

Coil Line

Journal of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club PNC³

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Membership contest will net top three recruiters free membership for a year

The Membership Committee of the Plate Number Coil Collector's Club is sponsoring a recruiting contest for PNC³ members. A member who is listed as a personal reference on the membership application will be given credit as sponsor for that applicant. The three members who recruit the most new members from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1994, will be awarded a one-year free membership (not including first class mailing of *Coil Line*.) If a life member should be one of the top three, that member(s) would be awarded two years free first class mailing instead. (There would be a total of three winners from both categories.) In case of a tie, there will be a drawing.

Any member who recruits five members during the year would be entitled to one-year free first class mailing of *Coil Line*.

Winning members who pay dues/first class mailing before the end of 1994 will have that amount rebated.

Applicants must have named a personal reference on the application form in order for a member to receive credit.

Board members and members of the Membership Committee (and the editor of *Coil Line*) will exclude themselves from the contest.

A copy of the application blank is attached as an unnumbered page with the April *Coil Line*. Make as many copies as you like and recruit away.

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New numbers and printings abound but not all have been seen by collectors

The Snippets column in this issue lists some new numbers, as does the Current Issue Roll Size table that was initiated as a monthly feature in the March *Coil Line*.

However, *Linn's* Michael Schreiber reports in the March 21 issue that a March 3 fax from USPS that more printings and numbers are on the way.

The information states rolls of 3,000 of the 19c Fishing Boat A6667 and A7766 and rolls of 500 for A5556 and A7667 have been printed.

The 5c Circus Wagon A3 reportedly will be found in rolls of 10,000.

The release indicates Eagle & Shield A11 11 10 10 10, A10 11 10 10 12, A 11 11 11 10 10, A 14 11 10 10 10, A 14 11 10 10 10, A 14 11 10 10 11 also exist. No hint as to roll size but 500 and 3,000 seem most likely. (Note that all of these numbers and letters will be "scrunched" together and are listed with spaces here in an effort to make things easier to read).

The USA 23c coil A4443, A4444, A4453 and A4364 are reported in rolls of 10,000.

Also reported is No. 3 on the 3c Conestoga.

USPS ordering numbers were not reported, if in fact there will be any.

The March 1994 issue of *The Plate Number* reports coils of 30,000 stamps are going to be printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The announcement was made by Rick Arvonio, manager of stamp acquisition for USPS. BEP is presently allowed to print coils of stamps no larger than 3,000. Arvonio said USPS wants to be able to use just one printer on a stamp in the future instead of several basically printing the same stamp. The announcement was one of many at a special USPS "peace conference" held in Washington, D.C., in early February. About two dozen philatelic writers attended.

No doubt the dealers and traders have been burning up the phone lines looking for all of this stuff. Get to know a philatelic clerk. It just might pay off!

Letters

More on the PNC Checklist efforts

To the Editor:

Thanks to both Mike Stefun and Michael Lipson for their kind words about the PNC Checklist.

I understand Mike's reluctance to want to make the list too specialized-I have the same desire. A lot of that has to do with my level of expertise. Initially, I made the list just to help myself keep track of my own collection, at my own level, novice. A little later it got printed in the *Coil Line* and I got a lot of help with corrections and a few suggestions for improvements. The list grew as did my knowledge.

Now here it is a year later and Michael Lipson calls me in a panic (sorry Michael but you were pretty excited) talking 90 to nothing describing the many errors and omissions on the list. Wanting to accurately get his suggestions I asked him to make up a copy of the list and send it to me. He did and I have made most of the corrections or changes he asked for, and made a few of my own (I have added a column for printing press type). The list is in Michael's hands now for proofing.

My not too obvious point is that Michael has helped expand my philatelic knowledge and I think it is something worth sharing with everyone. If a person does not know how to determine paper varieties, or even own a UV Lamp, they will still find the list useful, and have an idea of what to collect.

On another subject, George Kuhn's letter expressing his views on self-adhesives not being coil stamps just because they happen to have a plate number, struck a chord with me. They are not coil stamps in any way, shape or form in my opinion, and the next version of the checklist will not have them on it. (Unless of course there is a great outcry from the club membership. If you have a strong feeling either way, let me know).

I am quite willing to consider adding other columns of information to the checklist, in fact I would like to add the coil roll size information just presented by Alan Thomson, if he is interested. I figure that by turning the list sideways (landscape) I can add quite a bit of data and add room for notes, etc. Of course that means the list will grow a page or two. If you have any ideas or suggestions, send them to me. If you have the information already gathered, all the better. I am no expert on PNCs but I'll consider anything. How about an advanced list that shows errors and /or plate varieties?

After working with the new and improved PNC Catalog numbering system I must admit that it could use some adjusting. As Michael pointed out it is not too consistent with the use of the 'phos' suffix, nor are the various paper types properly addressed. I

personally feel that the current method for identifying ultra-violet varieties is ineffective and should be greatly altered. My new checklist will have a suggested format for a more consistent two-letter abbreviation applied as a suffix where needed to accurately describe all the phosphored types. Thought has been given so that this suggested method is easily expanded for future varieties.

Stephen L. McGourty

P.O. Box 56

Lakewood, WA 98259-0056

Controlled supply & controlled prices

To the Editor:

I'm writing to comment on the current situation involving the tagged Eagle & Shield #22221. Many collectors, feel, I'm sure, that they are being gouged. I agree. However, unlike the typical collector, I also sell stamps to support my collecting interests. This selling on the side offers me some interesting insights into the world of dealing.

Any collector who wants to acquire a plate strip of five of this variety will, as of March 14, have to pay at least \$60 to acquire one. Several dealers are claiming that they have run out of F-VF strips, and use this to justify charging a lot for the better ones. I find this argument a bit shaky since the tagged Eagle & Shields had a very good press run with few strips running less than VF.

Several dealers paid very little for strips that they are now selling at \$60 each. If asked, all would probably use the same rationale for the higher pricing-supply and demand. However, like several other issues, notably F1212 and Eagle & Shield A32333, what seems to be the case here is not a small supply but rather closely-held supply. When dealers monopolize the market, the price naturally goes up.

What dealers have to learn is that by jolting prices up to monstrous proportions, they are only killing the goose that lays the golden egg. In doing so, they scare away new collectors and potential customers.

One might argue that I am just as guilty as anyone else possessing the strips. However, I have not sold a strip above \$20, nor do I intend to. I only have three left, two of which reside in my personal collection. The last copy I will place without reserve in a future auction, and we will see what level the price deserves.

The people involved in this gouging know what they are doing and know that it is wrong. They have no reason to be mad at me for telling the truth. Although I suspect that ridiculous prices on plentiful items will continue to occur in the future, I think people should start refusing to pay them.

Andrew Sanford

P.O. Box 2305

Providence, RI 02906-0305

Letters (Continued from previous page)

Commercial covers by Zip Codes

To the Editor:

Following is a list of only the latest PNC numbers that I have found during the months of October 1993 and February 1994. The Zip Codes listed are from the return address. If lacking a return address, I use the cancelation, if readable. This report will start at 29FW9. I'm no longer charting #'s 1-8.

29c Flag/WH #9 - None found yet.

29c Flag/WH #10 - 02043 02062 02159 02169

07047 07087 07111 07410 07444 07463 07514

07601 07645 07733 07747 07799 07830 07999

08724 08807 08820 10019 10128 10562 11217

11234 11235 11256 11590 11735 11758 11772

11793 12054 12601 29520 314 . . 33431 37601

38570 38930 61455 62220 77383 79453 91302.

29c Flag/WH #11 - 02802 08837 10583 11050

11730 11735 11776 17701 18354 18504 19153

95831 WI...

29c Flag/WH # 12 - 07740 08701 08837 10022

17011 59604.

29c Flag/WH 13 - 19067 38930 47804 60195

71220 85255.

Bob Novak
56 Glencourt Ave.
Edison, NJ 08837

Apologies for incorrect information

To the Editor:

My apologies to Editor Harold Brown and to the membership in general. In the February issue, I mistakenly submitted information that stated the First Day of the Unisys machines would be in Fairfield, VA, instead of Merrifield, VA. I hope this miscue caused no inconvenience to anyone.

