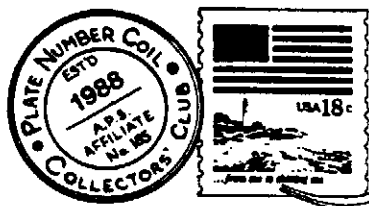


PNC³

Coil Line

Journal of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club PNC³

July 1, 1994
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Whole Number 72



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(419) 352-7900 (Also Fax #)

Collecting interests of members fill most pages of July *Coil Line*

Much of this, the July issue of *Coil Line*, is taken up with updating the collecting interests of members of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club.

Efforts have been made to have this feature appear on an annual basis. The extensive information is maintained and updated by Joann Lenz. Members were asked several months ago to supply any changes to Joann. If you missed the "call," update Joann with a postcard between now and next spring. Do it before you forget it and when this list comes around next year, you'll be updated.

Some other features of *Coil Line* were shortened or omitted this month to make space for the collecting interests list.

Use the list to develop collecting partners. Most everyone has extra "stuff" taking up space. Members also have an opportunity to trade or sell their material through a pair of free 40-word ads each year. Many more members have been taking advantage of this membership benefit but most do not. Additional word ads can be purchased at the rate of 6c a word and there is no limit to the length of those ads.

PNC³ Annual Meeting slated for Saturday, Aug. 20 in Pittsburgh

The Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, Aug. 20 in Pittsburgh, PA.

The meeting is held in conjunction with STAMPSHOW '94, the annual meeting of the American Philatelic Society. The exact location and time of the meeting will be published in the August *Coil Line*.

Members throughout the East, Mid-Atlantic and neighboring regions should have good access to the show via airports and the interstate highway system. Make your plans now to help see if the 50+ attendance at the Regional Meeting in Plymouth this Spring can be topped.

PNC³ ballot deadline approaches

At least some members should receive this issue of *Coil Line* before the closing date to participate in the election of new officers for the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club.

Ballots and candidate profiles were included with the June issue of *Coil Line*. Voting participation has always been high for the club, let's keep up the good tradition.

Tractor Trailer First Day Cover available

A First Day ceremony for the gravure version of the 10c Tractor Trailer coil stamp was held May 23 at the main post office in Secaucus, NJ. The ceremony was organized by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local #177. The Liberty Stamp Club of Greater Washington assisted the union in organizing the event.

Phillip L. Sandler, a director of the American Ceremony Program Society (ACFS) spoke on Transportation topical collecting. Wayne Fernicola, president of Local #177 spoke on the history of the teamsters and the trucking industry. In addition, the ceremony was attended by a number of special guests, including Al D. Foster, Secaucus postmaster.

A program was distributed, of which 500 copies were produced. Liberty Stamp Club, 6301 Poindexter Lane, Rockville, MD 20852 is making the programs available for \$10 each plus \$1 handling for orders under \$50.

Member Alex Rogolsky is president of Liberty Stamp Club.

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SNIPPETS

New Numbers

Conestoga Wagon #3 appeared early enough last month to be included in the roll size list, but was not listed here. Bob Novak has found two, reported as printed but not found, Eagle and Shield numbers. He's come up with A1011101010 and A1211101010 from the USPS list. These finds bring the total for all printers of the Eagle and Shield (all three types) to 45 numbers. Hunters are still looking for A1110101011 (and, of course, the never found A12113).

Accuracy in (Stamp) Media

Member and stamp journalist, Stephen Esrati raised a very valid point in an article in his publication, *The Plate Number & Great American Review*. (TPN) He asked why everyone is calling the computer vended postage from the Eca Gard and Unisys machines variable rate coils, or VRC's. He's absolutely correct when he states that a stamp's denomination is not a rate. A stamp's face value may reflect a rate, but is not one in itself. A postal rate is the fee charged by the mail service for the acceptance and delivery of a given piece of mail under indicated contractual conditions. One, or any number of stamps can be used to pay that fee, and satisfy the rate. Like a lot of other misnomers in the philatelic community, VRC is going to be difficult to eradicate. However, we should make the effort for accuracy's sake. Perhaps we should use computer vended coil, or CVC? Some people are using UVM, for Universal Vending Machine. Take your choice. This column is as guilty as everyone else in misusing VRC. Not anymore.

