

Palm Beach Stamp Club Newsletter



December 2025

Modern Christmas trees originated in Central Europe and the Baltic states during the Renaissance of early modern Europe. Those 16th-century origins are sometimes associated with Protestant Christian reformer Martin Luther, who is said to have first added lighted candles to an evergreen tree.

During most of the 1970s and 1980s, the largest decorated Christmas tree in the world was put up every year on the property of the *National Enquirer* in Lantana, Florida. This tradition grew into one of the most spectacular and celebrated events in the history of southern Florida but was discontinued on the death of the paper's founder in the late 1980s.

Please welcome new club members Ruhullah Izadyar, Alan Spurling, and Dave Townsend!

Regards, Michael Swope

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Scott #2515

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Meetings: 1:00 p.m.
2nd & 4th Tuesdays
Kingdom Buffet
4335 Lake Worth Road
Lake Worth Beach 33461

www.palmbeachstamp.club

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If you attended our club's West Palm Beach Stamp Show on November 1st you should recognize the U.S. Postal Service cancellation that was designed by postal staff specifically for the show. President Kaye was especially pleased with the cooperation and attention to detail provided by postal employee Michelle Inman.

Kaye also noted that the show was very successful. The Embassy Suites facility was fantastic, and staff were very helpful. Dealers reported being very satisfied with sales and looking forward to our club's Spring show. Most attendees reported they enjoyed the show.



President Kaye said 21 club members attended the November 11th meeting at Kingdom Buffet, where club member Keith Lichtman made a presentation on "specialty collections" and plate numbered coils. Kaye

confirmed that our club's Spring show is scheduled for March 21st and will again be at the Embassy Suites Hotel.

Our November 25th meeting at Kingdom Buffet was well attended and postal service public relations specialist, Michelle Inman provided a final opportunity to obtain our stamp show cancellation mark. She also discussed new stamp issues. Our Treasurer, Harry Clifford, was celebrated on his 89th birthday.



Upcoming Events:

Club meeting on December 9th at the Kingdom Buffet Restaurant, 1:00 p.m. A decision to have a meeting on December 23rd will be decided at the December 9th meeting. Also, a final decision will be made regarding the moving of our clubs meeting day to Thursdays.



FLOREX 2025, Florida Stamp Dealers Association and the Central Florida Stamp Club's stamp show at the Volusia County Fairgrounds in DeLand, Friday and Saturday December 5th & 6th, 10 – 5, 10 – 4. This is a "World Series of Philately" event.

December 14th, Second Sunday Stamp & Coin Show at the Azan Shrine Center, Sunday 9:30-3:00. Melbourne, 32935.

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Goodyear in Paradise

Juan L. Riera



The souvenir cover at left commemorates the 1983 Goodyear Blimp base dedication at Pompano Beach, Florida on January 21, 1983. The cover is franked with the “Flag over Supreme Court” 20¢ postage stamp, Scott #1894. Even though the Goodyear Blimp is an iconic symbol, many are not aware of its history in south Florida.

Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company built hundreds of dirigibles, or airships, throughout the 20th century. The vast majority have been for the U.S. Navy, and some have been for the company’s own commercial use - mostly advertising at athletic events. Airships are usually referred to as either Zeppelins, which have an internal rigid structure, or as Blimps that do not have a rigid structure and take their form by the bags that contain the lighter than air gas. There is also a third category referred to as semi-rigid that has a small rigid structure, much smaller than a Zeppelin.

There was a hostile takeover bid for Goodyear in 1987 that caused the company to sell its subsidiary, Goodyear Aerospace, ending its manufacturing of lighter-than-air craft. The last blimp built was retired in 2017. Beginning in 2014, Goodyear replaced its fleet of three with semi-rigid airships manufactured by the German aerospace company, Luftschiffbau Zeppelin. Although technically incorrect, Goodyear has chosen to continue using the term “blimp” for their airships.

The only passengers allowed on these “blimps” are corporate guests and members of the press. Corporate guests have included the pole position winner for the Indianapolis 500 during the period when Goodyear supplied tires for the race, the winner of the All-American Soap Box Derby World Championship while Goodyear was a corporate sponsor, and during the blimp’s 100 anniversary celebration (in 2025) three U.S. residents won an opportunity to ride the Goodyear Blimp. In addition, while one blimp was based on Miami’s Watson Island between 1930 and 1978 during the winter, the lease agreement stipulated by the City of Miami required limited passenger tours.