Joann Lenz
37211 Alper Drive
Sterling Heights, MI 48312-2203

Commercial cover report-Southwest

To the Editor:

Following is the statistical report for PNC commercial covers found during the period of Feb. 6, to March 4, 1994 from the national ladies wear mail order company in Tucson, AZ.

29c Flag/WH - 1-1; 2-10; 3-16; 4-34; 5-17; 6-79;
7-212; 8-196; 9-2; 10-124; 11-82; 12-51; 13-73; 14-0.

No.'s 1-4 are slowly fading away as supplies in post offices and patron supply dwindles. There is still an abundance of plates 7 and 8 as evidenced by the totals and the No.'s 10-13 totals are growing each month. Interesting, No. 5 seems to have had a resurgence and indicates post office lobby machines are being stocked with that number instead of No. 9. Totals for No. 9 have dropped since first found on cover. Rumors still persist that No. 9 is also found on rolls of 100. It does

not appear that is so as more of them would be showing up on commercial cover by now. Let me know if you find No. 9 in rolls of 100. No. 14 has not shown up yet here on commercial cover. My offer to send any current PNCs on commercial cover for an SASE is still valid. Just let me know what plate numbers you need from the above list and I will send the best available, if still available, absolutely free to any PNC3 member.

Dick Koenig
P.O. Box 31872
Tucson, AZ 85751

Commercial cover report from Northeast

To the Editor:

Commercial cover report from the southern New England area, postmarked Feb. 1 through Feb. 26.

29c Flag/WH - 1-3; 2-14; 3-4; 4-8; 5-11; 6-18; 7-174; 8-45; 9-5; 10-109; 11-27; 12-149; 13-28; 14-0. Total - 595.

Others: 1c Omnibus(RE) 2-1; 19c Fishing Boat (Tagged) A5555-1PS2; A5556, 1; A1111-1; A2424-1PS2; 22c Flag/Capitol, 8-1; 23c Lunch Wagon, 2-1; 3-1; 29c Flag/Rushmore, 1-1; 5-1; 6-1; Grav A11111-1; 29c Flower (Roul) S2222, 1; 29c Flower (Perf) S2222, 5. Total - 18.

Grand total 613 and still no Christmas or horizontal VRCs.

Rolly Grandahl
3 Grandview Terrace
East Windsor, CT 06888-0137

Lunch Wagon variety already had a name!

To the Editor:

On the front page of the March issue the caption under a strip of Lunch Wagon tells us that the name of a constant plate variety shown is being changed.

In the past it has been customary for the first finder of a CPV to give it its name. If memory serves me correctly, Frank Covey first discovered this 23c Lunch Wagon variety last September or October, at which time it was named the "Litterbug." Why is this excellent name being replaced by a silly redundancy like "discarded litter"? Trash only becomes litter when it is carelessly discarded. The real point, however, is that the right of name selection belongs to Covey.

Alan Thomson
P.O. Box 91
Northwood, NH 03261

(Editor's Note: The Editor takes full responsibility for using the new name for the variety. Had my memory or checking abilities been properly put to use, the item would never had been published in the March issue. As far as I'm concerned the variety will be referred to in future *Coil Line* issues as "Litterbug" and credited to Frank Covey. My apologies to everyone-Harold.)

Letters (from previous page)
January order from Philatelic Fulfillment
To the Editor:

When I placed an order in January for some coils from Philatelic Fulfillment in Kansas City, this is what I received:

1c Omnibus No. 3 (Item #57705) printed as a negative image. Stamp is untagged with dull gum and has paper similar to the 23c Lunch Wagon dull gum reprint of 1993.

2c Locomotive (Item #57730). Stamp is untagged with dull gum and has paper like the 23c Lunch Wagon dull gum reprint.

3c Conestoga No. 2 (Item #0763). Stamp is the untagged printing of 1992, even though the catalog lists it as the original 1988 issue.

4c Steam Carriage No. 1 (Item #7779) tagged.

5c Circus Wagon #S11 (Item #57907). Face of stamp has a duller finish, while gum is duller as well.

10c Eagle & Shield No. A22113 (Item #7976A)

Richard Beecher
2641 Locksley Place
Los Angeles, CA 90039-2708.

Received from Philatelic Fulfillment

To the Editor:

The following items were received in a recent order from Philatelic Fulfillment:

Self adhesive sheets - Love B2225; Eagle M111.

Self adhesive coils - Love B-1; Eagle 111; Pine Cone B1

PMC coil ABN - A11

Gene Ernst
15522 Windy Cove
Houston, TX 77095

APS-PNC slide show informs club members

To the Editor:

The Ken Lawrence APS-PNC slide program was presented to the McAllen, TX, Stamp Club on March 10. A brief introduction of how I became interested in plate number coil collecting was presented, followed by the program using the audio-visual feature. Questions were withheld until after the presentation.

There were 25 to 30 members present, which was a good turnout, mainly due to the fact that I had the club secretary send out postcards in advance announcing the presentation. The program was well-received and there were many questions.

It would be in PNC3's best interests to try to give this program to any group that they can muster up. It informed the other collectors who were not too enthusiastic about coil collecting. The members of the McAllen club have an entirely new concept of coil

collecting and a positive one rather than negative. Get the message out to get more members and strengthen the club.

Carl Wicklund
4812 No. 10th Apt. 315
McAllen, TX 78504-2878

COIL LINE

Published monthly as the journal of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club, also known as PNC³. Copy must be in the hands of the editor no later than the 15th of the month to be considered for the next issue. The March issue was mailed Feb. 23.

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, NH 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 the request. There is a charge to cover costs.

Changes of address: Should be sent to and membership applications are available from Joann Lenz, Secretary, 37211 Alper Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48312-2203.

Mailing list: Rental of the club mailing list is available. A one-time usage of labels costs \$50. Contact the secretary, Joann Lenz, for details.

Dues: Are \$10 per year (\$15 if First Class mailing of Coil Line is desired, \$15 for Canada and Mexico and \$20 for all others) and should be sent to Gene Ernst, Treasurer, 15522 Windy Cove, Houston, TX 77095-1908.

Advertising rates: are \$42 for a full page, \$22.50 for one-half page and \$12 for one-quarter page per issue. A check or money order payable to PNC³ must be submitted with the advertising copy. All copy should be sent to the editor, 909 Parker St., Bowling Green, OH 43402.

Members: are entitled to two, 40-word ads per year at no charge. Word ads are available at six cents per word per month to nonmembers or those members who have used their free ads.

SNIPPETS

New Numbers

Another Eagle & Shield number adds to the growing list. It's A1110111010 and brings the total from three printers to 36. Other new numbers are the Sunrise Love (SA) B1, and the blue Eagle (SA) 111. An interesting note about the Eagle self-stick is that it's number has no letter prefix. It was printed by 3M and the sheetlet counterpart has an M prefix on its plate number. Did 3M just plain forget the rules when printing the coil?

A Teenager

The 24th of this month is an anniversary for PNCs, and the object of our affection will be thirteen years old. Happy birthday to the PNC.

Commentary

Snippets feels compelled to comment on an item that appeared last month in Bill McMurray's "On the Exhibit Trail" column. Bill quoted a judge's comment about his PNC exhibit as, "Describing perf shifts beyond 50% is nonsense depends on whether shift came from the left or right." The only nonsense here is the judge's comment. This poor fellow confuses half the distance across the stamp with a percentage of possible displacement. The point of maximum deflection is 100%. Since that point is the exact center of the vignette, anything either side of that point is a lesser percentage, decreasing down to zero at the normal location. It matters not whether you're talking about perf shifts or tag shifts, the point of greatest possible displacement is 100%. Hey, Bill. Don't change your frame. You're right and he's wrong. Tell that guy to take a hike -- back to school for some remedial mathematics comprehension.

Transportations Roll On

One of the items to come out of the mid February pow-wow between philatelic journalists and the stamp people from USPS is that there is no new coil series in sight. USPS is sticking with the transportation coils for the time being.

