

10 things I've learned ...

as a letter carrier
in Newnan

As told to Elizabeth Richardson, Photo by John Beck



Scott Horne, 52, has been a letter carrier for 34 years. He spent 19 of those years delivering mail on foot from his mail satchel in downtown Newnan. Horne, along with all of the other carriers, now works from the post office on Postal Parkway. Horne and his wife, Marsha, have two children, Maggie and Jackson (named for the street downtown).

(1) There's nobody that knows more about Newnan than your mailman. A carrier represents the post office, the city of Newnan and the U.S. Government. **(2)** I deliver happy mail, sad mail and bills, but personal mail is on the decline. Other types of mail, like junk mail, are on the upswing. You used to be able to tell when somebody was having a birthday and you could knock on their door and sing "Happy Birthday" to them. **(3)** If you're on a route long enough, you almost become a part of their family. I'm delivering to second generations now. **(4)** Downtown was more of a family atmosphere with a lot of clothing stores and hardware stores. You could get everything you wanted right here at the Court House. Carnegie Library still should be a library. **(5)** The demographic has really changed. There's a greater diversity of families from different cultures and different races. I think it's time for that. **(6)** People are more serious now. Thirty years ago people were just more laid back. **(7)** You become a counselor almost. You know when people are divorcing. You know when people have adopted kids. You can't take time to get involved, but you can listen for a minute and then go on about your business. **(8)** The job has changed a lot. It's not as fun as it used to be, but that may be because I'm older. There are more rules and regulations now. Thirty years ago it was a smaller town and a smaller post office. **(9)** Relationships with people have not changed. If you treat people with respect, you will get it back. I had to knock on doors to use the bathroom at one time, and there were people that had me water sitting on the front porch as I did my mail route — and that water would be there every day. **(10)** I still love to drive down the tree-lined streets. That hasn't changed. The essence of this town hasn't changed, just the things we're selling. **NCM**