

Rural Free Mail Delivery for the Farmers---Some of the Problems

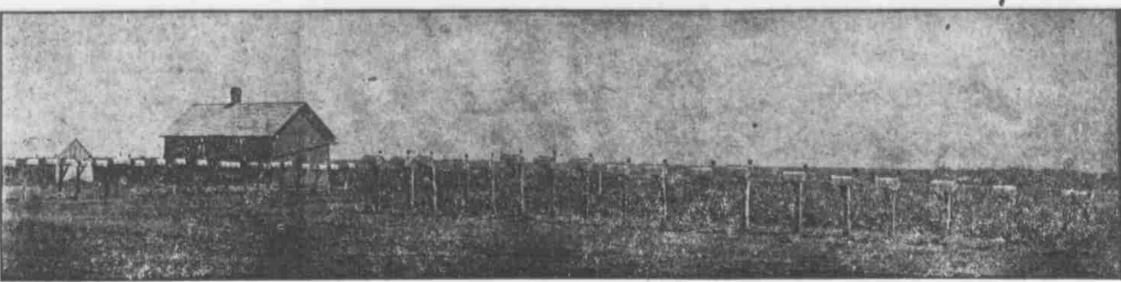
ONLY a few years ago it would have been necessary to explain, even to a gathering of postmasters, what rural free delivery is. Today the words, "Rural Free Delivery," and even the letters, "R. F. D.," are as familiar to the mass of the people as the word "Postoffice."

For the fiscal year 1935 the total appropriation for rural free delivery only \$40,000 and the number of routes only forty-four. As late as 1906 the total appropriation was only \$60,000 and the number of routes only 1,276. Within four years the total appropriation had grown, in round numbers, to \$13,000,000 and the number of routes to 24,000. For the ensuing fiscal year there will be expended for farmers' free delivery alone the sum of about \$25,000,000.

It is marvelous and astounding development, practically all of it within the space of only ten years, and most of it within four or five years. The farmers of no states in the union have shared more liberally than those of Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and the west in the blessings of this service. In 1906 the first rural free delivery route in Nebraska was established at Tecumseh, the carrier then receiving \$200 per annum. On May 1, 1935, there were in operation in this one state 874 routes, with a monthly carrier pay roll of \$56,500, or over \$680,000 annually; the carriers receiving pay at the rate of \$70 a year and distributing mail to a number of families estimated at 6,000. In Iowa there were 2,676 rural routes and in Kansas 1,146.

When we remember, including cities and all non-farming population, there are only 25,000 families in Nebraska, and that large portions of the state are still sparsely settled, we have the astonishing fact that the great majority of those engaged in agricultural industry receive their letters, newspapers and other mail delivered at their very doors at the farm every day.

In Daily Touch with Events.
Every day the farmers of this section are in direct touch through the newspapers and their mail with all the happenings of the world, with the market reports and weather forecasts, and with everything that could be of value or interest to them. Not only so, but the rural service enables them to communicate with rapidity among themselves. The influence of such a system is enormous. It has revolutionized farm life, doing away with its isolation



RURAL FREE DELIVERY ROUTE NO. 3, SHELTON, BUFFALO COUNTY, NEB.—FORTY-TWO UNITED STATES MAIL BOXES ON ONE SECTION CORNER.

and loneliness. Still less can we set bounds to it as an educational influence.

A system of such manifold blessings, maintained at such cost by the government, ought to be appreciated. It is new yet and is yet to be completed, and its service developed and improved. The point I want to emphasize is the responsibility of the postmasters for the efficiency of this marvelous system. A vast and complicated network is required, but after all, the essential part of the work rests upon the postmaster. The carriers who daily distribute the mails along their routes are under the control of the postmaster from whose office the routes emanate. They start from his office, where the mail is prepared, and return with it to their sections. Their conduct, their reports, their relations to the public, in short, the whole service in the first instance falls within their jurisdiction. Upon their intelligence, zeal and faithfulness the efficiency of the service depends.

