

Longtime Zachow postmaster retiring

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ZACHOW — The end of the decade this weekend also marks the end of an era in this eastern Shawano County village.

After more than 37 years, Postmaster Sally LaGary is retiring.

It was a somewhat different Zachow in March of 1952 when Mrs. LaGary and her former husband, now deceased, came from Gillett and purchased the grocery store in the center of the village.

The community had a railroad station, received mail by train, and had the Pauli cheese factory in addition to its current businesses.

It also had its post office in the grocery store, and Mrs. LaGary was appointed postmaster in August of 1952. They ran the store until 1960, when they sold it. But it wasn't the end of the mail business. The couple received permission to build a postal station attached to a house they were building.

That attached post office has seen thousands of pieces of mail pass through, and the growth of the people that sent and received that mail. Mrs. LaGary recalls children in Zachow who now have children of their own.

And she knows them all, since all Zachow mail must be picked up at the post office.

The office has 48 boxes, and besides serving the residents of the community, serves Graf Creamery, the Staszak Feed Mill, the Radtke Garage, Westerfeld Oil, and the Valley Bank branch.



SEL photo by David Niles

Longtime Zachow Postmaster Sally LaGary is retiring after more than 37 years of service. Her last day is Friday.

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In 1986, a postal inspection found the Zachow office to be "immaculate." A report noted that the office is "neat and orderly," and that Mrs. LaGary maintained "the proper emphasis on safeguarding accountable property and safety."

The inspector found her to have a cheerful and friendly rapport with her customers — an attribute that continues to this day as her lobby held a tray of home baked Christmas cookies for customers.

The personal service may change somewhat after Mrs. LaGary's last day this Friday, and she'll miss the customers.

But she's not apprehensive about retiring, saying "I'm ready. I'm very much looking forward to it."

And for her customers — she says, "I always tell them, things will be better, and they don't begrudge me."

Retirement will find her enjoying travel and her summer home on Shawano Lake.

The post office will work out of the bank. New boxes were being put in there last week.

The Zachow post office was established in 1908. Mrs. LaGary was the 13th, and longest serving postmaster.