

A2012-20

This presentation is an appeal for the Canehill Post Office to remain open.

Docket # 1356857-72717

Respectfully submitted by

T.A. Sampson

PO Box 169 Canehill, AR 72717

RECEIVED

2011 OCT 28 A 10:56

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The following friends, neighbors and postal patrons agree with the points presented herein.

Audrey & Steve Hacker	Roy Gene Rinehart	Julie Baughman
Juanita McClellan	Jeannie Sue Kisner	Tom Albanese
Mr & Mrs Robert Campbell	Mr&Mrs Raymond Vestal	Betty& Howard Colburn
Taryn & Jimmy Waddell	Mike Warren	Liz & Don Hamblet
Robin Beaumont	Dwayne Newberry	William Corder
Bobby Baxter	Marie Jenkins	Nancy & Don LaVoie
Tate Mitchell	John Mitchell	Homer & Barbara Hodson
Robert Schube	Gwen Harding	Canehill Kite Festival
Cane Hill Presbyterian Church		AEMTA Vendors
Francis Smith	Meagan Newberry	Jimmy Welch
Jerritt Newberry	Angela James	Mr& Mrs Connie DeLap
C.I. Taylor	Steve & Marnie Long	Marcy Kaiser
Billie Havens Family	Traci & Joe Gardenshire	David & Lynette Ellis

Springfield Ranch Hunt Club: Tim Self, Mike Self, Codey Self, Chris Self, Dave Sellek, T.J. Johnson, Jim Johnson, Todd Johnson, Paul Kauffman, and Jerry Self.

Postal Regulatory Commission
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer

OCT 27 2011

October 20, 2011

Appeal for the Canehill Post Office

Docket# 1356857-72717

The Canehill Post Office is located on Arkansas Highway 45 with easy accessibility and visibility. The location could have had more walk-in traffic if not for the poor building design and refusal of postal officials to allow a prominent "OPEN" sign to be displayed. The posting of a large sign (see attached) on the property across the highway has resulted in increased walk-in patronage due to people knowing the hours and realizing the facility is still functioning.

Due to its convenient location, Canehill would be the least logical choice of offices to close due to the fact Highway 45 is the favored route for southern 72717 residents to take when traveling to Fayetteville or taking the WC13 shortcut to Lincoln.

Which brings up the Lincoln issue; it would seem there has been an on-going agenda by the Lincoln Post Office to shut down Canehill for years. Route mail used to be sorted at Canehill until it was moved to Lincoln. The area immediately surrounding the office location never had carrier service, which Lincoln decided to allow, with the resulting loss of box customers to the office.

Why are 72717 route residents forced to travel to Lincoln when packages cannot be delivered? This creates an added hardship and frustration when they drive right past the Canehill Post Office to accomplish this and very likely would have spent money at Canehill while there.

In the 10 years I've lived in Canehill there have been issues with Lincoln returning mail when the addressee had a PO Box, but the item was addressed to the 911 physical-location. We complained long and loud to postal officials and our elected representatives. To our way of thinking, if an item has a 72717 Zip Code, that's where it should go for disposition, no matter how completely or incorrectly it is otherwise addressed. Lincoln was even guilty of returning the then current PM's car payment notices and they *knew* her! It was truly amazing this situation was miraculously rectified at the community meeting June 22 when the media was present.

Stamps sold on the 72717 route are currently purchased by the carrier at Lincoln instead of Canehill which further erodes the Canehill financial bottom line.

As was evidenced by the community meeting, Canehill has tremendous community support in spite of the meeting being held too early for working folk to make it and on a church night. The room was packed and media present by invitation. The Morrow meeting was attended by 8 people from the community and The Morrow Little Store declared they wanted no part of a "village post office" should Morrow close. The recent Evansville meeting has 20 people, but some of these were postal employees.

Morrow is a very small office and would not be able to take on many additional box customers should Canehill close, whereas Canehill has the boxes in place for additional customers. After the treatment we have received from Lincoln in the past I seriously doubt (and have heard from fellow residents) that anyone would willingly transfer their box to Lincoln.

Canehill has several community events during the year which can generate postal revenue as is evidenced by the special cancellations (see attached) created for the Canehill Harvest Festival and the Canehill Kite Festival.

Canehill embraces a rich history. There has been a post office in Canehill since the 1800's (attached). The Post Office has occupied several historic buildings in Canehill and some of the ancient PO Boxes currently reside in the Canehill Museum. Residents embrace their heritage as is evidenced by efforts to preserve local sites.

