

The earliest Post Office in the Pelton-Fairplay area of Sandwich South was in Dennis Perrin's home, Lot 17, Concession 11 and was opened Sept. 10th, 1897. John W. Austin was appointed Postmaster at Pelton with Post Office in his home as of Dec. 1st., 1913.

Earlier than this the Oldcastle Post Office was established in the year 1862 with Michael McCarthy as Postmaster. He was Postmaster for 46 years until March 13, 1908 when George Welsh became Postmaster. Mr. McCarthy died of a stroke on March 22nd., 1912 at the age of 80 years. The Postoffice was held in a building where the Sylvester home is today and was a Tavern and a Stage Coach Stop where the driver and horses put up for the night on their way from the East to Windsor along Talbot Road. Mr. Welsh was Postmaster for six years, from March 13, 1908 to March 13, 1914 and the Post Office was handled from his residence on the Oldcastle Road or 8th Conc. just a short distance from Talbot Road.

Rural Routes were beginning to flourish all over Essex County as early as 1913. Earliest routes in our township were: Listed in Essex Free Press, Nov. 7th, 1913 - Two more Rural Mail Routes were to start from Maidstone Cross Post Office - one to be called Maidstone North with Walker Grant as courier and the other Oldcastle and Fairplay Route with William Lloyd as courier. The first 22 miles and the second 20 miles. Also Fred Lounsbrough was awarded contract on route out of Paquette. All three were to start before the 1st of the New Year. Among the county post offices recently closed because of rural

North Pelton, Pike Creek, Goldsmith-routes were Barrettsville, Elford, Pleasant Park, The Oldcastle Post Office was closed in March, 1914 and the Post Office transferred to Paquette where Frank Lounsbrough was Post master. He had become Postmaster there in April, 1911 after purchasing a 51 acre farm from Ed. Jessop. There was not a Post Office at Oldcastle again until Aug. 1st., 1955, when the closing of Roseland Post Office necessitated the inaugurating of R. R. 1, Oldcastle, and R. R. 2, Oldcastle with Mrs. Albert Kavanaugh as Postmistress. The Post Office was located in the Oldcastle Variety Store which at the time had Mr. & Mrs. Albert Kavanaugh as proprietors. Ed. Jessop at Paquette was Postmaster previous to Mr. Lounsbrough.

It seems there were several couriers appointed - George Gerard was appointed Rural Mail Courier at \$30 per mile to carry a mail route to Paquette as early as Oct., 1913 and Postmaster Ignatius Halford at Maidstone Cross announced that Philip Quinlan and Joseph Conroy would be rural route mail couriers for R. R. 1, Maidstone and R. R. 2, Maidstone, Sept. 19th, 1913 at a salary of \$35 per mile.

The Maidstone Cross Post Office was inaugurated in 1890 with Thomas Moran as the first Postmaster, followed by Ignatius Halford later that year. Mr. Halford held this position for 51 years until 1943. The Post Office was held in Mr. Halford's General Store located at the Crossing of Malden Road and Talbot Road which was then known as Maidstone Cross and later changed to just Maidstone. In 1945, Mr. Halford received one of King George "VI" silver medals in commemoration of the King's Silver Jubilee. Mr. Halford was honoured as being a Civil Servant of Canada, being Postmaster at Maidstone since 1890. His Majesty George the "VI" presented the medal after his coronation. Mr. Halford died in 1946 on May 1st., and Mrs. Halford July 9th, 1937. Following Mr. Halford's death, the John Walker's came to the Post Office in 1943 and Mrs. Mary Walker became Postmistress. The Post Office was still held in the same old general store. She was the youngest daughter of the former Postmaster, Nace Halford and Mrs. Halford and became Postmistress for 26 years.

The writer remembers Thomas Gerard being a rural mail courier out of Maidstone around 1916-17 and then his son Ernest was on R. R. 2, Maidstone Route around 1919-20. All these early couriers delivered their mail in open rigs or buggies with storm curtains they could use in case of wet or snowy weather, and which were horse driven. One of their heavy duty times were when Christmas came around and the two times of the year when the Eaton Catalogues were delivered.

When the writer came to Oldcastle in Oct., 1927, we received our mail from the Post Office at Roseland with a Mr. Allen as courier. It seems that there was a mail courier there in early 1916 when it was known as Jackson's Corners. In October, 1925 the Dominion Postal Dept. approved the changing of the name "Jackson's Corners" to the new name of Roseland and the Rural Route became R. R. 1, Roseland.

July, 1955 - District Director of Postal Service announced that effective August 1st., 1955 the starting point of R. R. 1, Roseland Rural Mail Route would be changed to OLDCASTLE, R. R. 2, due to the closing of the Roseland Post office, December 21st., 1956 showed the Oldcastle Post Office a hub of busy bees getting out Christmas mail. Tom Kavanaugh, courier on R. R. No. 1 and Joseph McCarthy, courier on R. R. No. 2 are almost Santa Claus themselves, only difference is that so far if a sled was used it would have gotten stuck in the mud. Mrs. Albert Kavanaugh was Postmistress and the Post Office was held in an addition to her residence, the front porch to be exact.

February 26, 1959 - Tenders for the delivery and collection of mail to and from the rural mail boxes on R. R. 2, Oldcastle were being invited. The computed distance on this route was 26.7 miles, more or less and it served 278 boxholders and 460 patrons as of Jan. 1st, 1959. Don Meloche was appointed mail courier on this route. In April, 1964, Philip Robinet took over Route #2 replacing Don Meloche who resigned to join the O.P.P. Mrs. Don Meloche took the route until Mr. Robinet could assume his duties during March.

May 7th, 1965 - Jack Tasker of the Oldcastle Variety Shop would receive the new Oldcastle Rural Mail delivery as of May 10th, 1965. Mrs. Albert Kavanaugh has had the Post Office in her home for some time. The Post Office will now return to the building where the China Shop is now located. In October 1965 the Oldcastle Post Office became an accounting Post Office. One could purchase money orders now up to \$100, and in Nov., 1965, Oldcastle had one of the first drive-in post offices in the area. Jack Tasker has erected a mailbox for your convenience on the steel post in his driveway. When the Post Office is closed just drop your letter in the little red box without getting out of the car.

Nov. 23, 1928 - The Dominion Postal Authorities inaugurated a Mail Air Service.

April 1st., 1966 - Starting Apr. 1st. new addresses would come to many in the Oldcastle District, especially the north end of former Sandwich South and Sandwich East Township areas due to annexation, January 1st., 1966. This portion of R. R. #2 Oldcastle became R. R. 2 Windsor and the balance to become R. R. #1, Oldcastle with Tom Kavanaugh as courier. Philip Robinet would be courier on the Windsor Route. This leaves only one route out of Oldcastle. Mr. Jack Tasker who had become Postmaster and courier on May 10th, 1965 would take over Oldcastle #1 Route. There were 383 families on R. R. #2 and about 72 families would remain to go on R. R. #1, Oldcastle.

November 21, 1958 - Joseph McCarthy, former rural route mail courier on R.R.1, Roseland which became Oldcastle, passed away suddenly at his home on Cabana Road and #98 Highway, Roseland while watching the RedWing-Boston hockey game. Mr. McCarthy had suffered a heart attack about 18 months ago and had never fully recovered. He was the oldest son of the late Mr. & Mrs. Jos. McCarthy and was born on the south 9th concession of Sandwich South, moving to Roseland when he married the former Evelyn Dumouchelle, who survives. Joe was a mail courier out of Roseland and when stricken with the first heart attack was courier on R. R. #2, Oldcastle. He had been Treasurer of Sandwich South for several years. He had the misfortune to lose a leg on Christmas eve a few years ago, when his car stalled and he was out trying to start it and another car pinned him against the bumper. The funeral was held from Marcotte Funeral Home, Windsor to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Roseland with the Rev. Father Donovan officiating.

April 23, 1965 - Subscribers of the Bell Telephone Company will be unable to pay their bills at the Oldcastle Post Office after April 30th., 1964.

From reports our well-loved Mrs. A. D. Kavanaugh will retire from the local post office job. Many in this area will miss our postmistress who has so faithfully carried out the wants and needs of the people in the area.

North America, no doubt, has one of the most efficient systems of mailing in the world. Some of the smallest and largest sums are trusted to be handled and travelled thousands of miles through the efforts of a local post office and postmaster that dot thousands of small villages, hamlets and 'burghs throughout Canada and the U.S.A.

Here in this Oldcastle we feel our postmistress, Mrs. Kavanaugh stands with the best that has sent your greeting cards, letters, cheques, parcels, pension cheques and what have you over a period of many years.

Long hours of sorting, stamping, collecting, being cordial and always trying to help was the mark of our Oldcastle lady and queen of ours. Letters of appreciation would make her know you liked her too.

March 30th, 1962, The Windsor Star - "MAIDSTONE BIDS SHANAHAN ADIEU" ran the headlines and accompanied the picture of Thomas Shanahan after 26 years of service as a Rural Mail Courier.

People living along Rural Route #1, Maidstone Post Office were saying good-bye to their mailman, 76 year old Thomas Shanahan.

In reality they were saying good-bye to the Shanahan family, because one member has always accompanied Mr. Shanahan on the 19.5 mile route in Sandwich South and Maidstone Townships, south of Highway #3. This speeds up deliveries.

They have known no other mailman than Tom for more than 25 years. But as of Saturday, he's giving up the contract because he's "getting on". He received the contract 26 years ago this August.

"They are a lot of lovely people on that route" said Mrs. Shanahan, who accompanied her husband on the daily trip for the first 23 years. She turned over her duties to Tom, Jr. when the last daughter was married and Mrs. Shanahan had to do all the housework.

"They're not just people along the route, they're friends" said Mr. Shanahan. "When I first started little tots used to run out to get the mail. I watched them grow up and get married and now it's their little tots who greet me".

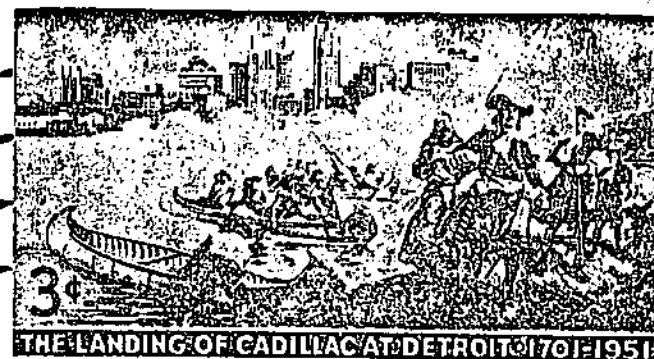
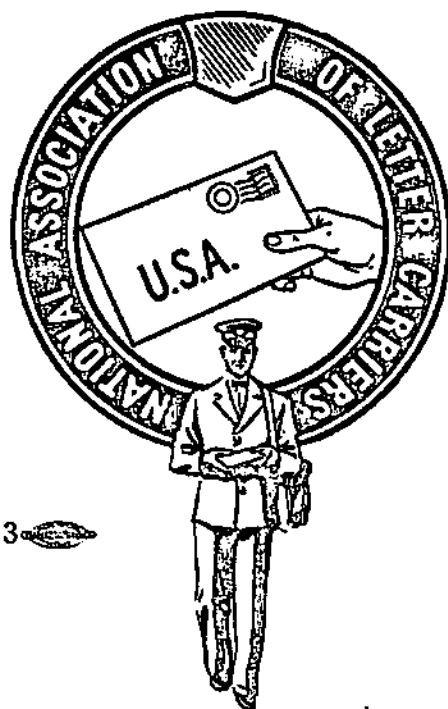
Mr. & Mrs. Shanahan have had a great deal of practice watching children grow up. Thirteen of their 15 children are still living and they have many grandchildren.

If there is doubt in anyone's mind as to the racial origin of the Shanahans, a look at the mailbox at the front of their Con. 7, Maidstone Township farm will dispel it. The name is painted on the box in bold green.

The Maidstone Postmistress, Mrs. John D. Walker, said the Shanahans will be missed on the route. "The personalized service they have given has been wonderful", she said. Mr. Walker will be taking over the route on Monday, April 2, 1962.

Mr. Shanahan started his route shortly before 1 p.m. each day. He waited for the Ontario edition of the Windsor Star to reach the post office and then he started his deliveries. A toot of the horn lets people know their mail has arrived. From now on Mr. Shanahan would have more time to devote to mixed farming.

Aug. 1th, 1968 - The Postal strike was over and business was back to normal at the Post Offices in the township, only like Christmas. Carson Jessop was back picking up the Oldcastle Co-Op. mail, having a coffee and teasing the local P.O. and lunch room staff, Gladys Tasker, Lil Havinga and Susan Managhan.



Mr. & Mrs. DETROIT, MICHIGAN  
250th BIRTHDAY PARADE  
JULY 28, 1951

## POSTAL SERVICE IMPORTANT FACTOR IN BUILDING A DYNAMIC DETROIT

One aspect of early Detroit which clearly established its status as a frontier community was its postal service. Not until 1803 did the city have a Post Office at all; and there seems to be no record of the location of the office during its first three years.

Mail came to the city by horseback over the river road and the postal department made no pretense of maintaining a schedule of any kind. Mail might arrive at any time; there might not be a delivery for weeks. When the mail did arrive, few people knew about it, so in 1817 a citizen wrote a letter to the Detroit Gazette urging that the post boy sound a horn to announce his arrival. Thereafter, the mail man blew a blast when he reached the limits of the settlement and repeated it intermittently until he arrived at the Post Office. In response, the citizens gathered in eager anticipation of getting a letter the same day it reached town!

### 75c TO WASHINGTON

In early times it might require as much as forty days for a letter to travel from Washington to Detroit; the postage would perhaps be as much as seventy-five cents—and even the mail was likely to be late. Being in Washington on one occasion, Governor Lewis Cass wrote a letter home to Mrs.



Cass on March 10. A few days later he returned to Detroit, but his letter did not arrive until May 2; whereupon the Governor wrote a strong letter to the Postmaster objecting to that calibre of service.

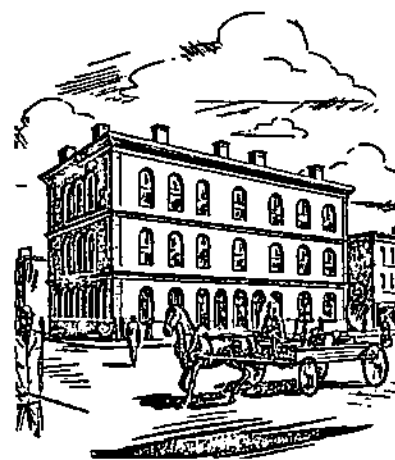
As late as 1836, it took fourteen days for a letter to get to New York; seven years later this time had been reduced, but only to nine days.

When the Great Western Railway was opened from Niagara Falls to Windsor in 1854, people hoped that its facilities would be available for hurrying letters to Detroit. But first the citizens had to hold a mass meeting and petition the government to permit United States mails to be carried in a foreign country.

### FIRST DELIVERY, COLLECTION

Detroit's first roster of letter carriers numbered eighteen men. At first all of them carried their routes on foot. For some years after 1870, those of them whose routes lay in out-lying and thinly settled areas were provided with horses and each was given an extra \$250 a year to pay for the care of his mount.

At the same time that carrier service started, the Post Office also established a mail collection system. Iron letter boxes were put up throughout the city. Most of these were on lamp posts, but in some cases the letter boxes were in drug or grocery stores. Fifteen years later, all of the boxes were removed from the stores.



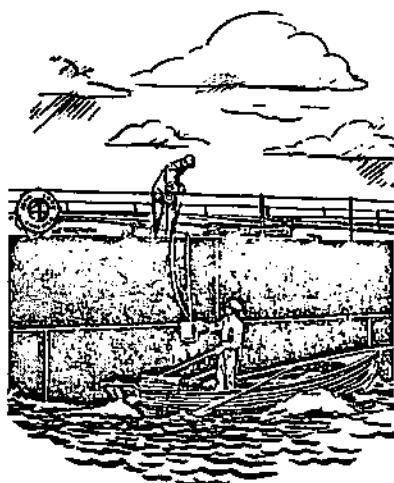
In 1806, Postmaster James Abbott established the Post Office in a log cabin at the southwest corner of Woodward Avenue and Woodbridge Street. That was its home for a quarter of a century. Thereafter it occupied many sites for brief intervals.

In 1849, the office returned to its early surroundings and occupied rooms on the ground floor of the Mariner's Church, directly across Woodbridge Street from its early location in Postmaster Abbott's seed store. There it remained until the government erected a building for the purpose in 1860.

This United States Government Post Office and Custom House at the Northwest corner of Griswold and Larned Streets still stands. It housed the Post Office for thirty-seven years. From it, on October 1, 1864, Detroit's first letter carriers, nattily garbed in gray, set forth on their routes. There, one month later, Post Office Money Orders were first sold in Detroit. There, in May, 1873, postal cards were first put on sale in this community.

The building continued to house the Post Office until 1897. In the fall of that year, the office moved to a building that had just been completed at Fort and Shelby Streets—the building which was razed a few years ago to make way for Detroit's present Federal Building on the same site.

# Only River Post Office In The World



## MARINE POST OFFICE

In one particular, Detroit's Post Office is said to be unmatched by any other in the world. Nowhere else is there a Marine Post Office.

The delivery of mail to a giant lake freighter as it plows along at full speed is an interesting procedure. While the vessel is still in the distance, the mail boat puts out into the channel to meet it. Men on the freighter's deck then hoist their packet of mail aboard, lower their outgoing packet, and the carrier returns to the mail boat. The freighter does not even slacken its speed.

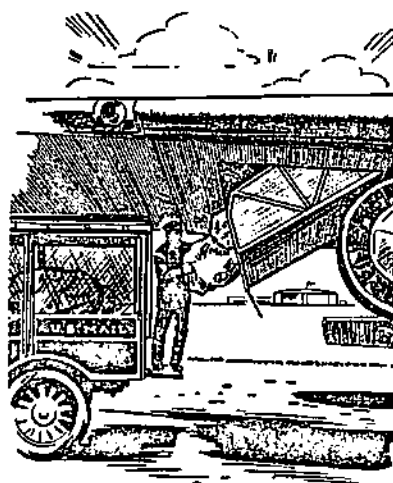
Inaugurated June 19, 1895, this service has, for a half century, delivered mail in this fashion to every freighter passing the port of Detroit. In its first year it handled 47,000 pieces of mail—a volume which now amounts to several million pieces in every season of navigation.

In 1915, Congress adopted a post office flag to fly from the mast of the mail boat. It is a red pennant bordered with blue carrying the seal of the United States in blue and white and the lettering "United States Mails." It is said to be the only flag representing the United States Post Office Department displayed anywhere in the world.

## FIRST PARCEL POST

Together with all other United States Post Offices, the Detroit office entered upon a new and spectacular phase of public service when it opened for business on New Year's Day, 1913. On that morning there was, for the first time, a Parcel Post window—and a line-up of eager people.

Because that day was a holiday, the window was open only three hours. Postal revenue amounted to only \$5.94 for 116 pounds of merchandise. But January 2 was a full day. Then business boomed. Before that day ended the Postmaster was sending urgent telegrams to Washington, New York, and Chicago seeking fresh supplies of the special Parcel Post stamps then required for the service. All over the country the same thing was happening, and the Government Printing Office was soon working nights to keep up with the demand.



It is said that the first package received for delivery in Detroit was a slab of bacon and the second was a horse collar. In any case, the Post Office had seven motor trucks busy on deliveries on January 2. A week later the number had grown to seventeen. More than 14,000 deliveries were made the first week. So greatly has the volume of business grown that incoming and outgoing bags of parcel post at the Detroit Post Office now total together more than 44,000,000 annually. Conservatively estimated at ten packages per bag, this figure means that the Detroit Post Office handles in a year practically half a billion parcel post packages.

## MAILING BY AIR

Airmail service from Detroit opened on February 15, 1926, when the monoplane "Malden Dearborn I" taxied over the snow of Ford Airport and took off for Cleveland.

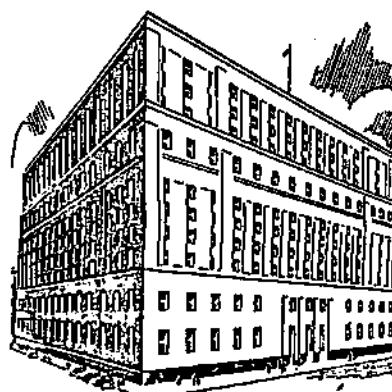
Transcontinental airmail service had been in operation for a number of years at that time but

was not available in Detroit. Not until the government established a system of contract service over feeder lines could citizens of this community dispatch their letters by air.

Lines to both Cleveland and Chicago were opened on that day. Flying the routes at first were Ford all-metal, single-engined monoplanes, but these were later replaced by Ford tri-motors as rapidly as the larger ships became available.

Local use of the airmail was disappointing at first. Before the end of the year, the government was complaining that only a handful of the city's biggest concerns were taking advantage of the new, high-speed service. But after that slow beginning, Detroit adopted airmail in tremendous volume.

In some measure, this growth may have resulted merely from keeping pace with the rapid development of the air-mail service on a systematic, nation-wide scale. In large part, however, the rapid acceptance undoubtedly reflects Detroit's dynamic and progressive spirit.



The expansion is strikingly evidenced in the volume of airmail out bound from Detroit. In that first year of 1926, the total out of Detroit was less than 4,000 pounds—in contrast to a total of 200,000 pounds recently dispatched from Detroit in the regular course of business in a single month.

## CAREER POSTMASTER

For the first time in its 148 years of existence the Detroit Post Office is under the Postmastership of a career postal employee. On July 1, 1951, Frank C. Middel, former letter carrier, was appointed Postmaster.

## FIRST DETROIT STAMP

On July 24 at a stirring ceremony on the City Hall steps, the Detroit Postmaster opened the sale of the special Detroit stamp commemorating the landing of Cadillac. Included in the ceremony were Mayor Albert Cobo, His Excellency, Henri Bonnet, French Ambassador to the U. S., Selden B. Daume, President and General Chairman of the Birthday Festival, and Robert E. Fellers, Assistant Executive Director of Finance, Post Office Department. The Detroit Letter Carriers' Band entertained at this ceremony.

In its 148 years of existence the Detroit Post Office has grown from its original 18 carriers to over 2,000 today. Where only one office serviced the entire city in 1803, today there are 34 stations serving the Detroit Delivery area.

Main Office, 231 W. Lafayette, Zone 26.  
 Alfred, 60 Alfred St., Zone 1.  
 Brightmore, 20548 Fenkell, Zone 23.  
 College Park, 17400 Livernois, Zone 21.  
 Delray, 8414 W. Jefferson, Zone 17.  
 Ecorse, 27 Salliot, Ecorse, Zone 29.  
 Ferndale, 22681 Woodward, Zone 20.  
 Fisher Bldg., Finance Station.  
 Grand Circus, Pk., Finance Station.  
 Grand River, 4600 15th, Zone 8.  
 Gratiot, 2650 Arndt, Zone 7.  
 Grosse Pointe, Finance Station.  
 Hamtramck, 2933 Caniff, Zone 12.  
 Harper, 9938 Harper, Zone 13.  
 Highland Park, 13215 Woodward, Zone 3.  
 Jefferson, 10721 E. Jefferson, Zone 14.  
 Joyfield, 17000 Joy Road, Zone 28.  
 Kensington, 16535 E. Warren, Zone 24.  
 Kercheval, 14500 Kercheval, Zone 15.  
 Lincoln Park, 1335 Southfield, Lin. Pk. 25.  
 Linwood, 9131 Linwood, Zone 6.  
 Milwaukee-Junction, 2405 E. Grand Blvd, Zone 6.  
 Mt. Elliott, 19175 Mt. Elliott, Zone 34.  
 North End, 401 W. Baltimore, Zone 2.  
 Northwestern, 5140 Joy Road, Zone 4.  
 Park Grove, 13909 Gratiot, Zone 5.  
 Penobscot Finance Station.  
 Porter, 1237 Junction, Zone 9.  
 Redford, 22503 Grand River, Zone 19.  
 River Rouge, 235 Burke, River Rouge, Zone 18.  
 Roosevelt Park, 2025 14th, Zone 16.  
 Southfield, 17501 W. Seven Mile, Zone 35.  
 Strathmore, 13750 Ardmore, Zone 27.  
 31st St., 3724 31st, Zone 10.

