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From One Bicycle to a Fleet of Aircrafts: UPS Way to Success

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United Parcel Service (UPS), American package and document delivery company operating worldwide. Corporate headquarters are in Sandy Springs, Georgia. UPS traces its history to 1907, when the American Messenger Company was started in Seattle by 19-year-old James E. Casey and another teenager, Claude Ryan. Using a borrowed $100 as their initial capital, they set up shop in a cellar beneath Ryan's uncle's tavern. Their first employees ran errands and made deliveries on foot or by bicycle. A second office opened in 1912. The following year the company merged with a competitor and acquired its first delivery truck, a converted Model T-Ford. Ryan left the company in 1917. Two years later Casey began expanding the business outside Seattle and later in Los Angeles in 1922. In 1925 the entire company became known as United Parcel Service (UPS). In 1930 the United Parcel Service moved its headquarters to New York City; it steadily expanded thereafter. By the 1950s, however, the company faced a challenge. The need for store delivery was decreasing because customers were increasingly using their own cars to carry their purchases home. The company responded in 1953 by beginning the territorial expansion of its common carrier service, which it had offered in southern California since the 1920s. In accepting packages from the general public, UPS put itself in competition with the parcel post service of the U.S. Post Office (now U.S. Postal Service). Not until 1975 did UPS

clear away regulatory barriers to operation in all 48 contiguous states. In the same year, corporate headquarters were moved to Greenwich, Connecticut, and the company became international by expanding to Canada. Over the next four decades, UPS continued to increase its global presence, eventually offering services in more than 200 countries and territories. Other notable events in the company's history included the resumption of air freight service in 1953, which it had tried out briefly in 1929. Entering the field of overnight air delivery, the company started UPS Airlines in 1988. UPS Airlines operated from a "main global hub" in Louisville, Kentucky, and by the early 21st century it ran a fleet of more than 200 jet aircraft. In 1991 UPS headquarters were moved again, to Sandy Springs, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta.

In 2001 UPS entered the retail business acquiring Mail Boxes Etc., Inc., the world's largest franchisor of retail shipping, postal business service centers. Within two years, approximately 3,000 Mail Boxes Etc. locations in the U.S. re-branded as The UPS Store and began offering lower UPS-direct shipping rates [1]. Cofounder Casey was active in UPS management until his death in 1983. He, his family, other UPS executives, and their families were the principal stockholders for most of the company's history. Not until 1999 were shares first offered to the public [2].

References:
1. Global Shipping & Logistics Services [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: https://www.ups.com/us/en/Home.page – Date of access: 25.04.2022.
2. United Parcel Service | History & Facts - Encyclopedia Britannica [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: https://www.britannica.com/topic/United-Parcel-Service – Date of access: 25.04.2022.