If we are looking simply at the cost of doing business, the figures presented in the original notice to close are inaccurate since Canehill does not have a Postmaster (hence no benefits), but an hourly OIC who is perfectly happy to remain such. As the saying goes, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." So why do we even need a PM at Canehill?

If we look strictly at money, closing Canehill actually increases USPS costs should customers opt for roadside delivery. If the contract carrier is mid-contract does that mean the contract will be re-negotiated to reflect increased costs? The price of fuel is never going to decrease and 72717 is currently serviced by gas-guzzling vehicles (an SUV and pickup) working at their least efficient mode of stop and go on gravel roads. In the larger, ecological picture, if the volume of mail continues to decline it makes less sense to deliver rural mail in this manner. It was not that long ago that people had no choice but to pick up their mail at the post office, perhaps it's time for history to repeat here.

Most residents leave their homes on a daily basis for work or errands, so in the greener scheme of things it would seem logical to eliminate the routes in favor of PO Boxes or create cluster boxes as is the current norm in sub-divisions.

Rural communities present a dynamic unique to the country way of life. A post office is more than a place of business; it is often, as is the case of Canehill, the business and focal point of the community. Many residents are elderly. They do not own or want computers and for them, the post office *is* the information highway. Although some of these residents probably should not be driving, they do drive to the post office. Most would not feel safe driving the additional distance to Lincoln or Prairie Grove and would not feel safe with mail in a roadside box.

Rural communities should not be forced to pay the price of closure due to the inefficiencies of USPS management. As a former Postal Worker I saw first-hand the wastefulness:

- Redundant and inefficient software programs. They were always coming up with new programs to replace existing programs which actually worked. In the two years I worked as a PMR the results were predictable: 1) New program alert, 2) New program usually installed on a week

end, 3) in addition to the usual Monday morning chaos not only was the new program non-functional, but access to anything was denied, 4) over the next few days numerous emails are exchanged offering help or advice until the program was fixed, 5) every few weeks a new update was issued to fix the new program and step 4 was repeated.

-Hours spent on the phone with tech support to solve problems

-Daily emails between offices begging for needed supplies

-Illogical constraints on stock and cash on hand which hampered daily business transactions. Canehill does not have a postage meter and must keep an inventory of stamps not only for sale, but to place on customer packages. I suggested we utilize a system already in place (Click & Ship). We could set up a password and print labels, thus reducing unnecessary inventory and allowing us to order stamps our customers really wanted to buy. USPS pushes stamps on the rural offices that no one will buy like the EID which people think celebrates terrorists. We could have sold a ton of the Lunar New Year flowers which resembled the local jonquils, but we couldn't get them.

-Requiring reports to be printed daily or twice daily. Some of these consisted of 3 whole lines of print. These could have been printed weekly and most merely verified electronic logs anyway.

-USPS is not as green as they want to public to believe as was evidenced by the snafu where offices received closure notices in error and it was explained that letters had been prepared for various scenarios and the wrong packets were sent. That's either a lot of wasted paper or it tells me decisions have already been made.

-USPS maintains an antiquated system for change of address (COA) in which a label is actually printed and affixed to a card kept in the office. These used to be done at a central location and sent to offices, but these fancy little printers were purchased for all the offices so they could print their own. These were not cheap printers as they interfaced with software. Even though we rarely had any labels to print we were not allowed to use them for other purposes, although they would have been perfect for PO Box and other labels.

-I suggested we could save \$15 a month on our pittance of trash by combining it with Lincoln. The carrier who delivers the box mail to Canehill (in the spirit of Postal Family) retaliated by no longer bringing the mail into the facility, but by leaving it just inside the back door. Evidently his contract does not include team spirit. I would have been happy to take it, but the powers-that-be insisted we *had* to have trash service.

A final note on waste; I'm wondering how much money was spent sponsoring Team Armstrong in the Tour de France which, as we have all now learned, was nothing but a bunch of cheating dopers.

It would appear USPS is continuing to pursue its own complicated, misdirected and inefficient agenda from the top down in a panic mode. They need to start taking some suggestions from the people in the trenches who know their customers best. Where rural Post Offices are concerned, one size does not fit all. USPS offers greeting card sales in urban offices. Why? These would be a useful service in the country where we don't have an office supply or Walmart just down the street. Many rural offices had been bringing in extra revenue by making copies and sending faxes, but were told to cease this practice. USPS has since relented on the copies, but not the faxes. Isn't this the US Postal Service?

