

PNC³

Coil Line

Journal of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club - PNC3



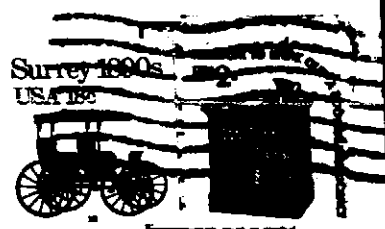
October 1, 1992
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Tom Maeder, President
1604 Bardale Ave.
San Pedro, CA 90731 (310-833-7937)

Harold Brown, Editor
909 Parker Street
Bowling Green, OH 43402 (419-352-7900)

RETURN ADDRESS

Gibbs/Bogert
15 Spruce St., Apt. #2
Oakland, NJ 07436



National Bank of North America

VISA Center
C-Box 2051
Huntington Station, N.Y. 11746



116

Cover of the month shatters EKU for 18c Surrey Plate No. 18

The 18c Surrey No. 18 was sent to press Sept. 16, 1981 but was thought to have never been on sale during or near the 18c first class period. This astonishing cover, just discovered, is postmarked Jan. 6, 1982 during the rate change, eclipsing the previous EKU of Oct. 19, 1987 by almost six years.

Variable Rate Coils featured this month

Much of this issue of Coil Line is devoted to the Variable Rate Coil stamps and experiences PNC3 members have had with the machines. Tom Maeder has prepared a two-page report, there is a letter about another experience with the machines and two additional pages illustrate various uses and combinations of the coils on covers received by CL Editor Harold Brown.

The VRC stamps (that combination is difficult to type given the impact of VCRs in the last 10 years). It will also be interesting to see if the VRC stamps become as prominent as VCRs. What effect will the VRC coils have on the PNC hobby? Let's hear some of your

views. How many of you have had covers returned or marked "postage due" because a clerk or a carrier somewhere didn't know about the VRC stamps? Any examples of these markings you could share with Coil Line readers? Send photocopies to the editor.

'Detroit Connection' responsible for VRC stamps mailed with Sept. issue

Detroit area PNC3 members Joann and Kurt Lenz were responsible for supplying the VRC stamps inserted into each envelope containing the September issue of Coil Line.

(Continued on page 158)

Letters

President's message

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity as your incoming president to thank Rob Washburn for his two years of service as president. Under Rob, a functioning committee system was established. Club by-laws were drafted by a committee headed by Gene Trinks, and were ratified by the membership. A Code of Ethics was drafted, and the Ethics Committee has successfully resolved three disputes in the last year.

It has always brought me joy to be at the Annual Meeting at Stampshow or at a Regional Meeting and witness the sense of community and good-spirited fellowship that always exists. Philatelists are often reclusive, but PNC collectors have never fit that stereotype. As early as 1982, a national network of collectors existed hunting down numbers that might be available locally. No dealers specialized in the material, so collectors had to help each other. PNC3 was a natural development of that national network.

Many of you have been members just a short while. Perhaps you have not yet had the opportunity to meet very many other members. But let me assure you that it has always been in the spirit of PNC3 to be inclusive, not exclusive. Try to attend a regional meeting. Several are planned in the coming months, and their dates and locations will appear in Coil Line. You will feel immediately "at home."

Write to Coil Line. Harold Brown has an infinite amount of space available for letters. Pose questions, give information, proffer opinions. Don't be bashful. We are all interested in what you think.

And most importantly, PNC3 is you. The Board wants to reflect your wishes. Thomas Jefferson wrote that the collective wisdom of a group is equal or superior to the wisdom of the leadership. You are rich in ideas, and we are anxious to hear them.

Tom Maeder
1604 Bardale Ave.
San Pedro, CA 90731

How about PNC3 namebadges?

Have you ever wandered through a stamp show or browsed at a dealer's table and wondered whether the collectors in the immediate area were PNC3 members or coil collectors who might be desirous of becoming members of PNC3?

What would be the possibility of PNC3 issuing an identifying pin to each member, similar to what APS and BIA offer?

We have an excellent organization and a highly informative publication of which to be proud. Let's publicize it!

Gene Kiehlmeier
1832 W. 29th St.
Erie, PA 16508

Trading center an excellent idea

To the Editor:

I am responding to Doug Iams letter in the July issue of Coil Line to tell you that your idea of a Trading Center is excellent and should be pursued actively. I did not respond at the time because I had no available strip. Yet I liked your idea and wrote to Joann Lenz about the same subject. Your Trading Center should be expanded to some other common

stamps: I am sure some collectors would like to balance their stock and exchange, for example, 5 or 6 copies of No. 2 Mt. Rushmore for the same number of copies of No. 1, 3,4,5,6 or 9. Perhaps someone with one extra copy of No. 8 will be glad to receive in exchange a No. 5 plus a No. 6. This system would permit collectors who are too busy to go to stamp meetings and shows to concentrate on the PNC numbers available at their post office, while getting the missing numbers from fellow collectors.