Growing Like a Fungus

You thought self-adhesive coils would just go away? That's not what's going to happen. You read above where there are already two more SA coils with plate numbers and it's going to continue. USPS is considering rouletting the backing paper between these self stickers so they will be "easier to separate". But that's a minor point. Apparently the printers of these stamps are experimenting with self adhesive coils that are attached to each other and have no backing paper. These would be produced in monster rolls and depend on the slick surface of the stamps in the coil below to keep them from sticking together. (One might ask how the first loop starts. On a slick surface core? And how is cancelling ink going to penetrate the slick face?) How are we going to order and ship these? And if you can find a way, how are you going to mount them? Looks as if we'd better start saving the backing paper or scrap from the current crop of these nasty little pseudo coils that have wormed their way into our specialty.

No - Yes - No

USPS can't seem to make up its mind whether SA coils can be sold by the roll. Last summer the word was they could only be sold in short strips. Through an error one individual was able to buy a couple of full rolls. A dealer complained and all of a sudden the policy was changed. Anyone could buy rolls from the cave. It seems that one of the "executives" in Washington didn't know about this reversal and when he learned of it at the meeting with philatelic writers, came unglued and told the Kansas City folks to cease and desist. Makes you wonder. What kind of marketing do they teach these days?

#3 Lunch Wagon Tired

Sleeve #3 of the Lunch Wagon has printed a huge quantity of stamps and is beginning to show signs of old age. Eugene Liu of California has found a constant plate variety, shown below, that appears to result from chipping at the edges of "23" and "USA". This CPV is from the embedded phosphor, shiny gum type and is located at 8L. Nice find; nice photocopy, Eugene.



ABNC Out

American Bank Note Company lost its printing contract with USPS and won't be reprinting any more of the E&S, 23c USA or Fishing Boat stamps. That's not to imply that a few more numbers already printed, but not yet found, won't turn up. There's a good chance the Fishing Boat will be reprinted by some other source; with the inevitable differences. The other two are already known from other printers.

Identity Crisis

The look-alike this month is the 12c Stanley Steamer precancel. Only the precancel from plate #1 was reprinted on the "B" press. The reprint was not re-engraved and the original transfer roll was used to make the "B" press sleeve. As with similar reprints, the most distinctive difference is the absence of the line to the right of the plate number. Otherwise, the usual .5mm difference in width is the detectable variance. The Cottrell plate bending made the image wider.

CURRENT ISSUE ROLL SIZES

KEY

A-100, B-500, C-3000, D-10000

EP - EMBEDDED PHOSPHOR PAPER

SP - SURFACE PHOSPHOR PAPER

| 29c WHITE HOUSE | | (10c) EAGLE & SHIELD | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------|
| #1 | A | #A77777 | B, C, D |
| #2 | A, B, C | #A88888 | C |
| #3 | A, B, C | #A88889 | C |
| #4 | A, B | #A89999 | C |
| #5 | B, C | #A99998 | C |
| #6 | A | #A99999 | C |
| #7 | A | #A1010101010 | C |
| #8 | A | #A1011101011 | C |
| #9 | A, B, C | #A1110101010 | C |
| #10 | A | #A1110111010 | ? |
| #11 | A | #11111 | C |
| #12 | A | #22221 | B, C |
| #13 | A | #22222 | B |
| #14 | B | #S11111 | D |
| | | | |
| 23c LUNCH WAGON | | 23c USA | |
| #2 | A,B,C | #A1111 | D |
| #3 | A, B (SP) | #A2222 | D |
| #3 | A (EP, DULL) | #A2232 | D |
| #3 | A (EP, SHINY) | #A2233 | D |
| | | #A3333 | D |
| 19c FISHING BOAT | | #A4443 | D |
| #A1111 | C | #A4444 | D |
| #A1112 | B, C | #1111 | B, C |
| #A1212 | B | #S111 | D |
| #A2424 | B, C | | |
| #A5555 | B | | |
| #A5556 | B | | |
| #A6667 | B | 5c CIRCUS WAGON | |
| #A7667 | B | #A3 | ? |
| #A7766 | ? | | |
| | | | |
| 2c LOCOMOTIVE | | 1c OMNIBUS | |
| #2 | C | #3 | B, C |

Thanks for information this month go to:
FRANK COVEY and EUGENE LIU

The above roll size table was prepared by Alan Thomson and is based on factual reports. Additions should be sent via post card directly to Alan at P.O. Box 91, Northwood, NH 03261. Please report only items you have seen. As in a courtroom, we can do without hearsay. Thanks.

Next auction lots due by April 16

The March *Coil Line* contained a sheet on which to submit lots for the next club auction but omitted a deadline for submitting material.

All material should be in Auctioneer Joe Sedivy's hands by April 16. To help in setting minimum bids keep in mid these bidding increments: Under \$5, 25c; \$5 to \$10, 50c; \$10 to \$50, \$1.; \$50 to \$100, \$2.50; \$100 to \$500, \$5; Above \$500, \$10.

Setting minimum bids realistically will help sell your extra material. Don't be surprised if you don't sell a lot when your minimum bid is at or near the level at which the material can be purchased from a dealer. Treat yourself fairly but also remember you're looking for a chance at a good buy as much as the next member.

Extra copies of the bid sheet can be obtained for an SASE from Harold Brown at 909 Parker St., Bowling Green, OH 43402, if you do not have access to a copy machine.

Joe also reports the American Philatelic Society expertized two Toledo Brown covers from the ninth club auction. One was determined genuine, the other was determined to be transitional, meaning traces of the normal maroon ink were detected. Both were bid at \$60. The authentic cover was sold to the bidder, the transitional cover was returned to the consignor, who is required to pay the expertizing fee. Joe points out consignors are responsible for authenticity of the material submitted.

If it's spring it must be time for a Regional Meeting at Plymouth, MI

The Plate Number Coil Collectors Club will again hold a Regional Meeting at the Plymouth, MI, Show Saturday, April 23. This is the 25th anniversary for the show sponsored by the West Suburban Stamp Club. The show is held at Central Middle School at Church and Main in downtown Plymouth.

The PNC meeting will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. If past gatherings at Plymouth are any indication the "bull session" following will probably run until the sponsors are trying to kick everyone out of the school at 6 p.m.

Scheduled speakers are Ken Lawrence, who will talk about modern definitives, starting with the Liberty series and progressing as time allows.

Michael Schreiber of *Linn's* staff is a probable speaker as well, offering a chance for members in the Midwest to hear and talk to a pair of philatelic writers.

Although this is an APS Show of Champions event, it is unknown if any exhibits of PNC material are entered. The exhibits have been excellent in past years. There is always a USPS station, the UN, Canada Post and other countries have been represented in recent years.

Plymouth is just west of Detroit in a pleasant small town. Access is easy off several major highways and interstates.

COMMERCIAL COVERS

Installment #55

Rob Washburn
P.O. Box 840
Skowhegan, ME 04976
(207) 474-8021

This month's article features the 29¢ Flag Over Mt. Rushmore. The BEP version was issued on March 29, 1991 in Mt. Rushmore, South Dakota. Plate numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 exist. The plate numbers appear every 48 stamps in a roll. The gravure version was released on July 4, 1991 in Mt. Rushmore, South Dakota. So far, only numbers A1111 and A22211 exist. The plate numbers are found every 24 stamps in a roll.