Instead of closing all these offices, go ahead, eliminate Saturday delivery. It's the lightest mail day anyway. I've heard the complaint about people receiving meds via USPS; well I guess they'll have to plan a little better. Perhaps this would be a big selling point of PO boxes which would still have Saturday service and parcels too large for a regular box can be placed in a parcel locker for anytime pick up.

It is my understanding that even if all the small offices were closed it would save USPS a miniscule amount of money compared to eliminating Saturday delivery. In the case of Canehill there is no closure contingency in the lease, so USPS would still be on the hook for 3 year's rent for an empty building.

How about split shifts? It would make a great deal of sense at Canehill since many residents work in Fayetteville. Have the OIC work in the a.m. just to distribute mail and then return in the late afternoon to service the returning work force, thus enabling this one person office to take care of personal business and appointments during the day without a PMR.

Given the worst case scenario and Canehill is closed, why not keep the facility as a stand-alone location with minimal window hours? For me it would sure beat the alternative. Given the history Canehill residents have with Lincoln, should Canehill close, few would move their business to Lincoln. I would go to Prairie Grove. I am not alone in that many people in this area do not shop daily, we plan ahead. Once a week I volunteer at the VA in Fayetteville and that's the day I run all my errands and do my shopping. That would also become my one and only mail day. Gee, just losing Saturday delivery is looking pretty good here.

In the following pages you will find an item by item rebuttal of the final determination notice.

October 21, 2011

Appeal for the Canehill Post Office

Docket# 1356857-72717

This is an item by item rebuttal to the final determination to close the Canehill Post Office.

Since this is almost an exact copy of the proposal to close one would have to wonder if they really cared about public input and had already decided our fate last June.

1. Lincoln is actually 6 miles from the Canehill Post Office.
2. They are actually saving money with an OIC since she receives no benefits. They could always change the hours to suit the customers, like a split shift for example. It is actually 17 miles to Fayetteville.
3. If not for the Lincoln agenda detailed previously, Canehill revenue would not have declined as dramatically. I would be interested to know how this compared with other offices, as I understand everyone is losing revenue. Small offices should be allowed more leeway to customize their service to their demographic.
4. We were assured at the meeting we could choose either Lincoln or Prairie Grove. Considering our past history with Lincoln I would opt for Prairie Grove.
5. We should leave money in a box on the highway, far from our actual residence? What era is this?
6. How is my carrier supposed to retrieve my stamp money?
7. Some seniors are so challenged they can't make it to a mailbox. Friends drive them to the Post Office. Centralized Box Units in the country only make vandalism and theft more inviting. Where exactly could you even locate these to be safe and secure? Farmers who receive vaccines and people who receive insulin and other meds via mail should have these sitting out in the sun somewhere?
8.
 1. Yea, stamps sitting in a roadside box.
 - 2....and so will the thieves.
 3. The price of fuel is never going down.
 4. see #7 above
 5. I consider it a small price to pay for security. I am the vendor coordinator for the Arkansas EMT Association and receive almost \$35,000 in checks and credit card info for our annual conference so I'm not going to have this sitting in a box on the highway.
 6. Many of us pass Canehill several times during the week and I happen to be fortunate enough to live across the street.
9.
 2. Once again, we're supposed to leave money in a roadside box?
10. What don't you understand about my not wanting my mail sitting in a box a quarter mile away?
11. The Cane Hill Car Lot exists in name only. I'm sure the local Baptists are looking to socialize at the Presbyterian Church. A festival is an event not a location and AEMTA does not have a physical presence. The Canehill PO IS the focal point of our community.

12. Huh...what suspension of service are we talking about here? What questionnaires are they looking at? If the only physical business, the Canehill Post Office, closes how will customers continue to use the local businesses? Will they just loiter at the shuttered Post Office building?

13. Evidently their research was not very thorough as the PMR (me) has been gone since before the June notification.

14. The OIC is an hourly, part-time position with no benefits. This section disputes figures we were given at the community meeting which quoted \$50,000 annual expenses.

VI. SUMMARY

This is the final determination to close the Canehill, AR Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by highway contract route service under the administrative responsibility of the Lincoln Post Office, located four miles away.

