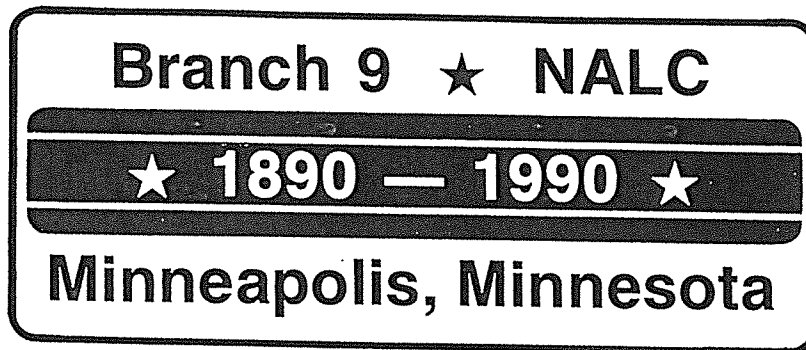


OUR FIRST 100 YEARS

PART II

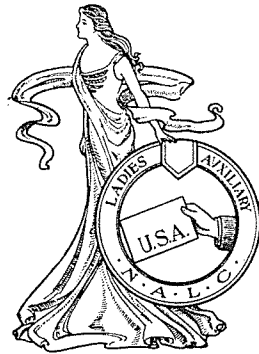


JEROME J. KEATING

BRANCH 9

LADIES AUXILIARY

National
Association



Letter
Carriers

To All Whom it May Concern:

We, the National Ladies Auxiliary, National Association of Letter Carriers, issue and proclaim this our

CHARTER

Mrs. Fred Burk

Mrs. F. H. Brimmers

Mrs. A. Williams

Mrs. H. Lee

Mrs. Miss. G. E. Cutler

Mrs. V. Shoness, Mrs. E. P. Clausen, Mrs. C. J. Johnson, Mrs. C. O. Miller, Mrs. E. Overholt,
Mrs. H. W. Young, Mrs. J. W. Kurfels, Mrs. Lydia E. Ryan, Mrs. Arthur Gavis, Mrs. W. J. Searey
Mrs. W. D. Harrigan, Mrs. C. M. Lindell, Mrs. C. J. Veener, Mrs. W. G. Simpson, Mrs. Thos. Love
Mrs. A. M. Roslund, Mrs. L. J. Woods, Mrs. W. G. Ware, Mrs. W. M. Down, Mrs. J. W. Dwyer
Mrs. Thos. W. Connor, Mrs. W. E. Sawyer, Mrs. B. P. Gay, Mrs. H. E. Bergstrom
Mrs. H. E. Ryan, Mrs. Anna G. Meyer, Sophie Starness, Maude Timmell,
Mrs. W. C. Huke, Mrs. A. S. Stimmell, Mrs. J. H. Ryburn, Mrs. E. A. Kitcherson, Mrs. C. Sumner
Mrs. P. L. Cummings, Mrs. A. J. Steffen, Mrs. L. E. Johnston, Mrs. H. J. Carroll,
Mrs. Wm. Baillargen, Mrs. J. R. Mulochill, Mrs. Hammer, Mrs. R. Andress,

AUTHORIZING

Mrs. G. Donnell,

Mrs. E. E. Trampton

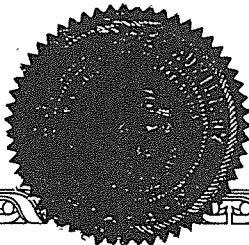
To form and institute an Auxiliary of the Letter Carriers Association to be known and hailed as Ladies Auxiliary No. 67 located in Minneapolis State of Minnesota under the government of, and holding true allegiance to, the National Ladies Auxiliary, N. A. L. C. And we do further authorize the above named members of said Auxiliary to make and admit members and exercise all other rights and privileges which by law or usage are vested in a Subordinate Auxiliary of the National Association of Letter Carriers.

PROVIDED ALWAYS, and it is hereby expressly enjoined, that said Auxiliary shall in all things observe and obey the Laws, Rules and Usages of the National Auxiliary of the Order, and conduct its work in full agreement throughout.

Given under our hands and the seal of the National Auxiliary this 8th day of October 1924

Mary R. Mc Cormick,
National President.

Attest:
Elizabeth Johnston,
National Secretary.





Mrs. Augusta Kimmell, 1st President of Auxiliary 67.

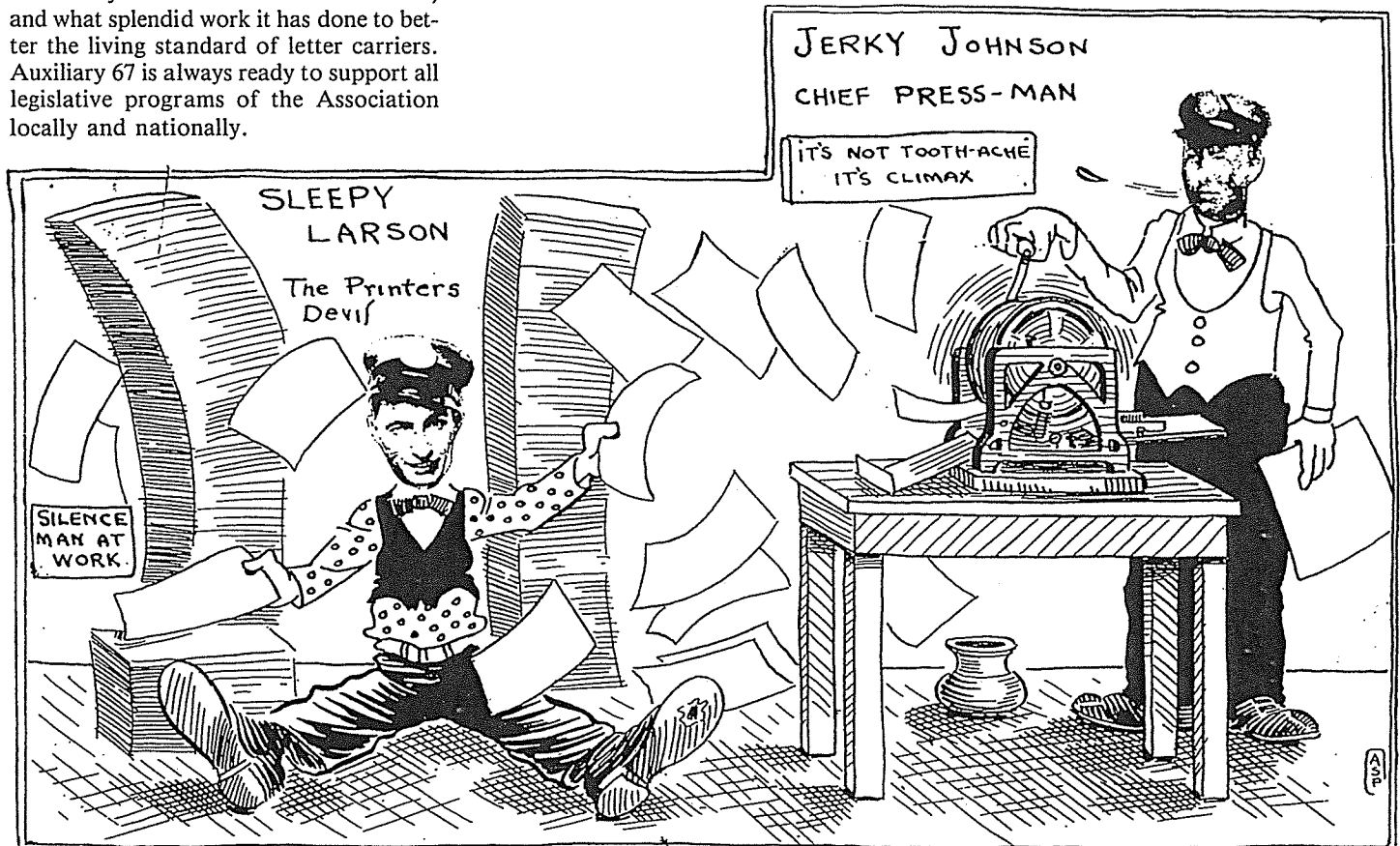
Hotel. We were proud to have our own Sister Augusta Kimmel elected to the National Executive Board and serve in this office until 1933.

Auxiliary 67 was hostess to the Minnesota State Auxiliary Convention held in Minneapolis in 1943, with Headquarters at the Nicollet Hotel. This same Hotel was our Headquarters for the National Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary in 1956.

Auxiliary means giving or furnishing aid, every wife of a letter carrier should know why the Association was formed, and what splendid work it has done to better the living standard of letter carriers. Auxiliary 67 is always ready to support all legislative programs of the Association locally and nationally.



Charter members of Auxiliary 67 in 1964: Elsie Engstrom, Mary Ann Harrigan, Cora Ryan, Edith Address, Amanda Williams, Irmagarde Kendall, Irene Connors.



27th ANNUAL CONVENTION, MINNEAPOLIS, AUGUST 26-31, 1929

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

C. O. Miller, Chairman
Edward G. Larson, Secretary
O. E. McKay, Treasurer

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

O. E. McKay, Chairman
H. R. Orbey F. S. Christesen
John Pool D. F. Moore
E. N. Muther E. P. Clausen
W. F. Seavey F. M. Siemers

FLOOR COMMITTEE

L. H. HENNEMAN, Chairman
A. J. E. Moberg E. O. Lindgren
W. A. Williams E. L. Overholt
Arthur Mosty Carl Norlin
Otto Nelson C. E. Lindgren
Ed. Saliterman Frank J. Miller
T. V. D. Shannon

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

JEROME J. KEATING, Chairman
W. C. Muhly C. R. Wilkinson
George Medvec Grant Robertson
R. C. Swenson L. N. Berry

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

LEON O. TURNER, Chairman
W. G. Ware A. M. Rosand
J. W. Dwyer B. Roy Gay
E. H. Keating N. S. Hubbard
A. S. Kimmel

HOTEL AND RECEPTION COMMITTEE

J. J. WALKER, Chairman
L. I. Lobdell J. A. Patz
F. O. Asplund J. F. Stevens
Sam A. Swanson E. M. Fassett
L. G. Anderson E. A. Girard
A. B. Sand W. E. Dwyer
P. L. Cummings Tom Gavic
A. A. Swadberg H. W. Young

BAND COMMITTEE

T. J. KOKES, Chairman
T. W. Connors F. G. Nylin
Wm. A. Kreitlow E. W. Peterson
Frank Lawrence C. A. Peterson
C. E. Lewis Arthur Gavic
M. G. Simpson A. W. Broderick
F. V. Falink

The National Association of Letter Carriers held their 27th Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 26-31, 1929.

Between August 30, 1889 and August 30, 1929, the N.A.L.C. had grown into a 57,000 member organization. At that time we had 2,900 branches throughout the country, and 40 state associations had been organized to provide a means for common counsel to reinforce the efforts of our National organization in Washington, D.C.

The 27th N.A.L.C. Convention was opened at 7:35 a.m. on Monday, August 26, 1929 at the Minneapolis Auditorium. There were an estimated 10,000 delegates and visitors in attendance.

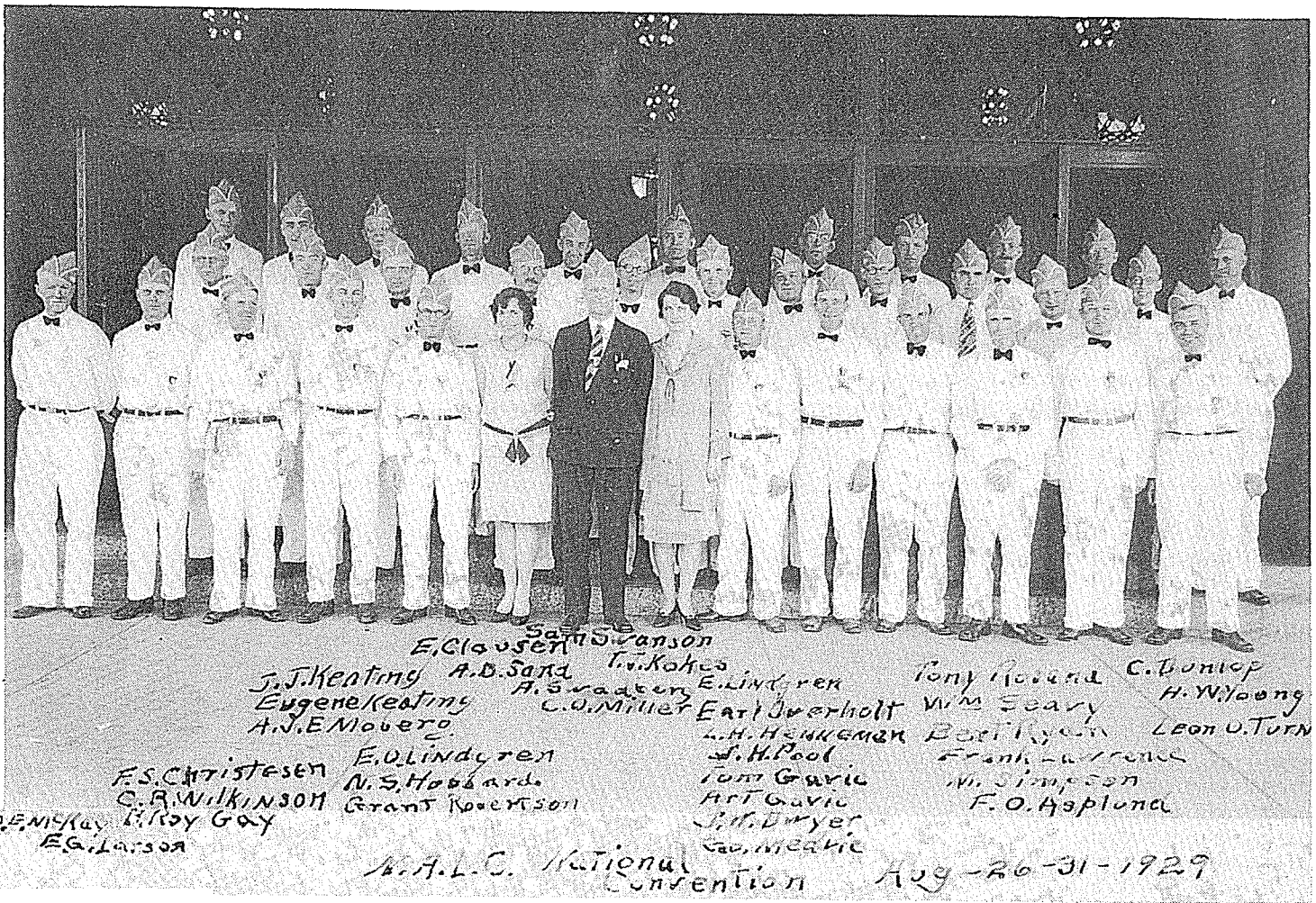
An invocation by Rev. John Dumphy of Ascension Church opened the business session on Monday morning. Major William F. Kunze of Minneapolis welcomed all the delegates to Minneapolis. The meeting formally opened when C.O. Miller,



1929 CONVENTION
DELEGATE BADGE



The cartoon above appeared in the Minneapolis Star August 27, 1929.



