

Lewis Miller earns special award from postal service

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Liberal Postmaster Bob Burtzloff, left, reads a certificate presented with a plaque to Lewis Miller last Thursday at the post office. L.B. Miller Farms has been contracting mail delivery service for many years, and Lewis himself has been doing so since 1958. Burtzloff presented the plaque to Lewis for doing “Above and Beyond” service, one of a select group to receive such an award every year from the U.S. Postal Service. L&T photo/Robert Pierce

Miller has been a local private contract mail hauler for 52 years

By ROBERT PIERCE • Leader & Times In the U.S. Postal Service, mail delivery service is provided by either city carriers, rural carries or contract carriers.

Contract carriers are not USPS employees, but rather independent contractors who provide service on specific routes. One Liberal man has now been offering that service to area communities for more than five decades.

Liberal Postmaster Bob Burtzloff presented a plaque to Lewis Miller Thursday evening for doing an “Above and Beyond” job contracting mail. Burtzloff said every year, a few contractors of the postal service do such a job.

“I contacted Denver and recommended L.B. Miller Farms for the award,” Burtzloff said.

He said Miller has been a contractor driver since 1958.

“He used to haul out down by the railroad here,” the postmaster said. “He contracts to haul mail from Liberal to the towns in the Oklahoma Panhandle and Liberal to Amarillo.”

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Miller said his dad began hauling mail with L.B. Farms, and the son took over the contract in 1958.

“We gradually got bigger and bigger and just kept hauling,” he said.

Miller said the company runs three routes every day to many communities, and thousands of miles, across the region. Miller said the three routes are for Kenton, Okla., Beaver, Okla., and Amarillo, and each has several stops.

“We went to Dodge City, Amarillo, Perryton. I go from Liberal to Kenton every day, Elkhart, Boise City,” he said. “I catch Guymon at night, Texhoma, Amarillo.”

According to the USPS, service provided by contract delivery is equal to that provided by either one of the other delivery types. Contract suppliers not only deliver all classes and types of mail to customers' mail boxes six days per week, but they can also sell stamps and accept special services mail, such as certified mail, registered mail and insured mail, and sell postal money orders. Customers can also take advantage of carrier pickup on contract delivery service routes.