The postmaster passed away on October 16, 2009. If the office has a noncareer PMR(s), they may be separated from the Postal Service; however, attempts will be made to reassign the employee(s) to a nearby facility. No other employee(s) will be adversely affected. The workload has declined. Effective and regular service will continue to be provided by highway contract route service.

The Canehill Post Office provided delivery and retail service to 191 PO Box or general delivery customers and 329 delivery route customers. The daily retail window transactions averaged three. There are no permit mailers or postage meter customers.

There will no longer be a retail outlet in the community. However, delivery and retail services may be available from a rural or contract delivery carrier, which could alleviate the need to travel to a Post Office for service. The Postal Service will save an estimated \$36,500 annually. A disadvantage to some will be in meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions with rural or contract delivery carrier.

Taking all available information into consideration, the Postal Service has determined that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages and this final determination is warranted.

VII. NOTICES

- A. Support Materials. Copies of all materials upon which this final determination is based are available for public inspection at the Canehill Post Office and Lincoln Post Office during normal office hours.
- B. Appeal Rights. This final determination to close the Canehill Post Office may be appealed by any person served by that office to the Postal Regulatory Commission at 901 New York Ave NW, Suite 200, Washington DC 20268-0001. Appeals must be received by the Commission within 30 days of the date this final determination is posted. If an appeal is filed, copies of appeal documents prepared by the Postal Regulatory Commission or the parties to the appeal will be made available for public inspection at Canehill Post Office and Lincoln Post Office during normal office hours.



Dean J Granholm
Vice President of Delivery and Post Office Operations

09/26/2011

Date

13

The postmaster position became vacant when the postmaster passed away on October 16, 2009. The noncareer postmaster relief (PMR) may be separated from the Postal Service. No other Postal Service employee will be adversely affected. Since the postmaster vacancy an OIC has been installed to operate the office.

IV. ECONOMIC SAVINGS

The Postal Service estimates an annual savings of \$ 36,500 with a breakdown as follows:

14

Postmaster Salary (EAS-55, No COLA)	\$ 23,026
Fringe Benefits @ 33.5%	\$ 7,714
Annual Lease Costs	<u>+ \$ 5,760</u>
Total Annual Costs	\$ 36,500
Less Annual Cost of Replacement Service	<u>- \$ 0</u>
Total Annual Savings	<u>\$ 36,500</u>

V. OTHER FACTORS

The Postal Service has identified no other factors for consideration.

Response:

no address given

Some advantages of the proposal are:

- 8
1. The rural and contract carriers may provide retail services, alleviating the need to go to the post office. Stamps by Mail order forms are provided for customer convenience.
 2. Customers opting for carrier service will have 24-hour access to their mail.
 3. Savings for the Postal Service contribute in the long run to stable postage rates and savings for customers.
 4. CBUs can offer the security of individually locked mail compartments. Parcel lockers provide convenient parcel delivery for customers.
 5. Customers opting for carrier service will not have to pay post office box fees.
 6. Saves time and energy for customers who drive to the post office to pick up mail.

Some disadvantages of the proposal are:

- 9
1. The loss of a retail outlet. Retail services may be provided by the rural or contract delivery carrier.
 2. Meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier at the box to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions.
 3. A change in the mailing address. The community name will continue to be used in the new address. A carrier route address will be assigned.

Taking all available information into consideration, the Postal Service concludes this final determination will provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to the community.

II. EFFECT ON COMMUNITY

Canehill is an unincorporated community located in WASHINGTON County. The community is administered politically by Washington County. Police protection is provided by the Washington County. Fire protection is provided by the Lincoln Fire Dept. The community is comprised of self-employed, farmers and those who commute to work at nearby communities and may work in local businesses.

Businesses and organizations include: Canehill Pres Church, Canehill Car Lot Canehill Kite Festival AEMTA Vendors . Residents may travel to nearby communities for other supplies and services.

Nonpostal services provided at the Canehill Post Office will be available at the Lincoln Post Office. Government forms normally provided by the Post Office will also be available at the Lincoln Post Office or by contacting your local government agency.

