

This Day in History... September 4, 1833

National Newspaper Carrier Day

On September 4, 1833, the first recorded newspaper boy was hired, an event celebrated today as National Newspaper Carrier Day.

In 1833, Benjamin Day, publisher of the *New York Sun* newspaper ran an ad looking for people to sell his papers. It read, "A number of steady men can find employment by vending this paper. A liberal discount is allowed to those who buy to sell again."

On September 4, 1833, 10-year-old Barney Flaherty went to the Sun inquiring about the papers. While Day had put the ad out looking for men, he was impressed by the boy's excitement for the job and decided to hire him. Flaherty became the first recorded paperboy in America that day.

From that time on, young boys were the main deliverers of newspapers to the general public. They could be found standing on street corners or walking through neighborhoods. In the early days, the newspaper boys were not employees of the newspapers. Rather, they bought the papers from the publishers and sold them as independent workers. They could not return the papers and usually earned about 30¢ per day.

In 1960, the Newspaper Carrier Hall of Fame was established. It honors several famous newspaper carriers including Martin Luther King Jr., Warren Buffet, Walt Disney, Carl Sandburg, and John Wayne.

In addition to National Newspaper Carrier Day, there's also an International Newspaper Carrier Day. This observance was created by the Newspaper Association of America and is celebrated as part of National Newspaper

Week. The week-long celebration is held during the first full week of October, with Newspaper Carrier Day held on that Saturday.



Stamp pictures a boy delivering newspapers along with a hand holding a torch, symbolizing free enterprise.



Newspaper stamps were introduced in 1865 to cover the bulk rates to transport newspapers.

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