

CAM 18 – Elko to Reno, Nevada

By Tom Reyman

In 1927, the U.S. Post Office Department began a plan to establish a coordinated air mail service from Chicago to San Francisco. This service would be given the designation of Contract Air Mail Route 18 or CAM 18. The carrier for this route was to be the Boeing Air Transport company. To support this new air route, the Post Office ordered 25 new Boeing Model 40 biplane aircraft. The service was scheduled to begin on July 1, 1927 from all of the cities along the 1,918 mile route.

The cities of Elko and Reno, Nevada were included in this plan. The featured cover shows that the mail was postmarked at 11 A.M. on July 1 at Elko and was received at Reno at 4:30 P.M. on the same day. The pilot for this leg of CAM 18 was John W. Sharpnack.

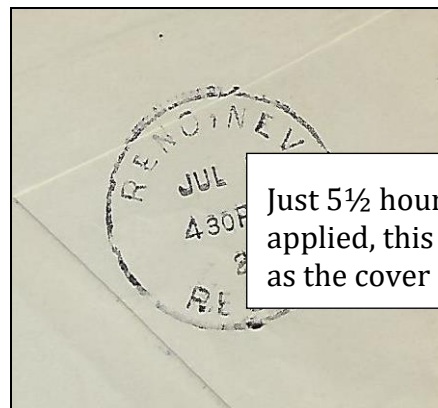
Boeing Model 40



Role	Mail Plane
First Flight	July 20, 1925
Introduction	July 1, 1927
Number built	Ca. 80



The cover was posted with the 10-cent #C10 stamp depicting the "Spirit of St. Louis" aircraft flown by Charles Lindbergh in May 1927 from New York to Paris just six weeks before this CAM 18 flight. The Air Mail Postage rate in July 1927 was 10 cents.



Just 5½ hours after the postage was applied, this receiving postmark was applied as the cover arrived in Reno.

Tom Reyman is a Nevada Stamp Study Society member whose collecting interests are U.S. FAM covers, general Air Mail covers, Canadian Semi-Official Air Mail stamps and covers, and Cape Breton (Nova Scotia) covers.

