaster waving her arms frantically at them. “I remember!” She cried. “Petticoat Junction!”

**By Newt Greenfert, CSPS**

### Who Took the “S” Out of “USPS”?

Get out the black paint all you DMV workers. The Post Office has decided to remove the word “service” from “United States Postal Service” and from now on will be known only as “United States Postal.”

The word “service” was removed after it was deemed “superfluous” by Postal officials and “laughable” by postal patrons.

By going with the new moniker, USP, it is hoped that the general public will mistake the post offices for UPS offices thus increasing package revenue. Executives from the USP are also exploring the possibility of changing the color of the trucks and carrier uniforms from blue to “something more earth-toned. Not brown! But something like camel or beige color.”

It is hoped that in the confusion patrons will not even notice the thirty-cent rate increase proposed to cover back payments of executive bonuses.

Story by: I. B. Kluehlez

# Rest In Peace:

## *Postal Management succumbs to COR*

Postal Management collapsed during a route adjustment consultation last Wednesday and despite heroic efforts could not be revived. It had recently been suffering from Carrier Optimal Routing, a particularly debilitating strain of numberitis, but its death was unexpected. Management was 218. "We knew Management was hurting from COR," related one of many surprised postal employees, "but no one thought it was this bad."

Management's demise ends a long and mostly successful run at the helm of one of America's preeminent institutions as well as the world's most productive post office. Even during its recent decline, the Postal Service reigned as the country's most trustworthy government organization and won plaudits for on-time delivery and customer satisfaction. Over the past 40 years, postal employees enjoyed top-notch wages and benefits, secure pensions, pay equity, and legal rights to a non-discriminatory workplace even as the larger union movement weakened

Management had struggled through a previous case of numberitis in the 1990's brought on by the Daily Unit Volume Recording System. With hindsight, that infection seems to have irretrievably focused Management on the numbers rather than service.

"Some will say otherwise, but Management was never the same after DUVRS," suggested one supervisor. "It looked okay on

the outside, but internally it was suffering," she lamented.

Innovation was never Management's strong suit. With the Internet Age quickening the pace of change, Management increasingly seemed out of sync in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and desperately grasped for easy solutions to complex challenges. Nevertheless, through the 90's and the early years of this century Management functioned as the hub of a mailing industry that accounted for 9% of America's economic activity.

Ill health returned, however. Insiders point to DOIS, a newer strain of numberitis, as the real culprit in its final decline. Management became obsessed with that work measurement program which robbed stations and branches of the autonomy and good sense that had helped the organization weather previous challenges. Stress increased, irrationality flourished, and a fearful and debilitated Management was defenseless once stricken by COR.

"When the ridiculousness of COR became obvious, we sensed that Management had lost the will to keep on," opined a long-time letter carrier. "I mean, handing carriers route maps that had them circling blocks instead of looping them, putting large apartments at the end of splits, directing trucks up one way streets...it was sad. We tried to intervene, but we just couldn't get through."

One union leader suggested the timing might have been a good

thing after all. "Could you imagine how Management would have suffered from automating flats? Maybe now we can find a better way forward for customers and employees alike."

Management is survived by approximately 550,000 craft employees, the American public, and thousands of post offices nationwide.

**G.R. Imreaper  
Purgatory Station**

## A For-profit Post Office?

### Safety Talk #38

Manager: "We want you to walk carefully on the sidewalks, and walk with Dr. Scholl's shoe inserts. Remember, if your feet hurt, try Dr. Scholl's. Because it's cold outside, make sure you're wearing your gloves. This part of the safety talk has been brought to you by Isotoner gloves. Your hands will feel great if you wear Isotoner gloves. If you're on a mounted route, make sure you check both ways at intersections and drive within the speed limit. This driving tip is brought to you by Michelin Tires. When you drive, make sure you drive on Michelin's for safety. That's all for the safety talk today which has been brought to you by Johnson & Johnson and Exedrin.

*Submitted by: M.O. Neyman*

## Inspectors Don't Blink Twice At New Study

by: Julius Ignatious Mallous

At the Typaa Station, a study was done to eliminate time wasting practices. The results have been reported with huge savings for the United States Postal Service. We interviewed Tom Tirkee, the Station Manager to learn about an amazing time saving discovery. "I noticed the the carriers were blinking about 17 times a minute which is 4 above the average. I know they were blinking on purpose. The Union Steward jumped in and tried to claim in was just too dusty in here. I know that was a wild defense since we just had the office cleaned 11 months earlier." "We found rampant blinking going on throughout the station."

"I knew there had to be a way of saving a huge amount of time since each blink takes about .37 seconds. If I could just save one or two blinks per carrier per minute multiplied by 220, 000 carriers, I could save the Postal Service a lot of money and get a big check from the E- Ideas Progam. Everybody knows you can't work with your eyes closed being a carrier anyways."

