

ALLEN O. MASON



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Lancaster, TN 38569-6257

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January 14, 2011

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW
Suite 200
Washington DC 20268-0001

Docket No. A2011-2

Dear Sir:

This letter is in response to USPS Comments Regarding Appeal of the discontinuance of the Post Office at Lancaster, TN 38569. There are discrepancies in the dates, the reasons for action, and the facts that the USPS stated in their response document dated 1/3/2011.

Page 2 under heading of Background the statement is made that service of the Lancaster PO was suspended on April 5, 2003. Service was actually suspended on Friday March 29, 2003. Please refer to article in the Wednesday April 3, 2003 edition of the Carthage Courier that states "The office, which was open on a part time basis, was closed Friday." There was no notification or communication of any type in regard to the temporary suspension of services. The postal customers of this area learned of this by reading the newspaper.

Page 2 states that "the postmaster of the Lancaster Post Office requested and was granted a transfer on January 31, 2003" and on page 10 the statement "the fact that the career postmaster requested a transfer constitutes historical background." The article in the Carthage Courier quotes Ms. Beth Barnett, with the postal services' public affairs office in Nashville as saying "The postmaster took a job out of state and we have suspended operation." Many calls were made to the Nashville postal services office to try and find out why services were suspended and what needed to be done to resolve this or any other issue. Only one call was taken by Mr. Ron King. Mr. King gave no explanation other than that was the decision that was made. Mr. King was asked why there was no notification or postings made about the suspension of services and he said "they will come later." No communication in any form was ever made after the April 3, 2003 article in the Carthage Courier about the temporary suspension of services. It is interesting to note that Ms. Barnett called the newspaper on April 1, 2003 with information about the suspension of services.

The building that houses the Lancaster PO is mentioned several times throughout the USPS Comments Document. The article in the April 3, 2003 issue of the Carthage Courier quotes Ms.

Page 8 contains the statement, "Lancaster has a church." This statement is totally false because Lancaster has 5 Houses of Worship. Lancaster Baptist Church, Lancaster Methodist Church, Lancaster Seventh Day Adventist Church, Lancaster Church Of God, and Lancaster Hill Lighthouse Baptist Church.

There are a couple of areas that we cannot address because of the lack of information. These areas are the revenue amounts quoted by the USPS and the statement about the lack of a suitable alternate facility. Please make available the information and/or the documentation of when and where another facility was investigated. One area of the revenue statements and other pages of the USPS Document that addresses inside postal box rental I will comment on. All of the boxes that were in working order were rented. When I relocated to Lancaster in 1975 we requested an inside postal box, but there were none available. When the Lancaster PO was placed on temporary suspension of services in 2003 all boxes that were in working order were rented.

We would like to address the issue of notifications, postings, mailings, and published articles. We strongly feel and believe that the fate of the Lancaster Post Office was determined in March of 2003. The residents in Lancaster and the USPS customers served by the Lancaster PO believe that is when the USPS totally ignored policy and procedure, violated our rights, and may have acted illegally. There was no notification, postings, or communication of any kind before the Lancaster PO was locked and the door slammed in the face of the USPS customers in this area. We were not given the opportunity to address the USPS concerns about the Lancaster PO before or after the March 29, 2003 date. It does appear that the USPS followed proper procedure on notifications, postings, and mailings since the August 2009 posting of the closing of the Lancaster PO.

We think and believe that our concerns are not being taken into consideration by the USPS because at the first meeting at the Hickman PO we were told that the Lancaster PO was closed and the postal services representatives were there to answer questions about this closing. Naturally we took this to mean the decision had been made and there was nothing that could be done about it. And to add fuel to our beliefs, A USPS truck was dispatched to the Lancaster PO before the first meeting in Hickman to clean out the Lancaster PO of all postal service property. A call was made to the Nashville USPS Office and I was informed by Ms. Sandra Quick that the Lancaster PO was closed and the postal equipment was needed elsewhere.

