

The American Legion & Aviation Development in the 1920s – 1930s

Part III of III by Phil Fettig

Argo Airfield is the subject of the dedication cover postmarked August 4, 1929, shown in figure (on front cover 5). The airport was in Alliance, OH but the nearest post office was in Youngstown, thus the cancel. An aircraft factory was established later and remained through several ownerships until the 1940's. The factory still existed with another product line into the 1990's, but the runways are hard to locate in photos today.

Figure (on front cover 6) shows an airport dedication cover with both involvement of the American Legion and Chamber of Commerce from Oakdale, CA. The cover, postmarked May 4, 1930 has a nice cachet along with a rubber stamp and official's autograph from the COC. Oakdale, both then and now, is a major agriculture processing center. I drove through there on my way to Yosemite National Park a few years ago.

Colusa Airport in Colusa, CA is next up with figure (on front cover 7). The airport remains open while the town's main business, railroading, certainly has declined. The really interesting thing with this cover is did you notice the address of the recipient? The Eola Stamp Company of Sanford, FL. I have not been able to track down any details regarding that dealer.

Figure (8) shows a dedication cover for the Moultrie, GA Municipal Airport postmarked November 11, 1934. While no direct reference is made to the American Legion, the nature of the cachet mentioning Armistice Days leaves little doubt there was some patriotic influence involved. Around 1890 several naval stores and turpentine processing plants were established in Moultrie. That also required a lot of lumberjacks to cut the trees down. Once the trees were cleared out, that business was finished but then farming took over and is still a major factor today.

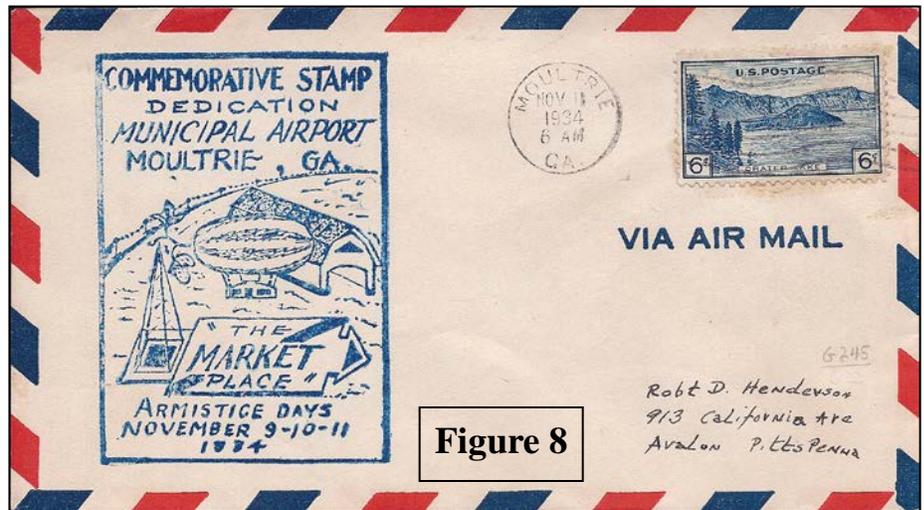


Figure 8



Figure 9

June 16, 1935, was the dedication date for Adrian Michigan Municipal Airport as shown in figure (9). In addition to the cachet indicating the American Legion and Chamber of Commerce, the cover also has an autograph from a "cachet director". That sounds like a stamp collector might be involved! At one point, very early in the 20th century, Adrian was home to 3 automobile manufacturers, making this location the leader in the United States. Unfortunately a fire destroyed

a number of buildings and over 200 cars -- and that industry moved up the road to Detroit.

Well, that's about enough for now on this subject. Wait a minute you ask? I didn't mention flying the mail except for one small note? Well, you are right – that is a subject for another day!

[Editor's Note: Part I appeared in the April Newsletter and Part II in the May issue.]

Buying on eBay Should Be Fun

By Mel Borofsky

I remember when a short walk from my home in South Philadelphia to the stamp store at Gimbels department store at 9th and Market was a weekly venture. That was back in the 1940s and early 1950s. Then in the 1980s a coin and stamp store opened up in a local strip mall, it lasted about three years. After that the availability to purchase stamps became very much hit and miss. Not belonging to a club such as the CFSC certainly didn't help.

Technology and the World Wide Web (commonly called the "internet") have changed all of that. This week I visited a stamp store in Blenheim, New Zealand and last week I visited a store in Rapid City, S. Dakota. All of these visits were, of course, to dealers and individuals who list their wares on eBay which has brought the stamp stores of the world to my computer's keyboard.

Buying on eBay is convenient and fun but there are certain pitfalls to avoid and certain limits to place on your buying activities. Namely:

1. After locating a specific philatelic item you desire, set a limit to how much you will spend on that item. Think as if you spotted that item at a stamp show, our CFSC Bourse or through a dealer with whom you have established a relationship. Make your first and only bid that specific amount. Sometimes you may achieve a "bargain" by paying less than your limit for that item, but that should not be your goal.
2. Do not be encouraged to up your bid, as eBay will suggest after every bid you make. Stand your ground.
3. Do not get involved in a bidding war. You never know who you are bidding against, legitimate or otherwise. Do not pay more for an item than the limit amount you established with your initial bid.
4. If you are overbid, calmly walk away and go to another purchase. I'm sure the item you "lost," unless it was an exceptional rarity, will come up for sale again.
5. If you purchase more than one lot from a seller, request a "combined invoice" before making your payment. Even if the seller did not offer such an option. The initial invoice you receive from PayPal will include the shipping and handling for each item you purchased. Wait for the combined invoice on eBay before making your payment.
6. If the seller does not offer a combined shipping cost for the multiple lots purchased you can send an email to the seller, via eBay, stating your desire for combined shipping costs. You can mention the possibility of and an unfavorable feedback report (unreasonable, excessive shipping costs).

Bottom line; have fun visiting a stamp store in Tel Aviv, Prague, San Juan or even Orlando via eBay.

[Editor's comments: I credit eBay for my return to organized philately. My collecting genes turned on as a child of 8 – a rather unfocused one. I accumulated whatever caught my attention. I was drawn to U.S. classic but could not afford them on lawn mowing dollars! First day covers, plate blocks and new issue sheets (circa 1970s) became part of my hoard. Higher education and of course my beginnings in the working world, all contributed to put stamp collecting on the back burner. In 1998, after carting this "stuff" around for 25 years – I became a new eBay member with the expressed goal to sell it all and move on. So much for that goal! I realized quickly that I still loved the hobby – and all I had to do was dump the stuff I no longer found interesting and focus on those things that really made me a collector.and that was exactly what I did – it took me about 4 months to sell off the "stuff" and then I started in earnest to acquire quality U.S. Classic material. I still collect plate blocks, some postal history and First Day Covers – of specific issues – I am focused and know what I like and what I want. If it had not been for eBay -- I am 100% sure I would not be involved as I am today. I agree whole-heartily with all of Mel's comments, especially since one of my first sales on eBay was to a collector in Brazil!]