Sesquicentennial International Exposition
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
June 1 - Dec. 1, 1926
The Sesquicentennial grounds were located at the end of Broad Street, just above the League Island Navy Base.

The project was started in 1921, with the incorporation of the Sesquicentennial Exhibition Association.

The grounds, mostly undeveloped swampland, located in South Philadelphia, involved filling in of hundreds of acres and construction of major buildings and venues.

The Federal Government allocated $2,186,500 for participation in the Exposition, $250,000 of that grant to be used for repairs to the Naval Base, which would be open to the public.
36 Million visitors were expected during the 6 months of operation, with exhibits from 43 countries, 16 states, the Federal Government and US Military. Hundreds of individual companies also would provide displays and exhibits.

The Post Office would issue a stamp, a stamped envelope, and authorize two Contract Air Mail routes (CAM). The US Mint would issue two commemorative coins, and the US Navy would open the Naval Base to all visitors.

Pre-opening publicity brochures were produced using artist illustrations.
Pre-opening publicity included post cards inviting the nation and world to attend the Sesquicentennial to help celebrate 150 years of American Independence.
First Day of Issue – Sesquicentennial Exposition 2 cent stamp

May 10, 1926

Designed by Aubrey Huston, printed in plates of 200, issued in panes of 50. Total quantity issued was 307,731,900 – a high figure for commemorative stamps in 1926. There were a total of 92 plates utilized in this long production run.

First Day Cover using the Sesquicentennial Slogan Cancel
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
First Day of Issue – Other First Day Cities

Boston, Massachusetts

Washington, District of Columbia
Music was written
“Meet me in Philly, Billy”

Labels were printed
“Cinderella” labels were produced by a number of printers and publishers in the Philadelphia area.

This sheet of 8 stamps was produced by Craig, Finley & Co. Lithographers, Philadelphia PA
The Treasury Department authorized two US Commemorative Coins. The Mint at Philadelphia produced 141,120 Half Dollars. This coin was the first to portray a sitting US President – Calvin Collidge. Designed by John R. Sinnock.

The Mint had an exhibit in the “Government Palace” they made “Sesquicentennial Dollars” which were the OFFICIAL MEDALS of the Exposition. Struck in Copper, Bronze, Brass and Nickel. They were sold at the display. Designed by Albin Polasek.
The Post Office Department authorized the Philadelphia Post Office to utilize advertising slogan cancellation devices to advertise the Sesquicentennial. These International Machine cancels were handcut, resulting in nine variations, some ever so slight. Earliest known usage for all was May 8 (type 2), with last known usage December 29 (type 3).

**Type 1** – Thin lettering in dater dial. Wide space between PHILADELPHIA and PA. Comma after PHILADELPHIA, no period after PA.

**Type 2** – Thin lettering in dater dial. Narrow space between PHILADELPHIA and PA. Comma after PHILADELPHIA, no period after PA.

**Type 3** – Larger lettering in dater dial. Narrow space between PHILADELPHIA and PA. Comma after PHILADELPHIA, no period after PA. Second from top line of canceller is missing.

**Type 4** – Larger lettering in dater dial. Narrow space between PHILADELPHIA and PA. Comma after PHILADELPHIA, period after PA. Second from top line of canceller is missing.
Type 5 – Thin lettering in dater dial
Wide space between PHILADELPHIA and PA
Period after PHILADELPHIA, No period after PA.

Type 6 – Wide space between PHILADELPHIA and PA.
In canceller, the 1 of 1926 is slightly right of “E” in JUNE

Type 7 – Number “2” in dater dial
Comma after PHILADELPHIA and period after PA.
Second from top line of canceller missing

Type 8 – Number “3” in dater dial
Period after PHILADELPHIA. No period after PA
Sixth from top line of canceller is missing