Nothing is more important for the service than good country roads. The farmer can do much by seeing the road authorities, stirring them up, or interesting enterprising patrons in this work.

The farmer can likewise help in securing approved mail boxes. After the department spends millions of dollars to bring the mail home to them there are not a few farmers who are so neglectful as to have only old broken boxes or wooden boxes that are not weatherproof as receptacles



RURAL DELIVERY CARRIERS READY TO START FROM POSTOFFICE TO Make Their Daily Delivery.

for the mail. Surely if this is pressed it can be cured and the boxes placed where they will be convenient, so that the carrier will not have to cross a ditch or lose time, or if it be at cross-roads, several boxes should be placed at the same corner.

Collisions with Human Nature.
In this service we collide with a good deal

of human nature. In the original establishment of routes and in their rearrangement, which is often required in laying out county service, nearly every patron is anxious to have the service located so that the mail will be delivered at a box at his front gate. He can show the government just how the route should run, the main point, in his view, being his own

house. But it is of course impossible to do this. When a number of persons ride a horse somebody has to ride behind. The rural service has so worked the miracle that the majority may ride in front, that they may get their mail by stepping out of their front door. Yet it is impossible to fix it so that a few will not have to go a quarter or a half of a mile to receive their mail. The rule is, "The greatest good to the greatest number." It is the application of this rule, conscientiously and carefully enforced, that a vast mass of protests and complaints, many of them very strenuous, arise.

These difficulties are very perplexing in county service—that is, where a whole county is laid out so that hardly any patron will be more than half a mile distant. There are twenty such counties in Nebraska. Burt, Washington, Sarpy, Douglas, Cass, Otoe, Nemaha, Richardson, Gage, Pawnee, Johnson, Saunders, York, Lancaster, Gage, Adams, Jefferson, Saline, Butler and Cuming. There are twenty-one such counties in Iowa, as follows:

In operation: Benton, Buchanan, Delaware, Des Moines, Dubuque, Hardin, Har-

ison, Marshall, Story, Van Buren, Washington, Cerro Gorda, Lee, Polk, Winnebago, Greens, Madison, Page, Keokuk, Plymouth and Scott.

If a patron has had a box in front of his door and it has to be moved a quarter or a half mile in the rearrangement in order to give the people of a whole county to best advantage, then Rome is likely to howl.

The planning of a county service is too often a thankless task for the rural agent who does the work. The many (to whom service is extended under the new plan are never heard from, but the few who are discriminated in order that the majority may be served, are constantly protesting without regard for the rights or welfare of their neighbors, send in long protests against the changes. More than half of these protests are signed by many people who are not actually affected, and it is infrequently the case that such protests—sometimes multifarious, but more often because of a lack of knowledge of the lines of the service under the new arrangement—grossly misrepresents the facts, and in a few cases the agent is vilified because of his failure to recommend as close a service as everyone desired, where under the rules of the department he could not do so.

None Purposely Discriminated.
No one is purposely discriminated in laying out county service or in the location of any route, and this fact cannot be too carefully impressed upon the public mind. It would be impossible to emphasize in a detailed way all the points that are essential in the daily round of duties to enable the service to maintain the efficiency of the service.

There are innumerable annoyances, it is true, but so there are in any business. It must be remembered that the extension of rural mail delivery into a community does not deprive its patrons from receiving their mail service, but rather adds to their regular office hours, any mail matter that may have arrived after the rural carrier's departure to serve his route. It is not required that a rural patron rent a box in the postoffice for such local delivery.

Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas have fared well in the rural free delivery service. The union has fared better. These people were quick to see its advantages and to demand a share in them. This service puts them in direct communication with the great business, commercial and social

world, and they are eager to use it. They want the daily and weekly newspapers and they are alert to employ such a powerful agency for business and practical ends. The demand for rural free delivery service comes from many quarters where as yet it is impossible to meet it. For the good of the service it is necessary for the department in establishing routes to draw lines to find the establishment of the service to sections where the population is sufficiently dense to justify the expense. If there were no requirements with regard to the number of people to be served, the expense of the service would soon reach such proportions as to endanger the popularity of the entire system.

We have in Nebraska, for example, a territory of more than 70,000 square miles, but of very unequal density of population, the heaviest population, of course, being in the eastern and central portions of the state. But our population is rapidly increasing, especially in the western counties. With this increase of population will come an increased demand for rural free delivery service. The department is steadily laying out more county service. The department is under the direction of progressive men, and I am sure it is in sympathy with the purposes of the rural mail service and has its interest at heart.

With special reference to the service, too much attention cannot be given to the public roads. Much remains to be done on the public highways. There is hardly a case but more people could be better accommodated in the installation of service, or fewer people discriminated in the establishment of county service, if our system of public roads were perfected. Complaints of being seriously discriminated because of the arrangement of county service would be lessened by one-half if promises to open and repair roads and bridges were kept. It is too often the case that the department does its part, while those who receive the benefits of the service forget their promises.

I put great stress upon the matter of improving the roads. It is impossible to put too much stress upon it. In my opinion the department in the future will have to be steadily more strict and severe in requirements regarding the roads. I do not see how it can take any other course if this service is to be what it ought to be. CHARLES E. LLEWELLYN, Division Supt. Rural Free Delivery.

Another Crop of Which Nebraska Boasts



BABY PARTY AT THE HOME OF DR. H. G. HARRIS, AUBURN, Neb.

Fruit of Fifty Years of Wedded Life



MR. AND MRS. JOHN HOYT OF OMAHA AND THEIR FAMILY, ASSEMBLED TO CELEBRATE THE GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY, AUGUST 1, 1935.

Mickel Family Meets at Golden Wedding Reunion



MR. AND MRS. THOMPSON E. MICKEL OF CINCINNATI, O., AND THEIR DESCENDANTS, GATHERED AT THE HOME OF THOMAS E. MICKEL OF OMAHA, AUGUST 1, 1935.

Tersely Told Tales Both Grim and Gay

Woman with a History.
WELL-DRESSED and sharp-faced woman entered a lawyer's office and very shortly was standing by his table.

"I beg your pardon," she said to the lawyer, "but can you spare me a few moments of your valuable time?"

"I am very busy, madame," he replied, "but if you have anything of importance to communicate, I shall be glad to hear it. Pray be seated."

"Thank you—no," she said, looking round in a nervous way at the clerks. "I am a woman with a history, and—"

"Excuse me," apologized the lawyer, anticipating a fee. "Perhaps you had better step into my private office where we will not be interrupted."

She thanked him and they went into the adjoining room.

"Now," he said, when they were seated, "I presume you wish to consult me on this matter of your history?"

"Yes, sir. That is why I am here."

"Very well—proceed. Anything you may say to me will be heard in the strictest confidence. You were saying you were a woman with a history?—this very sympathetically, as an encouragement."

"Yes, sir," she began as she laid a document before him. "It is a history of Napoleon Bonaparte in eighteen monthly parts at \$2 a part, and—"

The lawyer threw up his hands but she had him, and he could not get away until he put down his name. Now, when "a woman with a history" is mentioned in his hearing, it causes a cold chill to run down his back.—Chicago Journal.

Mike's Preference.
Car "Merrymaking" was just sweeping gracefully around a curve on the occasion of the recent reunion of Glover's band of Auburn, when Howard Eaton began again:

"When I am off on a time like this I always think of my friend, Tim Murphy, the actor. You know him, don't you? You know Tim is a great fellow for good yarns, and his favorite custom is to come out in front of the curtain (after about six curtain calls) and tell some of them. Here's one that I heard him tell to a packed house one night, when I was sitting down in the row that has no hair on top of its head."

