



Caught unaware by the cameraman Mrs. Helen Nanna, Scotts Valley "postmaster", waits patiently for a customer

to come to a decision. Mrs. Nanna loses her job with the post office today after 20 years of service to the Scotts Valley

community. The Santa Cruz post office Monday opened a new contract station in King's Village shopping center, and

the small post office in the hardware store has been closed down.

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A Bit Of Americana Falls Under Wheels Of Progress

By PAUL BEATTY
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"We just hate that you're losing your little post office . . . it's a bit of Americana that we're losing."

"So you've lost your job."

"Yes."

"Are you moving on to the new post office building?"

"No. They told me that I wasn't needed."

These were the threads of many conversations held in Helen Nanna's small Scotts Valley post office and hardware store late last week on one of her last day's in the post office business.

Today, Monday, the post office station in Scotts Valley will be taken from her hands and moved to King's Village where a new post office contract station is being opened to

replace the little rural station in the hardware store.

Mrs. Nanna has been the neighborly lady behind the officially screened-in post office counter for the past 20 years in Scotts Valley. She has seen the town grow from a wide-spot along state Highway 17 into a struggling little city threatening to burst its present city seams.

The lady postmaster has seen the town of Scotts Valley change from a summer retreat for one thousand or less part-time residents to a city with a 5,000 population. She has seen two new schools built to serve the extended area of Scotts Valley.

On hearing of the post office department's decision to take the rural station from the hardware store and move it to

its new and slicker quarters in the shopping center, one of Mrs. Nanna's long-time customers wrote the Postmaster-General:

"It is the consensus of many with whom I have spoken that it would be desirable to retain the rural station, particularly for those residents at the opposite end of the valley and along Scotts Valley Drive.

"Mrs. Nanna has been most competent and accommodating in the operation of the rural station, and her services will be sorely missed.

"In addition, the hardware store and post office have an atmosphere that has made them a Scotts Valley landmark and one which we are most reluctant to give up."

The small hexagonal-shaped, wooden store has been more than just a place to pick up

nick-nacks and nuts and bolts for the home, and a place to post the over-due letter to the folks back home (who probably still think you made a mistake in coming out to California).

It is a place where observably, people slow down and seem to relax. Where progress stays outside.

It is a small place where a warm and proper lady is waiting to help her friends and spend some time worrying with them about the town and its people.

It is a place where customers, late last week, brought flowers to say good-bye to their lady postmaster.

It was a piece of Americana that progress lost.