

WOMEN IN A MAN'S WORLD

At last count, there were 31 permanent post-women in Canada. Of these, 26 live in British Columbia, the rest in Ontario. Printed below, from Communication '71, a Post Office Department publication, are the reasons why two of them chose their career.

Andrea Bell of Vancouver had been pumping gas at a service-station until last September, when she started her residential and business letter-carrier route. She had taken an aptitude test eight months before along with 49 other applicants, all men.



Andrea Bell

She has always had outside jobs, she says. She can't stand working with women. Hates all the female "bitchiness"; also the fashion competition.

From men on the route and those at work, Mrs. Bell finds opposing reactions.

"Baby, how long will you last?" some ask her. Others will go out of their way to help her.

"Women, especially older women, are pleased to have a female letter carrier," she says. "Some of them had the job during the war, and they're glad to see the practice revived.

Women's liberation organizations had no influence on her wish to become a letter carrier. "Most of what they're saying is garbage," she said.

"And most of them aren't working with men anyway, or they'd know that most men will break their necks to help a woman. That is, mind you, if a woman doesn't adopt the belligerent attitude that I'm a female, and I'm going to show you men."

Some of her co-workers "have a sort of mental

block about women", she says. "The very suggestion of a lady supervisor is enough to make them warlike. But I'd like to move up, after a few years. And I can't see any reason why I shouldn't be able to. After all, how can they stop me if I've piled up a good record on the job? As I see it, it's strictly up to me."

A QUESTION OF ALLERGY

Judy Davidson has been a "casual" letter-carrier in Port Credit, Ontario since September.

About a year ago she had to give up a promising career with a large cosmetic firm when she became allergic to hair colour ingredients.

"If I can't be a hairdresser, my second choice is a letter carrier," said Judy, who enjoys skiing, skating and baseball.

She admits that it wouldn't be a good job for the average girl. The sack is heavy and the day begins at 7 a.m. sorting letters.

However, she discounts comments like her father's "but that's a man's job".

There are advantages to the job, she says. Being a letter carrier keeps her in touch with people and you don't need a car with four free taxi rides per day to and from the route.

The 3 p.m. finishing time gives her a chance to work on a Grade 13 correspondence course and assist a group of young children with whom she is involved.



Judy Davidson