

National Volume of Mail Reaches All-Time High, Postmaster Says

A new all-time high in the nation's mail volume was reached during the fiscal year 1960 as the steady upward trend of the past seven years continued at a rate which even exceeds the population growth, according to advance information from the Annual Report of the Post Office Department released today by Postmaster Clara A. Conner.

The year's total has been estimated as 63.6 billion pieces of mail, including about one billion pieces of parcel post. It was stated that this reflected an increase of nearly 25 per cent in mail volume in the past seven years since the annual volume in 1953 was 50.9 billion pieces.

DURING THE same period, postal revenue showed an impressive gain with an increase of \$2,091,714,000 in fiscal year 1953 to \$3,276,800,000 for fiscal year 1960.

"We can't deny that we still make mistakes and that the human element still plays a vitally important part in daily operation, but the statistics in the Department's annual report offer positive proof of impressive progress on a nationwide basis. As an example, while the mail volume showed an increase of 16 billion pieces handled annually, the employment increase during this same period amounted to only 11 per cent," she said.

"BY WAY OF explanation, it should be mentioned that the employment figures — based on thousands of man-years — are first worked out under two separate headings, city carriers and 'all other', and then combined for the over-all percentage figures just mentioned for fiscal 1960.

"It should also be mentioned that there has been a steady and substantial increase in 'city carriers' each year as compared with 1953, ranging from 4.5 per cent in 1954 to 29.2 per cent in the latest estimates. This increase has been essential to keep pace with the ever-expanding growth of established cities as well as the establishment of new ones.

"CITY DELIVERY service has been started in 800 communities in addition to the extension of literally hundreds of routes which were already in operation. This required the equivalent of 31,000 more letter carriers to serve approximately 9,000,000 more American families and upwards of 700,000 more business concerns.

"There is perhaps no better way of demonstrating the Department's ever-improving efficiency than by showing just how steadily the annual volume handled per man-year of employment — excluding city carriers — has been increasing since 1953. In that year the total handled by one man was 132,000 pieces of mail. For 1960 the corresponding figure was 157,000.

"IT IS OF course true that all the additional service has made it necessary to take on many new employees and that our total increased from 506,520 in 1953 to 562,868 on June 30, 1960, but as pointed out in the original 1960 report figures, the workload increase during the same period was nearly 25 per cent," the report stated.

"To my way of thinking that's the story in a nutshell and I seriously doubt if there has ever been a story just like it in the entire history of the Post Office Department. I am also of the opinion that it would be impossible to over-emphasize the importance of this story — not only for today's operations but for the years that lie ahead," Postmaster Conner said.

17,000 Parents Answer School Conference Call

More than 17,000 parents attended group conferences at Torrance's 34 schools this fall, according to a report to the board of education Tuesday night.

Some 14,193 elementary and 2902 high school parents showed up to learn about the general program of the schools and to meet with their children's teachers.

Individual conferences with parents of elementary students will get under way soon.

"IN A RECENT speech on this subject by the Postmaster General he brought out that by 1970 our population is expected to be 208,000,000 and that our annual mail volume by then will be doubled within the next 25 years, and it all fits into the same picture.

"It was in another speech about the Post Office Department that another official expressed his sentiments about the situation like this: 'We are proud of our records. We have no apologies to make and no

regrets to express. What has been done was once said impossible. Now it is history. Those are also my sentiments.'"

INCLUDED among items cited by Postmaster Conner as recent accomplishments by the Department were the following:

Established the first large-scale program of automatic mail handling by machinery on a nationwide basis.

Developed the "airlift" program which speeds up the de-

velopment of faster machines for letter sorting, parcel post sorting, and for mail culling, facing and cancelling.

Continued with plans for a new automatic "postal sub-station" which will vend stamps, envelopes, post cards and writing paper, and which will have money changers for both coins and bills.

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7 DAYS OF BIG SAVINGS!

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KENTUCKY SUPREME 100 PROOF — Distilled and bottled in bond in Kentucky. Rich, robust! Regular \$4.49 value!



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Mason's—In frosted bottle. Extra dry 90.4-proof for better cocktails. \$3.49 fifth.

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THANKSGIVING SPECIAL!
Pink Champagne or Sparkling Burgundy, too!



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• Imported Red or White FRENCH BORDEAUX
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