

PNC



COIL LINE

May 1, 1991
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 Whole No. 35

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 P.O. Box 840
 Showhogan, ME 04976

Harold Brown, Editor
 909 Parker St.
 Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

Regional meeting stresses need to share PNC information

Much of the conversation among PNC3 members before, during and after the regional meeting at COLOPEX April 13 in Columbus, Ohio, had to do with what plate numbers were available and more importantly, who had access to those numbers.

The need to share this information was emphasized and much was shared that day. All PNC3 members are encouraged to do the same. Please forward information about the following:

- Plate numbers
- Where available
- Centering
- Roll size
- Label information

Photo copies of any and all examples and information would be welcome.

Information may be sent to the Coil Line Editor. Alan Thomson would like to receive specific information on the flag plate numbers and roll sizes. He would appreciate post cards to Box 91, Northwood, NH 03261, or phone calls. He will be sharing this information through Coil Line.

As of April 15, the following 29c Mount Rushmore plate numbers and roll sizes were known:

- 1, rolls of 100
- 2, rolls of 100, 500, 3,000
- 3, rolls of 100
- 4, rolls of 100
- 6, rolls of 500, 3,000
- 7, rolls of 100

Plates 2 and 4 were being sold by the USPS station at COLOPEX April 13.

PNC3 member Ron Maifeld, who works at the post office in Amelia, OH, a suburb of Cincinnati, brought several rolls of Plate 7 to Columbus and found willing buyers among PNC3 members. He said during the regional meeting that any members wanting to purchase full coils from him may do so by making a check out to Postmaster, making sure they note PNC3 on the check and sending it to him. He'll help out to the extent possible. Please don't ask him to break rolls, etc. His address is Postmaster, Amelia, OH 45102.

Plates 4 and 6 are common in the Detroit, MI, and Toledo and Bowling Green, Ohio, areas and according to Thomson plates 2 and 4 are common in the southwest.

In New Hampshire, Thomson has found plates 1, 3 and 6.

Maifeld bought four rolls of the 25c Yosemite plate 15 from the clerks at COLOPEX. He

inquired as to what they might have in stock and learned several rolls of 15 had apparently been destroyed to make room for 29c stock. There were no other rolls of plate 15 available Columbus and none have been available at the Toledo Philatelic window for many weeks or reported elsewhere.

Information on the 'F' stamp was also shared at Columbus.

Plates 1111, 2222 and 1222 are available in Detroit.

Plates 1111 and 2222 are available nearly everywhere.

Steve Esrati, editor of The Plate Number and the Plate Number Coil Catalog, reported Plate 1222 has been found at West Des Moines, IA. Steve said the supply apparently dried up rather quickly after initial reports that it was abundant.

Steve also said Craig Selig had found plate 2211 but hadn't revealed the source. Selig is a dealer based in Fort Wayne, IN.

Maifeld said he had received plate 1222 through an order placed with the PRODIGY computer network. Delivery took three days. Chuck Whitney, a guest attending from the Columbus, OH, suburb of Pickerington, said plate 2211 in rolls of 100 was available at that post office.

The only number available on the new 23c Lunch Wagon at the show was 2.

Additional discussion centered around the various tagging varieties.

The 15c Tugboat was thought to be generally available, while the 4c Stagecoach was rated (Continued on page 9)

Corrections

Information that Rob Washburn had any connection with the estimated values in the Stamps N Stuff Auction written about in the March issue of Coil Line was incorrect.

In the April issue of Coil Line, Rob Washburn's name was omitted from the page one letter calling attention to the proposed bylaws.

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Letters

Letter from the Editor:

With the rate change and the availability of a host of new stamps and plate coil numbers, I had hoped to hear from a lot of members about what they are finding in their local post offices and philatelic centers. Unfortunately, that has not been the case. Alan Thompson has supplied information about the 29c Flag over Mount Rushmore Coil, which is included in this issue.

Additional information has also come from the PNC3 regional meeting April 13 at COLOPEX in Columbus, Ohio. Special emphasis was made during the meeting to share what was available "back home" and at the show. I'm sure some trading relationships were established. Many of us also have these relationships with fellow members and collectors.

But please, let's do more sharing of this information. We need more vocal collectors and fewer quiet collectors. Coil Line can become a lot more informative and valuable if we all take a few minutes to write information in a letter or on a postcard. If the deadline (usually the 15th of the month) is approaching, give me a call (419-352-7900), instead of relying on USPS to get the information to me on time.

Yes, some of the information will be dated, but we'll get an idea of how widespread the various plate numbers are and what kind of condition/centering is being found.

Members are also interested in labels on coil packages. Information such as the printing, the color of ink on the label and what the label says all provide clues as to what is going on in our hobby. For example, the color of the printing on the label of the 4c Steam Carriage is apparently a clue to whether the stamps are tagged or untagged. This was a frequent topic of conversation at COLOPEX before and during the regional meeting.

Many members have been very open in sharing their information and material. Coil Line and the editor need more of both. The members deserve to see more information and material in each issue.

The stuff is out there folks and many of us know about it.

Don't talk yourself out of sharing because you feel writing isn't your strong point. Just write down the facts, include good photocopies (with black backgrounds please) and drop it in the mail to me. If I have questions or need additional information, I'll be in touch. Coil Line can be so much more to PNC3 members if we all make an effort to share information. Thanks for reading and thanks for your help.

Unofficial meeting

An unofficial PNC3 meeting was scheduled for Saturday, April 27 at the annual Plymouth Show in Plymouth, Mich. This was the site of a regional meeting in 1990. Because the show was only two weeks after the regional meeting at COLOPEX and the distance between the Detroit and Columbus areas is not great, it was decided another official regional meeting would not be held.

Suggests Q&A column

To the Editor:

I have a suggestion for a new Coil Line column or department.

How about a Question and Answer column to which members could write with questions about PNC collecting. Judging from the special articles printed over the past year or two, Coil Line has some knowledgeable contributors in many areas of PNC collecting.

Having a regular columnist answer questions would be ideal. However, if such an arrangement were not possible, different experts answering questions in their field of expertise might be a good alternative.

I have, on several occasions, written to our president, Rob Washburn, with questions on Commercial Covers which he has graciously taken time to answer. Yet such information does not get shared beyond our correspondence. It occurred to me that Coil Line might be able to provide a forum for dialogue between collectors and the experts. It may also provide some clues for areas of collector interest and/or confusion that might lead to future articles or columns.

Sincerely,
Kenneth D. Cherry
43 W. Constitution Ave.
Spring Grove, PA 17362

(Editor's Note: Do we have any member or members interested in being "answer people?" If so, contact the editor and we'll get on with adding this feature to Coil Line.)

Vote urged in APS election

To the Editor:

The American Philatelic Society election will be held in May. Three PNC3 members are candidates: Board of Vice Presidents, John Hotchner; Treasurer, Steven Rod; Director at Large, Ken Lawrence. All elections, of course, are matters of individual conscience and choice. But all other things being equal, PNC philately can only be helped by our members being represented on the board of the parent organization.

As in so many elections, APS member balloting is light. If you are an APS member, vote!

Tom Maeder
1604 Bardale Ave.
San Pedro, CA 90731

Upcoming Coil Line deadlines

June issue - May 15

July issue - June 10

Mailed information should reach the editor by these dates. If you would like to phone in reports that might otherwise be delayed in the mail, call 419-352-7900 evenings.

Letter from the President: PNC auction director announces resignation

I am sorry to report that David Agrodnia has resigned as our Auction Director, effective upon completion of our latest auction. David has done a great job and we appreciate his efforts.

We now have to find somebody to replace him. We are looking for volunteers. If any of you would be interested in taking on this job, would you please contact me. Thank you.

Rob Washburn
P.O. Box 840
Skowhegan, Maine 04976

To the PNC3 membership:

This letter is to announce my resignation as director of the PNC3 auctions. I am gratified that the auction program has grown and seems to be a viable activity of our club. It has been an interesting experience to launch such a venture. However, I have some other activities, including some attention to my own collection, that I wish to pursue at this time.

