

CAM 33 Comes to Arizona – 1930

By Tom Reyman

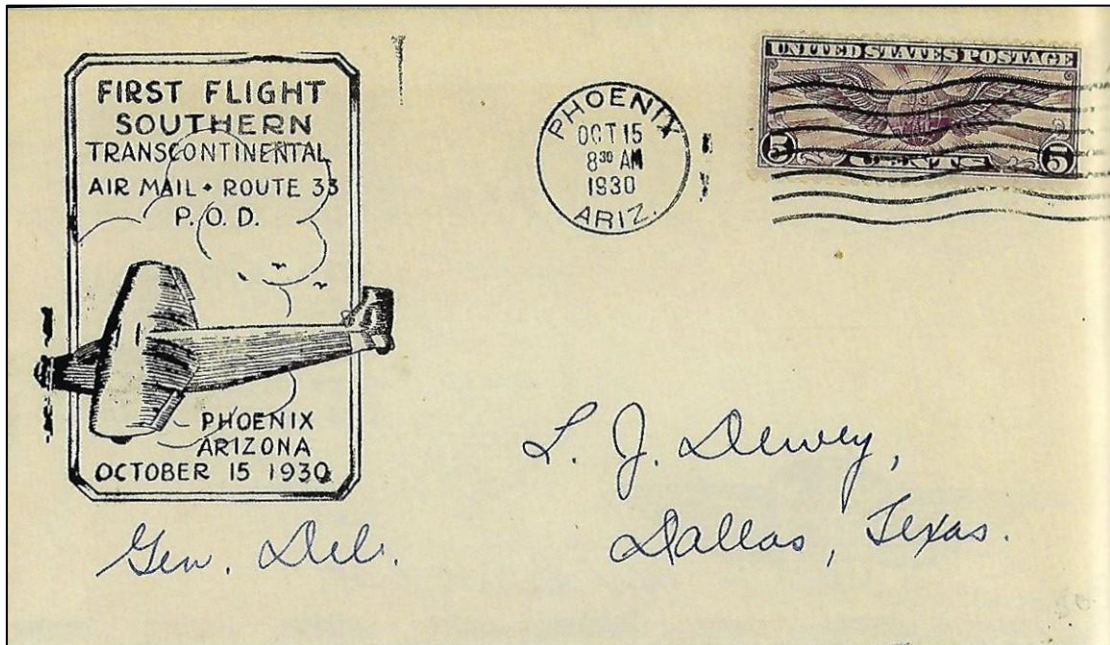
As new Contract Air Mail (CAM) routes were established by the U.S. Post Office Department in the 1920's and 1930's, the cities that received the air service celebrated the change by issuing covers with special cachets for the occasion. As the new Southern Transcontinental Route, CAM 33 was initiated on October 15, 1930 to serve cities through the southern states from Atlanta, Georgia to Los Angeles, California. Along this route were three cities in Arizona to receive the CAM 33 service – Douglas, Tucson, and Phoenix. The airline chosen for this route was Southern Air Fast Express.

These are three covers issued for the three Arizona cities and notes about each.

The city of Douglas is in the Southeast corner of Arizona. It is generally due West of El Paso, at about 300 miles distance making it a logical stop for refueling. The city was a thriving major trading city on the Mexican border in the 1930's making it a logical stop for the air mail service. This cover was imprinted with the standard winged logo of the Southern Transcontinental Route with the Douglas, Arizona insert. This is an Eastbound cover.



Tucson is an important railroad servicing center for the Southern Pacific Railroad and a hub city for the Southern part of South-Central Arizona. It was also the capital of the Arizona Territory from 1867 to 1877. The Southern Transcontinental logo was used with a Tucson insert.



Phoenix is the capital city of the State of Arizona. In the 1930's, it was a growing medium-sized town but was the center of commerce for the state. The main airport, Sky Harbor Airport, had just been constructed in 1928 and that development had increased the flow of goods and its growth as an important Southwest trade center. Phoenix produced its own cachet for this inaugural event.

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.