

Transcription of Catalogue Record 000.12.18.01

Mr. C. W. Hodgson M.P.
House of Commons
Ottawa

Dear Sir, -

Re the matter of the mail Route of which we were talking on Friday night. I will try to give you a short review of the whole situation as I know it.

The people along #35 Highway had been trying for some seven or eight years to get a rural delivery, but nothing came of it until after the Scenic Highway 35 Association was formed.

At the first meeting of the above Association the matter of a mail route was brought up. I had already made some endeavor in this direction and learned something about what should be done. I suggested that a committee should be formed with Bud Medley as chairman to prepare and circulate a proper petition. Dave Edwards, Bud Medley, Bill Gartshore, Elvin Johnson and myself made up the committee & each was made responsible for a certain section.

The petition was taken around along the Highway from Minden to Halls Lake and into the Stanhope council chambers and around the block by Boskung. The response was almost 100% in favor.

The regulation as stated in books on Rural Routes which we secured at the post office said a box must be over $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from an existing post office. We carefully miled by car every prospective box holder and petitioned the people in Carnarvon who were over the $\frac{1}{4}$ mile.

After the route had been approved and the contract let to Mr. Angus Coulter as carrier, we secured forms to fill out for application for boxes from the Minden post office.

They did not have enough on hand at first, but did give us some which said the box must be over $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from a post office.

Now since these people in Carnarvon were living directly on the route and were anxious to have the rural delivery they filled out the forms and sent in their money.

In all there were twelve boxes ordered at Carnarvon which were over $\frac{1}{4}$ mile but under $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from location of box to post office. They were Bud Medley, Eric Cross, Walter Harrison, Vernal Harrison (garage), Jack Gregory (garage), Amos Miscio, Ed Minaker, Ritchie Harrison, Hal Burton (store), Francis Thomas, Mrs. Whoral and Ed Harrison. The last seven were in my section and I used the older forms for all of them but Hal Burton and on his we stroked out the half mile and wrote in $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, so that I know that at least these seven did not say that they were over $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, but rather that they were over $\frac{1}{4}$ mile.

Now all these twelve were sold the boxes and with them came instructions to erect them and then notify the post office that they were ready to accept mail delivery.

A short time later I inquired at the Minden post office about when the route would commence to operate and was told that the inspector had said he would not start it until more boxes were up. I took notice then on the way up home that practically all the boxes were up except those in Carnarvon.

I then went around to the people there and urged them to get them up. Apparently they had heard things that made them doubtful that they were going to get service. However all but two of them did then put their boxes up and the route did commence to operate soon after, but the inspector then refused to allow delivery to these people because they were not over $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the post office. Mr. Ed Harrison later was allowed delivery because he moved his box a few yards north of his drive, placing it over the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.

Bud & Frank Thomas & I measured the distance with tape from Vernal Harrisons box to the post office and found it to be about 90 feet short of the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. The inspector told some of them that if they would move their boxes down the highway to over the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile they could have service.

Now these people are still anxious to have rural delivery and since the route goes right by their door the present situation seems rather ridiculous to them.

There are some of them to whom it is a difficulty because of physical disabilities and small children at home, to get to the post office. Others such as the garages find that they are often busy at the time the post office is open and by the time they can get away for the mail the office is closed. Mr. Burton is not happy with having all his mail pass through the hands of his opposition.

We feel that those who applied for the boxes and were sold boxes and were instructed to erect them should have the convenience of rural delivery.

We do not feel that this would cause any great hardship to the Carnarvon post office, as it serves quite a number of people who do not live on this route and also there is a quite large summer population on Twelve Mile and Little & Big Boskung Lakes who still use that office.

Since these folk helped us all get the route which has proved to be a great help to us we want to do all we can to help them have the same service.

I am on the executive of the Scenic 35 Association and I know this is the feeling of the great majority of the members.

Anything that you can do to assist us in this effort will be greatly appreciated.

Most sincerely yours

Norman Wallace