

Open new home for Jarvis Post Office

By Jack Kindred
Staff Writer

JARVIS — No definite date has been set for the official opening of the new Jarvis Post Office.

Postmaster Larry Scarr said the formalities should take place sometime early in the year but construction workers are still involved in minor finishing touches.

The new post office was needed to handle the growing volume of mail being handled through the service here. Mr. Scarr says the number of pieces of mail going through the local facilities now is far greater than in the past.

A recent survey of mail volume conducted at Jarvis revealed that an average of 17,104 pieces of mail stream through this post office during a five-and-a-half day week. "This can vary with the distribution of catalogues and flyers," the post master said.

In other areas the survey revealed an average of 638 people visit the post office each week to ask for mail alone. Another 260 require postage and an average of 17 make general inquiries.

These surveys are conducted every four years at all post offices to establish an office grade for funding purposes.



Mildred and Bill Addison of Jarvis sort their RR 3 mail at the Jarvis Post Office before hitting the road. The Addisons deliver rural mail six days a week. (Times Staff Photo)

Besides those who rent mail boxes at the post office, the local service facilitates 120 general delivery customers as well as more than 700 rural customers.

The Jarvis post office has been part of the community for 125 years, being established in 1851. Mr. Scarr is the 12th post master here.

He arrived in March,

1970 after spending some time in the post office at Tobermory.

There are still a number of descendants of former postmasters who have remained in the area.

C.W. Shannon was the first postmaster here in 1851 and held that position until 1860. James Sill managed the service for the



A lot of work is involved in getting mail sorted for final distribution at any post office. Mrs. Faye Walker, employed at the Jarvis Post Office, sorts mail into mail boxes. (Times Staff Photo)

following 10 years. In 1870 Robert Sill took over duties here followed by Mrs. Urina Sill who was postmaster from 1880 until 1890.

James Noble, Albert Morgan Williamson, Edward Jones, and Morgan Clune Williamson were others.

In 1950 Stanley George Burdette took over the post office and remained until 1969. David Blythe was acting postmaster here from Dec. 1969 until Mr. Scarr's arrival.

The two full time employees along with two part-time and a pair of rural route carriers begin their

day's work at 7:30 a.m. Mail is sorted by nine most days and wicket service begins at 8 a.m.

Mail is broken into three categories. Mail boxes, general delivery and rural routes. A further breakdown separates mail for local and area businesses who have a large volume of mail.

The Jarvis post office may not be a large operation but to the people of Jarvis and area it's an important one.