Strange E&S Printing

A peculiar printing of the BEP Eagle & Shield coil from cylinder combination 11111 has been found by Sam Frackman of California. The most obvious difference in these stamps is that the lettering and the red stripes in the shield are much thicker than usual. The red, blue and green colors are significantly paler, with the leaves at each end of the bar under the eagle appearing as yellow-green. Under magnification the red and blue seem to be underprinted, with more of the white paper showing through. Could inks that were too thin for gravure paper have bled, or run, causing the printed area to expand, and produce the increased width of characters and stripes? All stamps in the roll were the same, so the variation is constant. Does anyone have a different explanation?

Somewhere in the Middle

By now, most collectors have had the opportunity to compare the normal untagged E&S stamps with the tagged error version first found by Kim Cuniberti. But there is another lightly tagged variety that has been found on cover by Gene Ernst. The degree of tagging falls inbetween the other two and may suggest a transitional area in the web roll. Comments?

Forgot

Last month we forgot to give you a promised update on the status of the Unisys machine in the K.C. cave. It is up and running and turning out strips of the 29c value of the vertical format CVC. USPS item number is 9366. We apologize for the omission.

WH #15 Quality

From the many flats of White House #15 we have examined, this number has a quality problem. They are poorly cut and poorly perfed. It's difficult to find truly XF strips. Many are simply uncollectable. They're not bad enough to cut the number or put it on top. Just bad.

Another Powwow

Another meeting between philatelic writers and the stamp people at USPS is scheduled for June 27. That's the Monday after NAPEX in Alexandria, VA. We hope this one will be even more productive than the last, particularly where plate activity reports are concerned.

Collect Everything?

For those who like to collect every variety, however subtle, there are two different styles of backing paper on two of the SA PNCs. In Gerald Clark's table of self adhesive sheetlets and coils in TPN, he lists both type A and type B backing paper for the Pine Cone and blue Eagle coils. According to his key, type A has the backing paper lettering right side up and running from UL to LR. The type B is upside down and runs from LR to UL. Obtaining strips of both styles may be difficult and is a matter of luck if one depends solely on ordering from the PFSC in Kansas City. An order could produce either kind, and it might require many orders to get what you want.

SA Eagle Counting Number

In a PFSC order, Eugene Liu received a plate number strip of the type A (see above item) SA Eagle with a counting number on the back. The number is 00034973 361 14:33. It's just a matter of good fortune, as our type A strips had no numbers.

Railroad Tracks

Some Cottrell press printed Transportation coils exhibit a pair of untagged horizontal precancel-like lines when examined under shortwave ultraviolet light. Wear from precancel mats on press rollers probably caused these interesting skips in the overall tagging. They are continuous throughout the rolls where they are found. The untagged lines have been dubbed "railroad tracks" and appear on some rolls of the following stamps, listed by plate pairings: 2c Locomotive 3/4; 4c Stagecoach 1/2, 5/6; 9.3c Mail Wagon 5/6; 17c Auto 3/4; and 20c Pumper 5/13, 9/10, 12/14, 15/16. If anyone has found other plate pairs of these or other Cottrell coils that show these lines, let us know about it.

Inking of Flag Plate Numbers

Commencing with the 25c Flag over Yosemite issue, partially inked plate numbers from the B, C and D presses began to appear on flag coils. All known examples have the bottom of the number missing. The top always shows some inking. When examined under magnification the uninked portion always shows embossing where the paper was pressed into the plate recess, and all reported examples are printed on embedded phosphor paper. No examples have been found on Mt. Rushmore Flags, but here are the rest: Yosemite Flag 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 13 and 14. White House Flag 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8.



Figure 1.
Mechanical
breakdown
and result



Figure 2.
Improvement
disallows
blanks

Tom Maeder's column, "Variable Ramblings" gave us the comprehensive story of the Variable Rate Coils. Problems and changes in VRCs have resulted in many collectable varieties. And by showing some of these. I would like to paint the comprehensive picture of the VRC story.

Put together material from the next few installments, and you will have a fascinating exhibit. Before 1-18¢ values were eliminated by reprogramming, setenant possibilities were only as limited as the imagination of collectors. Add to that software glitch errors, and you can see why VRCs can have character.

The better material can be impossible to find for those not present at Machines over a year ago. I have to travel 500 miles to visit one, myself. Many collectors may not know what a glitch error looks like. So, I want to show what's "out there." That includes mint and used, EFO and damaged strips, philatelic and commercial covers, self-serviced and unofficial FDCs, and more.

