Erectly poised by his mail wagon is Ludger Chatelain. He was the first rural carrier of Mansura, La., says James T. Lannigan, community leader of Mansura. Lannigan says Chatelain started with the U.S. Post Office Department in 1904, the year this photograph was taken.

The horse-drawn mail wagons were few in number compared to the numerous vehicles of today. Just recently, the Post Office Department added 3,745 mail delivery vehicles—new automobiles—to be used throughout the country.

Mansura, founded in 1860, is a small community (population 1,500) in the central part of Avoyelles Parish.