

Michigan City, Indiana

20 cents

## Surplus may mean no mail cost hikes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Postal Service says its success in trimming its work force has helped it post its first surplus in four years.

Postmaster General Benjamin F. Bailar said Monday that the Postal Service's \$15 million surplus in the quarter that ended Sept. 30 means it probably will not have to raise the cost of mailing letters next year.

The government-subsidized mail

agency, which lost \$1.2 billion in the fiscal year that ended last June 30, still expects to lose \$500 million in fiscal 1977, which began last month, Bailar said. But that is down from an earlier forecast of a \$1 billion loss.

"We're not out of the woods yet. Nevertheless, this is a major accomplishment," he said at a news conference called to announce the \$15 million surplus, which ended a string of quarterly deficits that

stretched back to 1972. The Postal Service has lost nearly \$3 billion since it was created in 1971 to replace the old Post Office Department.

"I'm hopeful there will not be a rate increase in 1977," he said. Bailar called the continuing reduction in the postal work force the most important factor in the surplus. More than 50,000 jobs have been eliminated through attrition since January, 1975, and the

payroll now stands at 664,000, he said.

Since labor costs account for about 86 per cent of the Postal Service's expenditures, Bailar has focused his efforts to balance the postal budget on this area. The 50,000 jobs translates into a \$900 million savings for the current fiscal year, he added.

"We are going to keep on trying to reduce our manpower where we can do so without any drop off in

service," Bailar told reporters.

Postal labor leaders congratulated Bailar on the unaccustomed surplus, but were unenthusiastic about the way it was accomplished.

Francis Filbey, president of the American Postal Workers Union, said, "We don't necessarily approve of the methods that were used in reaching this result, but they were in accordance with the contract. So we'll have to deal with

that in the negotiations for the next contract."

James Rademacher, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, said "I'm very happy that they're seeing the black side of the ledger, but the savings to some extent have been at the expense of our members. When routes are eliminated, the remaining letter carriers must absorb additional work."

## Seeing a coyote is 'cool,' not scary

By TIM ZORN

News-Dispatch staff writer

"Will it charge?" nine-year-old Lisa Klaer wanted to know.

The reporter tried to reassure her, from his scanty knowledge of wild animals, that a coyote would not charge a human being, especially three children and two adults in a car.

Lisa was still apprehensive, however.

As her uncle, Michigan City park Supt. Ronald Nemeth, drove the car slowly along the road in Michiana Shores, Lisa's voice piped up from the rear seat where the children were squirming with anticipation.

"Is it scary to see a coyote?" she asked.

"Nah, it's cool," eight-year-old Jeff Nemeth said.

The coyote always has been associated with images of the frontier west — a lone animal baying at the moon, a spirit of gritty self-sufficiency.

Now a coyote was roaming and hunting in suburban Michiana Shores.

It had escaped from the Michigan City zoo in September and had been spotted several times in Long Beach and Michiana Shores. The coyote apparently was making a good living off small wildlife in the wooded areas.

A coyote was found earlier this month in Hammond and it was thought at first it might be the escapee. But it wasn't.

So Nemeth was called to find out if any progress had been made capturing the wily coyote from Michigan City.

Nemeth responded quickly: "I just saw ours out in Michiana Shores last night. Do you want to come out and take a look at him?"

The coyote has been seen most often in the evening and early morning, Nemeth said. So two hours later he was driving his car in the Michiana Shores area.

"The people out here have kind of adopted that coyote," Nemeth said. "It runs with their dogs. One man even claims he let it into his house and fed it."

Even if it looks tame, a coyote is still a wild animal and can "turn" without warning.

Some people in Michiana Shores suspect the coyote of overturning garbage cans. One man told Nemeth he hasn't been bothered much by raccoons recently. Nemeth wondered if the coyote, who hunts a wide variety of game, has been holding down the raccoon population.

Trying to catch the coyote has been frustrating for Nemeth. He gets calls, sometimes around midnight, from police or residents who claim they've "cornered" the coyote.

By the time he gets to the scene, the coyote has slipped into the underbrush or leaped a fence.

Nemeth has a gun with tranquilizer darts. But he's figured the gun would be useless at night. The tranquilizer could take up 10 minutes to work, Nemeth said, and in that time the coyote could have bolted deep into the woods and be practically impossible to find at night.

