

## Postmaster Triplette retires

Written by Jes-c Brandt

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Sandy Triplette celebrated her many years working for the United States Postal Service Tuesday, July 21 at a reception with the people that have made her career fun and memorable. The community has always been the best part of working in a Post Office, said Triplette.

In addition to the great people in the community, Triplette feels she has been blessed with great coworkers and employees in her time at the Post Office.

Triplette began working for the Holyoke Post Office in August 1983. She recalled former Postmaster Keith Rundall was the one who recommended she take the test to work as a clerk at the Post Office. Despite hesitation, Triplette eventually agreed to take the test, and began working part time shortly after.

During her first years as a clerk, Triplette was working only Saturdays. In 1989 Triplette was promoted to a full time clerk. She maintained that position until July 2001, when she took the role as Postmaster in Amherst. In March 2005 she came back to the Holyoke Post Office and took the position as Postmaster.

Throughout those years, Triplette acted as Officer-in-Charge (OIC) in Fleming, Haxtun, Julesburg and Holyoke when the Post Offices were between Postmasters. Triplette also spent two years in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii doing civil service work.

While working at the Post Office, Triplette was a member of the Diversity Team. As such, she worked with area post offices and organized events such as employee picnics.

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Many years have passed since she started as a clerk, but Triplette said it certainly doesn't feel like it's been that long. The time has gone by fast, and she's had a lot of fun, she said. Looking back, however, Triplette sees a lot of things that evidence the time that has passed.

As a clerk in 1983, she did all the work manually, from sorting and weighing packages, to looking up rates, zip codes and zones. Now, over 25 years later, Triplette has seen the Post Office go through multiple systems.

Another change Triplette has observed over the years is the decline in mail volume. "We used to sort mail for hours and hours," she said, but not any more. With email and fax machines and texting, observed Triplette, working in a Post Office is a completely different experience than it used to be.

Of course, having spent so many years at the Holyoke Post Office, Triplette has seen many employees come and go, but it always has felt like they were a family. It was an environment Triplette truly enjoyed.

With those she considers close as family, Triplette has many memories of days at the Post Office. She shared, for example, that she and Robin Conklin used to use made-up rhymes to remember who had which route.

Another memory is a snowy Christmas Eve when postal workers were out delivering mail so their fellow community members could get their packages before the big holiday. It was things like this, said Triplette, that make working in a rural post office so rewarding.

Friday, July 24, Triplette will work her last day at the Holyoke Post Office, and Connie Troutman of Amherst will step in as OIC. It's a strange feeling to be done, Triplette noted, but it's just time for that next phase in her life. She does, however, look forward to retired life.

Triplette has many projects she plans to complete at home, but more importantly, she will have extra time to spend with family. It will be nice, she said, to be able to visit her grandchildren when they have school programs or other activities.

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Triplette and her husband Rusty look forward to spending time with daughter Jennifer and Chuck Tennessen, and their children A.J. and Owen of Greeley; Michael and Casey Newth, and their daughter Kaitlyn of Greeley; and Kelsey Triplette of Loveland.

Even as her time as Postmaster comes to an end, there are things from her career that will stay with Triplette forever. Every year she has a valentine sent through the Loveland post office so she will always have that memory, and she will always remember her favorite stamps throughout the years when she sees them every now and then.