I will break down what readers send into topics. Shiny gum strips, for example, might take up a whole article if enough copies of material is sent. Some 1-18¢ setenant strips and EFOs would be a start.

The most dramatic strips are the software glitch errors, resulting in dashes and nonsense denominations. They are true rarities that I like for their unique and mysterious look.

In hopes of creating instant rarities, some have tried to pull blank (no denomination) stamps. Mis-registered denominations are one result. In the first months after issue, some were able to cause dramatic shifts in denomination simply by disrupting the flow of stamps being printed. If three stamps were bought, stamp A would be held in place so that stamp B would stay under the printer after the first denomination was applied to it. Stamp C would lose its printing, partly or completely, to stamp B, which "stole" its place in the printing loop. A slightly different loop would explain the strip in Figure 1.

My own attempt is shown in Figure 2. The ink smudge and crease resulted because the gripper has been improved. It keeps the stamp in place to make sure denomination is printed, and that stamps are not pulled out.



Figure 3.
Improvement
also allows
only gradual
shift

Two more attempts resulted in a gradual shift and a blank (Figure 1 and 2). If strips are kept longer, they can provide a visual "story." "EFOs" like those pictured are curiosities, but I leave it to other, earlier strips to visually document the history of the VRC Postage and Mailing Centers. I am grateful to George Martin and Bill O'Connor for sending some strips along for future publication.

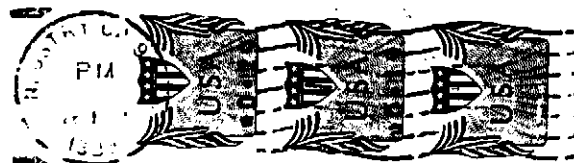
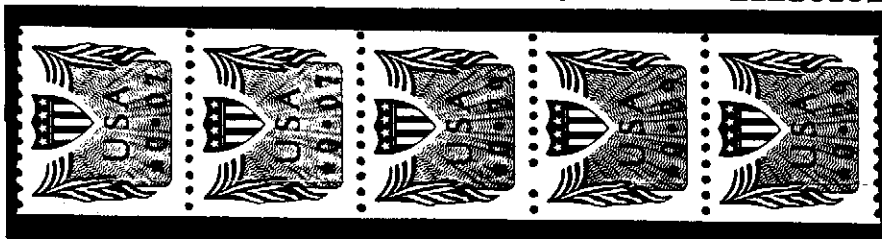


Figure 4. Most blanks don't have transition denomination intact.



This PS5 is still collectable. The author seeks more examples.

I invite readers to send photocopies of material in the following categories. Please copy items against a black background. Copy and postage costs will be reimbursed to encourage response. I would like to thank Tom Maeder for supplying information and making corrections.

- * Mint and used strips and singles, especially odd setenants
- * EFOs, include machine-damaged, the more dramatic, the better
- * All covers, especially commercial, unofficial, and self-made FDCs

Kevin Shah
P O Box 1674
Pacifica, CA 94044
(415) 757-6962

COMMERCIAL COVERS

Installment #58

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

Three years ago, in an effort to save costs, the U.S. Postal Service stopped printing coils for junk mail which showed the exact rate being paid. The days of decimal coils soon became a thing of the past. Instead, the 5¢ Canoe, 10¢ Tractor Trailer, 10¢ Eagle/Shield, 23¢ Flag, and 23¢ USA went into service to cover the many various junk mail rates. The mailer simply used one of the generic stamps and paid the difference to the Postal Service at the time of mailing. Unfortunately, this new policy has made it difficult, if not impossible in many cases, to determine the exact rate being paid.

This month's article features usages of tagged coils on cover instead of the normal precancelled or service-inscribed stamps. You might recall that David Clark reported finding a single of the 10¢ Canal Boat paying the only postage on a bulk mailing (see Dec. 1, 1993 Coil Line p 216). The words "BULK RATE" were printed on the envelope below the Canal Boat stamp. Normally, a 10¢ Eagle and Shield or 10¢ Tractor Trailer stamp would have been used. Since David Clark only found a portion of the cover, it's not possible to say who the mailer was and what the exact rate that 10¢ Canal Boat was paying.