The 1929 Minneapolis Convention Committee, Jerome Keating is already active in Branch 9

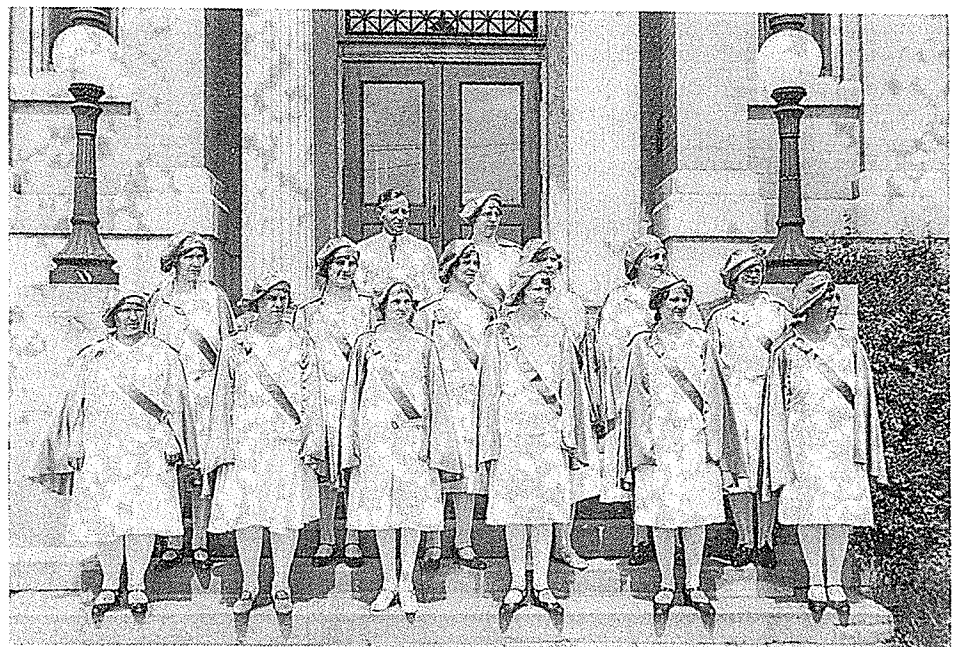
President of Branch 9, presented the gavel to President Edward J. Gainer, National President of the N.A.L.C. President Gainer complimented the Minneapolis carriers for the wonderful arrangements and accommodations of Minneapolis.

Over 2,300 resolutions, covering a wide range of subjects, and embracing all phases of letter carrier problems and problems of the organization were presented. Many were duplicates and very similar so the resolution committee categorized them and came up with 163 distinct resolutions to be considered. What follows are some examples of resolutions that were discussed.

Resolution No. 34 — Limit of Weight for Foot Carriers: Because many ailments are traced to carrying an excessive weight of mail, resolve that the present maximum of 50 lbs. mail should be lowered to 35 lbs.

Resolution No. 24 — Seniority: Some post offices are not recognizing seniority rights which is unjust to older men, especially those in good standing, with high ratings, and nothing against their records, resolve that national officers make every effort to secure a ruling that will compel a recognition of seniority rights.

The problems facing letter carriers haven't changed much in 61 years. A com-



The Auxiliary 67 Glee Club played a prominent part in the activities during the Minneapolis Convention in 1929. (1st Row) Irmagarde Kendall, Bertha Gavic, Anna Christeson, Myrtle Cross, Marie Baillargeon, Irene Connors. (2nd Row) Marie Harrigan, Juell Dwyer, Sadie Ambrose, Cora Henneman, Nellie Murphy, Rose Sholes. (3rd Row) Mr. Heineman, director; Sara Zarfos, accompanist.

mon problem has been and will always be vicious dogs — Resolution No. 35: Because many carriers are bitten by dogs, resolve that the N.A.L.C. go on record as favoring a law amending the United States statutes that when the owner of a vicious dog is reported by a letter carrier to the Post Office Department that the United States Attorney bring suit against said dog owner for harboring a menace to the people and obstructing the United States mail, and in the case of a letter carrier being bitten, to have the United States Attorney bring suit for damages and destroy the dog.

And then the right of letter carriers to fair and impartial route adjustments — Resolution No. 19 — Semi Annual Inspections: Resolve that we go on record as favoring semi-annual inspections rather than the current (and nerve racking) practice of counting and weighing for one week every quarter.

On Wednesday, August 28, 1929 at 3:00 p.m. sharp, the gigantic letter carrier parade began. Colonel Sweeney, Commander of Fort Snelling, as General Marshall, was escorted by 100 infantry troops, and the 3rd Infantry Band. There were over 10,000 letter carriers, visitors and delegates in line — most of them attired in distinctive costumes. For example, the delegates from Phoenix, AZ were dressed in cowboy regalia; Milwaukee delegates wore red hats and Oklahoma's band wore brilliant feather head dresses.

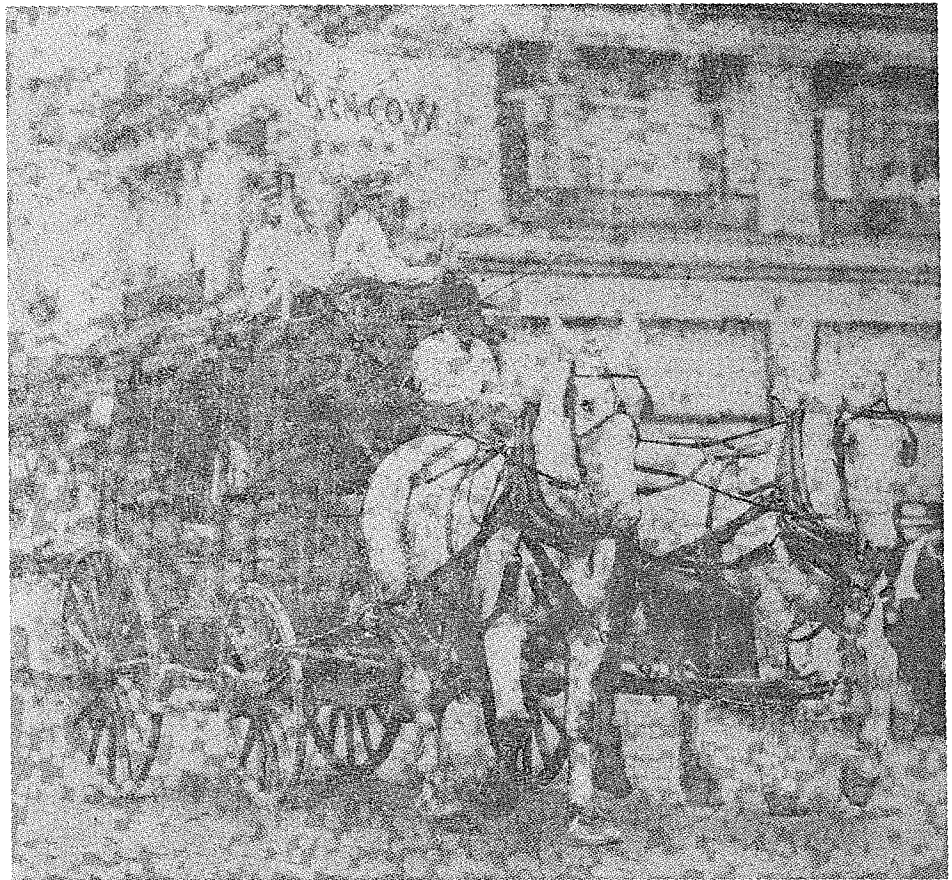
The progress in methods of mail transportation was graphically portrayed, starting with the courier of continental days, followed by pony express rider, then the old fashioned stage coach, the truck, the locomotive and finally the airplane.

The airplane was mounted upon an automobile float and was given the appearance of flying through the air. The airplane was equipped with beacon lights, landing lights, and had a regular pilot at the controls. The plane was regularly in the service of Northwest.

This parade was the largest parade ever staged in Minneapolis, and this convention was one of the largest craft conventions held in the world. The sessions produced many gains for letter carriers.

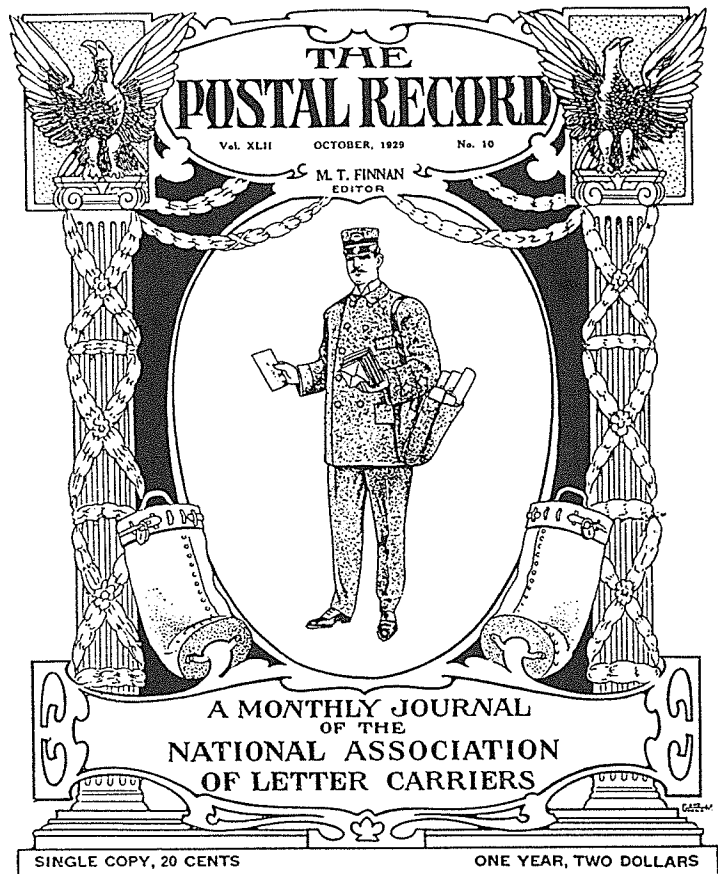
The delegates installed new union officers. E.J. Gainor of Muncie, Ind. was re-elected National N.A.L.C. President. Other officers installed included: J.S. Foley, Vice-President (Boston); M.T. Finnan, Secretary (Bloomington, Ind.), C.D. Duffy, Treasurer (Chicago).

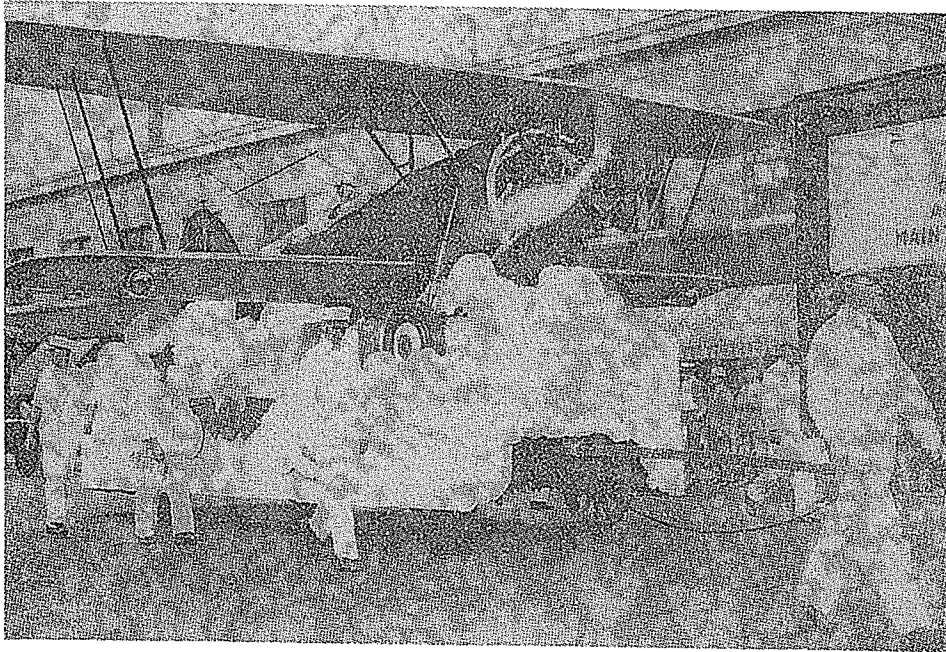
The National Association of Letter Carriers has developed and grown into a mighty force, protecting and serving its members throughout the country. The N.A.L.C. was performing a worthy service for its members, and for society as a whole.



Somewhere the mail carriers located a stage coach of the kind used to transport mail in pioneer days. The coach was part of the feature pageant of the convention parade, 1929.

MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION, AUGUST 26-31, 1929





The latest development in the progress and transportation of the mails, depicted in the parade pageant, was a mail plane mounted on a truck and in a cluster of "Clouds." Mail pilots and mechanics escorted the plane on its "flight" in the convention parade, 1929.

From the Minutes of the Branch Meeting October 1929

The October meeting of Branch 9 was called to order by President C. O. Miller at 8:30 p.m. The first order of business was a request by the Lords Day Alliance to speak before the members. A motion was made and carried that they be allowed 15 minutes. At the close of their remarks a raising vote was accorded the gentlemen.

Brother A. J. E. Moberg again brought up the problem of carriers working off the clock. This matter had been brought up before but the evil has not abated. The president suggested that some missionary work be done by the carriers and show these offenders the hardship they are placing on others by persisting in the practice.

Brother Asplund spoke of the Subs and Utility carriers using their cars to and from the route which cuts down the route time below that used by the regular carrier when traveling by street car.

Brother A. S. Kimmell moved that President C. O. Miller convey to the Ladies Auxiliary the greetings of this Branch on the occasion of their 5th Birthday. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.


3 CENT POSTAGE TOO HIGH

May 1932 Branch 9 News

According to the debate in the House of Representatives, it is only a matter of time before the 2 cent rate of postage is restored. Congressmen have been besieged by their constituents to repeal the law that raised rates to 3 cents. It was estimated that because of the new high rates the post office would lose \$52,000,000 in revenue because people wouldn't use the mails. Postmaster General Walter F. Brown in a speech stated that the new rates were not popular with the public and "The Postal Service should under no conditions be operated for profit. The entire postage revenues should be dedicated to the maintenance of the Service, and to such extensions and betterments as can be provided without adding to the tax burdens of the people . . . our prime objective should be now to go back to the 2-cent postage rate at the earliest possible moment. Postal facilities must always respond to the needs of our population."

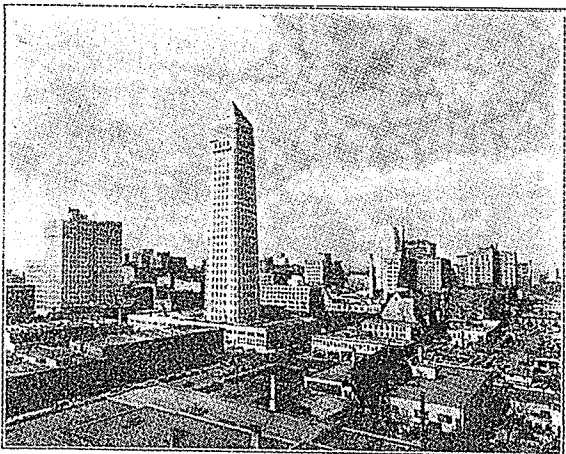
Twenty-Seventh Convention
Fortieth Anniversary

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of
LETTER CARRIERS**



Twelfth Biennial Convention

NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY



MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
AUGUST 26 to 31, 1929

1929 Convention Program.

Branch 9 ★ NALC

★ 1890 — 1990 ★

Minneapolis, Minnesota

THE POET LAUREATE AND EASY RIDER



EDDIE COUTURE

A long, long time ago . . . in a galaxy far far away . . . whoops wrong story. Way back when at the Minneapolis Post Office, Fred Strong received an appointment to the Post Office as a Substitute Letter Carrier, the year was 1928.