It is very disheartening to have to pay \$4.50 to a dealer to get a 23c Lunch Wagon PNC5 No. 1 when you possess a dozen of No. 2 in your stock book! A collector should be able to trade numbers if they are in the same price bracket; if they are not, I am sure he will be happy to pay a modest premium to a fellow collector. This way, PNC3 Bread Wagon, for example, could be added to a collection for a No. 1 plus 50c.

While some dealers are buying PNC5 No. 6 of the 18c Flag at 80 percent of face or selling three FREE non-denominated sample coils at \$15 for a strip of 5, with "large strips available prorata." (Linn's, Aug. 10, 1992, p. 41), collectors should organize a fair exchange system to protect themselves against abuses. I hope many people will share my concern and will adopt your idea of a Trading Center.

Dr. Philippe de Gain
1529 Melrose Ave.
Chester, PA 19013-5817

VRCs-No need to panic

To the Editor:

Linn's has estimated that PSD can print about 8,000 of the VRCs on one day and TPN put the estimate at 10,000. Linn's said that "the PSD is cautioning collectors that fulfillment of orders will take several weeks." Since order with PSD always take at least several weeks, I must assume they mean several additional weeks. Linn's also reported that there is a maximum of five strips per order. While this poses a problem for dealers, there is no need for the rest of us to panic. Taking the low estimate of 8,000 stamps per day and going five days a week for a year results in some 43,452 numbered strips. And that does not count any of the other machines around the country. Sure, they won't all be available immediately, but in time there should be adequate supplies. Of course, that assumes the machines are not down all of the time for repair.

Linn's has already reported a non-denominated VRC. The demonination looks like it would be very easy to forge.

Doug Iams
1885 Victoria Landing
San Jose, CA 95132

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Letters

Copyright law-another view

To the Editor:

Ken Lawrence's knowledge of the copyright law is clearly limited. While I understand the fair use doctrine, it obviously doesn't apply in many instances. Lawrence, a professional writer, should be most sensitive to the protection offered by the copyright statutes. His letter in the September issue suggests he's not.

Lawrence has made it abundantly clear that he has access to my EXPOSE' shortly after they appear. As a writer and part-time dealer who earns income from the PNC area, if his "access" involves receiving photocopies, presumably to avoid the subscription cost, this is NOT "fair use."

If the photocopy that Tom Maeder, a dealer, author and PNC3 officer, employed several months ago as a basis for his letter-to-the-editor was just another of a stream of EXPOSE' issue copies that he receives on a regular basis, this too would not be considered "fair use," since it provides him with information that he might use in his profit making endeavors that he might not otherwise have access to.

If any subscriber makes copies and distributes them to other PNC collectors and/or dealers, this again is NOT fair use.

Ask Mike Laurence, editor and publisher of Linn's about "fair use." He is in an excellent position to obtain EXPOSE' copies but chose, instead, to subscribe.

The lawyer I consulted pointed out that the courts have been rather tough recently in enforcing the "fair use" statutes. Thus, if a company subscribes to a market letter and copies are made and distributed to employees of said company, there have been rulings recently that those copies are NOT "fair use."

I'm certain that Lawrence and others know that I'm not going to hire a lawyer to pursue copyright infringement regarding my EXPOSE'. However, those of you who are making copies should know that in many cases, they are acting against the law.

Dr. Robert Rabinowitz
37 Stanwick Place
Stamford, CT 06905

Variable Rate Coil experiences

To the Editor:

I purchased new Variable Rate Coil stamps on Sept 5, 1992 from the Monterey Park, CA, post office.

The machine worked fine with no malfunctions or misalignments.

The main problem was trying to get out my 200 stamps. I purchased mostly 1c denominations.

There were several customers who wanted to use the machine and I had to keep checking to see that I got a PNC5 or 7.

The other machine in this area, Irvine, CA, is not scheduled to be in operation until October 5 when they open their new post office.

Since the machines are to be open for operation during non-window hours, you may have to choose a

time that you think they will be unoccupied.

Bill O'Connor
3076 Hackett Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90808

Exhibiting update

Bill McMurray has provided the following update on exhibit plans involving PNC3 material.

William DiPaolo plans to exhibit his "The Honeybee Coil" at ThamesPex 92 and at the Postage Stamp Mega Event at Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York.

The lineup at ThamesPex already promises to be the largest exhibit of PNC material in the United States to date.

The Eureka Stamp Show, Oct. 3-4 in Eureka, CA, has requested the PNC3 Presidents Award, as did the Sept. 12-13 Stamp Exhibition and Bourse sponsored by the Tuscora Stamp Club in New Philadelphia, OH, and HOUPEX '92 Oct. 2-4 in Houston, TX.