In the January 1, 1994 Coil Line, Len Piskiewicz reported two similar covers that he had found. One of the covers featured a single 20¢ Fire Pumper coil with the words "ZIP + FOUR BARCODED" printed on the envelope below the stamp. The other cover featured a single of the 5¢ Circus Wagon substituted for the 5¢ Canoe stamp. That cover (which was mailed by the Salvation Army) was part of a non-profit rate mailing. A similar non-profit rate cover using a 5¢ Circus Wagon is pictured below. Again, a 5¢ Canoe stamp would normally have been used.

1431 ELMWOOD AVENUE
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

**"There's
no place
like
home!"**



H

50075

MRS. SVETLANA ZAKATOVA
3036 CENTRAL ST # 2
EVANSTON IL 60201-1167

Below is another non-profit rate cover. This time the featured stamp is a 5c Motorcycle instead of the 5c Canoe. The words "NON-PROFIT ORG. RATE" are printed on the envelope next to the stamp.

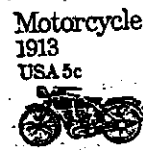


**United
Property Owners
of Washington**

P.O. Box 3336, Redmond, Washington 98073

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORG. RATE



RAY HARLEY
455 SW 183RD
SEATTLE WA 98166

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INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT LEGAL
ACTION BEING TAKEN AGAINST YOU!!**

Another unusual substitute usage is shown below. The postcard, which is endorsed "PRESORTED FIRST-CLASS", features a single 17c Dog Sled coil. Normally, a 10c Tractor Trailer or 10c Eagle/Shield would have been used.