I wish to thank all the past and present board members and officers for their cooperation. A special note of thanks to those that I worked closely with: Tom Maeder, Rob Washburn, Eric Russow, Richard Beecher, Gene Trinks and Harold Brown. The jury is still out on Don Eastman as he was responsible for getting me involved in the first place. I may forgive him, not so sure that my wife will.

I am sure each of you have some ideas as to things that could be done to improve the auction program. I have had some interesting comments from members that might be worthy of your consideration. If interested, drop me a line. In approaching someone else to take over the auction, I think it only fair to inform them of the time involved given the current structure. Before it is over I will spend a minimum of 120 hours on this auction. This is a conservative estimate.

At the conclusion of this auction, I will take great care to settle all matters with Richard Beecher. Also, I will offer my assistance to the new auction director and to see to it he or she gets all the extra materials that I may have on hand.

Dave Agrodnia
Auction Chairman
219 School Street
Berlin, NH 03570

Topics for discussion

What are your thoughts about:

- Getting junior stamp collectors involved in PNC collecting and PNC3?
 - Setting up regions to encourage meetings of PNC members across the country and maybe in Canada and a few other places?
 - Getting members to take advantage of their free ad privileges and sharing information that would benefit our knowledge of the hobby?
- Send a letter to the Editor today on these or any other topics.

Time to update PNC3 collecting interests

Those who have been Coil Line members for more than a year recall one regular feature had been updating and publishing the collecting interests of members. This was last done in the April 1990 issue.

Several members have requested such an update and it is now time to seek this information. Please try to provide the information requested no later than June 1. If interest is sufficient, the update list may be published in the July issue. However, without your cooperation, this update will not occur. This issue of Coil Line keeps pointing up the need to participate and this is another opportunity to get involved, a chance to improve your collection and those of other members.

Categories listed in April 1990 were: mint strips of 5, 3, and 2, mint singles, used singles, used strips, commercial covers, precancel gap positions, precancel mat varieties, constant plate varieties, first day covers, errors, freak and oddities, paper types, coil (seals) labels, numbers at top, tagging, tagging errors, souvenir pages, ceremony programs and imperfs.

Each member should prepare a list and send it to the Coil Line Editor, Harold Brown, 909 Parker Street, Bowling Green, OH 43402.

A postcard is fine, just make sure to take a few minutes to jot down information and send it as soon as possible.

Imperf strips located

PNC3 members Konrad Keydel, Detroit, and Jim Hooghe, Kettering, OH, each went home from COLOPEX April 13 with an imperf plate strip of stamps.

After the regional meeting, Hooghe, who recently joined the club, said he had learned a dealer on the sales floor had acquired an imperf roll of 100 stamps, block tagged with plate 7.

Several members agreed \$100 a strip would be a reasonable offer. The two talked with Bob's Stamps of Kokomo, IN, and agreed on the price. The dealer said someone had walked in and offered the roll to him and he made the purchase. He's not a PNC dealer *per se* but has handled a couple of used 18 Flag No. 6 stamps and some other commercial covers.

Several PNC members leaned over the counter as the strips were cut from the roll, witnessing something not many get a chance to see.

Ron Maifeld, whose find of a used copy of 18c Flag No. 6 was detailed in the April issue of Coil Line, was also a popular person at the regional meeting and enjoyed telling his reaction to the earlier find.

While some members didn't think there was much PNC material on the floor, there was certainly enough to keep most people interested and provide something to talk about.

Membership

Names of new applicants are published for members to review. Any member who questions the suitability of a prospect should contact the Chairman of the Membership Committee, Gene Trinks, 3603 Bellows Ct., Troy MI 48083, with the objection. The committee will investigate and recommend for or against membership.

New Applicants:

Teresa Wajek
N1043 County G
Sheldon, WI 54766 (629)

Dave Dubois
13519 30th, N.E.
Seattle, WA 98125 (630)

Charles Merrill
5261 E. Teague
Clovis, CA 93612 (631)

Joseph H. Ledgerwood
214 Jefferson Road
St. Louis, MO 63119 (632)

Robert Peterson
316 N. Mountain Ave.
Monrovia, CA 91016 (633)

Dan Dobrick
4412 Harriet Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55409 (634)

J.R. Friedli
12903 Petrovisky
Renton, WA 98058 (635)

Change of Address:

Peter Wurzbach 605
Ashford Drive
Coppell, TX 75109

Cynthia L. Cupel
1202 Crooked Lake Drive
Fenton, MI 48430

George E. Kuhn
P.O. Box 711
Fruitland, Park, FL 34731

Reinstatments:

Dolph E. "Ted" Ulrich
Cynthia Cupel
Dennis Chamberlain
Richard Little
Philip Young

Death:

Glen Browne
P.O. Box 423
Sun City, CA 92381

Contributions:

A \$10 donation has been received from George Richards II.

Corrections:

The correct street address for Randy Manuel, member 602 is 3340 Sandy Lane, Burlington, Ont., Canada L7M3T2. It was originally published as Shady Lane.

Ads

MONTHLY MAIL BID - Includes mint and used PNCs and strips. Free catalog. ORBE P.O. Box 70, Umpqua, OR 97486-0070

FOR TRADE: My PNC5s "F" Flower No. 2222 and 1111 for an other number, one for one or make offer. List of other available. John E. Alberstadt, 3433 W. 42nd St., Erie, PA 16506

WANTED: 20c CONSUMER PS5 No. 1. Trade Preferred. Large stock of PS5 duplicates available for trade. Please write with your want list. Ed Wigger, 1123 Baldwin St., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

COIL LINE

Published monthly as the journal of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club, also known as PNC3. The deadline for copy to be considered for the next issue is the 15th of the month, except as otherwise noted. The April issue was mailed March 22.

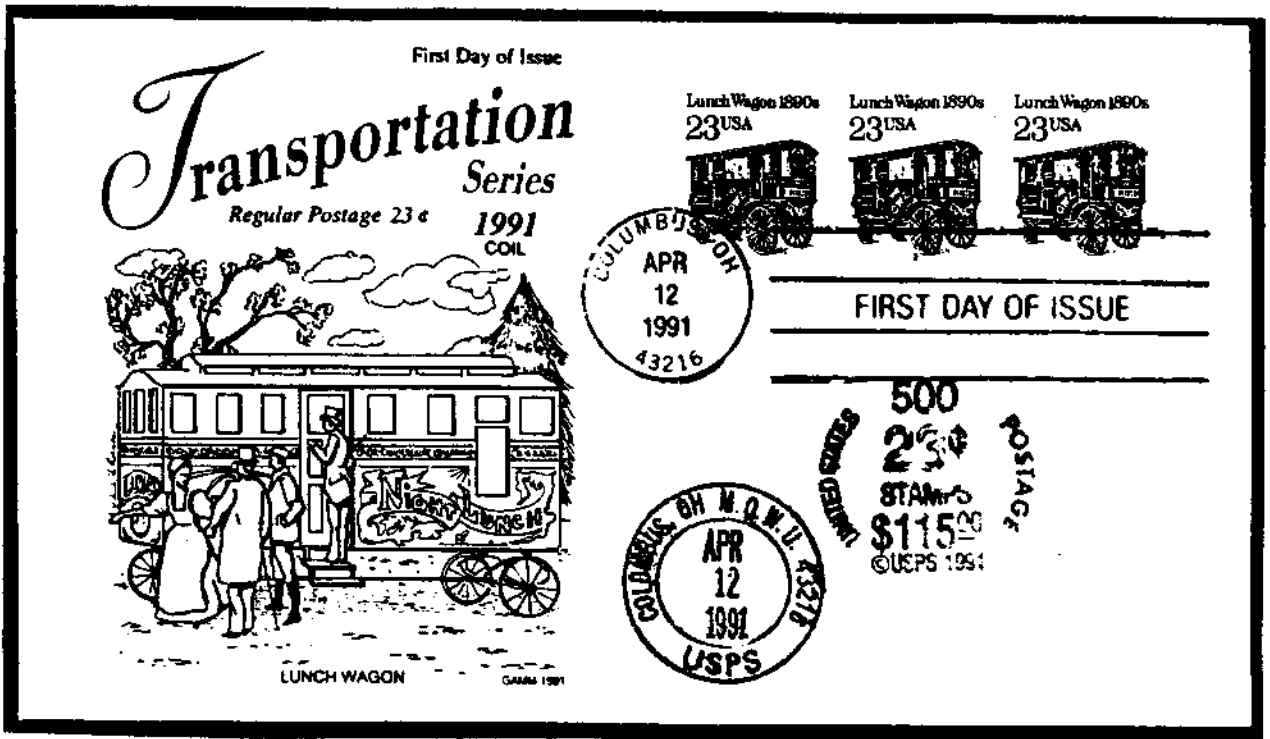
President: Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976