The following nonpostal concerns were expressed from questionnaires, the community meeting, on the petition, and on the congressional inquiry:

- 10
1. **Concern:** Customers expressed concern for loss of community identity.
Response: A community's identity derives from the interest and vitality of its residents and their use of its name. The Postal Service is helping to preserve community identity by continuing the use of the Community name and ZIP Code in addresses.
- 11
2. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about the loss of a gathering place and an information center.
Response: Residents may continue to meet informally, socialize, and share information at the other businesses, churches and residences in town.
- 12
3. **Concern:** Customers felt the loss of a Post Office would have a detrimental effect on the business community.
Response: Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. Since the suspension of service, there has been no indication that the business community has been adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

Based on the information obtained in the course of this discontinuance study, the Postal Service concludes this final determination will not adversely affect the community.

III. EFFECT ON EMPLOYEES

I. RESPONSIVENESS TO COMMUNITY POSTAL NEEDS

① The Postal Service is issuing the final determination to close the Canehill, AR Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by highway contract route service under the administrative responsibility of the Lincoln Post Office, located four miles away.

The postmaster position became vacant when the postmaster passed away on October 16, 2009. Since the postmaster vacancy an OIC has been installed to operate the office. Postmaster level and office service hours are determined by a workload analysis which includes the number of deliveries and revenue.

② The office was studied for possible closing or consolidation due to the following reasons: This office is vacant and earns 1.3 hrs per day. Canehill is an unincorporated community in Cane Hill Township, Washington County, Arkansas, United States. Canehill is on Arkansas Highway 45 about 25 miles (40 km) southwest of Fayetteville and 7 miles (11 km) east of the Oklahoma border. Considered a postal designation (ZIP code 72717), the population of the ZCTA was 847[1] at the 2000 census. It is part of the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO Metropolitan Statistical Area.

The Canehill Post Office, an EAS-55 level, provides service from 08:30 - 15:00 Monday - Friday, 08:30 - 12:00 Saturday and lobby hours of 24 hrs on Monday - Friday and 24 hrs on Saturday to 191 post office box or general delivery customers and 329 delivery customers. Retail services included the sale of stamps, stamped paper, and money orders; special services such as Registered Mail, Certified Mail, Insured Mail, COD Mail, and Express Mail services; and the acceptance and dispatch of all classes of mail.

③ The retail window averaged three transaction(s) accounting for three minute(s) of retail workload daily. With minimal workload, the Postal Service feels that effective and regular service will be provided by highway contract route service. Office receipts for the last 3 years were: \$15,318 (40 revenue units) in FY 2008; \$10,284 (27 revenue units) in FY 2009; and \$7,905 (21 revenue units) in FY 2010. There were no permit mailer(s) or postage meter customer(s).

On June 22, 2011, representatives from the Postal Service were available at Old Canehill College Building to answer questions and provide information to customers. 44 customer(s) attended the meeting.

On June 09, 2011, 379 questionnaires were distributed to delivery customers of the Canehill Post Office. Questionnaires were also available over the counter for retail customers at the Canehill Post Office. 89 questionnaires were returned. Responses regarding the proposed alternate service were as follows: 14 favorable, 46 unfavorable, and 29 expressed no opinion.

④ When this final determination is implemented, delivery and retail services will be provided by the Lincoln Post Office, an EAS-18 level office. Window service hours at the Lincoln Post Office are from 9:00 to 4:00, Monday through Friday, and 8:30 to 10:30 on Saturday. There are 571 post office boxes available.

The proposal to close the Canehill Post Office was posted with an invitation for comment at the Canehill Post Office and Lincoln Post Office from June 29, 2011 to August 30, 2011. The following additional concerns were received during the proposal posting period:

1. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about having to travel to another Post Office for service.

⑤ **Response:** Services provided at the Post Office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another Post Office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24.

2. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about mail security.

⑥ **Response:** Customers may place a lock on their mailboxes. The mailbox must have a slot large enough to accommodate the customer's normal daily mail volume. The Postal Service does not open mailboxes which are locked and does not accept keys for this purpose.

3. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about senior citizens.

⑦ **Response:** Carrier service is beneficial to many senior citizens and those who face special challenges because the carrier can provide delivery and retail services to roadside mailboxes or Centralized Box Units. Customers do not have to make a special trip to the Post Office for service. Special provisions are made for hardship cases or special customer needs. To request an exception for hardship delivery, customers may contact the administrative postmaster for more information.

4. **Concern:** ramblings





This map doesn't contain any items.