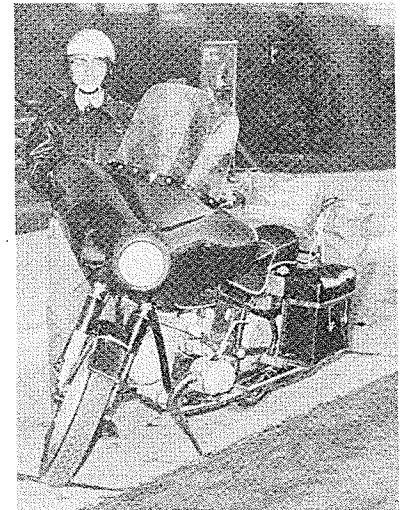
"I was the 419th Letter Carrier on the rolls, I know because I asked when I walked in the door. At that time the Minneapolis Post Office consisted of 11 stations and the Main Office. I spent seven years and three months before making regular. That was a long time with irregular work hours and sometimes no hours. Times were different, rules were different, as a sub you didn't know when you might make regular. There was a time during the depression when no sub made regular for **two years.**" The typical routine for a sub was to report to the Main Office at 6:00 a.m. every morning. They would have to wait around until about 9:00 to find out if there was any work. "That's where I learned how to play cribbage." If there was no work the subs many times would hang around together downtown sometimes in the clock tower. Many times the subs would report back around noon to see if there was some night collection work available. Subs were paid 65 cents an hour minus 3.5 percent which went towards their retirement. "We were paid twice a month. There were times when a paycheck for half a months wages would amount to one or two hours."

"I remember when I first started and had to purchase my uniform. You had to buy a summer coat, a winter coat, a pair of trousers, you usually bought 2 chambrays shirts at about 39 cents each, a bow tie, and shoes. The total cost for the uniforms was about \$35.00. As subs, most of us only had one uniform and although we

didn't stand the annual inspection that the regulars did, you could be sent home and told to get a new shirt or trousers.

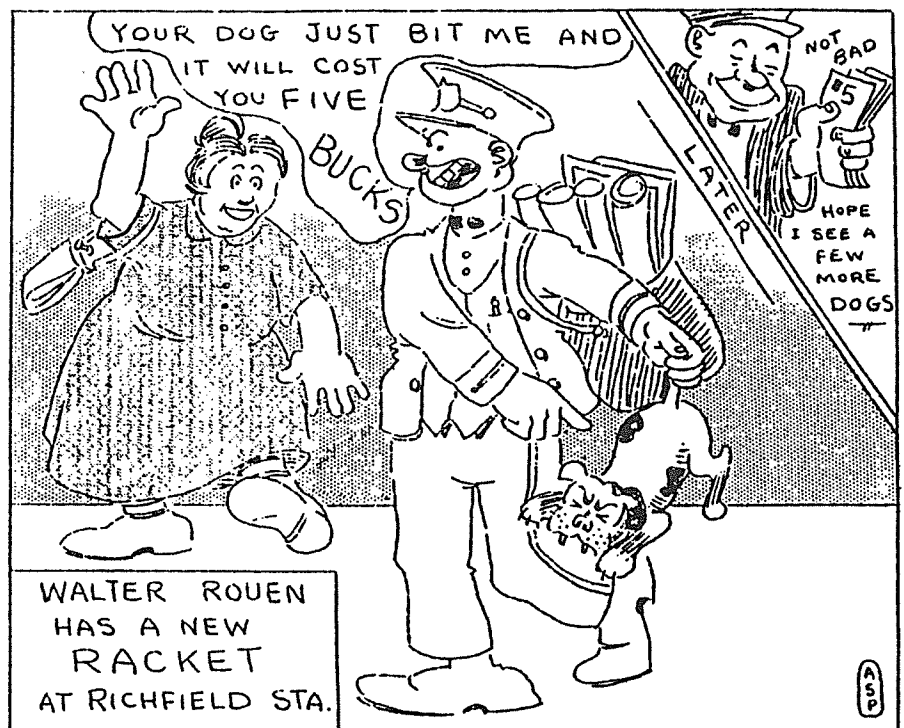
Things were definitely different back then. You might ask these subs why they would stick with the Post Office during those hard times. "It was a government job and it couldn't always be this bad. I used to work Special Delivery which would help keep some money coming in." If a sub wanted to work Special Delivery he would get on the list and everyday he would move up on the list. When it was his turn the sub would deliver Special Delivery Letters. Now in the 30's, it cost 10 cents to mail a special delivery letter. The carrier would get 9 cents for every letter delivered. The good special runs had the big hotels. You would get paid at the end of every month.

The way routes were set up and delivered was so much different in the 30's. Some business routes out of the downtown were **5 trip routes.** If you had one of those routes you would start at 6:00 a.m. and leave for the street at about 7:00 a.m. You would get back from your first trip about 8:15 and would work the Eastern Mail (the Eastern Mail was the mail that came in on the Chicago — Minnesota Train. It was the heaviest mail run in the country.) The second trip would go out at about 9:30 over the same territory as the first trip and return about 10:30. There would be one more short trip before lunch and two in the afternoon. On Mondays,



FREDDIE STRONG

if a sub was assigned to one of these routes and he was not familiar with the route, often one trip would be missed. Collection routes would start about 4:00 p.m. The night collectors would make about 4 trips in the downtown sections. "There were 8 collection routes, each route used what we call a Commerce Truck. When we finished the downtown part of the collection run we would change to the smaller Ford trucks. There were some special routes from time to time. The Post Office had a booth at the State Fair promoting "Air Mail Service." Fred was fortunate that for 3 years he delivered the mail to the State Fair. It was one hour there and back by



street car and admission was free.

The carriers as a group were a tight knit bunch. "We had picnics in the summer, Christmas parties, smokers, boat rides, salary rallies, we always had a good turnout for them. Linden Hills Station (2716 West 44th Street) had a picnic out at the Excelsior Amusement Park. Fred completed a six mile swim and a little while later heard a woman screaming about her little boy. Fred saw that the boy was in trouble and saved him from drowning. We didn't have a lot of money in the Branch treasury (dues for regulars were \$1.00 per month and the subs were paying 75 cents) but we tried to have as much entertainment for the carriers and their families as we could. We even had a banquet when the 40 hour bill was passed. That's when I made regular along with about 40 other subs on October 1, 1935. It was like the depression was over for me.

Freddie eventually fell prey to a common nemesis of all Letter Carriers, a dog, a Doberman Pinscher to be exact. "I finished my route after I was bit. When I returned to the station the Superintendent asked me if I put anything on it. I said, "No the dog liked it just the way it was."

During the war years, Fred joined the Navy in 1942 and spent his time in Idaho working at the, you guessed it, Military Post Office. When he was discharged he returned to his old route as did many returning Veterans. Freddie retired in 1965 and went on a cross country motorcycle trip to the West Coast and the Canadian Rockies. After he retired he went on to serve as the Branch 9 Retiree Liaison under 6 Branch Presidents.

When asked about the first convention



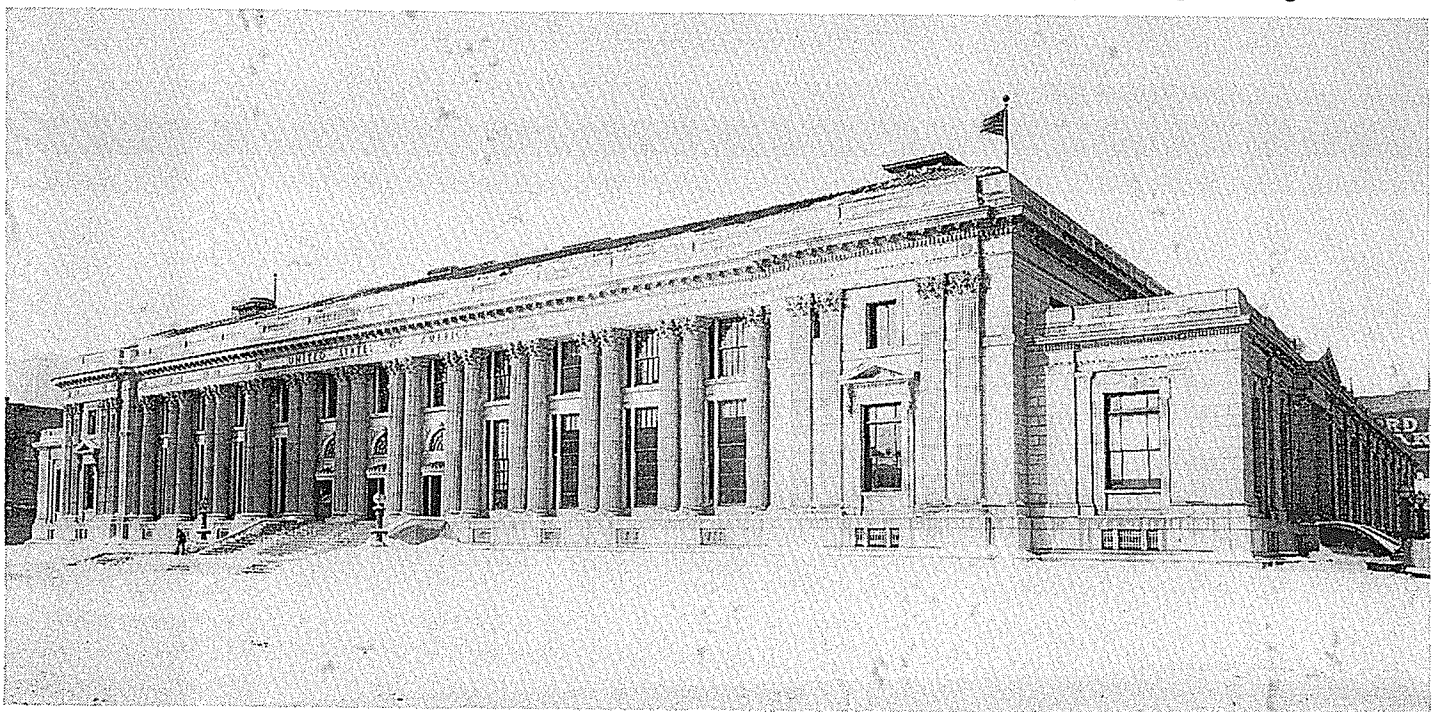
Delegates from Branch 9 and Auxiliary 67 at the Oakland Convention in 1931. (Jerry Keating in back row center)

he attended: "It was 1929 and the convention was in Minneapolis. I remember the parade went down Marquette Avenue. The Postmaster curtailed afternoon delivery so the letter carriers could march in the parade. We were stopped at about 4th and Marquette and I looked over at this other carrier. I said "You look new around here did you just start?" The other carrier said "Yeah." "I am Freddie Strong" I said. He said, "I am Eddie Couture". That's how the Post Laureate and Easy Rider first met.

Eddie Couture started at the Post Office in 1929. He was a former Railroad Fireman, and he too started as a substitute Letter Carrier at the Main Office on Washington Avenue and worked a long time before making regular. "We would

have to wait around sometimes for 5 hours just to see if we were going to work or not. We would wait in the swing room in the basement "The Dungeon", all the dirt and crap from the sidewalk and the stench from skid row would permeate the air. We would play cribbage to pass the time. We even put four of the swing room tables together and played ping-pong until the regulars would return for lunch. There we would sit in our long sleeve shirts and bow ties even in the summertime, waiting."

Eddie was a contributor to the Branch 9 News which started in 1932. "We bought a secondhand mimeograph machine to put out the paper. It was always breaking down so it was hard to keep a regular schedule. We had an office in the old Gateway Building." During "The Great



The Post Office from 1915 to 1933 at Washington and 3rd Avenue. Receipts for 1932 were \$5,704,951.76.

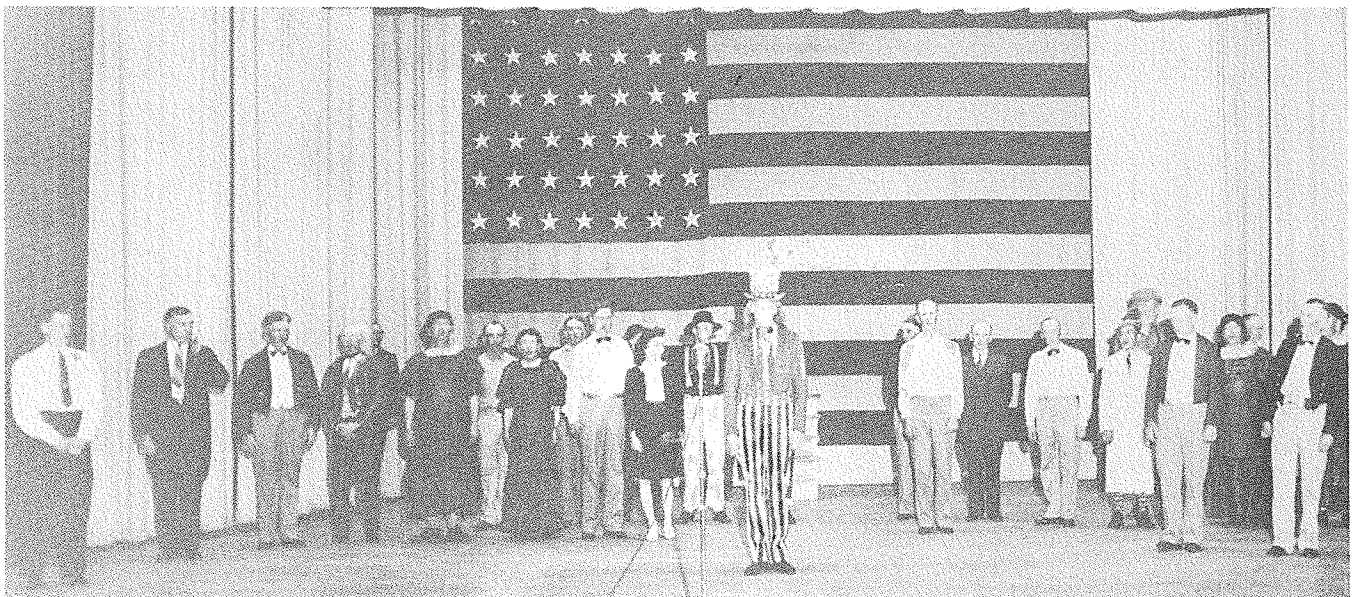
Depression” subs had their wages cut from 65 cents an hour to 51 cents. “Things were hard but we stuck together, there was a shortage of hours available to the subs and some of the guys were in trouble financially. Neither The Community Chest nor the United Fund would help because Letter Carriers were Federal Employees. We took care of our own. Regulars had a special assessment of 25 cents per pay day into the subs relief fund. Eugene Coulliard (Walt’s Dad) was in charge of the fund to help subs with food, coal, etc. Everyone pitched in to help, the Auxiliary would mend old uniforms and make clothes for other family members to give to the subs.”

The appeal was strong and direct after being passed unanimously at a Branch meeting the following appeared in the November 1933 Branch 9 News “There is no question that many of the substitutes will be in distress this winter, and in spite of the fact that many of the regulars are in financial straits they are not forced to take care of their families on checks totaling less than \$10.00 for fifteen days. A whole hearted response on the part of all the members of the Association will help to assist those in the greatest want; it will provide all the substitutes with protection in case of sickness. If you have ever experienced the feeling of being hungry and without adequate food! If you have faced the cold without fuel! If you have seen your children without shoes! Then you will know the extremities that some of the substitutes will face this winter if you do not respond to the appeal of the committee . . .” Ensuing Branch 9 News reports came in from the stations showing 100 percent commitment to the fund.

