



**By Carolyn Lee**

***The Imperial Republican***

“It takes a lot of cookies to get me through the Christmas season!”

That was United Parcel Service (UPS) man Roger Siebrandt’s laughing comment about delivering packages this time of year.

The most rewarding time of year for his job is Christmas, “watching the kids when I deliver a package.”

Siebrandt is a familiar sight in Imperial. For about 10 years he’s been the main UPS man driving that big brown truck in Imperial and the surrounding area.

Prior to that, he was on a Trenton-Stratton-Culbertson route. Before that, he delivered in the McCook-Cambridge-Wilsonville area.

Siebrandt has always worked for UPS. While in high school in McCook, he began working as a preloader and washer at age 18. That means he stocked the trucks.

At that time, a printout was given to the driver, noting the stops he had to make. The truck is packed so the first packages off are nearest the front door of the truck.

Now, a computer gives him the town of, say, Imperial, on a loup. He runs the same loup every day, and the computer shows him stop by stop.

Siebrandt, 48, leaves McCook about 9 a.m. CT Monday through Friday, making his loup and returning by 7 p.m. CT. He has to be back by then, as the next day air or international packages have to be processed and loaded on an airplane.

The UPS man said UPS is a good company to work for. “You have to hustle but the benefits are really good,” he noted.

When he began working for UPS it didn’t even cover all of the United States. Now it delivers to over 200 countries.

UPS has over 400,000 employees who help deliver an estimated 400 million packages between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The rest of the year about 15 million packages per day are delivered.

The peak day is Dec. 21, when an estimated 22 million packages alone are delivered.

“Christmas can get ugly,” Siebrant laughed about the volume.

But, he loves the job.

“It keeps me pretty busy. I appreciate how easy it is to work with people in this area. I hope to be here until I retire.”

Siebrandt and his wife of 20 years, Marti, have two children—Kelsey, 15 and Megan, 13. They built their own home in McCook about 18 years ago, doing all of the work themselves except the framing.

If there are two things the UPS man would suggest to customers, they are:

Tape the bottom of the packages. Siebrant said he uses a lot of tape shoring up sagging cardboard.

Put your house numbers in plain sight if you're a rural customer and want quality delivery. Keeping those cookies coming wouldn't hurt, either.