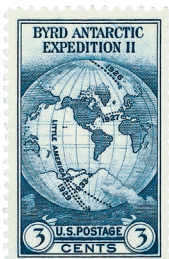


# This Day in History... March 15, 1935

## Farley's Follies



*The first Farley's Folly re-issue with no gum.*



*Issued with no gum*



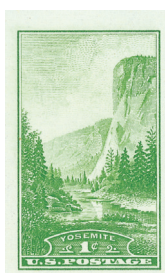
*Mothers of America imperforate with no gum*



*Wisconsin Tercentennial imperforate with no gum*

On March 15, 1935, the US Post Office reissued 20 stamps known as “Farley’s Special Printings,” which were the result of the biggest stamp scandal of the time – “Farley’s Follies.”

James A. Farley (1888-1976) got his start in politics in 1911 as town clerk of Grassy Point, New York. He moved his way through the political system, forming the Upstate New York Democratic Organization and bringing many upstate voters to the Democratic Party.



*Yosemite imperforate with no gum*



*Grand Canyon imperforate with no gum*



*Mount Rainier imperforate with no gum*



*Mesa Verde imperforate with no gum*

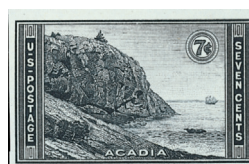
In 1924, he met young Franklin Roosevelt at the Democratic National Convention. Four years later, FDR asked Farley to run his campaign for New York governor. Farley helped FDR win the elections for governor in 1928 and 1930. A driving force in the US political system, Farley helped FDR win the 1932 and 1936 presidential elections. Roosevelt made Farley his Postmaster General. Farley was pivotal in turning around the US Post Office Department. He helped the department finally turn a profit and revolutionized airmail service.



*Yellowstone imperforate with no gum*



*Crater Lake imperforate with no gum*



*Acadia imperforate with no gum*

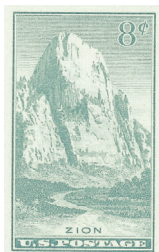


*Glacier National Park imperforate with no gum*

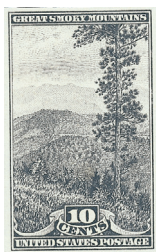
This story of Farley’s Follies begins with the issue of the 1933 Newburgh Peace commemorative. Farley removed several first-run sheets from the printing

**Mystic Stamp Company • Camden, NY 13316**

# This Day in History... March 15, 1935 continued



*Zion imperforate with no gum*



*Great Smoky Mountains imperforate with no gum*



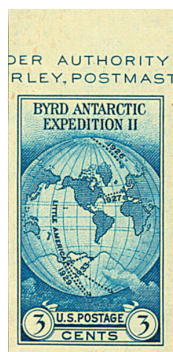
*Fort Dearborn Single from Souvenir Sheet*



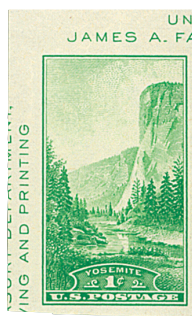
*Federal Building Single from Souvenir Sheet*

presses before they were gummed or perforated, and autographed them. He gave these stamps to President Franklin Roosevelt, Interior Secretary Harold Ickes, the president's secretary Louis Howe, various Post Office Department officials, and each of his children.

These ungummed and imperforate stamps were not available to the public – Farley was creating precious philatelic rarities and distributing them to his boss and friends. Needless to say, the philatelic community was outraged. However, when a New York City stamp dealer declared he had a sheet of 200 ungummed, imperforate Mother's Day stamps signed by the postmaster general for sale, and that he had insured them for \$20,000.00, the general public was upset as well. It was estimated that 160 of Farley's special sheets had been distributed... at \$20,000.00 a sheet that meant a total value of \$3,200,000.00!



*Byrd Expedition Single from Souvenir Sheet*



*Yosemite Single from Souvenir Sheet*



*Mt. Rainier Single from Souvenir Sheet*



*Great Seal of the United States*

A recall was suggested but deemed impossible. Finally, the Post Office came up with a solution – the reissue in sheet form of all the stamps issued since March 4, 1933, in ungummed condition, all but the first two imperforate and in sufficient numbers to satisfy public demand! These new stamps were issued on March 15, 1935.

“Farley’s Follies” were issued in large sheets that are way too big to fit in stamp albums. So many collectors snapped up blocks and pairs in a variety of formats instead. They include vertical, horizontal and gutter pairs plus arrow blocks, line pairs, and cross gutter blocks. They not only fit, but these key formats are an easy way to understand the stamp printing process. And some occur only once in every stamp sheet!

And as for Farley? Farley and FDR had a falling out over Roosevelt’s plan to run for a third term, but Farley remained a strong force in the political and business worlds. He went on to serve as Chairman of the Board of the Coca-Cola Export Corporation and served as a trusted advisor to several popes, dignitaries, and presidents until his death in 1976.

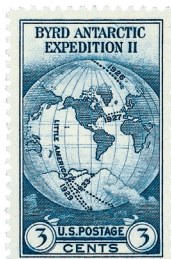


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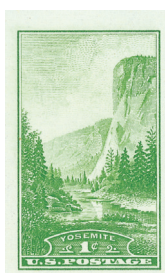
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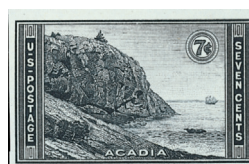
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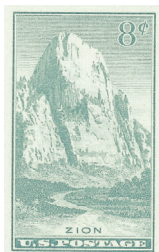


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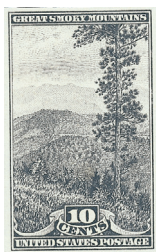
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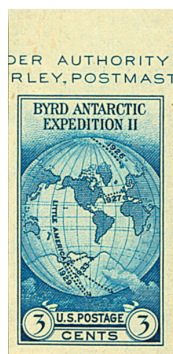
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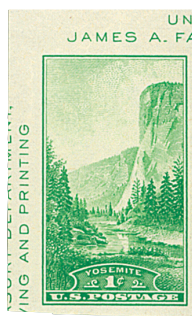
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