

The United States National Air Mail Week of 1938

Exhibit Purpose: The purpose of this Exhibit is to showcase the various ways in which the citizens of America embraced the spirit and aspirations of the National Air Mail Week which occurred between May 15th and 21st 1938.

Background: National Air Mail Week (NAMW) was the brainchild of Postmaster General James E. Farley, who with the enthusiastic support of fellow philatelist President Franklin D. Roosevelt, dedicated May 15th to 21st 1938 to achieving the following four goals.

(1): **Commemoration** of the 20th anniversary of the USA Post Office Air Mail Service. (2). **Showcasing** of the progress that was being made in air transportation. (3) **Acquainting** of the regular American citizen with the use of airmail. (4) **Increasing** the general use of airmail as a means of communication.

1. Most NAMW covers were posted on the May 19th to take part in the one day only special flights.
2. Some 10,000 individual cachets were produced, each promoting their place of origin.
3. A special 6c Eagle multi-coloured stamp was issued for the occasion.



NAMW cover posted on May 19th 1938, the one day in this special week where mail was guaranteed to go air mail

Cancelled at 0830 hrs on May 19th 1938 at Black River, WI, and carried on **First Feeder Flight** to Milwaukee (Back Stamp) a distance of some 200 miles. AM 16 to Chicago (Hanford Tri-State Air Lines) & AM 7

east to Detroit (American Airlines). Special postal air mail rate of 6c paid by special "Eagle" adhesive (double the surface rate.)

Exhibit Scope & Plan

Scope of Operation: Exhibit documents the extensive use made of the US Air Mail postal services by the American citizen during the National Air Mail Week of May 1938.

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| Page 1-4 | Pioneering days in US aviation. |
| Page 5-8 | The Vision and Visionaries of National Air Mail Week. Vision, James A. Farley, President Franklin Roosevelt. |
| Page 9-20 | "They made it happen.", Postmasters, Pilots & Airlines. |
| Page 21-34 | "Methods of postage" : Special Flights, Special Delivery, Pick-Up Mail, Registered Mail |
| Page 35-80 | "The Envelope says it all." Cachets, Postmarks, Enclosures, Poster stamps, Etiquettes, Postal Stationary, Returned Mail, Commercial, Hotels, Official Mail, Insufficient Postage, International Mail, Hawaii & US Possessions. |

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| NAMW = National Air Mail Week | Rare & Important items boxed in red. |
| FDC = First Day Cover | Rates & Routes are recorded in Green. |
| FFC = First Flight Cover | AM = Air Mail (+ route No) |
| S.M = Surface Mail | RPPC = Real Photo Postcard |