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Dear Editor,

I have read in the newspaper for the past few days, for the people to “remember” their paper carriers this holiday season and there have been ads for the same to “remember” the postal workers for the holidays also. It is difficult for me to forget that in the last three weeks, I had to telephone the RDR because my paper had not been delivered. When I called, the line had been busy (most likely due to others calling to make the same complaint). This does not warrant any kind of tip for the paper carrier. When I was a kid, I was a relief carrier for one of my friends when he was sick or on vacations; the newspaper got to his customers regardless of the weather or illness. We had to deliver on foot or bicycle toting a cart with the bulk of newspapers that had to be delivered on time. There were also designated areas at each house where the paper would get to the customer in a dry state. As for the post office, last week I sent a Christmas card to my son’s post office box in Rutland, Vermont. The card was returned with the forwarding address attached on a label at the bottom, “forwarding address expired” on the attached label. The card had a Christmas check in it. It had made a 5,000 mile round trip because of the incompetence of postal carriers and their inability to make the decision to toss the envelope into a different basket to be delivered to the new address thus leaving my son without some extra money to make his children’s Christmas a little merrier. Why should one “tip” a postal worker for failure to use common sense? The post office claims that they need to increase their rates every couple of years. This would not be a necessity if they would actually make an effort to get the mail delivered without spending the extra cost of returning the mail. For example; by transferring the forwarding label to the address location on the envelope, the original 44 cent stamp will cover the second trip back to Vermont (according to the post office a couple of years ago when this happened to me on a different mailing). This means my Christmas card will travel a total of 7,500 miles for the same 44 cents. I remember Bob Hope making a comment in one of his movies about a spy mailing a top secret microfilm to his contact on the west coast from the east coast. His comment was something like this, “If you can’t depend on the U.S. Post Office to get the microfilm cross country safely, then who can you trust?” This comment was made when he was asked why he didn’t deliver it personally to ensure its safe arrival. Maybe it was a tongue-in-cheek statement and I was too young to realize (it was in the 1950s). There are many more tales that I can tell about the U.S. Postal Service that actually happened to me and numerous times that my wife had to telephone the RDR because of missed newspapers but you should get the point from this. Hopefully, if the USPS can read, this may help with mail delivery service in the future and if the newspaper carriers actually read the product they deliver, both may realize why the monetary gratuities are getting scarcer each year.

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