Service Satisfaction Survey
P.O. Box 1788
Minneapolis, MN 55440-1788

Dog Sled 1920s

17 USA

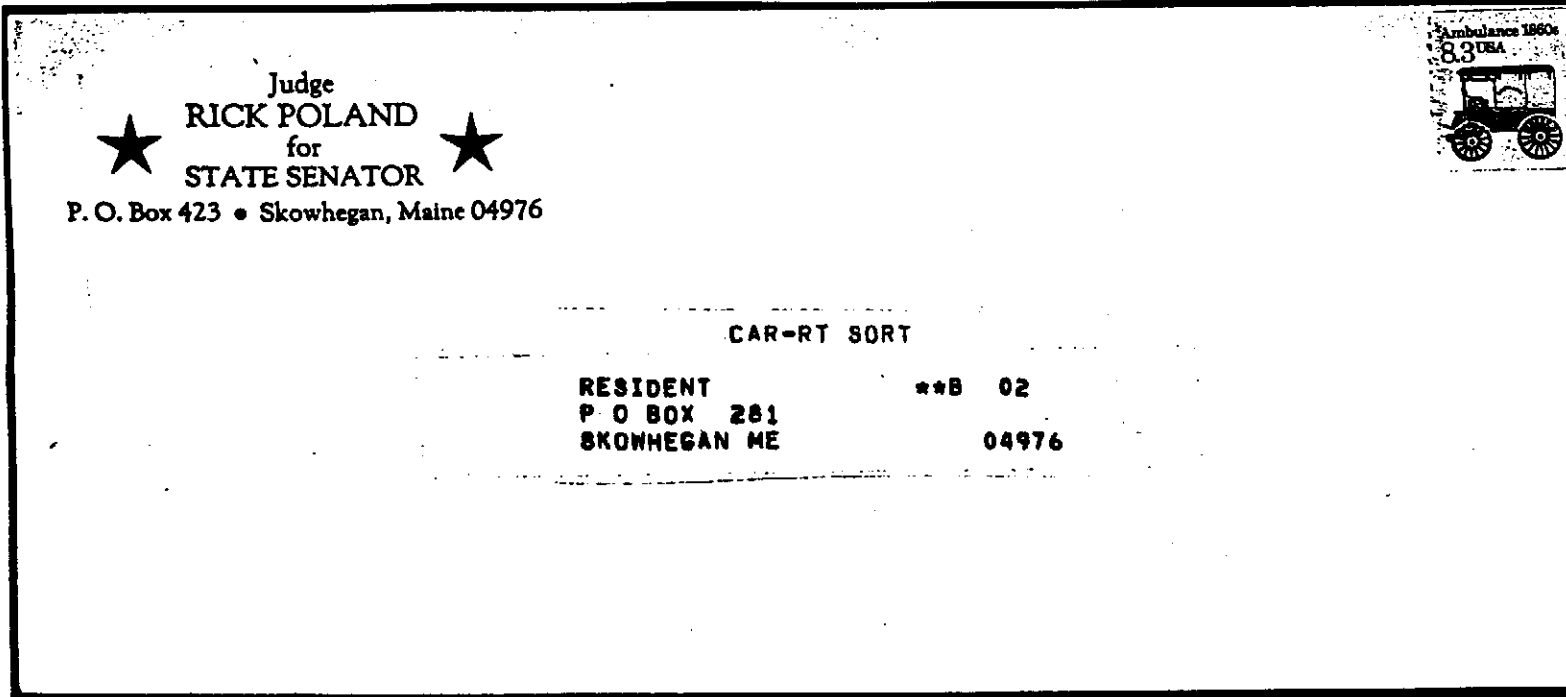


PRESORTED FIRST-CLASS

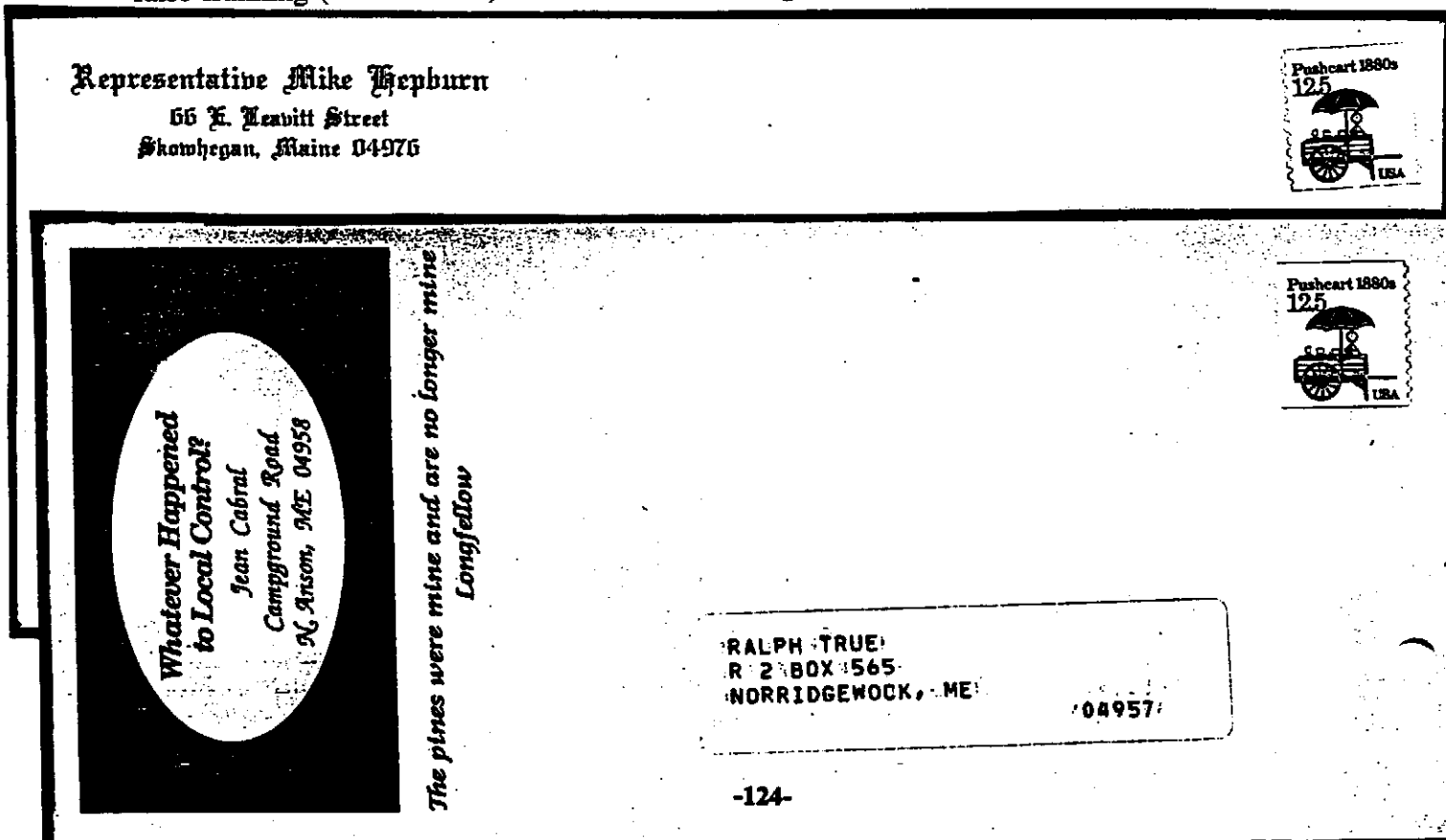
L. R. Eagle
856 Buchert Road
Pottstown, PA 19464-2418



