

Martin Mariettas Are Coming And Going, Along With Other Stuff

DBCS machines are the future of this plant. We have all seen the LSM machines being removed. The last one is scheduled to be removed in the next couple of months. I was hired as a LSM clerk, and have seen them buy new LSMs because the plant needed them. Now, the newest LSM will be gone in short order. Automation is more cost effective. And because of this fact, we are getting more DBCS machines.

Six of the old Martin Marietta machines will be coming back to the plant from storage. These are the same ones that were taken out to make room for the ECA DBCSs. They are planned to be placed where the two LSMs are/were located. From wall to wall, we will have DBCSs. Forty-five machines (forty-seven if you count the LCOCR/DBCS) along with twelve BCS/OSSs will fill the workroom floor from north to south walls. Does this all sound like an info-mercial? Well here comes the regular Maintenance Moments !

It would appear that the powers that be really like the new ECA DBCSs. So much so, that they are pursuing the ability to replace all of our older Martins with ECAs. Maybe a good thing, 'cause once the DDCs are built, most of ECAs we have will go to them! Seeing as the machines are only here because the other plants were not ready. So I guess the twelve ECAs will be moved out eventually. Now, of course, the remaining four machines will be alone until the Martins are replaced. So, let's see....that should mean we'll end up with about thirty-three ECAs. OK, lets count how many people are trained on the ECAs. Maybe Ten ETs out of sixty-five. I suppose the rest of will just have to pick up what we can! One good thing though, we can get rid of the old books for both LSMs and Martins. And I suppose that the mechanics will get to do all the dirty work on these too. With no chance of going to the schools for the DBCSs, they can only do so much to keep the equipment maintained. Is it any wonder the machines are getting more difficult to keep running ? Especially with the "run it all" philosophy. These machines are literally being torn apart by the types of mail be running on them. Geez, I could



really get into the amount of damaged mail operations management is creating, but I'll let that issue slide for awhile!

Well, what else is new? The tray system is out for sure. Since this plant is running at, or beyond capacity, there is no way for the tray system to be built without really screwing up the mail flow. Of course that sounds like if the mail flow is disrupted, then our scores may go down, and then BONUSSES will go down !! OH !!! I see why we're not getting a tray system now ! Look at a situation long enough, and the likely truth comes out !

The east valley DDC is supposed to be either built or on-line in 1999. Until then, we all have to fight our way around the equipment. I feel for the operators who have to work with all the cages and nestliners crammed up their backsides every day! That and our day shift guys who have to dig a hole each day just to do the routine maintenance. What a mess ! With no chance of it getting any better for maybe a long time !

So, with the floor crowded beyond being safe, the quality of operational management being what it is, and the total lack of any REAL training for everybody, I guess we can all see that it's just another day at the Post Office !

They say to let problems roll off your back like rain on a duck, but problems at the Post Office are like a waterfall, and even the biggest duck is going to get sucked under by the force and weight ! So I say, keep moving, do your job to

the best of your abilities and never buckle under the pressure of all the BS here ! To survive, you have got to stay on top of it all and never let it stick to your soul !

Oops ! Gotta get off my pedestal here.... Anyway, we're going to get more DBCSs and it looks like eventually they will all be ECAs. There's no arguing that the ECAs run more mail, but won't any plus be eliminated by the idea that they can run LSM mail through these machines ? Ahh, what job security and what a