Watson Island is a man-made island from the dredging of the Port of Miami and was deeded to the City of Miami in 1919 with the restriction that it was to be used exclusively for municipal or public purposes. Originally named Causeway Island for the Causeway that connects Miami to Miami Beach that crossed the island. During World War II the name was changed to the MacArthur



Causeway in honor of General Douglas MacArthur and the island was renamed Watson Island in honor of Miami Mayor John W. Watson, Sr., (1859-1942). A Goodyear Blimp base was located on Watson Island from 1930-1978. Goodyear moved operations to the Opa-Locka Airport after failing to agree to terms with the city of Miami for the leased property.

Glenn Curtiss (1878-1930), having retired from aircraft development and manufacturing in the 1920s, began a second career in Florida as a real estate developer. In 1926 he founded *Opa-tisha-woka-locka*, a native American name that was quickly shortened to Opa-Locka. In late 1925, Curtiss moved the Florida Aviation Camp from Hialeah, another city founded by Glenn Curtis in 1925, to a piece of land west of Opa-Locka and surrounded by the Opa-Locka Golf Course. Curtiss donated this land with a small airfield to the City of Miami in 1929, which donated a surplus hanger from Key West. The Field became known as the Municipal Blimp Hanger, which the Goodyear Blimp began using in 1930. What became of this facility and its use by Goodyear Blimps is unclear to me at this point. I presume all Goodyear Blimp activities transferred to Watson Island.

In 1928, Curtiss donated land two miles south of Opa-Locka for Miami's first Municipal Airport, to which the Curtiss Aviation School later moved from Biscayne Bay. I believe that this now non-existent airport is the one Amelia Earhart flew out of for her unsuccessful around the world flight. A larger area to the east of the airport was developed during the 1930's as All-American Airport. After Curtiss died, his estate transferred a parcel of land north of the golf course and the Florida Aviation Camp to the City of Miami. This third parcel of land and facilities became Opa-Locka Airport.

Finally, the Goodyear Blimp Base was established in January 1983 at a section of the Pompano Beach Airport. With that, nearly a century long tradition continues between Goodyear Blimps and south Florida.

North of the Arctic Circle

Walter Koster

In August 1929, Canada Post announced the inauguration of airmail service along the Mackenzie River from Fort McMurray, Alberta, to Aklavik, Northwest Territories, north of the Arctic Circle. Aklavik, formerly a Hudson's Bay Company trading post, had become the administrative, medical, and religious center of the region, as well as the Western Arctic headquarters of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Before the introduction of airmail, communication with the rest of Canada was only possible by steamer along the Mackenzie River in summer, and by dogsled along the frozen river in winter.

The Post Office identified 12 intermediate stops along the 1,676-mile (2,697 kilometer) route and separate cachets were created for service between Fort McMurray and each of the stops. Most covers were cancelled at Edmonton on November 26th, the originally intended inaugural date and then sent by rail to Fort McMurray, which was the northern terminus of the railway from Edmonton.

Starting on December 10th, a team of Commercial Airways pilots began shuttling mail as far north as possible and returning cancelled mail south. They flew without radios or heated cabins, often through heavy rain, fog and blinding snowstorms. On Christmas Day the temperature dropped to -60°F. The first flight reached Aklavik on December 27th.

Featured here is a Roessler designed First Flight Cover (FFC), created to announce service from Fort McMurray to Fort Chipewyan. The cover is addressed with the green printed graphic: "Inaugural Flight North Western Territory", flanked by "Fort McMurray to Fort Chipewyan" in vertical lettering, with pencil strike-through on "Chipewyan."



The official Post Office cachet is printed in black. The cover is franked with Canada's first air mail stamp, the 5¢ brown olive "Winged Figures over Globe" (Scott #C1). Front postal marking includes "Edmonton, ALTA, 8am, November 26, 1929" circular date cancel and a seven wavy line machine cancel. *The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland* identify a Fort McMurray to Fort Chipewyan cover as #2967.