**FRANK C. MIDDEL,**  
 Postmaster of Detroit, Mich.

This historical document presented as a public service by the Detroit Letter Carriers' Benevolent Fund and Branch Number One of the National Association of Letter Carriers, 706 Park Ave. Bldg., Detroit 26, Michigan, WO 2-8296. James H. Rademacher, Jr., President.



S-4/Oldcastle No. 2 R. R.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF POSTAL SERVICE

London, Ontario, 25th July, 1955

The Patron,  
R. R. No. 1,  
Roseland, Ontario.

Dear Sir or Madam:

You are informed that effective 1st August, next the starting point of the Roseland No. 1 R. R. will be changed to Oldcastle, due to the closing of the Roseland Post Office.

Effective the date mentioned, your new Post Office address will be "Oldcastle, Rural Route No. 2."

It would be appreciated if you would advise your correspondents of your new Post Office address, as soon as possible, in order that you will suffer no inconvenience in the receiving of your mail.

Yours truly,

*W. E. Pearson*  
W. E. Pearson,  
District Director.

Items culled from the file of the Essex Free Press Oct 7, 1898.

Wm. Kane, Postmaster, Maidstone Cross, replaced the plank walk in front of the post office with a grave walk.

9-4/Oldcastle No. 2 R. R.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF POSTAL SERVICE

London, Ontario  
26th February 1959

Patrons of  
Oldcastle Rural Routes

INVITATION OF TENDERS - OLDCASTLE NO. 2 R. R.

Dear Sir or Madam

Notices inviting tenders for the delivery and collection of mail matter to and from the Rural Mail Boxes erected, or which may be erected, along the line of travel of the Oldcastle No. 2 R. R. will be displayed at Oldcastle, Maidstone and Windsor Post Offices as well as at the Oldcastle Town Hall and the Variety Store.

These notices give the general information in regard to the Rural Route concerned. However, if you are interested in tendering for this Rural Route, additional information can be obtained from the Postmistress at Oldcastle.

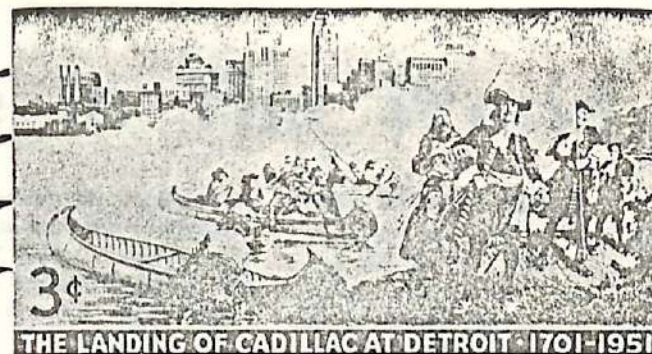
Tender forms and the envelopes in which to enclose them will be available from the Post Offices at Oldcastle, Maidstone and Windsor.

The computed distance on this Rural Route is 26.7 miles more or less and it serves 278 boxholders and 460 patrons, as of 1st January 1959. Only patrons of the Oldcastle Post Office and the Rural Routes emanating from Oldcastle Post Office will be eligible to submit tenders for this Rural Route.

Yours truly

*J. A. Flaherty*  
J. A. Flaherty  
District Director of Postal Service





## Mr. & Mrs. DETROIT, MICHIGAN 250th BIRTHDAY PARADE JULY 28, 1951

### Fifty Years Ago

Items Culled from Essex Free Press Files of Jan. 30th, 1914

The first parcel post in Canada was to start on February 10th.

Don Meloche, mail carrier for Oldcastle rural route 2, has passed his Provincial Police examinations and will report sometime in February, for further duty and posting. JAN. 17, 1964

Don Meloche, who recently joined the O. P. P., has been posted to the police barracks at the 401 station. MAR. 6, 1964  
Mrs. Meloche has taken over the rural route No. 2 mail courier job out of Oldcastle.

### THANKS

I wish to extend to the Patrons of R. R. 3, Maidstone the Season's Greetings, and my sincerest thanks and appreciation for the many favours and kindnesses at the Holiday Season.  
JAN. 10 Arnold Axcell • 64

Oldcastle Post Office is a hub of busy little bees the past week in getting out the Christmas mail. Tom Kavanagh and Joe McCarthy, who deliver the two routes from here, are almost Santa Claus themselves. Only difference is if they used a sled so far they wouldn't get stuck in the mud.  
JAN. 10, 1964

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R. R. No. 1,  
Roseland, Ontario.

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Effective the date mentioned, your new Post Office address will be "Oldcastle, Rural Route No. 2."

It would be appreciated if you would advise your cor-

Local post offices no doubt will start a busy season from now until Christmas. Christmas card writers can help the post office people by mailing early, stamp them right and put the right address on the card.

Some think its a lot of silly stuff to write those things every year. It goes along with a long tradition and if you mean what that card says in its little verse, the spirit of Christmas will always mean you have a heart for your many friends. Some very far away from the home table.  
EFP. DECEMBER 1959.

At the Oldcastle post office things are slowly getting back to normal following the Christmas rush. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Kavanagh, the McCarthy couriers along with Tom Kavanagh and others were up to Christmas cards and packages right up to the neck.

Mrs. Kavanagh says that many people wonder why their mail does not arrive on time. People change their address in many instances and forget to notify their local post office or they do not write the correct address.

If people would only remember these little details it would be far easier for the post office people and receivers of mail as well. JAN. 2, 1959. efp

### Eighty Years Ago

Items culled from the files of the Essex Free Press Oct. 7, 1898.

Wm. Kane, Postmaster, at Maidstone Cross, replaced the plank walk in front of the post office with a gravel walk.

9-4/Oldcastle No. 2 R. R.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF POSTAL SERVICE

London, Ontario  
26th February 1959

Patrons of  
Oldcastle Rural Routes

INVITATION OF TENDERS - OLDCASTLE NO. 2 R. R.

Tom Kavanagh, of 3110 Dandurand, Windsor, and mail courier out of Oldcastle No. 1, won a solid state fleetwood stereo from the Pharmacy Dept. of Woolco, Windsor. Mrs. Kavanagh (Virginia Mullins), children and Tom are all enjoying the stereo. APR. 1, 1966.

Card of Thanks—I wish to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to the patrons of R. R. 3 Maidstone for their kindnesses and co-operation during the past 18 years I have been the Courier on the Route. It has been an opportunity to make many fine friends and a privilege to serve you. Many Thanks—Arnold A. Axcell. OCTOBER 4, 1968

Items Culled From Essex Free Press Files Of October 24, 1913.  
Geo Gerard was awarded Contract to carry the mail from Maidstone Cross, by way of Paquette, at \$30 per mile.

1851 — The Canadian government took over the post office. 11/74

### Sixty Years Ago

Items Culled From Essex Free Press Files Of October 31, 1913  
Pelton Post Office was moved to John W. Austin's home, with Mr. Austin as Post Master.

Fairplay Post office opened in the home of Denis Perrin, lot 17, Con. 1 Twp. of Sandwich South. 9/6/07

Philio Robbiter will be taking over Route 2 of the Oldcastle Mail Route. "Phil" will replace Don Meloche, now with the O. P. P.

Our new mail carrier is well known around the Essex County Baseball League circles and at one time threw many a ball from the pitcher's mound.

Our local Post Mistress, Mrs. A. D. Kavanagh couldn't chew a person out very well the past week.

Mrs. Kavanagh has been suffering with a very sore ulcerated eye-tooth the past week.





THOMAS SHANAHAN  
—carried the mail

## 26 Years Service

### Maidstone Bids Shanahan Adieu

By AL WORBY

MAIDSTONE—People living along Rural Route 1, Maidstone post office, are saying goodbye to their mailman, 76-year-old Thomas Shanahan.

In reality they are saying goodbye to the Shanahan family, because one member has always accompanied Mr. Shanahan on the 19.5-mile route in Sandwich South and Maidstone Twp. south of Highway 3. This speeds up deliveries.

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"They're not just people along the route, they're friends," said Mr. Shanahan.

"When I first started little tots used to run out to get the mail. I watched them grow up and get married and now it's their little tots who greet me."

Mr. and Mrs. Shanahan have had a great deal of practice watching children grow up. Thirteen of their 15 children are still living and they have many grandchildren.

If there is doubt in anyone's mind as to the racial origin of the Shanahans a look at the mailbox at the front of their Con. 7, Maidstone Twp., farm will dispel it. The name is painted on the box in bold green.

The Maidstone postmistress, Mrs. John D. Walker, said the Shanahans will be missed on the route. "The personalized service they have given has been wonderful," she said.

Mr. Walker will be taking over the route on Monday.

Mr. Shanahan starts his route shortly before 1 p.m. each day. He waits for the Ontario edition of The Windsor Star to reach the post office and then he starts his deliveries. A toot of the horn lets people know their mail has arrived.

From now on Mr. Shanahan will have more time to devote to mixed farming.

Subscribers of the Bell Telephone Company will be unable to pay their bills at the Oldcastle Post Office after April 30th of this month.

From reports our well-loved Mrs. A. D. Kavanagh will retire from the local post office job.

Many in this area will miss our postmistress who has so faithfully carried out the wants and needs of the people in the area.

North America, no doubt, has one of the most efficient systems of mailing in the world. Some of the smallest and largest sums are trusted to be handled and travelled thousands of miles through the efforts of a local post office and postmaster that dot thousands of small villages and burghs throughout Canada and the U.S.A.

Here in this Oldcastle, we feel our postmistress, Mrs. Kavanagh, stands with the best that has sent your greeting cards, letters, cheques, parcels, pension cheques and what have you over a period of many years.

Long hours of sorting, stamping, collecting, being cordial and always trying to help was the mark of our Oldcastle lady and queen of ours.

Don't you think a letter or a line to our Mrs. Kavanagh just to show your appreciation would make her know you liked her too. APRIL 23, 1965

Oldcastle now has one of the first drive-in Post Offices in the area. Our Postmaster, Jack Tasker, has had erected a mail box for your convenience on the steel post in his driveway. When the post office is closed just drop your letter in the little red box without getting out of the car. Of course when you have time you might slip in and have a coffee at the Variety Shop post office in regular hours. Our Jack will stamp your letter and our "Lill" (Mrs. Havinga) will likely serve you a boiling cup of java. NOV. 17, 1965.

Starting April 1st new addresses will come to many in this district, especially the north end of the former Sandwich South and Sandwich East township areas. Most people would be wise to secure forms from their local post office and inform your place of business and other important people and business firms that is part of your life in your household. This little act will save the postmaster and many others much confusion and headaches. 1966

Francis and Dorothy  
St. Louis and Family  
DEC. Wish A 1973.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

To All Our Family, Relatives,  
Friends and Neighbours and  
Patrons on Rural Route  
No. 1, Maidstone.

PAUL CHOUINARD  
DEC. & FAMILY 1973  
send their Christmas Greetings and wishes for happiness, health and prosperity for the coming year to all their friends and neighbours. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the patrons of R. R. 2, Maidstone, for their cards, gifts, goodies and good cheers.

Oct. 4th., 1968 - Arnold A. Axcell resigned as courier for R. R. #3 Maidstone after 18 years as he was appointed Postmaster at Maidstone Post Office following the death of Mrs. John D. Walker, who died in May, 1968 after being Postmistress for 26 years. Married Aug. 15, 1933 and was 57 years old. She had charge of Routes 1, 2, and 3 out of Maidstone.

She was born Aug. 12th, 1910 daughter of the late Mr. & Mrs. Ignatius Halford and lived in and around the village all her life. She was a member of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, the Catholic Women's League, the Altar Society, and was promoter and past presid. of the League of the Sacred Heart. Survived by two sons, John of Aurora and Robert of Maidstone, and three daughters, Shirley, Joanne and Linda.

Dear Sir or Madam:

As you are aware, since April 1, 1966 your mail is being delivered via the Oldcastle No. 1 R.R.

A large quantity of mail is still being received addressed to Oldcastle No. 2 R.R. It is necessary to give these items Directory Service, which results in delay in delivery.

Will you please advise your correspondents of your correct address; thus enabling us to provide you with a faster service.

Your mailing address is R.R. No. 1 Oldcastle, Ontario

Yours truly,

J. Tasker  
Postmaster OLDCASTLE, ONT. POST OFFICE

Notice to Patrons of Maidstone Post Office that beginning May 1st, Saturday, the Post Office will be closed daily from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. 4/30/65

Johnie and Mary Walker wish to thank their customers who did business with them for the past twenty-two years.

Best wishes is extended to Mrs. Albert Kavanagh on her retirement and her many friends are hoping for good health and much happiness in her leisure hours, after a position well done.



MURRAY ESSERY IS A NATIVE OF SANDWICH SOUTH.

Mountains of mail pour into the Windsor Post Office by the truckload from Toronto, London and Detroit in volume which is 25 per cent higher than year ago to tax the capacity of the Windsor staff to its limit. Shown standing by an incoming parcel post load is Murray Essery, acting supervisor of transport for Windsor Post Office.

### MAIDSTONE CROSS

Post Office Hours: 5/21/65

NOTICE to the Patrons of the Maidstone Post Office: Beginning Thursday, May 27th, the Post Office will be closing a half-day each week. Hours of service, Thursday, will 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Monday thru Saturday the Post Office is closed 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., and closes each day at 5 p.m.

Jack Tasker, of the Variety Shop, will receive the new Oldcastle Rural Mail delivery as of May 10th

It is reported Jack will do away with his china shop at the Variety Shop to make way for the new Post Office.

Some of the local coffee sippers advised Jack they would gladly turn loose a bull or a couple of monkeys in the shop if he wished to get rid of his china.

Right now Jack is displaying a souvenir ladies' brooch, inset with a new Canadian 1965 coin. It might be interesting for people who are hunting for the unusual gift. MAY 7, 1965.



# Mail service expanding

THE WINDSOR STAR, MARCH 26, 1966

## Door-to-door letters for 765 homes

The long arm (or the tired feet) of the Windsor letter carrier will reach about 12.5 miles farther April 1.

Door-to-door mail service will go into effect at 765

homes in the western portion of Windsor and parts of Sandwich West Township, Windsor Post Office officials announced today.

Families that formerly re-

ceived mail on RR 1, Windsor, and RR 1, LaSalle will find the postman at their doors April Fool's Day.

Patrons of the Yawkey Post Office and western district will also be affected. Letter carriers will deliver their mail to group mailboxes near their homes.

The added service will include special delivery. Parcels too large or heavy for the postman to carry will be delivered by truck as in metro Windsor.

The residents will be required to put up house numbers and mailboxes or letter slots. Postal officials said that the rural box can be used if the house numbers are in plain view. But the carrier will deliver to the door.

On the same date a new rural route, RR 2, Windsor, will be formed to serve the bulk of the 383 families now in RR 2, Oldcastle. These patrons now reside within the boundaries of the enlarged city.

About 72 families now served in RR 2, Oldcastle will be transferred to RR 1, Oldcastle.

MAY 3, 1968

Tom Kavanagh will retire from the Oldcastle mail route this month after twenty-one years of service. We, as well as the many subscribers on route No. 1 will miss Tom on the scene. Twenty-one years, six days of the week, all kinds of the weather and roads Tom carried tons of letters, parcels and what have you. This may be to some a small fete but our Tom, like any good trooper carried the mail and the show went on under circumstances that most of us would balk at. Best of luck hope you will come back once in the future Tom and just don't get up in the middle of the night looking for that load of Christmas cards that used to pile up.

There will be a 'Get Together' in honour of Tom Kavanagh, retired mailman of R.R. 1 Oldcastle Route on Friday, May 17th at 8:15 p.m. in Tully Hall. Coffee and doughnuts will be served. Let's all try to get out to say "Good-bye" to Tom and show our appreciation for all his good deeds. If any household was missed, and you are interested in this little gathering, please call George Curtis (969-4418).

Canada's mail strike is starting to be felt in most districts and it is hoped that this national and most important part of a nation's life will be cleared up as quickly as possible.

More and more the public is starting to snarl at so many strikes that are not necessary. Many of the daily papers and important magazines are finding outspoken words for this daily strike, strike, strike that is becoming a hazard to many innocent people that surround strike action. Big industry, professions and others are carrying a ball in this strike action that has gone too far for the economy of the set income person and it is Ordinary clerks, ditch diggers

toilet bowl cleaners, truck drivers, farmers and salaried people are also paying taxes and they are more than feeling a pinch. Industry and profession seem to have the idea that they are becoming the prima donna of a country. Granted professions cost money to become the teacher, the doctor, the skilled tradesman and the man who runs the punch press. On the other hand the man who can dig a trench, the farmer who battles weather and prices and the man who has to do all the dirty jobs of life must live, eat and raise a family.



Who needs them? With the new door-to-door mail service going into effect April 1 at 765 homes in the western portion of Windsor and parts of Sandwich West Township, out come the mailboxes. Danny Lewchuk (left) and postman I. D. Marentette express their feelings for the old letter delivery service by giving the mailbox a final kick before uprooting it.

## MAIDSTONE CROSS

JUNE 7, 1968

Mrs. Dan J. McLean wishes to express her sincere appreciation to her neighbours and relatives who sent food to her home and who helped in acts of kindness and to the L. A. of B. of R. T. No. 325 for floral arrangements, sympathy cards, received and to the sisters who attended wake and funeral and to the many friends who sent sympathy cards, prayers and masses in the sudden loss of her dear sister, Mrs. Mary John D. Walker.

The funeral of Mrs. John D. Walker (Mary Christine Halford) was largely attended, showing the love and respect deceased was held with her many friends, after serving the community for 26 years as Postmistress. Her pastor, Rev. Fr. J. M. Fogarty sang the Requiem Mass. Rev. Fr. O. Martin and Rev. Fr. Reardon attended the wake. The pall bearers were three friends, Deputy-Reeve John M. McAuliffe, Frank J. McCloskey, Donald Flood and three cousins, Peter L. Halford, Patrick L. McAuliffe and Ralph Sexton. Some of those attending funeral were Sister Philip O.S.M. of Detroit, Mrs. Wm. Greenway and daughter Mrs. John Larsen of Roseville, Mich., Miss Edna Stowe of Amherstburg, Don L. McLean of Toronto, Mrs. Vera A. Hergott of Breslan, Ont., Mr. and Mrs. Glen Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Don Francis, Harry Walker and Mrs. Gladys Monpetit, all of Chatham, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Blouin of Livonia, Mich., Mr. and Mrs. Francis McPharlin of St. Clair Shores, Mich., Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McPharlin of Birmingham, Mich., Mr. and Mrs. Leo J. McPharlin, Mr. Tom McPharlin, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. McPharlin Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Leo Lesperance, all of Grosse Pointe, Mich., many, many friends and relatives from Detroit and other points.

Postmen are rather particular about their competition. Not only are they doing away with mailbox service but the mailboxes, poles and all. Top photo shows Mr. Lewchuk and postman Marentette getting rid of a long-time landmark in front of 1780 Reaume Ave. Below, they carry away "old faithful" to be dismantled and forgotten. (Star Staff Photos by Jack Dalgleish)



When the mails are raided and stolen, it is a very serious offence and federal laws hand out a stiff penalty. Right under people's noses it is being done around here, the culprits are known and the trouble is there will be no penalties and they will be allowed to get away with the whole dang business.

Just how does one go about having a trial for starlings that steal mail out of a box and then replace the mail with grass, old strings and even the odd eggs. Old starling will just flit up into the nearest tree and give out with one of those stinging wolf whistles if he thinks the local gals deserve his brassy inspection of the eye. Nine out of ten times the penalty will be reversed on the innocent box owner with a armful of debris and even a hand full of busted oozing eggs.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Tasker are back at the Variety Shop ready to hand out the vitals and calorie loaded pie after a vacation in the South climates. Jack got home to find himself in the middle of a mail strike at the city of Windsor depot. Likely Jack is wishing he had taken a better look at those Southern beaches and found something more interesting than a pile of mail that will likely pile up in the near future.

While our Jack and Gladys vacationed, our Susan with the smiling eyes and Lil with friendly ways, listened to coffee slingers gripes and barbs and still remained on top of the local business of sorting mail and cooking and keeping an eye on the pool players.

ESSEX FREE PRESS, MAR. 14, 1969



# 80 post offices may close

THE WINDSOR STAR, APRIL 12, 1969

## Streamlining could hit area operation

OTTAWA—The post office is studying closing 80 rural post offices in Southwestern Ontario, many of them in the tri-county area, with a view to providing alternate service.

The move is part of the department's effort to streamline and economize operations. Recently, the five-day-a-week delivery was brought in for all but rural areas.

The process is called a rationalization of the service which may result in elimination of more than 3,000 post offices across Canada so small as to be unprofitable and considered unnecessary.

A post office spokesman said that in addition to the 80 closures being studied, 23 have already been closed and four others will be closed in the near future.

Slated for closing are Jeanette's Creek, Trowbridge, Underwood and Hatchely.

On the review list for possible closing are Aberfoyle, Arkell, Ballinafad, Bamberg,

Barrow Bay, Bayham, Belmore, Britton; Canboro, Carlsruhe, Cathcart, Chippewa Hill, Christina, Glandeboye, Coatsworth Sta-

tion, Conn, Corinth, Cromarty, Crosshill, Croton; Damascus, Denfield, Dobinton, Dover Centre, Duart, Dungannon, Dyers Bay;

Egmondville, Glen Allen, Glen Meyer, Featherstone, Harrington West, Haysville, Howdenvale, Inverhuron, Iona Station, Ipperwash, Kent

Bridge, Kippen, Kintail, Long Point Beach; Mar, Middlesport, Miller Lake, Mitchell's Bay, Mossley, Mount Vernon, Muirkirk, Muncey, Middlemiss;

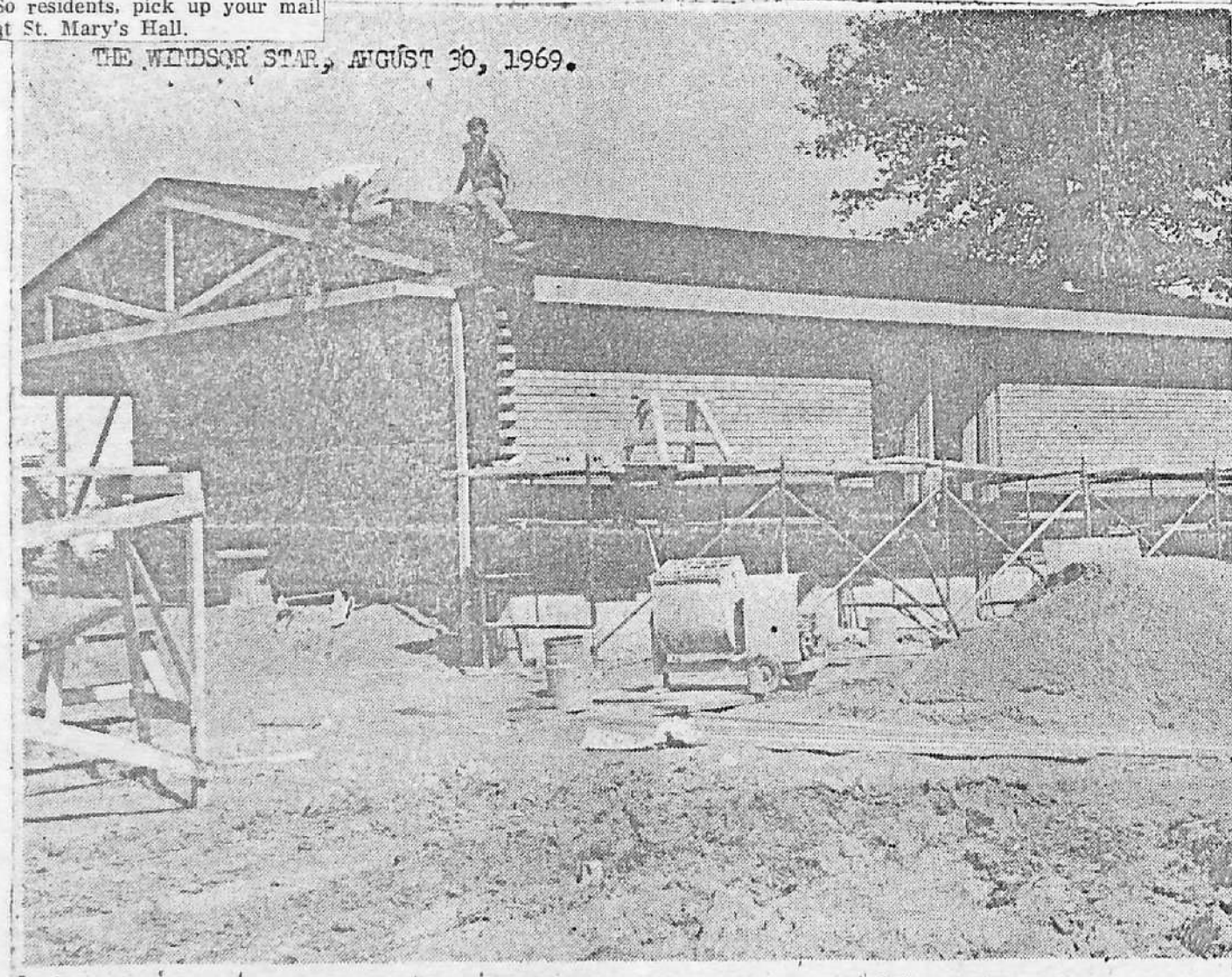
Nixon, Normandale, North Buxton, Northwood, Oldcastle, Oliphant, Onandaga, Peacock Point, Pikes Bay, Point Pelee Point, Poole, Port Bruce, Prairie Siding, Red Bay, Rondeau Park, Rothsay;

Salem, Salford, Sauble Beach, Sauble Beach North, Sauble Beach South, Shrewsbury, Staffa, Stokes Bay, Turkey Point, Walpole Island, West Montrose, Wilkesport and Willowood.