"I talked to the Opthamoligy Department at our Local University. I told them my problem and they developed an eye drop that deadens the pain from burning eyes. Even though I knew there was no burning eye syndrome in our office, maybe there would be a placebo effect that would make the carriers believe the eye drops were working."

The eye drops worked. The carriers eyes were not feeling any pain

## Postmaster General Testifies before Congress: "Six Day Delivery Must Stay!"



Speaking before the Senate Subcommittee on Postal Affairs, Mr. Potter demanded that letter carriers continue delivering the nations mail six days a week. Calling carriers the "Lifeblood of America and an essential part of society", Potter says the current financial crisis will pass and make the Postal Service stronger.

With the recommendation of the accounting firm of *Dewey, Cheetum, and Howe*, Mr Potter is instituting an austerity program, by cutting the *per diem* for EAS-24 and above managers. Moving expenses will not be paid, and the Post Office no longer buy homes when top managers are transferred. All bonuses are out nationwide, and all managers will be required to use scanners to track their daily movements so as to keep their lunches to 30 minutes.

With all of the austerity programs in place, the Postal Service will save 5 billion dollars per year. Potter also said that these programs will be terminated once we're past the current crisis because "we need to have these perks to retain our professional staffing needs."

due from any false claims of dust in the air. Carriers blink 37% less and productivity has been calculated to show an increase by 2.96 minutes of eyes open work for each carrier working an 8 hour day.

"The savings calculation came very easy to me. I simply took 2.96 minutes per carriers times 60 minutes, times 8 hours, times 220,000 carriers in the nation. That came out to \$ 16,931,000. With a 12% overtime rate the savings I single handedly made for the Postal Service is well over \$19,240,000. In the windy and dusty regions of Texas and Arizona, the savings will

be even higher."

Mr Tirkee will receive an E- Idea check for the amount of 10% of the savings the ingenious idea submitted. The first monthly check for the rest of his life comes out to \$160,000. Money well spent.

District Manager Sid Vicious, has created a new team to take these findings to the Nation. The new team name is **Blinking Under Management Scrutiny ( BUMS )**.

With this new team, we will be in the black by December 20th, 2012.

## BAIRD'S CONTRACT REPORTEDLY SETTLED

by Star Zinski, CSPS  
Newswire

Protracted negotiations over the contract of veteran star letter carrier Bobby Baird have resulted in a contract settlement, according to sources close to the negotiations.

According to sources close to the negotiations, Mr. Baird's agent and Postmaster Lucy Van Pelt agreed to extend his current contract through the 2012 Fiscal Year.

"We felt that as an organization, we had to have Bobby to base our service offerings around," said the Postmaster. "Mr. Baird is, after all, to us what Joe Mauer is to the Twins, and what Brett Favre is to the Vikings. He is our star, our Most Valuable Carrier, the one we go to when the chips are down and the fur is flying."

"Besides," she quipped, "I LOVE that mustache."

Terms were not disclosed, but reportedly about \$2.3 million per year.

### *Santa Claus Continued from page 1*

He did want the public to be assured that the USPS is actively investigating this incident and expect a break soon. When asked how soon he expected to have this incident resolved. He said that they were expecting a break around Easter.

## Postmaster Ahab To Disassemble Flat Sorting Machines - Will Ship To Lourdes, France

Those mammoth flat sorters, the Post Office's newest billion-dollar headache, are headed to Lourdes France, in the hopes that by dipping the mechanisms into the holy font they will finally work properly. Two such machines in the Phoenix area have been shut down and appear to suffer the same malady as DPS, problems that worry Postal executives.

"We have explored many options on how to fix these guys. I think we've finally hit on a winner!" A spokesperson for Ahab said in a seemingly prepared statement.

This decision comes just weeks after the Postmaster's office hired Tito Ponzi (no relation) a self-proclaimed "mail-whisperer" for an undisclosed fee thought to be in the six-figure range to come and try his voodoo on the unruly sorters. After a grueling five-minute session, Ponzi threw his hands in the air and declared "What can I do? These big, stupid things won't listen to me! Go ahead! Ignore me you big piece of Postal drek! What do I care? I got paid!"

After a last minute attempt to rent the flat sorters out as floats for the Tournament of Roses Parade. Ahab's people decided to turn to the holy river in France in hopes of a miracle.

Moby J. Dick will oversee the shipment and the immersion of the machines. He was chosen because he was the only member of Ahab's team who had seen the film "The Song of Bernadette" about the first miracle of Lourdes, and because

he had recently eaten in a French restaurant

"Sure it's gonna cost a bundle to send these things overseas. But, hey! If this works we look like freakin' apostles!" Dick was heard to comment. "We just gotta hope that the big guy upstairs is with us."

