

The Cover Story by Randall Priest

There's a NEW Stamp Club in Sanford! In fact it is so new it does not have a name, yet.

On January 13, 2010 Sarah and I met with a group of after school students to introduce them to Stamp Collecting. The teacher, Kathy Alexander is a stamp collector, and wants to learn more.

So out of our presentation came the idea of starting a Club for those who would be interested. Out of a group of about 20 kids, about half of them have asked to be a part of the stamp collectors. We set a meeting for February 10th to get started. We have also met in March. At the March meeting we learned about lighthouses and where they can be found. Each youth was given a lighthouse on a stamp and then asked to go to a map of the U.S. and show which state it was located. And yes that got to keep their lighthouse stamps. The pictures are from the March meeting.

Now they want to learn about the U.S. Presidents and their stamps. In April we will begin our look at U.S. Presidents on stamps.

The teacher is also having the students work with stamps in between meetings.

You will find this new Club at the Goldsboro Elementary School, in Sanford. The Club is made up of some 8 to 10 students from the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. The Club has had 2 meetings that Sarah and I have been to.

I think this is a group who will be great to work with, as they learn what stamp collecting is all about.



A Tale from the Past by Don DeGraw

This is a tale told to me by a history teacher in junior high school. I have not been able to confirm or debunk its authenticity, but if it's true, wouldn't this qualify as the very first Air Mail letter?

During the end of the 14th century, China was still repelling the invading Mongols. The Chinese, thinking that the Mongols were not the brightest pebbles on the beach, began using their "toy" rockets to cause confusion among the Mongol ranks. Imagine the surprise of the Chinese when the Mongols began making their own rockets, but for a far more advanced reason. They used them to communicate with Mongol field commanders with written instructions and orders wrapped tightly around the rocket tubes. Then the Mongols shot the messages over the heads of the fortified Chinese, into the hands of the invading Mongol commanders.

Did it work? Who knows. Is it true? Consider the source, Mr. Hirbine was also known by us kids as Mr. Hairbrain.

[Editor's Note: A couple of minutes on the Internet, did not confirm this story --- true or false.]

Phillip's Corner by Phillip Fetting

Today my trip around Florida takes us to Orlando Municipal Airport, Herndon Airport, Orlando Executive Airport, Fashion Square, Colonial Plaza, Naval Training Center Orlando and Baldwin Park. I could keep adding names of places if I remembered them all, but in the end it is all Orlando Air Base!

Orlando Municipal Airport opened in 1928 on a large track of land north of Lake Underhill. In 1940 the U.S. Army took control of the land as part of the preparations for World War II. On September 1, 1940, Orlando Army Air Base was activated for the purpose of training pilots. In 1942, part of the training was moved to another base built south of Orlando to help ease the training load. This new

base might be the subject of another article someday – It was first named Pinecastle Army Air Base and then followed by McCoy Air Force Base, Naval Training Center Annex and now, Orlando International Airport. But, in the meantime back to Orlando Air Base.



In 1946, the airfield and most of the land was turned back to the city. Much of the base housing became Public Housing, located towards downtown Orlando. Moving North, the land became shopping centers and stores. A storage and work area

remains today behind the Target and Herndon Office Buildings. It is mostly vacant and is the site of a major pollution problem. That left the main support area which remained as Orlando Air Force Base – the “Base without an Airfield”. In the 1960's this area became Naval Training Center, Orlando which served as the Navy's 3rd Recruit Training Command (“Boot Camp”) until the 1990's. The area is now residential and known as Baldwin Park. If you look, you can still find a few reminders of what this area once was. Figure (1) is a cancel from Orlando Air Base. Figure (2) is a postcard view of the main gate to the base taken during WWII. I strongly believe this gate was at the intersection of what is now Maguire & Corrine.



[Editors note: I have called Orlando home since the fall of 1977, and I believe that the location of the main gate is correct, as my memory also seems to be of the same.]