**MAIDSTONE CROSS**  
**JUNE 27, 1969 EFP.**  
The Village Post Office has moved its quarters into St. Marys Hall to be used as the office until the new Post Office is erected. The old building, a century land mark will be demolished. So residents, pick up your mail at St. Mary's Hall.

**SPANKING NEW**—The new Maidstone post office is complete and will be opened to the public Monday. The \$30,000 structure is situated on Highway 3 near Highway 114 intersection. Nordark Enterprises, London, was general contractor. The old post office became too small to meet increased needs. Arnold A. Axcell is village postmaster.



**NEW POST OFFICE**—The new, Maidstone post office is expected to be completed within a month. The structure is situated on the north side of Highway 3 near Highway 114 intersection. The former post office building, a village landmark, was no longer considered adequate to meet needs. Nordark Construction, London, is general contractor for the \$30,000 structure.

STAR- AUGUST, 1968

## Early start on Maidstone post office

MAIDSTONE — Work will begin shortly on the new village post office.

The Canadian Department of Public Works has awarded Nordauk Holdings Ltd., London, a \$26,336 contract for the project.

The new building will replace the office that has been operating out of Walkers store. This has been serving large areas in Maidstone and Sandwich South Townships and a small sector of Colchester North Township.

STAR, \* JULY 12, 1968

## Maidstone eyes new post office

MAIDSTONE — The Federal Department of Public Works has presented preliminary plans for a new village post office.

This will replace the office that has been operated out of Mills, Glammis, New Sarum, Walkers store. This serves Ostrander, Park Head, Pinkerton, Warwick, Whitechurch and Greenock.

Final plans are now being prepared.

Ed Allen was mail courier for R.R. 2, Maidstone. / 11/15

Arnold Axcell has received the appointment as Post Master of Maidstone Post Office. His duties to commence September 23. Mr. Axcell has been Mail Courier of Route 3 for years and is familiar with residents being served at Maidstone. He is also a veteran of World War 2 and was Clerk-Treasurer of Sandwich South for a number of years. Mr. Leslie Jackson, acting Post Master since the death of Post Mistress Mrs. John D. (Mary Halford) Walker; now on vacation, he will return to install Arnold on September 23rd. Best of Good Health and Good Luck in your new appointment, Arnold. Living just South of the Village, with his wife Jessie and daughter Moira. He also has a son-in-law and daughter, Shona, Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Jones. Arnold is a successful coach of the Green Hornet Hockey Team and has been a staunch member of the Maidstone United Church, and is blessed with a host of friends, who will be wishing him well in his new appointment.

ESSEX FREE PRESS -  
SEPT. 6, 1968



May 22, 1964 - Starting June 1st., the local Post Office has received word that the morning mail will arrive at about 8.30 and the afternoon mail that used to arrive around 4 p.m. will not arrive until 6 p.m. and as the Post Office will only receive outgoing mail until 5.30 p.m. this afternoon mail will not be distributed until the next morning. Hence the mail will be cut to one delivery. Issuing Postal Money Orders will cease at 5 p.m. to get the outgoing mail ready.

Mar. 20th., 1968 - Postal Zone System planned for the City of Windsor includes portions of Sandwich South where the mail route emanates from Windsor Post Office, they expect to have it completed by June. Zones 35, 42, 50, 51 & 52.

Oct. 31, 1968 - The Windsor Star - Windsor Post Office officials are reporting heavier business than usual in light of the new postal rates which go into effect to-morrow, Nov. 1st., 1968.

The new rates cover second, third and fourth class mail and providing Royal assent is received to-day on the government's new postal bill, first class mail will also be increased to six cents from the present five cents.

Post office officials have not received word from Ottawa on the exact terms of the new bill, but they expect the new rates to take effect at midnight tonight. The government's bill received third reading and passage in the Commons and is now before the Senate. The bill provides for a one-cent increase for first-class mail to six cents and the four-cent local rate disappears.

Newspapers and similar printed material, classified as second-class mail, also are affected by the bill. Increases in newspaper postage rates to five cents a pound from 2½¢ on editorial content to 15¢ a pound from four cents on advertising content will be phased over one year.

Daily newspapers and others publishing more than once a week with more than 10,000 circulation face a rate increase on editorial content to four cents per pound from two cents on April 1st, 1970.

Officials report the greatest increase in mailing in the third class category, which includes unsealed cards and advertising material. The new rates which are not a part of the government's bill but set by the postal department, raise postage from three cents to five cents.

The new rates also take into effect the mailing of most Christmas cards, which usually can be classified as third class mail. Air mail letters to the United States and its possessions will cost 10 cents an ounce.

January 31st., 1969, Essex Free-Press - HISTORY ON POST MARKS.

Curiously enough it is Benjamin Franklin, the great American statesman and inventor who established the first Canadian Post Offices in Montreal, Quebec and Three Rivers.

The first postal service in the world came into being in the time of Sargon of Chaldea, three thousand years before Christ. His couriers scurried hither and yon on foot, delivering important messages inscribed in clay. The subject matter of Canadian stamps must illustrate the economic or cultural life of the country, contribute to an awareness of conditions, accomplishments and history, or foster a spirit of international good will and understanding.

Post cards were first used in Canada in 1871.

Each Canadian receives approximately 240 pieces of mail every year; this explains the title of a booklet - "CANADA 240" published in 1968 by the Canada Post Office.

It was the Assyrians who invented the envelope. The idea came to them when spies intercepted their secret messages, written on large, heavy, clay tablets. Cleverly they constructed similarly large and heavy clay envelopes. The rumour that a disgruntled Assyrian mailman invented writing paper is unsubstantiated.

In earlier times the mail was delivered only once a year in most of the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

The Canadian artist Suzor-Cote to be honoured by a postage stamp issued in March, 1969 was just finishing his work "Horse hauling logs" when a nearby friend heard his murmur "It's alive; It's alive; I can see the sparrows coming."

The daily route that the letter carrier takes is officially called a "walk".

Each of the 134 nations which belongs to the Universal Postal Union retains the fees for mail leaving the country. The hypothesis is that for every letter leaving, there will be a reply in return. Thus, in theory, no one country will pay more for its international mailings than any other, each country having a Post master General. This form in Britain over 300 years old is slated to disappear in 1969 when the British postal operation becomes a public corporation.

The symbol of the postal service in several European countries is the ancient curved horn which postmen used to sound on their rounds, heralding their approach.

Herr Franz Melzer, a letter carrier from bad Heilbrunn in bustling West Germany, recently inherited an ancient postal horn on condition that he sound it while making his rounds. The Universal Postal Union had a membership of 134 countries, and is the largest of eight such postal unions.

POST MARKS, continued from previous page:

Henry Will introduced the first public mail service with the appointment of Brian Tuke as "MASTER of the POSTS". Tuke instructed his post offices to record the receipt and dispatch times of mail and thus the system of post marks began.

April 12th, 1969 - The Post Office Department is studying closing 80 Rural Post Offices in South-western Ontario with a view to providing alternate service. The move is part of the department's effort to economize. Recently the five-day week was brought in for all but rural areas. OLDCASTLE was one of the post offices under study.

July 4th., 1969 - The Canadian Department of Public Works has awarded a contract to Nordauk Holdings, Ltd., London, Ont. for the construction of a new post office at Maidstone, Eugene Whelan, M.P., Essex, announced. Total cost would be \$26,336.00. On August 30th, 1969 the new post office was expected to be completed within a month. The structure is situated on the north side of Highway #3 at Highway #114 intersection. The spanking new post office would be opened to the public, Monday, Dec. 1st., 1969. Arnold Axcell is Village Postmaster. He resigned his duties as rural mail courier on R. R. 3, Maidstone after 18 years service following the death of Mrs. John D. Walker.

July 15th., 1969 - Pages of the past have been opened in the village of Maidstone. The former post office building and general store run by Ignatius Halford and members of his family for many years was being demolished and the attic store room proved to be a treasure chest full of yesterday's mementoes and mementos. The structure dates back to the early 1850's and has been a landmark in the central sector of Essex County.

Articles found include old boots, shoes, hats, lamps, pictures, papers, calendars, canned goods, cracker barrels, coins and souvenirs. Many were in original cartons and most date back to the turn of the century. One box is full of bales of weaving cotton similar to the type used on spinning wheels.

Most coins are in perfect condition. Workmen have picked up several which date back to the mid-1800's and continued to find others as they went about clearing the site.

One of the most interesting finds was a Boyd's Battery Medal. It was made in London, England, in January, 1878. Michael Palencar, R. R. 3, Maidstone, an amateur antique collector feels the find one of the most interesting in the area, in recent years. The general store had been closed some years ago but the post office carried on until the past month. Pictured in the Windsor Star were Mr. Palencar and his two sons, Pat 5, and Dan 4.

Spt. 6th, 1968 - Arnold Axcell had received the appointment as postmaster at Maidstone Post Office as of Sept. 23rd. He had been mail courier of R. R. #3, Maidstone and is familiar with the residents being served at Maidstone. He was also a veteran of WW 2 and was clerk-treasurer of Sandwich South Township for several years. Mr. Leslie Jackson, acting postmaster since the death of postmistress Mrs. John D. Walker (Mary Christine Halford) would install Arnold.

He has a wife, Jessie and two daughters, Moira at home and Shona, (Mrs. Lonnie Jones). They reside south of the village and Arnold is a successful coach of the Green Hornet Hockey Team of Sandwich South and a staunch member of Maidstone United Church on Hwy. #3 near the village.

May 22, 1968 - Tom Kavanagh, mail courier out of R. R. 1, Oldcastle for the last 21 years, retired at the end of April. When Tom started his work there were less than 80 boxes along the route and now there are three times that many.

He says times have changed but not the people. Tom delivered mail between South Talbot Road and the Essex Townline for almost a quarter of a century. He became a good friend of everybody along his route and says "quitting will be just like leaving a family behind". He drove more than 200,000 miles delivering mail and feels he could follow his route blind-folded and has had eight cars over the years. He missed only two days during his years of service when he fell off a ladder and broke a bone in his foot. Patrons and friends held a party for him at Tully Hall and presented him with a gift. He was born in the Oldcastle area of pioneer parents who were farmers.

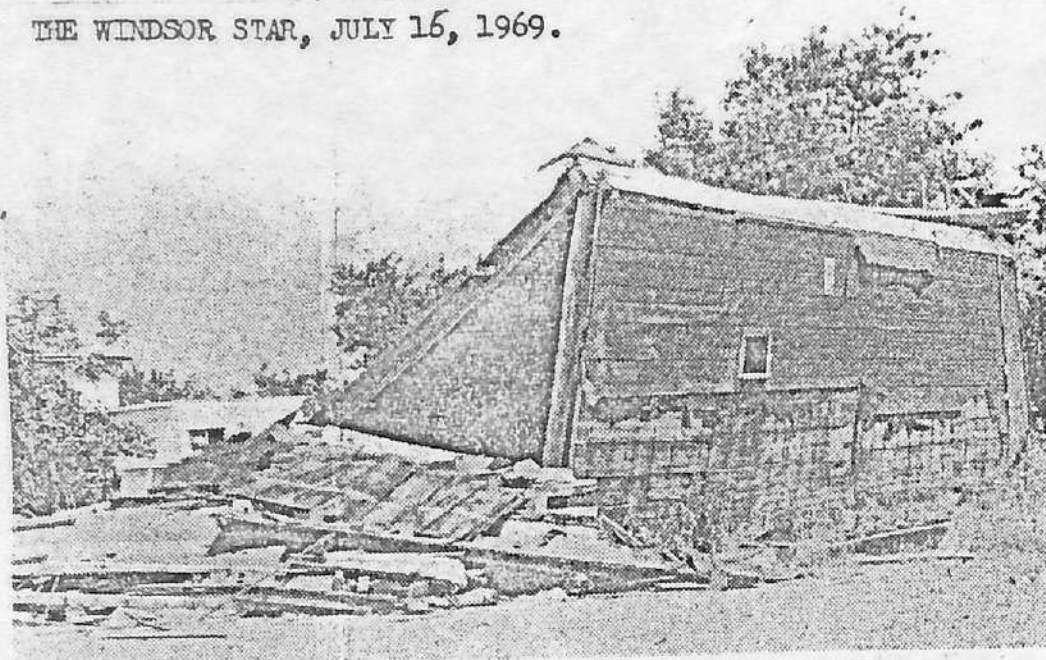
Nov. 29th, 1918 - The Dominion Postal Authorities inaugurated an Air Mail Service in Canada.

Jan. 12th, 1972 - Essex Times - POSTAL RATE CHANGES: The domestic rate for a first class letter or post card went to 8 cents on January 1st., 1972. This is the second step of a two-stage rate increase for first class mail approved by Parliament last summer. The new 8 cent rate will apply to all mail weighing up to one ounce travelling to destinations in Canada. The rate for over one ounce to 2 ounces goes to 14 cents; over 2 ounces to four ounces, 20 cents; over four ounces to eight ounces, 2 cents.

Concurrently, the surface letter mail rate to the United States, its territories and possessions, and to (St. Pierre and Miquelon) also goes up to 8 cents. Other changes that came into effect were: the weight limit for domestic fourth class mail and for parcel post to the United States is increased from 25 lbs. to 35 lbs. The rates for mail going to Canadian Forces Post Offices are adjusted in accordance with the other changes mentioned above; please check with your local post office for details. International rates do not change.



THE WINDSOR STAR, JULY 16, 1969.



OLD MAIDSTONE POST OFFICE TO BE REPLACED

**Former post office****History treasures brought to life**

MAIDSTONE — Pages from the past have been opened in this village.

The former post office building and general store is being demolished and the attic storeroom has proved to be a treasure chest full of yesterday's mementos.

The structure dates back to the early 1850s and has been a landmark in the central sector of Essex County.

Articles found include old boots, shoes, hats, lamps, pictures, papers, calendars, canned goods, cracker barrels, coins and souvenirs.

Many are in original cartons and most date back to the turn of the century. One box is full of bales of weaving cotton similar to the type used for spinning wheels.

Most coins are in perfect condition. Workmen have picked up several which date back to the mid-1800s and continue to find others as they go about clearing the site.

One of the most interesting finds is a Boyds Battery medal. It was made in London, Eng., in January, 1878.

Michael Palenchar, RR 3, Maidstone, an amateur antique collector, feels the find is one of the most

interesting in the area. He says it gives an important insight into the life in the village during the latter part of the past century.

The general store was

closed several years ago, but the post office has carried on until the past month.

Plans call for a \$30,000 structure to be built to replace it.



**FROM THE PAST**—The attic storeroom of the old Maidstone Post Office and General Store has proved to be a treasure chest of items from the past. From left, Michael Palenchar, RR 3, Maidstone, examines some of the find with his sons, Pat, 5, and Dan, 4. The building, constructed around 1850, is being demolished to make way for a new post office.

The Palenchar family has lived in this vicinity for several years.

Canada Post / Postes Canada

THE ESSEX FREE PRESS, JAN. 8, 1982

# New Postal Rates started Jan. 1st, 1982.

Here are some of the new postal rates that have been in effect since January 1st, 1982, for delivery of Canadian and International mail.

Complete details on the new rates, including rates applicable to business mailers, are available at Post Offices.

**Mail for delivery within Canada**

First Class Letters	0-30 g	.30¢
	30-50 g	.45¢
Special Delivery	1st Class Postage Plus	\$1.00
Certified Mail	1st, 3rd or 4th Class Postage Plus	\$1.00
Registered Mail	1st Class Postage Plus	\$1.85
Greeting Cards	0-50 g	.30¢
Third Class Items	0-50 g	.30¢
Parcels:		
e.g. 2 kg (4.4 lbs)	Toronto to Winnipeg	1st Class \$4.00
		4th Class \$1.75
	Montreal to Quebec City	1st Class \$2.45
		4th Class \$1.30
Telepost:	50 words	\$3.45

**Mail for delivery to the U.S.A.**

Air Mail Letters and Post Cards	0-30 g	.35¢
	30-50 g	.50¢
Greeting Cards	0-50 g	.30¢

**Mail for delivery overseas**

Air Mail Letters and Post Cards	0-20 g	.60¢
	20-50 g	.93¢
Aerogrammes		.60¢
Greeting Cards	0-20 g	.30¢

The 'A' Stamp



Until new 30¢ stamps become available, Canada Post is issuing a special stamp called the "A" stamp.

The "A" stamp shows no denomination, but it has a value of 30¢. It must only be used on mail posted and delivered within Canada. It must not be used on mail leaving Canada.

Correct postage can, of course, be made up by using combinations of existing stamps.

Canada



DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF POSTAL SERVICE  
Transportation

Our File: 9-6/13-3-10-1  
Oldcastle No. 1 R.R.  
Oldcastle No. 2 R.R.

London, Ontario  
21st February, 1966

## Postal Rate Changes

THE ESSEX TIMES, JANUARY 12, 1972.

The domestic rate for a first class letter or postcard went to 8 cents on January 1st.

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2 ounces goes to 14 cents; over two ounces to four ounces, 20 cents; over 4 ounces to 8 ounces, 32 cents.

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Other changes that came into effect on 1st January 1972:

four ounces, 40 cents; over four ounces to eight ounces, 90 cents.

Detailed rate sheets are available at all post offices.

### POSTAL RATES FOR DELIVERY IN CANADA

First Class		Up to 1 LB.	
Over	Up to Now in	Effect	As of
0 oz.	1 oz.	7¢	8¢
1 oz.	2 oz.	12¢	14¢
2 oz.	4 oz.	18¢	20¢
4 oz.	8 oz.	28¢	32¢
8 oz.	12 oz.	38¢	44¢
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JAN. 7, 1966

Tom Kavanagh and Phil Robinet the mail carriers of Oldcastle's route one and two wish to forward their thanks to all for the presents and good wishes and likely the end of the Christmas card season.

Probably Jack and "LA" our postmaster and post misses have also returned to normal after the holiday rush that saw thousands of cards and parcels sorted out.

From reports, following the New Year the R. R. 2 route will be changed to R. R. 2, Windsor, and Phil Robinet will work out of the city of Windsor and the suburbanites of Sandwich South will become Windsorites.

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The postal strike may be just the starting of Canada's troubles in the civil service departments. This may be the rumbling to a storm of held down resentment that has smouldered in the high cost of living question.

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## PLEASANT PARK

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Chouinard on the birth of a 9 lb. 4 oz. baby boy, brother for Claire, Paul, Irene, Omer, Rosemary, Maryanne, Theresa, Pauline, Maureen and Philip, on Saturday, August 14, at Hotel Dieu Hospital.

AUG. 20, 1965

DEC. 29, 1967  
THANKS FROM TOM

Tom Kavanagh, mail courier of R.R. 1, Oldcastle, wishes to thank his subscribers for the many Christmas presents. Tom claims the folks were more than generous to him.

In this area our new Post Office Code is NOR-IKO. Please use it for better, quicker service. Thank you.

MAIDSTONE-NOR-IKO  
OLDCASTLE-NOR-IKO

Tom Kavanagh, who has been a mail carrier out of Oldcastle for the last 21 years will be retiring at the end of this month.

Your old Oldcastle Highlighter lives a double life now, merely because of the Windsor City amalgamation. We think like a rebel suburbanite, write like a hayseed on a snowbank but have to live uptown with a new uptown address which is now R. R. 2, Windsor, Ont. If you have articles of interest to the Highlights, use the new address or your mail will be stalled in the Windsor Post Office and your items will appear in the New Year's edition of the Free Press.

APRIL 29, 1966

From recent reports of the daily tabloids throughout Ontario, charitable organizations would be wise to scan the laws on raffles, bingos, draws and what have you. Every now and then the gambling squads get ambitious and fine some charitable organizations just to show the province that there are of course laws against gambling. Some kids will go without a community swimming pool, hockey arena, glasses for the blind or even operations that father and mother never could afford, just because some human being wanted to show authority or become God fearing all of a sudden.

No doubt the world's markets are ruled by the New York, Toronto or other world markets on the stock market which is the largest gamble of the world but the law and world financiers rule this is not gambling.

Crippled little Johnny, farmer Joe on the back fifty, blind little Lisa, if they play marbles on the corner or if some good Samaritan organization wishes to put on a drive to help their fellow man, that fine law abiding friend is gambling at its worst. "Hogwash" the public is asking why the law is made for one and not all and it seems at times the law makers are zigging when they should be zagging and the good things of life in the eyes of the law are just never legal.

On Thursday morning at 8 a.m. a high mass was sung at Christ the King Church on Dominion Blvd. in remembrance of the eight children who lost their lives in the recent bus accident and also for their families. The offering was by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kavanagh. Mr. Kavanagh is the mail courier on R. R. 1, Oldcastle whose route passes through much of the area of these families.

## The Carrier Boys' Address.

Fifty-one years ago, H. D. Wightman publisher of the Napanee Post-Express had already embarked upon a career in the newspaper world. It was as a Printer's Devil on the Essex, Ont., Free Press and one of his many duties was to deliver the paper to the local subscribers. While going over some souvenirs recently, he came across the card, in those days set by hand and printed by the Devil himself and presented to each of his customers as the year drew to a close. Following is that address:

The glad New Year has come today,  
With all its merry greeting;  
The old twelve months have passed away  
And we exclaim "how fleeting!"  
We do not mourn its parting though,  
It brought its share of sorrow;  
The New Year sheds a cheerful glow,  
Bright hopes for it we borrow.  
All through the year whose dawn we see,

Let us make no repining;  
Behind each silver cloud may be  
The glorious silver lining.  
May this New Year bring nearer still,  
The promised years that are to be,  
When all shall live in all good-will—  
The longed-for years of Jubilee.  
When toil shall bring a fair reward,  
Meet recompense for labor,  
When wealth shall yield its golden hoard,  
And man shall love his neighbor.  
Should this year bring this time of Peace,

What thanks we all could render,  
Its close would find a grand increase  
In all that's pure and tender,  
Whatever this year for you may hold  
In all that's worth possessing,  
The Free Press wishes joy untold,  
And every earthly blessing.  
The Carrier Boy brings greeting, too,  
And asks you to remember  
His services the whole year through  
From New Year's to December.



DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF POSTAL SERVICE  
Transportation

Our File: 9-6/13-3-10-1

Oldcastle No. 1 R.R.

Oldcastle No. 2 R.R.

London, Ontario  
21st February, 1966

Rural Route No. 2  
OLDCASTLE, Ontario

Dear Sir/Madam

DISCONTINUANCE OF OLDCASTLE NO. 2 RURAL ROUTE

On 1st January 1966, Windsor, Ontario extended its City boundary to annex a large portion of the surrounding territory which will change the Post Office service to a large number of patrons.

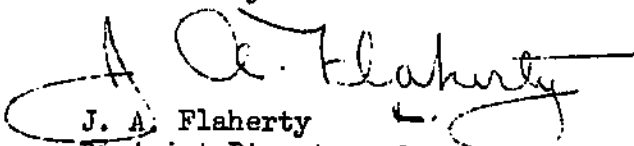
As a result of this change, the courier serving Oldcastle No. 2 Rural Route will make his last trip to your box on 31st March, 1966.

