

Hi, Fred Nelson for Community Comment,

I see by the local paper that the Postal Service hasn't forgotten us here in Humboldt County. They are still bound and determined to move the mail processing operation to Medford, Oregon. Postal Service spokesman James Wigdel states that the move to Medford is scheduled for January of Twenty Fifteen after being put on hold for a year. If this move is such an important cost saving measure why has it been delayed so long? Wigdel also states that the 'delivery rates', I think he means the delivery times, will only rise from an average of Two point One Four to Two point Two Five days. Based on what? The National average, a Regional average, First class mail or all classes, what? This shows what you can do with numbers if you have a mind to. At this time, a letter mailed in Eureka for cross town delivery, is accomplished overnight. You mail it this afternoon, it is delivered tomorrow. Under the new planned move, that same cross town letter that you mailed this afternoon would travel to Medford tonight, be sorted tomorrow, hopefully catching return transportation tomorrow night and arriving in Eureka for delivery the day after tomorrow. That is under the best of conditions. What happened to the Eleven Tenths of a day increase in delivery time? Mr. Wigdel explains that the Postal service deals with all kinds of weather in our nation. Granted, inclement weather is an event that we do not control but why expose mail that is addressed locally to Four Hundred Miles of inclement weather in addition to a highway of which the majority is two lane and prone to closures due to slides and falling rock. Wigdel lets everyone know that the Eureka Post Office is not going to close or move. WE KNOW THAT!! I retired as the Postmaster in Eureka in Nineteen Eighty Five. That was Twenty Nine years ago and a lot has changed within the Postal Service. One thing that has not changed is the attitude of postal officials in the metro areas towards rural areas. They thought that we were a bunch of hicks from Northern California then and they appear to think the same now what with their over simplified statements. To them I say, we may be isolated on the North Coast but we are not stupid. Various representatives in our community have voiced their opinions about this move. Their opinions are intelligent and logical, showing genuine concern for the citizens of Humboldt. Other communities are in the same boat. A little over a year ago, the Postal Service started these planned closures of distribution centers. You never hear about the aftermath. The Postal Service doesn't want to talk about it and the postal customer just shuts up and deals with it. I will have a bit more on this subject in two weeks.

Fred Nelson for Community Comment