PNC member Dean Hawk exhibited his "Classic Transportation" Coils of 1981-84 at the New Philadelphia show.

PNC3 Annual Meeting

Stampshow in Oakland was the site of our Annual Meeting. Since the APS rotates its yearly show from West, Midwest, to East, it has seemed a natural to schedule our yearly meeting in conjunction with Stampshow.

The board met at noon on Saturday, Aug. 29. The general meeting was held at 4 p.m. Thirty members were present. Rich Beecher related his experiences using the new EKA GARD variable rate coil machine. John Tison brought color photocopies of his imperf PNC collection, and Tony Curtis showed the commercial covers recovered from his "dumpster diving."

Gifts of door prizes have become a tradition at our meetings and all present were given strips of five of the Venturers test coils and a strip of five of the variable rate coil.

Cesides the Californians, members were present from New Hampshire, Utah, Michigan, Washington, Mississippi, Maryland, New York and Arizona.

Stewart Kusnitz, whose booth is usually a PNC hang out, did not have a booth this year. Members with booths included Stand Goldfarb, Jon Denny and Bill Langs.

Perhaps California is too far away, or perhaps California cities have had too much bad press this year, or perhaps the continuing recession is taking its toll, but attendance at Stampshow was fairly light this year. Nevertheless, the show facilities were outstanding, the weather was ideal and Oakland's restaurants wonderful.

Ads

FOR SALE: A NICE variety to your collection. 29c Mt. Rushmore, "Reddish" in color. \$3.00 per stamp. No plate numbers available. Richard Rush, 10110 Melody Lane, Hagerstown, MD 21740-9511.

THOUGH NOT IN QUANTITY, I have various PNC paraphernalia to trade, such as mint strips and covers of various sorts, including those that are computer-made. My lists for a 75c SASE. Andrew Sanford, 143 Elton St., Providence RI 02906.

U.S. ILLUSTRATED ERROR LIST. Thirty pages, includes PNC errors. \$1.00 plus SASE with 75c postage. Stan Goldfarb, 8520 Atwell Road, Potomac, Maryland 20854.

THERE'S ONLY A FEW OF EACH LEFT!! Don't miss out on your opportunity to own informative and handy PNC booklets "PNC VARIETIES" and "PNC's ON COVER." Special: \$11.50 for "PNC VARIETIES" and \$5.50 for "PNCs ON COVER" or both for \$15.00. Postpaid. Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, Maine 04976.

ULTRA VIEW MOUNTS: The only stamp mounts on the market that allow transmission of UV light plus having acid free paper inserts for facilitating stamp insertion and retention. Coil stip package \$6.00. Mueggenburg, 3525 Bluff Court, Carmichael, CA 95608.

THE PORTUGESE COLUMBIAN SHEETS have sold out in philatelic outlets worldwide. XF available just over wholesale at \$26.50 plus \$1.50 shipping or \$32.00 Linn's Trends against my want list. Limited supply available. Andrew Sanford, 143 Elton St., Providence, RI 02906.

VARIABLE RATE COIL PSS, \$2.50 over face for denomination less than \$2., double face for others. SASE, Tran, 238 Cherry Valley Dr., J-17, Inkster, MI 48141-1456.

BUY AND TRADE, tagging varieties, misperf, imperf EFOs. Mueggenburg, 3525 Bluff Court, Carmichael, CA 95608.

COIL ERRORS. Imperfs, misperfs, miscuts and ink shifts. Send No. 10 SASE for updated price list. I also buy EFO's. Describe holdings, I'll reply promptly. Steve Crippe, Mill Creek Limited, 22833-Bothell Way SE No. 1103, Bothell, WA 98021. Member APS, EFOCC & PNC3.

MODERN COVER COLLECTORS CHECK me out. My stock overflows in good 20th Century commercial covers. Rates, stamp usages, dues, officials, meters, airmail, spray-ons, foreign destinations, WWII, auxiliary markings and more. Fine PNC covers are the exception but fine modern postal history is the rule. Rick Lancaster, P.O. Box 428, Skowhegan, ME 04976.

BUYING VARIABLE RATE COILS on commercial covers, test city areas. No FDC's or philatelic. F-VF. Or will trade PNC covers, spray-ons, etc. John Rowin, 421 N. 17th, McAllen, TX 78501.

Detroit connection

(Continued from page 155)

With two machines in their immediate area (Detroit and Ann Arbor) these two probably have it a little easier than most members looking for VRCs. A third machine was to go on line this month. Anyway, the stamps were sent by Express Mail to Alan Thomson in New Hampshire, who stuffed one into each envelope along with Coil Line.

Joann is also offering to send any member who would like a non-numbered strip of 5, low denomination. To receive one of these strips, send an SASE to Joann at 37211 Alper Dr., Sterling Hts., MI 48312-2203.