On and from 1st April, 1966, you will be served by the courier for Oldcastle No. 1 Rural Route.

Will you please notify all your correspondents including magazines, newspapers, periodicals, etc., that your new Post Office address will be Rural Route No. 1 Oldcastle, Ontario. Cards for this purpose may be obtained at any Canadian Post Office and will pass free of postage through the mails.

I am indeed sorry that I was unable to give you more prior notice of this change, but your co-operation in assisting the Post Office Department to provide you with the best possible uninterrupted service will be sincerely appreciated.

Yours truly

  
J. A. Flaherty  
District Director of Postal Service

c.c. The Postmaster, Oldcastle, Ontario  
" Postmaster, Windsor, Ontario

Rural Route No. 2  
OLDCASTLE, Ontario.

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Maidstone-NOR-OLDCASTLE-NOR-110

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When wealth shall yield its golden hoard,  
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AUG. 20, 1965



## Postal zone

system planned for city  
*LaSalle-Tecumseh in new grid*

Chalk up another "first" for Windsor.

Windsor will become the first city in Canada with a population in the 200,000 bracket to be assigned postal zones.

Donald M. Jeannette, Windsor Postmaster, said today that postal zones will be introduced to the Greater Windsor area on July 1.

LaSalle and Tecumseh will be included in the 25 zones, into which the city will be broken down. A map of these zones appears below.

Major cities in Canada, like Toronto and Montreal, have used the postal zone system for many years.

"The zone system will result in improved, more efficient mail service to all parts of the city," Mr. Jeannette said. "Windsor simply outgrew its present system."

"Because of the growth Windsor has experienced in recent years it has become almost impossible for postal employees to memorize the complete breakdown required for sorting and delivery of mail," he said.

Windsor residents are being asked to wait until they have been officially notified as to what their zones will be before including them in their addresses. Notices of the change to the zone system will be sent to all residents. This is expected to be completed by June.

In using the zone numbers, the writer should place the number after the name of the city, and before the name of the province.

The zones follow the natural boundaries of the city, and there is no unlucky number 13 to worry the superstitious.

This is no short-term step—the new zoning system is expected to keep up with the city's growth for the next 20 years.

Basically, the zone system will simplify and speed up the mail sorting process. Mail sorters will be able to sort more rapidly and accurately for distribution to the four

main postal stations in the city.

By quickly glancing at the postal zone number, the mail sorter will be able to divert mail immediately to the proper handling section of the Post

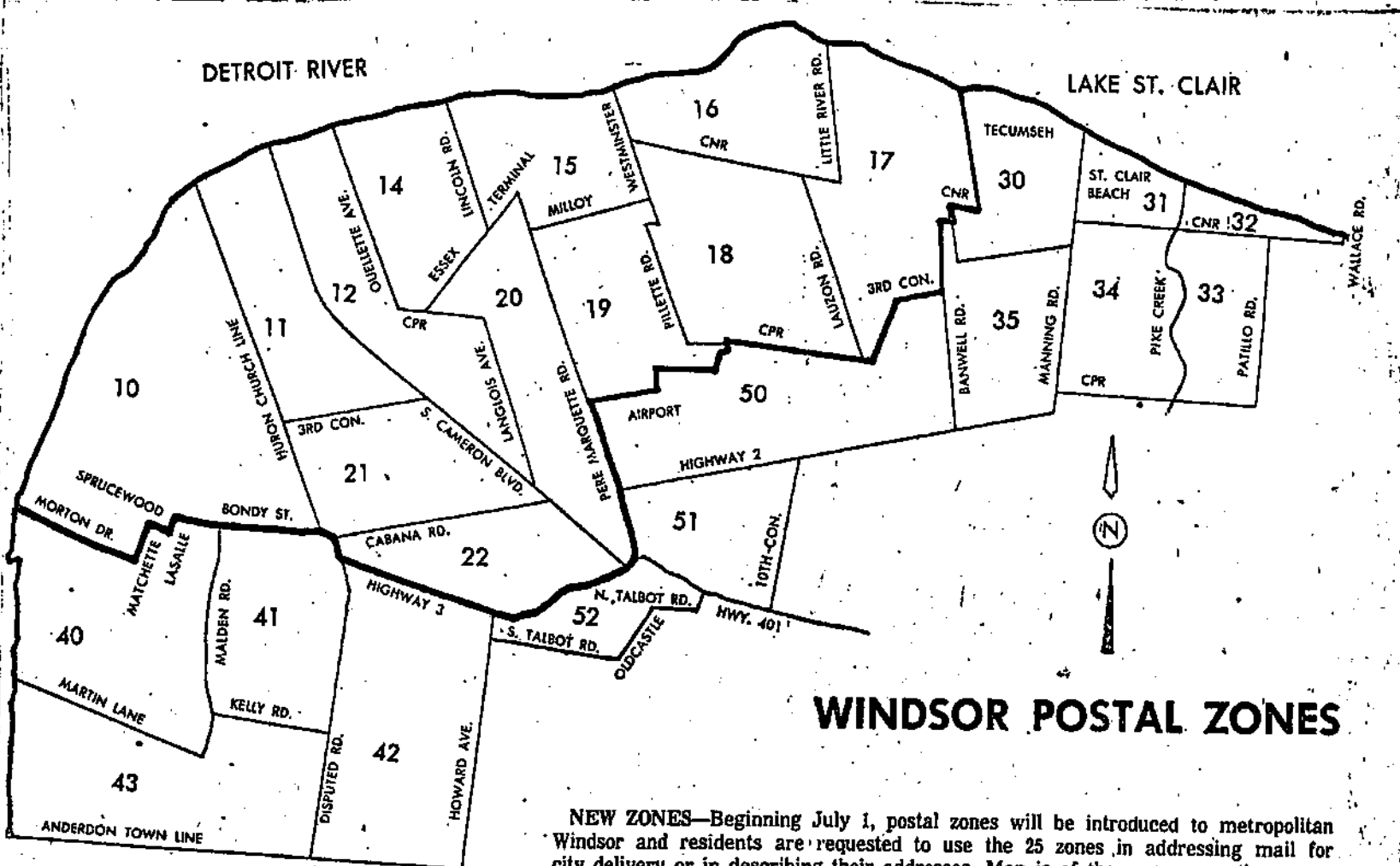
Office to get it to you faster.

Besides the main Post Office downtown, there are postal stations in Walkerville, Sandwich, LaSalle and Tecumseh.

The zone system is some-

what similar to the "zip code" system in use in the United States.

London, Ontario—about the same size as Windsor—is expected to receive a postal zoning system later.



**WINDSOR POSTAL ZONES**

**NEW ZONES**—Beginning July 1, postal zones will be introduced to metropolitan Windsor and residents are requested to use the 25 zones in addressing mail for city delivery or in describing their addresses. Map is of the new zones; the names of streets are placed in the zone in which they belong.

### MAIDSTONE CROSS

OCT. 25, 1968

Special notice to residents of this surrounding community:

The Dept. of Public Works of Ontario Region has requested this writer to give information to them of the early settlers of this vicinity, so they can give the first hand information to have a piece of Canadian Art work for our new Post Office, to be built in the village. We would be pleased to receive short resumes from old-time residents, or young ones of the background of the different families who settled here. This should be given at the earliest possible time, in order to convey it to the Regional Architect. It will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

### MAIDSTONE CROSS

Anyone knowing the date of the burning of the Toll Gate at Maidstone Cross and the arrivals of the Irish, French and English in this community, kindly phone 737-6143 with the information as the Department of Public Works is looking for this information.

### NOV. 22, 1968

This week in case you have had a memory lapse, the new six cent stamp went into effect in Canada. No doubt there will be many a slip between the lip and tongue-masters on this new issue until all are used to the idea.

Christmas card senders this year will be hit in the pocket along with all the other tax additions promised and a Merry Christmas may not be so merry as the government bite starts to get contagious with the word up.

Goose livers were at least reduced in the latest government tax report but old John Q. Public is all goosed up as far as his thinking is concerned in the value of his dollar these days.

Just the same look forward to more heavy Christmas spending from statistics reports. Send your Christmas cards by just a thought, mail early and shop early and believe it or not that holiday will be upon us Dec. 25th.

Tom and Virginia Kavanagh along with their children, Tim and Shannon, have just returned home from a lovely vacation. Mr. and Mrs. Tom and family visited Montreal and "Man and His World" and also the many beautiful shrines in that area.

On the way home they visited Ottawa and the parliament buildings and the Royal Canadian Mint. One of the highlights of this visit was meeting Prime Minister Trudeau, who after a friendly chat and handshake presented them with his autograph.

Tom, as many know, was the mail carrier here at Oldcastle for over 20 years and just recently retired from the route and was able to take his first good vacation with his family in many years. AUG. 23, 1968

Around the Oldcastle Post Office the past week our postmaster Jack Tasker, almost went shopping for a bigger outfit to handle the present incoming mail. New editions of the new Bell Telephone directory put a crimp in the family car springs as the new book is getting thicker each year along with more and more books.

Paul Chouinard, of 7th Conc. and mailman for R. R. 2, has suffered a heart attack while visiting at the home of his neighbour, Don Market and was rushed to Hotel Dieu Hospital by ambulance and is in intensive care. His many friends and neighbours are hoping and praying for a speedy recovery. 5/1/70

Maidstone's new Post Office with Arnold Axcell as Postmaster, and Mrs. R. C. Flood Jr. as his assistant now services 800 residences. The office is open week days from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Saturday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. There is a stamp vending machine and drop box service and lock box service for owners of boxes. 7/24/70

We are sorry to report that Mr. Paul Chouinard of the 7th concession of Maidstone Twp. is in Hotel Dieu for tests. We hope that Paul will be back on the R.R. 2 Maidstone mail route very soon. OCT. 18/73 TIMES

**AUGUST 16, 1968**  
Business as usual has resumed at the Oldcastle Post Office and the post office staff are up to their ears again almost like Christmas mail.

We missed our daily jaunt to the post office, a short coffee break and missed our L.H.'s good humour. We are back on the run picking up mail and even getting off one of those Scottish pure jokes to Gladys. The local gals also feel at home jabbing Jack with pool cues, Susie still gets the brunt of the local lads teasing and if she goes on holidays they will be sad sacks.



# The games are over; postal codes now serious business

By ALAN HENDERSON

The party's over. Up 'til now, postal officials have been treating the matter of postal codes like a parlor game.

You know, make up little humorous phrases if you could, to help you remember your postal code. But now it's down to serious business.

With a growing number of cities across Canada implementing the automated coding equipment, postal officials are now anxious that postal codes be included in all addresses.

Why in tarnation should I, you might ask?

Well, for starters it would seem a shame if the equipment that was purchased with your tax money and mine was to rust away unused in a corner. Also, there'll soon be a time when postal officials won't be able to guarantee efficient delivery of mail without it.

Windsor isn't scheduled to complete its automated system before September of next year. However, 80 per cent of Canada's mail is expected to go through automated equipment by this fall and a lot of it will be from Windsor.

A contract for construction of a \$6.2 million postal

processing plant is expected to be let in June with the plant, which will be located on Walker Road, just north of the Twin Drive-In, to be completed by September, 1976.

Here's how the system will work. After a letter is collected from a mail box, it is transported to a postal processing plant where it is run through a machine that post-marks it and cancels the stamp.

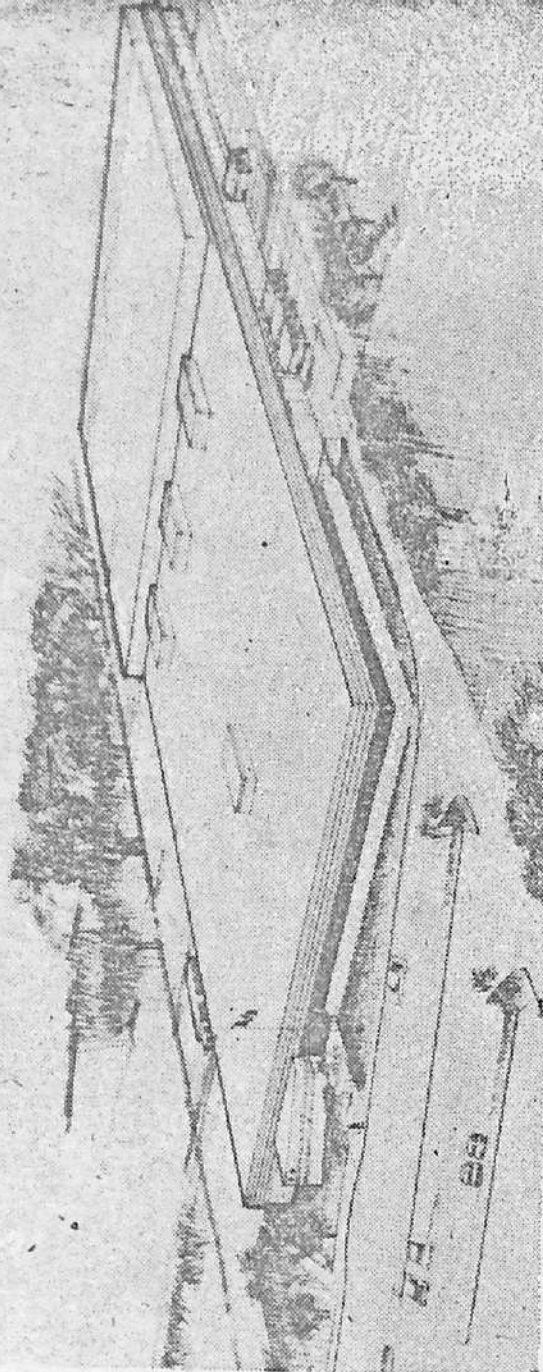
An operator at a keyboard then reads the postal code and stamps an appropriate fluorescent bar code on it. The code is similar to the series of lines of various widths and lengths that are appearing on canned goods in grocery stores.

Mail is then processed through machines which sort it for the carriers who will deliver it to your home or business.

Earl Schulthies, public relations officer, said in the present system, a letter is handled by 26 postal employees on the average. The number will be greatly reduced and speeded up in the new system.

Mr. Schulthies said not only will mail handling be speeded up but postal stations will be able to handle greater volumes of mail.

THE WINDSOR STAR, MAR. 12, 1975



Architect's sketch of planned postal processing plant

## Oldcastle Post Office Moved . . .

THE ESSEX FREE PRESS  
MARCH 21, 1975

The Oldcastle Post Office moved into new quarters on Monday of this week.

Expropriation of the property which housed it since 1963, made the move necessary.

Jack Tasker, postmaster, said his notice required him to vacate his variety store where he conducted the post office, by June 1 but housing accommodations and the building suitable for a post office were available now.

The new location is one half mile to the west on the same side of #3 highway, just west of Walker Road. It is adjacent to Parr Brothers Electric. The small cement block building, set back from the highway will house the post office only. Mr. Tasker said signs would be erected as soon as approval was given by the Ministry of Transportation.

The post office is just one of the municipal offices that will move to make way for an overpass on highway #3 over the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad. The municipal office was relocated some time ago, the fire department and the library are still considering a new location.



MAIL BOX RELOCATED — Oldcastle Postmaster, John Tasker, takes the letter box from the door of his variety store where it hung to receive letters after post office hours. It will be relocated at the new post office west of Walker Road on the same side of #3 Highway. The change of postal station was made on March 17th.

## An itinerant post office may have another home

THE WINDSOR STAR, JULY 16, 1976

By RICHARD POISSON

OLDCASTLE — The Oldcastle post office hasn't had a permanent home since it was established in the hamlet about 1878. And if present postmaster Jack Tasker has his way, it will be moved again.

Since March, 1975, the post office has been located in a small, cement-block garage on Highway 3, just east of Walker Road.

Mr. Tasker said the garage, which is leased from Parr Brothers Electric, was the only site available to him when he was forced to move the postal service because of proposed highway development.

"It was either move here or go out of the post office business," he said.

The ministry of transport had planned to build an overpass and eliminate the level crossing where the C and O railroad cuts across Highway 3 — about a quarter-mile east of Walker Road.

Before the ministry decided to defer the project, it had bought the surrounding

properties, including the Oldcastle Variety from which Mr. Tasker operated the post office.

The ministry is now leasing the boarded-up building to Sandwich South Township, the municipality in which the hamlet is located.

Mr. Tasker has applied to lease part of the building, but to date, the township hasn't decided on his request. The apartment has already been rented, and the library has asked to lease part of the old store.

The proposed move, if approved, will add another chapter to the history of the Oldcastle post office.

According to the records of Mrs. Myrtle Crowder, a resident of Oldcastle since 1927, Michael McCarthy was instrumental in establishing the postal service in the hamlet.

Becoming the settlement's first postmaster about 1878, Mr. McCarthy handed out the mail from a cubby hole under a second-floor stairway in his home on Highway 3 which, at that

time, was just a mud road.

The house became an inn as the stage coach travelling between Windsor and Leamington passed by his home and delivered the mail. Passengers would often spend the night there.

Mr. McCarthy died at the age of 80 after suffering a stroke in 1912. George Welsh became the next postmaster and operated the service from his home on what is now Oldcastle Road.

In 1914, the post office was moved to Paquette and didn't return to Oldcastle until 1947.

Albert Kavanagh, with the help of his wife, ran the service from their Oldcastle China Store and Grocery, later called the Oldcastle Variety.

Mrs. Kavanagh became postmistress in 1955 when her husband took ill and had to retire. She moved the service from the store into the front porch of their home, next door.

She passed the service to Mr. Tasker in 1965. He moved it back into the store, which he leased from her.



*'Like leaving a family'* THE WINDSOR STAR, MAY 22, 1968.  
**Veteran mailman hangs up bag**

By DON HARRIS  
OLDCASTLE — Sandwich South Township mailman Tom Kavanagh has made his last run.

Tom delivered mail in the area between North Talbot Rd. and Essex Townline for almost a quarter of a century.

He became a good friend of everyone along his route and says, "Quitting will be just like leaving a family behind."

Tom drove more than 200,000 miles delivering mail and feels he could "follow his route blindfolded." He has had eight cars over the years.

The dedicated mailman missed only two days during his years of service. That was when he fell off a ladder and broke a bone in his foot. He made his rounds in a cast for more than three months following the accident.

When Tom started his work, there were less than 80 boxes along his route. Now there are almost three times that amount and the number continues to mount.

He says times have changed, but not the people.

Tom was born and raised in the Oldcastle area. Residents held a social evening in his honor.



Tom Kavanagh makes his last mail run

JAN. 5, 1973 E.F.P. Barrettsville, Edgar Mills, Grateful Thanks to the Patrons of R.R. #1 Maldstone for the many generous gifts, money, fruit and lovely cards to their Couriers, Mrs. Francis St. Louis and Dorothy wants them to know their good wishes and gifts are deeply appreciated. AUG. 21, 1974

The many friends of Mrs. Nick Nikita, Rural Mail Courier for No. 3 Route, will be pleased to know she is progressing favourably after major surgery in L.O.D.E. Hospital. MAY 9/75 EFP

## Post office relocation forced by expropriation

THE WINDSOR STAR, MAR. 22, 1975

OLDCASTLE — The local post office moved into its new home this week.

Expropriation forced the move.

Its new location is in a small, cement-block building one-half mile west of the former post office on the same side of Highway 3 beside Parr Brothers Electric company.

It is set back from the highway and Postmaster John Tasker said signs indicating its location would be in place as soon as they are approved.

Mr. Tasker has run the post office in one end of his variety store for the past 12 years. The new quarters will house the post office only.

The postmaster said the notice of expropriation gave him until June 1, 1975, to be out of his store but the new quarters were available now.

The post office is just one of the municipal headquarters that will be moved to make way for the planned overpass, just east of Walker Road. The municipal offices were

relocated some time ago. New sites for fire department Station-1 and the library that has been located in the former municipal hall are being planned.

The post office in its new location will be open the same hours as usual. Mrs. Tasker delivers the mail on the one route from Oldcastle. Seven households which had mail box delivery will now pick up their mail at the office because the move brings them within the quarter-mile, non-delivery zone.

MAR. 7, 1975 EFP. Of local interest is the news that Oldcastle Post Office will move on March 17th to The Parr Bros. Electric Building off No. 3 Hwy., just west of Walker Road Intersection.

CARD OF THANKS 1/3/75 We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the nice people on R.R. 1 Maldstone and also on the paper route, who were so nice to us at Christmas time. Wishing you all the Season's Greetings, Fran and Dorothy St. Louis

DEC. 26 THANKS 1975 Paul Chouinard and family would like to wish friends, neighbours and relatives a Merry Christmas and a Happy prosperous New Year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the very generous people on R.R. #2 Maldstone for their lovely gifts, goodies, cheer, etc. EFP

I. Halford, Post Master at Maldstone, received a King's Medal. He had been post master, at Maldstone since 1890. MAY 31 1935 E.F.P.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, CANADA

### TENDERS

Sealed Tenders addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender For

Interior Cleaning and Maintenance, Post Office, Maidstone, Ontario

will be received until 3:00 P.M. E.S.T. Wednesday, November 24, 1971.

Plans, specifications and forms of tender can be seen at the office of the Department of Public Works, Dominion Public Building, 457 Richmond Street, LONDON, Ontario, or can be obtained from the District Director, Department of Public Works, P.O. Box 668, LONDON 12, Ontario.

To be considered, each tender must be made on the printed forms supplied by the Department and in accordance with the conditions set forth therein.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

3320-34210-22-42043-48001.

J. E. D. Hoskins, Supervisor Tendering & Office Services NOV. 19, 1971 EFP

Paul Chouinard, R. R. 2 Mail Man is in Hotel Dieu and will undergo surgery for gall stones on Tuesday. His many friends and neighbors join in wishing Paul a complete recovery. JULY 9, 1971 EFP

SEPT. 3, 1976, THE WINDSOR STAR  
**Oldcastle post office back at former location**

OLDCASTLE — The post office at Oldcastle has been moved again, this time it is back in its former quarters. The move was made on Sept. 1.

Because the building in which the post office has been located was to be moved to make way for an overpass on Highway 3 over the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, Postmaster John Tasker located the office temporarily west of Walker Road where he has handled the village mail for the past year.

Plans for the overpass have been shelved indefinitely so Mr. Tasker obtained permission from the ministry of transportation which purchased the building, and from post office officials, to move back to the original site which is located on the north side of the highway just east of the railway.

Mr. Tasker formerly operated the Oldcastle Variety in the same building and acted as postmaster in conjunction with his business.