The cover reverse provides an explanation for the strikethrough. The circular date cancel reading “Fort Simpson NWT Dec 10, 29” clearly identifies receipt of the cover at Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories, on December 18th, 1929, meaning that the cover traveled 500 miles (805 kilometers) from Fort McMurray to Fort Simpson, NWT, rather than the

intended 146 miles (236 kilometers) from Fort McMurray to Fort Chipewyan, Alberta. Upon receipt of the cover at Fort Simpson, the postmaster simply used a pencil to apply a strikethrough over “Chipewyan” on the face of the cover. *The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland* identify this Fort McMurray to Fort Simpson cover as #2967f.

References: Cover from Author’s collection.

The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland, Published through Sponsorship of the Canadian Aerophilatelic Society and Auspices of the American Air Mail Society, <https://www.americanairmailssociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/AMCN1-complete.pdf>

Aerodacious, Canadian First Flights, Canada First Flight Index, <http://www.aerodacious.com>

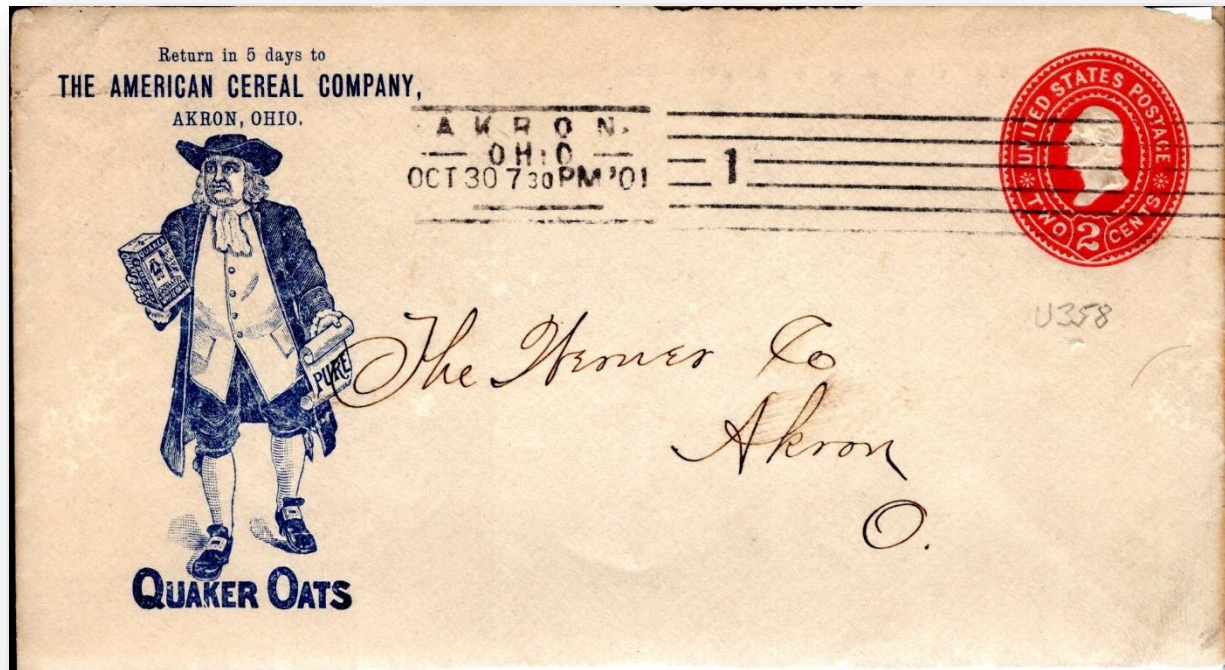
The Philatelic Database, <http://www.philatelicdatabase.com/postal-history/canadian-first-flight-covers/>

