

[Page 87 - Charlie MacDonald, Taxicab Driver](#)ISSUE : [Issue 52](#)

Published by Ronald Caplan on 1989/8/1

just pulled up at the hotel and got them. Big able men, you know--commanders, about 40 years old. Two colonels. Army. And got in the car, "You're a little late, driver." I said, "Yeah." And the other fellow, the Navy man said, "No! They can't send that plane away. They've got to have us, anyhow." That was how much they had to say, you see. "They can't send the plane away without us." So anyhow, I get over to the post office. And pull up to the back door. The night man was always there at the door--he knew when I was coming. And hand me the mail and I'd sign the slip and go. Well, I thought it'd be only a half a minute, you know: pull in, he'd be at the door, open it and sign it and go. God, I got up to the door, and nobody there. So, I jumped out. And one fellow said, "Is this the post office you're supposed to get your mail?" I said, "Yes." I banged and kicked the door. Nobody. I went around to the big windows. The mail then was in big bags, you know. Air Canada's bags, you know. There were probably 30 or 40 in a pile there to go to the train at 6 o'clock, you see. God darn, here was the night man asleep up on the mail bags. And I couldn't get him awake. So, I came back. I said, "He's asleep there on the mail bags," I said, "C'lo? nel." The fellow in the front, I said to him, the Navy man, I said. "I'll have to go and phone the airport that I can't get the mail because the man is asleep." He said, "You can guarantee he's asleep?" I said, "Sir. come over here and look in the window--you'll see him. sleeping on the mail bags. And my mail, that we should have, in his arm." He said, "Just a minute, driver." He came back, grabs the door. He went with his shoulder like that, three times! By God, he broke the lock and window and everything. So, the fellow inside got scared. He thought it was a robbery, you see. So he got down off of the pile of bags, and he threw my mail bag on the floor, and he went and he hid. tried to come out to the upper end of it. It was the old post office then. He was scared, you see. So I saw the mail bag. and the colonel came in with me. He said, "Is that yours? Blue bag?" I said, "Yeah: Sydney Airport-- Moncton--Halifax." I took it. Went. And the slip was on the floor, and I signed it. Went. And God darn. Going out to the airport, where the tram tracks were running then-- where they crossed the road at the airport--they went out--this is the highway going out. Tram tracks were on this side, then she had to cross over to get on this side. And she stopped at the airport, and let the people off and on, you know--the workmen and the Army and Navy. They were training out there. So. Here, by God, there was an accident. Steelworkers coming in to work. And the fellow that--it was slippery--it was a little slippery, but not that bad. He hit him from the rear. And the old cars then, you know--curtains. The door sprung open and he fell out, and the other fellow's car ran over him, and killed him. He fell to the bare pavement, you know--not pavement, but the frozen road. And he killed him. Well, damn it, he blocked the road--the dead man. You see? So I came, and I couldn't touch that dead man, I couldn't get around him. And the people, the steelworkers behind him--they were coming up behind and they said. "Don't touch that man! Don't touch that man--he's dying." Or waiting for an ambulance to go to the hospital. "Don't touch him," So the colonel said, "Touch be damned." He said,



"We've got the mail. Mail must go "THrlitcJIUi. • Computerized Wheel Balancing  
 • Alignment & Brakes • Complete Road Service • Shocks 539-5670 265  
 PRINCE ST. • SYDNEY ilKiioclrteh brunswick- Best Western Clapmore Jnn  
 and Conference Centre ANirGONiSH, N. S. (902)863-1050 Indoor & Outdoor Pools /  
 Sauna / Hot Tub / Licensed Dining Room & Lounge Golf & Tennis Courts: 5 Minutes \*  
 Adiaent to Antiaonish Shonninn Mail -"A ""??" y' Celebrating 'S'nnlrn f" '??a"s ol  
 savings ' r jUUILU V at our Sydney River> DEPARTMENT STORES ' LOCatIOn  
 CAPE BRETON SHOPPING PLAZA - SYDNEY RIVER MAYFLOWER MALL - GRAND LAKE  
 ROAD - SYDNEY PORT HAWKESBURY SHOPPING CENTRE Woolco will meet any  
 local competitor's advertised prices\* 'OTHERS SAY IT... WOOLCO GUARANTEES IT!  
 Just bring in any Competitor's current Ad. If our price on the identical item isn't  
 already as low, or lower than their advertised price we will immediately meet their  
 price! We exclude gimmick promotions (Scratch & Save), & entire Department,  
 entire Store percentage off Promotions. We reserve the right to limit quantities.  
 USE OUR CONVENIENT LAYAWAY PLAN