### CARD OF THANKS E.F.P.

I would like to thank my family, relatives and the many, many friends for all the cards, flowers, gifts, etc. that I received during my two-week stay at Hotel-Dieu Hospital. Also to all the nurses on the third floor, Drs. P. Quenneville, C. Pearce and N. Thibert and a special thank you to Leo and Rose Ballargeon. NOV. 2, 1973

Paul Chouinard



Oldcastle Postmaster John Tasker moves to new quarters



The Windsor Star Tuesday, September 21, 1976

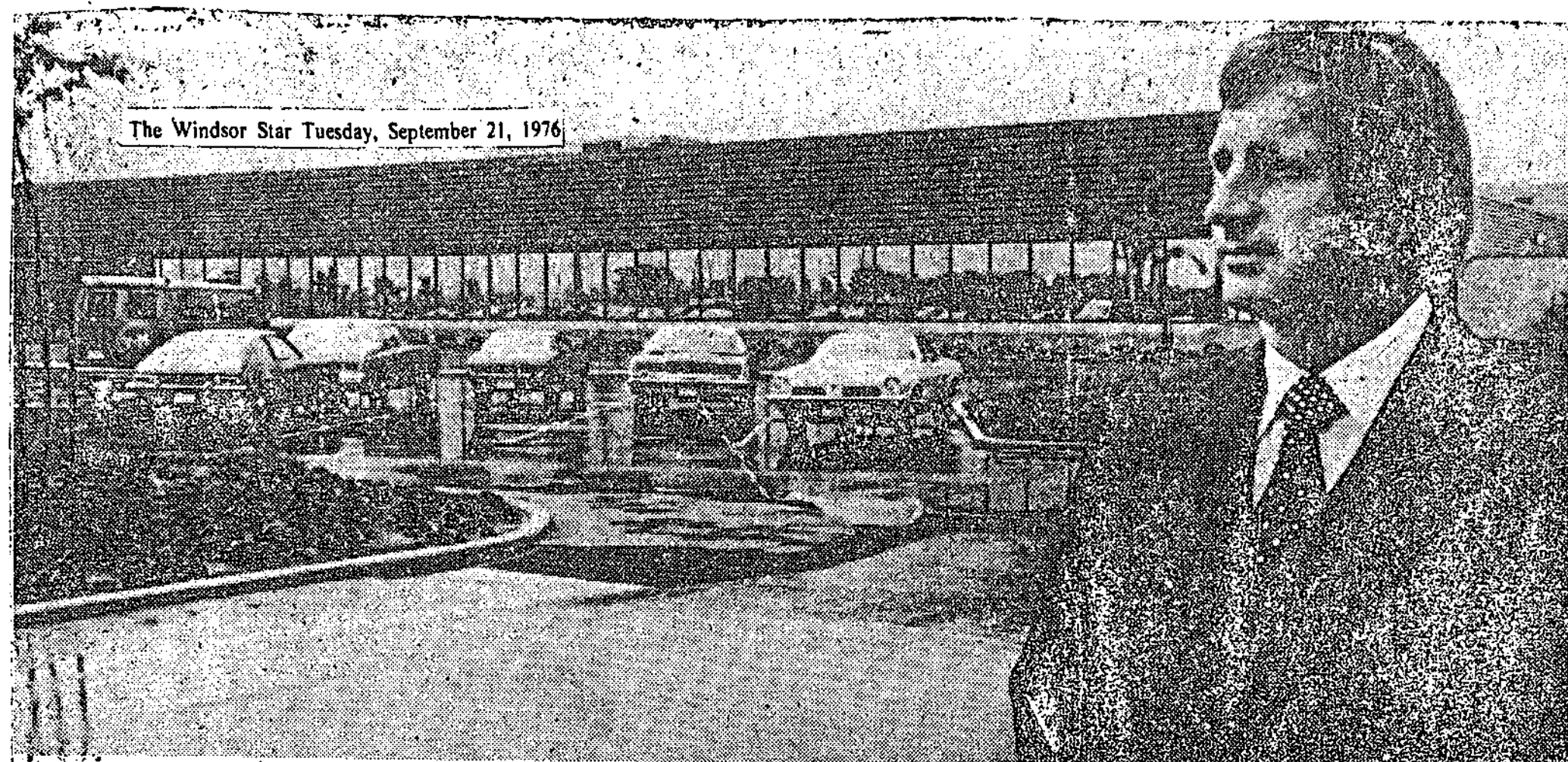


Photo by JACK DALGLEISH

Postmaster John Gagne, outside Windsor's \$6.2-million mail-processing plant on Walker Road

A new environment for all of us'

## Postmaster finds a challenge

By LARRY MATTHEWS

When John Gagne, Windsor postmaster, was first appointed to his job last February, it was intended that he would be in a temporary position lasting about a year.

However, because of the challenges he has found working in the mail processing plant on Walker Road he requested that he be kept here longer.

Mr. Gagne explained his change in status during a tour of the new facility.

Mr. Gagne said his posting to Windsor was considered a "developmental assignment," meaning that it was to be a short stop in his 16-year career with the post office.

Soon after arriving, though, he became intrigued by the challenge of working with the personnel in the post office and their relationship with the mechanization process that had begun.

"It's a new environment for all of us...but I'm amazed at the way the employees have taken to the move," he said. "There have

been some problems — it's not all hearts and flowers — but it's going well."

Mr. Gagne was referring to the opening of the processing plant in mid-August and the introduction of sophisticated equipment that's required for the new postal code system. The equipment is expected to accelerate the movement of mail through the post office and meet the area's mail-processing needs for at least 20 years.

Mr. Gagne said dealings with the unions representing inside workers and the letter carriers have been tough.

"Both drive a hard bargain...We spend a great deal of time consulting and not all the meetings have been harmonious," he said.

"But I can't fault the unions. They've got to be very careful," he said, noting that he considered it natural for some employees to feel threatened at the introduction of new equipment.

He said no employees will be laid off because of new equipment.

Mr. Gagne said the second major challenge has been the smooth implementa-

tion of mechanization and the postal code. He said it could be a year before all the bugs are removed from the system, regardless of how easy it might appear on paper.

Mr. Gagne said the real credit for the success of the operation so far should go to the various department managers who "have been with this thing through thick and thin... and I'm not just handing out flowers."

A native of North Bay, Mr. Gagne started with the post office at the age of 22 after working as a lineman for Ontario Hydro.

In eight years he became public relations officer for the area.

In November, 1969, he was appointed to the first of three three-month assignments in Toronto and Ottawa as a task force member on marketing and public affairs. In February, 1971, he returned to North Bay as manager of marketing for the district.

Two years ago, Mr. Gagne was assigned to Ottawa headquarters for a five-month stint as national co-ordinator of the program to introduce the postal code. A year later he became marketing manager for the eastern district of Canada.

Industrial Dock Equipment & Materials Handling

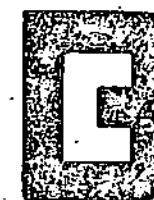


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# Postal code reaches area

THE WINDSOR STAR, SEPT. 27, 1972  
By MARK BONOKOSKI

To simplify some complexities within the nation's postal system, the federal government will begin immediately to expand its new mail-sorting arrangement coding system to Southwestern Ontario.

The system — simply titled, "the code" — was introduced in Ottawa in April 1971. It utilizes a unique arrangement of letters and numbers and works under the same principle as the U.S. Zip Code to ensure mail flow is smooth and efficient.

Since its launching in Ottawa, the code has been extended in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, the Northwest Territories and eastern Ontario.

Jerry Fultz, director of postal coding in Ottawa, spoke to representatives of business, industry and media Tuesday to introduce the program to Windsor and southwestern Ontario. Although the system will be instituted immediately to enable citizens to become accustomed to its phase two of the program — mechanization in sorting procedures — will not come into effect until September 1976.

Despite a complicated appearance, the new code is so discriminating that it can define an address down to one face of a city block, a large business, or an apartment building, if it Walkerville, speaking on behalf of Postmaster General Jean-Pierre Cote, who had other commitments and could not attend the conference, said the code is only the first step in mechanizing the mail-sorting system.

On March 3, Mr. Cote announced in Ottawa that a contract for \$70-million had been awarded for equipment manufacturing. Installation of this equipment in Windsor and London is scheduled for mid-1975.

In Ottawa, installation of the machine in the pilot operation began in January and the machines have been working on-line since Aug. 22.

"The Post Office must continue to make improvements to its service," said Dr. MacGuigan. "Increasing mail volumes and traffic congestion in the large post offices are two of the major problems which must be solved if the mail flow is to be processed smoothly and efficiently. Postal coding and, later, the progressive introduction of mechanized mail sorting is the only solution to these problems."

Dr. MacGuigan said that within the next two weeks, the Post Office will be sending out a booklet explaining the code, as well as individually addressed envelopes informing the people of Southwestern Ontario of their particular code number. The department will also code — free of charge — either business lists for large

is large enough. By comparison, the U.S. Zip Code needs all five numbers to give the same information the Canadian code gives in three characters.

An example could be represented in the postal code N9A 5K3. The letter N indicates the address is in southwestern Ontario. The 9A indicates an urban area and narrows it down to a section of Windsor. The local code, 5K3, pinpoints the address to the south side of Riverside Drive West, between Ouellette Avenue and Ferry Street.

Both numbers and figures are used so that, mathematically, the code is permitted a large number of possible address combinations with comparatively few characters in the code. It also builds in a reserve for expansion.

The code is flexible enough to accommodate changes in growth patterns and shifts in population. Out of a possible 7.2-million combinations, only about 700,000 will be in use when the coding of Canada is completed in 1974. Any time a new area is built up, or a new apartment building constructed, a new number can be drawn from the reserve bank. A code can also be retired without causing problems in the system.

Mark MacGuigan, Liberal MP, for Windsor-

See POSTAL, Page 2

customers or Christmas card lists for private citizens if the local post office is contacted.

While Dr. MacGuigan and Mr. Fultz explained the system to the gathering at the Windsor Men's Press Club, members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers picketed outside.

Their pamphlet read: "The Union is not opposing the new electronic sorting system, and we accept the fact that the Canadian taxpayers will save future millions of dollars with the modernization program, but we do insist that regular postal clerks be trained to work on the machines without taking a 75 cent per hour cut in pay."

Mr. Fultz told a spokesman for the approximately 15 picketers that no one would have to take a cut in pay and no one would be forced into working the machines or changing their job classification.

"The advent of mechanization doesn't mean someone will lose his job," said Mr. Fultz. "No person working in postal offices has any fear of losing his position."

Mr. Fultz said advertisements have been placed outside as well as inside the postal system for machine operators. He said that if anyone in a postal office wished to take employment as a sorting-machine operator, he would be taking a cut in pay at his own volition.

STAR LETTER BOX - DEC.

Striking back

1975

at post office

Sir: Enraged is not a strong enough word to describe my feelings over the many inconveniences we have suffered at the hands of these arrogant postal employees! Such lack of consideration for the multitude of needs of the masses is inconceivable!

Since I have had to find alternative methods for paying my bills, contacting my friends, and those services previously provided for us, I intend to urge others who are able, now to go on strike against the mail handlers. My faithful rural route mail lady will still be paid, small merchants can once again send out statements in hopes of being paid if they have not already been forced to close because of lack of business caused by the strike.

(Alas not many customers made the effort to help the little guy by voluntarily bringing in payments on accounts due) — our so-called "senior citizens," who do find it difficult to move about can receive the cheques they have worked so hard for over the past 40 or 50 years; and we mothers, who are trying to stretch budgets to feed, clothe, and house children as our husbands faithfully trudge off to work for a wage the letter sorters wouldn't even consider, can receive, on time, our family allowance cheques!

I realize that I alone, or those of my friends who plan to follow my example cannot close down the post office, but, I do know from experience, that, while a slow day at work is a welcome change of pace, several slow days with few pieces of mail to process, would stretch out and become boring.

Perhaps then, the letter sorters could use this time heavy on their hands to think of us, the little people, for once!

JUDI HERDMAN

\*\*\*\*\* RFP

FEB. 27, 1976

News From The Post Office

The Post Office Department considers as one of its prime targets that of convincing all mailers that both personal and business correspondence should bear the Postal Code as part of the address, the Postmaster said. His particular concern is that the residents of the Essex area should be aware that the Postal Code is definitely part of their mailing address. The automatic equipment cannot handle any mail not bearing the Code, thus causing a possible delay. Tests during the month of January indicated that letters posted at the Essex Post Office had the lowest percentage of coded addresses of any office in Southwestern Ontario. He said he would appreciate your assistance in improving the record. A Postal Code Directory is available for public use in the main lobby. Your mailing list will be coded for you if you so desire.

Of interest to all mailers, to the U.S.A. is the increase in postage rates which goes into effect March 1. At that time the letter rate becomes 10 cents for the first ounce and 9 cents for each additional ounce up to 1 pound. An air mail rate as such will be phased out. All letter mail will be air-lifted where expedition of the same will be effected.

The domestic insurance system will be changed March 1st to include coverage for first class mail and the maximum value insurable will be \$1000.00. Free insurance up to \$10.00 will no longer be provided. Rate information may be obtained at the Post Office.

## International postal rates hiked

THE WINDSOR STAR, JAN. 2, 1976

An increase in Canadian postal rates for international mail became effective New Year's Day under a two-part international agreement.

Foreign-bound mail, including post cards and weighing up to one ounce, now require 20 cents postage instead of the former 15 cents.

Excluded is mail to the United States, its territories and possessions. These rates are unchanged except for some publishers' rates.

The rate increase is part of an international mailing agreement signed by Canada in 1974.

The agreement calls for another increase Jan. 1, 1977, by five cents for foreign-bound letters.

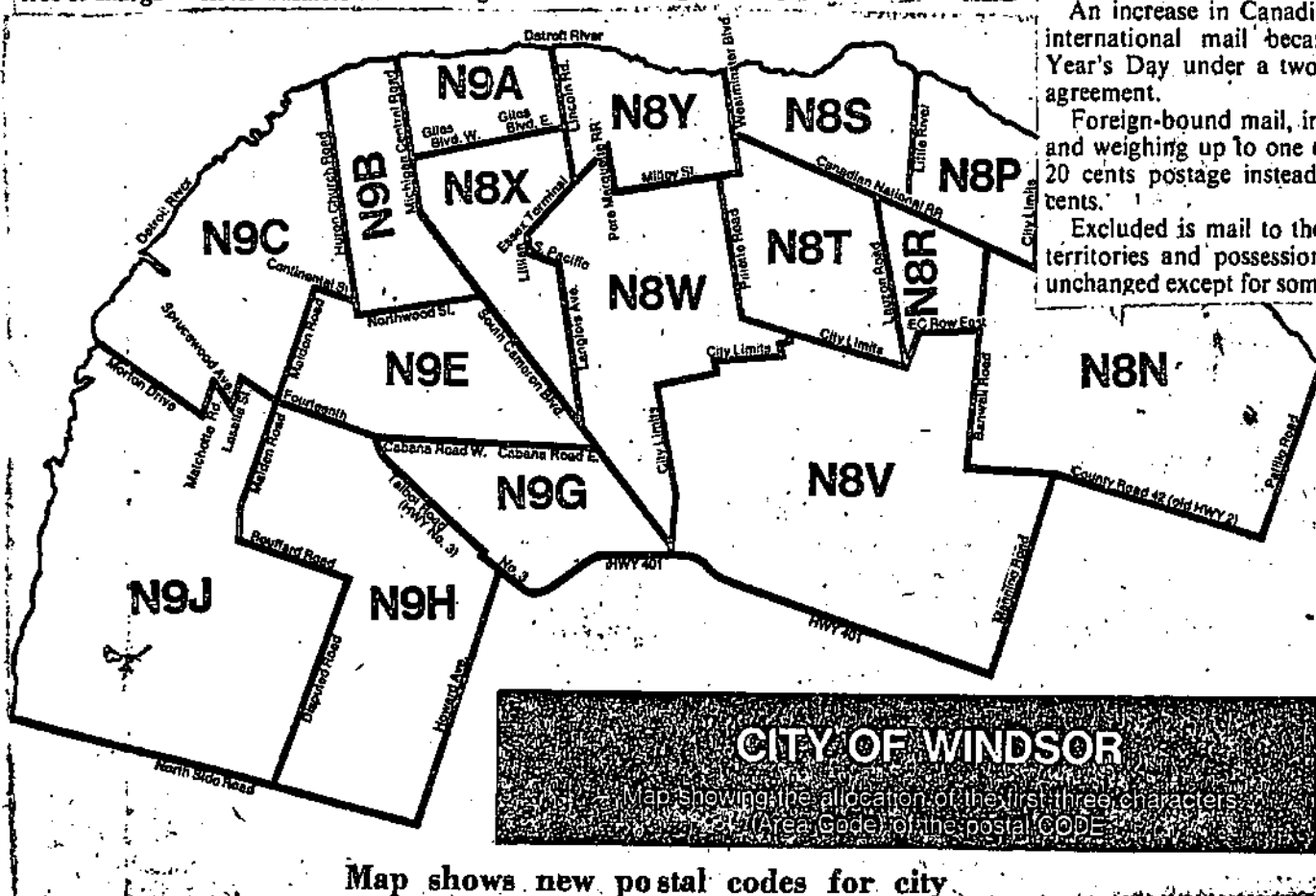
There are also increases in postage for surface and air parcel post, special delivery and registration fees.

The new rates reflect cost-increases of the postal service in the destination countries.

NOV. 2 Mail Early 1962

If you turn your head just a little too slow Christmas will be here and, "My Holy Ghost I haven't got my shopping done yet."

Shopping is not all of the Christmas rush, consider the thousands of parcels and cards that will be mailed. Just think, of your local postmaster or postmistress a little bit. They like to enjoy their yuletide, so plan on mailing early and avoid the rush and think of Mrs. A. D. Kavanagh and her couriers Tom Kavanagh and Don Meloche, at Oldcastle. Mail before November 6th to Europe; before November 20th to United Kingdom; before December 8th to Canada and U. S. A. Carson's Column.



Map shows new postal codes for city



# Marvels abound at postal plant

By ALAN HENDERSON THE WINDSOR STAR, SEPTEMBER 21, 1976

At first glance, it looks like it could be a supermarket checkout counter.

But a closer look — and an explanation from George Kerr, post office information officer — reveals it to be a \$2-million technological marvel that will help speed up delivery of the 125 million pieces of mail handled by the Windsor post office annually.

During a recent tour, technicians were busily installing the machine in Windsor's new, \$6.2-million mail processing plant, which opened in mid-August on Walker Road.

By March, the machine is expected to be an integral part of the post office's mechanization program, which is required to handle mail under the new postal code system.

The equipment, actually called a coding suite, will help to organize mail for easy and swift distribution by reading the postal code and directing it to the appropriate place for distribution.

The suite is one of many sophisticated

pieces of equipment which is expected to help meet Windsor's postal needs for at least the next 20 years.

Another marvel is an electronic culler-facer-canceller which sorts mail, arranges it for easy handling and the cancellation stamp.

Valued at about \$300,000, it was first introduced in the cramped facilities at the Ouellette Avenue branch before being moved to the Walker Road plant.

Mr. Kerr said it likely will be March before the mechanization program will be complete. Then, mail with postal code affixed, will be moved quickly and efficiently with a minimum of handling.

In the meantime, the public isn't likely to notice any drastic change in mail delivery, he said.

Mail continues to be handled manually, although employees find it easier because of an elaborate \$1.3-million conveyor system which takes the heavy lifting out of the job.

Clerks in the parcel and magazine sorting

department, for example, work high above their colleagues, directing the often-heavy pieces of mail to various distribution and sorting points.

There are 235 employees in the processing plant, which includes 30 in the transportation department which picks up and distributes processed mail.

The main branch on Ouellette Avenue will continue to be used by mail carriers and will offer complete postal services, including information about the postal code.

Mr. Kerr said the space vacated by the mail processors is expected to be filled by other government departments.

The new plant, which is all on one floor and contains improved loading dock facilities, occupies about 75,000 square feet.

It contains a cafeteria, locker and shower rooms and employee lounges, which were lacking at the downtown location.

The new plant, the 13th such processing plant to be in operation in Canada, cost \$2.6 million to build.



OSCAR GREGOIRE

## Employees get elbow room

THE WINDSOR STAR, SEPTEMBER 21, 1976

In 21 years, Leo St. Antoine has seen a lot of mail.

As a sorter with the Windsor post office, it's Mr. St. Antoine's responsibility to see that all mail that reaching his hands is directed to the appropriate slot for redistribution.

Until August, his work was at the main post office on Ouellette Avenue. But since then he has joined about 235 colleagues in a trip to the suburbs and the post office's new processing plant on Walker Road, just south of County Road 42.

Like many of his co-workers, Mr. St. Antoine was skeptical about moving to the suburbs. However, there's no skepticism now.

Mr. St. Antoine said it's the same distance — five miles — from his home to the new plant as it is to the main branch, but it takes him less time to make the trip now.

"With the highways, it takes me no time at all," he said.

Mr. St. Antoine said he's particularly pleased about the large employee parking lot at the new plant, which means no more hassles looking for a parking spot downtown.

Although he had some reservations initially, he enjoys his new working atmosphere because of the bright, color co-ordinated design of the plant scheme and its spaciousness.

"We've got a lot more room than before," he said.

A co-worker, Oscar Gregoire, who has 22 years' experience and is a Great

Lakes marine historian, said he still misses the downtown area although the new plant does make for more comfortable working conditions.

Although postal officials concede that for some employees the new location means a greater distance to travel to work and an absence of shopping and other downtown facilities, it feels there are some advantages.

In a brochure available to employees, advantages of the new location are listed. According to the post office, they are: Opportunities for new duties and training; cleaner and brighter working conditions; amenities such as individual lockers, showers, lounge areas, staff training and simulation rooms, and background music.



LEO ST. ANTOINE

### Windsor firm wins contract

Eastern Construction Co. Ltd. of Windsor has been awarded the contract to construct a multi-million dollar mail processing plant on Walker Road, south of Division Road.

The federal treasury board has approved awarding the contract to Eastern as the lowest of six firms bidding on the job. The Eastern tender was \$2,790,000.

Work is expected to start within three weeks with completion of the building scheduled for July 1, 1976. A \$1.28 million contract for mechanical mail processing equipment for the building was awarded last week to McInnes Equipment Ltd., of Burlington, the lowest of three bidders.

CANADA POSTES  
POST CANADA

### TENDERS FOR MAIL CONTRACT

STAR-MAY 29, 1976

The Canada Post Office invites Tenders for a five (5) year contract for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mail over the Windsor No. 1 Rural Route. Tenders will be accepted only from customers of the Windsor, Ontario Post Office, or offices served in route. This includes customers of all Rural Routes operating from this office as well as customers of offices served by these routes. Tenders will be received at the office of the Director, Southwestern District, Ontario Postal Region, London, Ontario N5Y 1A3, until 3:00 P.M., Wednesday, 9th June, 1976. For Tender specification and further information, contact the Postmaster at Windsor, or the Director, Southwestern District, Ontario Postal Region, 955 Highbury Avenue, 2nd Floor, London, Ontario N5Y 1A3. Telephone (519) 679-5050 Extension 267. The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.