Distribution: Alan Thomson, P.O. Box 91 Northwood, NH 03261 Mailed under Bulk Rate Permit No. 1, Northwood, N.H. 03261

Change of address and membership applications should be sent to: Gene Trinks, Secretary, 3603 Bellows Court Troy, MI 48083

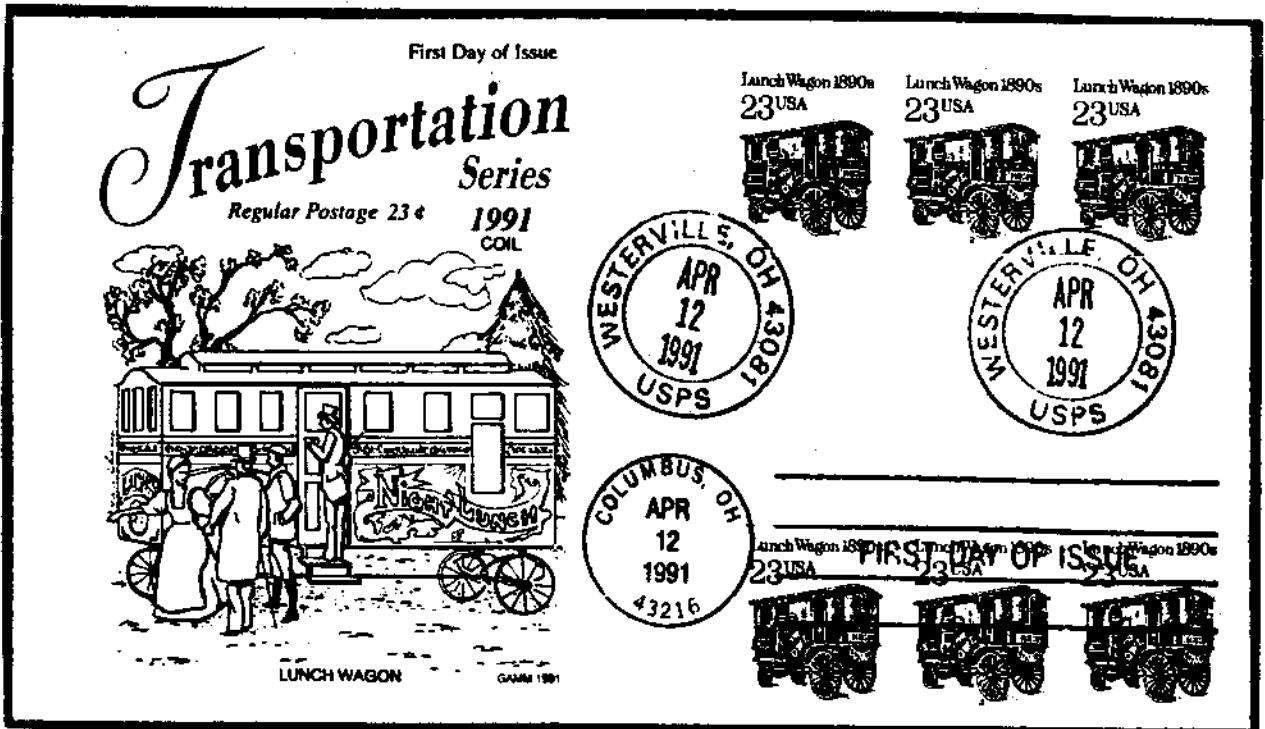
Dues are \$10 per year (\$14 if first class mailing of Coil Line is desired, and \$14 for all foreign mailing addresses) and should be sent to: Richard L. Beecher, Treasurer 10779 Woodbine St. Apt. 302 Los Angeles, CA 90034

Advertising rates are \$42 for a full page, \$22.50 for a half page and \$12 for a quarter page. The cost is payable with the order. Checks should be made out to PNC3. Members are entitled to two, 40-word ads per year at no charge. All advertisements should be sent to the editor. Classified ads are six (6) cents per word to non members or those who have used their two free ads.



First Day of Issue fun at COLOPEX

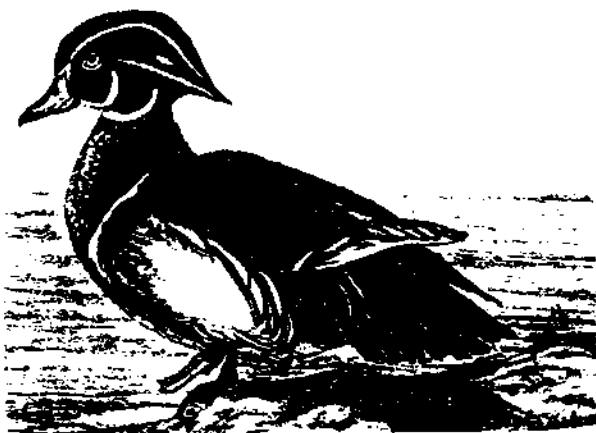
Conrad Kaydel and Joann Lenz and her husband had a lot of fun April 12 during and after the First Day ceremonies for the 23c Lunch Wagon Transportation coil and for the 29c Wood Duck booklet at COLOPEX in Columbus, Ohio. Conrad, who counts coil labels among his PNC interests, created the First Day Cover above. It includes the usual first day cancel over not only a plate strip of three but a coil label. The cancel (red ink) on the lower middle portion of the cover was obtained at the USPS station and indicates the cover was actually made at the site. Below is an unofficial First Day Cover by Joann. The trio went to the post office in nearby Westerville for the cancels (again red ink) on the top plate number strip and then back to the show for the First Day cancel on the bottom strip of three. Their various creations (and they made more than few) were enjoyed by many of the PNC3 members attending the regional meeting at COLOPEX April 13. Joann also created a large cover with certified mail stickers and received hand-back service-earliest known use of the stamp on certified mail.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

23¢ LUNCH WAGON

29¢ WOOD DUCK



Lunch Wagon 1890s
23 USA

Lunch Wagon 1890s
23 USA

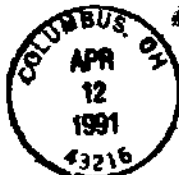
Lunch Wagon 1890s
23 USA

Lunch Wagon 1890s
23 USA

Lunch Wagon 1890s
23 USA



April 12, 1991
COLOPEX '91
Columbus, Ohio



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Another COLOPEX creation

Although there was no official USPS ceremonial program for the two First Day events April 12 at COLOPEX, the sponsoring Columbus Philatelic Club Inc. did produce a four-page program on heavy stock for those attending. Joann Lenz placed examples of both stamps issued on the cover of the program and obtained the three official cancels available at the site. Note that the postal clerk doing the cancellations failed to strike all of the Lunch Wagon stamps!

Record prices for commercial covers

By Rob Washburn
P.O. Box 840
Skowhegan, Maine 04976

On March 28th, Stamps 'n' Stuff held its PNC auction consisting of 389 lots, most of which were PNC commercial covers. This auction was viewed with great interest by all of us who avidly collect such covers because for the first time ever a major offering of rare and valuable PNC commercial covers was made available to the public. The auction also provided us with a glimpse of true market values for such material.

