

Area post office under fire before shootings

By Greg Kowalski
staff writer

Months before the shootings that left three dead at the Royal Oak post office Thursday, Rep. William Broomfield, who represents most of Oakland County, had called for an bi-partisan investigation of the U.S. Postal Service.

And much of the basis for his action, Broomfield said, stems from complaints from customers and employees of the Royal Oak postal service center which distributes most of the mail for Oakland County.

"My constituents write almost daily to me and the local newspapers about the mail. A common theme prevails — something is rotten in the Royal Oak (post office)."

Broomfield (R-Birmingham) said he had gotten "an earful" from constituents about rising postal costs and declining postal service. They're fed up, and they have a right to be."

In addition, management and policy decisions have disrupted services

and depressed employee morale.

BROOMFIELD SENT A complaint to the comptroller general last month focusing specifically on the Royal Oak distribution center. And, as first initiated on Oct. 9, he will meet Monday with the General Accounting Office specifically on the Royal Oak situation.

"These postal problems require a narrowly focused investigation by a body unrelated to the postal service, Broomfield said. He added he is seeking an independent audit of the Royal Oak office because it can operate independently and ease employees' fears of reprisals.

"Some postal employees are hesitant to discuss postal abuses because they fear retaliation," Broomfield said.

"What makes (the complaints) incomprehensible to me is that many of them are being raised by postal workers themselves. In my experience, I have found the postal workers I have met to be some of the

most service-oriented, thoughtful people I know," Broomfield said.

According to reports, the man who did the shooting at the post office, Tom McIlwaine, 31, had been fired last year for swearing at a supervisor. On Wednesday, after 15-months of arbitration, he was told his firing would not be reversed. Thursday morning he came back to the post office on 11 Mile Road east of Main

and opened fire, killing four, wounding seven and then killing himself.

Last July Broomfield sponsored a House resolution calling for the establishment of a commission to investigate the postal service.

"During a three-year period in which the Postal Service reported a loss of \$1.4 billion, the Postal Service awarded \$20 million in bonuses to 97 percent of its high-level man-

agers," Broomfield said.

Broomfield also said that the Postal Service has implemented slower standards for delivery of first class mail, raised rates and eliminated senior citizen express service in many areas.

FOLLOWING THE SHOOTINGS, Michigan Democratic Sen. Carl Levin and Rep. Sander Levin, D-Southfield, issued a joint statement about the "large number of complaints from the customers and employees of the Royal Oak postal facility."

They said: "After meetings with postal service officials did not resolve these problems, I and other members of Congress personally brought these complaints to the attention of U.S. Postmaster General

Anthony Frank on Oct. 10.

"The Postal Service provided us with an interim verbal report last week and acknowledged management problems in the Royal Oak operation."

"While nothing can justify the violence that wreaked such havoc on so many lives . . . the Postal Service has to face up to the fact that it has serious issues which must be dealt with on an urgent basis," according to the Levin.

In a related statement, Broomfield said "this incident, like the many others that have preceded it, points up the need for stricter controls on the sale of firearms."

"We can't let America become a shooting gallery for any nut with a gun."



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

U.S. Postmaster General Anthony Frank met with local postal officials and media Friday, addressing concerns raised by the fatal rampage at the Royal Oak post office on Thursday.

Sale \$79 cleans a sofa and loveseat



To keep your upholstery its true color, call Hudson's custom cleaning service. For only \$79, we'll clean any loveseat and standard sofa up to 7 feet long. We'll determine the procedure, and detergents best suited to clean your furniture, including delicate dry-clean only upholstery at no extra charge and leather furniture at special prices. We can even apply 3M Scotchgard® and DuPont Teflon® to help your upholstery resist soiling and staining in the future.

Also find similar savings on carpet cleaning. Our deluxe 2-step method cleans moderately to heavily soiled carpeting and our steam cleaning process cleans lightly soiled carpeting. We also have special prices on area and Oriental rug cleaning.

Call 948-0001, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for an appointment. Sale ends November 30.

Rooms over 250 sq. ft. and combined living/dining areas count as two or more rooms. There is an additional charge for sectional and modular pieces of furniture and certain types of fabrics.

HUDSON'S

County families needed to host foreign students

Oakland County families are needed to house high school students who will be arriving in January from Brazil, Argentina, Germany, France and Spain to spend five months studying in an American high school.

These boys and girls (ages 15-18) need families to welcome them into their homes. All have studied English for at least four years, have full medical insurance and enough mon-

ey to cover their personal expenses. They are participants in an exchange program of the American Institute for Foreign Study Scholarship Foundation.

Fun-loving families, with or without children of their own, can become host families. Call Lynne Levenbach at 313-453-8652 or 313-453-6851 or Scott Willson at 1-800-322-4678.



TO...BUY,SELL, FIND
PLUG INTO O & E CLASSIFIEDS

At Somerset,
you can shop and shop,
and never, never ever drop.

THE
Somerset
COLLECTION

Complimentary valet parking.

Big Beaver Road at Coolidge, Troy Mon-Fri 10-9; Sat 10-6; Sun 12-5



SEE THE
NEW YOU!
CROWLEY'S
PRESENTS
**THE
REVLON
COLOR STUDIO
HAIR IMAGING SYSTEM**

Exclusively At Crowley's Livonia

CROWLEY'S
COME TO QUALITY VALUE & SERVICE

PAINTING

"All Home Repairs"

• Drywall Repair • Carpentry
All Insurance Work Accepted

Low Prices/Licensed

15 Years in Business

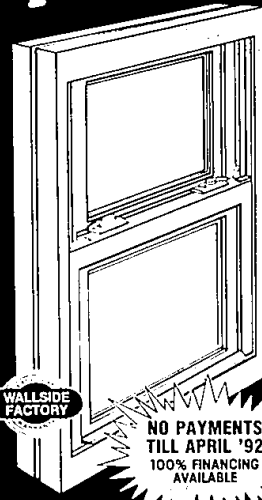
"The Best"

Ask Our Customers

PROFESSIONAL HOME SERVICES

355-2046

Wallside **W**indow **F**actory
**Don't let our low
prices fool you!**



**ENERGY EFFICIENT
VINYL REPLACEMENT
WINDOWS
AS LOW AS**

\$199 PER WINDOW
INSTALLED
(5 Window Minimum Order)

✓ **QUALITY:** Wallside's vinyl replacement windows with Ford glass insulate like wood, retain their beauty like coated aluminum and perform smoothly in any weather. Yet, won't scratch, pill, rot, corrode or mildew.

✓ **SERVICE:** For over 47 years, we have manufactured and installed our quality replacement windows and backed them with the strongest guarantee in the industry.

✓ **SAVINGS:** In order to manufacture and install thousands of windows every year we purchase large quantities of materials at volume discounts and pass these savings on to you enabling us to sell windows for less.



15830 Schooner
Detroit, MI 48227

**For A Free No Obligation
In-Home Estimate
WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD!**

LET US
PROVE IT... **272-4400**

Wallside **W**indow **F**actory
Factory & Showroom, FREE No Obligation In-Home Estimates

TOLL FREE
1-800-321-7800