Type 9 – Number “5” in dater dial
Period after PHILADELPHIA. No period after PA
Sixth from tip line of canceller is missing.
Commercial use of Slogan Cancells
Located on Broad Street at Oregon Avenue, the Colossal Lighted LIBERTY BELL. Illuminated by 26,000 15-watt light bulbs, it was over 80 feet high, straddling Broad Street at what is now Marconi Plaza. It was built at a cost of over $100,000, constructed of concrete, steel, plaster and wood. It was truly the fitting symbol of the Sesquicentennial – and put you “in the mood” as you continued south on Broad, to purchase your ticket…..
Admin Bldg. Located at Moyamensing Avenue at South 16th Street
Night views of the Liberty Bell were spectacular, with the 26,000 bulbs shining and the Exposition beyond.
Come with me for a visit to the “Sesqui”, enjoy the sights, mail a letter at the “Model Post Office”, see the exhibits. Visit exotic lands. Have a bite to eat, see “money” made, view the ships, watch for the airplanes and dirigible, visit the new stadium, look at the art – enjoy yourself.

Here’s your program!

Here’s your ticket!
Our Reference Map
for our visit to the Sesquicentennial

From Oregon Avenue and Broad Street, south to the Main Gate of the US Navy Base.

West from 9th Street to 22nd Street

Over 2,000 acres of Buildings, Displays and Exhibits, including the Navy Base.

45 Major Buildings
250 Pavilions, booths and stands
4 Flying Fields
25 Foreign Nations participated.

Gigantic Stadium seating 86,000 built, a pageant called “Freedom” with over 3,000 performers in the cast.

Estimated cost $26 million
Opening Day – May 31st.

Entrance Plaza at Broad Street at Packer Avenue. First day attendance was 55,509 paid admissions, plus 26,975 free admissions.

Admission was $.50 for adults, $.25 for children.

Opening ceremonies were conducted by Philadelphia Mayor (and Exhibition Chairman) W. Freeland Kendrick, US Secretary of State Frank Kellogg, and US Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover.
Let’s Go to the Expo!

Just inside the main entrance, on the west side of Broad Street, a huge Auditorium and Convention Center – with 10,000 seats, utilizing 113,000 sq. ft.

During the Exposition, there were numerous events, including 32 concerts by the Philadelphia Orchestra, 16 religious meetings, professional tennis matches, a AKC dog show with 2,200 plus entrants. A number of organizations also used this venue to hold their national conventions.
Heading South on Broad Street

Looking South from the main entrance, the great tree-lined boulevard, which extended from Packer Avenue to Pattison Avenue.

Looking North to the main entrance, you can see the huge Liberty Bell, over six city blocks away.
Palace of Liberal Arts and Manufacturing

City block long exhibition building
East side of Broad Street

Housed 200 exhibits within 338,000 sq. ft.

From simple booths to elaborately constructed displays.
Commercial Exhibits

J. B. VanSciver Co
Camden, NJ

Model of Furniture Factory
Palace of Liberal Arts and Manufacturing

International Business Machine Co.

Business Machine Exhibit
Palace of Liberal Arts and Manufacturing
Commercial Exhibits

The John Wanamaker Store

“Evolution of the American Flag” Exhibit

Palace of Liberal Arts and Manufacturing

Royal Baking Powder Company

One of the few products being exhibited at the Sesquicentennial that was also exhibited fifty years ago at the Centennial Exposition

Philadelphia 1876

Palace of Liberal Arts and Manufacturing
Commercial Exhibits

Exhibit of the Ivory Merchants Assn. of Tokyo

Palace of Liberal Arts and Manufacturing

Japan Tokyo Gabori Association

Post Card Advertisement
Palace of Agriculture

Another city block building, largest of all, with 367,500 sq. ft. of exhibition space.

Exhibited within were agricultural products and goods from around the world.
Commercial Exhibits

Santos Coffee
“Eight O’Clock” Coffee
Sold at A & P Stores

Palace of Agriculture

Fleischmann Exhibit
Palace of Agriculture
The Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company exhibit

Located in the Palace of Agriculture, a mock-up of an A&P grocery store, Containing samples of virtually every product found in one of the sales outlets.
Situated between the Palace of Liberal Arts and the Palace of Agriculture, the “Tower of Light” housed the MODEL POST OFFICE.