The earliest known usages of 29¢ Flag/Mt. Rushmore PNCs are as follows:

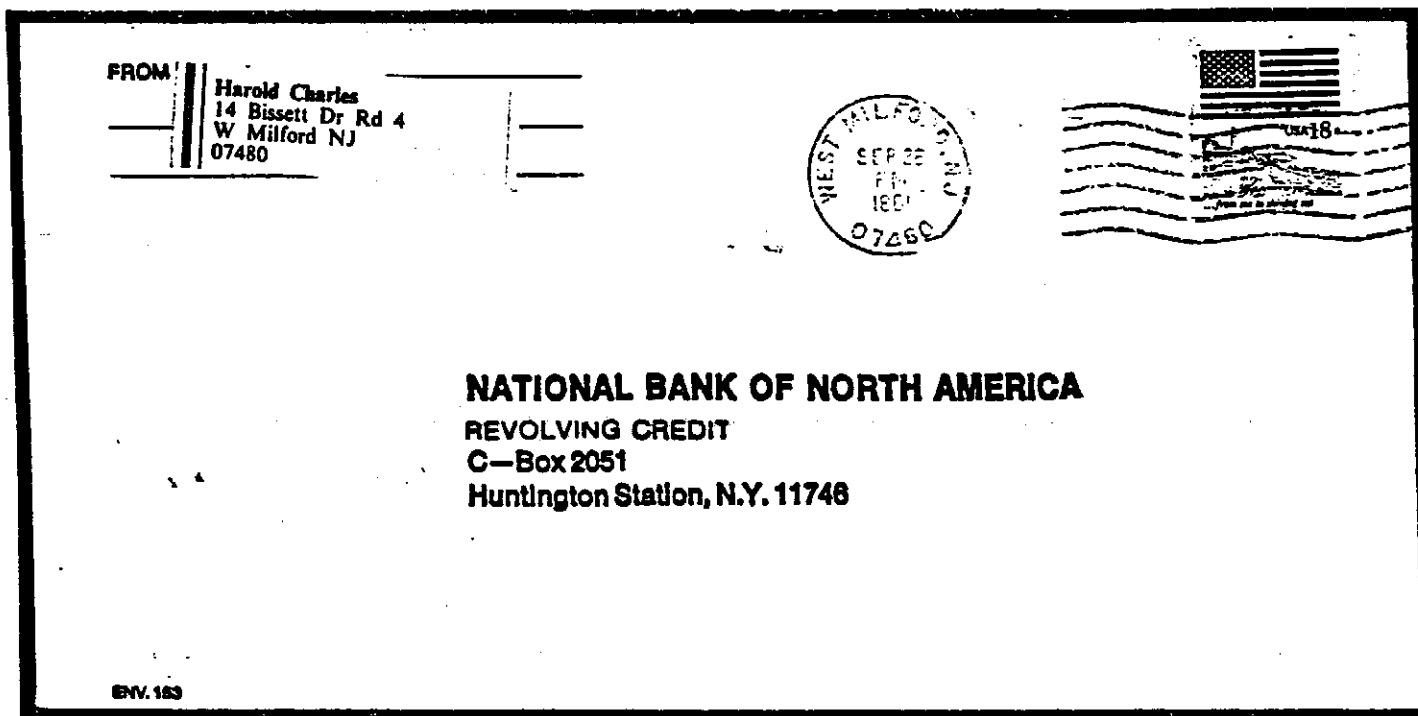
| <u>Plate Number</u> | <u>Earliest Known Usage on Commercial Cover</u> |
|---------------------|---|
| 1 | 4/17/91 |
| 1 Toledo Brown | 1/28/92 |
| 2 | 4/15/91 |
| 2 Lenz paper | 5/31/91 |
| 3 | 4/6/91 |
| 4 | 4/9/91 |
| 5 | 12/9/91 |
| 6 | 4/18/91 |
| 6 Lenz paper | 8/13/91 |
| 7 | 4/23/91 |
| 7 Toledo Brown | 1/24/92 |
| 8 | 3/12/92 |
| 9 | 1/10/92 |
| A1111 | 8/1/91 |
| A22211 | 4/28/92 |

Other than the special varieties listed above, most of the BEP version PNC covers are fairly easy to obtain for a dollar or less each. The exceptions being numbers 5, 8 and 9 which are a bit tougher to find. The Lenz paper PNCs on cover are pretty scarce, with number 2 covers much tougher to find than number 6 covers. Number 6 covers are known to be selling for \$30 to \$75 each when found, and number 2 covers selling for prices above \$200 each. The Toledo Brown PNCs are also hard to find on cover. Number 7 covers are selling for about \$75 each, and number 1 covers are in the \$300 range.

The gravure versions are pretty tough to find on truly commercial covers. Be prepared to pay in excess of \$5 each for either of the two gravure numbers on commercial cover.

There were no new EKU reports this month.

COVER OF THE MONTH



ENV. 183

The above cover featuring an 18¢ Flag #4 beats the previous earliest known usage of that PNC by 118 years! The cancel is dated September 28, 1861, during the early part of the Civil War. The finder of this cover, George Leduc, thinks it possibly could be a Union ploy to thwart Confederate PNC collectors of that era. (If you have a candidate for *Cover of the Month*, please send a photocopy of your cover against a black background to Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, Maine 04976.)

**Time to update collecting interests
& other PNC³ personal information**

It's time for the annual update of member collecting interests and other information you may have on file with the club. Check the June 1993 issue of *Coil Line* to see if any of this information has changed.

If you wish to make changes, please send such to Secretary Joann Lenz, 37211 Alper Drive, Sterling Heights, MI 48312-2203 no later than May 1. The updated list will likely be published in June.

Indigo 29c WH found in Chicago

Club Auctioneer Joe Sedivy reports finding examples of the 29c White House coil featuring the indigo ink. Joe noticed the stamps on a commercial cover, contacted the business and managed to get 70 stamps, including two numbers.

He hasn't broken the stamps down, preferring to keep the remained of the coil intact. The roll features No. 7, with No. 8 being found earlier. He is not interested in selling any of the stamps at this time. Joe plans to do some more hunting in the Chicago area. He also reports having found White House No. 5 on rolls of 100.

APRIL SPECIALS

STOCK REDUCTION

| | PS3 | PS5 |
|---|-------|-------|
| Omnibus #5,6 | .20 | .25 |
| Conestoga #1 | .30 | .35 |
| Stagecoach #1,2 | .55 | .60 |
| Carreta #1 | 1.10 | 1.20 |
| Canoe #3 | 1.25 | 1.35 |
| Canal Boat #1 Phosphored Dull gum | 2.45 | 2.50 |
| Canal Boat #2 Phosphored Shiny gum | 2.45 | 2.50 |
| Seaplane #3 | 5.40 | 7.20 |
| F Flower #1211 | 14.50 | 14.75 |
| Whitehouse #1,2,3,4,6,7 | 2.35 | 2.60 |
| Fishing Boat #A2424,A5556,A6667 | 2.50 | 2.85 |
| Eagle & Shield #A88889,A89999,A99998 | 1.95 | 2.25 |
| Eagle & Shield #A33333,A43426,A99999 | 2.15 | 2.40 |
| Pine Cone Self-Adhesive #B1 | 3.15 | 3.50 |
| Christmas Self-Adhesive #V1111111 (Only PS8s available) | 4.05 | |

Electric Autos misperfed down the middle- \$3.45/stamp when mentioning PNC3. A free extra stamp for every four ordered.

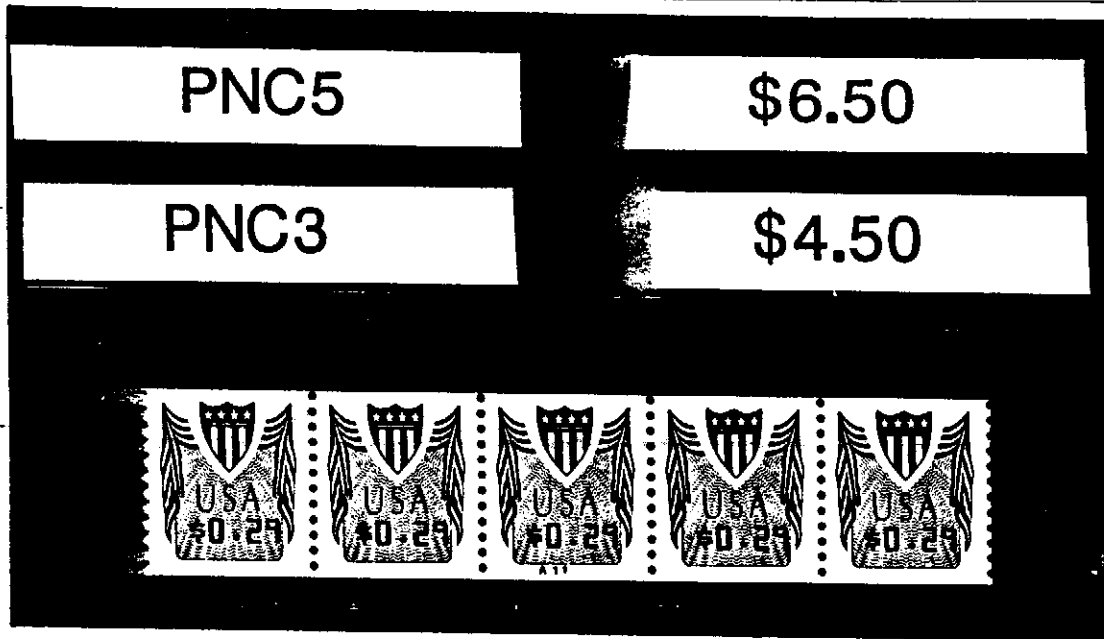
Ask for my April list #7.