A Christmas Poem on postcard, by Henry VanDyke



QUAKER OATS

Keith Lichtman

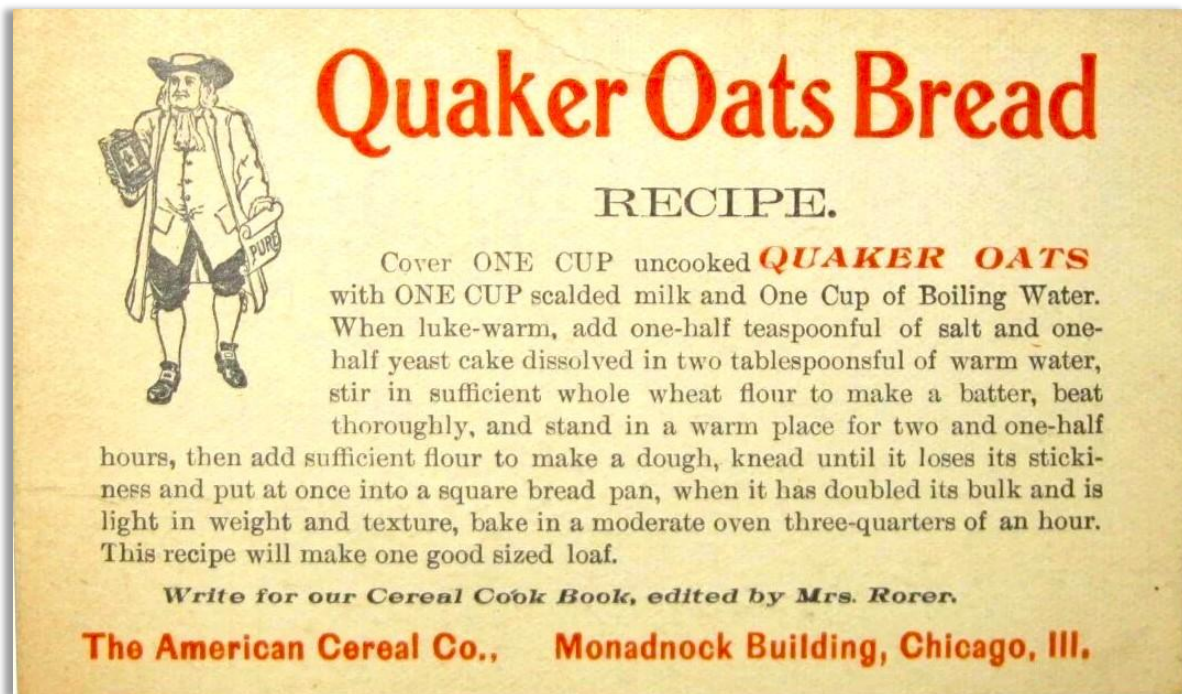


Shown above is a stamped envelope advertising cover (Scott #U362) for The American Cereal Company, soon to become the Quaker Oats Company. It was postmarked at Akron, Ohio, on October 30, 1901, at 7:30pm.

The Quaker Oats trademark was registered in 1877 by Henry Parsons Crowell, an Ohio milling company owner, who in 1891 joined with two other millers, Robert Stuart and Ferdinand Schumacher to create the American Cereal Company. In the late 1890's conflict broke out between the three investors. Schumacher forced out Stuart and Crowell, but they both returned and ejected Schumacher in a proxy war. Quaker was producing oat and wheat cereals, hominy, corn meal, baby food, and animal feed. Crowell was president of the company until 1922 and then succeeded by Stuart's son John, who presided for 34 years, working with his brother R. Douglas Stuart, a promotional genius. An historical timeline is presented in the Quaker Oats Company website:

- 1850-Ferdinand Schumacher founds German Mills American Cereal Company in Akron, Ohio. At the same time, John Stuart established the North Star Mills Company in Canada.
- 1877-Quaker Oats registered the first trademark for a breakfast cereal, "a figure of a man in *Quaker garb*. Two former owners, Henry Seymour and William Heston, claimed to have selected the Quaker name as a symbol of good quality and honest value.
- 1881-Henry Parsons Crowell buys the bankrupt Quaker Mill in Ravenna, Ohio, and its most important asset – the brand name *Quaker*.

- 1882-Crowell launches the first national magazine ad for a breakfast cereal.
- 1888-Seven of the largest American oat millers, including the Consolidated principals-- unite as the American Cereal Company. Ounce
- 1890-The American Cereal Company runs a special all-Quaker Oats train from Cedar Rapids, Iowa to Portland, Oregon and introduces the first ever trial-size ½ ounce sample boxes of Quaker Oats. The samples are delivered to every mailbox in Portland, OR.
- 1891-The Quaker brand becomes the first brand to feature a recipe on its box (the recipe was for Oatmeal Bread).