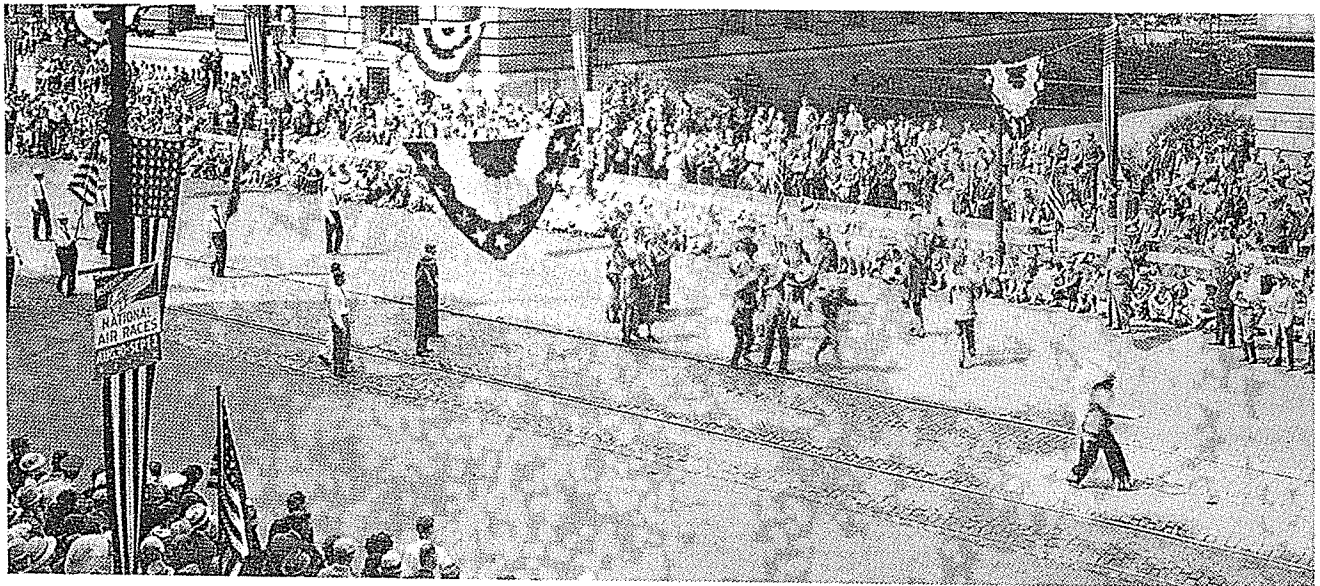
The subs were really getting beat up. The Post Office came up with other ways of fighting costs, there was the furlough program where the Post Office Depart-



1935 Letter Carriers Picnic.



Members of the Branch 9 Minstrel show put on at North High in 1930.



Minneapolis "Indian" delegates at the Cleveland Convention in 1935.

"... we (Jerry Keating, Art Bonk and Ed Couture) were on our way back from the 1935 convention in Cleveland, Ohio in Art Bonk's brand new Hupmobile when we had a flat tire. The spare tire was in such a fancy metal case that neither Jerry, Art or myself could figure out how to get it out. A highway patrolman finally came along and got it out for us."

Ed Couture

ment ordered the reduction of each regular's compensation by one day a month. "The regulars had their pay cut and received a pay-less furlough by cutting out Tuesday and Thursday delivery." This just about wiped out the subs. Everyone was trying to find work for the subs, even the Postmaster of Minneapolis with outside firms. Then the 40 hour bill was passed on October 1, 1935. "We threw a party at the Francis Drake Hotel." The effects of this bill were so far reaching that it was indeed a time of celebration.

"We didn't have much but we tried to do different things to get together, parties and the like. We put on a Minstrel show as a fundraiser. The first year 1,400 people were in the audience at Marshall High School. The comments of the Minneapolis Postmaster John Coan were followed to the letter, "Made one mistake, should've charged fifty cents and it should be an annual affair." So they did. "The second year of the Minstrel show we got Joseph Conrad from the Orpheum Theater to write and direct the show. We were billed as the Merry Mail Minstrels. We put the show on in the North High School Auditorium for two nights. Jerry Keating was the Interlocutor and Marion Keating played the piano for the rehearsals. It was a great show."

"During the war years it was hard to get enough guys to deliver the mail. We had

milkmen who after making their rounds would work for the Post Office pulling the night collections. Things were changing, four trip business routes were changed to three. Three trip residential routes were changed to two. There were still matters of pay cuts and bond drives but there was a war on. We had carriers quit and go work at big defense plants. There was overtime but who wanted to work it. (Overtime work was paid at a rate of 14 cents an hour less than straight time.)

In 1949 and 1950 Eddie was elected President of Branch 9 (Audie Carlson was the Vice President). "There were five big events that occurred during my tenure as Branch President."

1. The Legislative Rally for HR 87 in 1949. This bill would have given veterans a cash bonus for serving in the military. Congress passed it and President Truman vetoed it.

2. The changes in the street car agreement for the Letter Carriers. This guy named Green bought the Minneapolis Street Car Company and refused to renew the contract with the Post Office that let Letter Carriers ride the street cars for free while delivering the mail. A battle ensued. Eventually it was agreed that the Letter Carriers would pay 1/3 the cost of the fare collected monthly and the Post Office would pay the other 2/3. Then we had to use tokens to ride the street cars.

3. The Curtailment Order of 1950. The order went out to change all residential routes from two trips to one and business routes to not more than three trips. The NALC spent more than 1 MILLION DOLLARS to try to counteract the order via public support. It didn't work. We ended up with a surplus of regular carriers.

A Day in the Swing-room

It's seven bells and down we stroll,
To the dingy post-office hole
Not much sunshine, but lots of
gloom,
In this well known and hated room.

The subs file in one by one,
Another "day in the red" begun
Some sit and talk of tales of woe,
And others to the bridge game go.

No merry laughter in this place,
But one sees many a worried face
Bills are piling up day after day,
With which no money is made, to
pay.

A couple fight for the morning
"news"

Over there is a hot debate on
"booze".

Of course the wage cut has its time,
In the same old tune in the same
old rhyme.

Then ping-pong made its grand
debut,
And believe me, I am telling you
That "Old Man Gloom" has made
his flight,
Since we've played ping-pong day
and night.

Edward Couture

Branch 9 ★ NALC

★ 1890 — 1990 ★

Minneapolis, Minnesota

A group of floating regular carriers was created. Once again it was bad for the subs but not as bad as the Depression.

4. The 1950 National Convention was in Seattle that year. It was a great convention. We had a parade with Jerry Keating and Minneapolis Postmaster John Coan leading the Minneapolis Delegation. We had a good relationship with the Postmaster. He liked being around the Letter Carriers. During the convention he roomed with Dempster Pletsch a carrier from South St. Paul.

5. The thing I'm most proud of is the Minnesota Dog Bite Bill of 1951. I was out of office when it was signed by Governor Youngdahl. It started out as a resolution from Branch 9 to the State Convention in 1950. A committee was selected, consisting of Warren Wintz and Warren Mitchell of St. Paul, Dempster Pletsch of South St. Paul, and J.B. Johnston and me from Minneapolis. We worked like hell back and forth to the capitol lobbying state representatives, and testifying. The Bill said: "Anyone owning a dog or harboring a dog is responsible for the action of the dog. Pretty simple, but the Health Department had tried for something similar and couldn't get it. We had a big problem with dogs. I got bit three times in one week.

After my tenure as president I returned to carrying and working with the Branch 9 Quartet. The quartet, Warren Paulson, Audie Carlson, Roger Olander, and Marcel Walgren sang all over the country. They sang on the Ted Mack Original Amateur Hour and the Muscular Dystrophy Telethon in 1953. Soon after this exposure it was Washington bound for the

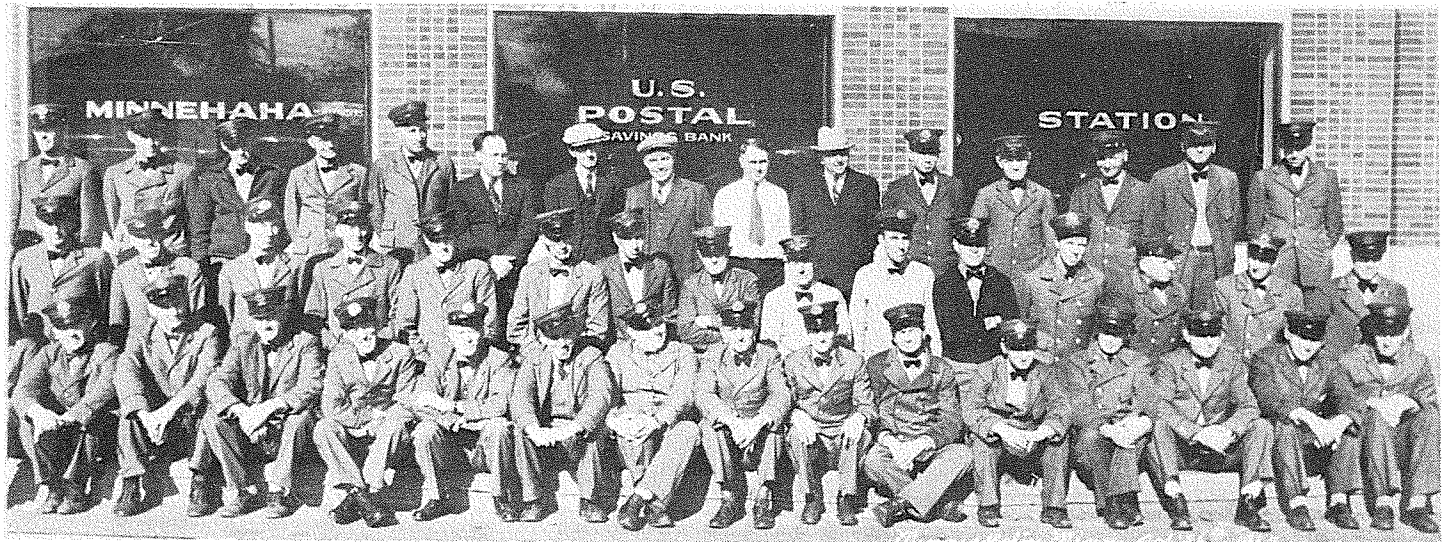
quartet. They would make five trips to Washington, D.C. The quartet was in demand to serve as entertainment everywhere. National President Bill Doherty would send for the Quartet for a number of different things. On one trip to D.C. the guys were practicing on the train and the conductor put it over the public address system so everyone on the train could hear. The Postmaster General excused everyone in the office so they could hear the Quartet. The wife of Congressman Judd of Minnesota had to provide the

entertainment for the congressional wives dinner and asked Bill Dougherty to send the Quartet to Washington. These dinners usually had movie stars and the like to provide the entertainment. But the Quartet received so many calls for encores that they ran out of songs. They also were asked to perform at a reception for the Ambassadors of South America. They were great.

All things being equal after 34 years of carrying mail I retired from the Post Office in 1965.

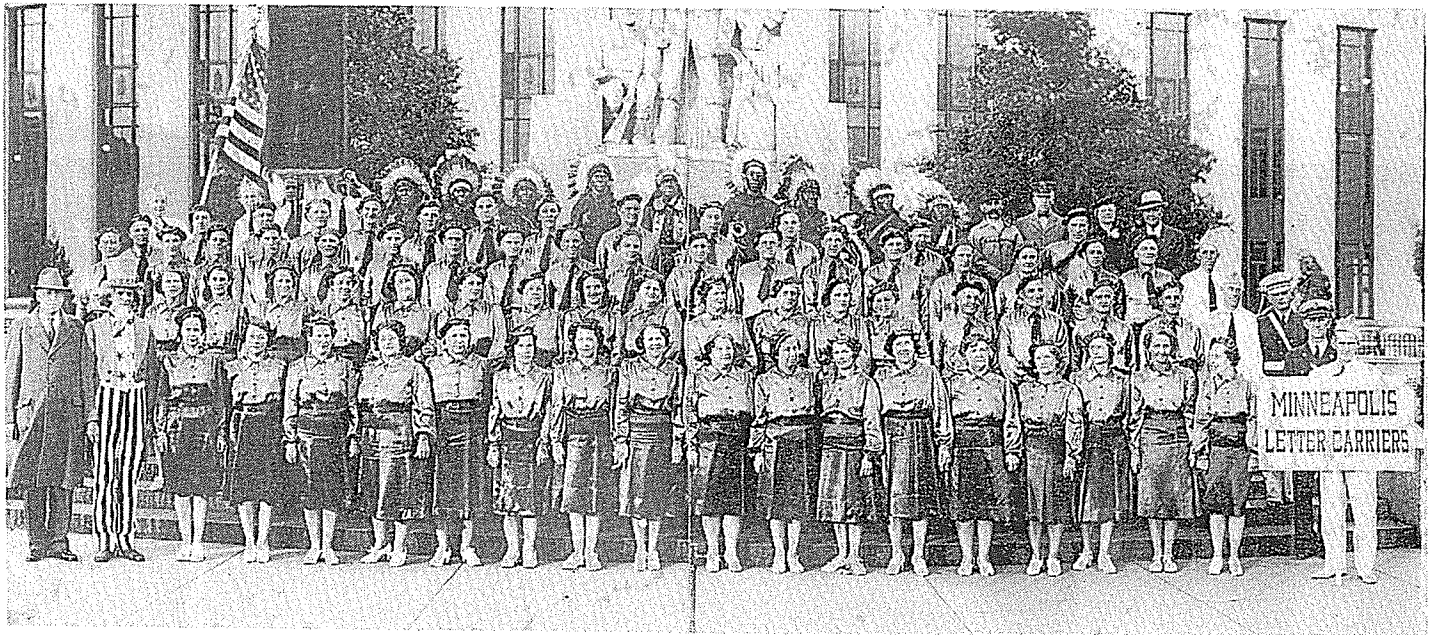


The Branch 9 Quartet sang to the workers at Postal headquarters in 1949. The Postmaster General shut down operations for a while so all could come and hear. (L-R) Warren Paulson, Audie Carlson, Roger Olander and Marc Walgren.



Minnehaha Station 1937

(First row) Walt Weldon, Fred Burke, Joe Murphy, Ed Berry, Bert Ryan, George Medvic, John Novak, Ralph Kuehn, Mike Martell, Fred Barnes, Roy Lamere, Irvin Storland, C.C. Clark, Omer Warren, Herb Axelson. (Second row) Rudy Hokenson, Al Steffens, Bob Horne, P.S. Nelson, Don Jensen, Doc Woods, Ed Girard, Matt Murray, Ralph Northrup, Stan Peterson, Willie Paskin, Willie Zadach, Dick Brown, Carl Kuehn, Mort Krueger. (Third row) Eddie Clausen, Herman Hammer, Harold Stickney, Larry Workman, Fred Lieschmann, Vic Buskirk, Tom Igoe, Leon Turner, Harry Boyd, Harry Conover, Everette Rohrer, Lenny Brink, Bernie Johnson, Oscar Johnson, Howard Johnson.



Branch 9 and Auxiliary 67 delegates to the 50 Year Golden Anniversary Convention in Milwaukee in 1939.

From the Minutes of the Branch Meeting July, 1939

The regular monthly meeting of Branch 9 NALC was called to order by President Orville M. Helene at 8:15 p.m. Stanley Dunn thanked the Association for the support given the Sub-Legislation. Entertainment Committee Chairman George Des-Saint reported on the Branch boat ride to be August 19, on the Steamer Donna Mae, tickets to be 35 cents. Jerome J. Keating explained the Sub Bill, Whelchel Bill, Neeley Bill and the Romjue Bill. He told the members to be sure and write Washington before adjournment.