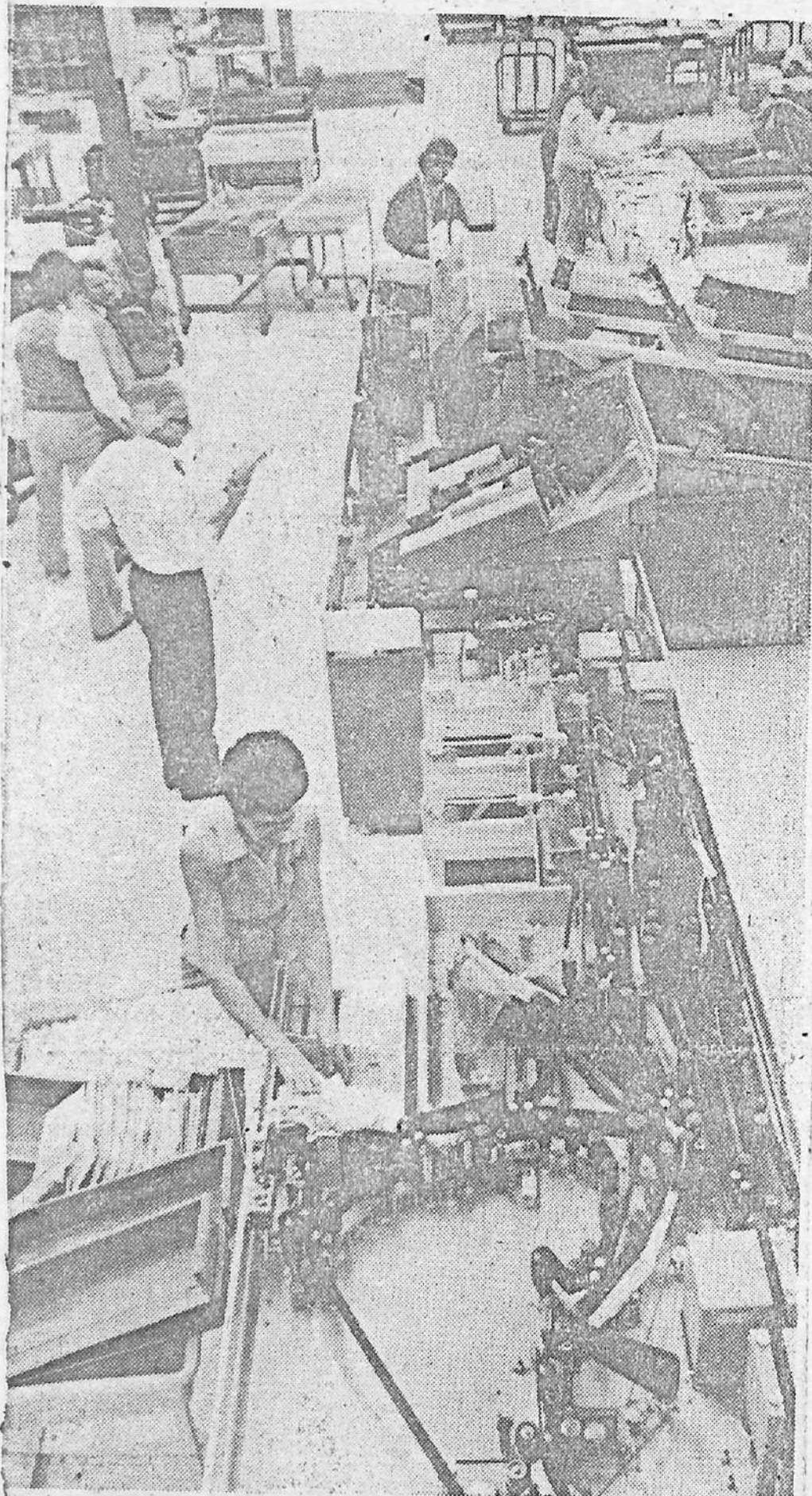


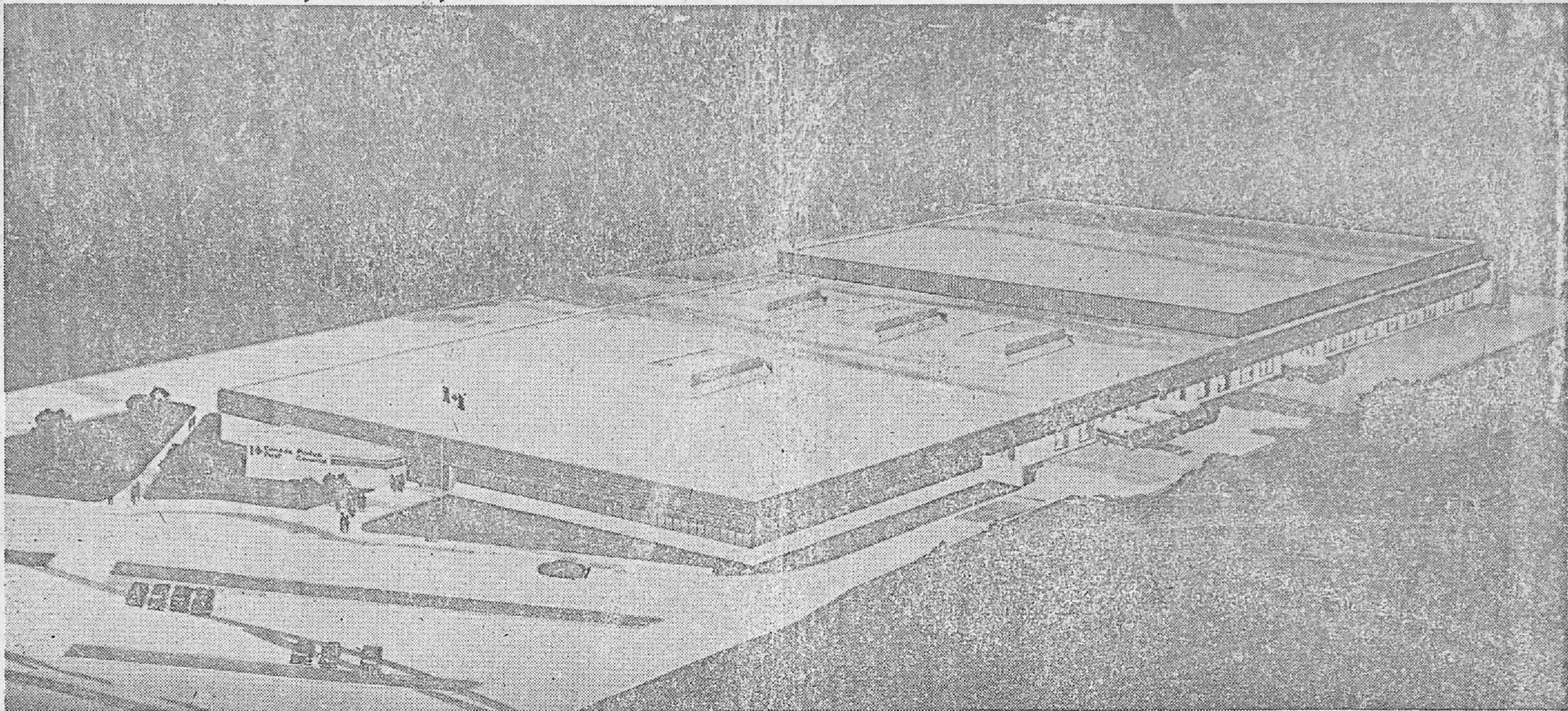
Photo by JACK DALGLEISH

A culler-facer-canceller is used for initial sorting of mail



# WINDSOR'S NEW POSTAL SORTING STATION

THE WINDSOR STAR, SEPTEMBER 21, 1976

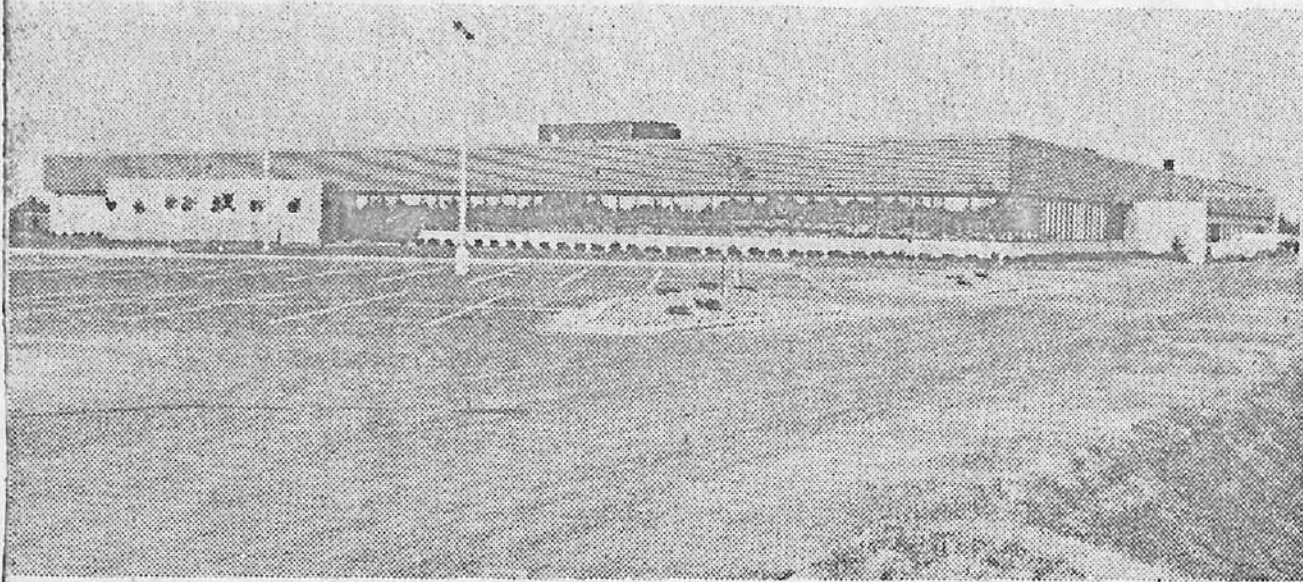


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Mail collected throughout the city is unloaded at a giant loading dock for processing

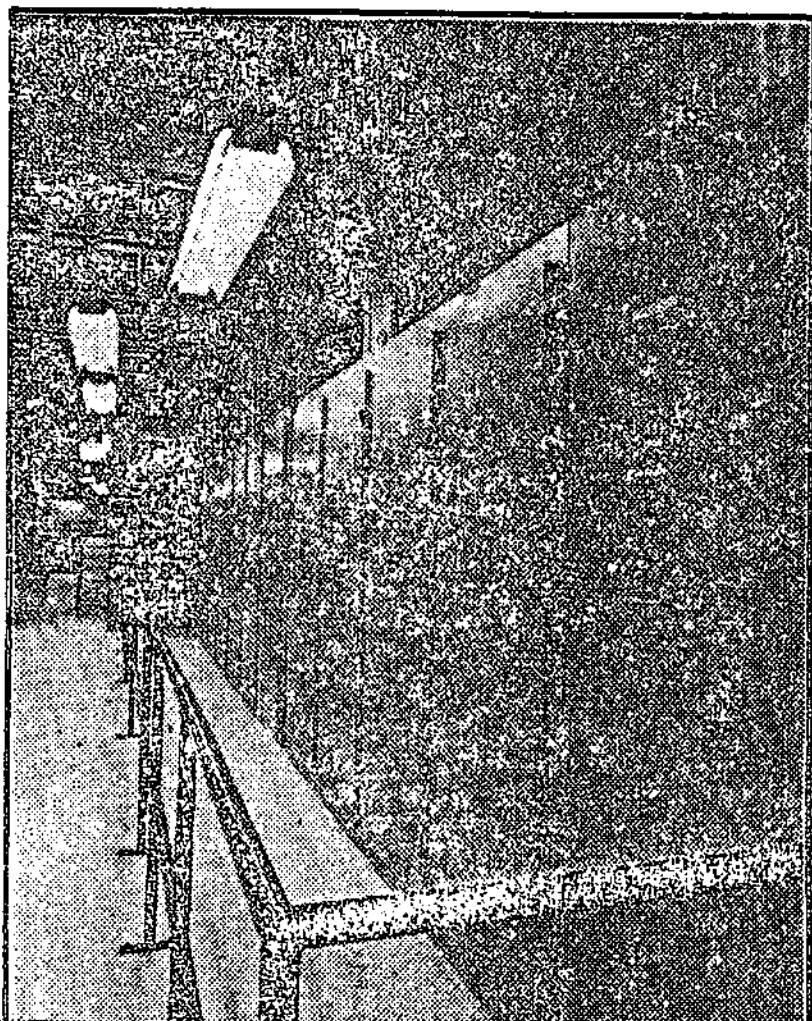
Photos by JACK DALGLEISH



Technician installs a \$2-million electronic coding marvel that looks like a supermarket checkout stand



THE WINDSOR STAR, SEPTEMBER 21, 1976



The management and employees of the Communications Division, ITT Industries of Canada Limited, extend their congratulations and best wishes to the Canada Post Office on the opening of Windsor's Mail Processing Plant, 4255 Walker Road.

The occasion is a significant one. It represents an important step forward in providing the Windsor area with a new dimension in modern and efficient mail service.

We should also remember that the people and systems at the Walker Road site will do their job effectively if the public helps out by using the postal code. In this, we join the Post Office in reminding mail-users: write the code on every mailing. Every time.



**communications**

175 Dawson Road, Guelph, Ontario N1H 1A1.

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Grant Skinner delivers Star to Joel Simpkins  
THE WINDSOR STAR, JUNE 26, 1974

## **This carrier boy delivers in style**

By EVELYN WALKER

MAIDSTONE — Grant Skinner's newspaper customers know when their Windsor Star has arrived. They hear it coming.

Grant, of RR 2, Maidstone, roars into the driveway, hops off his Honda 350, slips the paper between the doors and roars off to the next home down Highway 3.

That's the fastest way to

deliver papers to 54 customers on a rural route between Essex and Maidstone, that stretches about two miles along the highway.

On a dollar per hour basis, the pay of a rural paper carrier runs a bit short because of the time it takes to go the distance from house to house. Grant solved that with his motorcycle and cut the time to less than half.

He's been a Star delivery boy for six years, ever since he was in Grade 5. After using a bicycle, even in snowstorms, the Honda makes the job pretty slick, he says.

On one section of the route he says, the 25 houses are too close together to make use of the Honda practical so he walks that and it takes 20 minutes. He delivers the rest of his route in another 15 minutes.

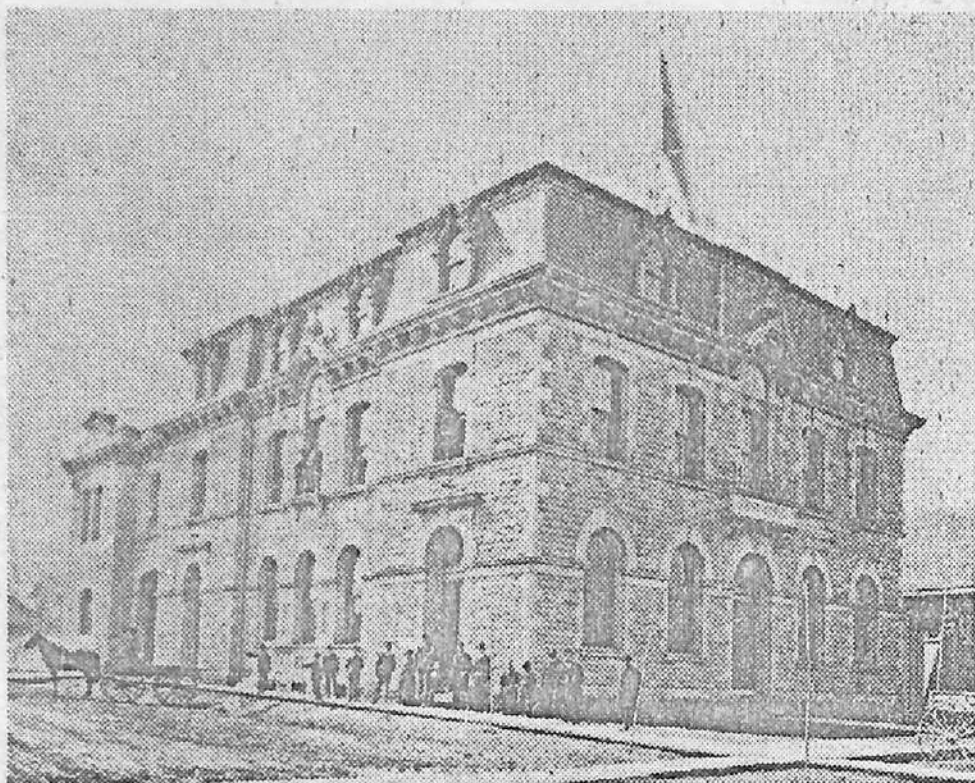




Canada  
Post

Postes  
Canada

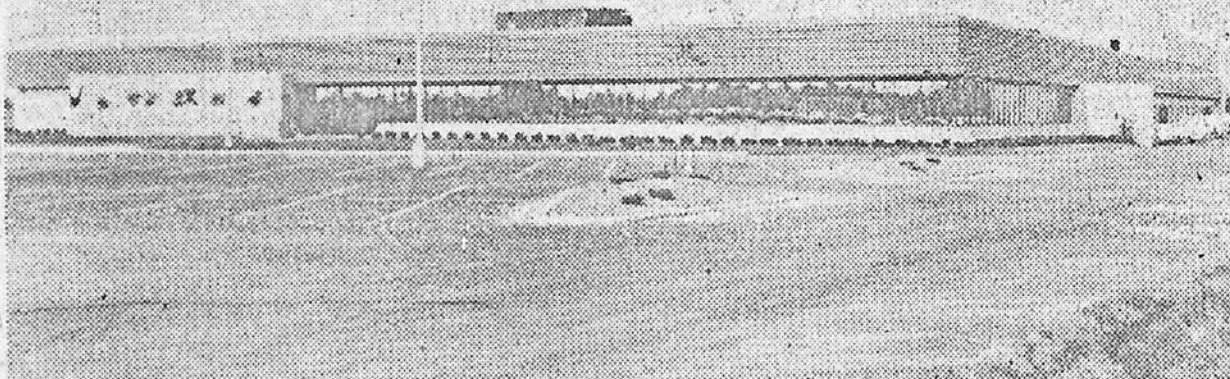
THE WINDSOR STAR, SEPTEMBER 21, 1976



...yesterday

today...

4255 Walker Road,  
Windsor, Ontario,  
N8W 4W0



**Help us to help you — USE THE POSTAL CODE!**  
**It really works you know . . .**

STAR ESSEX FEB 10  
Recognition for more than  
25 years of service in the  
postal service was given to  
two area employees by Essex  
Postmaster Alfred Willms on  
behalf of the area manager  
and the postmaster general.  
Postmaster Arnold Axcell  
of the Maidstone Post Office  
received the 25-year-pin for  
eight years as postmaster  
and 18 years as a mail  
courier on RR 2, Maidstone.  
Mail courier Alice Wales  
of the Woodslee Post Office  
has delivered mail for 28  
years on the 30 miles of RR  
2, Woodslee. 1977

THE WINDSOR STAR, SEPTEMBER 21, 1976



Cafeteria aims at providing restful climate during meal and rest breaks

ESSEX FREE PRESS, SEPT 10/76

Of local interest is the news  
that the Post Office at Old-  
castle has moved again this  
time back to its former quar-  
ters which are located on the  
north side of No. 3 highway,  
just east of the railway. Mr.  
Tasker formerly operated  
the Oldcastle Variety Store  
in this same building and act-  
ed as postmaster in conjunc-  
tion with his business.

Items Culled From Free  
Press Files Of April 2/15

On April 15th, a one cent  
war tax stamp, had to be  
placed on all mail.

### Post office moves

THE ESSEX TIMES, FEB. 27, 1975

OLDCASTLE — The  
Oldcastle Post Office  
will move March 17 to  
Parr Brothers Electric  
Building located off No.  
3 Highway, west of the  
Walker Road intersec-  
tion.



# A change of address for mail processing

By JERRY MORROW

Windsor's post office will start its move toward mechanization Aug. 16 when the administration and the mail-sorting operations move from the downtown post office to the new, \$6.5-million mail-processing plant on Walker Road.

And by this time next year, much of the mail a person receives will have been sorted by a computer.

Letter carriers will continue to work out of the downtown building and the public area of the post office will remain unchanged. But the back rooms will be empty.

The average person will notice little difference in the post-office operation. "We already have next-day delivery to most places in Canada," Information Officer George Kerr said.

But the shift to mechanization will increase the capacity of the post office to handle mail.

The mechanization program is based on the postal code, a series of three letters and three numbers that directs a letter to one side of a street in a specific block in any area of Canada. From that point, a letter carrier directs the mail to a particular house.

When the new plant goes into operation this month, there will be little change in the operation.

Mail will still be sorted by hand by postal clerks standing in front of large racks. Parcels will also be hand-sorted, but with a slight difference.

Clerks working in that area will be stationed high above the floor in the midst of a spider's web of conveyor belts which will deliver parcels to them for sorting and carry the sorted parcels away.

Where mail is now slugged here and there around the post office in heavy mail bags, the conveyor system will do most of the heavy work in the new plant.

Mail will arrive and leave the plant by truck and will travel through the plant on the moving belts, where it will be sorted.

The next changes will be gradual. Machines will be installed about the end of August that eventually will code letters for the computer to sort. They are expected to be in full operation by March, next year.

The key to the system is the postal code. Mail without the code will still have to be sorted by hand as it is now.

In Windsor, use of the postal code is holding steady at about 48 per cent.

The move to the new plant was forced as much by space requirements as the new technology. The downtown post office was built in 1934 and an addition was erected in 1961.

But as mail volumes increased, space was again becoming a problem. In a letter to employees, Postmaster John Gagne noted that the present facility is outdated, is split up on separate floors, the movement of mails is dependent on elevators and there is a lack of dock and parking space.

The new plant has 75,000 square feet of work area on one floor and is surrounded by loading docks to speed the movement of mail.

It also contains a cafeteria, locker and shower rooms and employee lounges, facilities lacking in the downtown building.

The new plant, the 13th such processing plant to go into operation in Canada, cost about \$3 million and was equipped at a cost \$3.5 million. Mail Processing Manager Claude Ouimet said the equipment being installed will not reach capacity for more than 20 years.

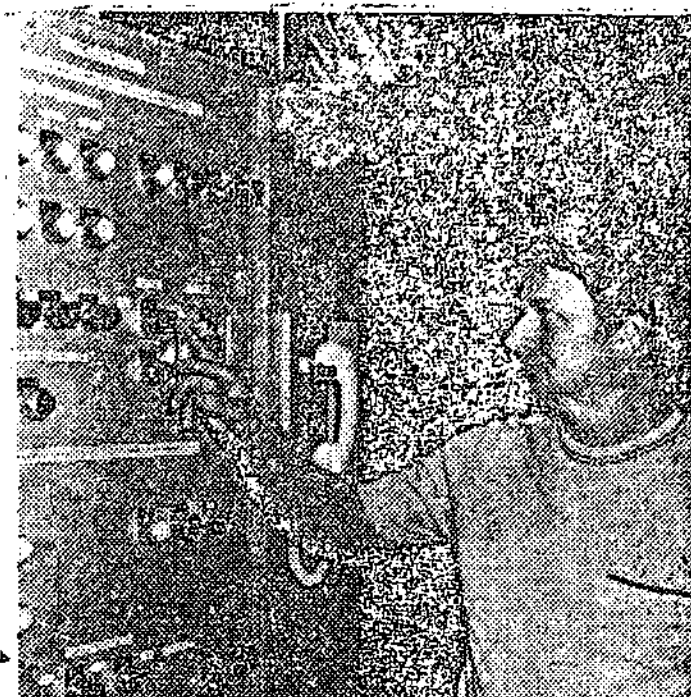


Photo by WALTER JACKSON

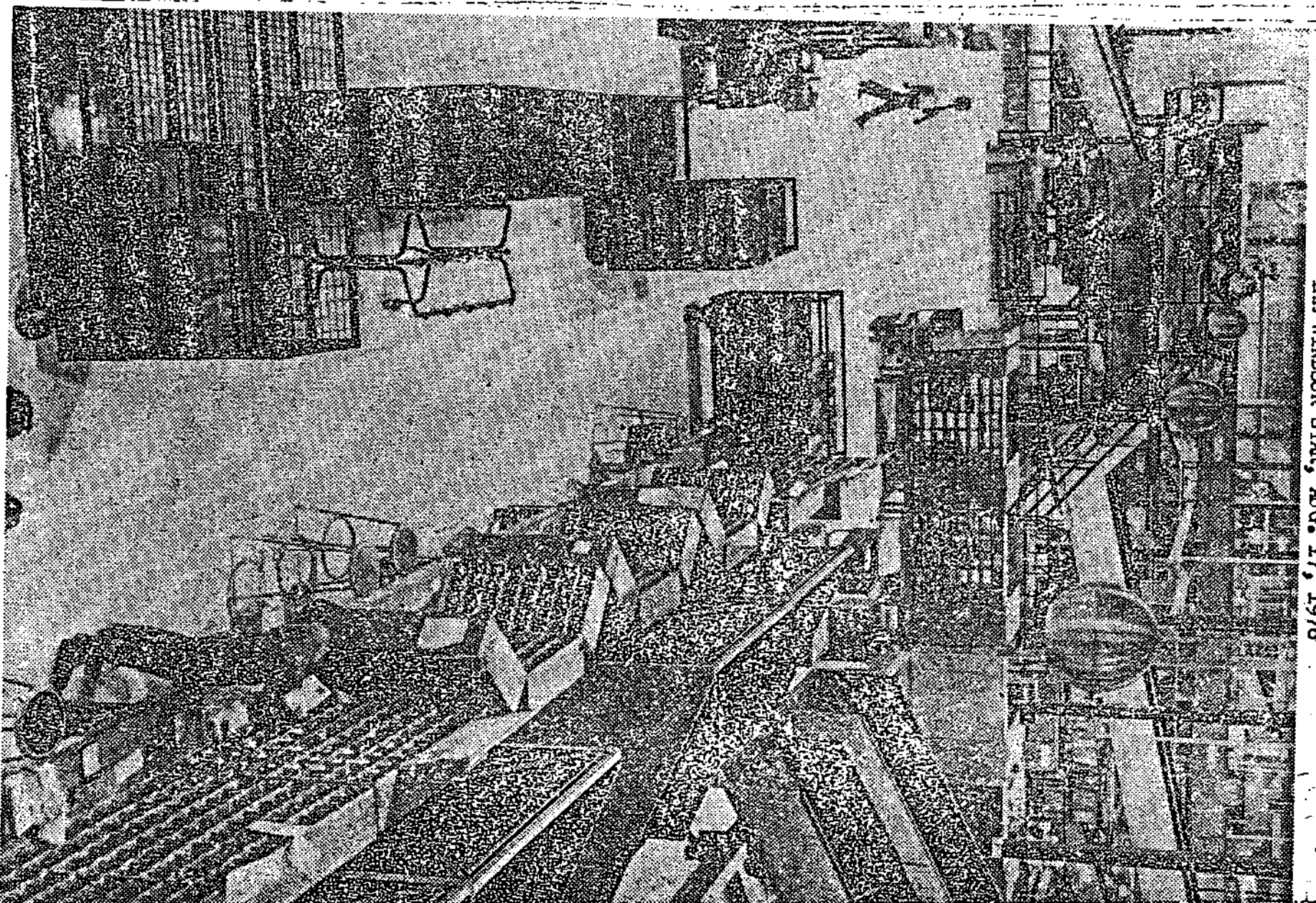
**MAIL CONTROL** — Claude Ouimet, mail processing manager, examines one of the control panels that operates the maze of conveyor belts in the new mail processing plant on Walker Road.