She said the machine in Detroit broke down 23 times on the first day it operated but it has been more reliable. The machine in Ann Arbor also is less busy although she said the regular postal customers there have begun to use it and seem to like it. Ann Arbor is the home of the University of Michigan.

Special of the month

4c Stagecoach,
overall tagged Plate No. 1, PS-5

F-VF	\$ 9.00
VF	11.00
XF	14.00

Send for my latest price list.
Bonuses/rebates for all orders
mentioning PNC3.

" Support PNC3"

A.S. Cibulskas
28 Westwood Rd.
Stamford, CT 06902
Phone 203-359-9918

Experiences with the new VRC machines

Tom Maeder

PNC³ members Eugene Liu and Richard Beecher became TV personalities as local Los Angeles television stations covered the first day of use of the ECA GARD machine at Monterey Park, CA.

The machine is "user-friendly." A scale weighs the piece, and if parcel-weight, asks for the zip code of destination. Options for class of mail are displayed on the screen, together with the appropriate postage for each. The screen then asks if the patron needs a stamp.

If you are using the machine just to purchase stamps, you begin by pushing the key marked "Stamps."

"What denomination of stamp do you wish?" Enter number.

"Is the denomination, as shown, correct?" Push "yes."

"How many stamps do you wish?" Enter number.

"Are the correct number of stamps you wish shown?" Push "yes."

"Deposit () dollars and cents." The machine will accept any coin or currency from 5¢ to \$20, although the screen warns that no more than \$3 in change will be dispensed. (The machine will dispense pennies as change, but will not accept them as payment.)

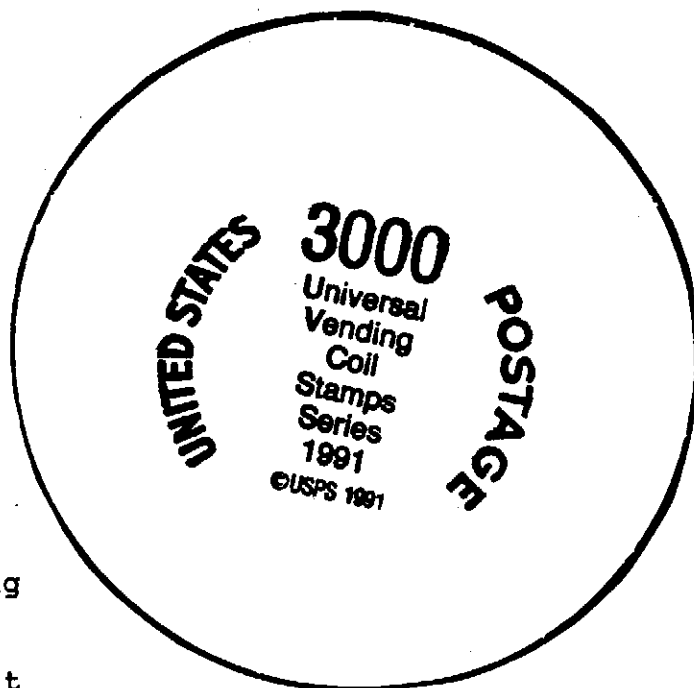
"Do you request a receipt?" Push "yes" or "no."

The custodian of the Monterey Park machine told me that they had set the machine to dispense a maximum of twenty stamps per transaction, but the machine would overheat. He set it for ten, but later settled for fifteen.

The machine holds a roll of 3,000 stamps. I looked at the guts of the machine--it cannot hold a roll of 10,000. If the machine runs out of stamps during a transaction, a voucher is immediately printed instructing the patron to call at the window for the balance due.

The Irvine, CA post office will get a Unisys machine in September. It has a slightly different profile than the ECA GARD machine, but will perform similar functions. When the technician was asked how it differed specifically, the only thing that came to his mind was that Unisys will dispense Susan B. Anthony's as change.

Now about the stamps. They are engraved: blue shield, the rest red. The denomination is printed in black, but like old typewriter ribbon, the denomination is prone to smudging for a couple of days. Although in horizontal format, the plate number (1) is positioned as if it



were a vertical stamp. That is, the plate number is mid-point on the left edge, at a right angle to the design.

How do we collect them? Linn's has had fun talking about the \$500,000 necessary to have a single copy of every possible denomination. Of course, that's \$2,500,000 if we collect PS5, and \$5,000,000 as soon as plate number 2 appears. And what about se-tenant denominations?

Obviously common sense will have to prevail. The printers (the Bureau of Engraving and Printing for the intaglio version, and the American Bank Note Company for the photogravure) have produced a stamp devoid of denomination, but with plate number. I personally do not feel compelled to have a PS5 in more than one denomination, and I even think it is irrelevant what that denomination is. Especially in mint form, the variations are not Bureau-created, but collector-created.