This was a fully operational post office, with a gallery 10 feet above the floor “behind” the counter area. A constant stream of visitors would be able to observe operations of a MODERN Post Office.
Model Post Office – Located beside the “Tower of Light”, between the Palace of Liberal Arts and the Palace of Agriculture, opened for business on May 28, three days prior to the official opening of May 31, 1926
Model Post Office “free” postcard given to patrons, who could write a message at one of the writing tables, and mail with Model Post Office cancellation.
Model Post Office Cancellations
International Machine cancels
3 different canceller dies used
during Exposition.

Type 1 – "T" in Post is over "C" in Sesquicentennial

Type 2 – "T" in Post is over space between "I" and "C" in Sesquicentennial

Type 3 – "T" in Post is over "I" in Sesquicentennial
**Model Post Office Hand Cancel Devices**

**STEEL HANDSTAMP**
- EKU – July 27
- LKU – December 1

**REGISTERED** steel handstamp with
- 4 – bars - Model Post Office
- EKU – May 31
- LKU – October 19

**STEEL HANDSTAMP With 4 bars**
- Model Post Office
- EKU – July 4
- LKU – November 30

**Oval Double Ring** with S. C. in inner ring undated

**RECEIVED**
- steel handstamp with
- 4 – bars
- Model Post Office
- EKU – July 7
- LKU – September 9
Steel with numeral postmark device

Steel handstamp with the year 1926 outside the circular dater of 25mm. 
#1 within the barred-oval canceller

Earliest Known Usage – July 27 / Last Known Usage December 1
Steel with 4 bar killer postmark device

Large dater circle of 31mm, no wording at the bottom of dater circle. Hour indicia may be in 1 or 2 lines. Four thick solid bars in canceller. Between the bars – MODEL POST OFFICE
SESQUICENTENNIAL INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION

Earliest Known Usage – July 4 / Last Known Usage November 30
“Received” Postmark device

RECEIVED at bottom of dater circle. Used as receipt device for mail to be delivered at the Exposition to Box Holders, Businesses or Exhibitors, and General Delivery addressees.

Earliest Known Usage – July 7 / Last Known Usage September 9
“Oval Double Ring” and “Registered” Postmark devices

Double Oval killer cancel used on Registered and Parcel Post items only. No Date

A unique cover, Registered, addressed to Austria, with a return address to a Post Office Box at the Model Post Office, with “Cinderella” Exposition labels.

Registered Mail Cancel
Found as a security cancel and dater on back of registered mail. Only purple ink cancels are known.

Earliest Known Usage – May 31
Last Known Usage – October 19
Mail to Foreign Destinations from Model Post Office

Post Card to Hamburg, Germany

Letter to St. Johns, Newfoundland
13 Columns lined Broad Street. Known as the “Founders Pylons” they represented the 13 colonies. Each column had the State name, along with the names of the signers of the Declaration of Independence from that state. Illuminated at night with a powerful searchlight projecting skyward, they provided a fantastic effect for that time period.
Electric powered tour buses were operated by Philadelphia Rapid Transit specially built trams in front of the Palace of Agriculture.
Broad Street Views

Left
“Philadelphia Progressive” by Charles E. Taft, who also was Director of Sculpture for the Expo. Situated in the middle of Broad Street directly between the two palaces.

Right
“STEEL” Presented to the Exposition by Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation Pittsburg, PA. Massive sculpture 70 feet high depicting the steel industry stands near the entrance to the Navy Base.
Views along Broad Street

Gardens and Façade
Palace of Liberal Arts and Manufactures
“Tower of Light” in background

Looking North
Note the size of the Palace of Agriculture and Palace of Liberal Arts
Views along Broad Street

Palace of Agriculture
Broad Street at Pattison Avenue

“Philadelphia Progressive”
with Palace of Agriculture
in background
The Louis Mark Model Shoe Factory building was located near the entrance to the Gladway. One of the distinguishing architectural features was the 10-story tower that stood above it. The company hoped that this extensive exhibit would help promote its products. As a promotional gimmick, they gave shoe horns to every visitor.
Canal Zone Overprint – July 4, 1926

Issued as part of the Sesquicentennial Celebration
Authorized issue date, July 4, fell on a Sunday, with the next day also a holiday. Not regularly issued until July 6, which is considered the First Day of Issue.
The Postmaster sold some copies and canceled some covers on July 4, for a few favored collectors

(Nathan I. Levy apparently was one)
Variation of overprint

“ANAL” variation
300,000 copies of the Sesquicentennial stamp were overprinted by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing at Washington.

