



Albion residents who have watched the construction of a new post office being erected are now invited, along with all interested parties to attend an Open House at the Albion Postal Facility Sunday October 16 from 2-4 P.M. There will be refreshments followed by a special Youth Drawing when 25 stamp Collecting Kits will be given away according to Postmaster Louise Kern.

Although the town was originally called LaFayette, the Post Office was Albion from the date of its first location when the office was established in the Fall of 1853 with H. H. Seymour as the first Postmaster. E. Alford succeeded him, then Thomas Parnell held that position. He was succeeded by George E. Keyes. In 1866 Gideon Wheeler was appointed Postmaster. It is noted that no record was kept as to the location of the Post Office until 1895 when Belle Hobbs served as Post Master with her facilities located on the East side of Main Street, an approximate location at the south end of the now existing Fire Station. In conjunction with Ms. Hobbs postal duties she also maintained the supply of school books purchased by the local students. Mrs. J. B. Cripps succeeded Hobbs and history says she maintained a Millinery "Hat" shop along with her daily duties of serving the public through the Postal Service.

Several local residents, in reminiscing, noted that rural patrons had to make a special trip into town for their mail. Around 1900 the first horse-drawn buggy mail delivery was established with the West Territory served by John Crouse and the East Territory by Fred Bivens assisted by his wife Etta who filled in at corn picking time when Bivens helped the local farmers to supplement his income.

When the rural routes were later combined into one, Roy Hilsabeck was hired to serve the area. Bessie McCarol was appointed postal clerk at that time and their acquaintance later culminated into marriage.

The first rural carrier to deliver his route by automobile was Ward Bridgeman who was known to purchase a new car for this purpose each year.

In 1913 Bernie Fraley was appointed PostMaster and moved the Post Office location to the North portion of his Hardware Business with his daughter Jerry Fraley Morgan serving as Clerk. Other helpers included McCarol, Maureen Fraley, Velma Augustine, Ray Brush, Jessie Cripps, Venus Lunstrum, and Goldie Harmon.

Following Bridgeman as rural mail carrier was Mrs. Freda Peters who served until 1938 when she was succeeded by Walter Beall. He served the rural route for 27 years, coming to this location after serving 9 years with the Postal Service in Washington D.C. At that time Beall drove 86 miles a day to serve 185 patrons which included the Liscomb area. There were times he would walk 10-15 miles on foot to deliver the mail when roads were impassable due to snow or mud where cars could not get through. Ernest Harmon was Bealls assistant carrier.

With mail service in and out of town by train only it was necessary for the mail pouches to be delivered to the train depot four times a day with the last train arriving at 9:30 P.M. Those assisting with these duties included Levi Kent, Sam Davis, Walter Hall, Harry Kirkendall, Ernest Owens Jr. Buffington and Terry Youngblood.

In 1947 Stella Burroughs was appointed Post Master where she served that position for 15 years again moving the location to the former Bank Building which had been vacated as an active bank since 1935. Burroughs served as State Secretary for National Association of Post Masters of the United States and was President of the National Association of retired Federal Employees local branch. Goldie Harmon continued to serve under Burroughs in addition to Marie Linsenmeyer. Harmon retired after 45 years of postal service on December 31, 1964 when she held the title of Classification Career Clerk.

Max Brewster was then appointed Post Master to succeed Burroughs with Louise Kern and Linsenmeyer as Clerks while Raymond Zewe served the rural patrons from 1966-1982 with Dennis Johnson assistant.

Post Master Louise Kern was appointed to this position in 1980 following the death of Brewster. Kern had served as Clerk since 1965.

The 975 Sq. Ft. vertical wood-sided building is accessible to the handicapped and is electrically heated and air conditioned. Subcontractor for the work was Cliff Giesking of Albion and owner is Terry Bergeson of Alden.

Dennis Johnson, regular rural carrier and Carolyn Giesking rural carrier replacement, serve 210 Albion and Liscomb Intermediate Office patrons. Carolyn (Susie) Hibbs is Postmaster Leave Replacement.

Kern announces lobby hours Monday through Friday, 6:30 - 5:30 P.M. with lobby hours on Saturday 6:30 to noon. Window hours Monday-Friday are 8 - 11:30 A.M. and 1:30 - 4:30 P.M. with Saturday window hours 8 - 9:30 A.M.

She invites the public to share in the Open House where former employees will also be on hand.