On commercial use, however, it is a different question. As I stood at the ECA GARD machine, I let a patron in front of me who needed a stamp for a registered letter. I wish I could be at the receiving end of that cover. The great collection of variable-rate stamps will be in collecting their bona fide uses.



A few glitches remain. Here we have a strip with the denomination normal, high, low, and not at all.



Se-tenants are possible in any combination. With 9999 denominations, a strip of 5 has just short of 100,000,000,000,000,000,000 possibilities. Cost of acquisition: 6 billion times the national debt. Really! Let's stay calm.

Promotional card mailed to all patrons of zip code 91754.

Introducing a new dimension in self service convenience ...

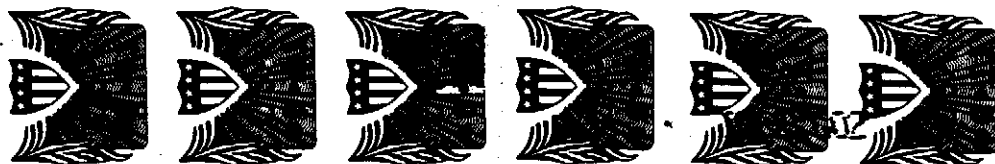


POSTAGE AND MAILING CENTER

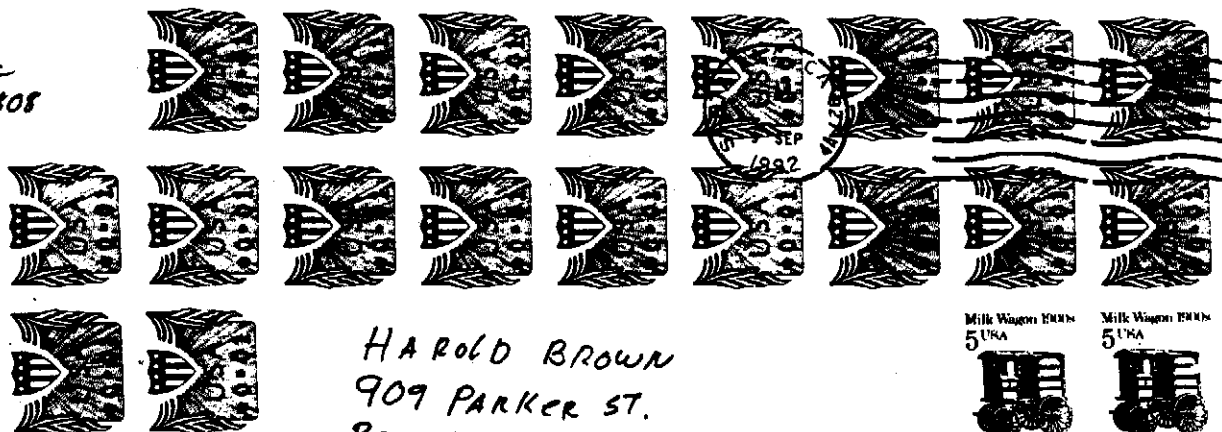
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

- Place article on the scale and find out postage automatically.
- Compare other postage rates and select options.
- Pay for postage and get receipt.
- Drop article in convenient mail receptacle.

available 24 hours a day beginning August 21, 1992
at the Monterey Park Post Office, 245 W. Garvey Avenue



Bill O'Connor
3706 HACKETT AVE
Long Beach, CA 90808



HAROLD BROWN
909 PARKER ST.
BOWLING GREEN, OH

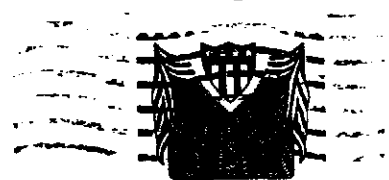
Coil L

37211 Alper Dr
Sterling Hts, MI 48312-2203



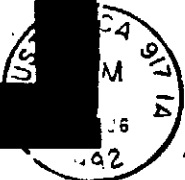
Uses of VRC stamps from the mail received by the Coil Line Editor

The covers and portions of covers illustrated on this page show the various ways PNC3 members have sent correspondence to the Coil Line Editor since the machines were placed in operation around country. The top cover is from one mailed by PNC3 President Tom Maeder. Close examination shows the only "cancel" on the two stamps at the right, a jet-spray marking "TOLE OO2" which is commonly found on covers in this area that go through the Toledo post office. The second cover is from Bill O'Connor and contained the letter on his VRC experiences published in this issue. The third is a postcard sent by Joann Lenz about a stamp club meeting in Michigan where one of the topics was to be VRC experiences. The bottom example is cropped from a large envelope from Maeder to the editor, which contained his article in this issue about the VRC stamps. One of the benefits of this job is receiving covers with all sorts of interesting uses. Maybe there's an exhibit among all of these letters received the past couple of years.



