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Postal retirees admire Quinn's statue

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Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



POSTAL RETIREES ADMIRE QUINN'S STATUE

By HAMPTON DUNN

NALCREST --- The bronze statue of an old-fashioned postman is the central figure in the town square of this community. And that is most appropriate, because Nalcrest is the retirement village built especially for retired postal employes by the postman's union, the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) and the initials are the first four letters of Nalcrest.

Nalcrest sits just off State Road 60, some 10 miles east of Lake Wales, on the highway that leads to Yeehaw Junction and to the Florida Turnpike.

The statue is that of Richard F. Quinn, who lugged the mail around Philadelphia for many years in the late 1800's. He's the organizer of NALC and served as its first president from 1881 to 1895.

A natural leader of men, Quinn was immortalized in the handsome bronze statue that shows off his moustache and his sun helmet with a batch of letters in his left hand.

They tell you around here that the monument originally stood in front of the William Penn Post Office Annex in Philadelphia for 25 years or more. After that they rebuilt the old post office, and for a long while the statue of Ol' Quinn disappeared.

The bigger than lifesize statue was resurrected by one of the prominent leaders of the letter carriers, who later moved to Nalcrest when it was first developed back in 1963. William. C. Doherty located the statue in an attic in 1942, at the time he was president of the letter carriers. He was instrumental in having Quinn's statue reerected in Philadelphia, and finally brought here.