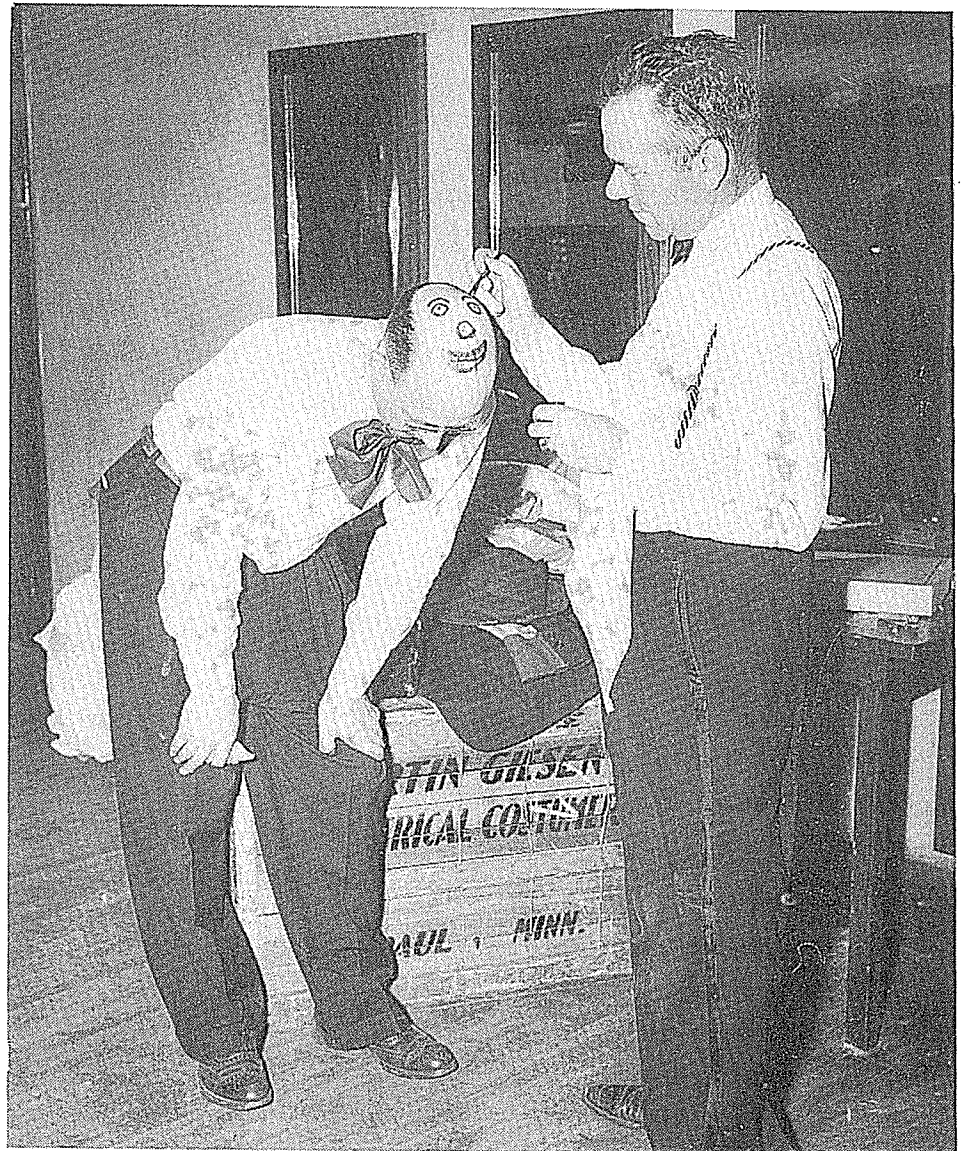
The membership committee reported 24 new members, bringing the total membership to 715 members. President Helene announced that Postmaster Coan and Superintendent Enoch Nelson were trying to work out a schedule for the arrival of the early Eastern Mail. Postmaster Coan was going to try to get the papers out to the stations for the morning delivery. Brother Leon Turner gave a fine talk regarding the organization work done by Gene Keating, Al Kimmell and President Helene. Motion made to give them a rising vote of thanks. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m. Present at this meeting 105.

From the Minutes of the Branch Meeting August, 1939

The August meeting of Branch 9 was called to order by President Orville M. Helene at 8:10 p.m.

Brother George Johnson reported that only one letter carrier eligible to join was not a member of Branch 9. Brother Stan Dann spoke of a dance to be given by the substitute carriers.

The Convention Committee report was



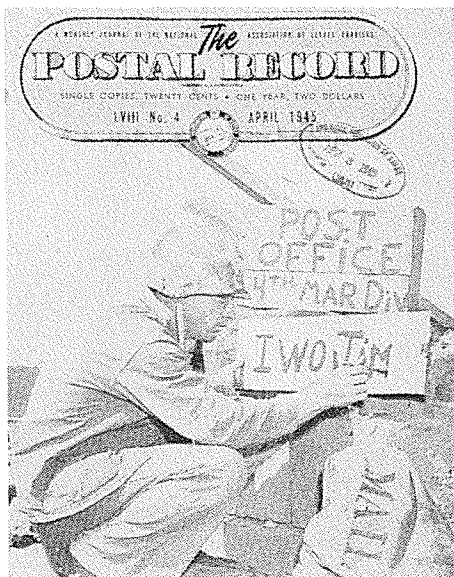
Ed Couture prepared Howard Asp for a performance of the "Merry Mail Minstrels" at North High School in April 1942.

given by Jerome Keating who explained the Branch 9 special train, the Minnesota party, the boat ride on Lake Michigan, the whole set up of the Labor Day Parade, and the picnic in Juneau Park.

Under new business Brother Dunlap made a motion that the editor of the Branch 9 News be allowed \$1.00 a month for refreshments for those who help edit the paper, the motion carried. Brother Medvec asked for support for the carriers team in the Diamond-Ball playoff.

Brothers Marking, President of the LaCrosse Wisconsin Branch, Swifka, Duren, Cavanaugh, and Krier of St. Paul were welcomed by the Branch. Brother Altermatt made a motion that the Branch banner be dry cleaned before sending it to the National Convention in Milwaukee. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

The War Years 1941-45



Many letter carriers from Branch 9 answered the call to arms after the declaration of war on December 7, 1941. Each month an "honor roll" of the Branch 9 members who enlisted appeared in the paper. When someones military address was known, it was also published so fellow carriers would be able to write them. Stations around the city had service flags in their windows with blue stars for everyone in the military and gold stars for those who lost their lives.

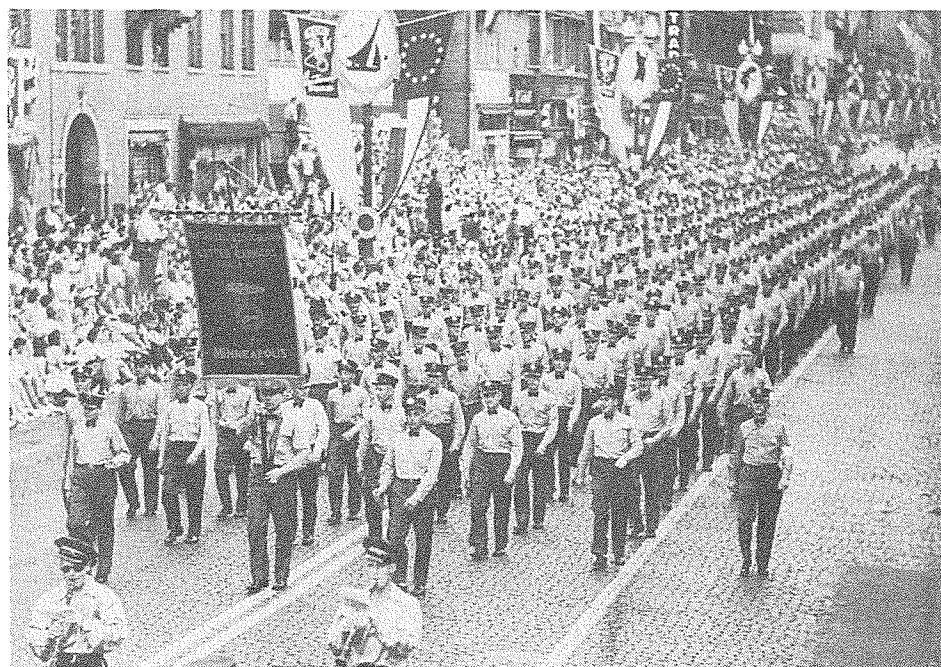
The Branch Nine News was mailed to all members on duty and at the June 1942 Branch meeting it was voted to send our men on active duty a subscription to "Readers Digest." All through the war years the Branch Nine News ran ads urging members to buy war bonds.

When someone left for the military service his route was posted as a military route. Carriers bidding on those routes were only entitled to them for the duration of the war. A Veteran upon returning home was entitled to get his own route back.



STATION A CITY CHAMPS 1939

(Back Row, L-R): Ernie Burns nephew, Ernie Burns, Steve Fedora, Heinie Jenniges, Mike Holick, Fred Strong, Royal Anderson, Charley Woolcot, Buck Bailargeon, and Walter Sholes. (Kneeling) "Ronnie" Overacker, Eddie Couture, and Roger Olander.



One of the first spectacles to draw exclamations from the crowd watching the 1940 Aquatennial was over 400 Branch 9 letter carriers marching in uniform.

MAILMAN'S TONIC

We get up in the morn at five,
 I don't think there's a man alive,
 Who at this early time of day,
 Wouldn't rather in a good bed lay.
 But the alarm clock has the voice,
 And being poor, we have no choice,
 We drag ourselves, to the table,
 But to eat we are not able.
 Our eyes are heavy, limbs are weak,
 About now, we don't feel so sleek,
 To eat a meal, the poor wife begs,
 We are too tired for ham and eggs.
 We simply sip, our coffee so,

Then out the door to work we go,
 When we get out and in the air,
 Our appetite will then declare!
 "Come on ol' boy, let's have a bite
 It's day now sure, it isn't night."
 We punch the clock, it is now six,
 And sure our stomachs' playing tricks.
 We sort our mail for an hour or so,
 Then to the coffee pot we go,
 We take a walk, pick up our cup,
 Then lo' we get our booster up.

ED COUTURE

**FROM SUPERINTENDENT, CARRIERS AND CLERKS
AT LAKE STREET STATION**

To P. J. Anderson On Retirement From The Service January 31, 1939
During Presentation of Traveling Bag

1. This is the man whose term began
When the **8-hour-day**, replaced the **10.**
When **vacations** were still untried,
And **overtime**, a thing denied.
2. He had to work on **Sabbath Days**,
And even more on **holidays**;
And then slick up the **uniform**
For marching lines of wabbly grays.
3. He saw the birth of **Pension Law**,
And **sick leave days** of ten;
The branch we love, the "Credit U,"
And hospitals, for the ailing men.

PETE, could you have known how very long,
The Pathway to this humble goal;
How many times you'd have to fall
and rise again; to pay the toll
Of human weakness, and for all
such labor a pittance gain
Would you have passed it up as Vain?

If you had seen **this day** from **then**,
How you have walked near **40 years**,
With loads of mail, and many tons,
Thru miles, **three times around**
The earth, up and down, on frozen ground
In rain and snow and awful cold
Would you have started out so bold?
Virgil Cragun
(also retired from Lake Street
in August 1940)

Civil Service began 1884 — 8-hour-day and vacations sometime later. Improvements in working conditions since P. J. Anderson entered the service June 1, 1900 — surety bond — Sundays off — compensation for injury — subs. seniority — Pension Law — sick leave — medical service and cumulative vacations. Group Ins. — Credit Union — Hospitalization.

Benefits gained by the hardwork of the N.A.L.C.



Governor Luther Youngdahl signing the dog bite bill in 1951. Warren Wintz (St. Paul), Ed Couture (Mpls.), Warren Michell (St. Paul), J.B. Johnstone (Mpls.) and Dempster Pletsch (S. St. Paul).

**From the Minutes of the
Branch Meeting October 1949**

President Eddie Couture called the meeting to order at 8:05. Stan Phillips gave the membership report stating that Branch 9 at the present time has 779 regulars, 130 subs and 115 temps.

Arne Moberg thanked all the members for helping the Legislative Committee in the letter writing campaign. He stated that in 60 years of the NALC the discharge petition had never been used, now in this session of Congress it had been used twice, he also urged the members to write and thank our congressmen for their support.

President Eddie Couture thanked all who helped make the banquet a success especially Howard Asp. He extolled the virtues of the Branch Quartet and told of their part in the closing session of the A. F. of L. Convention in St. Paul. Clarence Nash urged that a great number of members should start planning now to go to Seattle for the National Convention. A motion to adjourn was honored at 9:58 p.m. with 86 members present.

**STATE DOG BITE
LAW**

Branch 9 submitted a resolution at the State Convention and it was passed. The resolution was for a State Dog Bite Law. A committee of five was picked to spearhead the resolution in the State Capitol. Dempster Pletsch of South St. Paul was appointed Chairman, Warren Mitchell and Warren Wintz of St. Paul and J. B. Johnston and Ed Couture of Minneapolis. After months of lobbying, the Bill was finally passed and signed by Governor Luther Youngdahl in 1951. When the governor signed the Bill, he complimented us on getting this law passed which was long overdue. This was a major victory for the N.A.L.C.

The following is a copy of the law:

SENATE FILE 90
Introduced by — Duemke, Mullin,
Pedersen.

HOUSE FILE 102
Introduced by — Wozniak, Prifrel,
Kennedy, LaBrosse, Tucker.

**FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH
LIABILITY OF OWNERS OF DOGS
WHICH ATTACK OR INJURE A PER-
SON.**

Section 1. If a dog, without provocation, attacks or injures any person who is peaceably conducting himself in any place where he may lawfully be, the owner of the dog is liable in damages to the person so attacked or injured to the full amount of the injury sustained. The term "owner" includes any person harboring or keeping a dog. The term "dog" includes both male and female of the canine species.

NO. OF STATUTE 347.22.

From the Minutes of the Branch Meeting April, 1949

The regular meeting of Branch 9 was called to order by President Eddie Couture.

Branch 9 News: Ken Harlan told the members that since advertising makes the paper almost solvent, that the Branch 9 News would now be published ten times a year.

Athletic Committee report was given by Clarence Bergquist. He told of plans for a six-team softball league, with the entry fee set at \$25.00 per team.

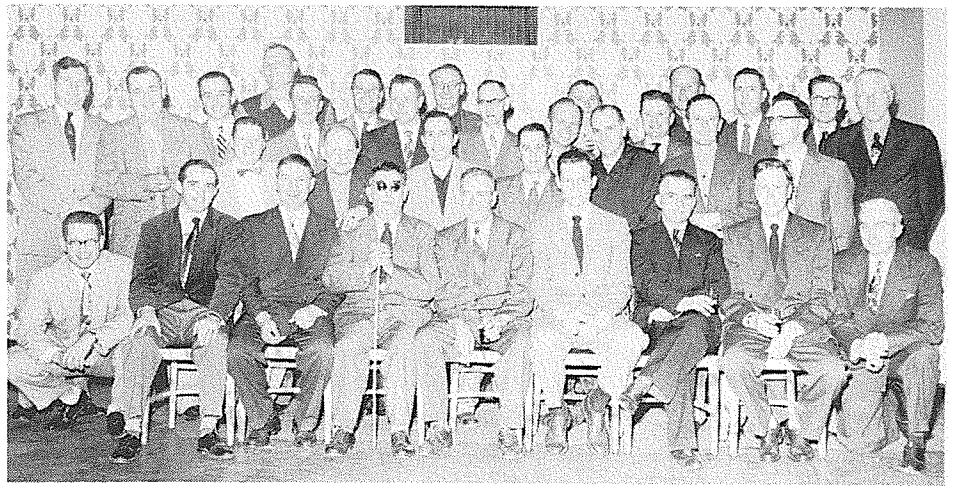
Vice-President Audie Carlson recommended that telegrams and letters be sent to Congress in behalf of legislation to correct the inequities suffered by men entering the service since July 1, 1945.