So this trip was just to check if the coyote was still in the area. Suddenly we saw a bushy-tailed animal dash across the road, about 50 feet ahead of the car.

"That's it!" one youngster yelled.

"Where was it?"

"Right in front! It ran across the road. Didn't you see it?"

"It's small! I thought it would be the size of a German Shepherd, but

it's about as big as a chipmunk."

"I didn't see it."

The flashlight beam was played around the woods but there was no trace of the coyote.

After driving around for 15 more minutes, Nemeth said, "We'll try it one more time and then we'll leave. It's probably too late or too cold for it to come out."

A short time later, the headlights caught a twin green gleam in the road ahead. It was a dog-size animal, alternately standing and pacing back and forth on the road.

"There's the coyote!" the youngsters shouted.

"No, that's a dog," Nemeth thought.

Getting closer, though, we decided it was indeed a coyote — pointed muzzle, white underside, some grey in its fur.

The coyote had seen a husky across the road. The two animals eyed each other across a true generation gap and kept their distance from each other. But whenever the husky started to walk along the road, the coyote would walk in the same direction on the other side.

"It looks well-fed," Nemeth said.

"And look at that coat!"

"It's neat," the youths chorused.

Nemeth said the coyote's name was Rex.

"Here Rex, here Rex," the children called softly.

After 10 minutes, the coyote and husky approached each other briefly.

The coyote got as close as 10 feet from the car, but then he trotted into the shadows and didn't reappear.

The children were jubilant as we drove away. They were going to tell everybody they saw the coyote.

"It's beautiful," one said.

"I'd like to kiss it," Lisa added.



## 2 supermarkets here may be sold to Agemy

Jim Agemy, owner of Jim's Fiesta Villa supermarkets, said today he has signed letters of commitment with the National Tea Co. to buy two of the three National supermarkets here.

Transactions for the Karwick Road and Franklin Street National stores should be complete about Dec. 4, Agemy said, pending final negotiations.

"They will close as National stores on the night of Dec. 4, and open up as Jim's Fiesta Villas on Dec. 6," Agemy said.

Agemy said preliminary negotiations were completed about 6 p.m. yesterday.

He said he signed a letter of commitment to buy the stores and "we have a letter of commitment from them saying we're the new owners."

Inventories must be completed at the two stores before final payments are made, Agemy said.

Agemy said he plans no change in the size of the two stores.

"We will be cutting back on all National brand products," Agemy said, "and restocking both stores with Certified Red Label brands and Raggedy Ann products."

Those labels are carried in the two Jim's Fiesta Villas already in Michigan City.

"At this time, we cannot commit ourselves to keeping all the people in the two stores," Agemy said, "but we will probably negotiate to

keep some personnel."

The other two Fiesta Villas have 90 to 100 employees, Agemy said, and 50 to 70 more will be added for the two additional stores. "So Jim's will have 150 to 170 people employed in Michigan City."

The stores will emphasize service and price, Agemy said.

"Our prices will be competitive or better than the prices the stores presently have," he said. "And we will emphasize fast checkout service."

A spokesman for National said this morning he could not give out any information concerning the Eastgate National store here.

"It's our policy not to release any information until the deals are completely closed," said Tony Corso of National. "And then it's up to the buyer to release the information."

The Michigan City stores are part of the Chicago Division of National. Last week, 62 of the 160 stores in the Chicago Division were sold to the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co.

And M. Loeb Corp., a distributor of wholesale groceries and other retail products in Elk Grove Village, Ill., said Monday it plans to acquire or service 12 of the National stores being purchased by independent operators.

National has said it intends to phase out the Chicago Division by Jan. 1.

## Gilmore attempts drug suicide

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (AP) — Convicted killer Gary Mark Gilmore attempted to take his own life with a drug overdose today, a medical technician at the Utah State Prison reported.

In addition, police in Springville said a woman believed to be Gilmore's girlfriend was found unconscious in her apartment, also of an apparent drug overdose.

Gilmore had been scheduled to be executed by a firing squad Monday, but the execution was delayed. He was sentenced for the killing of a motel clerk during a

robbery

Although there was no immediate confirmation that the woman found unconscious was Gilmore's girlfriend, Springville Police Chief Leland Bowers said he believed it was she and that it appeared to be a suicide attempt.