Typical usage Scott Cat. 96

This was the ONLY commemorative stamp overprinted CANAL ZONE
Persia Building
Located overlooking Edgewater Lake
A striking feature was the magnificent dome complete with classic Persian ornamentation.
India Pavilion
A party bus passes the India Pavilion. Typical architectural style of the 16th century. Designed to resemble the Taj Mahal.
Sponsored by the Swedish-American Society, it was not completed until after the close of the Exposition. Still in use and serves as the American Swedish Historical Museum. Located on Pattison Avenue.
Main entrance to reception rotunda at reflecting pool had 13 colonnades, representing the original colonies. At night, the rose colored walls took on a different tone when illuminated by reflected lighting. The rotunda was lit to give impression of a glowing torch.
New Jersey Building

A replica of the Trenton Barracks first used by the British and later by the Continental Army under George Washington.
New York Building

A replica of Federal Hall, where George Washington took the oath of office as the first president. On display within were a collection of relics from the American Revolution. Located on Broad Street
State Exhibits – Connecticut

Connecticut Building

Reproduction of the old statehouse in Hartford. The dome on top of the building contained a clock manufactured by the Seth Thomas Clock Company. Located on Broad Street, across from the Stadium.
Ohio Building

A replica of the home of President Harrison, furnishings included some of President Harrison’s original furniture. At end of Expo, building was dismantled and reconstructed in Columbus, Ohio. Located off Broad Street in League Island Park.
The “Sesquicentennial International Exhibition Stadium”

Built by the City of Philadelphia, the 2 million dollar venue was to be a permanent structure.

Opened on April 15, the field was illuminated by 190 “projectors” atop steel towers, each held a 1500 watt lamp.

Occupying 13.5 acres on the east side of Broad Stet, below Pattison Avenue.

710 feet wide, 1020 feet in length 39 entrance gates but only 38 exits.
The “Sesquicentennial International Exhibition Stadium”

Events included baseball, football, track and gymnastic events, rodeos, pageants and concerts. Sept. 23 saw one of the largest crowds in the country witness the Dempsey / Tunney heavyweight boxing title match. 120,000 spectators saw Tunny defeat Dempsey in a 10 round decision. Of course, this was in the rain.

After the Exposition closed, the City re-named the building Municipal Stadium. In 1964, it was renamed John F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium. Razed in 1992 for construction of new sports venues.

A three hour pageant was held frequently titled “Freedom”, with 1,500 performers.
Franklin Trust Company – “the official bank”

Built in 24 working days, open until midnight daily
Located at the South end of Broad Street, the “Transportation Building contained US Government exhibits. The Departments of Agriculture, Interior, Civil Service, Veteran’s Bureau, Govt. Printing Office, State Department, Commerce, Panama Canal and others had exhibits in this huge exhibit hall.
Government Exhibits – Department of the Interior Post Cards

Pension Bureau with check signing machine

Geological Survey – Geologist taking notes on rock formations and mineral deposits
Government Exhibits – Department of the Interior Post Cards

Bureau of Reclamation – Elephant Butte Dam, Rio Grande Project, N. Mexico / Texas

The Alaska Railroad – Bartlett Glacier, Alaska
National Park Service – Public Camping Grounds in the Yosemite National Park

The Bureau of Education an Eskimo school girl of Nome, Alaska

These cards were given away at the various exhibits. All were printed by the Engraving Division of the Geological Survey, Dept. of Interior
A feature of the Sesquicentennial, this route was inaugurated for the duration of the Exposition. CAM 13 operated from July 6 to October 10, when it was superseded by CAM 15. Operated by Philadelphia Rapid Transit, Alton N. Parker was the pilot on both southbound and northbound flights.

