

Postal Card, Phoenix to Reno – 1949

By Tom Reyman

In 1949, the U.S. Post Office Department issued a new air mail contract for air mail route AM-105 to be flown by Bonanza Airlines. The subject Postal Card was stamped with a First Flight cachet that shows the route between Phoenix, Arizona and Reno, Nevada.

There are several interesting stops along the route which would not seem to be sources of much mail or passenger traffic in 1949, places like Kingman, Arizona, Death Valley, California, and Tonopah or Hawthorne in Nevada. Over the years these places have grown in population.

The Postal Card mailing itself also raises questions. At first glance, there is no address on the front and no message on the back. This is a philatelic mailing but would likely have been placed in the "Dead Letter" category.

Further examination leads to the speculation that there may have been an address label on the front which had been removed.

The location of this possible label shows only the beginning and end of wavy cancellation lines, but the card surface does not appear to be disturbed by a removed label.

Still, this is an interesting philatelic find showing an early air mail connection between Arizona and Nevada.

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.