Gilmore's girlfriend, Mrs. Nicole Barrett, 20, of Springville, has been visiting him daily in the prison.

A spokesman at Utah Valley Hospital in Provo said the woman taken from the apartment was in critical condition of apparent drug overdose.

The technician at the prison, Tom Anguay, said Gilmore was found unconscious in his cell and medics "brought him back to life."

"He tried to take his own life. He tried to OD," Anguay said.

Anguay said he did not know what kind of drug was used but Gilmore has been on medication.

He said Gilmore was conscious after treatment but said nothing.

Mrs. Barrett was warned Monday before visiting Gilmore that she was known to have purchased sleeping pills on prescription and

must not bring them to the prison, Deputy Warden Leon Hatch said Monday.

Hatch said she was subjected to skin searches by a matron before each of her visits and that Gilmore was searched before and after each visit.

Earlier, Utah Gov. Calvin Rampton had said that since he stayed Gilmore's execution, he had received hundreds of letters and telephone calls — mostly from "extremists" on both sides of the question.

## Dwarf inmate's solution: 'I've got friends'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Jack Jett, only 53 inches tall and serving time at the Tennessee State Penitentiary, says he's found a way to handle inmates who give him trouble: he tells them he's got friends.

He said that's just one of the special problems to be overcome in prison by a dwarf — whose life is far from easy on the outside.

"It's bad enough being locked up if you're average size, but it's even

worse if you're a dwarf," said Jett.

He has to climb into second-tier prison bunks, wear ill-fitting prison clothing and stand eye-to-waist with other prisoners.

Jett said he's grown accustomed to regular kidding. "I'm called a 'short-termer' and 'shorty' and things like that. Most of it is friendly kidding," he said.

At 48, Jett is serving 24 to 40 years for passing bad checks. He

claims he was "railroaded" because he is a dwarf and because he is from the North.

"I got more time for bad checks than most people get for murder," Jett said.

A former Johnson City, Tenn., auto dealer, Jett is the father of five children, three of them dwarfs.

He said he is bitter at prison offi-

cials for not allowing him to attend the funeral of his wife last month.

Jett said she was 14 years old when they married 27 years ago.

She took her own life, he said, because she "just couldn't take any more of it."

Now, he said, he fills his days writing letters to his family, and anyone who will listen, in efforts to get out of prison while his sentences are under appeal.

## Supermarket robbery suspect arrested

A man suspected of participation in four recent Michigan City robberies was arrested yesterday after he stepped off a bus in Seattle.

Michigan City police said Henry Jarrett, 32, is being held in Seattle but has indicated he will fight extradition to Indiana. He reportedly had traveled from here to Seattle by bus.

Jarrett is a suspect in last Friday's robbery at the National supermarket, Eastgate Plaza.

Dan Jarrett, 20, 515 Willard Ave., was arrested shortly after that rob-

bery, in which two men participated. Henry Jarrett is reported to be the younger man's uncle.

The Jarretts are suspects also in a Nov. 3 robbery at the Liberty Loan Co., 917 1/2 Franklin St., a Nov. 9 robbery at Heights Finance Co., 1604 E. Michigan Blvd, and a Nov. 11 robbery at Chateau Liquors, 117 E. 11th St.

Dan Jarrett has been charged with the Liberty Loan robbery. In county court yesterday, an attorney was appointed for him and a Friday preliminary hearing date set.

### Inside

— LaPorte police arrested seven persons on drug-related charges...Page 3.

— The county commissioners may be backing down on their threat to delay construction of the downtown overpass in LaPorte...Page 3.

— Damaged streets due to water and sewage projects was discussed by the Chesterton utility board...Page 11.

— The new county animal shelter was the focal point of a meeting last night...Page 16.

### Deaths

Ralph Brock, 56, R.R. 1, Tampa, Fla.

Alex Gruse, 69, 424 Holliday St.

Stanford Maresch, 80 1/2 Pine St.

Rev. George Yergler, 88, R.R. 1, LaCrosse, Ind. (Details on Page 10)

### Weather

Clear and not as cold tonight, low in the upper 20s to around 30. High Wednesday in the high 40s. High yesterday 38, low 29, at the local U.S. Coast Guard station.