Ahab has suggested that all management add this endeavor to their daily list of prayers. Prayer has become the most practiced managerial staple in most installations, replacing intimidation and waterboarding. If this works. Ahab has hinted that he will start sending his staff to Lourdes for spa weekends.

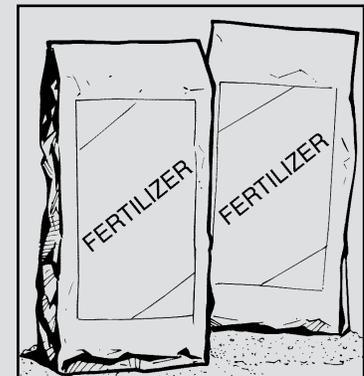
**Story by: Aldo Ripley**

# FOR SALE

Fourth Floor  
Main Post Office

**manufactured daily**

If you believe them, it's free



# USPS Goes "Green"

The USPS is excited that carriers are coming forward with creative solutions to reduce gas consumption and safe time while delivering mail.

While hesitating to be too specific, management referred to a carrier who had come up with a creative use of her uniform allowance. When she was asked about it, she became excited. It's wonderful! I can save 10 minutes a day and cut the amount of gas I use. Why just think about it! If I save 10 minutes per day, that's an hour per week. That's four hours per month and at pay level that becomes \$100 monthly. Now times the total number of carriers in the city, state and nation! We can solve the USPS's deficit overnight!

She did comment that she would recommend sticking to the name brand of Depends as she has experienced some rash problems with the cheaper ones.

In a related story, Carrier, P. Steem Rhisi has been commended for his recycling of Gatorade bottles. He was reluctant to go in to details, but did observe that based on experience, he recommended always buying the bright colored flavors of Gatorade to prevent the potential problem of confusing bottles.

*Story by: T. Eller Truth*



*Why yes, I am the new 204-B. How'd you guess?*

## Post Office Solves Delivery After Dark Issues

Crediting a "Blue Ribbon" panel that has been studying the difficult issue of letter carriers having to deliver mail in the dark on snowy and icy streets, the USPS announced that they believe they have solved the problem.

Saying that may take a few weeks to implement, but they are confident that by about April 1<sup>st</sup> no letter carriers in the Minneapolis Area will be needing to deliver on icy covered sidewalks in the dark.

In a related story, Minneapolis management commends all letter carriers who collectively changed their clocks to Daylight Savings Time on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

*Submitted by: T. Eller Truth*

# NAPS

A group of postal employees who really don't want to work (at least not hard) now have an organization for representation, NAPS.

The "No Actual Professional Skills" association has been granted a charter and is up and sitting (as actually working is not allowed).

They are few requirements for membership, as the target pool includes those who don't like physical labor and love sarcastically telling others what to do. A strong applicant lacks any good communication skills, has a completely exaggerated opinion of work knowledge and is incapable of thinking independently. While experience with teleprompters is not required, the ability to recite talking points verbatim is preferred.

In its infancy as an organization, NAPS members are understandably allowed to cry whenever they want and often do.

*Submitted by: Norma Rae Desmond*



The Branch Nine Scallion is a satirical publication of NALC Branch 9, and is published in the interest of and for the members of NALC Branch 9. The Branch Nine Scallion uses invented names in all its stories, except in cases when public figures are being satirized. Any other use of real names is accidental, coincidental and no harm is intended..



**Managing Editor:**  
**Yur N. Trouble**



**First Guest Writer:**  
**Plead D. Fifth**



**Editor:**  
**O. Oh**



**Scribe:**  
**K. N. Otguilty**



**Artist:**  
**S. Cribbler**



**Second Guest Writer:**  
**Eye M. Outofhere**

*Jerome J. Keating Branch Branch Nine, NALC  
2408 Central Ave. NE Minneapolis, MN 55418  
Phone: (612) 781-9858 Fax: (612) 781-9849*

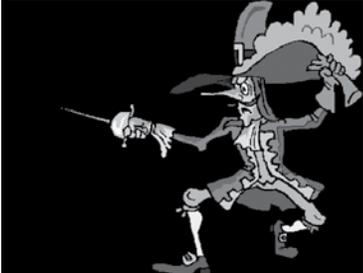
Branch Nine Scallion  
 2408 Central Avenue NE  
 Minneapolis, MN 55418-3712

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 MINNEAPOLIS  
 MINNESOTA  
 PERMIT NO. 1964



# The Postal World Through Another's Eyes

What Management Sees	In Reality
 <p>#1 Where Managers get their DOIS numbers</p>	 <p>#1 Where they REALLY get their numbers!</p>
 <p>#3 How Manager administer the daily scheduling</p>  <p>#4 How some Managers rule their offices</p>	 <p>#3 How they REALLY administer day to day</p>  <p>#4 How the REALLY rule their offices</p>

Contributed by: O. Opsidaisy



How L'Enfant Plaza Sees Themselves



How They REALLY Look To Letter Carriers