

# Maintenance Moments

## WHOA !!! Didn't I tell you things were going to get even more screwed up ?

Well now, this is going to start the Christmas season off just about postal perfect !

I suppose some of you have heard about our newest mechanic on tour three ! Too bad he is really the tour three maintenance manager ! Apparently a few nights ago, there was some difficulty with one of the belts for the sack sorter that he felt was so important that he began to do crafts work ! Correct me if I'm wrong, but don't we have a contract with the Postal Service that pretty much spells out that what he was doing was NOT ALLOWED ! And it gets better ! Once he became aware of the err of his ways, he started the typical management tactic of finding "dirty laundry" of the workers so as to cover his own ! It was brought to the workers attention that the belt was not locked out . Even though the preset was off and the knife switch was in the 'off' position ! I suppose if he was to hold them for technically working on a non-locked out machine, he should write himself up too, as HE WAS WORKING ON THE BELT IN THE SAME STATE !

This is what amazes me the most. The Postal Service and the unions agree to abide by a contract that darn near covers every aspect of our and their jobs, and they choose to constantly ignore it ! I would think that if abided by, all the jobs here would be much more tolerable and maybe even pleasant to do. I have said it before, but it bears repeating; if we could get management to be more of a facilitator to our jobs instead of a dictator, the Postal Service could be unbelievably productive. We cannot do our jobs with under staffing or under training. Management bonuses should NEVER be tied to the efforts of the workers. Everyone knows what kind of environment this creates !



We can see it everyday on the floor here. Operations cut out entire crews that prep mail and then can't figure out why the automation equipment is not producing what it once did ! Mail is not getting out to the stations or just sitting in the plant for days due to mismanagement of staffing! I understand budgets, but Phoenix is growing and so is the mail volume. That means we need more TRAINED people at all levels. Including management.

So, what else have I seen.....how about the fantastic BCS machines that came in from L.A.? Did you know that the contractors had to blow out RAT mess from one of the machines? Did you know that cables were cut in half instead of disconnected? How about that a lot of the connecting plates were sheared off? No? Then how about this.....because of the state of the equipment, there was a FOURTEEN THOUSAND dollar charge to put them back together !! I don't hold the contractor to any blame, this cost was due to the horrid conditions these machines are in ! Then we are going to convert them to OSS BCSs and then, *get rid off them* ! (Last word anyway !) I really hope these machines end up somewhere that needs them, or this is going to be such a big waste of money ! I also hope that WE don't keep them 'cause these things are in real bad shape !

How many times have we found delayed mail in the building? How many times have we seen mail being destroyed in the machines? How often are safety issues going to be ignored? How clogged up with mail does it have to get? How bad is it going to get before upper management REALLY commits to fixing a very broken system?..... I was just wondering.