Harold Brown, Editor
 Coil Line
 909 Parker St
 Bowling Green, OH 43402

Cover with VRC stamp with 29c denomination mailed from Royal Oak, MI, prepared and sent to the Coil Line Editor by Joann Lenz.



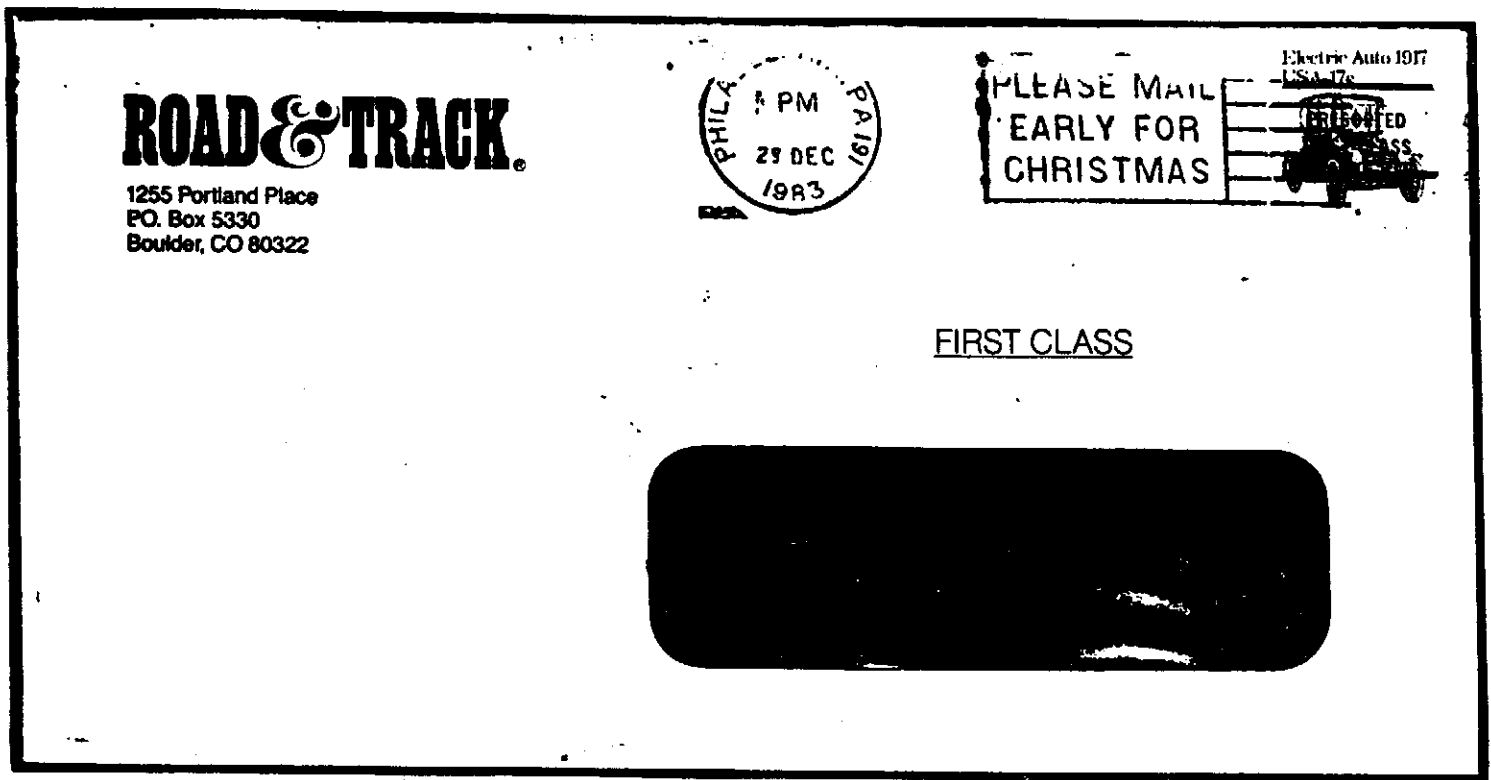
Harold Brown
 909 Parker St.
 Bowling Green, OH
 43402

Cover with VRC stamp with \$1.29 denomination paying the certified mail rate. Cover was postmarked in Monterey, CA . and prepared by Richard Beecher.

COMMERCIAL COVERS
Installment #42

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

I recently acquired the cover pictured below. It is a commercial cover of the 17¢ Electric Auto precancel #6 type B. It is the only known commercial cover using that particular plate number. Also, as you can see, the big bonus is the fact that it is tied by a 12/29/83 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania cancellation. It is not only the earliest known usage of this particular plate number, but it is the earliest known usage of any precancelled 17¢ Electric Auto PNC. I acquired the cover from the vast modern postal history stock of dealer Rick Lancaster of Mainely Modern Philatelics. Rick is also a PNC³ member.



