

# The Tainted Eagle

## PROLOGUE

On November 14, 1991 a tragedy occurred at the Royal Oak post office. Five people lost their lives in the shootings in Royal Oak, Michigan, a small Midwest town, which would inherit the distinction of developing the media paraphrase “going postal”. Besides five people losing their lives, another five were seriously injured and over a hundred employees went into a state of shock.

The media zoomed in on the tragedy, illuminating each TV station with pictures of doom, gloom and the human frailty of emotions. It gave them a local story that would be beamed across the airwaves through national news stations, and focused in on the pain of others. This is what the media was all about, the more signs of heartache the better the story. Each reporter attempting to get anything from anyone, truth, lies, it didn't matter, they could wallow in this for days to come, releasing any tidbits for higher ratings.

No matter where you were they were there pressing a camera or microphone in your face to hear anything. Asking all sort of ridiculous questions, each reporter trying to get the inside on this or that. The more dirt, the better the story. Of course the shooter had to be despondent, even to some part crazy. Who would do such a thing? No person in his or her right mind could carry out such a horrible act. What was he like? Is it true he made threats? The Postal Service began making false statements as soon as they could to down play their part of the crime. Hours went by and the cameras kept filming, capturing everything they could on film. EMS, police, injured bodies being taken from the building, they jammed the rear parking lot of the post office getting in the way of employees trying to move around to talk to each other.

November 14<sup>th</sup>, an unusually warm and sunny day was a complete opposite in contrast from the despair that was in the hearts of many. The employees who had evacuated the building were scattered all around, across several streets from the post office. They were talking amongst each other, with postal patrons, business owners and those passing by, gazing in disbelief. Only a small fragment of information was being piecemealed to the press by those involved in attempting to stabilize the scene. For the longest time the fire evacuation buzzer pulsated within the post office. It had been tripped and sounded with a deafening tone resonating until finally turned off.

The postmaster had secured himself in an office with two other managers, safeguarding him from any harm and refusing to admit anyone.

Once the Royal Oak police had secured the building, employees were told to go to the front lobby and in the front of the post office to await instructions. It seemed like hours until we were moved in single file over to the VMF (Vehicle Maintenance Facility) to be questioned by postal inspectors and to await any further information. As we arrived we began gathering in small groups of people. Less than fifty feet away, the postmaster and his staff were chatting and eyeing the groups of employees. The hate, which met his glance, was easy to see, we felt so much contempt for these bastards who had created the “hell” within the Royal Oak post office.

Eventually the media got around to writing about the autocratic management style, that had allowed the supervisors to manage in threatening mannerisms to create havoc, but ultimately used to get the productivity numbers. Even then the majority of the articles in the papers for the first few days revolved around the background of Thomas McIlvane rather than the reasons behind the tragedy.

These managers whom had been in charge of the Royal Oak District, had already been involved with a “murky past” concerning their autocratic management style. There had been a GAO (Government Accounting Office) investigation on these same postal managers in the late eighties concerning charges that had been brought against them.

How is it that the postal service sought to take a problem manager and his team from one hot spot to another? This same “gang” from the Indianapolis, Indiana area was mentioned throughout the 1987-1988 Indianapolis GAO Investigation. Ultimately the same charges that were brought against them before were being investigated in Michigan, due to the problems at the Royal Oak post office. This investigation transpired from October 1990–October 1991.

These charges stemmed from EEO violations, disruption of service to the public in cuts, and last but not least, harassment against the workforce and lower level managers. Those whom allowed these individuals to escape from the turmoil they created in Indiana, were all well known politicians of that era. People like Senator Dan Quail, Congressman Richard Lugar and Congressman Frank McCloskey. These Indiana politicians had umpteen complaints brought to their attention by letter carriers from the “Speedway” Indianapolis post office.