Notes



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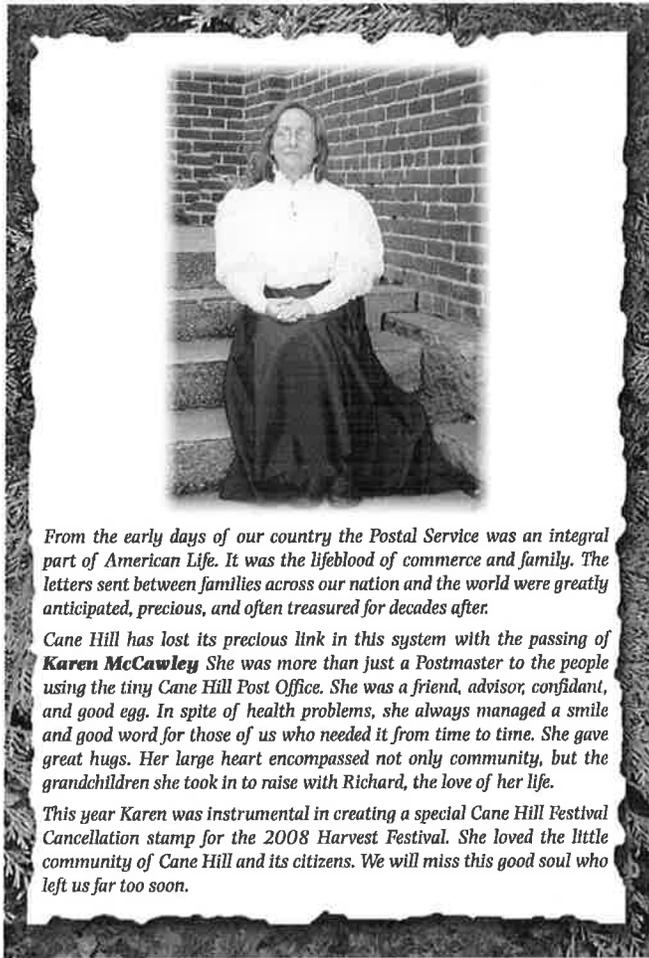
CANE HILL HARVEST FESTIVAL



10th CANE HILL KITE FESTIVAL



10TH CANE HILL
KITE FESTIVAL
STATION
MARCH 6, 2011
CANEHILL, AR.
72717



From the early days of our country the Postal Service was an integral part of American Life. It was the lifeblood of commerce and family. The letters sent between families across our nation and the world were greatly anticipated, precious, and often treasured for decades after.

*Cane Hill has lost its precious link in this system with the passing of **Karen McCawley**. She was more than just a Postmaster to the people using the tiny Cane Hill Post Office. She was a friend, advisor, confidant, and good egg. In spite of health problems, she always managed a smile and good word for those of us who needed it from time to time. She gave great hugs. Her large heart encompassed not only community, but the grandchildren she took in to raise with Richard, the love of her life.*

