

Denmark in 1904 to raise money for tuberculosis. In the same year, Sweden and Iceland followed with their versions later in the same year.

In 1907, American Red Cross worker **Emily Bissell** followed the Danish Christmas seal success with a simple red and white seal to raise money to save her local TB sanatorium. It was so successful that in 1908 the American Red Cross ran the campaign national wide. Since 1973, the Christmas seal campaign has been organised by the American Lung Association.

### **“Christmas” towns**

You might want to use your Christmas stamps, and Christmas seals, for letters you want to send someone in a town called Christmas in the USA. In fact, there are 140 “Christmas” place names in the US, including Merry Christmas Creek, Alaska; Christmas Gift Mine in Pinal County, Arizona; and Merrie Christmas Park in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

You’ll even find 11 towns called “Santa Claus” in 8 US states: Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Indiana, Minnesota, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah. And 50 “Noel” place names, including communities named Noel in Colorado, Missouri, and Virginia. You’ll find Noel Lake in Spencer County, Indiana, near the community of Santa Claus.

### **Christmas factoids**

John Grossman, noted California collector/designer and long-time member of the Ephemera Society of America, has a collection of 200,000 Victorian Christmas stamps. He has licensed the stamp designs to the US Post Office via his business, The Gifted Line, John Grossman, Inc.