In fact a letter carrier, Jon Sipole, documented grievance records along with signed statements, showing the type of autocratic management style that was present in Indianapolis. This material was sent to the GAO committee that was conducting the investigation, to use as further evidence. This way there could be no denial on management’s part to the allegations. Unfortunately, the GAO committee completely ignored this material altogether. It was as if they didn’t want to use these grievances as evidence. By not using them, it showed that the elected officials were not that serious about making waves within the post office, and not really concerned enough to hold anyone accountable. It makes you wonder just how serious elected officials are at protecting workers from hellish conditions created by government agencies such as the post office.

So this is how it all was allowed to transpire. This was the “out” that was handed the Postal Service. Rather than hold specific managers accountable, they let them walk. There were some of the Indiana Congressional staffers that were astonished that nothing at all happened to those pompous bastards, but there was nothing they could do.

During this period the Royal Oak post office was a rough labor management area. Daniel Presilla, who was known to go to extremes to get the numbers came to Royal Oak and was awarded the post master-ship. No one from the national union, who had dealt with Presilla, let anyone know what was in store for the workforce. Daniel Presilla had friends in high places, one such being Jerry Lee the Postmaster General of the Central Region. In the early eighties, Presilla had been the head of Latino operations up in Washington, D.C.

With all these factors on his side, he could do as he pleased. He had a loyal following of thugs that surrounded him while he held his position in Indianapolis. These managers showed an allegiance to him and by doing so could do anything they wanted, no matter how extreme, as long as they got the productivity. His group, which he brought one by one up to Royal Oak were joined by an already established group of managers who operated in the same “thug” manner as Presilla’s group. These managers fit perfectly in the new administration and the head of these alleged malcontents was a William Kinsley. Kinsley had a reputation of being a bully and having a wide range of managers who were loyal to him.

These managers had the same type of mentality, which was “rule by fear”. This meant harass and threaten any individual whom they had a problem with be it a manager or employee. Those in charge were going to do what they wanted, when they wanted, and to whom they wanted. It was the old method of divide and conquer. The more you targeted specific people the more you caught those around off guard.

Once the shooting took place the background of these unscrupulous tyrants began to surface. This material gathered on these managers and conditions, and events that took place, made those investigating the tragedy for Congress, open their eyes to the real world of the Postal Service. This is the information that wasn’t allowed to be released by the Congressional investigators, the Postal Service or anyone else.

That is what this book will bring forth. The material the public had kept from them. No one has yet told all of the intricate and involved connections between different levels of the Postal Service that condoned the conditions that plagued the Royal Oak District and that were allowed to lead up to a tragedy.

There have been a few books written on postal shootings, and have included the Royal Oak post office shootings, but these books have been written by people who took newspaper articles and material they could get from normal resources in order to “sensationalize” the tragedy. Most of the time using wrong names, dates and other misguided information to put together what I would consider “trash” in order to build on the sentiment of the sick terminology “going postal” was supposed to be all about.

In contrast, this book tells it like it is from someone who was there and dealt with those involved in this event, which was avoidable. For the last eleven years, I have investigated the Postal Service and Postal Inspection Services findings on the shootings, and in doing so I've questioned many of the alleged facts and proven them lies. I have attempted to get Congress to reopen this investigation due to material I have found in my search for evidence that the Inspection Service has conveniently lost, and documentation that the Postal Service doesn't want made public in a reopened Congressional Investigation. I have interviewed postal inspectors and have lodged innumerable labor charges against them for not turning over material pertinent to my investigation.

I had hoped by now to get cooperation from those different federal agencies to get the investigation reopened, but I have been stonewalled once too often. That is why I have decided to write the truth, a non-fiction, in your face verbal documentary of what has transpired in my investigation on this tragedy. If this is the only way to get it out, then this is what it takes.

I have inserted in this book specific documentation at the end of each chapter pertaining to material mentioned within the chapters.

**This is the introduction to "The Tainted Eagle." Within 30 days the book should be copy written and sent to publisher. Anyone wanting to contact the author Charlie Withers, Royal Oak steward, can contact him at (248) 546-7179.**