



SUSAN BRANDT AND TRACY POSEY



P OSTMAN BY DAY

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A large variety of people around the globe pull together for each book. Their willingness to believe in magic plus their contributions make this book and others on our website possible. We cannot say thank you to them enough.

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Tracy Posey has been with the Abilene area postal system for 23 years as of this writing. He has offered his stories as a light hearted look at the everyday postman in hopes that people can see all aspects of the neighborhood carrier in blue.

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UNITED STATES

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UNITED STATES



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Most people never see me. I'm an observer from outer space. I like hanging out in assorted places. In mail boxes. On top of mailboxes. On top of telephone poles. On traffic lights. You just never know where I will be. You won't see me. I'm swift as swift as can be. Cool, huh?

Because I like to hang out around mail boxes I am the perfect one to tell you about stories involving postman, especially in Abilene, Texas. This is one of my favorite places to hang out. Never really too hot, never really too cold.

Just in case you didn't know, Abilene is a medium-sized town in what's called the Big Country part of this huge state, Texas. It is in the southern part of the United States and it's in the upper northern part of the state.

The city is big enough to have two major post offices and several smaller post offices to assist residents of the area. Texas has 26,640 postal employees and 77 of them are in the Abilene area. They may drive or walk their routes or work in one of the post offices. Abilene has 90 trucks, so you are always seeing a postal truck go about here and there.



With this many trucks, carriers can always have a vehicle to get to where they need to go. There are specialty trucks for jobs like setting up the locks on mailboxes or doing rural routes.

Yes, there are both male and female carriers.

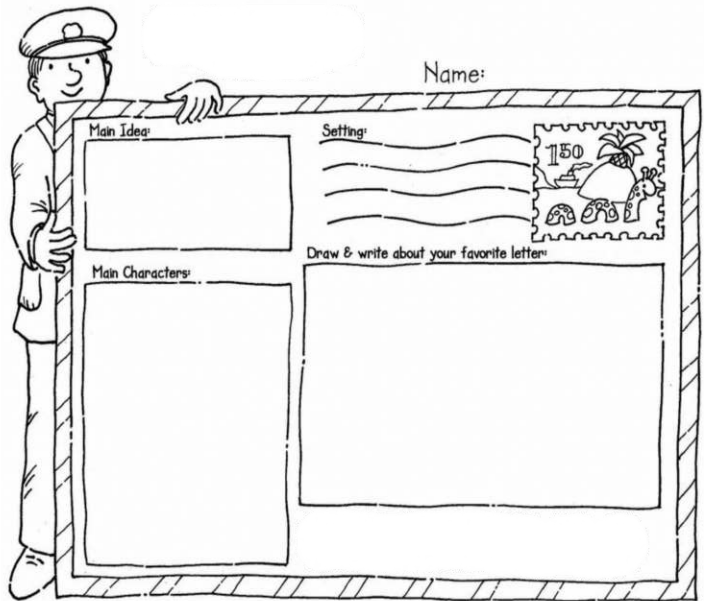
I like watching the postmen here in Abilene because they are so cheery and helpful. They are always

getting the job done with the spirit and tradition of the legendary postal carriers - pony express - delivering the mail across the country on their horses. I guess they are still using horses? It's horse power in their trucks these days. Oh, well, it sounded better in my head.

Of course there is the mailman's motto:

“Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.”

This means in the spring when the winds are blowing about, you won't find a mail man





losing a single one of the letters, he's carrying about.

In the winter, they will trudge through snow and freezing icy roads but the mail will be delivered to every person on the route.

Some days the rain pour off is like a water fall powering down porch steps into the street. The rain water has been as high as the truck's bumper on more than one day.



This isn't a job for superman.
No!

It's a job for
the postman!

Most folks work eight hours a day. The postman's work day is more like 9 to 10 hours and that means into the

twilight of night during the winter months.

He also gives traffic directions, helps the elderly lift things or carry them. Listens to never ending stories along the route. Yet, if there is a lot of deliveries in a day. You may get a nod of the head and asked to save the story until another day.





Dogs are legendary for attacking the brave postman. It is not the big ones they are afraid of. It is that the little dogs will get you in a snap to the postal carrier.

Cats just want to go near their feet, now and then wanting to cuddle up. The postman has to just keep moving. Remember there is mail to be delivered.



Abilene also has an attack bird. This bird, if he sees a carrier walking up the street attacks the poor post man. He has no mercy. If they are wearing a cap. He just won't give up. No one knows why?

All new postman who must venture up the street are warned of this feathered obstacle.

Other things rarely mentioned, are yard ornaments or stakes. During the winter season, a postman is often walking near a walkway and steps on a deflated ornament - only to stumble or fall. The falls have seen carriers going to the hospital for stitches.

What people sometimes forget is the carrier (because of the early darkness) must walk through the area at night.



Every postman has his own “war” stories to tell. You should ask your carrier someday. No matter where you live. If he has time, he might share one or two with you.