Windsor's new \$6.2 million Mail Processing Plant on Walker Rd. just south of County Road #42 and which is built on land belonging in Sandwich South Township prior to annexation in 1966 and opened in mid-August, gives workers more space to handle the 125 pieces of mail processed annually in Windsor.

Sorters pigeon-hole mail for distribution by letter carriers. A conveyor-belt system which helps to make the task of transporting mail through the plant a great deal easier. Another benefit of the new building compared to the facilities at the city's main post office on Ouellette Avenue is that the entire operation is contained on one floor, rather than on several floors. Rick Poupard sends a heavy bundle of magazines down a chute to a bin for distribution. He is able to direct large volumes of mail to various departments simply by sorting it and then channeling it to the appropriate chute.

## ONE FLOOR OPERATION — NEW POST OFFICE

THE WINDSOR STAR, AUG. 17, 1976



The new Windsor mail processing plant opened Monday, replacing facilities in the downtown post office

Photos by MARINA QUATTRO



# New mail plant definitely first class

One hundred and ten million pieces of mail are handled by the Windsor Post Office yearly and beginning last week, all of it will go through the new Windsor Mail Processing Plant.

Located at 4255 Walker Road, (N8W 4W0) the new plant is described as a multi-function mail processing plant capable of receiving, processing, sorting and dispatching all mail originating and coming into the Windsor-Metro Area. This includes the city of Windsor, the town of Tecumseh, the village of St. Clair Beach, the townships of Sandwich East, Sandwich South, and Sandwich West,

LaSalle and River Carleton.

The postal authorities in Windsor were finding that they were "hopelessly coping with ever-increasing volumes (of mail) in antiquated facilities with outdated equipment."

So it was decided that the only way to keep up was to mechanize; mechanization meaning people using machines to do the work. Automation, on the other hand, is the elimination of the workers.

The new mechanized plant will have its complete mail process equipment (worth \$3.5 million) installed and operating by next April.

Built by International Telephone and Tele-

graph (I.T.T.), the machines will streamline the postal operations.

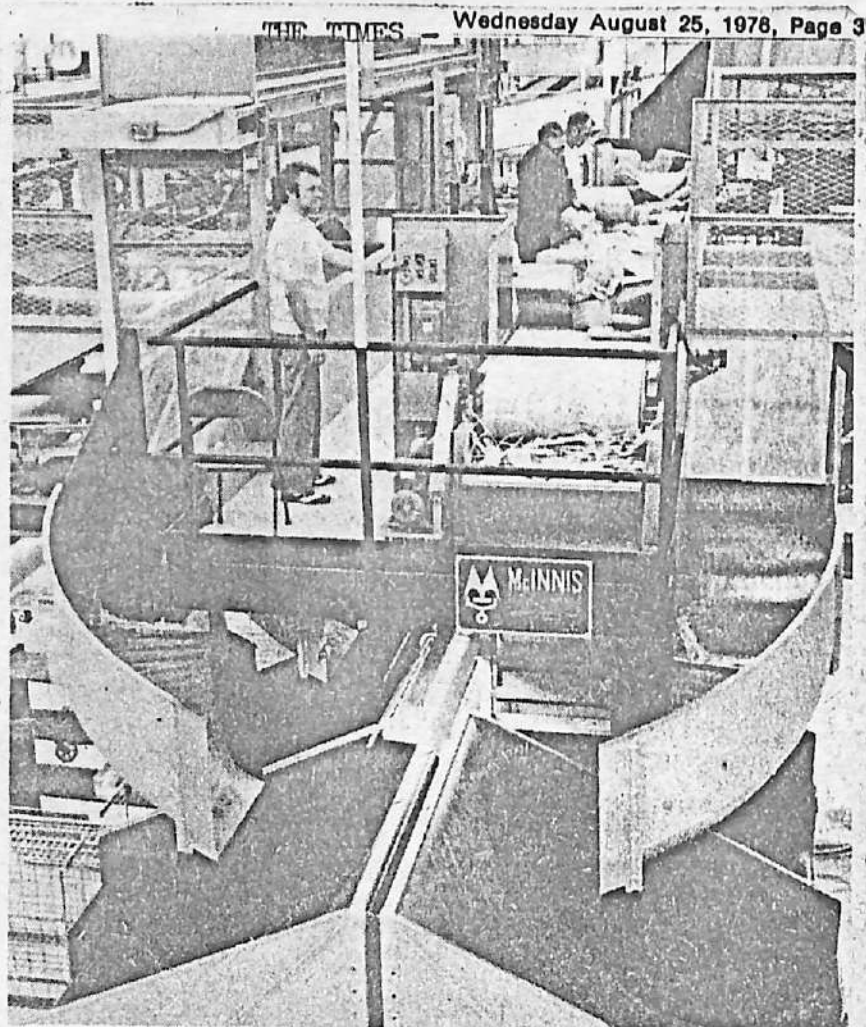
All mail in the city from postal boxes and stations will be brought to the one floor plant. It will be thrown in a machine which tosses the parcels into one area, ejects oversize envelopes into another, flips up-side-down letters, flops the stamp to the lower right-hand corner and spits out the coins, bottle caps, paper clips, gum wrappers and all the other garbage that people try to mail.

The parcels and oversize mail will still be hand-sorted, a terrible waste of human resources but a necessity. The standard, now

sorted mail (culled out of the 300,000 pieces every 24 hours) is now coded by a line of 'coding desk suites'. Employees sitting at consoles like simplified typewriters, will type the 6 letter postal code which puts a luminescent coding on each letter. The coded letter goes to a letter sorting machine run by computer. The imprinted code is 'read' and the letter discharged in one of 240 bins. Each bin could be for a specific route of each mailman.

The key to all of these machines working at their optimum is the postal code. If it's not used, the letters have to be hand-sorted. If it is used, the speed of these

Continued on page 6



THE CITY PARCEL POST SORTATION — looks like this. Postal clerks Aldo Garlatti and Jim Halre toss the over 2 pound packages into different bins, one for each truck delivery route. Plant Manager Claude R. Ouimet checks the controls.

## But where's the mailbox?

THE WINDSOR STAR, AUG. 17, 1976

By JERRY MORROW

The new \$6.5-million mail processing plant that opened in Windsor Monday is lacking one important facility.

It has the most modern working conditions and equipment — but it doesn't have a mail box.

Postmaster John Gagne was sitting in his new office about 11:30 p.m. Sunday as the move to the new plant was being completed when he noticed a light flickering outside.

He peered out through the one-way glass and saw a man with a flashlight searching around the building.

Mr. Gagne opened the front door to see what the man wanted and found him with a letter in his hand, looking for somewhere to mail it.

Clad in jeans and a tee-shirt, Mr. Gagne didn't look like a postmaster and the man was suspicious when he offered to take the letter.

Mr. Gagne explained who he was and took the man inside for a quick tour of the new plant where he saw his letter start on its way. Monday, one of the first things the postmaster did was order a mailbox for the front of the building.

The new plant, on Walker Road between the airport and Highway 401, is the new home of the post office administration in Windsor and also contains all the mail-sorting facilities that were in the downtown post office.

The huge new plant was required because of the coming of mechanization to the post office in Canada. The downtown building was already overcrowded and had no room for the sophisticated equipment that will be installed in the coming months.

Despite the move to the new plant last weekend, there has been little change in the post office operation.

Letters are still sorted by hand by clerks standing in front of large racks, but parcels are receiving a little different treatment.

A spider-web of conveyor belts carries parcels to positions high above the floor where clerks sort them onto other belts which carry them away for delivery.

In the next month, work will begin to install coding machines and a computerized mail sorter that will speed up the sorting of letters by early next year.

The key to the mechanization program is based on the postal code. Mail without the code will have to be hand-sorted as it is now, but coded letters will pass through the new equipment and be on their way in a much shorter time.

The Windsor post office handles about 125 million pieces



Ted Bondy sorts letters by hand, a job soon be done by computer

machines is incredible. The letter sorting machine (L.S.M.) described above handles 26,640 letters per hour. The raw mail handler described earlier, handles up to 500 pieces of mail per minute.

To put these figures into perspective, a human sorter can process about 500 pieces per hour.

Windsor is the last mechanized office to be built for the time being. It becomes one of thirteen such offices across Canada. Twenty-two major post offices, it is estimated, handle almost 90% of Canada's mail.

Windsor really didn't warrant this million dollar investment except that Windsor is considered part of the national picture.

Windsor is known too, for the high number of innovative ideas that have been developed here.

The calibre of management and employees is very high, Claude Ouimet, the plant manager told The Times. "We have people here who are happy to come to work and a lot of credit has to go to John Gagne, the Windsor postmaster," he explained.

"We try to stress the fact that mail is a personal thing. It's mothers writing to sons or family in one part of Canada to family in another part."

The working environment of the new plant is bright, cheery, and spacious. It contrasts sharply to the old headquarters. The downtown station was 5 floors of cramped, tight quarters with outmoded equipment.

The upper floors of the old offices are being refurbished so that other government agencies can move in. The ground floor will still hold the sales and delivery areas. It will simply become Station A like the other postal stations in Walkerville, Tecumseh or LaSalle.

The new mail processing plant "represents 1976" to the Windsor postal authorities.

"It's nice to know that now we will be able to supply the kind of service that people want," said Claude Ouimet.



## Speeding The Mail For 25 Years . . .

THE ESSEX FREE PRESS, FEB. 18, 1977.

Two area post office employees received recognition last week for more than 25 years of service.

Postmaster Arnold Axcell of the Maidstone Post Office received the twenty-five year pin for 8 years as postmaster and 18 years as a mailman on R.R.2, Maidstone.

Mail courier Alice Wales, of the Woodslee Post Office has worked for 28 years delivering mail along the 30 mile route of R.R.2, Woodslee. Mrs. Wales said winter has given her more problems with snow than any other and never before has there been 3 consecutive days when it was impossible to deliver mail.

Presentation of the pins was made by Postmaster Alfred Willms on behalf of the area manager and the postmaster general.



**POSTMASTER** — The 25 Year Service Pin came as a surprise to Postmaster of Maidstone Post Office, Arnold Axcell, when the presentation was made by Essex Postmaster Alfred Willms, on behalf of the Receiver-General. Mr. Axcell has been with the postal service 26 years.



**28 YEARS AS COURIER** — Mrs. Alice Wales, of the # 2 Route of Woodslee, received a 25 Year Service Pin, presented by Alfred Willms, Essex Postmaster, on behalf of the Postmaster General and the Area Manager. She has been a courier for 28 years. Woodslee Postmaster Charles Holman (left) joined them for the presentation.

## Essex prepares for start of mail delivery to homes

THE WINDSOR STAR, APRIL 1, 1977

**ESSEX** — Mail delivery by carrier will begin here Monday morning with seven letter carriers preparing to cover the town's 2,100 drop-off points.

On Wednesday the carriers walked their routes to leave an envelope at each residence, informing householders of their postal code.

In preparation for the delivery service, householders are fastening mail boxes near their front doors and the post office is installing sorting cases so carriers can sort mail in order of delivery. The routes were mapped last fall.

Postmaster A. J. Willms, said post office box numbers have to be identified with the corresponding street address and all those who haven't registered their address will be

contacted. More than 80 per cent of householders are registered, he said.

About 150 people are still renting post office boxes. Mr. Willms said most of the boxes are rented by businesses or rural residents. Most of the 1,344 office boxes will be removed from the lobby.

"All mail arriving here with a box number will have to go to a directory to be identified with a street address before it can be delivered," Mr. Willms said.

Essex became eligible for the mail delivery service last fall when it reached the point of having more than 2,000 dropoff points. Population of the town is now 6,000.

## Maidstone postmaster

Robert Jackson is the new postmaster of the Maidstone office. He succeeds Arnold Axcell, who retired in October.

Jackson is a native of Essex and spent his boyhood years there. Prior to taking over the Maidstone office, he was postmaster in Crediton, Ont.

He now makes his home in Essex.

THE WINDSOR STAR  
DECEMBER 6, 1977



**ROBERT JACKSON**  
...New postmaster

The Windsor Star Tuesday, September 6, 1977 41

## Ripley's It Happened In Canada!



**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**  
LATER TO BE  
A FOUNDING FATHER  
OF THE U.S.A.,  
AS BRITAIN'S  
DEPUTY  
POSTMASTER  
IN NORTH AMERICA,  
IN 1763,  
OPENED  
POST OFFICES  
IN CANADA.

ABOUT THIS TIME  
FRANKLIN SAID:  
"AN EFFICIENT  
POSTAL SERVICE  
PROBABLY DOES  
MORE THAN  
ANYTHING ELSE  
TO HOLD THE  
PEOPLE OF A  
COUNTRY TOGETHER  
AND MAKE EACH  
SECTION FEEL  
THAT IT IS A  
PART OF AN  
ORIGINAL  
WHOLE"

Canada Post Canada

THE TIMES, MARCH 28, 1979

# New Postal Rates

Effective April 1st, 1979

First Class letters

17¢

Greeting cards

15¢





THE WINDSOR STAR, JUNE 14, 1977

Photo by BEV MACKENZIE

Postmaster General Jean-Jacques Blais confronts CUPW union leader Bill Hartlen at new postal station

## *Dispute mars opening of postal plant*

By BRIAN BANNON

Windsor's new automated postal plant was officially opened this morning, but dissatisfied workers stole the limelight from special guest Postmaster General Jean-Jacques Blais.

Half the \$6.2 million cost of the plant on Walker Road north of Windsor Airport was spent on new automated sorting machines that can process 25,000 letters an hour, 25 times faster than a human sorter. It is one of 30 such plants in Canada.

Mr. Blais told a press conference he hoped his visit would stress the positive aspects of the post office and encourage local citizens to use the postal code on their mail.

Only 62 per cent of Windsor mail is now

coded, said Windsor Postmaster John Gagne. The Post Office wants to raise that figure to 80 per cent.

Inside postal workers at the plant, members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), used the opening to set up an information picket line at the plant gate, where they angrily argued with Mr. Blais before the ceremonies began.

"If you want to play the game, we'll play the game," Mr. Blais told CUPW Windsor local president Bill Hartlen. He accused the CUPW leaders of purposely delaying negotiations for a national contract to pressure management.

Mr. Hartlen accused the postmaster general of issuing bulletins to the workers and trying to go over the heads of the union bargain-

ing committee, a charge Mr. Blais denied later at a press conference.

Inside workers interviewed by The Star said they are still required to look at each coded letter and type the postal code on it in yellow markings.

Although workers were promised they would only do such work for two hours at a time, some on the afternoon shift code letters for as much as eight hours straight, said a group of workers.

They also said the new parcel and letter machines damage mail excessively.

Guests attending the opening included Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan, Windsor-West MP Herb Gray and a number of Post Office officials.



## Mail Delivery Comes To Essex . . .



**VAUGHN GREW UP AND WENT TO SCHOOL IN SANDWICH SOUTH**  
**ON THE BEAT** — Essex Postman Vaughn Hartley was making his rounds on Fairview Avenue West Monday morning when we took this picture. He is one of seven making the first mail delivery for the town. **APRIL 7, 1977, EFP**

Mail delivery by letter carrier came to Essex, Monday morning when seven posties covered the town's 2100 drop-off points.

Postmaster Alfred Willms said post office box numbers have been identified with the corresponding address and any who may not have registered were again contacted to do so. Most of the 1344 post office boxes will be removed from the box lobby but about 150 mail customers, either businesses or rural customers, would still use boxes.

Two supervisors from the London district post office are assisting with the transition from box office lobby to the carrier system and at least one of them will be at the Essex post office for a couple of weeks, Mr. Willms said.

All mail arriving with a box number will be taken to a directory to be identified with the street address.

if it is to be delivered. The new service will reduce rural route #2 considerably because it included

the Viscount Estates and others in the area annexed from Colchester North four years ago but never assigned post office boxes.

## Maidstone Postmaster Retires . . .



OCT. 28, 1977 — ESSEX FREE PRESS

**CUSTOM MAIL BOX** — What better gift for a retiring postmaster than a complete mail box kit; post, box and name inscribed. That's what the couriers of the Maidstone office thought so they even had his name written in fancy script by Mr. Sturgeon, of Maidstone. Seen making the presentation to Arnold Axcell are May Nikita, Dorothy St. Louis and Oina Tofflemire.

Arnold Axcell, Maidstone's postmaster retired from his post last Thursday after 27 years with the postal service.

He started as mail courier on route 3, Maidstone, and became postmaster in 1967 in the old store that previously housed the post office. The new office was opened 15 months later, in December, 1968.

He is leaving with regrets, but forced to do so under government regulations that require retirement at age 65 and are so strict he was retired the day before his 65th birthday.

He says he'll miss the children most of all. "I enjoyed every one of them. Sometimes I had to lean over the counter to see who was there. They were always cheerful, and if I had to discipline any for making a noise in the lobby, - that's forbidden - they never held it against me."

The daily exchange of greetings with the fifty or sixty who came every day to the post office was another highlight of his job, he says.

As the only employee with-in the office, it was his job to sort every letter and parcel for the 860 persons on the three mail routes as well as for general delivery.

During his term as postmaster, business has increased enough to make the Maidstone office eligible for up-grading. It's a public relations job, Arnold says.

He sometimes had people from Windsor bring their parcels to him because they found it more convenient than driving downtown in Windsor.

"People pull off the highway on their way to and from work. It's handy and they get personal service here."

He's been doing his bit to persuade people to put a postal code on their letters for better service.

He's not ready to retire so has a couple of part time jobs waiting for him.

"I've enjoyed it and I really regret having to retire," he said on his last day.



# Behind facade, not all roses

To an outsider the Windsor postal centre looks like a pleasant place to work.

The \$6.2 million centre, opened only last summer, is quiet compared to most factories, well-lighted and brightly painted, and has an attractive cafeteria and a lounge with air hockey, table tennis, and other games.

But appearances can be deceiving.

Conversations with workers directly involved in the processing of sorting mail reveal significant dissatisfaction.

Wages and working conditions, normally high on any list of employee complaints,

were just about ignored by the postal workers.

Most of their anger was directed at the postal system, its alleged red tape and supposed inefficiencies. Several suggested morale would improve if they could take pride in the mail service.

Much of the complaining centred on "screw-ups" in the automated letter coding and sorting process which create delays in service.

They also complained strongly about letters being "shredded" in the machines and parcels damaged in a conveyor system which they label "an abortion."

One veteran postal clerk, who asked that his name and age not be used, said he sees

many young workers entering the system with better educations who are prepared to question things that have been taken for granted.

"They see things in the system that are stupid and they're not prepared to go along with it. They ask why is it like this?"

"The system is top-heavy with dead weight. It's unreal. If it was made more efficient there would be higher morale and improved relations."

He admits the policy of confrontation adopted by his union (Canadian Union of Postal Workers) hasn't achieved a great deal.

"We've been at it 10 years and we don't seem to be any further ahead. There's too

much aggression on both sides."

Personalities are involved, he said, in the conflict between the Windsor CUPW leadership and local management. "They're like a cat and a dog in the same room."

Many workers resent the lack of attention paid to their suggestions, he said.

"We see a lot of things that could be done to improve the system but nobody seems to care."

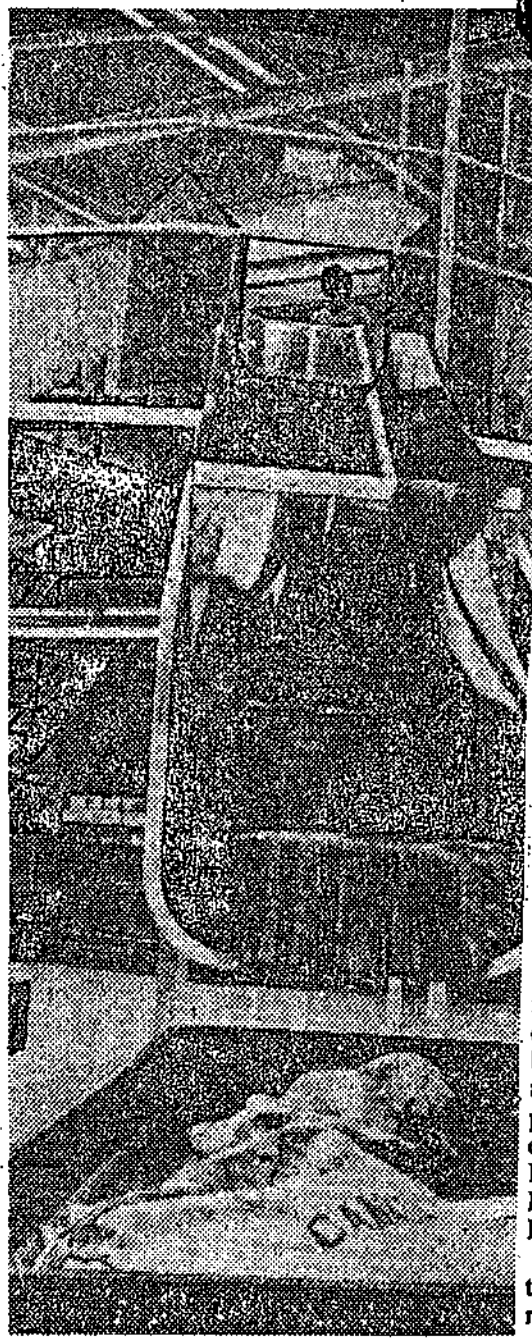
He said the present hourly wage of \$6.29 plus cost-of-living money is pretty decent.

"There's a lot of hassle but a lot of good things about working here. Let me tell you there's no comparison between working here and in a car plant," he added.

THE WINDSOR STAR, JUNE 9, 1977



... but many gripes over machines like these



## 'Oldest post office' contest winners, runners-up selected

By Clive Lloyd

The "Name the Oldest Post Office in Essex County Contest" is now over and we have winners. But first, the answer.

My source for the contest was: Frank Campbell, Canada Post Offices, 1755-1895, published in 1958. If the book is still available it might be obtained from Campbell, 1132 Pinehurst, Royal Oak, Mich. Campbell was from Tilbury.

The oldest post office was founded in 1789 at Sandwich (not at the present location!). In 1801 it became a Canadian post office after, among other things, a Canada post office was finally closed in Detroit! (Fort Detroit was a Canadian post office from 1789 until 1801. A United States post office was not opened in Detroit until 1802, long after it had become American territory).

Amherstburg, which many named, opened as a naval post office also in 1801 but did not become a Canada post office until 1815. Some of the other places named were: Colchester (1831), Walkerville (1868), Essex Centre (1872), Belle River (1874) and Canard River (1870).

I thank everyone who entered the contest. I enjoyed reading all the letters. As a matter of fact, as there were so many good entries, I decided to award more third prizes and a new category of consolation prizes for a few people selected at random.

The winners were: 1st prize: Kurt Windibank, age 12, of Tecumseh.

Second prizes: (2) Susan Hyslop, 12, River Canard; Shannon Pineault, 11, Granville Cres., Windsor.

Third prizes: (5) Christine Brooks, 11, Brock St., Amherstburg; Amy Ridgewell, Woodland Ave., Windsor; Ian Claghorn, 9, Richard St., Wheatley; Danl Brooks, 6, Brock St., Amherstburg; and Stacey Ross, Stuart Blvd., Windsor.

Consolation prizes: (9) Debbie Renaud, 14, Stoney Point; Jamie Galipeau, 12, Brien Ave., Essex; Michelle Trepanier, 13, Ruscom; Mark Lafrance, 12, Staples; Pam Chapman, 8, Hickory Rd., Windsor; Chuck Godin, 12, Ellrose Ave., Windsor; Stephan Johns, Byng Rd., Windsor; Janine Trepanier, 9, Ruscom; and Joey Chapman, Age 6, Hickory Rd., Windsor.

Canada's 1981 Christmas stamps appear on Monday. This year, our last year that we can afford to send Christmas cards, there will be three stamps featuring Christmas trees. The tree marks the bicentennial of the first illuminated Canadian Christmas tree erected at Sorel, Que. in 1781 by a German family. Stamps will be issued only in 15-cent denominations and depict Christmas trees in 1781, 1881 and 1981. Each tree shows differences in lighting.

