

## TRANSCRIPT – YOUR POSTAL PODCAST – APRIL 2015

**Diedre Tillery:** Welcome to *Your Postal Podcast*. I'm Diedre Tillery. In this edition, you'll hear reaction to the recently-released Batman Forever Stamps from the man who originated the role of the Caped Crusader on television in the mid-60s. Next, you'll hear the story of an unusual lifesaving effort by a postal carrier – with an assist from a four-legged friend.

When some comic book enthusiasts purchase the new Batman Forever Stamp collection, first issued last October, they may think of the “dark knight” character of recent years' films. But other fans undoubtedly recall the more irreverent 1960s TV version of the iconic crime fighter. So, what does the man who portrayed Batman 50 years ago think about the new stamps? Rod Spurgeon is here to tell us.

**Rod Spurgeon:** Created in 1939, the Batman comic book character has withstood the test of time and remains a popular icon to this day. The new Batman stamps from the Postal Service feature four of the more memorable iterations of the Dark Knight's wardrobe, including one familiar to fans of the 1960s Batman television show. Adam West, who portrayed the world-renowned hero, enjoyed the chance to have his character among those feature in the new stamp collection.

**Adam West:** I never dreamed, you know, growing up in Walla Walla, Washington, on a ranch that someday I would be sitting here talking about a Batman stamp. Can I have a thousand?

**Spurgeon:** One of the more familiar attributes Batman is known for throughout the years is his quick, decisive pursuit of justice. Before he was cast in the role of Batman, Adam had already portrayed the role of a different hero in a brief, but memorable on-screen debut.

**West:** The way I got the role, I was doing a commercial for Nestle's Quik. And I played kind of a spoof on James Bond, and the producers who were doing Batman at ABC and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox saw the commercial – and I didn't know until about a year after we did Batman that that's really how I was cast. They said, that's the turkey that could do this role with the humor that it requires.

**Spurgeon:** While the show aired for only three seasons from 1966 to 1968, Batman's cultural significance has earned it a place in history as one of the most memorable icons that transcends generations. Though it's been off the air for some time, Adam is still reminded of his important role in the ever-popular show through a familiar medium.

**West:** We started in 1966. Went on the air for only three seasons, but people still think we're doing it. My mail really reflects the fact that people still see the show, and it's really been evergreen. It's been around 40 some years. I'm very lucky, I really am. People love the show; it's still playing, and I get fan mail from all over the world.

**Spurgeon:** During his down time, Adam enjoys spending time with his wife and the scenic wonders and natural beauty of Ketchum, Idaho.

**West:** My darling wife Marcella and I – she's been so terrific because she puts up with all my nonsense – and what we do, we go out to dinner, we read a lot, we play with the dogs. We have a bear, we have a cougar, we have elk – all of those things in the back 40 and it's always interesting. Ketchum is a wonderful place because there's culture here and yet, you know, we have three or four mountain ranges and a river, and there's always something to do.

**Spurgeon:** When it comes to mailing letters and packages at his local Post Office, Adam praises both the layout and design of the facility. But his most memorable and enjoyable experience during his visits is spending time with postal employees.

**West:** Nowhere...I mean, whether it's Santa Monica...whether it's White Plains, New York, in the deep South – anyplace – but I've never seen a better Post Office. One that's attractive, and certainly architecturally integrated with the area. But people here at your Post Office – they're always cooperative and nice and fun and social and they get the job done.

**Tillery:** Stories of postal carriers rescuing customers are well-documented. Tales of dogs and carriers saving cats – not so much. In our next story, Ernie Swanson tells us how Winthrop, Washington, Rural Carrier Dori Blackburn rescued a trapped feline with the help of a canine.

**Ernie Swanson:** Dori heard what she thought was the sound of a cat crying while delivering her route. But, she didn't give it much thought. One day a friendly dog appeared, trying to get her attention. She ignored the dog at first, but finally gave in as the dog tried to get her to follow it.

**Dori Blackburn:** I was out delivering on my mail route and every day I was hearing this cat crying at the end of my route near a set of lock boxes that I was delivering at. And this went on for about two, three weeks. And I finally stopped what I was doing one day and I walked over next to a shop building where there was a cargo trailer. And as I approached the cargo trailer, the cat would stop crying. And then I couldn't find it. Then I wandered around for a moment and then I would go back to the mailboxes. There was also a dog that lived at the house that would come over and had come over two or three times to get my attention. And one day, I followed the dog back and he went straight over to the cargo trailer next to the shop. This went on, yeah, almost three weeks.

**Swanson:** Dori went to the door of the nearest house and knocked.

**Blackburn:** Finally, I went over again a second time, except this time I went to the front door of the home and I knocked on the door and the husband and wife had apparently been on vacation for the last two weeks. They had been in Hawaii. And when I explained to them that I keep hearing a cat crying somewhere over by the shop, the wife came running out and said, "Our cat's been missing for three weeks." So we both ran over to the cargo trailer, opened the back, and sure enough there was their cat, "Simon." And she basically said "yeah, he's been trapped and stuck in there for three weeks."

**Swanson:** The cat's owner took the animal to the vet to have it checked out.

**Blackburn:** They took him to the vet and he got a clean bill of health. Turns out, I guess he was little bit overweight and so his reserve saved him on that one (chuckle). They came in a little bit later and said, "Thank you."

**Tillery:** One last note – thanks to you, *Your Postal Podcast* has been named by hosting site Podbean as among the top 10 government agency podcasts.

Tens of thousands of listeners access each episode of the podcast, now in its seventh year. One-hundred and forty-four episodes on, we're proud to be a source of information about the U.S. Postal Service for you, our listeners.

Thank you for listening to this edition of the Podcast – and a reminder: We want to hear from you. Please send your comments and story suggestions to us at [YourPostalPodcast@usps.com](mailto:YourPostalPodcast@usps.com).

And special thanks to Ketchum, Idaho, Postmaster John McDonald for his help with the Adam West story.

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