"A couple of Irish friends of mine," said he, "were doing New York. Pretty soon they came to Tiffany's window."

"Mike," said Pat. "How would you like to have your pick out of all those gewgaws, begorry?"

"Oh, faith," said Mike. "I would a durned sight rather have me shovel."—Lewiston Journal.

"Peelies Ham."
Lieutenant Peary was praising tea as a cold weather drink.

"In our dash for the pole," he said, "it will be hot tea that will depend on rather than Peelies ham."

"Peelies ham?"

"Yes, Peelies ham," said Lieutenant Peary. "Did you never hear of Peelies ham? Well, this is the story: "They were two old Scotchwomen, Mrs. MacWhirter and Mrs. McBean, who met on the road one day, and Mrs. MacWhirter says: "Loah me, woman, yer far frae hame the day."

old romance. This sailor was strong, handsome and gay. The girls liked him, and he, I fear, liked the girls. The following conversation one moonlight night in the tropics passed between him and a young woman.

"Then, Jack, when shall we be married?"

"But I promised my wife, sweetheart, that I would never marry a second time."

"The young girl, beautiful in the flattering moonlight, murmured: "Would you cast me off for the sake of a promise to a dead woman?"

"But she isn't dead yet," said the fickle sailor.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

What Sandy Saw.
A Scotch minister and his friend, who were coming home from a wedding, began to consider the state into which their positions at the wedding feast had left them.

"Sandy," said the minister, "just stop a minute here till I go ahead. Maybe I don't walk very steady, and the good wife might remark on my not just right."

He walked ahead of the servant for a short distance and then asked: "How is it? Am I walking straight?"

"Oh, ay," answered Sandy, thickly, "ye're a' richt—but wha's that wha's yer?"—Harper's Weekly.

Might Change His Mind.
The marriage service had proceeded without a hitch so far, but the responses proved a stumbling block. Neither the groom nor his partner had received much in the "edication" line; so, when the parson, in his most dignified tone, asked the usual question: "Will you have this woman to be thy wedded wife?" Jack immediately answered: "I will."

"You must say 'I will,'" corrected the cleric, and asked the question over again.

"I will," responded Jack, more firmly than ever.

The late clergyman threatened to stop the service altogether if the response was not properly given. That was too much for Sally, who broke in quite sharply: "Garn along wid ye, mon; thee 'll 'ave our Jack sayin' he won't in a minute or two wid yew worryin'."

The service was resumed.—Manner's Advertiser.

Monument of Patience.
Bishop Ellison Capers, in an address at Columbia, S. C., praised the virtue of patience.

"We may have industry," he said, "soberly, ambition—all the virtues that make success; and yet, without patience, we will accomplish nothing."

"A young man was overheard on a street corner, the other night, reproaching a young girl. That young man was patient. He had so highly developed this excellent quality that I shall not be surprised some day to see him a millionaire, a college president, or even a bishop."

"The young man said, as the young girl drew near him on the corner: "What a time you have kept me waiting!"

"The girl tossed her head. "It is to 'y' o'clock," she said, "and I didn't promise to be here till quarter of."

"The young man smiled a calm and patient smile.

"Ah, yes," he said, "but you have mistaken the day. I have been waiting for you since last evening."—New York Tribune.

Sobering Up the Diplomat.
The story had reference to a former senator of the United States who about the year 1840 was sent to Russia as minister. There were various evidences in the archives of the legation that sobriety was not this gentleman's especial virtue, and among them very many copies of notes in which the minister, through the secretary of the legation, excused himself from keeping engagements at the Foreign office on the ground of "sudden indisposition."

Mr. Prince told me that one day this minister's valet, who was an Irishman, came to the consulate and said: "O'll not stay with his lassitilly anny longer, 'Q've done wid him."

"What's the trouble now?" said Mr. Prince.

