

Private letter service ends

Lobay hangs up mail bag

By GEORGE JACUB

Tribune Staff Writer

Bruce Lobay, the 22-year-old entrepreneur whose one-man postal service drew the ire of post office authorities last week, has gone out of business — he is unemployed again and looking for work.

Mr. Lobay voluntarily folded his letter-carrying operation after being told in no uncertain terms by the post office that what he was doing was illegal.

Even if he had not done so, Mr. Lobay said in an interview, his customers had informed him that because they did not want him to get into trouble they would no longer use his service.

Mr. Lobay expressed no bitterness at what happened.

"I'm grateful I wasn't prosecuted," he said.

Looking to the future, he said he plans to deliver school notices telling students what classrooms to report to in September. He already has an agreement to do this for Milles Macdonell Collegiate — he did it last year and this gave him the idea for his mail delivery service. He said he will try to extend this service to two other local colleges.

This job is only for a couple of weeks, however, and it won't begin until the last week in August.

For that reason, Mr. Lobay is looking for a permanent job.

He went to Manpower Tuesday and to the Post Office Monday (to apply for

an inside job, not as a letter carrier; he was told they did not make "special cases.")

He applied at a large suburban department store. He found his notoriety had preceded him and he was told "We were wondering if you were coming in."

Mr. Lobay has, however, received two calls from private business expressing an interest in meeting him. There have been no firm job offers yet.

Mr. Lobay expressed mild surprise at a media coverage his story received. He was a bit disconcerted to find himself labelled a "radical letter-carrier" in a Thunder Bay newspaper headline, and wondered why his tale ranked equal coverage with the "major news stories such as Vietnam."