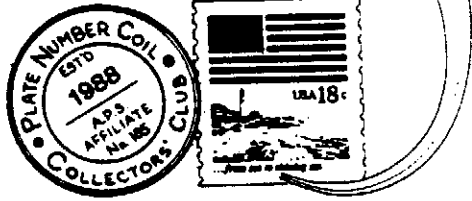


PNC³



Coil Line

Journal of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club PNC³

October 1, 1995
Vol. 8, No. 10
Whole Number 86

Gene Ernst, President
15522 Windy Cove Drive
Houston, Texas 77095
(713) 855-0146

Board Members

Dick Koenig, VP
Joann Lenz, Secy.
Jim Perry, Treas.

Gene Trinks, At Large
Joe Sedivy, At Large
Tom Maeder, Past Pres.

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

Missing persons report filed on numerous PNC³ members

By Harold Brown
Coil Line Editor

I've kept my concerns to myself long enough.

It's long past time to file a missing persons report.

For many months, and in some cases, years, overwhelming numbers of Plate Number Coil Collectors Club members have been silent. The post office hasn't been sending back massive quantities of *Coil Line*, so I know someone is picking up the mail.

I know you're out there. I have a membership list that says you are. It even tells me your special interests.

Enough is enough folks. It's time to participate. It's time to get involved. In case you hadn't guessed, I am not a happy editor.

Coil Line is a reflection of its membership. And, frankly fellow members, that reflection has been pitiful in recent months. A year ago I was being cautioned to keep within the budget, keep issues at no more than 20 pages and hold material for a month or two, if that's what it took. It was a nice problem to have.

Now it's gone to the other extreme. The mailbox has contained far too many bills and credit card applications in recent months. The mail from club members has been dreadfully slow. Today was deadline day for the October issue. There was one *Coil Line* item in the mail. It was the monthly roll size report prepared by Alan Thomson.

For those of you who don't know, Alan also takes care of Snippets. But, he's suffering from the same problem I am. He's not hearing from anyone about much of anything. With all of the new coils this year, the alleged end of the Transportation series and other activities, members must have some news or opinions to share.

Are we nothing more than sponges? Do we only soak up things and not let anything go?

I hope I'm getting some members riled up. Someone has some constructive ideas. If you don't have the expertise, what would you like someone else to write about?

What would you like to see in *Coil Line* on a regular or semi-regular basis.

Would you like a new editor? I don't intend to quit, but the thought has crossed my mind that I might be the problem.

I appreciate all of the contributions I've received from the active members. All of you know who you are and can pat yourselves on the back. I fully understand it when you take a break or run out of material to continue a series. You've done your part and then some.

It's the quiet folks I'm trying to stir up. Maybe some of those who have been active can prod a fellow member who hasn't gotten involved. I don't care if the material you send me is hand written. Just make sure it can be read! I've got to typeset most of the articles anyway. A few more will only make my job easier.

Attached to the back of this issue is a questionnaire that I hope will get some of you to open up. You don't have to share the value of your collection or reveal anything you don't want to. Have fun with it. Show me that you're really out there. Show me that all of the names on the list really do have a body. I'd hate to think the mailing list is really a few pages swiped from the board of elections of a certain large Midwestern city.

Send the questionnaire back to the editor ASAP. I hope to start publishing the answers in the November issue.

Meanwhile, think about what you can write about. Get together with a friend or two and come up with something. I check my e-mail every few days. Let me know what's on your mind.

PNCer@aol.com.

PNC³ honors members at St. Louis

Three members of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club were recognized with achievement awards during the Annual Meeting in August at Stampshow 95.

Each year the club recognizes outstanding contributions to Plate Number Coil collecting.

This year's recipients were Richard Nazar, Roland Grandahl and Dr. Robert Rabinowitz.

Nazar was honored for his efforts in editing and producing the completely revised eighth edition of the *Plate Number Coil Catalog*.

(Continued on page 152)

Letters

How about stamps in Sarasota in February?

To the Editor:

All PNC collectors from the Northeast and Midwest should not the dates of Feb. 2-4, 1996.

This big three-day show is one of the APS World Series of Philately competitions and always brings in a good crowd. Last year there were about 30 exhibits and 30 bourse dealers.

More important will be the PNC3 Regional Meeting on Saturday, Feb. 3 at noon. The meeting room is reserved and we need your participation and input. This is an excellent time to plan your vacation or business trip to sunny Florida at the height of winter. More details will follow later.

Tom Haire
112 Fern Creek Dr.
Flat Rock, NC 28731

Thoughts on collector 'drop out'

To the Editor:

Why do folks drop out of collecting?

There are only two reasons:

- 1) They reach completion.
- 2) They become bored.

All of the other "reasons" why (and people will rattle off hundreds of them) are secondary manifestations of #2. If a person is interested, he/she finds a way.

Actually, if we want to get technical here, reason #1 is a subset of #2 because immediately upon reaching #1, the person ceases to be a collector and flops to reason #2.

So, I guess there is only one reason a person stops collecting: #2.

John A. Horan
403 Darwin Dr.
Amherst NY 14226

Another voice from the SW comm cover craze

To the Editor:

I am a new member of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club. I am writing to report my findings of PNCs on commercial covers. Formerly, my reports were included as part of Dick Koenig's report, but he has asked me to report my own findings now that I am a member. Enclosed is my report for August 1995.

I also have some other items that may be of interest.

I have found a roll of 32c Ferryboats #2 where the plate number is split with approximately 60 percent at the bottom and 40 percent at the top. The date is also split with about 30 percent appearing at the top of each stamp.

I also have Ferryboat #2 on commercial cover that looks to be a splice without the adhesive backing. It appears the mailer removed the backing holding the splice together when the stamp was placed on the envelope.