President Eddie Couture reported that all men should make sure that their beneficiary form is properly filled out. He stated that the Twin City Joint Postal Employee Council held a meeting at the Hamline Hotel in St. Paul, where all groups agreed to get behind and push the salary increase bills.

The following Brothers were elected delegates to the State Convention at Grand Rapids: Ed Couture, Duncan Cameron, Joe Bryne, Arthur Stromwell, Jim Johnson, Arne Moberg, Walt Couillard, Marc Walgren, Lyle Robinson and Dick Goff. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.



Fred Strong ready to go on the street on inspection day in 1954.



The Northeast Carriers Bowling League annual dinner at the Andrews Hotel in 1953. Ray Herrick, the blind man in dark glasses, ran the honor system candy concession in the main office. He was a guest at the dinner each year and the carriers also took him to the first Minneapolis Millers baseball game each year. (1st Row, L-R) Jerry Sullivan, Vern Doll, Morris Swenson, Ray Herrick, Ed Couture, George Capitola, Ernie Wasenius, Don Frisell and Bill Early. (2nd Row, L-R) Kenny Dunkel, Roy Manthey, Walt Couillard, Ken Fagerlee, Harold Anderson, Don Robinson, Ernie Ottoson and Oscar Hanson. (3rd Row, L-R) Doc Grimshaw, Hub Hanson, Herb Franzen, Ed Horning, Ray Nelson, Marv Anderson, Ray Frisell, Marc Walgren, Rudy Olson, Jim McIssac, Steve Holiday, Earl McRae, John Masterman, Carl Wiziol and Carl Larson.



Jerome Keating and Minneapolis Postmaster John Coan lead the Minnesota delegates in the parade at the Seattle Convention in 1950.

Postmaster John R. Coan was Branch 9's guest at the N.A.L.C. convention in Seattle in 1950. We had a reserved Pullman car on the Hiawatha and it was an exciting scenic trip. At the convention Branch 9 presented a check for \$1,000 towards our N.A.L.C. building in Washington, D.C. At the time \$1,000 was a lot of money, and President Bill Doherty gave us a hearty thank you.

The last night of the convention we had the Seattle convention committee in our room getting ideas for a convention in Minneapolis in the future. One of the Seattle men said he heard that our postmaster was at the convention with us and they didn't believe it. P.M. Coan was rooming with Dempster Pletsch of So. St. Paul, so I got John out of bed about 2:00 a.m. and he entered our room full of smiles. The Seattle men couldn't believe their eyes; but we presented the living proof. P.M. John Coan was a down to earth man's man.

On our return trip we took a boat ride from Seattle to Vancouver and then the Canadian Pacific Railroad over the Canadian Rockies. It was a beautiful trip and one I'll never forget. Memories, memories.

— Ed Couture

40th NATIONAL CONVENTION MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. AUGUST 20-25, 1956

The week of August 20-25, 1956, the N.A.L.C. held the largest Convention of its history (to date) in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This was the 40th Biennial Convention for the N.A.L.C. Guest speakers included George Meany, President of the AFL-CIO, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey and Representative Eugene McCarthy.

Al Sirois, the parade chairman, helped put together a convention parade that was described as, as good as or better than the Aquatennial parade in 1956. The parade included 29 bands, 7 drum corps, 7 floats, numerous marching units, and above all, over 450 Branch 9 letter carriers marching and giving a lasting impression of professionalism. The parade lasted two hours and fifteen minutes. Al Sirois gave credit to John Dunleavy, Don Huttner, Pete Leba, and Mike Sinigaglio. Credit was also given to Sid Kuykendall, Bob Rockstroth, Don Cameron, and Norman Jones who was a tabulator. Walter Couillard, chairman of the ways and means committee, raised over \$10,500 for ads in the convention issue of the Postal Record.

The 40th Biennial Convention was more than parades. Serious work had to be done, and was accomplished on behalf of all letter carriers in the N.A.L.C., i.e. Resolved: That we request our National Officers to endeavor to have Congress enact an adequate salary increase commensurate with our fellow workers in private industry in order to maintain a decent standard of living. \$5,500 maximum after three years. This would be the first order of business in 1957.

Resolution No. 228 dealt with sick leave and substitutes. Resolved: that substitutes be granted equal privileges in receiving a full eight hours sick leave as are enjoyed by regular carriers, instead of getting only the amount of hours they were originally scheduled to work.

Resolution No. 97, resolved that the Postal Record would accept no advertising except from bona fide union firms and for union made products.

Another example of resolutions at the 1956 convention was resolution No. 175 dealing with the eight in nine hour law. Resolved: that delegates urged the national officers to do all in their power to secure passage of an eight in nine hour law vs. the current law which provides that a letter carrier be required to work his eight hours in no more than ten hours.

A special note of thanks and appreciation to all Branch 9 letter carriers and Auxiliary 67 members who worked so



(L-R) Don Huttner, Pete (Dutch) Goodhard, Ed Couture and Larry Knott lead the Minnesota delegation in the 1956 National Convention Parade.



An escort to the stage for Senator Hubert H. Humphrey during the 1956 convention in Minneapolis. (Front Row) Marc Walgren, Jerry Keating, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Walt Couillard and Dutch Goodhard. (2nd Row) Milo Kruger, J.B. Johnston, Ray Frissell and Don Frissell.

hard and diligently to make the 40th NALC convention the largest and most successful of its time. The enthusiasm of our 450 letter carriers marching down Nicollet Ave. will never be forgotten by those who viewed this historic event. The 40th Biennial Convention was the most productive in the annals of N.A.L.C.

history. Good will was created between branches stretching from sea to sea, and the general public was in awe of the professionalism of American letter carriers.

The hard working Branch 9 Convention Committee helped insure the success of this convention, not only by its efforts, but by its leadership. A job well done!



Walt Couillard at the microphone, 1956 Convention.



George Meany, President AFL-CIO was one of the guest speakers at the 1956 Convention.



1956 CONVENTION DELEGATE BADGE



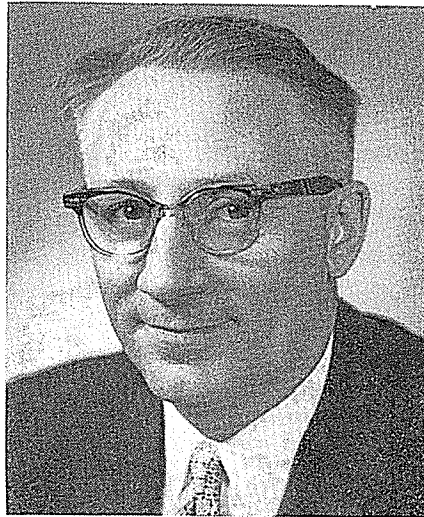
Branch 9 delegates on the floor of the Minneapolis Convention, 1956. (1st Row) Audie Carlson, Ed Yapple, Al Carlson, Wayne Seeman, Bob Blake, Vern Doll and Ernie Wasenius. (2nd Row) Walt Couillard, Roy Manthey, Lenny Bergstrom, Ollie Anderson, Don Frisell. (3rd Row) Pete Kiedrowski, Cy Daniels. (4th Row) Frank Fust, Clarence Bergquist, Ed Hempher, and George Kerber from Hopkins.

Convention Committee Branch Nine N.A.L.C.

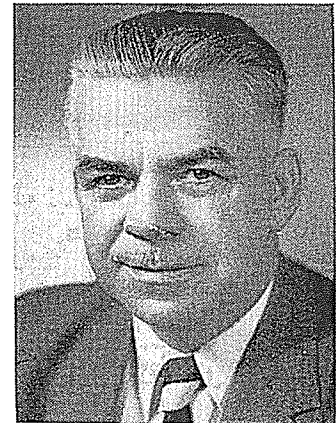
— 1956 —



AUSTIN B. CARLSON
Vice Chairman



MARCEL W. WALGREN
General Chairman



ERNEST WASENIUS
Secretary



KENNETH DUNKEL
Entertainment



LEROY MANTHEY
Refreshments



GEORGE HOLST
Registration



U. L. GRIMSHAW
Registration



JOSEPH BYRNE
Publicity



ARTHUR F. STROWALL
Bands



ALBERT SIROIS
Parade



ALBIN CARLSON
Decorations



ARCHIE MOHN
Transportation



WALTER COUILLARD
Ways and Means



RICHARD GOFF
Special Events



DUNCAN CAMERON
Special Events



PETER KIEDROWSKI
Sergeant-at-Arms



STANLEY PHILLIPS
Retired Men



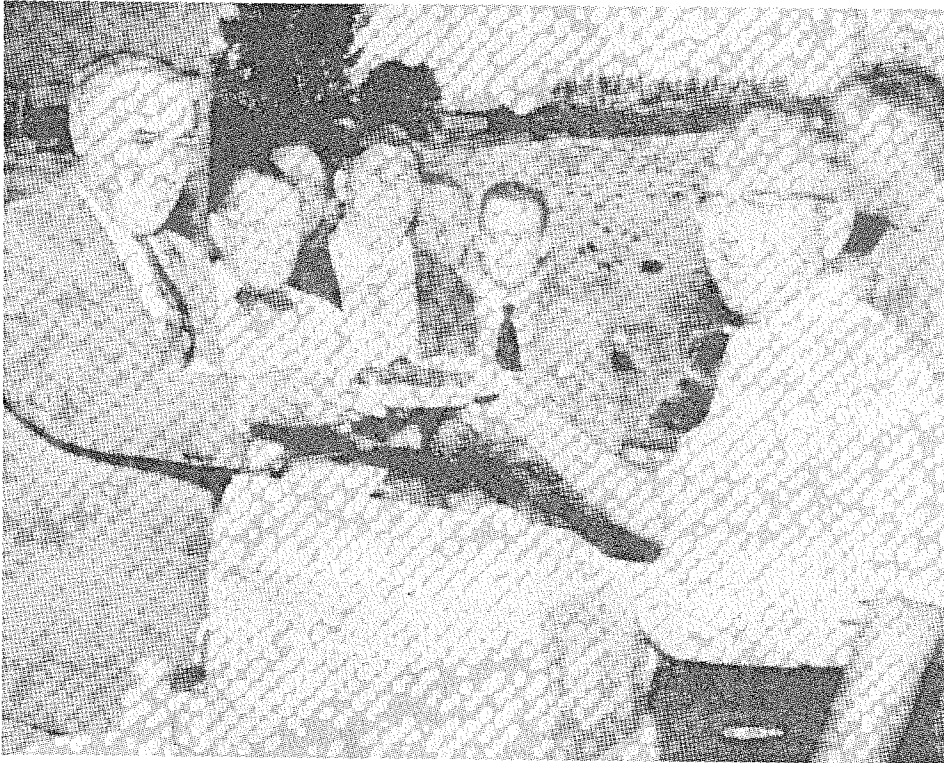
JOSEPH JEZUSKO
FRANK FUST
Tours



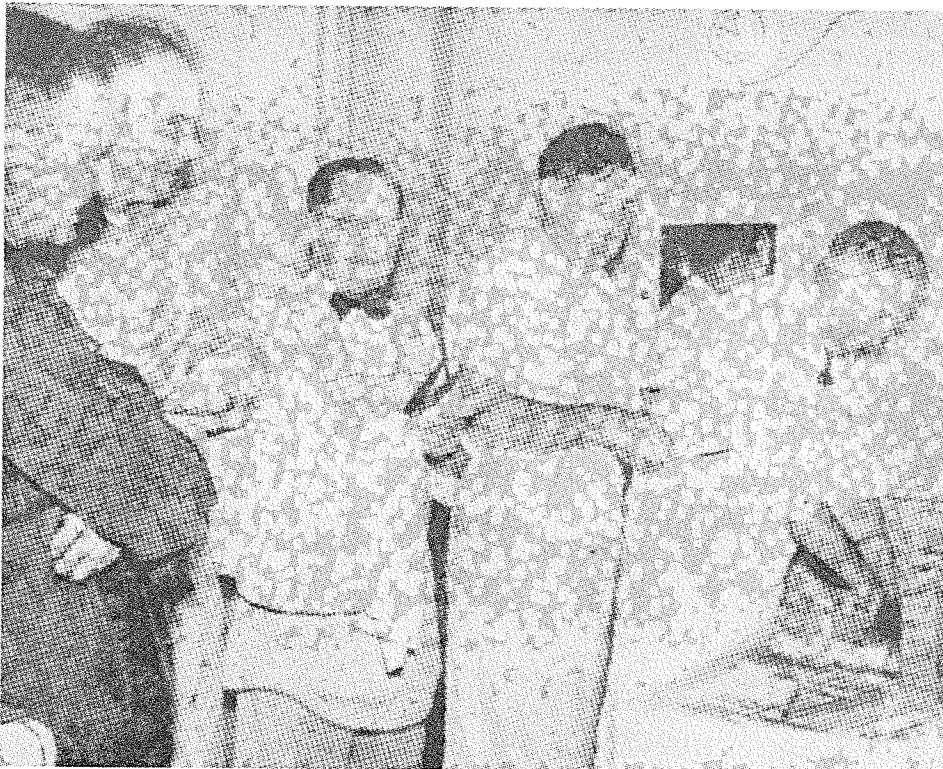
LYLE ROBINSON
Refreshments



GEORGE VAN LAANEN
Special Events



Branch Nine had a party to honor the men who do the work, station collectors and committeemen. Ed Couture and Ed Horning are serving spaghetti to Jerome Keating, Art Stromwall, Doc Grimshaw and Audie Carlson; shown in the background are Stan Dunn, Jimmie Johnston and Lemoine Johnson.



This was the night for the Entertainment Committee workers to take it easy, so President Art Stromwall, Vice President U. L. Grimshaw, and National Vice President Jerome Keating did the dishes. The Entertainment Committee Co-Chairmen Walter Couillard and Ed Horning watch to see that the job is done right.

At the Cleveland Convention in 1954 Branch 9 co-sponsored the following resolution:

Elimination of Simplified Address Circulars

WHEREAS: The mailing of simplified address circulars cheapens the mail service, making a bill passer out of the letter carrier and

WHEREAS: Many patrons object to this type of mail in their mail box and

WHEREAS: This type of mail is doubtful economy for the postal service; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the admission of simplified address circulars be prohibited by the department.

Branches: 9, 29, 78, 84, 195, 273, 305, 499, 540, 545, 2740.

State Associations: Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania.

The Next Year . . .

JUNK MAIL JUNKED

March 31 is the day that all carriers, supervisors and the public in general are anxiously awaiting. On this date the junk mail is to be stopped.

Much credit has to be given to our National officers for their tireless efforts to do away with that type of mail.

Now perhaps the public will be glad to see you when you make your delivery, instead of thinking, "What kind of junk are you bringing this time?"

There is nothing as depressing to the carrier as to lose the respect of the people on his route by being a glorified handbill peddler.

So after very careful investigation of this junk and after 363 million pieces in 12 months have gone through the Post Office, the Department finally said the end of that will be March 31, 1955.

From the Minutes of the Branch Meeting March, 1959

The Branch 9 meeting was called to order by President Audie Carlson at 7:40 p.m. Walt Couillard reported on the joint installation and moved that Minneapolis put on the next installation and invite St. Paul. Seconded by Vern Doll. Motion carried.

