

Do you know where Mother's Day found its origin?

How mother got her day

Today, few of us realize that Mother's Day, as we know it, has been in existence for only 74 years.

Carlton Cards recently delved into the history of this special day and uncovered some interesting facts:

-a day for honoring mothers, known as 'Mothering Sunday' was observed in Victorian England. Falling in mid-Lent, this day was dedicated to worship Mary, the mother of Christ. During this time, children working as domestics were allowed to

return to their families and visit their mother.

-Julia Ward Howe made the first-known suggestion for a Mother's Day in the United States in 1872. She suggested that people observe a Mother's Day on June 2 as a day dedicated to peace. For several years, she held an annual Mother's Day meeting in Boston.

-But it wasn't until 1907 that Anna Jarvis of West Virginia launched a widespread campaign for Mother's Day that eventually achieved national recognition and support.

-Before her death, Anna's own mother maintained that a day honoring mothers might help to bind a nation still bitterly divided after the American Civil War. Anna took on this labour of love in her mother's memory.

-Over the next few years, Anna would write thousands of letters to public officials eliciting support. Within time, state after state joined the movement. Even the normally unsentimental Mark Twain wrote, "I do not know how many more anniversaries of Mother's Day I will see, but on those that I have remain-

ing I will wear a white flower, the emblem of purity and my mother's love."

-Anna's correspondence mounted. She took a leave of absence from her job and never returned. Memorializing mother became her life and in December, 1912, she incorporated herself as the Mother's Day International Association.

-Politicians were willing to take a firm position in favor of motherhood and on May 10, 1913, the House unanimously passed a resolution to make the observance of Mother's Day official. The president and all other officials of the Federal Government were required to wear a white carnation (Anna's mother's favorite flower) on the second Sunday in May in observance of Mother's Day. And it

wasn't long after that Canadians joined in the spirit of this special day.

-Anna hoped this declaration would inspire gestures of love and affection: a card or letter to mother, a carnation in the lapel-mentos that enable 'rich and poor alike to keep the day dedicated to the being whose name is first listed by a little child and the last whispered by the dying soldier, 'Mother'.

Around the world

-In India, Mother's Day was established as a memorial to the wife of the political and spiritual leader Mohandas K. Gandhi. Celebrations are held on Feb. 22. -Other countries that observe Mother's Day include Afghanistan, Costa Rica and Spain.

Stamps by Larry McInnis

In a previous column I told you about a U.S. error that was rendered virtually worthless when the postmaster general ordered a reprinting so everyone could have a copy.

It was the 4-cent commemorative (Scott 1203) issued Oct. 23, 1962, to honour Dag Hammarskjold.

The stamp error was an invert, of colour, not of design. It was the first invert to be sold to the public since the May 1918 sale of a sheet of 24-cent airmails with the airplane upside down, now famous as the "Inverted Jenny." Amazingly enough, in 1962 another error was made, but a move to make it common was frustrated by court action.

It was not a U.S. stamp in the technical sense, but one for the Canal Zone, the U.S.-operated territory astride the Panama canal.

On Oct. 12, 1962, the Canal Zone issued a 4-cent stamp (Scott 157) to mark the opening of the Thatcher Ferry Bridge that spanned the canal.

It was printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, D.C., the official government printer.

The stamp shows a grey and black map of the Americas, spanned by the bridge, in silver.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 200, then cut into panes of 50.

One sheet inexplicably did not receive the silver printing show-

ing the bridge. Although it's known as the "bridge error" more technically it's the bridgeless error.

Postal officials of the Canal Zone caught the error, but a touch too late. Although they confiscated three of the panes, the fourth was already in the possession of Henry Ellis Harris of Boston, Massachusetts.

Harris owned H.E. Harris & Co. Inc., at the time the world's largest stamp firm. He was not a newcomer to the philatelic business, having founded his firm in 1916.

When the error was discovered, Canal Zone officials ordered 100,000 reprints of the error, to be sold to the public at its face value of four cents each.

Harris went to court, getting an injunction preventing the Canal Zone authorities from distributing the reprints.

It took two years, but Harris was finally victorious, although the outcome was bizarre.

John W. Douglas, assistant attorney general for the civil division of the U.S. justice department, ruled that of the three confiscated panes of 50 containing the error, one pane would be destroyed, one would be laminated and donated to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., and the other would be laminated and donated to the Canal Zone government.

The other was for Harris to sell, and sell it he did.

Unlike poor Leonard Sherman, who received nothing for his Hammarskjold color error, the Harris pane was broken up and sold for big bucks.

A perfect stamp today catalogues at only 35 cents in mint condition, but the error weighs in at \$10,000.

A single mint copy of the error went for \$13,500 at the April 24, 1982, Rarities of the World auction by Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries of New York, probably the world's foremost auctioneer of really rare, expensive stamps.

Almost exactly a year earlier, on April 29, 1981, he got \$16,500 for a copy.

This is a high price for a missing color error, and it was possibly because of the publicity that surrounded Harris' court case.

The Canadian Seaway invert error of 1959 (Scott 387a) is much more spectacular, with its upside-down centre, yet it fetches about the same as the Canal Zone missing bridge, which is a missing color.

If there's a lesson in all this, it must be that if you find a major error, be careful how you handle it.

Letters

Letters are invited. Please send enquiries to the writer at P.O. Box 40, Beauharnois, Quebec, J6N 3C1.



V.I.P.

Shown above is Miss Bourgeois' Gr. 6 class from St. Martin School when they visited Moore's of Terrace Bay as part of their V.I.P. program. Also shown, Mike Moore, back left, and Constable

Gary Callaghan, back middle, who is working with the kids in conjunction with St. Martin School. (Story next week).

Block Parent

The annual meeting of the Terrace Bay Block Parents will take place Wednesday, May 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the Curling Club lounge.

At this meeting, the election of next year's executive and a review of our first year will take place.

All interested persons are urged

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100 g. **.19**
Reg. 100 g. .23

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Baking Gums

100 g. **.59**
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Apple or Orange
27 boxes **\$9.99** per case

Sultana Raisins

100 g. **.38**
Reg. 100 g. .42

Calamyrna Figs

100 g. **\$1.19**
Reg. 100 g. \$1.29

French Onion Soup

100 g. **.69**
Reg. 100 g. .73

Beef Soup Base

100 g. **.44**
Reg. 100 g. .48

Sesame Snaps

\$5.99 case of 24
Reg. \$9.60

Cheese Puffs

100 g. **.59**
Reg. 100 g. .70

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