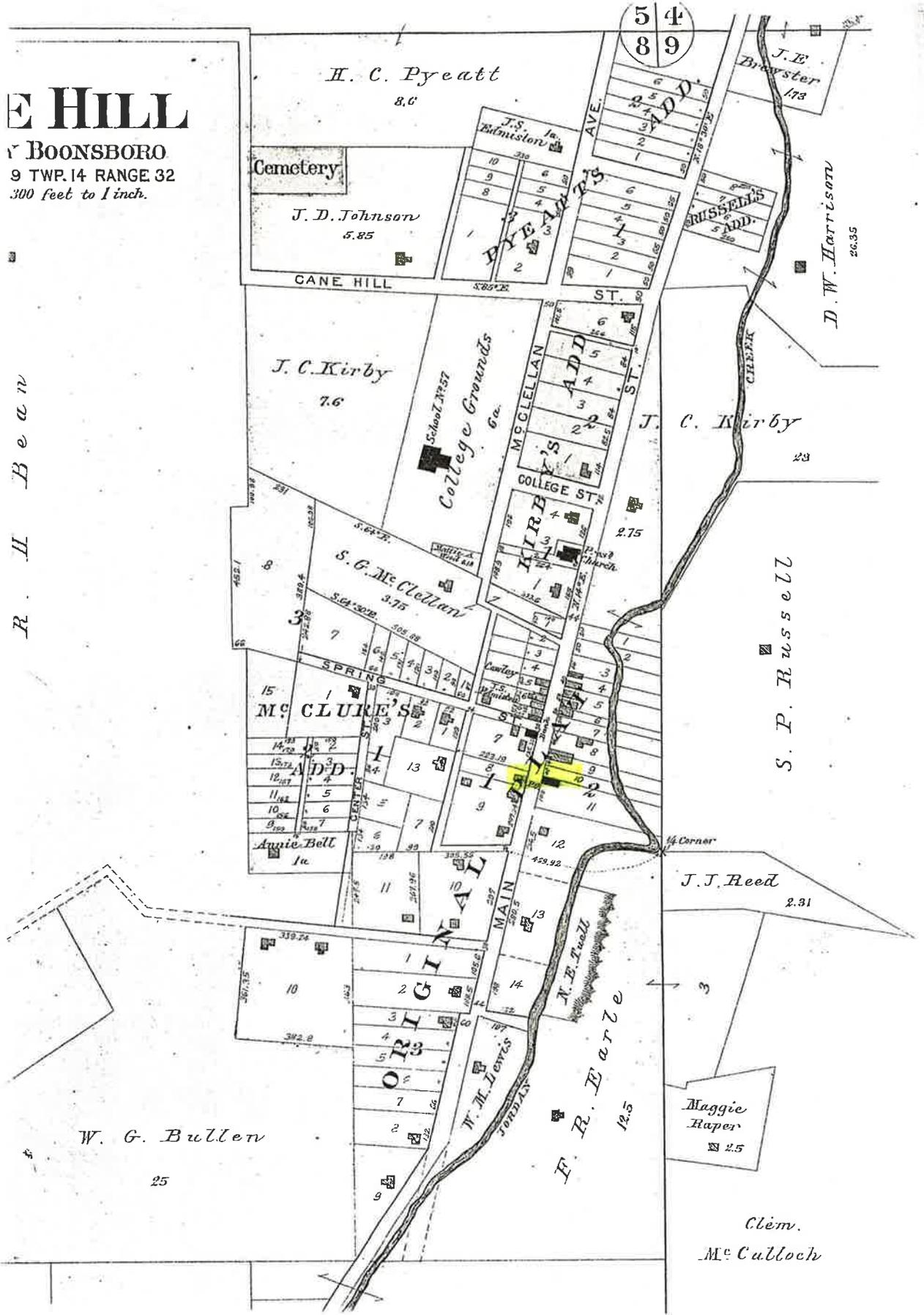
This year Karen was instrumental in creating a special Cane Hill Festival Cancellation stamp for the 2008 Harvest Festival. She loved the little community of Cane Hill and its citizens. We will miss this good soul who left us far too soon.

Karen dressed in period costume to sell postal items at the Festival.

E HILL

BOONSBORO
9 TWP. 14 RANGE 32
300 feet to 1 inch.

R. H. Bean



Santa Should Be Glad He Doesn't Live In Cane Hill

To the Editor:

It's always sad to see a business close, but it's a crime to see a business shut down for the wrong reasons.

As stated in a recent letter sent to Cane Hill Postal patrons it was mentioned that due to declining revenues USPS was considering closing the Cane Hill Post Office.

There are many things wrong with the Postal System and myriad reasons as to why they are losing money, but shutting down rural offices is not the answer, at least not today.

They need to restructure their benefits system and eliminate Saturday delivery.

They've invested millions in redundant and inefficient software programs and the superfluous ranks of overpaid upper management really have no idea what is going on in the trenches.

From the time the current regime took over at Lincoln the agenda has been to shut down Cane Hill and they've slowly choked the financial life out of the office by changing routes to close postal boxes, eliminating the mail sorting there and carriers encouraging customers to not open a postal box.

Why should stamps sold on the Cane Hill route be credited to

Lincoln?

Then there is the policy of harassing Cane Hill Box customers when someone addresses something to their 911 address. Lincoln will return it to sender.

To my way of thinking of a piece of mail has a 72717 zip code its final determination should be made at 72717. Is it not the purpose of the Postal System to actually deliver the mail?

Every Christmas one reads these heart warming stories about postal employees taking the time to answer letters addressed to "Santa, North Pole." Santa should be glad he does not have a zip code of 72717.

T.A. Sampson
Cane Hill

ENTERPRISE
LEADER

PUBLIC VIEWPOINT

Postal Service Frustrating

Why should we suffer for the inefficiencies in

the U.S. Postal Service? Canehill postal customers recently received letters inviting feedback about the possible closing of the Canehill Post Office. From what I've read, even if the USPS closed most of the rural offices, it would save them a miniscule amount of money compared to eliminating Saturday delivery or lopping off some redundant management positions.

