Knightdale Post Office

On May 29, 1908 an office of the U.S. Post Office was opened in Knightdale, with James M. Ferrell as the first postmaster.   A list of all postmasters follows:

Name	Title	Date In	Date Out
James M. Ferrell	Postmaster	~1908	
Joe Horton	Postmaster		
G.C. Purkerson	Postmaster	1915	1920
Bennett Wall	Postmaster	1920	1941
Myrtle Wall	Postmaster	10-20-1941	12-13-1959
Yates Neville	Postmaster	12-14-1959	4-14-1961
Bailey Williamson	Postmaster	4-15-1961	8-25-1961
Billy Rand Faison	Postmaster	8-26-1961	6-11-1964
Jasper Grady Douglas	Acting Postmaster	6-12-1964	8-5-1964
Jasper Grady Douglas	Postmaster	8-6-1964	6-30-1987
George Bridgers	Officer-in-Charge	7-1-1987	10-9-1987
Rockey A. Hester III	Postmaster	10-10-1987	6-30-1992
Willie C. Mullins	Officer-in-Charge	7-1-1992	9-9-1992
Linda Carter	Officer-in-Charge	9-10-1992	2-5-1993
Arthur S, Case	Postmaster	2-6-1993	2-17-1994
Ben Bullock Jr	Officer-in-Charge	2-18-1994	5-24-1994
Graham G. Horton III	Officer-in-Charge	5-25-1994	10-4-1994
John W. Friar Jr	Officer-in-Charge	10-5-1994	9-1-1995
John W. Friar Jr	Postmaster	9-2-1995	11-12-2000
Ricky T. Rook	Officer-in-Charge	11-13-2000	5-4-2001
David N. Humphrey III	Postmaster	5-5-2001	9-3-2002
Gloria Parker	Officer-in-Charge	9-4-2002	1-28-2003
Shamra Braswell	Officer-in-Charge	1-29-2003	9-9-2003
Claudia James	Officer-in-Charge	9-10-2003	3-21-2004
Angelyn Eldridge	Officer-in-Charge	3-22-2004	7-12-2004
Jasper L. Crawford	Officer-in-Charge	7-13-2004	10-15-2004
Andrea D. Gaukler	Postmaster	10-16-2004	

The first post office was built in the area which is now Main St and Second Ave.

The railroad began service in 1907 and the mail came in on the train. If there were no passengers for Knightdale, then the train kept moving and the mail was tossed out of the mail car and left for the postmaster to come and pick up.

In 1925 the driver on the rural route traveled about 35 miles per day and delivered to about 190 families on this route. William A Wilder Sr. assumed this route after brother Robert N. Wilder who had the route died. William had previously delivered mail on foot in Raleigh for 18 yrs, and was now the fifth rural deliveryman on route 1.

In the 1940's the postal service was handled out of the old drug store on First Ave. and the service was Fourth class with 1 rural route. All mail was hand canceled at this time.

The post office remained at this location until 1948 or 49 at which time it was moved to the Bank building, also on First Ave.

In May of 1948 Lizzie Curry, nee Wilder began a 23 year long service to the post office. She was working in the building which was housed in a Lawyer's office, between Robertson's store and Finch's Barber Shop.   She retired in 1971 and had 2 retired brothers and 2 working brothers that all worked for the postal service.

In the 1950 to 52 time frame a new building was built on First Ave to house just the post office. This building was sponsored by Dr. R.R. Weathers, who practiced in town from October, 1926 to June, 1958.[Which]

During the Mid 1950's the last load of mail was received from the railroad delivery at the depot. Mail had also been shipped out each night at 6:00 pm via the railroad.

In April, 1961 the post office moved to a new building, also on First Ave. [Which]

When the rural route driver retired in 1965 he was driving about 69 miles to cover his route. A route that for years had been driven on mud and snow covered roads. This made it necessary for a shovel to be a standard item in the postman's mailbag, so to speak.

During the year of 1975 another new building was being built to house the post office. This construction was taking place to front on Smithfield Rd. and the corner of Railroad St.. The new building was occupied by the postal people during the year of the Centennial, 1976.

This was the first Post Office to designate the Knightdale zip code, 27545.

During the nearly 21 years of service to the town this building became overcrowded   The present building on Mc Knight Dr. went into service on December 19, 1996.

In the time between the 40's and the late 60's the number of postal boxes grew from some 200 to 400 or more.   The late 60's brought on an increase in the number of rural routes from 1 to 2, and an increase in the number of internal workers in the post office.

Today is 10-14-2006 and I spoke to the local route person, she told me that we now have 11 routes of which number 11 will cover all of the townhouses that are under construction at the front end of Widewaters division.

Sources.
1. This article is extracted from many newspaper clippings and other documents.
2. Betty Schmeidel a past postal worker.

Wayne Schulz