While on the subject of the 17¢ Electric Auto precancel covers, it still amazes me how few PNC covers are known to exist using 17¢ Electric Auto precancels. Even no number covers seem to be somewhat tough to find. The precancelled Electric Autos saw service for about five years...5-digit presort rate (11/1/81-2/16/85) and first-class quantity mailing, sorted to 3 or 5 zip code digits rate (2/17/85-1/1/86), so you would think they would be easier to find than they are.

In reviewing known quantities of precancelled 17¢ Electric Auto PNC commercial covers, my records indicate the following:

Plate Number

Number Known to Exist
on Commercial Cover

3A	3
4A	4
5A	1
6A	2
7A	1
3B	None
4B	None
5B	3
6B	1
1C	1
2C	1
3C	1
4C	2
5C	None
7C	1

As you can see, PNC commercial covers of the 17¢ Electric Auto are genuinely rare. There must be many more out there. If you have any in your collection, please let me know.

There is one EKU report this month...the 18¢ Surrey #18 dated 1/6/82. This is the first commercial cover ever found using that number. See this month's Cover of the Month installment! Next month, I'll cover the 5.3¢ Elevator and the 13¢ Patrol Wagon.



Membership

Names of 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 Court, Troy, MI 48083, with the objection. The committee will investigate and recommend for or against membership.

New Applicants:

John T. Dahlstrom II
P.O. Box 5545
Evanston, IL 60204

Elwood L. Gibson
Rt. 1, Box 13-D
Dry Fork, VA 24549

Gary Campbell
701 Elm
Hancock, MI 49930

Edward H. Choate
19591 Royal Lane
Lemoore, CA 93245

R.C. Liesche
927 S. 119th Ct.
Omaha, NE 68154

William DiPaolo
404 Dorado Ct.
High Point, NC 27265

Christopher D. Kimmel
USS Detroit, AOE 4, OPS/FOX
FPO AE 09567-3015

Jan Renfoe
Rt. 1 Box 59A
Oroville, WA 98844

Suzanne Paizis
1127 N. Branciforte Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Lawrence N. Secchiaroli
22 Lobdell Dr.
Stratford, CT 06497

Phyllis M. Cooper
637 Delaware
Ozawkie, KS 66070

Membership will reach 564 if all applicants are approved. (Per the PNC3 bylaws, membership numbers will not be assigned until the applicant is accepted.)

Change of address:

Paul L. Kouts
531 Belmont Park North Apt. 801
Dayton, OH 45405

Burton Robbins
21 Pheasant Way
Centerville, MA 02632-3221

Death:

Lloyd Booth, Old Saybrook, CT, May 6, 1992 of cancer.

Dropped:

Paul Bravell (for non payment of dues)

Correction:

Darrel Purucker
P.O. Box 1773
Sioux City, IA 51102
Name was incorrect in September issue.

The next PNC3 auction listing will be published in the Nov. issue of Coil Line.

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 September issue was mailed Aug. 25.

President: Tom Maeder, 1604 Bardale Ave., San Pedro, CA 90731. (310-833-7937)

Distribution: Alan Thomson, P.O. Box 91 Northwood, NH 03261 Mailed under Bulk Rate Permit No. 1, Northwood, N.H. 03261. Back issues are available but please write to Alan in advance detailing what you would like to obtain. Please include an SASE so that Alan can reply to your request. There is a charge.

Change of address should be sent to and membership applications are available from : Joann Lenz, 37211 Alper Dr., Sterling Hts. MI 48312-2203.

Dues are \$10 per year (\$14 if first class mailing of Coil Line is desired, \$14 for Canada and Mexico and \$20 for all others) and should be sent to: Gene Ernst, Treasurer 15522 Windy Cove, Houston, Texas 77095-1908.

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.

P.O. Box 135 - Redway, CA 95560

The MUD-PAK

Look Inside For Money Saving Coupons
from KMUD Community Radio.