I called Jerry Koepf of Stamps 'n' Stuff, and he told me he was pleased with the results of the auction. He should be! Record prices were paid for SEVERAL of the lots.

The highlight cover of the auction, an 18c Flag No. 7 earliest known usage cover, dated October 21, 1981, received a high bid of \$2,700, and that price easily surpassed the highest amount ever paid for a PNC commercial cover. That cover (illustrated below) is one of only four 18c Flag No. 7 period of use covers known, and is the only one used during the 18c first class rate period.

The earliest known PNC cover (of any plate number), an 18c Flag No. 1 cover dated April 29, 1981, fetched a record price for that number on cover--\$110.

All of the other earliest known usage PNC commercial covers did very well also. In fact, some of the earliest known usage PNC covers received bids as much as 400 percent higher than those bids received for the same numbered covers which were not earliest usages. Obviously, there is quite a bit of competition out there in the chase to acquire earliest usage PNC covers.

PNC varieties on cover also fared well. For instance, an 18c Surrey No. 1 with lightning

bolt gripper crack variety on cover sold for \$47. A Surrey No. 1 with lightning bolt continuation gripper crack variety on cover sold for \$38.

There were a few precancelled PNC covers in this auction and these covers are obviously quite popular. A 9.3c precancelled No. 3 cover sold for \$28, and a 5.9c precancelled No. 3 cover sold for \$36. With less than 20 such covers of both of those numbers known, those prices probably should be considered bargains.

Other bargains could also be found. For instance, one of the 18c Surrey No. 16 covers sold for \$95. With only 15 such covers known (the same number of known covers as the 18c Flag No. 6), that purchase was certainly worthwhile. It is my opinion that Surrey No. 15 and No. 16 covers could easily be worth in excess of \$200.

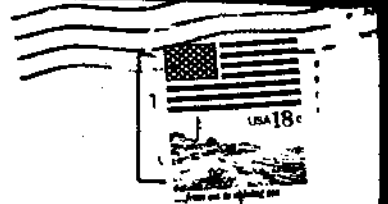
The bulk PNC cover lots also sold very well. In fact, all of the PNC commercial cover bulk lots sold for amounts in excess of the auction's estimated values.

As for the other material offered in the auction, a complete collection of PNC strips sold for \$7,600. A UPU station autopost stamp on cover sold for \$510. A 13c Eagle and Shield L-perf stamp on commercial cover sold for \$105!

In all, Stamps 'n' Stuff did a super job putting together this auction, and the results prove that even in a recession, people are willing to pay good prices for nice material.

New EKV reports this month include 20c Flag No. 4 (6/30/82) and No. 8 (12/13/82), 20c Pumper No. 9 (3/12/82) and No. 10 (3/8/82), 18c Surrey No. 13 (8/10/81) and 25c Flag Over Yosemite No. 2 prephosphered (11/3/89) and No. 3 prephosphered (1/13/90).

Next month's article will feature the 8.3c Ambulance.



Lone Star Gas Company
Post Office Box 220133
Dallas, Texas 75262





HI-DRI SWEEPSTAKES
P.O. BOX 8298
ST. PAUL, MN 55182

Cover of the month

The May Cover of the Month features an 18c Flag No. 1, the earliest cover known using a Plate Number Coil, April 29, 1981. The cover was provided by Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, Maine 04976

Seminar marks tenth anniversary of PNCs

One program at the March Party of the Garfield Perry Stamp Club in Cleveland included a Bureau Issues Association seminar on the 10th anniversary of PNCs. The show was also the site of the annual BIA meeting.

Ken Lawrence and Steve Esrati chaired the session. Lawrence narrated an updated version of his original PNC slide show and Esrati presented a historical overview of the evolution of PNCs, as well as, some thoughts about where we might be headed.

PNC3 member Conrad Kaydel reported the opportunity to hear the back and forth discussion of the two made for a stimulating and informative session.

Also, among the exhibits at the show was a one-frame exhibit by Lawrence of the 18c Flag No. 6 stamp. Conrad termed the exhibit "truly stunning."

29c Tulip coil becomes missing in action stamp

In the never-ending quest to keep PNC collectors guessing, the 29c coil version of the tulip stamp (aka "F" stamp) has yet to appear. The March-April Philatelic Catalog of USPS indicated the stamp was to be issued. So far, only sheets and booklets have been located.

NEARLY SOLD OUT!

PNC Booklets

PNCs ON COVER - a compilation of PNC EKU dates on commercial cover, scarcity ratings and numbers known on FDC. If you collect covers, you should have this booklet. Illustrated.

\$7.50 postpaid

PNC VARIETIES - Indispensible guide for PNC variety collectors. Includes imperfs, plate flaws, color & inking varieties, mat varieties, tagging varieties and more. Illustrated.

\$12.50 postpaid

***SPECIAL* Both booklets for \$18.00
GET THEM WHILE THEY LAST!**

Rob Washburn
P.O. Box 840
Skowhegan, Maine 04976

Exhibiting

PNC3 members helpful in developing exhibit

BY KENNETH CHERRY
PNC No. 490

I am happy to report two members of PNC3 took time to respond personally to my letter asking for help in exhibiting that was published in the June 1990 issue of Coil Line. My correspondence with them provided an opportunity for an exchange of information about exhibiting and some helpful suggestions. Bill McMurray was particularly generous sending me a number of photo copies of exhibit pages he developed for his own PNC material. He also included photos of exhibit frames and a number of hints and suggestions about PNC exhibiting.

Encouraged by his suggestions and sample pages, I undertook putting together a two-frame exhibit of my PNC commercial covers for my local club's stamp show on February 1 and 2 of this year. I worked on the exhibit off and on over a five-month period. It turned out to be the only PNC exhibit in the show. I am happy to report I won a bronze for this first effort and have as a result started to create some interest in PNC commercial covers among the local club members.

I am enclosing photo copies of my exhibit in response to your invitation in the November 1990 Coil Line. I hope my work may encourage someone else to take the plunge and exhibit some of their favorite PNC items

I produced all of my pages on my Commodore 64 Computer and a Star WX1000c printer. Some pages were done with a word processor and others with a BASIC program I wrote. The pictures were made on a photo copier capable of enlarging and then cut out and affixed to the exhibit pages.

I am already planning what will go in next year's exhibit. PNC3 and Coil Line have given a real boost to my interest and enthusiasm as a PNC collector.

(Editor's note: Several examples from Ken's exhibit can be found on pages 10 to 15 in this issue of Coil Line. The entire exhibit includes first class period of use covers, auxiliary markings, earliest known use, varieties and multiple stamp use).

McMurray wins awards

Bill McMurray, P.O. Box 342, Westerly, R.I. 02891, reports success with his exhibit at the recent SOWEX 91 Show.

His Tomorrow's Classics exhibit won a vermeil award, the BIA President's Award and was voted the most popular exhibit.

Calling his update "The PNC Tenth Anniversary March to Philly," McMurray also plans to exhibit at MANPEX 91, Manchester, CT; Philatelic Show 91, Foxborough, MA; NOJEX 91, New Jersey; and at Stampshow 91 in Philadelphia, the last weekend in August. PNC3 will also be holding its annual meeting at Stampshow.

Exhibit honored at COLOPEX

Howard Foster, a PNC3 member from Spokane, WA, received a bronze award for his exhibit at COLOPEX in Columbus, Ohio April 12-14. Entitled "Coil Plate Numbers - A Modern Day Specialty," the 48-page, three-frame exhibit was primarily a presentation of used singles and multiples of coil plate numbers. There was related material demonstrating the range of possible collecting interests.

Though Howard is still seeking (like most of us) elusive examples like the 18c Flag No. 6, he did have some used pairs and strips of three of many numbers. Of special note were a used 20c Consumer PS5, plate 3; 25c Honeybees to show the varieties and several Fire Pumper examples, including an FDC and a commercial cover.

Howard worked with PNC3 member Dr. Frank Shively Jr., of Dayton, OH, to get the exhibit entered.

There were 27 exhibits listed in the show program, no others with PNCs.