In what I would consider an anachronistic bit of postal humor, the enclosed letter suggested I could accomplish most business I now conduct at the post office by leaving money — yes, you read that right, cash — in a mailbox by the country road and my carrier would leave the stamps or whatever. Seriously, what era do they think we are living in?

In the USPS's endeavor to force a one-size-fits-all plan into rural America, they have forgotten that folks out here do not really care about Latin legends, but we sure would have bought a lot more of the lunar new year jonquils last year IF they had been available. Don't even get me started on the Eid stamps, which most folks think are celebrating terrorists and languish in rural postal drawers everywhere.

One can buy greeting cards in some urban post offices. Why, when probably just down the road is a Walmart or office supply store? Greeting cards, when you are the only business in town, might have been a real seller. Tax forms might have been a nice public-service touch.

A rural post office is more than a business. It is where you catch up with friends and neighbors, a point of directions and a place to find one's way when lost in the country.

Lastly, the country is not what it once was and the thought of having mail sitting in a box out on a country road does not sit well with me. We've had mail stolen in the past.

T.A. SAMPSON
Canehill

U.S. Postal System Called Inefficient

To the Editor:

Why should we suffer for the inefficiencies in the United States Postal System? Canehill Post Office customers recently received letters inviting feedback about the possible/probable closing of the Canehill Post Office. From what I've read, even if USPS closed most of the rural offices it would save them a miniscule amount of money compared to eliminating Saturday delivery or lopping off some redundant management positions.

In what I would consider an anachronistic bit of postal humor, the enclosed letter suggested I could accomplish most business I now conduct at the physical post office by leaving money, yes you read that right, cash type money in a mail box by the country road and my carrier would leave the stamps or whatever. Seriously, what era do they think we are currently living in?

In USPS's endeavor to force a one size fits all plan into rural America they have forgotten that folks out here do not really care about Latin Legends, but we sure would have bought a lot more of the Lunar New Year jonquils last year IF they had been available. Don't even get me

started on the EID stamps which most folks think are celebrating terrorists and languish in rural postal drawers everywhere. Currently one can buy greeting cards in some urban offices. Why, when probably just down the road is a Walmart or office supply store? Greeting cards, when you are the only business in town, might have been a real seller. Tax forms might have been a nice public service touch.

A rural Post Office is more than a business. It is where you catch up with friends and neighbors, a point of directions, and a place to find ones way when lost in the country.

Lastly, country is not what it once was and the thought of having mail sitting in a box out on a country road does not sit well with me. We've had an incidence of mail theft in the past.

I urge Canehill residents to return your feedback forms and attend the meeting Wednesday, June 22, at 5:30 p.m. One can tell how in touch with their customers USPS is when they schedule a community meeting on a Wednesday evening.

T.A. Sampson
Canehill

WASHINGTON COUNTY ENTERPRISE-LEADER

The Washington County ENTERPRISE-LEADER (USPS 586-200) is published weekly on Wednesday for \$19.95 per year in county and \$25 per year out of county by the Northwest Arkansas Newspapers LLC, 128 Southwinds, Suite 1, Farmington AR 72730. Periodicals Postage Paid at Farmington AR 72730.

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NW ARKANSAS
TIMES

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2011 • 5B ^N_k

Cane Hill still fighting

It may be a done deal, but don't tell that to the many Cane Hill residents who attended the meeting about closing the Cane Hill post office. The Postal Service representatives were probably surprised by the numbers since they scheduled the meeting on a Wednesday at 5:30 when working residents could not make it on time and others were forced to choose between church and cause.



The officials immediately started backpedaling, claiming past complaints about returned mail had been dealt with, but then it was stated the Cane Hill post office costs \$50,000 a year to operate, including maintenance, salary and benefits. Some of us starting crunching numbers and we doubted this was true as there is one part-time, hourly wage employee who receives no benefits, and the rent is \$300 a month. Yes, the Cane Hill Post Office does not take in as much as it costs, but there isn't a post office in the country not bleeding red ink.

The Postal Service has been losing money for years, so one must question why it spent millions to sponsor Team Armstrong in France. If it had spent that money going to schools and libraries teaching kids about writing cards and letters to grandma and grandpa it would have created customers and warmed the hearts of seniors everywhere.

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