

(Special thanks to Randy Graham of Branch 366 for passing along the following commentary from a former station manager in Joplin, Missouri. The following is Jim Hight's response after reading the Branch 2902 article "Confessions of a Former Station Manager")

So very true. If every manager or supervisor had to carry mail the one week every four months, the place would be so much better. I got out because of the used car salesman scenario in the management field. Also for the micromanagement of good employees by supervisors and managers sitting in their sacred chairs pecking on their computer.

The computer-- as far as MSP points, DOIS, route adjustment programs, and all the impersonal programs that do not take the type of mail, weather, or anything else into consideration--was the worst thing that happened to the USPS. It is great for communication, reports, etc., but not for determining what a person does. I know that my refusal to go along with it without question is one of the reasons I had to leave Joplin. The former postmaster--Fuehrer--basically told me to do it this way--his way-- or leave. After two unacceptable merits, a daily cursing on anything I did, being constantly yelled at, and spending 12+ hours a day at the station at his orders, I took the road out and developed an attitude that I wanted out of the USPS as quick as I could. I retired eight days after my 55th birthday due to this a--hole and the people up above who supported him because he made his numbers (I was never able to forget this, even though I went to two other great offices after leaving Joplin. I know I only hurt myself, but it is something that one is unable to forget). No one cared how he did it; they were just happy with him because he did it. Everything that they say about improving employee relations, making it a better place to work, and those silly employee surveys are lies--total hypocrisy.

I wanted to stay at the USPS until my 62nd birthday, but with the hypocrisy and lies coming from up above, and the larger offices promoting individuals who could not manage a kindergarten class but are hateful enough to make the numbers, I grew to dislike the agency. I had to leave. In every office that I worked, I tried to get along with my employees, and can truly say that many of them are my friends, but the back-stabbing, lying, scheming supervisors, managers, district, area, and headquarters personnel were way too much for me to take. I retired. I do miss my friends, and I realize that "out of sight, out of mind" is definitely true, but I do feel better, and I am enjoying life a lot more.

Jim Hight

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