Prices are for F-VF copies. Add \$1.50 postage & handling on orders below \$20.00. 10 day return privilege on all items- satisfaction guaranteed.

Andrew Sanford
P.O. Box 2305
Providence, RI 02906-0305

PNC3, APS, BIA, EPOCC

· SAVE THIS AD → GOOD WHILE SUPPLY LASTS
UNISYS HORIZONTAL VARIABLE RATE COILS XF



Each strip ordered comes with two 2/20/94 dated receipts from Merrifield , VA showing rate comparisons in English & Spanish.

WHY PAY MORE & GET NO RECEIPTS?

Single unnumbered stamps at face plus 20%

ALL ORDERS POST PAID!

Rick Staiger PNC3 #807

P. O. Box 541

Lake Zurich IL 60047-0541

THE COLLECTING OF FIRST DAY CANCELS
 PART II
 BILL McMURRAY

This month we will feature the VARIABLE RATE COIL that I feel has many collectable features. Due to the fact that they were hard to come by the total number of First Day Covers is probably lower than normal. Also I believe U/O's are rare and denominations of other than 29c with PNC's are also rare. Also illustrated are the different types of cancels, Official FDOI Machine cancel, Official FDOI Hand cancel for comparison and the Official FDOI Hand Circular Date Stamp (cDs) along with the only unofficial cancel known to me for the VRC's.

