Brookdale post office cleaned out by burglar

BROOKDALE — The search is on for the grinch who stole Christmas from more than 300 Brookdale residents.

Someone resembling Scrooge broke into the Brookdale post office Monday night and "cleaned us out," said Postmaster Donna Snyder.

Taken in the nighttime burglary were hundreds of Christmas cards bearing good tidings, packages sent from afar and parcels from relatives and friends.

"We had a lot of packages arrive over the weekend," noted Snyder this morning as she surveyed the empty post office.

"A lot of mail and valuables were taken in this," she said sadly.

Snyder said the thieves kicked in the door of an abandoned store next to the post office, on Pacific Avenue in Brookdale. The burglars forced their way into the post office and emptied the 307 rented boxes and several bins of mail and packages, said Snyder.

The postmaster estimated the loss to be more than several thousand dollars.

The only thing salvaged in the rip-off were stamps and petty cash used by the post office itself, said Snyder.

"You might say somebody stole Christmas from 307 persons," Snyder said.