Back of a stamped envelope with the recipe for Quaker Oats Bread, postmarked March 29, 1900.

- 1901-American Cereal changes its name to The Quaker Oats Company.
- 1908-Oat Cakes become the first oatmeal cookie to appear on the Quaker Oats package.
- 1922-Quaker introduces Quaker Quick Oats, one of the first convenience products.
- 1961-Life® Cereal is introduced in its original flavor.
- 1966-Quaker Instant Oatmeal is introduced.
- 1970-The first instant oatmeal flavor is introduced – Maple & Brown Sugar.
- 1997-Quaker brand introduces the first food-specific health claim for oatmeal, which is approved by the Food & Drug Administration. The new heart health claims appear on qualifying Quaker Oatmeal cereals.
- 2001-PepsiCo bought Quaker Oats for \$14 billion.
- 2017-Quaker celebrates 140th anniversary.

References

Our Oat History, <https://www.quakeroats.com/about-quaker-oats/quaker-history>
<https://www.britannica.com>

American Cats

Pat Hensley

The U.S. Scott #2372-75, 1988 22¢ Cats postage stamps were part of the “American Cats” series issued by the U.S. Postal Service. These stamps were released on May 1, 1988, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Each of the four stamps depict a different popular cat breed: the Exotic Shorthair, Maine Coon, Manx, and Siamese. The stamps celebrate the beauty and variety of cats, which are some of America’s favorite pets. Designed by artist Nancy Stahl, the stamps are colorful and realistic, showing the cats in natural poses that cue their personalities.



Collectors love these stamps because they highlight the special qualities of each breed. For example, the Maine Coon is known for its long fur and friendly nature, while the Siamese cat is famous for its blue eyes and chatty personality. The Manx is easy to recognize because it has no tail, and the Exotic Shorthair looks like a Persian cat but with shorter fur. These stamps help show their diversity and remind people how much joy cats bring into our homes.

National Cat Lovers Month is celebrated every December. It’s a special time for people who love cats to show their furry friends’ extra attention and care. Cats have been our companions for thousands of years and are known for their playful, curious, and independent personalities. During this month, cat owners might buy new toys, share cute photos, or donate to animal shelters. It’s also a great time to learn more about how to keep cats healthy and happy through good food, regular vet visits, and lots of love.

Many animal organizations use National Cat Lovers Month to help more cats find homes. Shelters often hold adoption events and share stories about cats waiting for families. People who already have cats can celebrate by spending more time with them or teaching them fun tricks. Whether you have one cat or many, this month reminds everyone how special cats are and how much joy they bring into our lives.

References: Cat stamps from the author's collection; Mystic Stamp Company. "U.S. #2372-75 1988 22¢ Cats." <https://www.mysticstamp.com/Products/United-States/2372-75/USA/>; Linn's Stamp News. "1988 22¢ Cats Stamps." <https://www.linns.com/>; National Today. "National Cat Lovers Month – December." <https://nationaltoday.com/national-cat-lovers-month/>; Cat Fanciers' Association. "Celebrating Cats All Year Long." <https://cfa.org/>.

Christmas, Florida

Michael Swope

On December 25, 1837, a force of 2,000 United States Army soldiers and Alabama Volunteers arrived in (now) Orange County, Florida (Orlando), to construct a fortification in the Second Seminole War. They appropriately named it "Fort Christmas".



The Christmas Post Office opened in 1892, and every year since, it receives a large amount of mail to be forwarded from people who want the "Christmas" postmark on their holiday mailings. Shown above is a souvenir Christmas, Florida, cacheted cover, franked with the rose-carmine 3¢, Grand Army of the Republic issue postage stamp (Scott #985), CDS cancelled at Christmas, Florida on December 25, 1949.



Shown at left is a souvenir Christmas, FL, cacheted cover which bears , the 4¢ Christmas Wreath (Scott #1205); the 5¢ National Christmas Tree stamp, (Scott #1240); a 5¢ Christmas se-tenant block, (Scott #1257b); a 5¢ Angel (Scott #1276); the 1966, 5¢ Madonna & Child, (Scott #1321); and, the 1967, 5¢ Madonna & Child, (Scott #1336).

Ref: Covers from Author's collection; Wikipedia.org