Another issue we would like to address is statement about the Lancaster name and Zip code will not change. We really have a difficult time in believing this because two other communities in Smith County had their postal facilities closed and were told the same thing. Needless to say their addresses did change. Those two communities are New Middleton which now has a Gordonsville address and Defeated which now has a Carthage address. Also, a Lancaster resident, who operates a collectables business, and utilizes the USPS system on a very regular basis, was told by the Hickman Postmaster that he had to change his address to Hickman. He called me and I then called the Nashville office and was told that was because the Hickman wanted credit for the postage sales. I was also told that the resident did not have to change his address at this time if he really didn't want to. The resident has since moved his business to another facility. I hope this clarifies why we don't believe that our addresses will stay the same.

The USPS statements about economic savings of \$19,942.00 are questionable. If the Lancaster PO were to reopen more than likely an employee that is already on the payroll would be transferred to the Lancaster facility. The building expenses would be the burden of the property owner. Assuming the USPS really is serious about decreasing costs why close the Lancaster facility and keep the Hickman facility open when the Hickman facility is only 1.5 miles from the Gordonsville facility. From a strictly business point of view this action makes a lot more sense. Why burden the Lancaster customers with an 18 mile round trip while the Hickman customers would only have a 3 mile round trip. I also believe that if the USPS would check the 2010 census figures they would find that Lancaster has more residents than Hickman. Please refer to the enclosed map of Smith County and the marked locations of the Lancaster, Hickman, and Gordonsville postal facilities.

We believe that the USPS has greatly understated the impact of closing the Lancaster facility on the Lancaster community and the areas that would be served by the Lancaster PO. You are requiring your customers to make long drives, utilize a lot of time, and expense to do business with the USPS. With the prediction that gasoline will be \$5.00/gal in the near future the expense of making an 18 mile round trip will be much greater. We have residents that will drive to a local facility, but have to get someone to take them to Hickman or Gordonsville.

Lancaster has had a post office since May 18, 1821 with three temporary closures during that period. Please refer to the enclosed history of the Lancaster Post Office. Lancaster deserves and needs a postal facility now and for the future. This is a rapidly growing area with the developments around Center Hill Lake and the expansion of activities and services of the Corps of Engineers at Center Hill Dam. There is a proposed Interstate 40 exit for the Bettys Bend area of Lancaster to access Center Hill Dam and Lake. The land for this exit has already been purchased by the Federal Government.

Please consider leaving the Lancaster Post Office open since there are so many discrepancies of the facts, unresolved issues, not following policy and procedures, lack of communication, misunderstandings, and possible violations of USPS customer rights. If nothing else, please leave the Lancaster on temporary suspension of services until further research of the facts, a better understanding of the impact of closing the Lancaster facility has had and will have, more research of the economic concerns, and more open and honest communication can take place. This should lead to the best decision for Lancaster, the USPS, and all other parties.

Sincerely,



Allen O. Mason

Enclosures

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TN STATE LIBRARY

Views And
nd The County
403 7TH AVE N.
NASHVILLE, TN 37219

Carthage Courier

CORDELL HULL MEMORIAL BRIDGE CUMBERLAND RIVER

1 Number 14- USPS No. 092-180 April 3, 2003 Carthage, Tennessee 37030 24 pages

NEWS
BRIEFS

Time
Savings
begins

Daylight Savings
begin 2 a.m., Sunday,
April 6. Clocks should be turned

roadblock
for
squad

The Smith
Squad's annual
meeting will be held
at 5 p.m. The roadblock
will run from 11 a.m. until noon. All
vehicles will be used by
the organization to
reduce costs. The
meeting serves people
in control and rescue
in case of rain. This
roadblock will be
held Friday (April 12).

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SHADE—Two Red
Cross men critically
injured in an automobile accident
at Shade community
center are still recovering at
University Medical
Center in Nashville. The two men
were hospitalized for trauma
injuries. The victims are
William E. McCarter, 67, of
Hunting Springs, and
Richard L. Latcher, 27, of
Hunting Springs. Sabrina A.

Lancaster Post Office service halted

Cluster box placed at facility

By Eddie West

Service at the Lancaster Post Office has been suspended.

The office, which was open on a part-time basis, closed Friday.

At this time the postal service is not saying the office has been permanently closed, rather service has been suspended for the time being.

