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LOCAL

Gifts found buried in snowbanks

By JO COLLINS MATHIS
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Dave Berger has been doing some good eating these past few days – no thanks to his local postal service.

On Friday, Berger received a call from a man on Ann Arbor's west side who had found a package addressed to him stuck in the snow on Jackson Road. He found Berger's name in the phone book. Inside was a smoked salmon Berger's brother sent from California.

Berger figures it fell from a mail truck, and he said he's just thankful someone took the time to make sure he got it.

Meanwhile, Berger's mother, who is in Florida, kept asking if he'd received his cookies.

"No sign of them," he reported to her surprise. She'd sent them priority mail.

Well, on Monday, when Berger shoveled the snow from in front of his garage in northeast Ann Arbor, he found the box of (frozen) cookies. The deliverer apparently left the box by the

garage door in between snowfalls.

"I don't want to hammer the post office, because I know they're doing their best," said Berger. "They're trying to get a lot of stuff delivered. But I'd like to let people know if they didn't get a package they were expecting, maybe they should go on a scavenger hunt."

Ann Arbor Postmaster Tim Inman said carriers are typically very careful about leaving parcels with their customers, and he's heard no complaints. He said anyone who thinks a package has been lost should wait 15 days for priority mail, and 30 days for standard mail (parcel post), then fill out a "mail loss and rifling" form. In many cases, the sender fills out the form.

"A lot of parcels may still be coming; they're just caught up in the bottle-necks with all this weather we've had around the country," Inman said. "This weather's been terrible for us."

Staff reporter Jo Collins Mathis can be reached by e-mail at jmathis@annarbornews.com or at (734) 994-6849.



Dave Berger holds up the container of cookies from his mom that he found under the snow after shoveling. In a strange twist of fate, another of Berger's Christmas packages was found in the intersection of Jackson Road and Huron Street in Ann Arbor by a motorist.

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