Another interesting usage is the cover pictured below. A tagged 8.3¢ Ambulance coil was used on this political mailing instead of a precancelled 8.3¢. Note the "CAR-RT SORT" endorsement on the address label. The 8.3¢ third-class bulk rate sorted to carrier route was in effect from 2/17/85 until 4/2/88. Thereafter, the 8.3¢ Ambulance precancel was used as authorized false franking (to partially pay the 10.1¢ third-class bulk rate sorted to carrier route) until 10/9/88.



Below are two 12.5¢ Pushcart bulk rate covers which have tagged coils instead of precancelled coils on them. The 12.5¢ Pushcart precancel coil covered the 12.5¢ third-class bulk rate sorted to 3 or 5 zip code digits through 4/2/88, and thereafter, served as authorized false franking (until 10/9/88) to cover the same usage rate, when it was increased to 16.7¢.



Last but not least are the two covers below featuring tagged 10.9¢ Hansom Cabs. The first cover received a postmark tying it to the cover dated 4/14/82, and likely covered the 10.9¢ third-class bulk rate sorted to 3 or 5 zip code digits. The second cover features a tagged 10.9¢ Hansom Cab with plate #2, tied by a pen cancel and probably paid the same bulk mail rate as the first 10.9¢ tagged cover.



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SKOWHEGAN PLAZA
SKOWHEGAN ME.
04976



Normally, a precancelled Hansom Cab coil would have been used for these bulk mailings. I have seen covers from the exact same mailing as the first cover above using precancelled Hansom Cab coils. Perhaps the post office ran out of the precancelled coils and allowed usage of the tagged versions. This may be the same explanation for the other usage covers featured in this article. Still, such substitute usages are quite rare and are very collectible. Have you seen others?

CURRENT ISSUE ROLL SIZES

KEY

06/15/84

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

EP - EMBEDDED PHOSPHOR PAPER

SP - SURFACE PHOSPHOR PAPER

29c WHITE HOUSE		(10c) TRACTOR TLR	
#1	A	#11	C
#2	A, B, C	#22	C
#3	A, B, C		
#4	A, B		
#5	B, C	(10c) EAGLE & SHIELD	
#6	A	#A1010101010	B, C, D
#7	A	#A1011101010	C
#8	A	#A1011101011	C
#9	B, C	#A1011101012	D
#10	A	#A1110101010	C, D
#11	A	#A1110111010	C, D
#12	A	#A1111101010	C, D
#13	A	#A1111111010	D
#14	B	#A1211101010	C
#15	A, B	#A1411101010	B, D
#16	A	#A1411101011	C, D
		#A1412111110	D
		#A1412111111	C, D
23c LUNCH WAGON		#11111	B, C
#2	A, B, C	#22221	B, C
#3	A, B (SP)	#22222	B
#3	A (EP, DULL)	#S11111	D
#3	A (EP, SHINY)		
19c FISHING BOAT		23c USA	
#A1111	C	#A1111	D
#A1112	B, C	#A2222	D
#A1212	B	#A2232	D
#A2424	B, C	#A2233	D
#A5555	B	#A3333	D
#A5556	B	#A4364	D
#A6667	B, C	#A4443	D
#A7667	B	#A4444	D
#A7679	C	#A4453	D
#A7766	B, C	#1111	B, C
#A7779	B	#S111	D
1c OMNIBUS		3c CONESTOGA	
#3	B, C	#3	?
2c LOCOMOTIVE		5c CIRCUS WAGON	
#2	C	A3	D

Thanks for information go to: R. Nazar, R. Novak
S. Frackman, & D. Eastman

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 June issue was mailed May 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.

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 with the objection. The committee will recommend for or against membership.

Membership will reach 711 if all applicants are approved.