"Well," said the man, "this morning O'l thought it was toime to get his lassitilly out of bed for he had been drunk about so O'l went to him and says, gentle-loike, "Would your lassitilly have a cup of coffee?" when he rose up and shtruck me in the face. O'l that O'l took him by the collar, lifted him out of bed, took him across the room, showed him his ugly face in the glass and O'l said to him, says O'l: "Is thim the eyes of an invoy extraordinary and mnystrer plenipotentiary?"

Autobiography of Andrew D. White.

Curious and Romantic Capers of Cupid

Old Love Still Strong.
AFTER living apart for more than forty years, William F. Jackson of Montville, Me., and Mrs. Mary P. Marr of China, were again married, both declaring that they had made a mistake in securing a divorce.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. E. Judson Hatch, who recited the events of the past lives of the couple and admonished them to live in happiness in the future and not let the green-eyed monster again enter their home.

Mr. Jackson was first married to Mrs. Marr, then a maiden of much beauty, long before the civil war was started. They reared a large family of children, but when the call for volunteers was sent from Washington, Jackson forgot his family and was one of the first men to enlist in the army of Maine. He served four years, was wounded several times and returned to his home a physical wreck, brought about by long confinement in rebel prisons. As his health was returning to him Mr. Jackson and his wife had an estrangement which resulted in divorce.

Both married as soon as they separated and to each came children. Mrs. Jackson died some time ago and Mrs. Marr's husband was killed in an accident about the same time. A few weeks ago the man and woman met at Montville, where they had come to visit the children by their first marriage. The latter made overtures to the parents, their differences of the past were overlooked and a minister was sent for. After the ceremony both husband and wife said they were sorry for what they had done forty years ago and promised that they would live together during the rest of their lives.

Cremates Herself for Love.
Miss Lucy Monroe, a beautiful young heiress, daughter of the president of three Great Lakes, and for a time a figure in Chicago society, burned herself to death in the orchard near the family's summer home at South Haven, Mich., because of a parental opposition to her betrothal to an English nobleman. A coroner's jury found that the girl had committed suicide while temporarily insane. The verdict was based on the manner of the girl's self-destruction, which was caused by setting fire to her clothing after she had drenched herself with two gallons of benzine.

It was stated by intimate friends of the girl that she had chosen death rather than give up an Englishman of title, whom she met in Europe and to whom she was betrothed. The relatives of Miss Monroe are said to have vigorously objected to the match, which was semi-officially announced three weeks ago, when Miss Monroe returned from the continent.

Loved One Did Not Exist.
A remarkable story of a phantom lover, who was never seen by the person whom he is supposed to have loved so passionately, is attracting the attention of the London police. Mary Hilda Day, who resides with her husband at Clapham Common, and who has been before the courts charged with converting a check for \$99 to her own purpose, before her marriage was employed as a lady's maid at a house in Mayfair, where a Belgian woman named Marie de Schryver was also in service. The prisoner, so the allegation goes, got this woman's confidence, and told her of a certain Dr. Hinstead, who, she said, had fallen desperately in love with her. She believed the story and was delighted with the engagement. Bouquets of flowers and bottles of wine came for her in his name. She was anxious to see him, but it was explained that the doctor could not even enter into a correspondence with her until she left service. Apartments were found for her by the prisoner, but her lover never put in an appearance. One day the prisoner rushed in and explained that they were both accused of stealing jewelry and that money was needed to avoid arrest. Upon these and other representations she finally handed over to the prisoner a check for \$900. It was added that the woman, who succeeded in deceiving her as to her lover, succeeded in depriving her of even her clothing.

Dely Stern Parents.
Miss Jessie Burg, a prominent society girl of Burlington, Ia., the daughter of C. E. Burg of the C. E. Burg Wagon company, eloped to Chicago, where she was married to Will Bintliff, traveling auditor of the Frisco system, with headquarters at St. Louis. He is a relative of Vice President Douglas of the Frisco.

