

Neighborhood Dog Makes Rounds Daily With Mail Carrier He 'Adopted'



A MAIL STORAGE box is the rendezvous point for Postman Bob Ross and Lucky. They have met here daily for more than a year. Lucky is nearly always on time.

This is the story of a postman and a dog.

The postman is Bob Ross, who delivers mail in the Hot Springs section of Klamath Falls; the dog is Lucky, a pet of the Ronald Van Orman family at 1845 Lawrence Street.

For more than a year, Lucky has accompanied Ross on his rounds. The dog appears daily at a storage box on the corner of Pacific Terrace and Del Moro Street, where Ross eats lunch, and joins Ross on the route for at least one hour, often two.

Lucky is remarkably faithful in his adopted pursuit of Ross' appointed rounds. In the best traditions, he is deterred not by rain nor snow nor dark of night. He has missed his rendezvous only two days in more than a year.

Ross is a man who likes dogs, and his experience is proof that dogs accept humans who like them. In 16 years as a route carrier, Ross has been bitten only once, and that bite was administered by a tomcat. More than a bite, the wound was a savage clawing on one arm and it happened, appropriately enough, in North Hollywood.

Herald and News Photographer Don Kettler heard about this unusual relationship and followed man and dog with his camera. His photographs give us an opportunity to go along with them.



LIKE MANY POSTMEN, Ross eats lunch at (or in) the storage box. It provides a convenient seat at all times and offers a provident shelter when it rains or snows. Lucky



doesn't share the lunch, as might be indicated, but once tried a sip of coffee — and yelped.



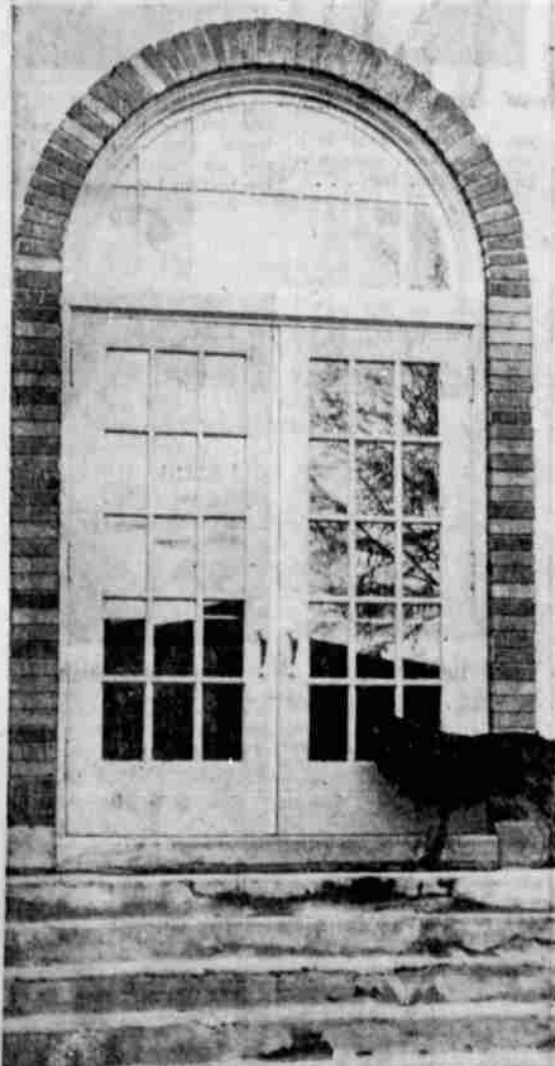
A VISITOR pays a call. Lucky looks upon his fellows as intruders and occasionally leaves the route to rout competition. The look here is not particularly friendly.



LUNCH IS OVER, intruders have been vanquished, and postman and pal start a routine that has become pleasantly familiar to householders in the Hot Springs neighborhood. Lucky usually stays for two hours.



TIME OUT for a chat with a neighbor. Sometimes Lucky departs for a romp or a ruff, but he's back "on the job" after a few minutes. In this case he doesn't appear too interested in the conversation.



SOME DOGS haunt school doors too patiently, but fruitlessly, wait for their master's return. Lucky peers through the door at Roosevelt School, knowing Ross will be out soon.



LUCKY GARNERS a bit of affection from Pamela Egge while Ross sorts out mail addressed to 1245 Eldorado Boulevard. Sometimes Lucky runs ahead of Ross to greet pals or lie in the shade a few minutes until Ross arrives.



THIS TIME Lucky would seem to be the intruder, but that isn't the case. The postman and his companion pass the time of day with a regular "patron" of sorts. Nice weather? No, Ross has his raincoat.



LUCKY'S SECTION of the route has been completed and Ross has gone on his last relay. But Lucky will be back tomorrow. He's even too faithful. Several times Ross driving by on Sundays has seen Lucky waiting patiently.