Joe Jezusko made a report for the committee on getting a soft job for the Branch President. He reported that Superintendent of Delivery Harold Peterson will recommend to the Postmaster that the President be allowed an additional morning each week for the handling of grievances. He also will pursue the subject further with this committee with the view in mind of finding more liberal allowance of

assigned time to be used as necessary, such as the call window for instance.

President Audie Carlson spoke on leaving small packages exposed and the spying on carriers by Inspectors.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

From the Minutes of the Branch Meeting October 1959

The regular meeting of Branch 9 for the month of October was called to order by President Audie Carlson at 7:40 p.m. The Executive Board report was given by Vice-President Wasenius. The only action was to authorize Secretary Couillard to go out to St. Louis Park station and settle the street car hassle.

President Carlson gave his report. Told of the great success of the Keating Testimonial, and thanked the committee for all their work, and the members for turning out. He interrupted his report to have Walt Couillard tell of his trip to St. Louis Park Station on the Bus fare. Couillard said that he and the executive man Tietze went to every carrier and 33 men said that they would not drive. Couillard then talked to Peterson, Superintendent of delivery, and told him of the situation. Mr. Peterson was unaware of the situation, he said that the old rates would be restored.

Al Carlson spoke on the Carriers helping out on the muscular dystrophy drive. Wasenius moved that we send a resolution to Robley Cramer for his fine publicity on the Keating Testimonial seconded by Doll. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

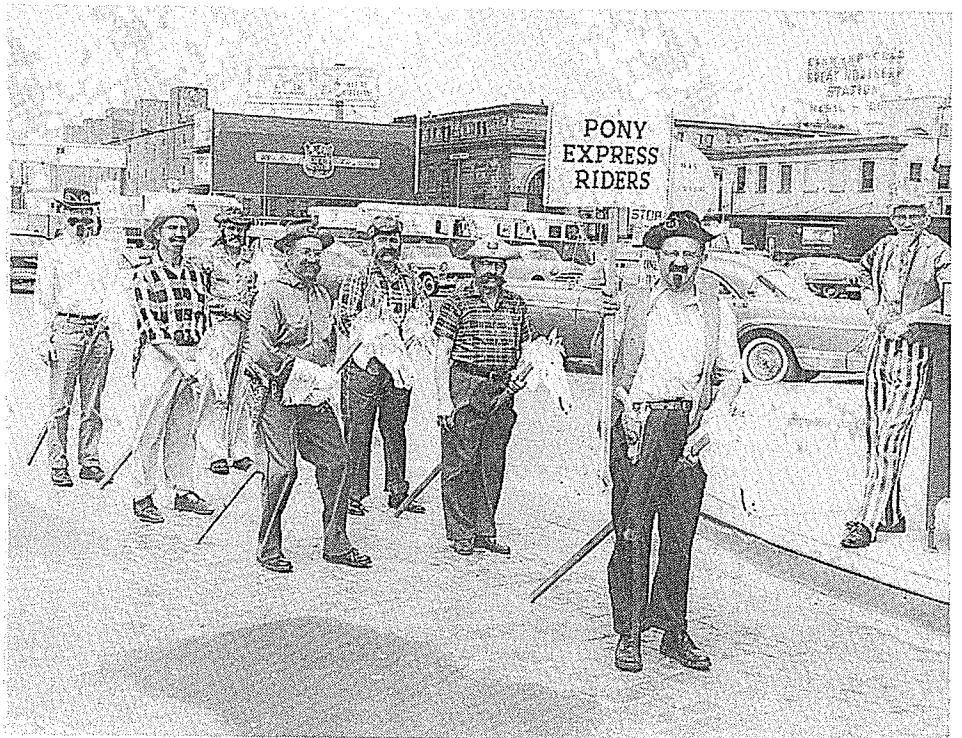
SEPTEMBER 1960 BRANCH MEETING

The largest Branch meeting in history was held last month. Over 250 members were in attendance. The standing room only sign was out. Let's keep it up, Brothers. As long as we have an active Branch we will be able to do a lot more for the membership. Postal officials respect an organization that is strong. Branch 9 like every other organization is just as strong as its members.

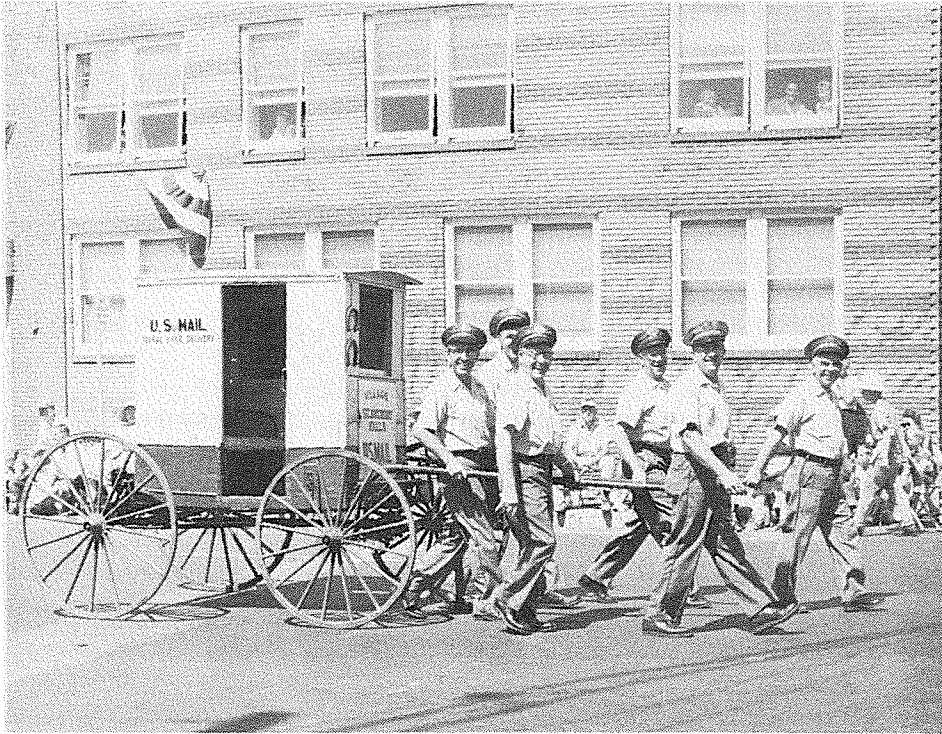
I am sure that there was one happy sub at that meeting. Eugene McNulty sub carrier at Central Avenue Station won the attendance drawing for \$150. It was his first Branch meeting. The attendance drawing now goes back to \$10.00.



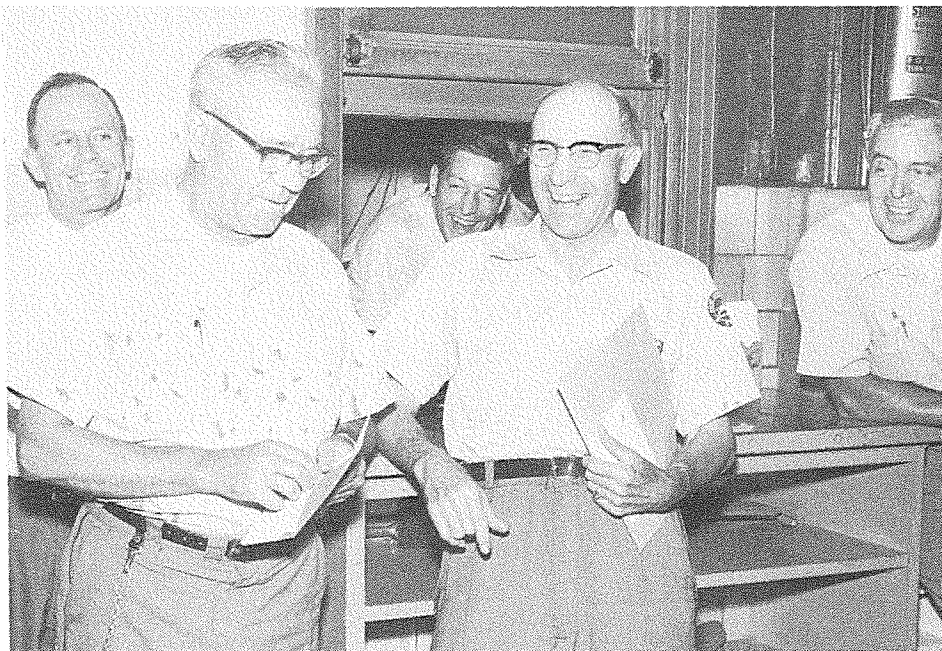
Branch 9 delegates Bill Fligge, Joe Jezusko and Ed Wojack at the 1960 Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Uncle Sam (Art Seeman) looks over his pony riders as they prepare their mounts for the annual Aquatennial parade. Riders for this pony express ride were Jezusko (MO), Couture (MO), Archambault (BO), Burns, O'Keefe ('Ha ha), Balfe ('Ha ha) and Beach (Loring) in 1960.



The "good old days" when men worked like horses. (From the front) Ernie Wasenius, Joe Jezesko, Ed Couture, Elwin Archambault, Joe Waselak and Fred Strong.



Ed Couture, (L) Branch 9's poet laureate, had a poem for all occasions and for every retiree. Above he congratulated Bill Fligge (Center) on his retirement with the following:

We say "so long" to Bill Fligge
 We now have lost our Honey Bee
 He suffered during depression days
 Since then he got the bee hive craze
 Raising bees isn't so funny
 To have Bills health, eat more honey
 A better guy was never born
 Than Bill who likes to toot his horn
 And now your postmans days are done
 I hate to see you go my son
 It makes me feel a little sad
 Cause no one's left to call me "Dad"

— 6/29/62

A Brief Reprise of Branch 9 Bands

A picture of a fife and drum corps dating from the early 1890's surfaces periodically from the heap of dusty and battered old photographs which are shunted about each time the Minneapolis Post Office moves or is remodeled. It is apparent then that there have been musical groups in the Post Office for about 100 years.

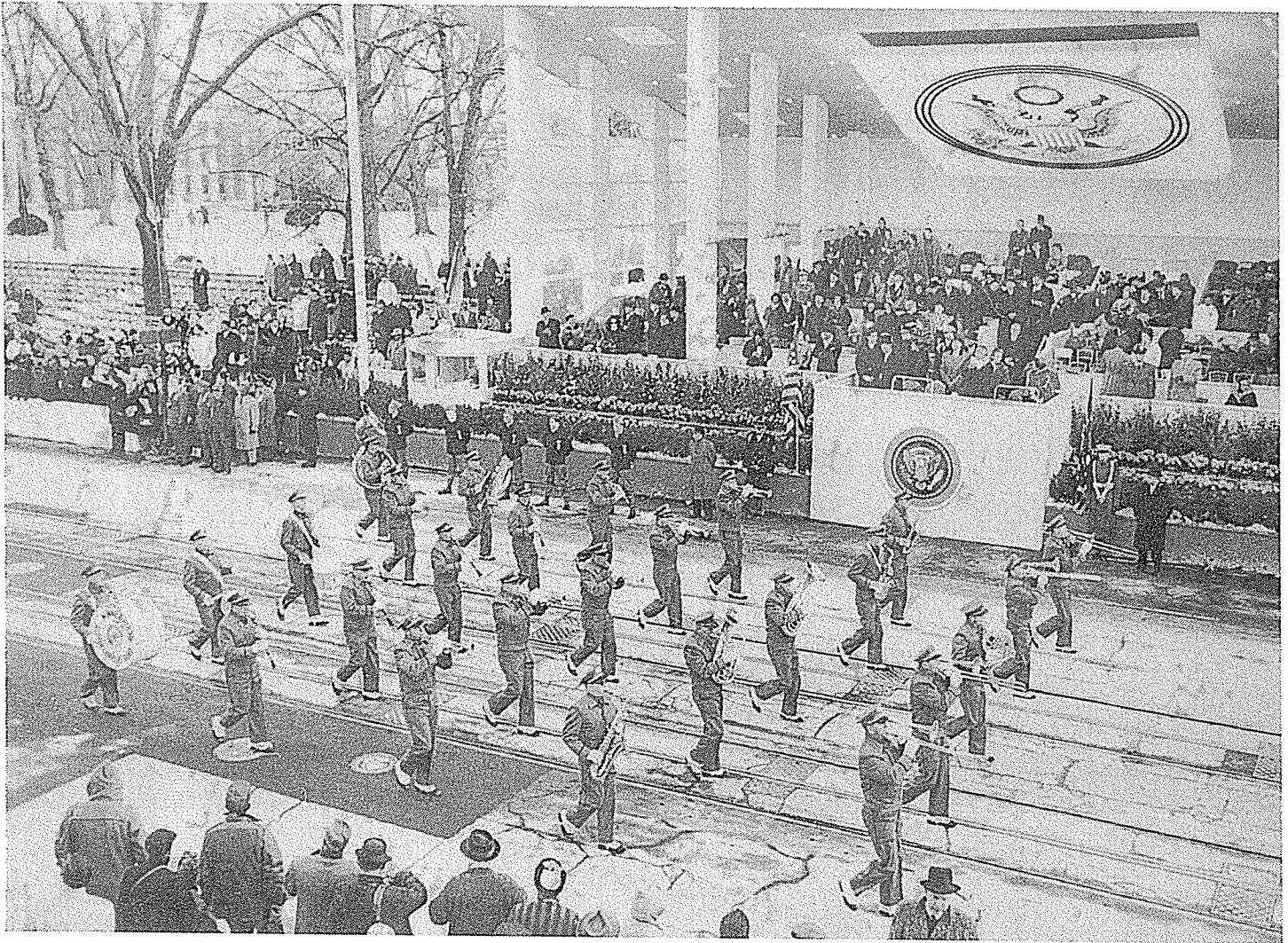
There were several Letter Carrier Bands of which I am aware which preceded the present band. A band was organized in anticipation of Minneapolis hosting the 1929 national convention. This band functioned during the convention, but came to grief shortly after when an overly ambitious fund raising venture went sour. The problem of a very large deficit without any funds to pay it off and angry creditors quickly put the problem beyond the resources of the Branch to resolve. The Postmaster intervened and made the decision that the participating band members were responsible for the debt. In order to avoid the \$200.00 plus liability assessed each member, band members jumped ship in large numbers doing their best to insure that the date of their becoming a former band member predated the scheduling of the ill-fated fund raiser. Needless to say this group produced no more harmony.

In 1939 another Letter Carrier band was formed for the purpose of participating in the NALC convention to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin that year. This was to mark the NALC's 50th year. The band and the Branch delegation were outfitted in smart maroon and gold uniforms befitting the Gopher state. Carriers Art Fillipi, Herb Milbrath and Bill Fligge were part of this band and Bill Quady and Mel Levine were among a number of clerks who filled out the band's ranks.

This band was reactivated the following year and appeared in the first Minneapolis Aquatennial Parade along with a very large contingent (400+) uniformed Letter Carriers. For whatever reason, WWII or lack of interest; the Aquatennial was this group's last appearance.

The current band, which has functioned without interruption since its inception in 1955, was organized because Minneapolis was to host the 1956 NALC convention, and equally important because Jerome Keating felt it important that his home branch be represented musically at the convention. Although Jerome was not a musician, he had a great fondness for all music and band music in particular.

My first direct exposure to Letter Carrier Bands was at the NALC convention in Cleveland, Ohio in 1954. There were 23 bands in attendance and I was most im-



The Branch 9 Band in perfect step, passes in front of the Presidential review stand during President Kennedy's inauguration in 1961.

pressed with performances by the bands both outside and in the hall. It was generally agreed by host cities that Letter Carrier convention parades were far and away the largest of any labor group and were eclipsed only by national American Legion and VFW convention parades.