"The postmaster took a job out of state and we have suspended operation," said Beth Barnett, with the postal services public affairs office in Nashville. "There is no running water in the facility or restrooms. So we have suspended operation until such time this can be resolved."

Please see page 6



The U.S. Postal Service has suspended service at the Lancaster Post Office. For those who rented a post office box inside, a cluster box has been placed outside the post office. Residents can also put up a mailbox at their home for rural route delivery. The office is located on Highway 141.

Man who falsely claimed house burned now being sought for stealing vehicle

By Eddie West

A Putnam County man who sought handouts from local charities by claiming his residence had burned when it had not is now wanted for stealing a vehicle in South Carthage.

Charlie Mayberry, 32, whose last known address was Alford, went to two churches, the Smith

County Help Center and at least two businessmen saying his house had burned and he needed assistance for his family.

Mayberry obtained food, cash and a night's stay at the Cordell Hull Motel before he was sought.

Churches where Mayberry sought assistance declined to press charges in the case.

However, Mayberry was wanted by Putnam County authorities for

stealing the 1996 Jeep Cherokee which he was driving.

So when he was caught coming out of the help center by Carthage police he was taken to the county jail where he was picked up by Putnam County authorities.

Before being placed in the Putnam County jail, Mayberry was taken to Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute for evaluation.

When he was released from

Moccasin Bend, he was supposed to have been taken to the Putnam County jail, with bond set at \$10,000.

Local authorities are not sure whether Mayberry posted bond or escaped.

South Carthage police are now looking for Mayberry after he took a 1986 Olds Cutlass from B & G Auto Sales Saturday, according to

Please see page 6.

House destroyed by blaze



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Staff Writer

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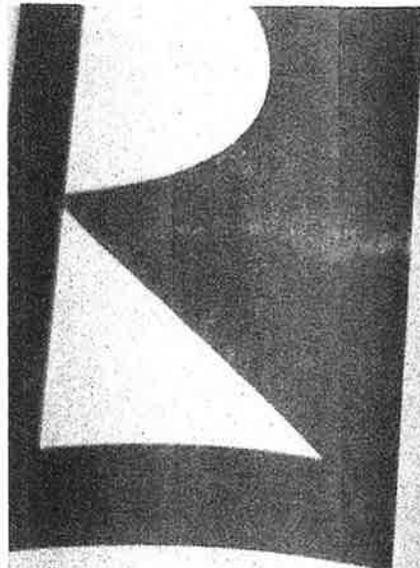
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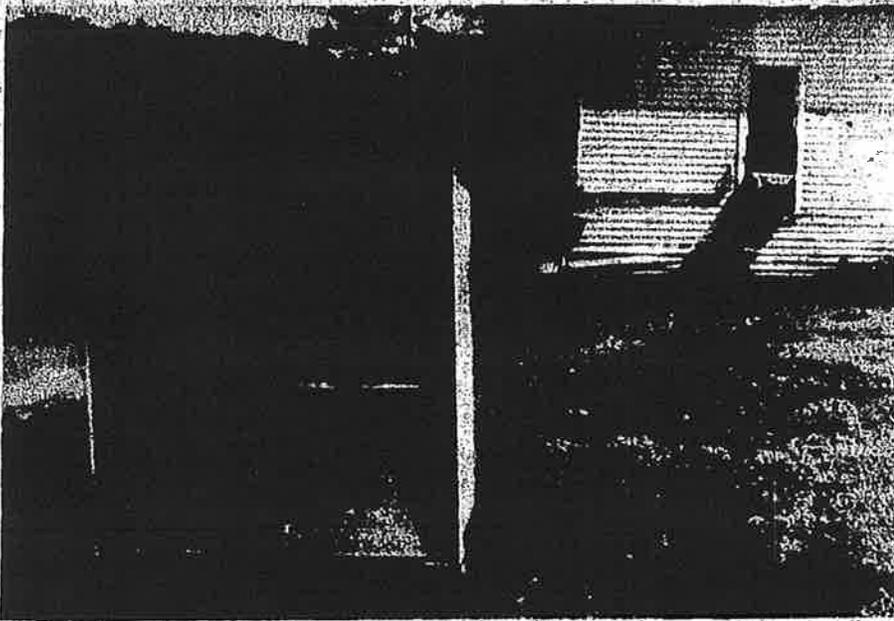
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EDDIE WEST/COURIER

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Post office

■ From page 1

A cluster box has been placed outside the facility where residents who had boxes at the post office can pick up their mail.