Displaying recent issues

Randy Manuel, a recent addition to the PNC3 membership ranks, has also supplied a few examples of how he has put together pages to display recent PNC issues.

Randy does not have an exhibit but thought it would be of interest to have members share how they are putting together their personal collections.

Examples of Randy's efforts can be found on pages 16-17.

Sharing

(Continued from page 1)

as "tough" even though the USPS is to be making arrangements to have these stamps listed in the Philatelic Catalog. Dealer Al Haake apparently has an edge on the 20c Cable Car variety, Esrati said.

The group briefly discussed the recent PNC3 survey about an APS circuit dedicated to plate number coils. Coil Line Editor Harold Brown reviewed the survey results and others offered comments. To a suggestion that PNC3 operate its own circuit, Secretary Gene Trinks responded that while the club is growing, it does not appear to yet have the depth to be able to operate its own circuits.

Information about distinguishing the tagged and untagged versions of the 4c Steam Carriage stamps by the label was discussed. One key is apparently the cent sign. If the line goes completely through the c in 4c, the roll is untagged. If the line is only evident at the top and the bottom of the c, the roll is tagged.

Telah Smith of Ashland, OH, won the door prize, a special COLOPEX program with the 23c Lunch Wagon stamps issued April 12, provided by Joann Lenz, of Sterling Heights, MI. Two pages in this issue are devoted to FDCs, official and unofficial, put together by Conrad Keydel and Joann Lenz and her husband. Twenty attended the meeting.

PLATE NUMBER COILS

THE COLLECTING OF PLATE NUMBER COILS IS AN AREA OF COLLECTING WHICH HAS ONLY COME INTO EXISTANCE IN THE PAST TEN YEARS.

THE FIRST PLATE NUMBER COILS (PNC'S) WERE ISSUED IN APRIL 1981 OCCURRING FIRST ON THE 18C FLAG STAMP KNOW AS 'SEA TO SHINING SEA'. THE PLATE NUMBERS ARE PRINTED JUST BELOW THE DESIGN AT THE CENTER OF THE STAMP. PLATE NUMBERS OCCURED AT 48 AND 52 STAMP INTERVALS ON THE FIRST CLASS FLAG ISSUES.* THIS MEANS THAT ONLY ONE OR TWO FIRST CLASS COIL STAMPS IN A HUNDRED BEARS A PLATE NUMBER. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THEY HAVE BECOME POPULAR COLLECTOR ITEMS.



* (MANY EARLY TRANSPORTATION COILS HAD PLATE NUMBERS EVERY 24TH STAMP.)

COMMERCIAL COVERS

COMMERCIAL COVERS ARE THOSE LETTERS USED IN EVERYDAY CORRESPONDENCE BY INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES THAT PASS THROUGH THE MAILS ON A ROUTINE BASIS.

RATE PERIOD

THE POSTAL SERVICE ESTABLISHES POSTAL RATES FOR EACH CLASS OF SERVICE IT OFFERS. THE TIME FROM THE START OF A NEW RATE UNTIL IT IS CHANGED IS THE RATE PERIOD. EG: THE FIRST CLASS 18C RATE BEGAN MARCH 22, 1981 AND CONTINUED THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 1981. FIRST CLASS COVERS BEARING A CANCEL BETWEEN 03-22-81 AND 10-31-81 WOULD BE CONSIDERED RATE PERIOD CANCELS.

(EKU) EARLIEST KNOWN USE DATE

WHILE STAMPS NORMALLY HAVE AN ISSUE DATE WHEN THEY ARE FIRST SOLD IN POST OFFICES INDIVIDUAL PLATE NUMBERS DO NOT. STAMPS ONCE PRINTED ARE STORED BY THE POSTAL SERVICE UNTIL NEEDED BY POST OFFICES. SO THE DATE A NEW PLATE NUMBER IS FIRST USED DEPENDS LARGELY ON WHEN IT IS DISTRIBUTED AND SOLD AT POST OFFICES.

THEREFORE THE ISSUE DATE FOR A STAMP DOES NOT ALWAYS INDICATE WHEN A PARTICULAR PLATE NUMBER FIRST BECAME AVAILABLE AND WAS USED FOR POSTAGE. THE ONLY WAY TO DETERMINE WHEN A PARTICULAR PLATE NUMBER WAS FIRST USED IS TO LOOK THROUGH EXAMPLES OF THAT ISSUE AND NUMBER ON COVER AND LOCATE THE EARLIEST DATE IT WAS USED ON COVER. THIS INFORMATION THEN PROVIDES A DATE REPRESENTING THE EARLIEST KNOWN USE OF A PARTICULAR PLATE NUMBER.

A LISTING OF THESE DATES HAS BEEN COMPILED AND PUBLISHED IN PNC'S ON COVER BY ROBERT M. WASHBURN.

A LIST OF EARLIEST KNOWN USE (EKU) DATES FOR EACH COIL ISSUE AND PLATE NUMBER CAN HELP A COLLECTOR DETERMINE IF A PARTICULAR COVER REPRESENTS AN EARLY OR LATE USE OF THAT PLATE NUMBER.

COLLECTORS OF FIRST CLASS PNC COMMERCIAL COVERS USUALLY SEEK COVERS WITH THE EARLIEST USE DATE POSSIBLE. A COVER WITH AN EARLIEST KNOWN USE DATE IS A VERY DESIRABLE COVER. THE EKU DATE FOR ANY COVER IS ALWAYS SUBJECT TO CHANGE SINCE NEW DISCOVERIES MAY OCCUR AT ANY TIME.

PLATE NUMBER COILS ON
COMMERCIAL COVER

FLAG SERIES

'SEA TO SHINING SEA'

RATE PERIOD	EKU ON COM. COVER
03-22-81 TO 10-31-81	05-06-81

18C FIRST CLASS
1ST OUNCE RATE

UTILITY PAYMENT COVER

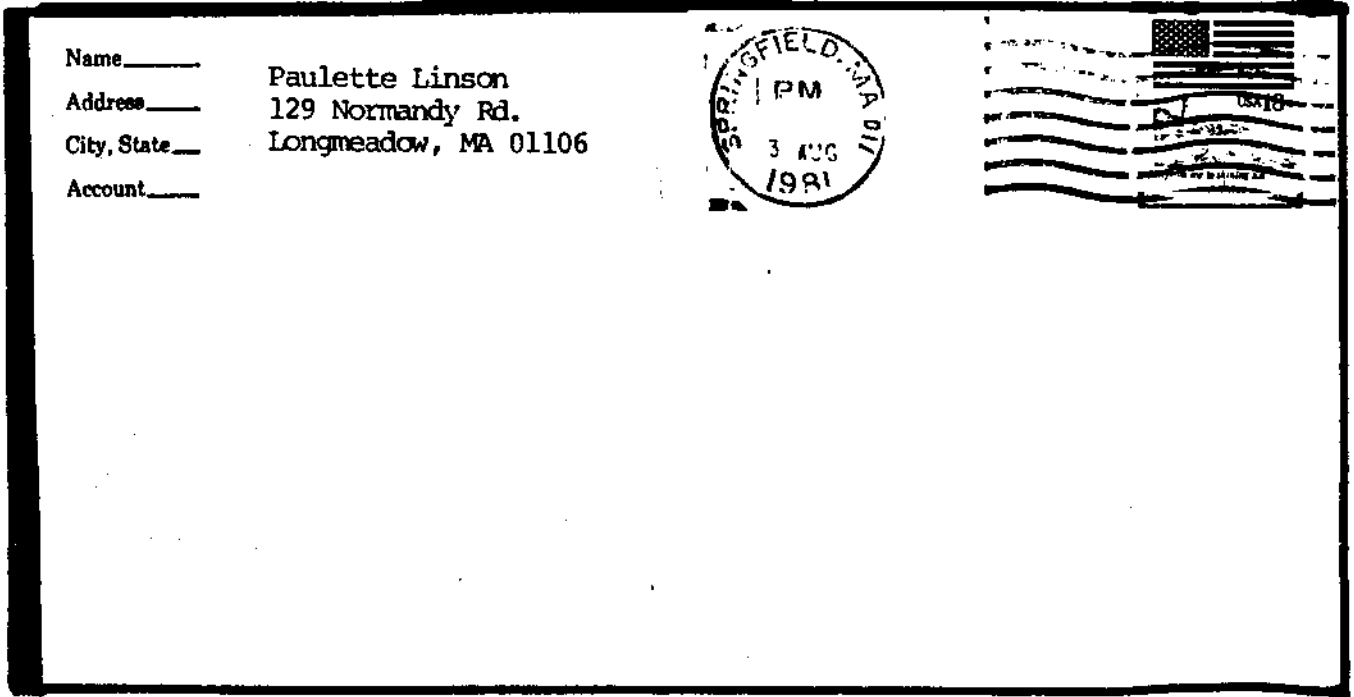


PLATE NO. 1
WITH
03 AUG. 1981 SPRINGFIELD MA.
RATE PERIOD CANCEL

PLATE NUMBER COILS ON
COMMERCIAL COVER

TRANSPORTATION SERIES

''SURREY''