Being aware of Jerome's strong feeling for a band in Minneapolis, Branch 9 President Marc Walgren asked if I would help organize a band. We prepared a questionnaire which was circulated to all of the city's carriers and enough talent responded to form a 25 piece band. Gordy and Art Hovey, Pete Kiedrowski, Herb Maddock, Fred Urness, Jim Keen and Bill Fligge were among the charter members of the group. During the band's early years it was a great source of pride that all of Minneapolis band members were Letter Carriers.

The band's first director was Wm. A. L. (Bill) Anderson, then a student in Music Education at the University. Our second, and current, director is Merv Lysing who is presently retired from the St. Louis Park school system.

The band has attended every NALC



The Branch 9 Band in Route to Washington, D.C. in 1961.

convention since 1956, criss-crossing the country several times. The band's two most memorable trips were to the NALC convention in Honolulu, Hawaii and to the John F. Kennedy inaugural in Washington, D.C. in January 1961.

Several charter members of the band continue to play, but the community parades nearly every weekend in the summer are just memories. Parade appearances are now very limited in number and out of deference to the age and decrepitude of the members the band rides on flat bed trailers. The band's appearances now are principally for Post Office functions and the weekly visits to nursing homes and hi-rises where the marches, show tunes, old time music and Dixieland seem to be a very welcome treat for the audience.



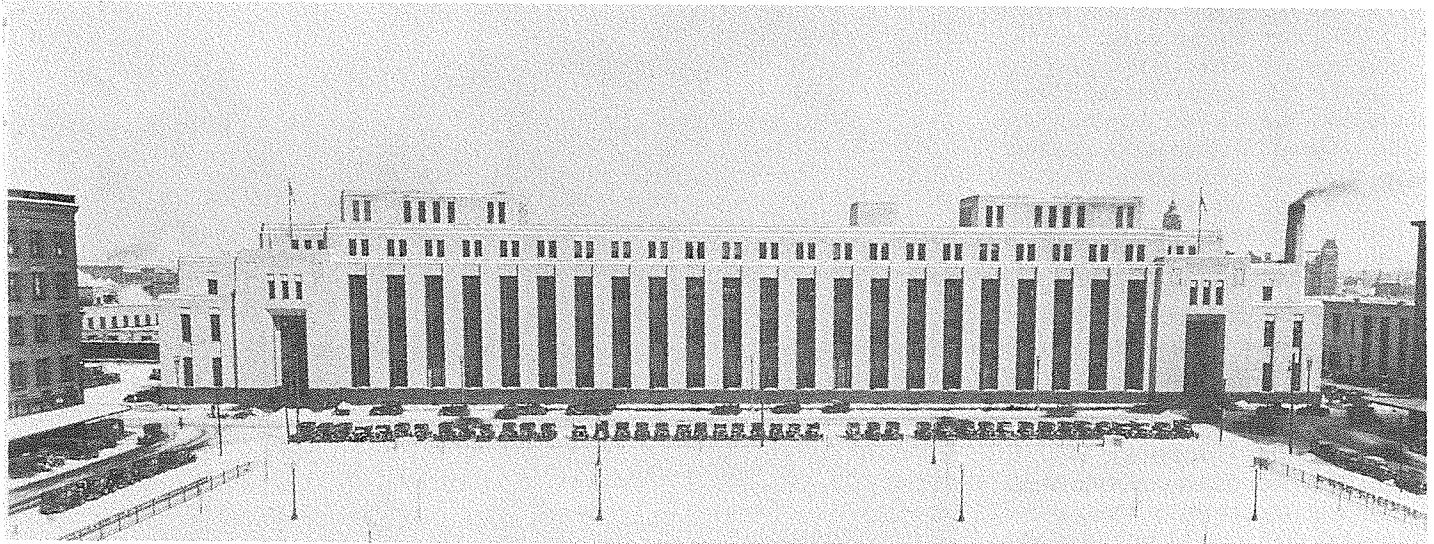
Band members Eddie Antolek, Dick Silk and Clarence Bergquist with Minnesota Governor Karl Rolvaag greeted President Lyndon Johnson and Vice President Hubert Humphrey.



Joe Byrne, Branch 9 President rises to nominate Jerry Keating for National President at the 1962 Convention in Denver.



Branch 9 delegates arrived by bus for the Denver Convention in 1962.



Our current Minneapolis Post Office. Opened in 1934. Constructed on the site of the first Minneapolis Post Office at a cost of \$4,500,000.00. This building was big news when it opened and people wondered if Minneapolis would ever grow up to its new Post Office.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT



WALTER E. COUILLARD
President 1966, 67, 68

December 1965

At the installation in my acceptance speech I called for harmony and working together, and that I intend to unify this Branch. During our first week USPO stated they were going to hire 85 casual employees. Postmaster Austin put this on hold. Officers and Committee appointments were Vice President Frank Blake, Secretary Al Carlson, Treasurer Kenny Devine, Financial Secretary Jack Doll, Sergeant-at-Arms Wain Pearce, MBA Ernie Beauchane, NSBA Clarence Bergquist, Hospital Representative Ollie Anderson, Auxiliary President Mildred Devine, Band Committee Dick Silk, Entertainment Chairman John Brandt and Dick Erickson, Legislative Chairman Bob Blake, Editor Vern Doll and Trustees Izzy Mehr, Frank Fust and Russ Shipley. After much discussion we delivered mail on Sunday before Christmas.

January 1966

J. Wesley Woods was killed while driving a mailster on December 31, 1965. He was struck by a small compact, a Valiant. The mailster exploded, three sides caved in, and the seat and windshield came out, and the mailster was in shambles. The mailster was "Death by Design." The traveling coffin was made out of fiberglass, which in some places was only 1/16th of an inch thick. All mailsters must go! Fran Breyette was appointed Mailster Committee Chairman. He drew up a typed 4-page single spaced report on what is wrong with the mailsters and sent it to the

N.A.L.C. National Office, Senators and Congressmen along with photos.

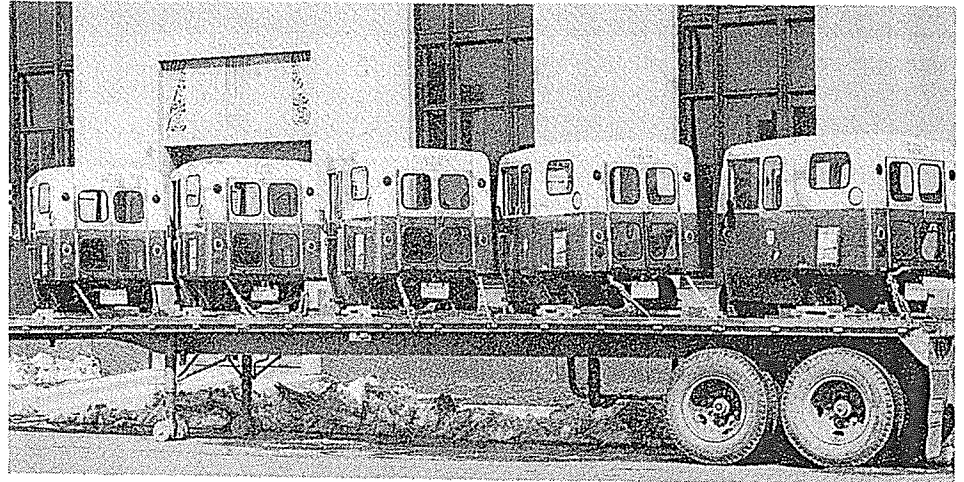
Branch 9 began an organizing drive to recruit over 100 nonmembers. Coon Rapids became 100% organized and 100% on dues withholding thanks to Roy Jernberg, Dick Johnston, and John Hilden. At a sub (PTF) meeting they asked for time and a half and sub seniority for bidding

on assignments.

Gene Couillard was President of Retiree Organization.

February 1966

Al Walton was named Mailman of the Year. Runnersup were Bill Dunn and Mike Holick. A Letter Carrier in North Carolina was killed by carbon monoxide in a



Some of the 3 wheel Mailsters right where the members of Branch 9 wanted them, on a flat bed truck on their way out of town. Dubbed "the Mobile Coffin" after brother J. Wesley Woods was killed in one in December 1965, the mailsters became an object of great concern for Branch 9. President Walter Couillard and Fran Breyette headed the team to rid Minneapolis of the mailsters for good. In Fran's words, "I supplied the documentation and Walt did all the hollering." They were successful.

The Mailman and His Scooter

There once was a mailman who delivered mail,
Even in rain, snow, sleet, or hail.
But then one day his route was improved
When he got one of those scooters that barely moved!

They were supposed to have a heater, a good one at that,
And when the engine is running it purrs like a cat;
But when the carriers go out on the street
They always end up with frozen feet!

They were supposed to be a great improvement,
But on the streets they produce little movement.
The Post office said they were cheap to make,
But now they are finding out they are a big headache!

They were supposed to save time by going so fast,
But in a foot race they'd end up last!
The ride is so bumpy, the carriers begin to question
Whether or not they will get indigestion!

Their three small wheels make them go so unsteady
They bounce around like soupy spaghetti!
Whenever the carrier hits a rut
He has to hold the door for it to stay shut!

The carriers have to stand this every day,
And they are about mad enough to say
To the guy who picked the idea out of a bowl
"Go and stick your head in a hole!"

Duane Granger, age 14
Son of a Branch 9 member
April 1965

mailster while eating lunch. All Mailsters must go!

March 1966

Bill Hogan became Postmaster. He promised an open door policy and consultation before the fact and not afterwards (he lived up to both promises). Hogan and I visited all stations together. Hogan stated the basic functions of the post office were to collect, case and deliver the mail in the fastest possible time. He wanted the delivery of all mail every day with help or overtime if necessary. (It would be nice for today's PMG to make such a statement). He promised to work on the bugaboo of the second dispatch. Dick Miles and Dennis O'Grady were appointed sub committee co-chairmen. Minneapolis is to receive 60 right-hand drive vehicles to replace 60 mailsters. Victory in sight on the mailsters must go slogan. Sixty-six temps were hired to carry mail on business routes on Saturday (called Hogan's Heroes). J. Wesley Woods scholarship authorized, Fran Breyette appointed chairman. Couillard appointed to National Safety Committee.

April 1966

Secured one week of vacation during the summertime for every carrier including substitutes, when the kids are out of school.

May 1966

Keating, Rademacher and Audie Carlson at Retired Carriers Banquet. Lenny Brink, L. A. Helene, I.G. Holland received 50 year Gold Cards. Ruth Hovey became President of the Auxiliary 67. Russ Shipley became Treasurer due to Kenney Devine's promotion. Mailster fight continues. In 6 months 93 new members, and 187 more went on dues withholding. Down to only 15 non-members.

June 1966

State Convention in St. Cloud, Couillard gave up State President gavel to Wally Rosand of Duluth. Mailster fight continues in Washington, D.C. NALC position — all mailsters must go! Training program for all executive men (stewards) starts. Kickoff dinner for training program at President's Cafe. Executive men must be informed to know their rights. Must know NALC programs and postal knowledge.

July 1966

Mailster fight goes on. Sixty of the mobile coffins have left Minneapolis.

September 1966

President Keating and wife Marion attend Branch 9 meeting. Level 5 for letter carriers becomes a battle cry. At the Detroit National Convention we went on record to get rid of mailsters nationwide.

October 1966

Mailster fight goes on. Local negotia-

tions began. Frank Blake got promoted. Clarence Bergquist becomes Vice President. Russ Shipley became Chairman of the Training and Education Committee. Training sessions are going well.

November 1966

Congress passed retirement legislation allowing retirement at age 55 with 30 years of service. Uniform allowance went from \$100 to \$125. One hundred more mailsters are scheduled to leave city. Nonmembers list reduced to 14. During the year we held 2 stags, a fish fry, picnic, golf party, installation party, retiree party, and a Christmas party.

December 1966

All Branch officers were re-elected. Vern Doll became a trustee. Dick Miles elected NSBA. Jerry Keating installed officers and auxiliary officers. Ruth Hovey, President of Auxiliary. One hundred sixty mailsters have gone, 70 are left. Couillard wants a dues increase. Committee appointed. Another smooth Christmas. Carriers called in on off day and Sunday before Christmas.

January 1967

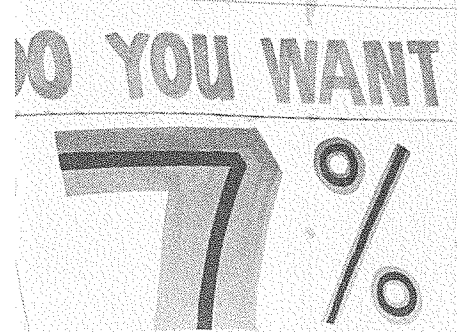
Branch Committee asked for \$1 dues increases. Zones 3 and 5 went to Loring.

February 1967

All 230 mailsters have left Minneapolis. Fran Breyette, Chairman of the Mailster Committee was commended. Dues increase of \$1 voted in. Dues are now \$48 per year. Branch 9 now has 1632 members and only 12 nonmembers. John Masterman and Earl McRae are Entertainment Chairmen.

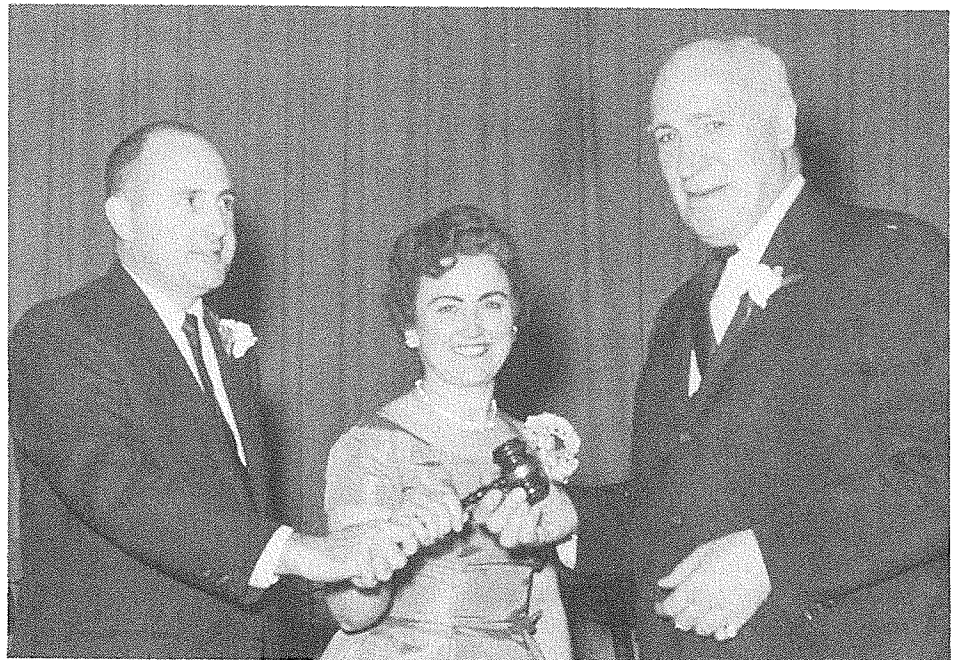
March 1967

Organized salary rally and Level 5 ral-



Audie Carlson addressed the salary rally.

ly for April 1967. We are asking management to fire the 25 temps that are carrying Saturday business routes. Once again we are asking that every carrier get at least one week of leave in the summer when kids are out of school (June, July and August). The first class postage cost 5 cents. Post office afraid to raise it to 6 cents as patrons might scream. Auxiliary joins fight for Level 5. Howie Seiferth organizing station softball teams.



Branch 9 President Walt Couillard and Auxiliary 67 President Ruth Hovey accept the gavel from National President Jerome Keating at the installation in 1966.