Also, residents can put up a mailbox at their home and receive their mail through a rural letter carrier, postal officials say.

The action by the post office doesn't require any change of address for mail being delivered to residents of the Lancaster community who used the post office, Barnett said.

The post office, which is located on Highway 141 next to the

Lancaster Fire Hall, was open from 12:30 p.m. until 3 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Approximately 19 post office boxes were rented to residents, according to postal officials. The boxes rented for \$18, annually.

Heather Wick, who works out of the Baxter Post Office, was serving as officer in charge of the facility before service was suspended Friday.

Wick had been working at the office for about a month.

The building in which the post office is located is privately owned and is leased by the building.

Lancaster has had a post office since at least the early 1800s.

At one time a railroad commu-

nity, Lancaster had several buildings including doctors offices, a dentist office, a school and general stores.

Mail arrived by train and was transported from the railroad stop to the post office for several years.

According to the Smith County History Book, the first post office was located in a building that housed two stores and was in what was known as the Anderson-Store Building.

In the early days, the postmaster position was noted as a political job with several people holding the position.

The post office has been closed and restarted during various periods.

Fire

■ From page 1

were saved.

Items were removed as firemen battled the blaze.

It remains unclear how the fire started County Fire Investigator John Meredith said.

Authorities know the fire started in a utility room located at one end of the house.

That end of the modular home was fully engulfed when firemen arrived on the scene.

"Mrs. Johnson was at home talking with a friend on the telephone when she heard a pop," Meredith said. "She went outside and looked around the house and saw smoke coming from the roof in the area of the utility room."

Johnson went back inside the house and opened the utility door and saw the fire, Meredith said.

Johnson then called 911.

The fire investigator said he could not locate a source of ignition of the fire.

Firemen were on the scene for more than four hours.

Units responded to one other fire this past week.

Gordonsville Fire department responded to an alarm sounding at 119 Spicer Drive at 2:53 p.m., Tuesday.

folk art line of products. The operation also includes a gift shop and tea room and bed and breakfast. The historic home will be re-opening to the public with a special Home Tour and Country Fair set for Saturday, April 5 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sunday, from 1-5 p.m. The home, located at 10575 Trousdale Ferry Pike or Highway 141, will be decorated for the sea-

son. In addition to the home tour, guest artists and vendors will be part of the day's activities. Auntie Em's Tea Room and Gift Shop will re-open with a special box luncheon (cost \$12.50) for the event. Workshops and luncheons are also held at the historic house throughout the year.

House tour

■ From page 1

Historic Places, will be open for a walk-through tour. The home has been owned by Emily Steinberg since the early 1990s. When Steinberg purchased the historical residence, she opened Watermelon Moon Farm, a headquarters for her

Wreck

■ From page 1

McCarter, 61, Red Boiling Spring, was killed in the accident. Sabra McCarter is the county's fifth fatality of this year. The two-vehicle wreck occurred around 8:40 a.m., Monday, on Highway 80 just south of the state highway's intersection with Little Creek Road.

Soldiers

■ From page 1

Heroes to honor military personnel. Located in the bank's lobby, the wall will include pictures of those currently serving in the military or veterans. Families can bring the photos and information including the individual's name, division of military and time served by the bank to be placed in the display. Photos should not exceed an eight-by-ten.

New Middleton

Glenda Baker

Dr. Delbert and Ann Huelskoetter of Effingham, Illinois drove down Saturday, March 29th to watch their granddaughter, Abigail Higgins, play soccer. They also visited with Heidi, Tony and Elisabeth Higgins.

Campbell and Danny Baker visited with Paul and Betty Carson on Friday.

On Sunday, March 30th, New Middleton Baptist Church had young vs. old basketball games at New Middleton School. In the women's game it was a tie with the score of 8-8 and in the men's game it was an upset with the old men winning 26-23.