The news was given out by the father. The announcement came as a shock to the town, and the mother of the girl is said to be prostrated by the announcement. Miss Burg is beautiful, and one of the most popular girls in Burlington. Her engagement to Bintliff had been known to intimate friends.

Wilkins E. Bintliff is a son of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Bintliff of 540 Clemens avenue, St. Louis. He is 25 years of age and has been a resident of St. Louis for about three years, coming here from Wisconsin. The young man's father stated last night that he had received no word from the young couple, but that he was not altogether surprised to hear that they had been married.

"My son and Miss Burg have known each other for a little more than two years," he said. "They met while each was visiting friends in Chicago, and it was what is now generally termed a case of love at first sight. They expected to be married next fall, and, although no announcement of their engagement has ever been made, both families knew of their intentions."

Mr. Bintliff stated that he expects his son and his young wife to make their home with him in this city. Miss Burg visited the Bintliffs here during the World's fair, and since the close of the exposition, and was well known in West End circles.

Consul Sues for Fees.
The matrimonial troubles of Miss Carlotta Hart of Columbus, O., formerly Miss Juliet Takacs De Kis Joka, are the basis of another suit in common pleas court. Charles Hart of the Hart Manufacturing company, father of Miss Hart, is defendant in the suit filed yesterday. Hector De Castro, United States consul general at Rome, Italy, wants \$500 alleged to be due him for attorney's fees for services rendered Mr. Hart early in 1934.

The marriage of Miss Hart and the young Hungarian nobleman occurred in January, 1904, in London, England. The match met with considerable opposition from the girl's parents, and after several chances were burned, Miss De Kis Joka and her parents returned to this city, where an action for divorce was instituted by the young wife. Takacs followed his bride to Cleveland and sought in every way to effect a reconciliation. His efforts were in vain, however, and a divorce was granted in March of this year.

It was during the exciting weeks following the marriage that De Castro followed her earned his fees as attorney. He is practicing in the courts at Rome, he says, and was put to great expense of time and money in assisting Hart in obtaining the financial knot resulting from the marriage. He attended litigation relating to the defendant's daughter and son-in-law, he says, and spent more than \$40 in telegraph tolls and similar expenses.

He has asked Hart for a settlement of the claim, he declares, but no part of the bill has been paid. He wants the courts in this country to assist him in the collection.

Fortune-Telling and Divorce.
Fortune telling as a side issue to divorce and matrimony is oddly revealed in the action of Nathaniel Gibbs Ingraham, grandson of Justice Ingraham of the New York supreme court, against his wife, who was formerly Edith Newcombe Ward, says a cablegram from Edinburgh, Scotland. Mr. Ingraham claims \$1,500 a year under an ante-nuptial agreement and also \$1,000 per year by a bond alleged to have been granted in his favor.

Mrs. Ingraham says she was duped into giving the contract and bond. She alleged that after her separation from her first husband, Reginald H. Ward, Ingraham induced her by "various means" to give him the contract and bond to institute divorce proceedings against Ward and also induced her husband to consent to the proceedings. Mr. and Mrs. Ward were divorced in 1923, and Mrs. Ward then married Ingraham.

Before the marriage Mrs. Ward says she was taken to a lawyer's office where she was induced to sign an ante-nuptial settlement contract without reading the papers or knowing what they contained. Ingraham says the defendant professed marriage to him first and he declined, but afterwards consented to please her, as she was in poor health.

Mrs. Ward was Miss Edith Newcombe, of Kentucky, daughter of H. Victor Newcombe, at one time an important factor on Wall street. Reginald H. Ward, who was known in London as Count Ward, was at one time Romanian consul there.

At one period of his career Ward was known as the "Copper King." He is a Bostonian by birth. The Wards were married in New York November 28, 1888, and were divorced here May 25, 1923. Mr. and Mrs. Ingraham were married in the following September.