We all have bad days. Postman do meet a lot of people who are having terrible days. They loose their head and scream at the postman. What’s he going to do to me? Or they may just not be thinking at all. The carriers here try to smile and take it in stride.

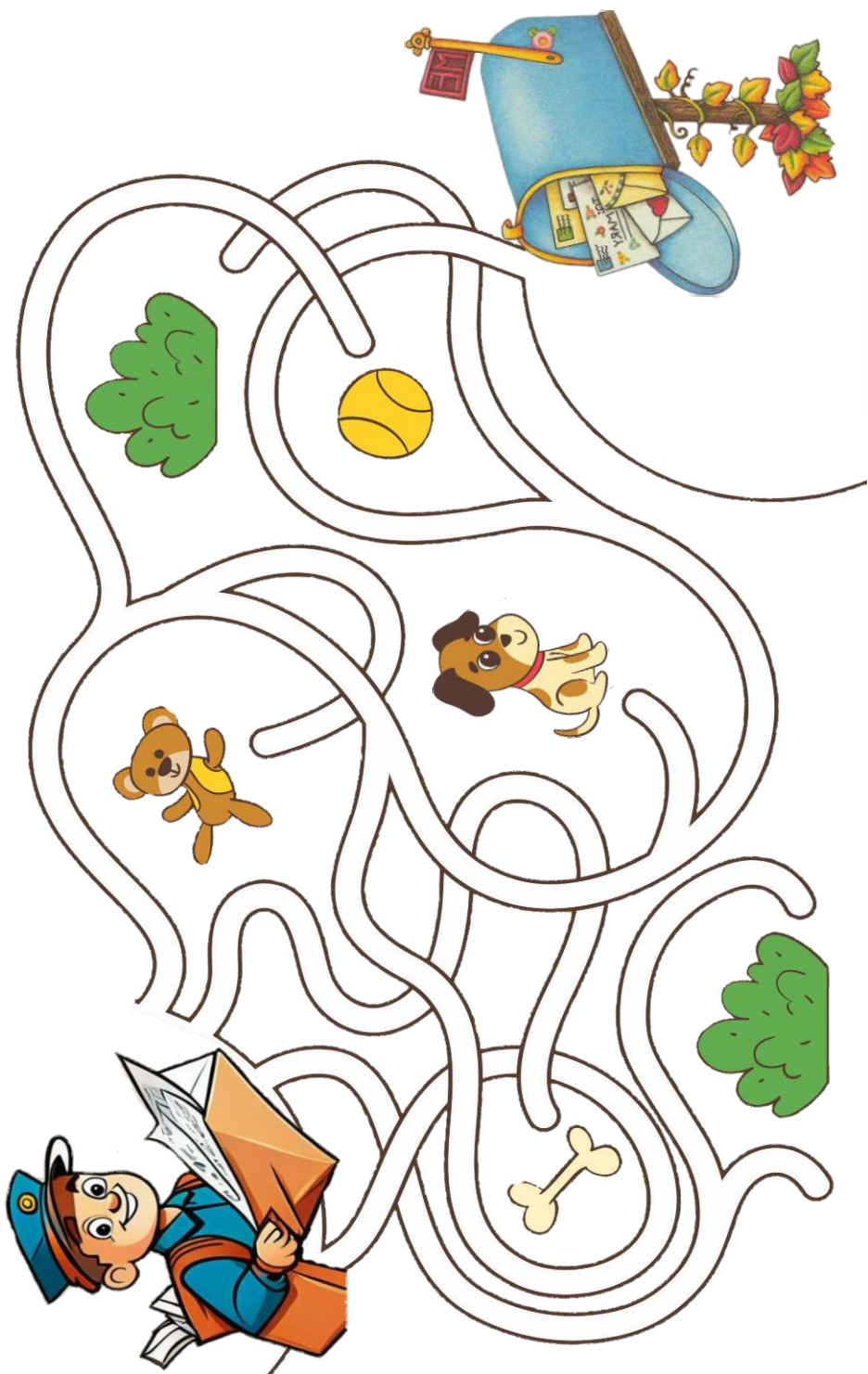
Oh, did you know the post office can stop delivery of mail for such bad behavior? Then you have to go to the main post office to get your mail. So think twice before you throw the package delivered at them.

People who act ugly are far and few, most of the postal employees will admit.



Quietly a postman will let you know there are good-natured folks will sometimes leave water or soda pop or goodies. They appreciate all the hard work the postman does to bring them their treasurers everyday.

This is an extra special delight that makes the job well worth it.



Post Office

S G M R E I R R A C L I A M B E J
Q L I A M Y T I R O I R P N R U P
F W E L I A M S S E R P X E N I G
N T M P G Z E T M B G U F K D M P
X L T I O G O O W A I V M J T Q K
X Z P U A L V K L U I A H Y V F Z
A E V T G Z E R B T I L Z Q T R Q
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J E X T P O S T A L C L E R K H C
X H K F S P M A T S F O K O O B G
O V E R N I G H T H Y G L N B G R
V G H X O B E C I F F O T S O P W
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Y R E T U R N A D D R E S S E X J
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