Paul and Betty Carson were in Memphis on Saturday visiting with Robert and Mildred Carson.

Bro. Kim, Kathy, Alan, Mary Katherine, Stephen and Kimberly North will speak at New Middleton Baptist Church on Sunday, April 13 at 10:00 a.m. The Norths are on furlough in Tennessee while serving as missionaries in the Philippines. Bro. Kim is a former pastor at New Middleton Baptist Church.

(If you have any news for the New Middleton column please call Glenda Baker at 683-6827 or e-mail at glendab@dccom.net.)

Courier Hours

7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday
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Fax 735-0635

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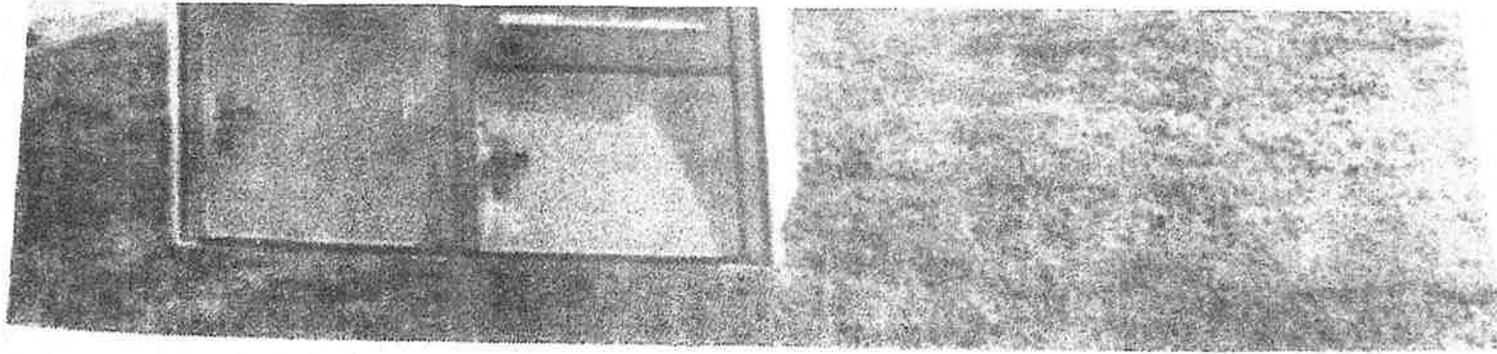
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BUTLER & ASSOCIATES

PROPERTY ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

PO Box 747, Smithville, TN 37166 · Phone: 615-215-1212 · Fax: 615-215-1224 · Email: g_butler@blomand.net

June 23, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Highland Cove Condominiums currently has 56 boxes dedicated for mail delivery. Each condominium has a designated box assigned to them.

Cove Hollow Bay has more than 120 boxes dedicated for mail delivery. Each lot owner has a designated box assigned to them.

It is in the best interest of the community, with so many mail recipients on Dale Ridge Road, to keep the post office open in Lancaster.

We kindly appreciate your consideration in this matter.