Parker and George Zimmer, Director of Aviation in Philadelphia at the aviation field, located south of Pattison Avenue, preparing for inaugural CAM 13 flight.
CAM 13 Southbound flight to Washington

Departed Philadelphia at 10 AM
Covers with both Machine and Hand cancels

Arrival Washington at 1:30 PM
39 pounds of mail carried

George Zimmer, with Postal Officials, sealing first mail bag for CAM 13
CAM 13 Northbound flight to Philadelphia

Return trip cachet

Departed Washington
3 PM
arrival Philadelphia
5 PM

36 pounds of mail flown on this flight
Pilot – Alton N. Parker
CAM 13 first flight cover forwarded to Bellefonte, PA

George Hill, noted Philadelphia Air Mail enthusiast, serviced this cover to AMF at Bellefonte, PA one of the first Trans-Continental legs of the new air mail system

Bellefonte, PA backstamp
League Island Park Area

League Island pre-existed within the City of Philadelphia, and was used for several venues. Located South side of Pattison Ave.

The Palace of Fine Arts was devoted to national and international artwork. The interior consisted of 48 galleries, which provided over one mile of wall space. More than 8,000 paintings, sculptures, carvings and tapestries were on display.
League Island Park Area

Two Buildings, built in 1914, were utilized by the Sesquicentennial – these buildings still stand today.

The Boathouse was turned into a “Russian Pavilion Restaurant” Serving food and tea, it featured dancing to the Balalika Orchestra.

After the Exhibition closed, it reverted back to a boat rental facility and recreation pavilion.
League Island Park Area

The second building, the Grand Gazebo was built as a scenic overlook.
What would an Exposition be without an amusement area? Located within League Island Park was “Treasure Island.” Occupying over five acres, it was referred to as a children’s paradise. Variety of amusements and entertainment was available. Included were a replica of the Canadian Rockies, a miniature railroad, mountain slide, Robinson Crusoe’s Beach, a pirate’s lair, and Noah’s Ark complete with animals.
what expo worth its salt would not have a “elongated penny” press?
Treasure Island of course, was a business. And as usual, businesses mailed letters.

Corner card of the Treasure Island Company, which ran the concessions, mailed at the Model Post Office.

Games and Thrills were to be found in Treasure Island.

“A Bit of Cairo” area featured the Mid-East theme.
Leaving Treasure Island, we now enter the “GLADWAY” area of the Exposition. Located across Pattison Avenue, was a large general amusement area with multiple venues.

Large buildings housed attractions such as the Battle of Gettysburg, a theater experience, and Fire and Flame, a thrilling firefighting demonstration by 150 actors.

All attractions were indoors. The Gladway covered over 80 acres.
Two Cent Commemorative envelope issued July 27, 1926

Die 1 – Center bar of “E” in postage is shorter than top bar

Die 2 – Center bar of “E” in postage is same length as top bar
First Day of Issue
July 27, 1926
Washington, DC

First Day of Issue
July 27, 1926
Model Post Office
Philadelphia, PA
First Day Envelope
Mailed at Model Post Office
Correct air mail rate to Chicago
Serviced by Edward Worden

First Day Envelope
Mailed at Model Post Office
Overpaid air mail rate to Boston
Stamps show arrow line
Serviced by Edward Worden
First Day Mailed at Model Post Office Underpaid by 1 cent flown on CAM 13

First Day Mailed at Model Post Office Overpaid by 2 cents Flown on CAM 13
“High Street”, a reproduction of old Market Street in Philadelphia 1776 included replicas of 20 historic buildings. Sponsored by the Women’s Committee of the Exposition, the women made this exhibit area a huge success. They arranged programs, published booklets, acquired antique furnishings for exhibits and established information booths.
A view of High Street, looking toward the marketplace. Great care was taken to detail and historic accuracy by the architects to create the atmosphere of Colonial Philadelphia. Guides were dressed in period costume.

Three story house where Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence.

