

**NEITHER RAIN NOR SLEET; HOW ABOUT BUDGET CUTS?**  
**January 13, 2004**

Those of us who are patrons of the Thendara Post Office received holiday greetings from the management. We are asked once more to expect less service from one of the most outstanding examples of a bloated government agency.

At the same time we are continually and regularly forced to pay more for less. Yes, I said forced, because it is the biggest monopoly in a nation that has several laws prohibiting monopolies and unfair trade practices.

The greetings read: "Due to Severe Budget Cuts, Effective 1/1/04 This Office Will Be Open From 10:00 – 12:00 Monday – Saturday. The Lobby Will Remain Open. Sorry For Any Inconvenience This May Cause."

It would be a commendable decision if not for the fact that this is only the latest in a succession of compromises the patrons of this facility have been singled out to endure. In an effort to find out who made the determination and the basis for the action, I was directed to the Director of Operations for this area.

A Mr. John Pelleny from the Syracuse Office holds that title and I, along with others, asked for answers. I was informed that the decision emanated from the Old Forge Post Office under whose jurisdiction Thendara falls. He more or less opined that he was powerless to countermand the order. When queried as to just what his job was and what his title implied, his responses were very vague.

On the local level, his position was clarified as being one of eminent retirement, which greatly influenced his decision. In other words, he will be long gone before the dust settles.

Failing in any attempt to get any kind of reasonable explanation as to why Thendara is yet again being asked to sacrifice further, many and I will look elsewhere.

The following are a few of the questions we want answered:

- Why are the postal patrons south of the bridge over the Moose River and as far as the bridge over the Moose at McKeever being treated as second-class citizens?
- Why do people north of Old Forge rate daily delivery?
- How can the postal service justify mail delivery on the Fulton Chain of Lakes for seasonal visitors?
- What was the rationale for deciding that the schnooks in Thendara would be the ones forced to bear the brunt of budget cuts? Was it because we took the other sanctions without a whimper?
- How can we be asked to put up with less when we are getting far less at it is?

The announcement apologized for any inconvenience it may cause. It will be a real hardship for many. The time frame imposed impinges on scheduling other necessary daily functions and appointments.

Our present regular postal clerk is without question one of the most dependable, able and efficient employees the service ever had. It is unreasonable to expect her to do the same volume of work in one third less time. It's impossible.

We are attempting to right what is an obvious wrong. A petition is to be circulated and mailed to the Postmaster General, and to our Congressional and Senatorial representatives.

We feel this decision is capricious and not based on a fair or reasonable basis. We are simply asking that that be done. We ask all those concerned who feel the same way to join us.