PNC MINATURE FIRST DAY COVER
 OFFICIAL FDOI HAND CANCEL

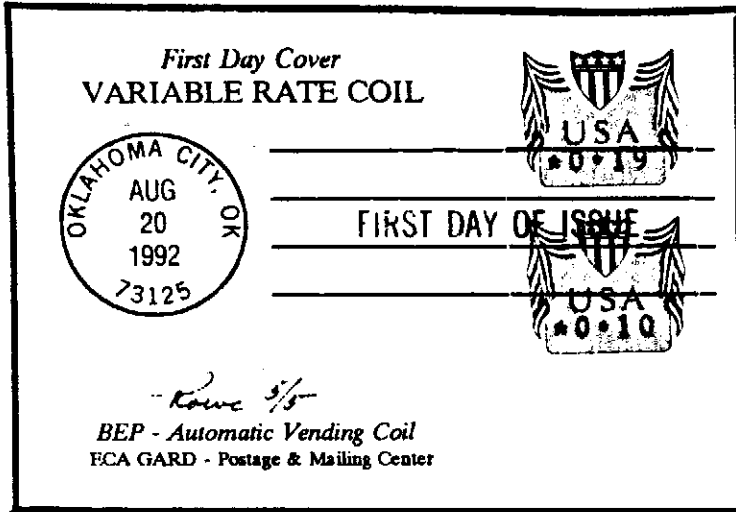


PLATE NO.1 19c & 10c VRC'S
 ROSE CACHET BY PNC3 MEMBER BOB ROWE

PNC UNOFFICIAL HAND CANCEL

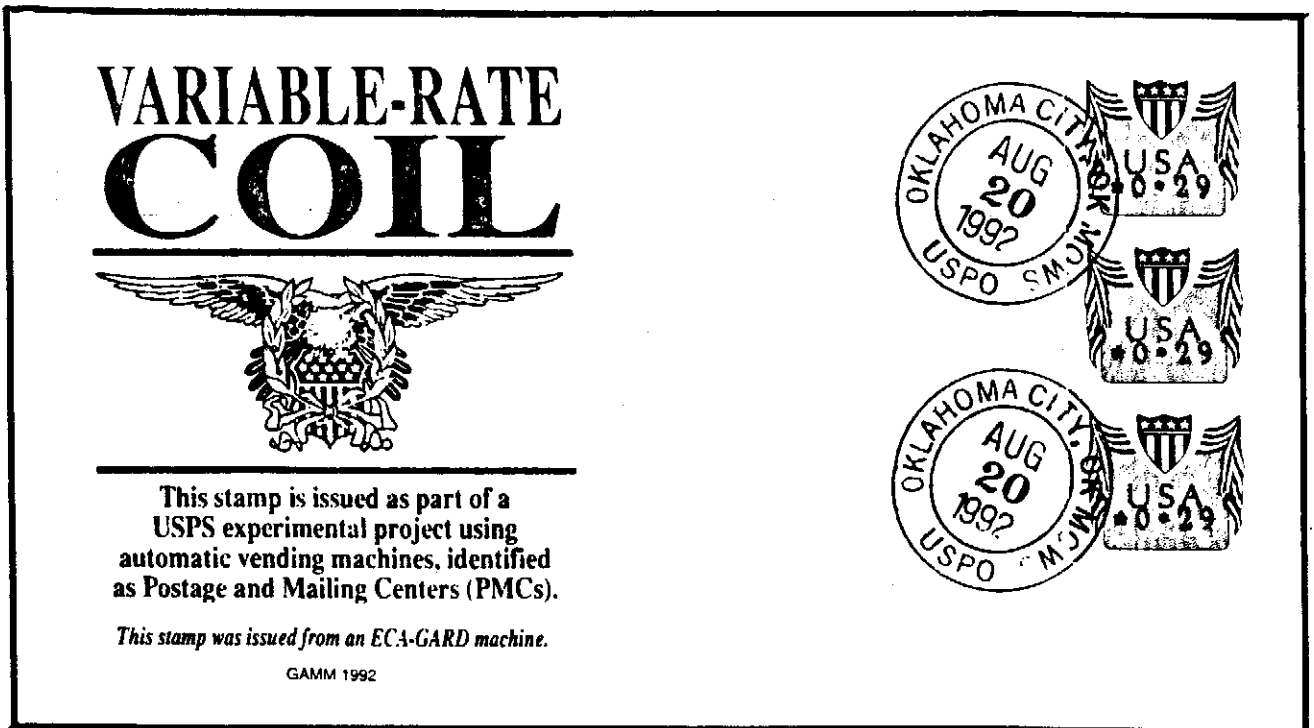


PLATE NO. 1 PNC STRIP OF 3 OF 29c VRC'S
 GAMM CACHET BY PNC3 MEMBER GERRY ADLMAN

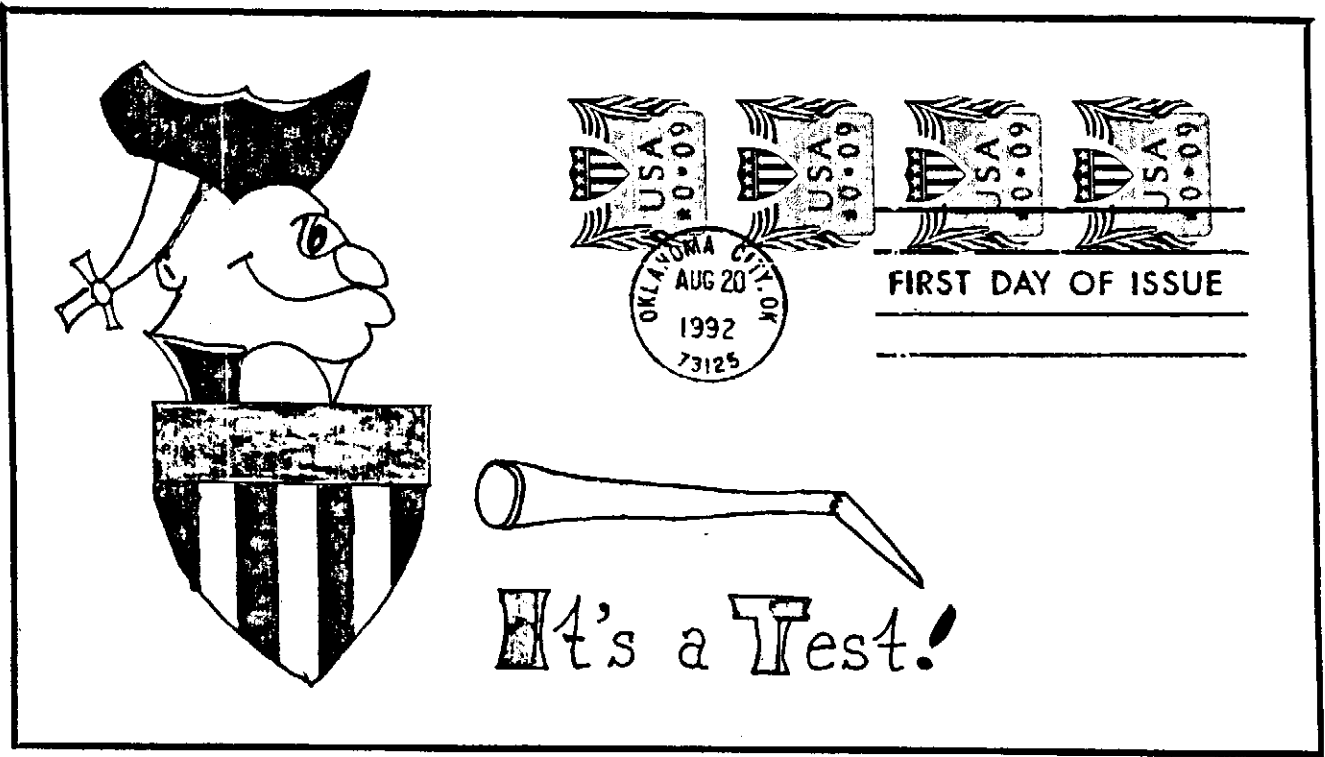


PLATE NO. 1 PNC STRIP OF 4 OF 9c VRC'S MAEDER CACHET BY PNC3 MEMBER TOM MAEDER

PNC OFFICIAL FDOI HAND CANCEL

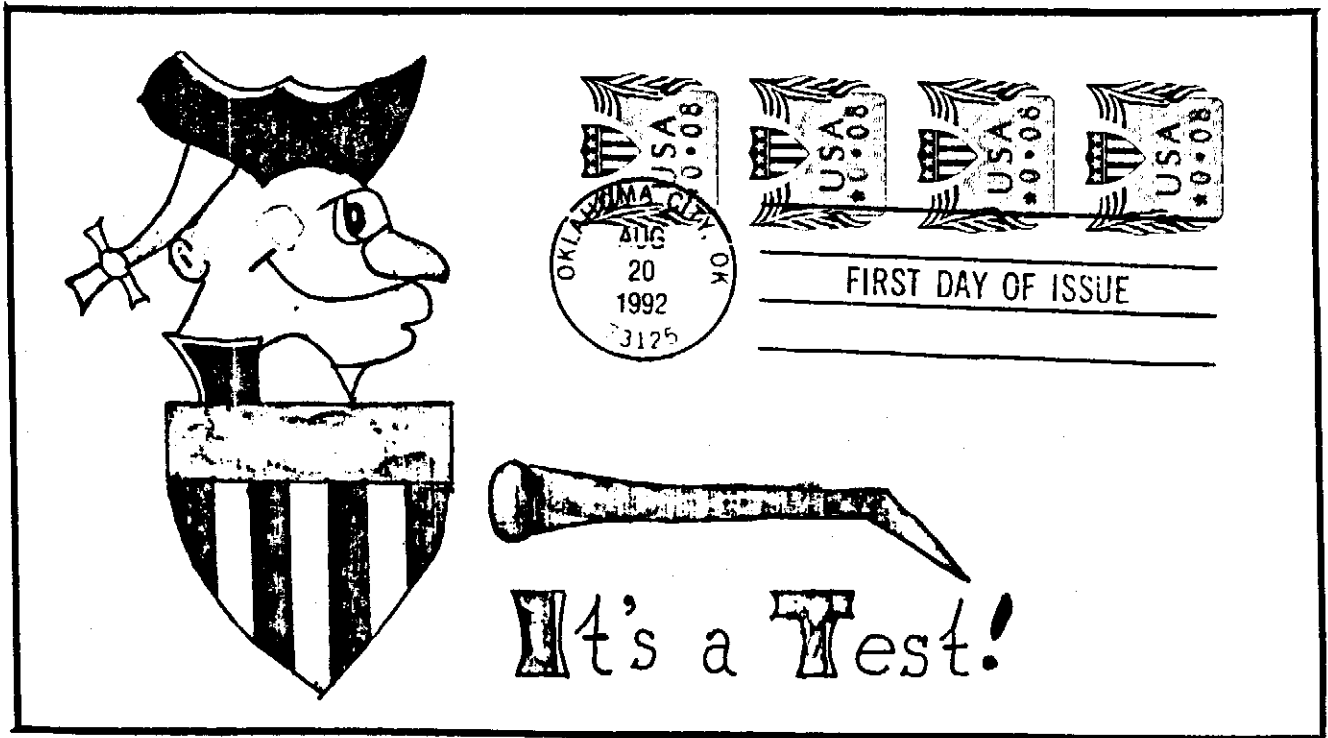


PLATE NO. 1 PNC STRIP OF 4 OF 08c VRC'S MAEDER CACHET BY PNC3 MEMBER TOM MAEDER

OFFICIAL CDS

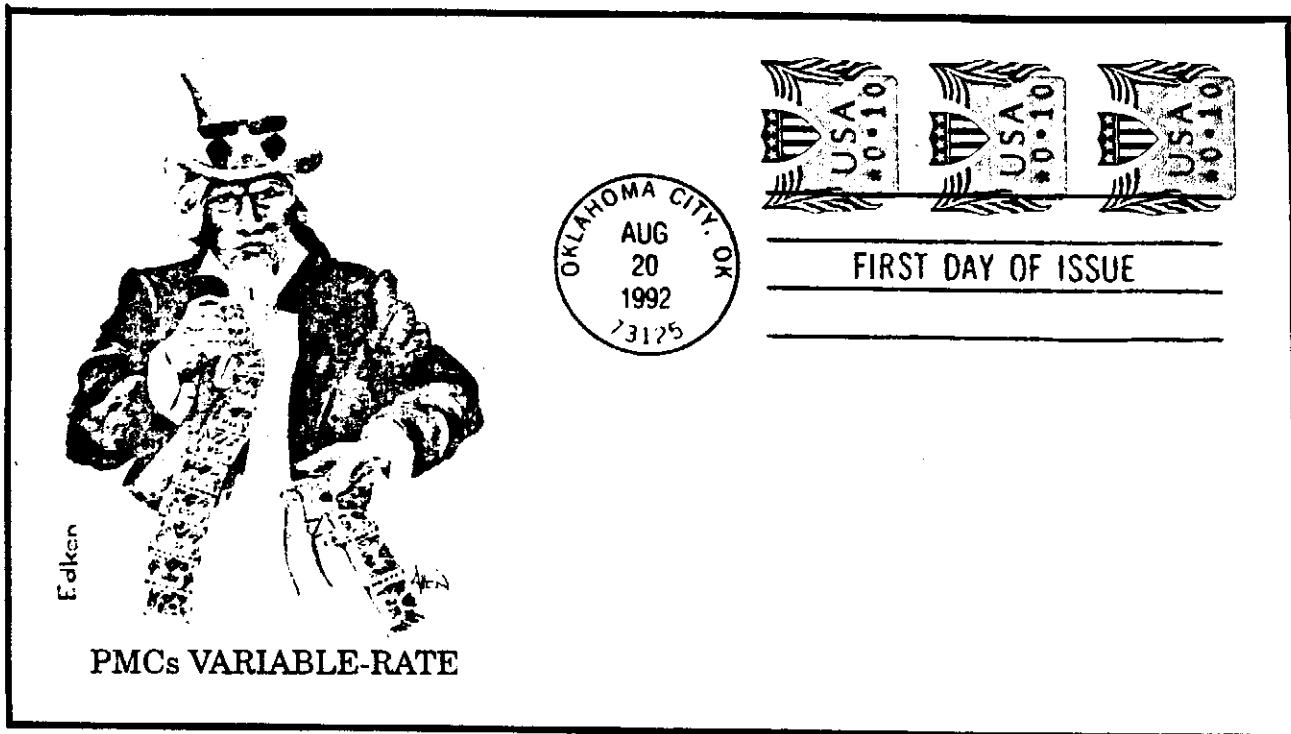


HAND CANCEL

I consider the cancel on the left to be an official FDOI cancel even though the slogan FIRST DAY OF ISSUE is missing. These cds have been available at all First Day cities.