RATE PERIOD	EKU ON COM. COVER
03-22-81 TO 10-31-81	06-02-81

18C FIRST CLASS
1ST OUNCE RATE

COMMERCIAL MAIL COVER

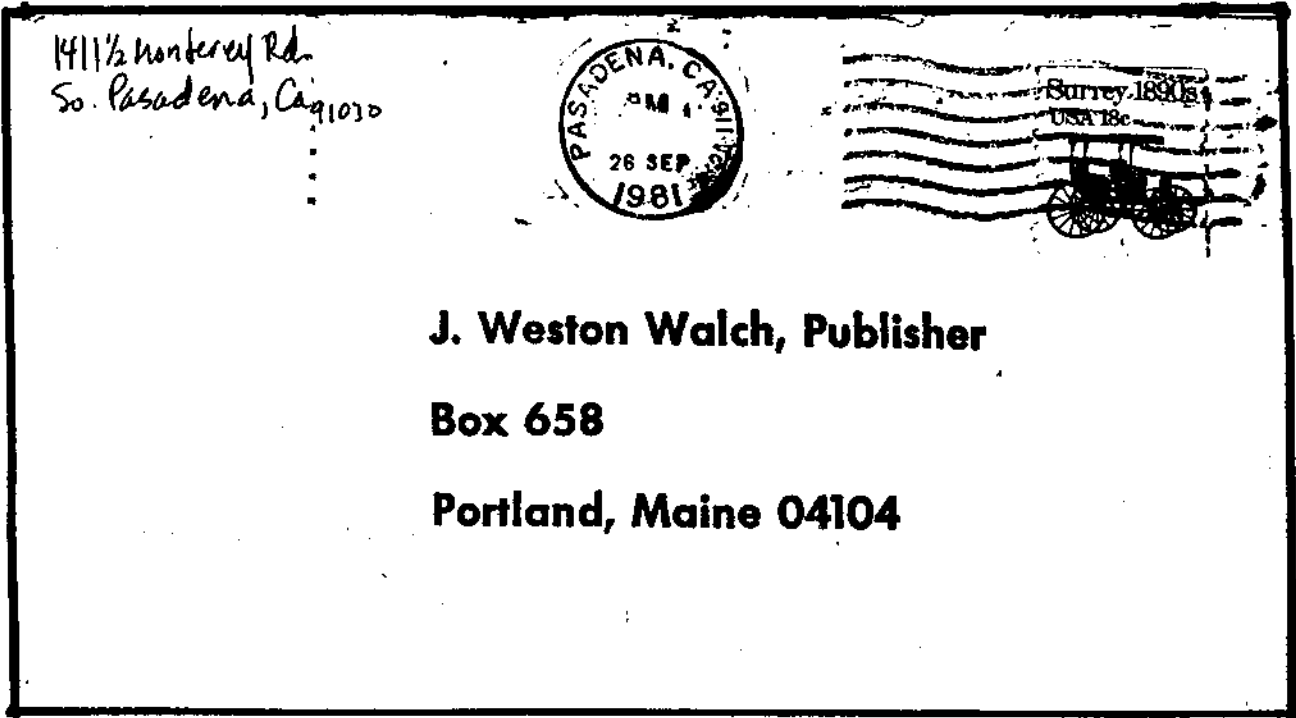


PLATE NO. 1
WITH
26 SEPT. 1981 PASADENA ,CA.
RATE PERIOD CANCEL

PLATE NUMBER COILS ON
COMMERCIAL COVER

TRANSPORTATION SERIES

'FIRE PUMPER'

RATE PERIOD	EKU ON COM. COVER
11-01-81 TO 02-16-85	12-29-81

20C FIRST CLASS
1ST OUNCE
◆EARLY CANCEL◆

COMMERCIAL MAIL COVER

Name Rebecca Beafery
 Address 1318 Dennitt
 City Corpus Christi Tex. Zip 78418
 Account No. F17-0768-160

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX
 15 JAN 1982
 4 PM

Fire Pumper
 18608
 USA

CHECK IF NEW ADDRESS

Let's Read & Find Out
 A Service of The Children's Reading Institute
 Membership Center
 Higganum, CT. 06441

PLATE NO. 1
WITH
16 JAN. 1982 CORPUS CHRISTI, TX.
RATE PERIOD CANCEL

PLATE NUMBER COILS ON
COMMERCIAL COVER

FLAG SERIES

'SUPREME COURT'

RATE PERIOD	EKU ON COM. COVER
11-01-81 TO 02-16-85	01-05-82

20C FIRST CLASS
1ST OUNCE
PURPLE CANCEL

COMMERCIAL MAIL COVER



Mr. Jack Trupin
Peerless Agency
122 E. 42nd St.
New York, NY 10017



NOT DELIVERABLE AS ADDRESSED
UNABLE TO FORWARD
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

PLATE NO. 1
WITH
11 AUG. 1982 NEW YORK, NY.
RATE PERIOD CANCEL

PLATE NUMBER VARIETIES

(PLATE GRIPPER CRACK VARIETY)

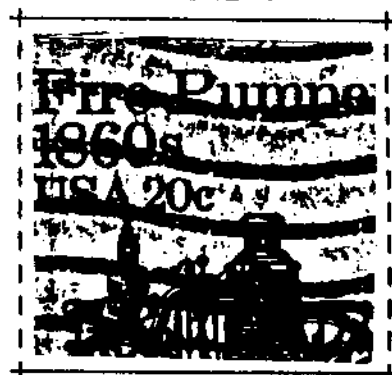
FIRE PUMPER PLATE NUMBER 2

THE COTTRELL PRINTING PLATES USED TO PRINT THIS STAMP ARE CURVED TO FIT ON THE PRESS CYLINDER. IN ADDITION SLOTS ARE CUT ON THE UNDERSIDE OF THE PLATE NEAR THE EDGE OF THE PLATE WHERE THE GRIPPERS ATTACH TO HOLD THE PLATE ON THE PRESS CYLINDER. AS A RESULT OF THIS BENDING AND CUTTING CRACKS MAY OCCUR IN THE PLATE OR DEVELOP OVER TIME DUE TO NORMAL STRESS IN THE PRINTING PROCESS. THESE CRACKS OFTEN OCCUR AT THE EDGE OF THE PLATE WHICH IN THE CASE OF COILS IS WHERE THE PLATE NUMBER OCCURS.

THIS PLATE CRACK VARIETY EXISTS IN SEVERAL FORMS SHOWING A PROGRESSION OF DEVELOPMENT. EXAMPLES MAY BE FOUND WITH ONE OR MORE STAGES MORE PRONOUNCED. THE LINES ON THE PLATE 2 COVER SHOWN ARE THIN AND FAINT AND PROBABLY REPRESENT AN EARLY STAGE.

THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE PLATE 2 COVER (FIGURE 1) CLEARLY REVEALS TWO PLATE CRACK LINES BETWEEN THE 'E' OF FIRE AND THE 'O' OF 1860.