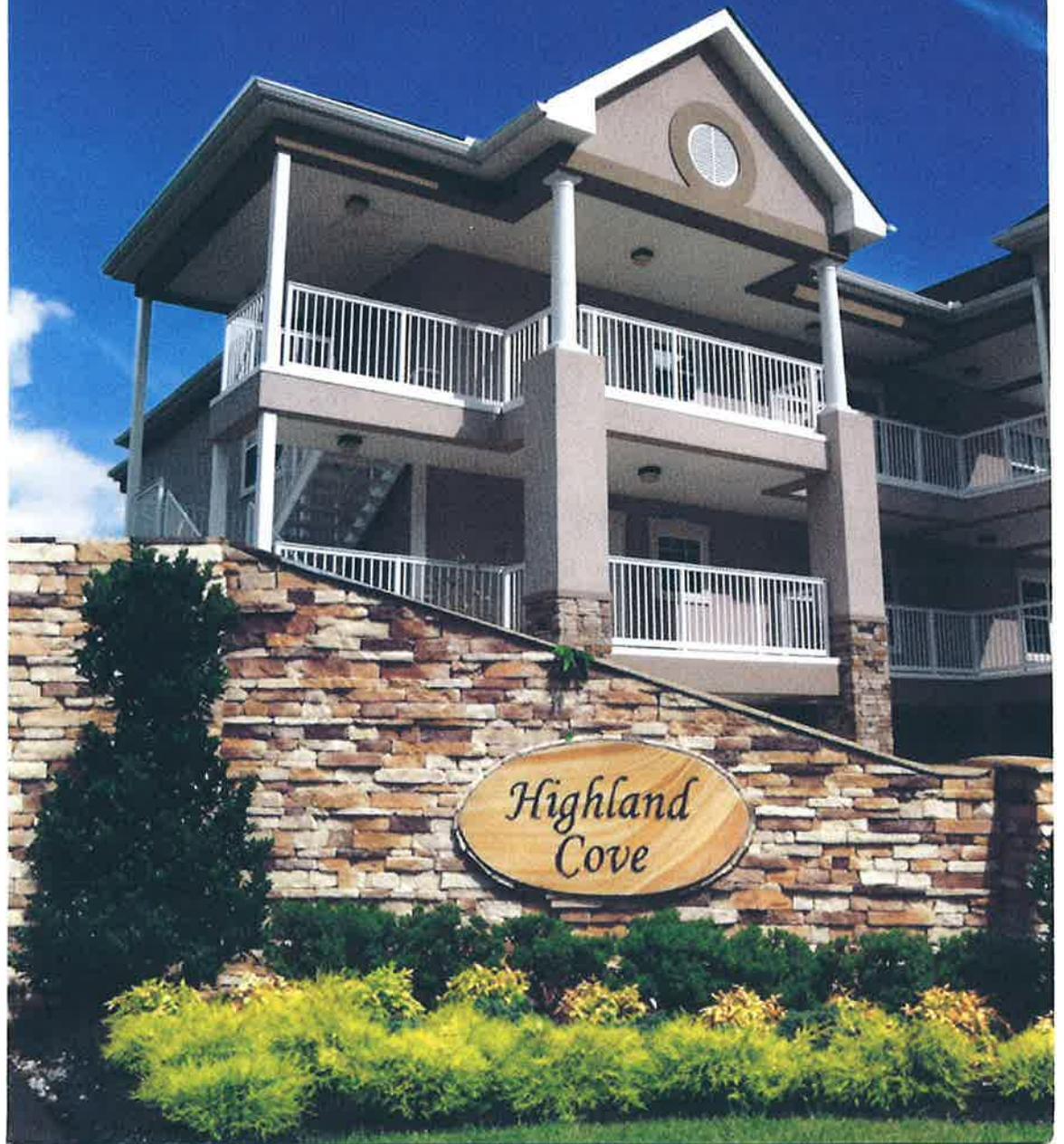
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gina Butler".

Gina Butler

Highland Cove Condominiums

On Center Hill Lake, Tennessee







HISTORY OF
LANCASTER POST OFFICE

Abner Lacke	May 18, 1821
Alfred Vannerson	Jan 10, 1833
William D. Lester	Oct 28, 1835
William Lancaster	Jan 23, 1839
John Lancaster	Sept 8, 1842
Thomas C. Marchbank	Apr 17, 1844
Michael Lancaster	Aug 16, 1852
Discontinued	Sept 22, 1866
Reestablished	Oct 13, 1874
Jesse D. Fisher	Oct 13, 1874
James C. Prichard	July 12, 1878
Discontinued	July 28, 1879
Reestablished	Oct 27, 1885
Charles S. Kinslow	Oct 27, 1885
Discontinued	Oct 28, 1887
Reestablished	Sept 28, 1888
William B. Reynolds	Sept 28, 1888
Jesse D. Fisher	Aug 15, 1896
William Lancaster	Mar 7, 1898
Harrison Starnes	Sept 19, 1903
James F. Ash	Oct 20, 1904
Henry C. Lancaster Jr.	Sept 24, 1910
Edgar D. Robinson	Apr 21, 1914
Mrs. Jessie M. Burton	Aug 31, 1954
Carlene Helm	Dec 19, 1979
Candy Clark	1999
Temporary Suspension Of Services	March, 2003