A picture is worth a thousand words so by comparing the two Tom Maeder cachets you can easily see the difference between a machine cancel and hand cancel FIRST DAY OF ISSUE. Consequently as a collector of First Day cancels I am interested in both cancels in addition to PNC's.

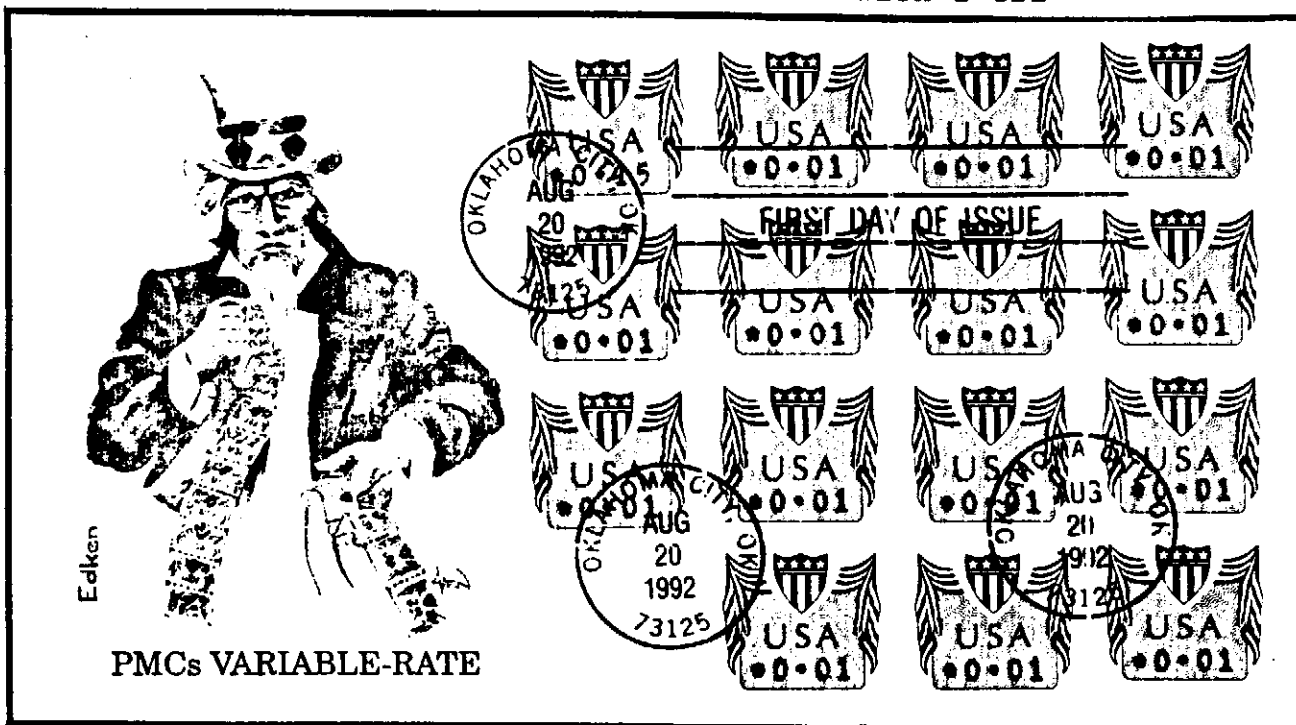
PNC OFFICIAL FDOI HAND CANCEL



PMCs VARIABLE-RATE

PLATE NO. 1 PNC STRIP OF 3 OF 10c VRC'S
EDKEN CACHET

OFFICIAL FDOI HAND CANCEL WITH 2 CDS



PMCs VARIABLE-RATE

ONE 15c VRC WITH 14 01c VRC'S TO PAY 29c RATE
EDKIN CACHET

For the next article I will address the 10c Eagle & Shield coil issue that was released on December 13, 1991 at Kansas City, MO.

Membership

Names of applicants are published for members to review. Any member who questions the suitability of a prospect should contact the Chairperson of the Membership Committee, Joann Lenz, 37211 Alper Drive, Sterling Heights, MI 48312-2203 with the objection. The committee will recommend for or against membership.

If all applicants are accepted, membership will be 676. This figure includes adjustments for the renewal period just completed.

New applicants:

Nick Strano
P.O. Box 520
Campbelltown, PA 17010-0520

Mike Swartz
P.O. Box 50502
Phoenix, AZ 85076-0502

N.R. Fulton
2603 N. Jay
Chandler, AZ 85224

Ted Najjar
135 98th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11209

Roland Abate Jr.
P.O. Box 384
Hawthorne, NJ 07507

Bill Zellers
5530 Via Dos Cerros
Riverside, CA 92507-6408

L.S. Midtun
3817 N. 15th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85015

Jewell Jerman
P.O. Box 460
Claypool, AZ 85532

Patrick Marano
260 Thomas St.
Staten Island, NY 10306

John J. Lanzetta
55 McKinley Ave. D-315
White Plains, NY 10606-1600

Elsie Snyder
P.O. Box 1141
Steubenville, OH 43952

Earle F. Plyler
3600 Oak Hollow Drive
Edmond, OK 73013-0695

Leonard J. Williams
14500 Surrey Junction Lane
Sutter Creek, CA 95685-9660

Kevin J. Cabbage
P.O. Box 68
Alta Loma, CA 91701-0068

Donald E. Traver
1901 Parker Road
Goshen, OH 45122-9221

The following have submitted their resignations:

Benton Wood No. 851
Robert Mitchell,
Adam Holterhoff No 444

Changes of address:
Russell McClelland
P.O. Box 640468
El Paso, TX 79904

Joseph Coveney
5230 S. Freeman Road
Orchard Park, NY 14127

Lorraine Galloway
11600 Air View Lane
Great Falls, VA 22066

Patrick Ryan
P.O. Box 2757
Universal City, TX 78148

Lionel Garlini
2437 King Oak Lane
Saint Cloud, FL 34769

David L. Randles
10526 237th Place SW
Edmund, WA 98020

Paul Kouts
531 Belmonte Park North Apt. 1006
Dayton, OH 45405

Jerry Schmoyer
2108 Carnaby Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23454-3470

Larry Crain 97501-0170 (Zip change)
Scott Logan 46342-3810 (+4 is added)

(More membership information on next page.)

Membership (Continued from previous page)

The following have not renewed and have been dropped from membership rolls:

Howard Helfant, Frederick Parsons, Richard Matta, Thomas Lipari, Alan Lavendier, Bill Haskins, Calcin Cohen, Charles Hanson, Robert Sutton, Bob Owens, William Richardson, George Capuzzo, Lewis Kanieire Jr., Robert Walsh, Steven Ripley, Wayne H. Welcher, Paul C. Hooper, James W. McNulty, Calvin W. Callison, James B. Hall, Stewart Kachel, Harald E. Singer, Stephen Powell, Frank Godoy, Charles J. Allamon, John C. Chaffe Jr., Donald M. Bodow, Ernest L. Carey, Timothy O'Shea, George J. Reynolds, Karl G. Frese Jr., Walter E. Mack, John A. Augustine, Michael W. Cooper, Janet R. Klug, Betty B. Holland.

Special of the month

18c Surrey No. 2, 8, 17, 18
20c Pumper No. 5, 9, 10
25c Honey Bee No. 1, 2

| | PS-3 | PS-5 |
|------|------|------|
| F-VF | 2.00 | 2.50 |
| VF | 2.50 | 3.00 |
| XF | 3.00 | 3.50 |

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

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

Ads

COLLECTOR SELLING COLLECTION OF PNC's on/off paper. Mixed batch, favorites not withheld. Packed 100, \$10.00 postpaid. Art Giese, PNC 783, RT 1 Box 94, Midway, TX 75852.

