

Retiring mail carrier saw changes in 25 years on job

Seventy-five to 100 years ago, rural mail carriers did not have four-wheel drive or graveled roads. February 1932 marked the retirement of Sherman County carrier Frank Hooper after 25 years of service. *The Goodland News-Republic* recorded that event.



marcia smith

• from the vault

CARRIED MAIL FOR QUARTER OF A CENTURY Frank Hooper Will Retire from Service

Frank Hooper, veteran rural mail carrier, will end his service with the government next Monday, a position he has held for nearly 25 years. He began carrying the mail out of the Goodland post office Dec. 2, 1907.

Mr. Hooper gave some interesting information in regard to the job here. He and his wife and two sons came from Brown County to Sherman County in the spring of 1907.

They had lived on a rural route so took up the proposition of getting a route established here with the postmaster, who at that time was J. Ed Stevens. The postmaster and an inspector went out to the Hooper farm one day for a fried chicken dinner and made a favorable report on the rural route proposition, and an examination was held. Mr. Hooper was notified (on Friday) to start carrying the mail on the following Monday, Dec. 2, 1907.

When the route started, there was only a handful of mail for delivery, Mr. Hooper said, but it increased as

but the volume of mail has greatly increased in the quarter century.

Mr. Hooper recalls the first blizzard, which caught him at the George Tipton place on the 15th of December. He didn't get home until the following day.

In the time he has delivered the mail, Mr. Hooper has seen children grow up and leave their parental roof to establish homes for themselves. Of those living on the route when it was started, there remain H.C. Miller, Mac Anderson, G.T. Tipton, N.G. Tipton, W.D. Marshall, W.H. Connolly, Joe

VanDonge, C.C. Kipps and Jacob Trachsel.

Some others that were on the route still live in the county but no longer get their mail on the route. Some who were children along the route and now have homes of their own and receive mail on the old route are the Hartwig brothers, Glenn Fox, Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Hooper, Mr. and Mrs. D.A. Laughlin, Ed Robidoux, L. VanDonge, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Simmering, Heye Frerichs and Walter Trachsel.

The postmasters he worked under were J. Ed Stevens, Gertrude Stevens, William Walker, Maude Aten and John Heston.

A good many changes have taken place in the mail service, but Mr. Hooper puts the parcel post as the biggest innovation of his experience.

In the "Sherman County and Family History: They Came To Stay, Vol. II," an article on "Rural Free Delivery" contains a photo of Frank Hooper, the first rural mail carrier of Sherman County, sitting in his buggy pulled by a team of horses. It also states that his salary was \$50 a month.

"There were no graded roads in the early days of RFD," the book says. "Farmers going to town angled across the prairies in the direction of town but rural routes were laid out on section lines, and sometimes the only visible road was the mail carrier's trail. During the early years, horses, buggy and sled were used, including a motorcycle by Seth Duell.

"The parcel post system was established in January 1913, and post offices began to accept parcels for mailing. By the spring of 1914, Sears and Roebuck and Montgomery Ward were mailing out their catalogs," adding to the volume of mail to be carried as was noted by

Frank Hooper.

In 1932, the country was marking the 200th birthday of George Washington. One Goodland business used the occasion to advertise its merchandise.

1732 — 1932

Some 150 years ago Washington inserted an ad — That he wanted enough *woolen cloth* to make for himself a suit and a riding habit for his wife. This indicates that from his time to the present people want good merchandise — and wool suitings — which it has been our endeavor to supply in our community.

Goodland Clothing Company Richard Auer

The Noyes Grocery Store also had some appealing weekly specials: 3 lbs. of Airway coffee, 69 cents; sugar, 10 lbs. for 47 cents; White naphtha soap, 15 bars for 49 cents; and Texas seedless grapefruit, 6 for 25 cents.

State governors face challenge of growing economy, adding jobs

How do we grow our economy, create jobs and ensure prosperity and opportunity reach every corner of society?

It's a question asked by virtually every elected leader, and one the nation's governors were asking this past weekend during the annual meeting of the National Governors Association.

Each state is different, but every governor faces similar challenges. One of the main challenges faced today is how to encourage the innovative industries of tomorrow to choose to do business in the United States, let alone in any one state.

This was a key topic of discussion during a series of meetings and conversations held over the past several days with business leaders and economists. I'm pleased to report Kansas is on the right track.

We've worked to spur innovation through tax relief that encourages



kathleen sebelius

• governor

investment in new technology.

We've sought out innovative companies in emerging industries, like biosciences and renewable energy, showing how Kansas is the perfect place to start or expand operations and providing the help and expertise needed to do so.

But above all else, we've dedicated ourselves to creating the workforce of the future through our historic commitment to our schools.

Given the competition we now face from China, India and other countries with low-wages, but increasingly high-skill workers, the need to strengthen our schools, spe-

cifically in the areas of math, science and technology, is clear. Those subjects are all key to the information economy and are critical to spurring innovation.

That's why my budget includes support for the Kansas Academy for Math and Science, a two-year program of college-level coursework for high school juniors and seniors, and why we must continue to ensure our institutions of higher learning are providing the skills students need to succeed in the workplace.

Kansas isn't just competing with neighboring states, we're competing with the world. I'm confident we can remain a leader globally, just as we've done nationally, if we continue to make innovation a priority.



Roe



Grieve

Woman wins night at motel

A Goodland couple will enjoy a night at a motel in Stratton, Colo., as a gift from his mom, who won a Goodland Lions Club drawing.

Jeana Roe won the one-night package at the motel given away as a fund raiser by the club. She said she was surprised to win, and she will give the package as a present to her oldest son and his wife to celebrate their first anniversary in April.

Connie Grieve, Lions second vice-president and chairman of the fund raiser, said the money would be used for scholarships. She said the club made \$520 after paying for the package, which includes dinner, a night's lodging and breakfast.

NEW LISTING 1531 Sherman \$28,500

This bungalow has been recently remodeled. Many upgrades have been completed by the Sellers such as: new sheetrock, texturing, paint, carpet, laminate flooring and some new cabinets. Includes a new electric range, refrigerator, all window coverings & ceiling fan. The basement is setup as an apartment with its own kitchen & bath. An excellent investment or first time buyer property. Call Rose today. 785-899-3060, 866-899-3060 or 785-899-7464.



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