

JUBY, Ken

After 38 years of delivering mail, and 55 years of cutting hair Ken says it's time to retire

Intell
Dec 1/89

Harrison Co - W. Va.
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SHANNONVILLE — Ken Juby has purchased more than a dozen new cars over the past 38 years. And he's needed them in his line of work: delivering the mail to area residents.

"I've always had a new car. You can't have an old car delivering mail every day through all types of weather because it'll always break down. At least with my cars, I know they won't break down while I'm delivering the mail," the 77-year-old said Thursday.

For the past 38 years, Juby's routine has been the same. He arrives at the Shannonville Post Office weekdays at 8:30 a.m. from his home a few short blocks away. He spends a half hour sorting the mail for his 104 rural route customers, then gets behind the wheel to begin his two-hour mail run.

He's back at the Shannonville post office by 11 a.m., having logged 32 kilometres.

While most men his age would then call it a day, Juby begins his second job — cutting hair. He often works in his barbershop well into the evening.

He's been a barber for 55 years.

Well, all that is coming to an end later this month. He officially retires from his mail delivery duties Dec. 15. (He's just sold his barbershop business and home here and is moving to Belleville with his wife, Ruby.)

"I've really enjoyed the mail delivery business. Having the same route for 38 years is quite an accomplishment, I'd say," Juby said.

"I've been kept busy over those years but I don't mind being busy. Delivering mail sort of grows on you. Those 38 years have gone by so fast. It just doesn't seem like it's over now," he added.

Juby said he believes people depend on him for the mail "and I want to get it out to them every day."

He's proud of the fact he's only missed a few days because of illness (not a broken car) over those 38 years.

"And if the weather is really bad, you just don't go. But not too many of those days have been missed either."

Juby doesn't recall any unusual events over his delivery days; however, many times he's seen deer running through backyards of people's homes.

His start in the mail delivery business actually came in 1929 when, as a teenager, he regularly substituted for mailman Russell Wescott. (By the way, Juby used Wescott's car to get the job done.)

"I did that off and on until 1951 until I officially took over his route," he said.



KEN JUBY

Now, said Juby, he's looking forward to "official" retirement from the post office and barbershop trade and living in Belleville, where mail is delivered to the front door.

"But I likely will miss it for a while," he said.

The post office here, though, will miss Juby.

Said postmaster Kirk Reid: "He's really reliable and lots of fun. He's always joking with us."