Two story house was home of Dr. W. Shippen, director general of military hospitals during the Rev. War. Shippen was cofounder of the first medical school in the USA.
“High Street”

Scene of old Philadelphia, as depicted on High Street exhibit

the OLD TUN Tavern where the first Masonic Lodge was formed by George Washington and the US Marine Corps was organized in 1775
"High Street"
The Paint and Varnish Industry of the United States sponsored a “Save the Surface” house. Demonstrating the benefits of proper application of paints and stains. Visitors were given a free ticket, and at the end of the Exposition, the winner would receive either $1,000 or the right to dismantle and move the house.
Outside Exhibits

YWCA Building

Replica of Mount Vernon, contained a cafeteria that served 302,719 people during the Expo. Second floor was a hospitality center for foreign groups.

Located at Broad Street and Pattison Avenue
Sulgrave Manor House, George Washington’s ancestral home, is located near Banbury, England. Owned by Lawrence Washington in the 1500s, the estate was known as Sulgrave Manor. The National Society of Colonial Dames planned and financed this replica built from plans of the original home. Reconstruction was architecturally correct both inside and out.
“National Home Electric”, sponsored by the Electrical Industry Association of Philadelphia. This attractive model home served to demonstrate all the “modern” conveniences that electricity could provide the average household. The completely furnished eight-room house contained electric devices, from refrigerators and dishwashers to burglar alarms. Of course the home was heated with electricity.
Outside Exhibits

Associate Fraternal Memorial
“Dedicated to Fraternalism”
The Fokker F. VII aircraft that Admiral Richard E. Byrd navigated over the North Pole on May 9, 1926 was on display at the flying field. 49 feet long, with a wingspan of 63 feet, top speed of 118 mph. Pilot was Floyd Bennett
Located on Pattison Avenue, this building had 100,000 sq. ft. of floor space, exhibits represented evolution, history and progress of education.

Numerous colleges and universities had exhibits in the Palace of Education. University of Pennsylvania had an extensive and diverse exhibit that included scientific instruments and specimens, original papers of famous men of the Colonial period, even a page from the Gutenberg Bible.
Several States (and foreign countries) had signed agreements to participate in the Sesquicentennial, but were unable to fulfill these obligations. Plans had been developed for construction, and site plans were approved.

These cards represent “what was supposed to be”

Oklahoma building scrapped due to budgetary problems

Florida building never got past the planning stage, but Florida did provide a motion picture exhibit that was placed in the Palace of Education.
Special arrangements were made to temporarily include flights to and from New York City as part of the established CAM 13 route, to connect with the regular Transcontinental Air Mail service. **TWO flights a day were scheduled.** A special rate of 8 cents was charged for mail to and from New York City.

The first flight was southbound, leaving New York City at 5 AM on September 4\(^{th}\). Mail was backstamped Philadelphia at 8:30 AM. James D. Hill was the pilot, with approximately 7 pounds of mail carried. New York Post Office applied cachet to both flights in black, both read 5:00 AM.

Philadelphia backstamp 8:30 AM arrival
New York Morning Dispatch to Philadelphia

New York Post Office used the flight cachet as a cancelling device on most all mail

17 pounds of mail carried on both morning and evening flights to Philadelphia
Philadelphia return -- morning flight to New York City

Philadelphia Cachet, applied only to morning flights, used as cancelling device

New York City backstamps, morning flight usually backstamped at 2 – 2:30 PM, Air Mail Field backstamp at 10 AM
New York evening dispatch to Philadelphia

Posted at City Hall Station, NYC, dispatched on second flight to Philadelphia using same 5:00 AM flight cachet.

Philadelphia receiving backstamp timed at 8 PM. This is only way to identify 2nd. flight mail.

This cover also received Model Post Office backstamp dated September 5th, 9 AM.
Philadelphia Evening Flight to New York City

Philadelphia did not apply the inaugural cachet to the evening mail. This cover, sent to New York via CAM 13 extension, met up with the regularly scheduled Transcontinental flight to Chicago.
USS Los Angeles visits during the National Air Races -- Sept. 10, 1926
CAM 13 Extension Flight Covers – September 10

September 10 dispatch on CAM 13 extension New York to Philadelphia AM flight.

Philadelphia received backstamp from Model Post Office Sept. 10. Last Known Date listed is September 9 in catalogue.
September 10 dispatch on CAM 13 extension
Philadelphia to New York, AM flight, with Model Post Office Cancel

September 10 dispatch on CAM 13 extension
New York backstamp morning flight from Philadelphia
Commercial Advertising Post Cards

Many Organizations and Companies utilized the Liberty Bell and the Sesquicentennial Exposition in advertising media.