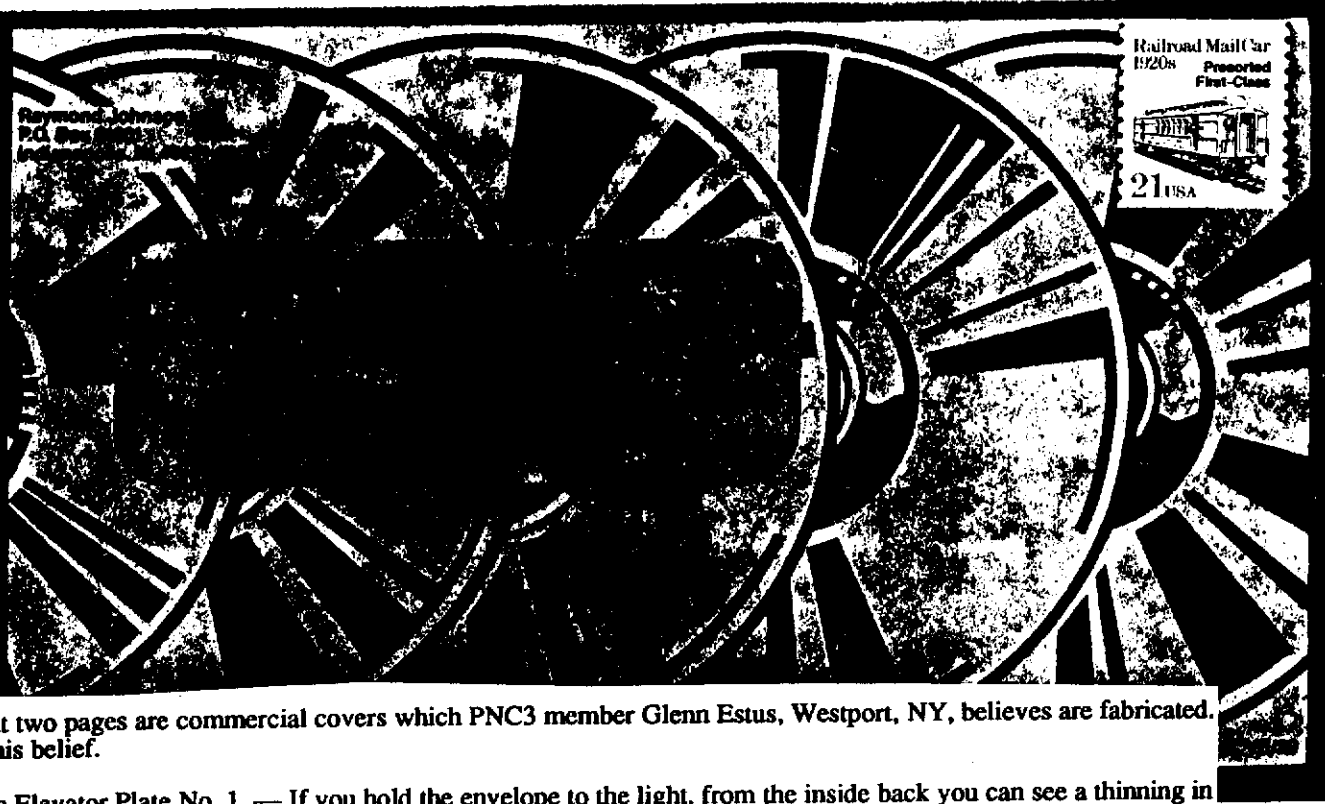


COMMUNITY

6 COMPACT DISCS, CASSETTES OR RECORDS

for the price of **1**

with nothing more



Illustrated on the next two pages are commercial covers which PNC3 member Glenn Estus, Westport, NY, believes are fabricated. Following are reasons for his belief.

Franked with the 5.3c Elevator Plate No. 1. — If you hold the envelope to the light, from the inside back you can see a thinning in the envelope where the previous stamp was removed. In the same way, you can see where glue was added to the stamp to affix it to the envelope. Looking closely at the front of the envelope you can see where the previous stamp was carelessly torn off the envelope. The envelope itself was not sealed, which is unusual for material which would go through the mail. The envelope is to pristine for material that should have been processed through the mail.

Franked with the 21c Railroad Mail Car No. 1 (compact disc offer) — Again, the envelope seems too pristine to have passed through the mails. The 21c stamp is placed over a bulk rate permit indicia, which is usually the rate at which these types of letters are mailed. In other words, this is a "junk mail" cover at a first class rate.

Fabricated fractional covers on market?

GARBERVILLE MEDICAL CENTER

729 CEDAR STREET
GARBERVILLE, CALIF. 95440

Railroad Mail Car
1920s Presented
First-Class



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Franked with the 21c Railroad Mail Car (Medical center) — This cover has absolutely no markings which would identify passage through the regular mail system. Once more, an extremely pristine cover with no flaws and also not sealed as one would expect with a letter from a medical center.

Glenn suggests that "buyer beware" be the motto. "There may be people who are dealing in covers worth a few pennies but which are being upgraded to a few dollars by removing regular stamps and adding plate number coils."

(Editor's Note: Glenn provided the originals from which these photocopies were made. I agree all three are questionable with the most glaring being the cover franked with the 5.3c Elevator coil.)



Scarce imperforate strip

John Tison Jr. of Newport Beach, CA, provided this example of a scarce imperforate strip of the 1c Omnibus found in a roll of 500. The error includes 12 stamps. The plate number "2" was too far down from the imperforate stamps to be of value to a collector. Three pieces were made, one being a transition from perforated to imperforate, one a strip of six imperforate with a BEP tape splice and a third of imperforate to perforate. John owns the center strip of six. The strip is block tagged.