Canada Post has announced

that, like the , will be burdened denominations Jan. 1. As the n are uncertain, nation will allow fice to sell stamps rate then preva







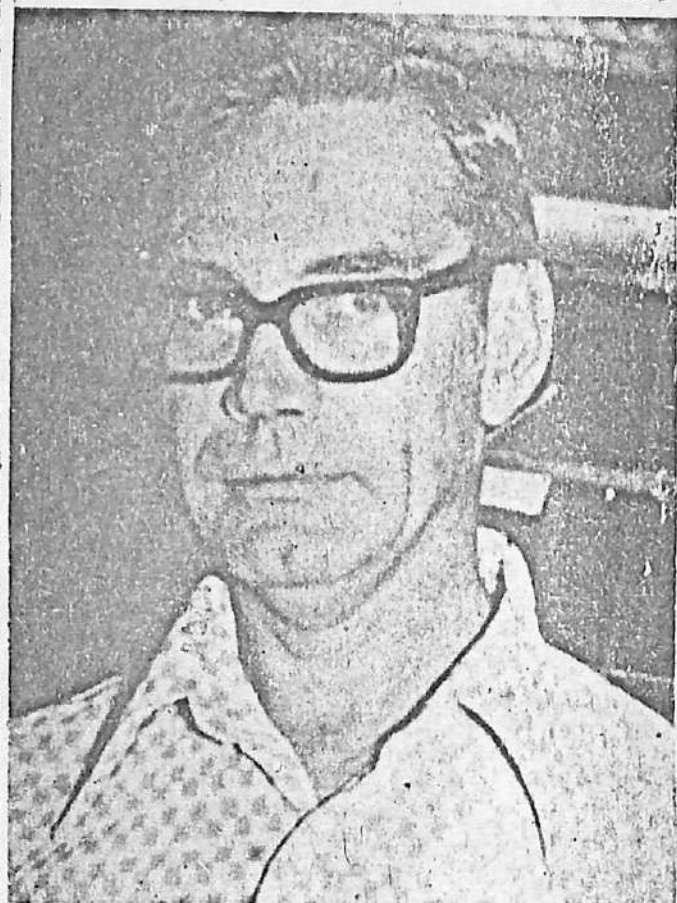
THE WINDSOR STAR, FEBRUARY 21, 1977

GOT ONE FOR ME? — Postmaster-General Jean-Jacques Blais, in Windsor for a flying visit

Saturday, stepped in for some front-line experience with sorting clerks at the Walker Road plant. Accepting a

Photo by BEV MACKENZIE  
little help from the boss are (from left) Lillian Hobson, Mary Sulatycki and Eleanor Dimitroff.

NOV. 11, 1977 E.F.P.  
**Maidstone Postmaster -  
Former Essex Resident**



The new Postmaster at the Maidstone Post Office is Robert Jackson, who is a member of the Mrs. Charles Jackson family of Essex. He has been Postmaster at Crediton for the past 2½ years. His appointment to the Maidstone Post Office, where he began his duties on November 7th, is a homecoming for him, he says.

THE WINDSOR STAR, JUNE 13, 1977  
**Post office tours**

This week is Postal Code Week in Windsor, and to mark the occasion the post office's new automatic sorting plant on Walker Road will be open to the public all week.

The new building will be officially opened on Tuesday at 10 a.m. by Postmaster General J. J. Blais, with federal Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan and MP Herb Gray attending.

Tours of the new plant will be conducted today to Friday from 1 to 8 p.m. Anyone wishing a tour is asked to call 969-1007 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The purpose of Postal Code Week is to increase the public's awareness of the value of using the postal code.

## Postmaster visits area

# Blais defends mail service

The post office has been unfairly labelled as unreliable, according to Postmaster-General Jean-Jacques Blais who toured Windsor and the Leamington area Saturday.

The postmaster-general stopped at the new postal sorting station on Walker Road, gave a press conference in Leamington, visited greenhouses in that area and was guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Kent-Essex Liberal Association Saturday night.

Less than one per cent of the mail in Canada goes astray, Mr. Blais said.

And he pointed out businessmen could get faster service if they mailed earlier in the week.

"People mail on Friday and it sits in the post office over the weekend and probably doesn't arrive until the next Tuesday.

"Mail on Tuesday and it arrives on Wednesday. By leaving it until Friday they have lost almost a week."

Mr. Blais said the post office has considered providing a courier service but it wouldn't be needed if mail was sent earlier in the week.

Accompanied by Kent-Essex MP Bob Daudlin on the one-day tour, Mr. Blais said he hoped for more stable labor relations in the post office.

"I don't think the post office itself can stand too many

code or an illegible one may in the future be returned to the sender if there is a return address.

Mr. Blais said the post office will never be a deficit-free operation because service must be provided for underpopulated areas where there is no hope of making money.

But he said the post office is trying to increase revenue to reduce the \$671 million operating deficit.

The often-maligned junk mail, which he called direct mail, makes money for the post office and helps keep the cost of service down, he said.

Mr. Blais spoke to about 150 members of the Kent-Essex Liberal Association at their annual meeting, focusing on national unity and the importance of keeping Quebec part of Canada.

Our Postmaster, Arnold Axcell, was invited to the opening of the new postal service building on Tuesday morning on Walker Road, south of Hwy. 46 to see and inspect the new building.

The three mail route couriers of Maidstone post office, Mr. Chouinard, Mrs. Mary Nikita and Mrs. Dorothy St. Louis honoured Arnold Axcell who retired from being post master nine years. Mr. Leslie Jackson of the Essex Post Office is acting post master until the newly appointed post master, Mr. Robert M. Jackson of Crediton, Ont. takes over his duties. The farewell dinner and enjoyable evening was held on Sept. 18 at the Essex Tavern with dinner and dancing. Arnold was presented with a new mail box with his name engraved on it by Mr. Fred Sturgeon. Arnold's last day was on Oct. 20th his birthday and he was completely surprised with the party. All good wishes go out to Arnold from all who he served and wish him continued good health and happiness.

### CARD OF THANKS

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all patrons of the Maidstone Post Office for all kindnesses, gifts and good wishes shown to me over the past twenty-seven years. Both as a rural carrier on R.R. 3 as well as Postmaster. I have pleasant memories of so many people, of favours done, of conversations, cards, gifts and recollection. I will remember them all and you the patrons. Thanks again and God Bless you all. Nov. 4, 1977  
-Arnold Axcell

Mr. R. Jackson our new postmaster, has taken over his duties on Monday. He has replaced Arnold A. Axcell who was retired on October 20th, Nov. 11/77

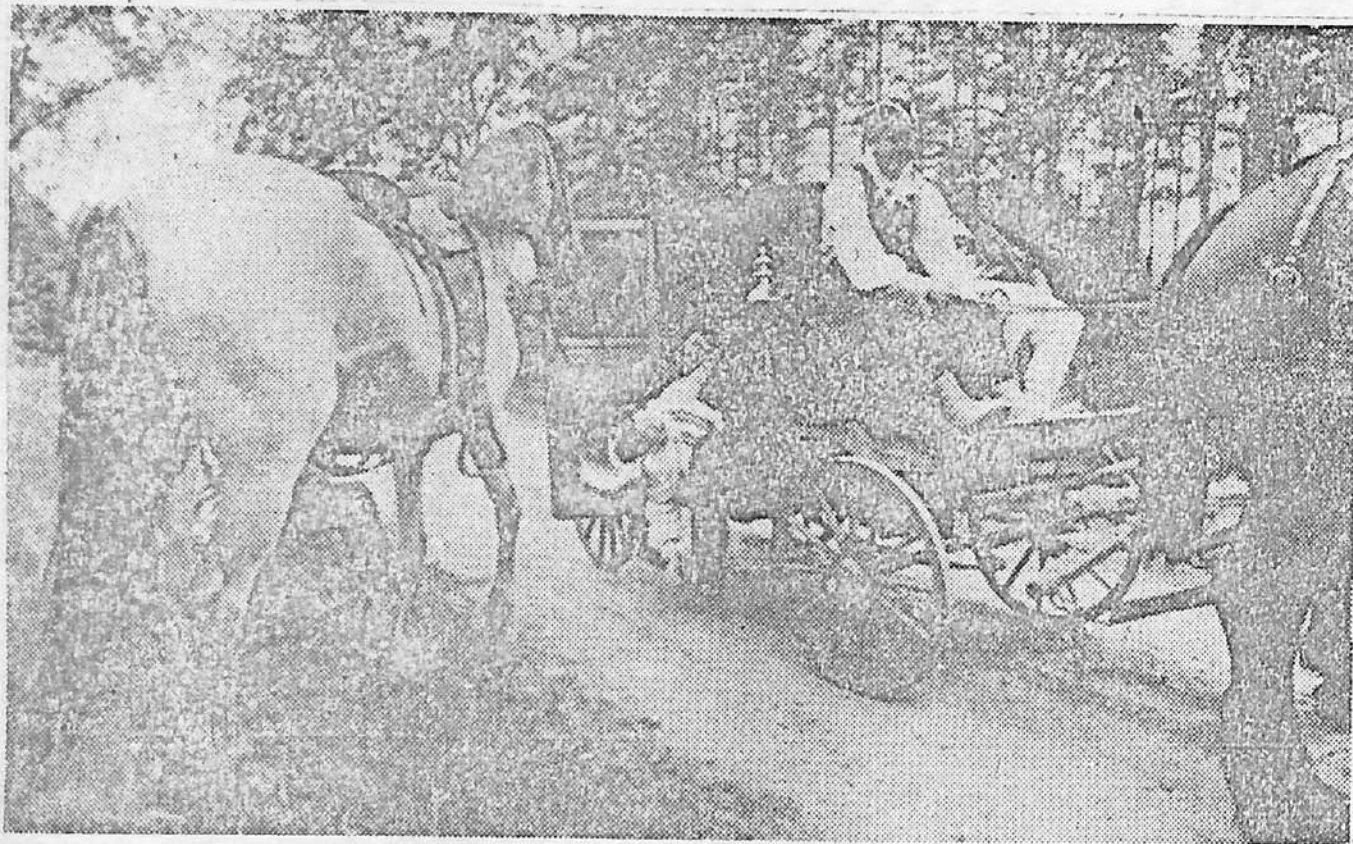


# INSIDE THE POST OFFICE

THE WINDSOR STAR, JUNE 9, 1977



Cafeteria, other amenities pleasant enough ...



THE WINDSOR STAR, JUNE 8, 1977

Photo by CANADIAN PRESS

**STAND DOWN --** This mail coach, on its way to Ottawa from Brockville, was robbed this week near Newbliss, about 10 miles south of Smith Falls.

But, the robbery was all in good fun and was an re-enactment of the mail runs that originated in Ontario before 1840. The mail run was part of Smith

Falls' promotion for Settlers' Days celebrations in July and a reminder of what postal problems were really like in the 19th century.

more strikes — not even one more," he said. The problems that have plagued the post office the last 10 years can be solved with labor and management "pulling on the same rope," Mr. Blais said. Mr. Blais said Windsor's automated mail sorting system has one of the highest levels of productivity in Canada. And the percentage of Windsoites using postal codes is higher than the national average, 62 per cent compared to 60 per cent, he said. He also raised the possibility the mail without a postal



# New mail rate starts Tuesday

THE WINDSOR STAR, FEBRUARY 26, 1977

The federal government is putting its stamp on your pocketbook again, literally, as the cost of mailing a first class letter goes up by two cents on Tuesday.

The new rate will also be in effect for first class mail to the United States, St. Pierre and Miquelon, the Canadian Forces post offices and fleet mail offices.

The price hike is the second in six months, as the cost was bumped from eight to ten cents last September 1.

Information officer for the Windsor area, George Kerr, said Friday there are about 150,000 12-cent stamps on hand at the five major postal stations in the city, Tecumseh and LaSalle.

That amount includes the "A" station on Ouellette Avenue, where office workers have 100,000 12-cent stamps, 95,000 10-cent stamps and 75,000 two-cent stamps ready.

Mr. Kerr said he didn't expect any shortages when the new price comes into effect, noting that over 20 million of the 12-cent stamps were distributed in Southwestern Ontario area, more than double than in September.

The 20 vending machines across the city that dispense stamps will have new packages inserted in them on Monday, he said.

The post office will increase the prices for registered and certified mail on April 1.

THE WINDSOR STAR, MARCH 4, 1977

Dear Mail User,

We'd just like to remind you that on March 1, 1977 the postage on all first class letters (up to 10g) to Canadian and American addresses will change from 10¢ to 12¢.

Postcard rates will change to 12¢ and sealed greeting card rates to 10¢.

Jean Jacques Blais  
Postmaster General

LONDON, Ontario  
N5Y 1A3

21st January 1977

*George A. Lambourn*

George A. Lambourn  
Manager, Distribution Services  
Southwestern District  
Ontario Postal Region

The Customers  
Rural Routes  
Oldcastle

CAL/tmr  
CHICAGO

Dear Customer:

As you are aware, Canada Post conducted a survey some time ago to seek out your opinion and viewpoint with regard to introducing a reduction in the frequency of the delivery from six to five days per week, omitting delivery on Saturday.

The survey results reveal that a large majority feel that the deletion of Saturday delivery will cause no hardship and as a result, there should be no serious delay and/or actual diminution of service.

Therefore, Canada Post has now decided to embark upon a five day per week delivery frequency. The new schedule will commence on Saturday, 2nd February, 1980. On that date and each Saturday thereafter, no Rural Mail Delivery will be performed.

Canada Post wishes to thank-you as a valued Rural Route customer for your co-operation in the survey and we hope and trust that the change will have satisfactory results for all concerned.

Yours truly,

June 27, 1978.

Dear Rural Route One  
Oldcastle Residents,

You might not be aware that Gladys and Jack Tasker who have been our postmaster and mail delivery lady are retiring this Friday, June 30th. Gladys and Jack will be moving on the 1st of July from our area back to Chatham to live.

A number of the residents have suggested they would like to contribute to a purse to be given to Gladys and Jack on Friday along with your names; if you wish to contribute, please call to have your contribution picked up.

Mr. Jeff Cainen  
Mr. Bob Pulleyblank

Phone: 737-6804  
Phone: 737-6393

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Robert Pulleyblank.

Our file Notre référence  
2-7-1/13-3-10

Rural Routes - general  
/13-1-34  
Rural Routes - 5 DPW

The best wishes of R.R. 1  
Oldcastle residents go to  
Gladys and Jack Tasker, our  
postmaster and mail delivery  
lady on their retirement June  
30th. Gladys and Jack moved  
on July 1st from our area  
back to Chatham to live.  
JULY 7, 1978 EFP



# No, they're not enlisting

When the postal strike stopped the flow of mail in Windsor Monday, claimants of unemployment insurance

benefits lined up down the street and around the corner at the Windsor Armouries, 37 University Ave. E., to

pick up their cheques. The Windsor Canada Employment Centre has set up temporary headquarters at the

Star Photo by WALTER JACKSON  
Armouries to distribute cheques from 1 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. daily until the postal situation is cleared up.

THE WINDSOR STAR, JUNE 30, 1978 Photo by LEE PALSER  
Jack and Gladys Tasker sort mail one last time

## Part of a partnership comes to an end today

By LLOYD McLACHLAN

OLDCASTLE — A bright, mid-afternoon sun beats mercilessly down, but a noisy fan in the tiny post office at Highway 3 and Walker Road is keeping Jack Tasker comfortable.

"I was going to put in an air conditioner," Tasker explained, his voice barely audible above the fan's steady, loud drone, "but we decided it wouldn't be worth it."

Tasker, 60, and his wife, Gladys, are familiar faces in an unusual way to residents in this rural hamlet just south of Windsor.

Tasker, a postal employee for 29 years, is Oldcastle's postmaster. Ironically, his wife is the post office's rural route contractor, delivering and picking up mail in the area.

But the couple's post office partnership ends today. Today they retire.

"It's been pretty amazing that we could live together 24 hours a day and still work together," Mrs. Tasker said.

Her husband said the secret of their success is co-operation.

"Gladys does the driving, and I help with the deliveries," Tasker said in a recent interview. "I look after stamps, money orders...we both sort mail. We've worked together, and we've enjoyed it."

The Taskers' second car, a 1971 model, sits outside the post office in the June sunshine. The vehicle has logged 108,000 miles, all on Mrs. Tasker's mail deliveries in the area.

Mrs. Tasker has been in charge of Oldcastle's rural route mail delivery since 1968. Since then, six days a week, the Taskers have climbed into a car and spent two hours daily delivering mail to 269 customers in a 25-square-mile area around the post office.

The delivery area extends north to Talbot Road, east to the 9th Concession, south to the Essex Townline and west to Howard Avenue.

Tasker began his career in the post office in 1946, when he was hired as a clerk in Chatham.

The Second World War veteran became a letter carrier in Chatham two years later, but in 1961, the Taskers moved to Oldcastle and opened a variety store.

The variety store now houses the post office, and the Essex County Public Library's Oldcastle branch.

Tasker became Oldcastle's postmaster in 1965, and the couple's partnership was formed three years later when Mrs. Tasker began her duties on the rural route delivery job.

"The fallow that had the route was giving it up," Tasker explained. "So Gladys just decided to apply."

"There's been a lot of work, but we've enjoyed it. I think the best thing about it has been meeting the people."

Tasker said the couple will move to a home they own in Chatham by mid-July, and expect to travel extensively in their spare time.

"I like a holiday where we can travel, and take our time," Tasker said. He said the couple has had only 10 days of vacation in the past eight years.

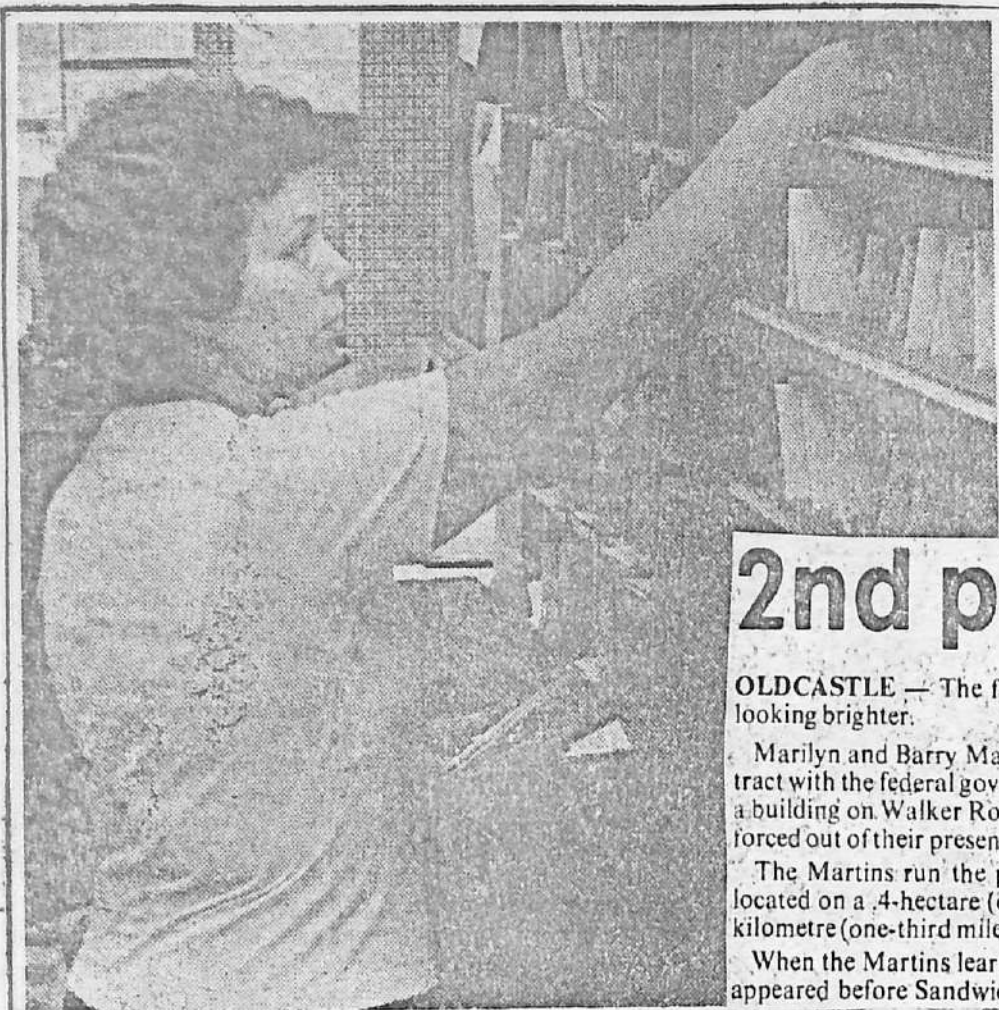
"But we have mixed emotions about leaving the community," his wife added.

Inevitably, the talk switches to the Post Office itself. Tasker has heard all the criticisms, and he has a few of his own.

"There's been so many changes since I started to work for the Post Office. Let's just say that it's not as efficient as it was years ago."







## 2nd post office site found

THE WINDSOR STAR, JUNE 20, 1981

OLDCASTLE — The future of the Oldcastle Post Office is looking brighter.

Marilyn and Barry Martin, who run the post office on contract with the federal government, said Friday they have found a building on Walker Road to which they can move if they are forced out of their present location.

The Martins run the post office in a 55-year-old building located on a .4-hectare (one-acre) site on Highway 3 one-half kilometre (one-third mile) east of Walker Road.

When the Martins learned the building was up for sale they appeared before Sandwich South council expressing concern

that they might not find another place if they had to move.

Council asked the owner of the building, the Ontario ministry of transportation and communications, to give the building to the township so the post office could stay there. The ministry offered Sandwich South first chance to buy the building at appraised market value.

Clerk Evelyn Oliver said Friday council was not aware the Martins had found another site when it debated the issue at Wednesday's meeting.

Mrs. Martin said the couple won't move unless they have to, but they're relieved to know the post office will stay in Oldcastle, even though it may have to move within the hamlet.

Oldcastle Postmaster Marilyn Martin sorts mail

THE WINDSOR STAR, JULY 10, 1981

## Rain, heat or strike... rural mails go through

Story and photo by Rob Van Nie  
Star Staff Reporter

OLDCASTLE — Outside Windsor's sprawling, modern mail sorting plant on Walker Road, pickets walk in the hot sun as the strike by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers enters its 11th day.

Just down the road, there's another post office, separated from the main sorting plant by two kilometres (1.2 miles), years of tradition and a different union.

Step through the door with the torn screen and you're greeted with the friendly smile of Marilyn Martin, postmaster of Oldcastle.

The tiny post office in the 55-year-old building on Highway 3, around the corner from Walker Road, has the aura of another era.

And yes, this post office is open.

Martin is busy sorting mail in wooden slots behind the old-fashioned wicket with its worn counter.

The Oldcastle Post Office is one of the many rural post offices open despite the strike.

It's not that the rural postal employees decided not to join their urban counterparts in a work stoppage, but they're members of the Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association, a separate bargaining unit.

And so the mail goes through, what little there is.

The small post office on the outskirts of Windsor is a family affair.

Martin's husband, Barry, delivers and picks up the mail of rural route customers. They live in an apartment at the back of the building.

Thursday was Martin's busiest day since the strike began. She processed 75 letters, compared to the normal volume of 900 to 1,500 a day.

Many other days since the strike began, only one or two letters found their way to the Oldcastle Post Office.

Most days, "I feel like the Maytag repairman," said Martin.

Robert Emmons, Essex postmaster and supervisor for five rural post offices in this area, said all employees still working have reduced workloads.

"But at least they've got a workload. I've got nothing here," said Emmons, explaining the Essex postal workers belong to the CUPW union and are on strike.

Emmons said the rural postal workers have been instructed only to go out on their routes if they have enough mail to warrant it.

They won't travel their routes for only one or two letters, he added.

He stressed the rural post offices are only accepting and delivering local mail.

For example, if you want to send a letter to Toronto, it won't do any good to drop it off at a rural post office, because the mail won't go anywhere.

Part of Martin's mail volume Wednesday came from a local company which sent out bills. Two weekly newspapers were dropped off at the Oldcastle Post Office for delivery to local customers.

Union Gas had earlier delivered its local bills to the post office.

The Oldcastle Post Office delivers mail to 300 rural route customers and has about 70 general delivery boxes.

Most of the general delivery customers don't seem to know the post office is open, and mail is beginning to collect in the boxes, said Martin.

Meanwhile, Martin swelters behind the wicket in the post office, awaiting the occasional customer and an end to the strike, and envying the children playing in a sprinkler behind the building.

Neither rain, snow, heat nor strike will keep her off the job.