FIGURE 1



(HONEY BEE VARIETY)

HONEY BEE FULL SERIF PLATE NUMBER 1

INITIAL TEST RUNS OF THE HONEY BEE PLATE NUMBER 1 EMPLOYED THE USUAL SIZE PLATE NUMBER. HOWEVER THE NEW PROCESS USED TO PRINT THESE STAMPS RESULTED IN PLATE NUMBERS POKING INTO THE BOTTOM OF THE IMAGE FRAME. TO COMPENSATE FOR THIS PLATES WERE SENT BACK TO ENGRAVERS AND THE NUMERALS SHORTENED MANUALLY.

THIS PRODUCED SOME VARIATIONS. ONE OR MORE OF THE 18 PLATE POSITIONS HAS A TOP SERIF SLANTING DOWN TO THE LEFT. ANOTHER SHOWS A ROUNDED SWELLING AT THE TOP. MOST HOWEVER APPEAR TRUNCATED WITH THE TOPS CHOPPED OFF LOOKING LIKE AN INVERTED 'T'. CONSEQUENTLY, ONLY ONE OR TWO OF EVERY 18 PLATE NUMBER HONEY BEE STAMPS HAS A FULL SERIF.

FIGURE 2 SHOWS AN ENLARGEMENT OF THE FULL SERIF VARIETY (TOP) AND AN EXAMPLE OF THE TRUNCATED VERSION (BOTTOM) FOR COMPARISON.

FIGURE 2

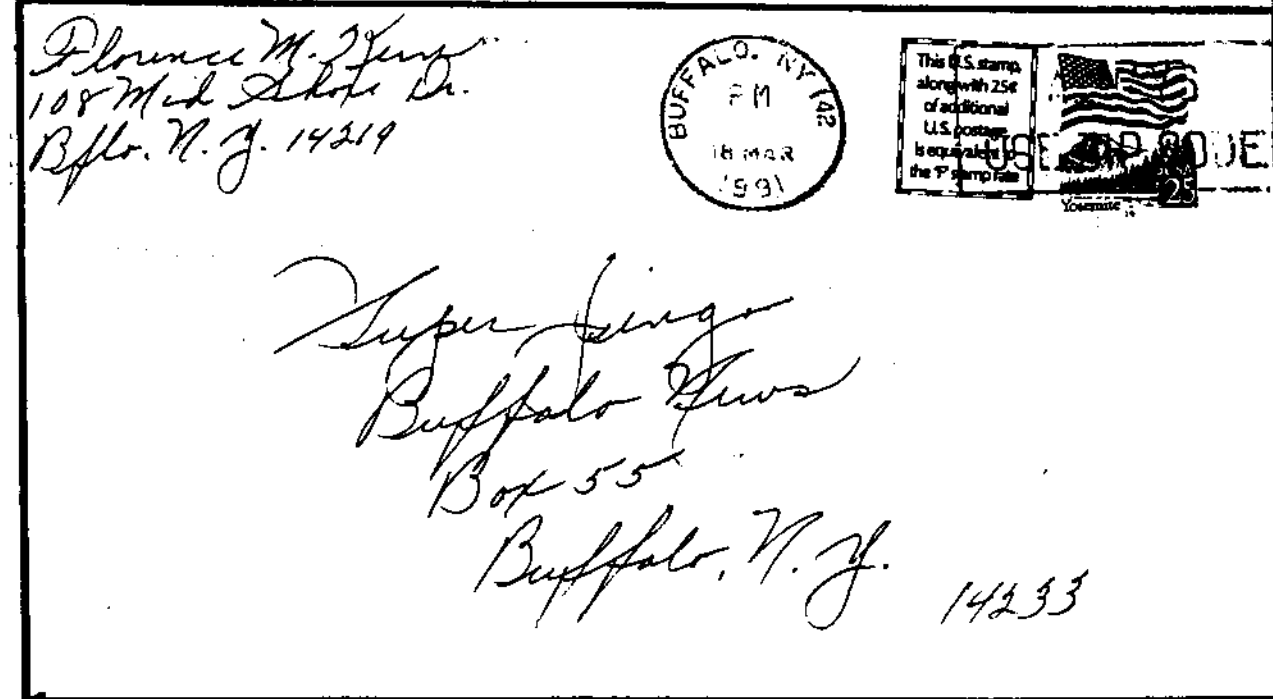
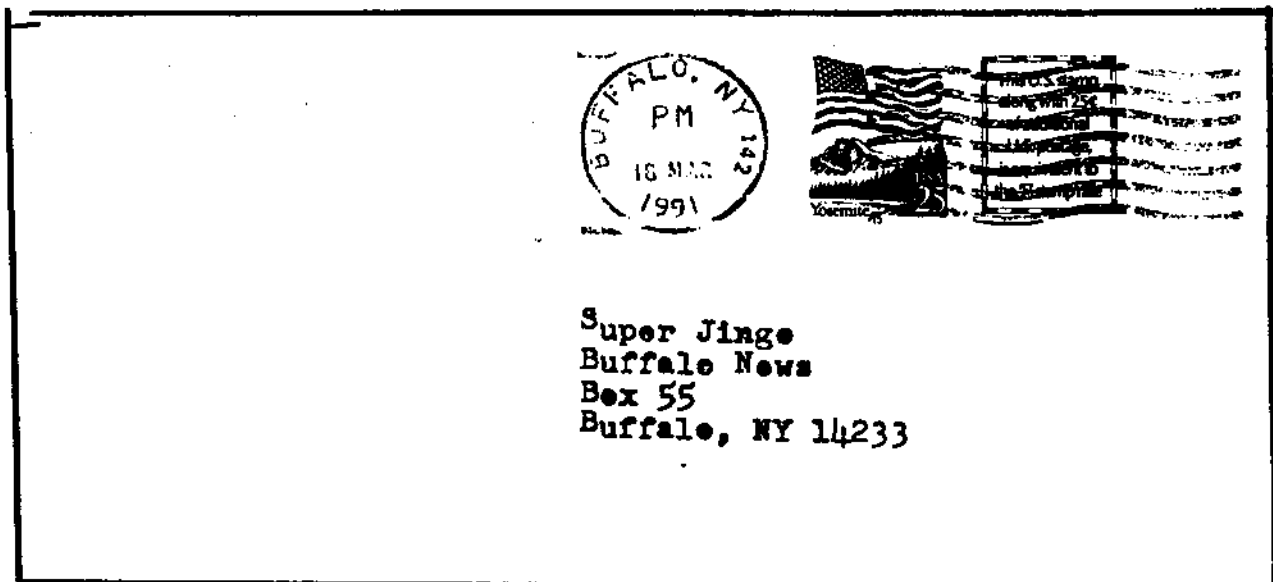


PLATE NUMBER COILS

25¢ FLAG YOSEMITE

The new rate change to 29¢ came into effect on January 22, 1991 for a First Class Letter. The following covers shows the old rate of 25¢ plus the new add on rate stamp. The add on rate stamp states: This U.S. stamp along with 25¢ of additional U.S. postage, is equivalent to the "F" stamp rate.

#13



#14

PLATE NUMBER COILS

F RATE FLOWER

FOR U.S. ADDRESSES ONLY

The nondenominated "Flower" stamp is the sixth in a series that used letters "A" through "D" and "E" for "Earth" in conjunction with postage rate changes from 1977 through 1988. The Flower stamp features a large red tulip on a yellow background.