Benjamin Franklin Hotel

West End Trust Company
The “Broadway Limited”, operated by the Pennsylvania Railroad ran overnight between Chicago / Philadelphia / New York City. Special excursion tickets were sold to the Sesquicentennial
La France Laundry Additive
Makes any soap (bar, flakes or powder) clean quicker and better.
“Blues as it Cleanses”

Cards depict historical colonial events
At the very south end of Broad Street, the League Island Navy Yard is situated. The original Navy Base was on an island, hence the name League Island. The water on the left has since been filled. The Naval Base was to be part of the Exhibition, with Congress allocating $250 K for repair and upgrade to the facility. The Navy displayed the USS Constellation (now in Baltimore) and the USS Olympia (still in Philadelphia) as historic ships open for visitation.
League Island Navy Base

After World War I, the Navy Yard hosted a large reserve fleet. The reserve basin on the west side of the Naval Base was home to over 100 destroyers. “Dogs of War at rest”

The Navy spruced up its grounds and buildings, building a new gatehouse and entrance. Beautifully manicured lawns and flower beds greeted visitors as they made their way to see many exhibits and displays.
League Island Navy Base

The Marine Barracks, Bldg. 100 was used to house the US Marines stationed at the Navy Yard. A prime example of Georgian Revival design. At the front was a large parade ground where the Marines drilled. Building still stands.

The Naval Hospital, built during World War I to accommodate the large number of wounded military personnel. After the war, the facility provided care to those stationed at the Naval Base. 

No longer standing
League Island Navy Base

Hammerhead Crane erected in 1917 was a long time symbol of the Navy Yard at Philadelphia. Capable of lifting 350 tons. Demolished in 1996.

The Navy Yard had 5 drydocks and was well suited for repairs on all types of vessels. Here, 11 Submarines are being modified at the same time.
League Island Navy Base

“Visit the Navy Yard” in the killer bars of cancellation used by the USN Receiving Ship at Philadelphia
CAM route 15 was original CAM 13, extended to Norfolk in hopes to bring in heavier revenue.

October 10, 1926
Philadelphia, Washington, Norfolk
Philadelphia Rapid Transit, Inc.
Pilot:
Alton N. Parker
(all flights)
Southbound Philadelphia flight to Washington
arrival 10 AM

Southbound Washington flight to Norfolk – arrival noon

Pilot Alton Parker

Pilot Alton Parker
Northbound Norfolk flight to Washington
arrival 4 PM

Northbound Norfolk flight
To Philadelphia
arrival 7:00 PM
Northbound Washington flight to Philadelphia
arrival 7:30 PM
Receiving cancel at air field,
Model Post Office backstamp

CAM 15 operated at a loss,
operations discontinued on
November 30, 1926.
The final story – a great visit

As the end of the 1926 Sesquicentennial International Exposition neared, things were not looking good. The Philadelphia Rapid Transit Co., operated the CAM route at a loss, and operations were discontinued on November 30. December 1 the Expo officially closed, and the Philadelphia Post Office stopped using the machine slogan cancellation.

A “Last Day” Cover
Out of 184 days of operations, it rained on 107 days

Out of the 36 million visitors expected only 6.5 million showed up

In early 1927 the Sesquicentennial Commission declared Bankruptcy

On the bright side the City gained a Sports Stadium, and the reclamation of the swampland used for the Expo venue made future development of that area of the City possible. A whole new neighborhood – “Packer Homes” was constructed

The mammoth Liberty Bell, constructed at a cost of over $100,000 and weighing in at 42 tons – with its 26,000 light bulbs was sold at auction as scrap for the sum of $60.00 It remained standing until finally being dismantled in August of 1927
Thanks for your attention.

Prepared for the Hamilton Township Philatelic Society
April 19, 2011

Presented by Henry J. Applegate
Member APS, AAMS, HTPS and MSC
Zeppelin Collectors Club
Navy Lakehurst Historical Society