New applicants:

David A. Medeiros
70 Park Ave.
Stoneham, MA 02180-4614

Scott Magdole
P.O. Box 38
Cheltenham, PA 19012

Eugene Savitt
4208 Triumvera Dr.
Glenview, IL 60025

Imogene Brown Stone
194 Ivywood Lane
Roswell, GA 30076-1787

Dan Forgues
871 E. Lake Samish
Bellingham, WA 98226

John R. Hickel Sr.
7132 Durness Place.
W. Worthington, OH 43235-5120

Change of address:

James Spisto
10 Mott Dr.
Bellport, NY 11713-2437

D. John Schultz
4304 Nicklaus Dr.
Lawrence, KS 66047-2046

Frank Casey
3490 Chancellorsville Ave.
Melbourne, FL 32934

Paul Thoren
2057 Hillridge Dr.
Fairfield, CA 94533-7965

Ads

PNC3 MEMBER HAS A large number of duplicates for sale. Lists available for a large 29c SASE. Please specify if you're interested in used PNC singles, MNH PNC5 strips, or variable rate coil errors. Also interested in buying your duplicates. Please write first describing what you have available. John Himes, p.O. Box 4080, Bellflower, CA 90707-4080.

WILL TRADE 20c FLAG #4 PS5 mint XF for my wants in used single PNCs in VF-XF condition. Paul Silveri, 10031 SW 2123 Terr., Miami, FL 33190-1583.

FOR SALE: 2005a Consumer mint, imperf (No. #) VF pairs at \$48.50 each. Also have 30+ 10c E&S PNC commercial covers, all are very nice, various numbers. If interested send for list or make offer. Paul M. Dixon, 2023 41st Ave. NE, Salem, OR 97305.

PS3 F-VF 1900-1, 1900-2, 1901-3, 1901-4, 1902-2, 1903-1, 1903-2, \$3.50; 0135-1, 1904-1, \$7.50; 1891-2, \$10.50; 0139-1, \$19.50; 1895-6, \$46.00; 1891-1, \$65.00; 1908-2, \$82.00. Dennis Chamberlain, Box 4323, Davis, CA 95617.

PS5 F-VF 1906A-1C, 1906A-2C, \$4.50; 1906A-6A, 2115-1, \$7.25; 1906A-3B, 1906A4B, \$10.80; 1891-7, 1904A-1, 1904A-2, \$18.50; 1907-7, \$27.00; 1895A-14, 2115-3, \$33.50; 1907-3, 1907-4, \$44.00. Dennis Chamberlain, Box 4323, Davis, CA 95617.

PNC3 MEMBERS: E&S tag no number single and a fine to very fine stip of five 5c Motorcycle # 3 or 4 for \$1.71 and SASE. Ken Moreau, 402 Coronation Drive, Franklin, MA 02038.

Letter

Commercial covers-New England

To the Editor:

Commercial cover report from southern New England for about 135,000 covers postmarked April 26 through May 26, 1994.

29c Flag/White House - 1-2; 2-8; 3-3; 4-4; 5-9; 6-4; 7-108; 8-32; 9-1; 10-39; 11-129; 12-141; 13-35; 14-2; 15-7. Total -524.

Others - 1c Omnibus 6-1; 1c Omnibus(RE) 2-1; E&S 22221-1 (used illegally and underpaid); 19c Fishing Boat (PS2) A1111-1, A6667-1; 23c Lunch Wagon 3-1 (underpaid); 23c USA Flag P1c 1111-1; 25c Flag/Yosemite 7-1; 29c Flag/ Mount Rushmore 3-1; 5-2; 6-1; 7-1; 29c Flower (Perf) S2222-2; Total -15.

First WH#15 had Hartford, CT @A, 061, PM, 13 May 1994 PM postmark.

Rolly Grandahl
3 Grandview Terrace
E. Windsor, CT 06088-0137

NOTICE:

Several pages have not been included in this online issue because of privacy concerns dealing with members, their home addresses and collecting interests.

Eugene R Zink

	Usage	Other
Cover	FDC	
		Other
aper		FDC Other
Cover		
Cover		
Cover		

Special of the month

- 5.9c Bicycle No. 3, 4
- 8.5c Precancel No. 2
- 9.3c Mail Wagon No. 1, 2
- 18c Surrey No. 9, 10
- 22c Flag No. 1, 13

	PS-5
F-VF	8.00
VF	9.00
XF	11.00

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