

ISLAND NEWS PAGE

The Guardian, Charlottetown, Tues. Dec. 17, 1963.

Mountain Of Mail Faces Postal Staff

By RALPH CAMERON

Faced with a mountainous pile of seasonal mail, the staff at the Charlottetown Post Office has moved into high gear and is completely organized to deal with what an outsider would consider an utter state of confusion.

It presents a reverse twist on the ordinary problems of mass production, because here it is a question of mass distribution of that same mass production.

"FIRST CLASS" FIRST
Despite all other considerations, the first class mail has to go out on schedule and Postmaster J.J. (Navy Jack) Connolly said yesterday postal authorities will permit nothing to interfere when interference is humanly possible to prevent.

No comparison of daily handling could be made yesterday. But on Dec. 15 last year, there were 12,300 pieces of first class mail handled—on Dec. 12, two days ahead of the normal rush, this year there were 12,788 pieces.

On top of this, there are the Christmas cards moving in tremendous quantities, with the total going up every year.

As was said above, only a miracle of organization prevents a complete foul-up. Yesterday while The Guardian reporter was there, another heavy pile of 11 big bags of mail came in as a result of collection from the mail boxes around the city.

And that was the second collection of the morning.

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TRAIN MAIL HEAVY
Another example was the Saturday night arrival by train when there were 800 pounds for local sorting, and Mr. Connolly noted this was just four times the normal amount and the really heavy rush is just starting.

Much of this had to go through customs and officials of that department also had to return work Sunday to handle it.

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Local mailmen on their walks are heavily laden with seven extra sorters helping relieve the burden and assisting to aid in the deliveries.

Throughout the postoffice, there are extra employees to work the extra load, but strangely enough there are only 53 extra this year, compared to 80 last year, despite an increase in the mail.

WOMEN EMPLOYEES
Part of this is explained by the fact that for the first time in local history, women workers have been taken on strength for the Christmas rush, and are doing a remarkably fine job.

The 16 women appear to have the ability to work fast and their fingers seem to have a little more suppleness than those of men, and they also give an impression of greater concentration on the job.

One of the most exasperating parts of the big task facing postal workers is the quantity of mail arriving daily with either insufficient, indecipherable or incomplete addressing. A special directory service has to be arranged to take care of this, and dedicated employees with vast experience do their best to get the mail to the person for whom it is intended.

When they are unable to do it, it has to go to the "Undeliverable Mail Office" in Montreal, unless it is possible to return it to the sender. Too often this is not possible because there is no return address and every postal worker spoken to yesterday asked this paper to make a plea for more arrival of gifts, letters and cards until after Christmas.

One of the reasons for this is that in Canada all first class mail from here is airborne, in the United States it travels by ordinary traffic routes. Sometimes, too, mail cars in the U.S. are held for a full load rather than using a quick dispatch of part loads.

So far this season there has been little United States mail arriving at the local post office.

Inevitably this means a delay and a last minute rush in making deliveries. It also can mean non-arrival of gifts, letters and cards until after Christmas.

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WEATHER

TEMPERATURES TORONTO (CP) — Temperatures issued by the weather office:

City	Min.	Max.
Dawson	-29	27
Vancouver	37	41
Victoria	41	46
Edmonton	-10	-5
Calgary	-12	-2
Regina	15	-3
Winnipeg	-22	-8
Toronto	7	23
Ottawa	1	9
Montreal	3	10
Quebec	3	10
Fredericton	10	15
Saint John, N.B.	9	14
Moncton	9	13
Halifax	13	17
Charlottetown	11	16
Sydney	9	22
Yarmouth	17	21
St. John's, Nfld.	9	23

High tide today at Charlottetown — and 12:21 and 11:18 p.m. At Rustico — and 1:18 p.m. Summerisle tide eighteen minutes later than Charlottetown. Sun rises today at 7:15 and sets at 4:38.

BIG INVESTMENT
Investment in Sweden's industry and public utilities companies was estimated at \$1,110,000,000 in 1963.

HALIFAX (CP) — The weather office says bitter midwinter weather entered the Maritimes Monday night, as temperatures slipped close to the zero mark. Though skies were clear in New Brunswick, they were cloudy in the other two provinces, and a few snowflurries were falling.

Today will continue very cold.

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CHRISTMAS MAIL POSES PROBLEMS

While most businesses estimate the success of Christmas by their volume of sales, the Postal Department works on the estimate of the amount of mail received, despatched and delivered to the hundreds of addresses within each postal district.

Christmas Spirit Is Lauded By Heads Of Welfare Bureaus

A request from little eight-year-old Danny when he walked into the welfare office in the city recently alerted the staff but nothing in this case could be located in the second hand stock at the bureau.

DEATH NOTICES (Received too late for Classified Death Notice column.)

PURCELL — At the Charlotte Hospital, Dec. 15, 1963, John J. (Dick) Purcell, 27 Richmond Street. Resting at the Hennessy Funeral Home from where the funeral will take place Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock to St. Dunstan's Basilica for Requiem High Mass at 9:15. Interment in the Catholic cemetery.

MACDONALD — Suddenly as the result of an automobile accident in Souris, Dec. 14, 1962, Augustus Adolphus MacDonald of Winsloe, aged 56 years. Resting at the Hennessy Funeral Home from where the funeral will take place Wednesday morning at 9:30 to St. Albert Church, Rolle Bay, for Requiem High Mass at 10 o'clock. Interment in the church cemetery.

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case it is set aside. Some may eventually reach its destination, and that which cannot be deciphered will be sent to a special office for such mail in Montreal.

Women's Institutes, the Catholic Women's League, churches, youth organizations and school children are lending "wonderful support," Sister Mary Henry, director of the Catholic Welfare Bureau, and Miss Elizabeth Torrey, director of the Bureau, report.

BETTER QUALITY
"The toys and clothing received this year have been of higher quality and in better condition than past years," the Catholic service director claims.

Miss Torrey also expressed appreciation for the fine cooperation from the public, and felt that while the work of the welfare agencies is never so close to the public as at Christmas time, "it should be remembered it is a year-round operation."

Officials of both bureaus had high praise for the United Fund, and the essential role it played in the carrying on of work in

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their organizations. The view was expressed that one of the best Christmas gifts many could receive this season "would be to see the fund successfully over the top in its objective."

The Catholic Welfare Bureau packed over 200 boxes last year, and the Protestant Service Bureau over 80. It is expected the number will be somewhat larger this year.

This week activities in both bureaus will be speeded up, and many volunteer workers will augment regular office staffs to help meet the demand.

On top of this, there are the Christmas cards moving in tremendous quantities, with the total going up every year.

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And that was the second collection of the morning.

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