DATE OF ISSUE: January 22, 1991

Plate Number : Four single digits 24 stamps apart

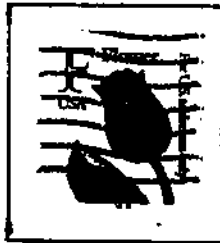
Colour: Red, cyan, yellow, black process colours

Format: Coils of 100, 500 and 3000

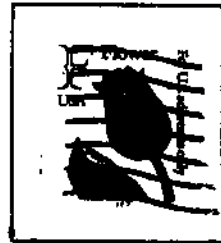
Press: Andreotti Press Paper: Phosphored



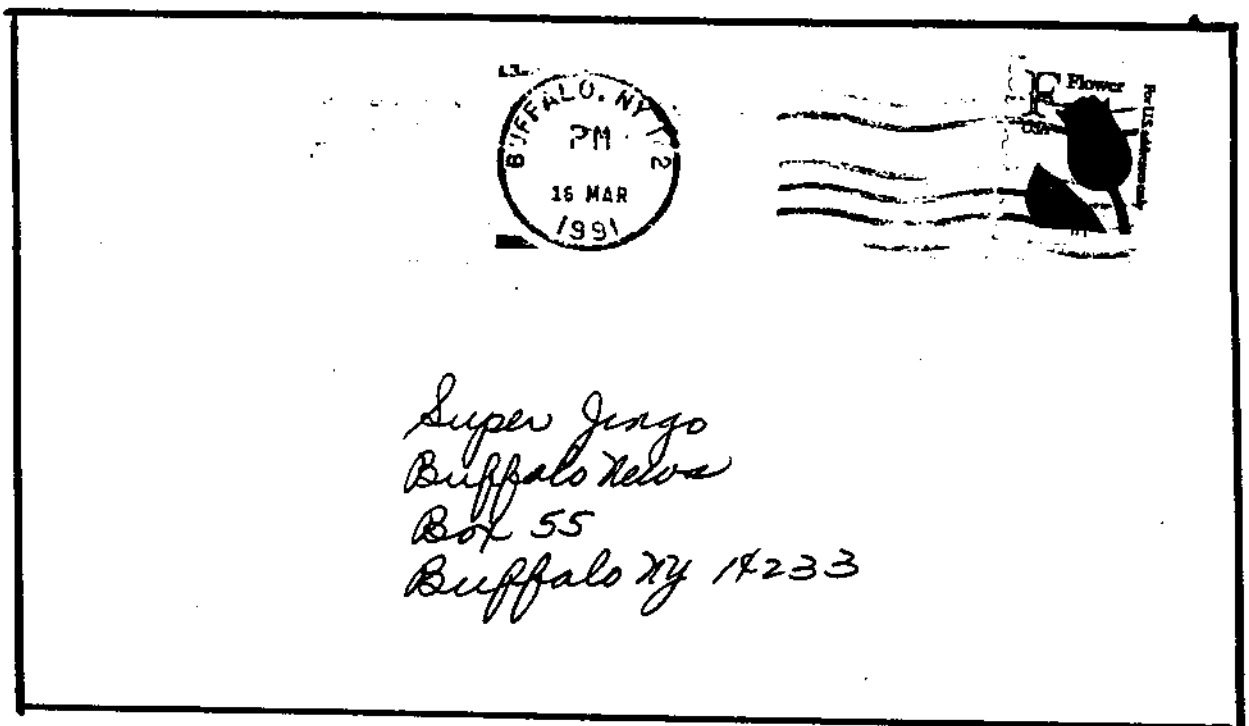
#1111



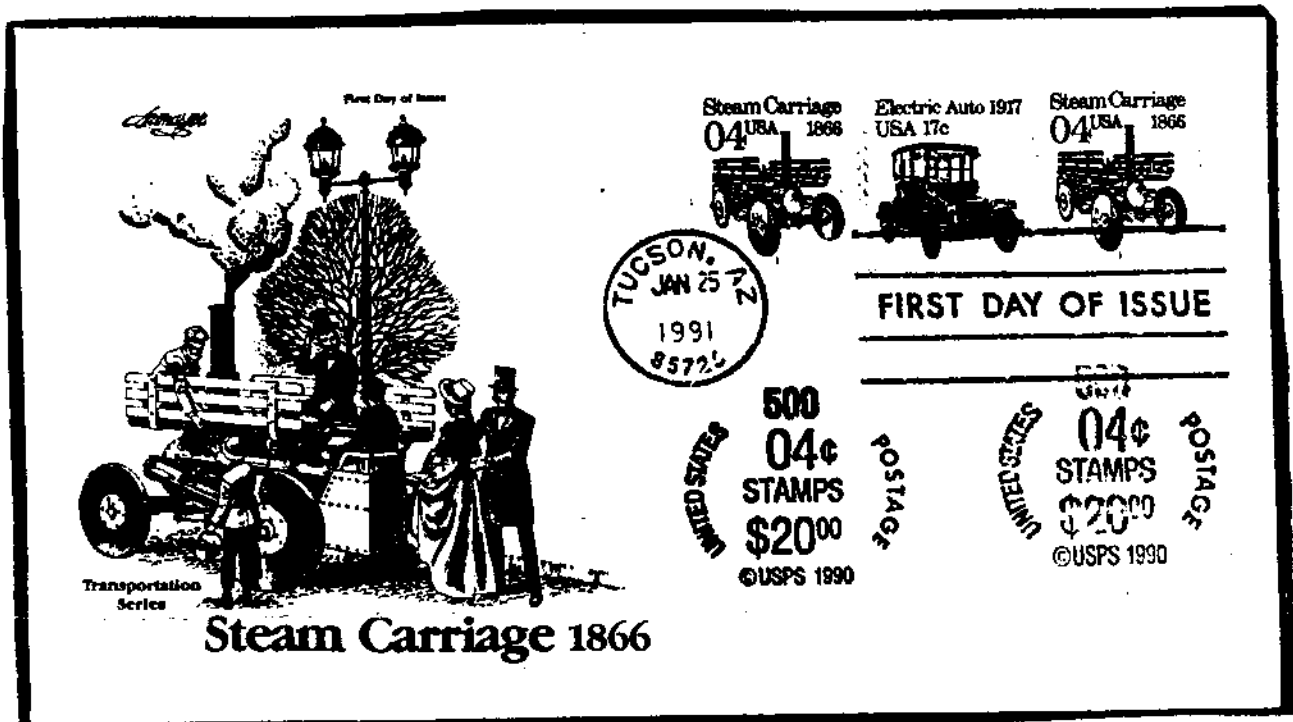
#1222



#2222



#1111



Steam Carriage FDC, tagged and untagged

This 4c Steam Carriage First Day Cover features both the tagged and untagged version of the stamps, both plate number one, and an example of the label from each package tied to the FDC cancel. Conrad Keydel of Detroit made the cover. He said the label (right) from the untagged stamps has letters and numbers that are slightly (one-half millimeter) larger than the label found on the tagged roll. To date, all of the rolls of 3,000 he has found have been tagged. Although discussion at the regional meeting in Columbus April 13 indicated other differences (see page 9), Conrad believes the only differences are illustrated on this cover. Comments are welcome.



Copyright U.S. Postal Service 1991

Issue Date: March 29, 1991
First Day City: Mt. Rushmore (Keystone), SD
Designer, Typographer, and Modeler:
 Clarence Holbert, Washington, DC
Art Director: Leonard Buckley, Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP)
Postal Service Manager: Joseph Brockert, Marketing Specialist, Principal
Printing Process: Intaglio (BEP)
Colors: Red, blue, and maroon
Size: .71 x .82 in/18.0 x 20.8 mm (image area)
 .87 x .96 in/22.1 x 24.4 mm (overall)
Plate Numbers: One
Stamps per Coil: 100, 500, and 3,000



Copyright U.S. Postal Service 1991

Issue Date: April 12, 1991
First Day City: Columbus, OH
Designer: Robert Brangwynne, Boston, MA
Art Director and Typographer:
 Richard Sheaff, Design Coordinator, Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
Postal Service Manager: Jack Williams, Program Manager for Philatelic Design
Engravers: Gary Chaconas (picture), Gary Slight (lettering), Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP)
Printing Process: Intaglio (BEP)
Color: Blue (PMS 295U)
Size: .71 x .82 in / 18.0 x 20.8 mm (image area)
 .87 x .96 in / 22.1 x 24.4 mm (overall)
Plate Numbers: One
Stamps per Coil: 100, 500, 3000