

## **Mailed With Love**

**By: Hope**

Donny woke up one morning overjoyed! "It's Valentine's Day", he exclaimed! Valentine's Day was Donny's favorite holiday. He just loved the idea of celebrating love. So he got up, got dressed in his uniform, and drove to the post office. He was so excited to see all the envelopes in shades of pink and red! But he also had a secret because he was carrying envelopes in pink and red himself.

You see, Donny had been a mailman for many years and he loved the thought of giving out sweet cards to all the people he delivered mail to. That was something else about this sweet mailman. He was really good at his job and he loved it! He was always talking to the people at the homes where he delivered, asking their names, petting their pets, and just making small talk. He also had a very good memory and could remember names quite well! He just genuinely made you feel like you were cared for!

Another reason why he loved Valentine's Day was because it gave him another excuse to spoil his wife. There was a little flower market that he went to quite often to get the most beautiful bouquets of sunflowers and roses, the favorite of his love. Unfortunately, he seemed to be under somewhat of a curse because he would always drop the bouquet of flowers, only on February 14<sup>th</sup>!

He would always show up at home very sad. His wife would always smile at him, because of course she knew what had happened and was used to it! She would always hug him and say "Happy Valentine's Day"! She would then ask him, "Did you mail all your envelopes with love today?" Donny would then smile and say "You know I did"!

## **Mr. Jacob's Zoo**

**By: Ginny**

Mr. Jacobs was a young man that loved all types of animals. His parents all his life limited his exposure to just kitty cats. That worked for a while. But as Mike grew, he wanted more adventures with animal friends. Mike was always lost in the woods where squirrels and raccoons and even skunks felt safe with him. After a while, the animals grew to be larger animals. Deer, foxes, bears and even a wolf became friendlier as Mike brought fresh foods into the woods.

Mike's parents were spending more and more money on groceries. They figured their teenage son had hollow legs and was growing into a young man. Mike began to lose interest in friends and sports. He knew one day he would have to make a home of some kind for his new pet family. Mike had to become employed to sustain the animals' grocery bill and off he went to volunteer at the Cincinnati Zoo.

Mike made a sufficient amount of money to eventually purchase some land in Adams County. His first purchase though was a huge truck and trailer to haul his friends. It was a cold February day when his farm was ready. Mike hauled his new animal kingdom to his developed farm. He even put a sign out front of the property with the name "Mr. Jacob's Farm"!

People came from miles away to see Mike's collection of animals. He began to hear from zoos around the world to donate rescued animals. Mike charged a small fee to visit his friends. One of his female employees, who were not a big animal lover, noticed this handsome boss and began to send secret Valentine's Day candy.

Mike began to find the Valentine's letters from this admirer but he never got any candy. Then, this employee noticed wrappers in the deer's pen. His friends were stealing the Valentine's candy. Ginny confessed that she was his secret admirer, and a year later, she was the zookeeper's wife.

### **The Thoughtful Librarian Plans**

**By: Brit**

The Thoughtful Librarian was sitting and thinking, "What can I do for the children this summer"? He visited a farm on the weekend for a pumpkin festival. He saw cows, chickens, and horses. He looked off to the distance and saw another animal that gave him an idea. "I can have animals of all kinds come to the library. The children would love it", he said to himself. As he left to go back to the library to plan the summer, he threw a kiss to the zebra that gave him the wonderful idea.