SCOTT 2280 PREPHOS PS3 w/plate No. 1 F/VF, \$25.00 free postage (limited) market \$40 to \$50. Bob Colum 563 N. Ridgefield Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06610.

APS-PNC SLIDE PROGRAM FREE to all members. Contact the Regional Meeting Committee, in care of Dick Koenig at P.O. Box 31872, Tucson, AZ 85751 to schedule for the summer and fall months. Many prime dates remain available.

VARIETY PS3/PS5 STAMPS (F.VF) all my extras. Face value +25 percent. Send 52c SASE for complete list & photos. Bob Colum, 563 N. Ridgefield, Ave. Bridgeport, CT 06610.

NEARLY SOLD OUT! PNC booklets for sale while they last. *PNC Varieties* - \$12 (only 4 left), *PNCs On Cover* - \$5 (only 17 left). Both booklets are illustrated and informative. Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, Maine 04976.

12.5c PUSH CART (F/VF) S-2133A plate No. 2 w/perforations missing. Send SASE for copies of strips available. Bob Colum, 563 N. Ridgefield Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06610.

FOR SALE/TRADE: MINT and used PNCs, used are on/off cover, on piece, send SASE for particulars and current list. Very reasonable prices! From 1981 to date. Bob Novak, 56 Glencourt Ave., Edison, NJ 08837.

MODERN POSTAL HISTORY FOR SALE. Diverse stock of U.S. covers. Commercial usages. No FDCs. PNC covers are just part of my stock. Very strong in Great Americans postal history. Contact me now for any 20th century cover needs. Rick Lancaster, P.O. Box 428, Skowhegan, Maine 04976.

WANTED: VARIABLE RATE COILS PNC5s-VF 12-14-15-16-17-18c. Send best price to: F.A. Bartolomeo, 9184 Buell St., Downey, CA 90241 310-869-5080.

Agris & Covey discover imperf WH roll of 500

Members Dr. Joseph Agris, Houston, and Frank Covey, Macomb, Ill., recently shared in what has to be one of the more interesting ways to discover a major error. Their find An imperf roll of 500 Flag over White House stamps with plate No. 9.

The following synopsis of the events was supplied by Dr. Agris.

Plastic surgeon and coil collector (and author) Dr. Joe Agris found a roll of the 29c Flag Over the White House coil imperforate, or did he?

Agris trades with five individuals around the U.S. They collect plate numbers coils and try to find and obtain all plate numbers on coil issues. They do not trade in strips of three or five but in entire rolls. Each has a business and can dispose of the extra postage easily. When No. 9 Flag over the White House showed up at a local community post office in Houston, Agris purchased four rolls of 500. He usually examines them closely after opening each roll but it was 4:55 and the post office was going to close. He had a 5:30 meeting.

Two rolls had a visible No. 9 and very good centering so Agris assumed they were all No. 9. Her purchased two bubble bags and sent one roll to Macomb, Ill., one to a collector in Iowa and put the other two rolls in his pocket and rushed off to the meeting.

On the following Monday (five days later) he received a letter from his trading buddy in Illinois, which starts off "I was surprised and thrilled to get an important roll of 500 of the White House No. 9 coil. What a nice find. Thank You."

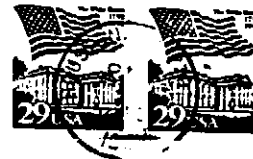
At first Agris thought one of his trading buddies was having some funny at his expense. But later decided to give him a call.

Yes, it was a complete imperforate roll of No. 9 Flag Over the White House. Agris had been looking for something like to happen and the one time he was in a hurry, he mails it off to his good friend and trading partner, Frank Covey. Agris bought it but Covey had the pleasure of opening it. Agris had the pleasure and surprise of seeing it when Covey cut the roll in half, sending 250 of the stamps to Agris.

Agris went back to the post office immediately upon learning of the find. The postmaster was pleasant and found 18 rolls of 500 in the vault. She allowed Agris to examine all of the rolls but no more imperforate rolls were found.

The letter in which the story of the discovery was sent to the *Coil Line* editor was franked with a pair of the imperforate stamps and is illustrated on this page along with a strip of the stamps.

JOSEPH AGRIS, M.D.
P.O. BOX 20373
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77225-0373



Harold Brown, Editor



First Day Program available for Unisys VRC stamp

A First Day ceremony for the new horizontally printed Variable Rate Coil stamp was held Feb. 19 at 2 p.m. in the cafeteria of Fairhill Elementary School in Fairfax, VA. The ceremony was organized and sponsored by the Liberty Stamp Club of Greater Washington.

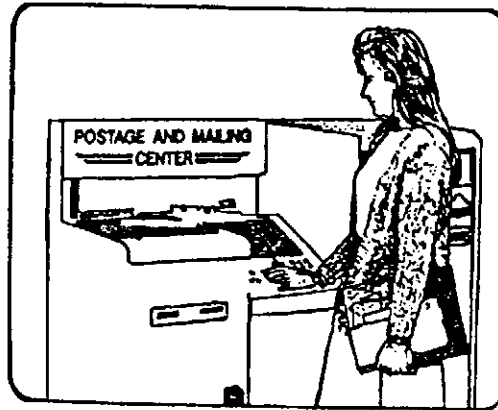
Presiding over the ceremony, Phillip L. Sandler, a director of the American Ceremonial Program Society (ACPS) spoke on the history of stamp vending machines in the U.S. Steven C. Berman, vice president of the Liberty Stamp Club, shared anecdotes concerning his early efforts as a coil collector and his recent pursuit of scarce plate number coils.

Teresa A. Hennes, director of retail postal development at Unisys Corp., spoke regarding Unisys' participation in developing the new Postal Mailing Center (PMC) machines which vend the new coil. In addition, the ceremony was attended by Terry Knupp, retail specialist for the USPS Northern Virginia District, and Lorraine R. Galloway, manager of postal business development at Unisys Corp.

A program was distributed (illustrated less than actual size below) at the ceremony by the Liberty Stamp Club. Additional copies of the program, of which 500 were produced, may be obtained by sending \$9.00 plus \$1.00 for orders under \$50 to Liberty Stamp Club, 6301 Poindexter Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

FEBRUARY 19, 1994
2:00 PM

FAIRHILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA



FIRST DAY CEREMONY

OF THE
HORIZONTALLY PRINTED

VARIABLE RATE COIL

SPONSORED BY THE LIBERTY STAMP CLUB OF GREATER WASHINGTON

CONSIGNMENT SHEET

Photocopy this page. A separate sheet is required for each lot.

PNC³ AUCTION - CLOSING DATE: April 16

PLEASE NOTE:

1. Use a separate consignment sheet for each lot.
2. Keep this entire page intact and attach lots in a glassine with tape to the top half (do not use staples). I understand that this may not be possible with longer strips.
3. LIMIT YOUR CONSIGNMENTS TO 25 LOTS.
4. As I still find that there is no totally acceptable definition of a commercial cover. all covers will be listed as First Day Covers or Other Covers. There will be no exceptions to these listings.
5. If you do not state a minimum bid, your lot(s) will go to the highest bidder regardless of the price(s) realized.
6. Do not enter anything under Lot # on the consignment sheets.
7. INSTRUCTIONS: Fill in all boxes that are underlined. Leave the other blank. For more sheets; photocopy this one.

Owners Identification

Name _____ PNC³# _____

Address _____
_____ ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____

| Lot # | <u>Scott #</u> | <u>Description of material</u> | Must Conform To Bidding Increments Minimum Bid |
|-------|----------------|--------------------------------|---|
|-------|----------------|--------------------------------|---|

It is assumed that all mint material is never hinged. with undisturbed gum, sound perfs, etc.. If otherwise, please note under Faults. Used materials are assumed to be unhinged, with sound perfs, etc.. If otherwise, please, note under faults.

For COTTREL issues please grade both design centering and line centering
Centering-Overall for non-Cottrel issues or Cottrel designs(see grading notes)
(circle)

AVE F FVF VF XF S

Centering (line) Cottrel issues only (circle)

AVE F FVF VF XF S

Faults(describe)

Buyer # Hammer

PNC³ Auctions
c/o Joe Sedivy
P.O.Box 41602
Chicago, Il. 60641