The following commercial covers are from local newspapers and a national insurance company.

32c G - A1111-56; A1112-7; A1211-4; A1212-24; A1222-17; A1311-4; A1313-6; A1314-3; A2212-19;

A2213-10; A2214-36; A2313-1; A3113-1; A3314-9; A3323-5; A3324-5; A3426-1; A3433-21; A3435-1; A3436-6; A4426-2; A4427-19; A5327-13; A5417-3; A5427-14; A5437-2.

32c Flag over Porch - 11111-196; 22222-51; 33333-140; 44444-43.

32c Ferryboat - 2-10; 3-12.

As a new member, I would like to extend my thanks to all of the fine people with whom I already correspond. And a special thanks to Dick for his support, encouragement and advice. I look forward to the opportunity of meeting new trading partners.

David E. Kemp
509 S. Grinnell Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85710

(Editor's Note: Follow David's example and I hope he encourages some of his trading partners to join in.)

From the 'dean' of SW comm cover reporters

To the Editor:

Following is a report on PNC commercial covers from the ladies wear mail order company for the Aug. 3 through Sept. 2 period.

32c G - A1111-15; A1211-1; A1212-1; A1222-8; A1311-10; A1313-16; A1314-10; A1324-11; A2212-11; A2213-18; A2214-32; A2223-1; A2313-3; A3113-14; A3314-26; A3323-10; A3324-32; A3423-4; A3433-12; A3436-7; A4426-4; A4427-28; A5327-20; A5417-10; A5427-20; 1111-19; S1111P-7; S1111R-31; S2222R-220.

32c Flag over Porch - 11111-48; 22222-32; 33333-55; 44444-21.

32c Ferryboat - 2-2; 3-6.

PNC cover collectors should be aware that the 32c G coil is fast disappearing from the scene and if one needs to round out a collection, now is the time to do it while some of the harder to locate numbers are available.

Contact other cover collectors that have been listed in the club directory. I have used that list many times over the past few years and have made good contacts and long-lasting friends.

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

Commercial cover report from parched NE

To the Editor:

In the southern New England area these PNCs were found on commercial covers from about 101,000 pieces postmarked Aug. 4 through Aug. 31.

32c G - A1313-8; A1324-1; A2214-24; A3113-14; A3314-23; A3323-3; A3324-25; A3436-18; A4427-9; A5427-23. Total -147.

32c G - S1111(P)-26; S1111(P) with back number -5; S1111(R)-34; S2222(R)-138. Total-203.

32c Flag over Porch - 11111-52; 22222-33; 33333-166;

(Continued on next page)

Letters (from previous page)

44444-10. Total -261.

32c Ferryboat - 2-4; 3-6; 4-8. Total-18.

29c Flag/WH - Misc. numbers totalling 8.

Others - 7 various values, nine numbers. Grand total-646.

Great thanks to PNC3 for the Achievement Award announced at Stampshow 95 St. Louis meeting. The roses smell very nice! I share this award and the lovely plaque with my PNC3 motivators Dick Koenig and Bill McMurray, as well as all other report contributors and statistical analysts. Thanks again.

Rolly Grandahl
3 Grandview Terr.
E. Windsor, CT 06088

Annual meeting rewarding experience

To the Editor:

Attending the PNC3 Annual Meeting at Stampshow in St. Louis was a highlight in my membership. For three days and nights, I was able to converse with PNC3 members from around the USA, with those who I already knew from previous meetings and those I had talked with over the telephone and/or had a correspondence.

This meeting time was a marvelous learning and sharing time. It was interesting that I "surfed" through part of the dealer bourse once on the first day but did not return as PNC3 members gathered at one of the snack bar tables for the entire show, sharing all sorts of PNC information.

A great time was had by all. I know that I will go out of my way to attend more Regional Meetings as well as Annual Meetings.

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

PNC awards

(Continued from page 151)

Grandahl was honored for his continuing efforts in surveying and reporting commercial usage of plate number coils.

Rabinowitz was chosen for his continued contributions to PNC literature through regular articles in national weekly stamp publications.

Eca-Gard machine in supermarket

The Aug. 28 issue of *Linn's Stamp News* reported an Eca-Gard VRC stamp machine could be found at Clemens supermarket in Middletown Township, Pennsylvania, north of Philadelphia.

The Lancaster County chain store sells Amish-style baked goods. This particular store also sells Philadelphia Tastykakes in gift packages. The store is promoting mailing of gift packages with the machine.

Find this postal history package for your collection!

CURRENT ISSUE ROLL SIZES

KEY

09/12/95

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

EP - EMBEDDED PHOSPHOR PAPER

SP - SURFACE PHOSPHOR PAPER

32c FERRYBOAT

#2 A
#3 A
#4 A

(10c) AUTO

#S111 B, C, D

(15c) TAIL FIN

#11111 C
#S11111 D

32c PORCH FLAG

#11111 A
#11111 C (SHINY)
#22222 A
#33333 A
#44444 A
#S11111 D
#V11111 5000 SA

(25c) JUKE BOX

#11111 B, C
#22222 C
#S11111 D

(10c) EAGLE & SHIELD

#A1010101010 B, C, D

23c LUNCH WAGON

#2 A, B, C
#3 A, B (SP)
#3 A (EP, DULL)
#3 A (EP, SHINY)

#A1011101010 C

#A1011101011 C

#A1011101012 C, D

#A1110101010 C, D

#A1110111010 C, D

#A1110101011 C

#A1111101010 C, D

#A1111111010 C, D

#A1211101010 C

#A1411101010 B, C, D

#A1411101011 C, D

#A1412111110 D

#A1412111111 C, D

#11111 B, C

#22221 B, C

#22222 B, C

#22222 (DULL) B, C

#33333 B, C

(5c) BUTTE

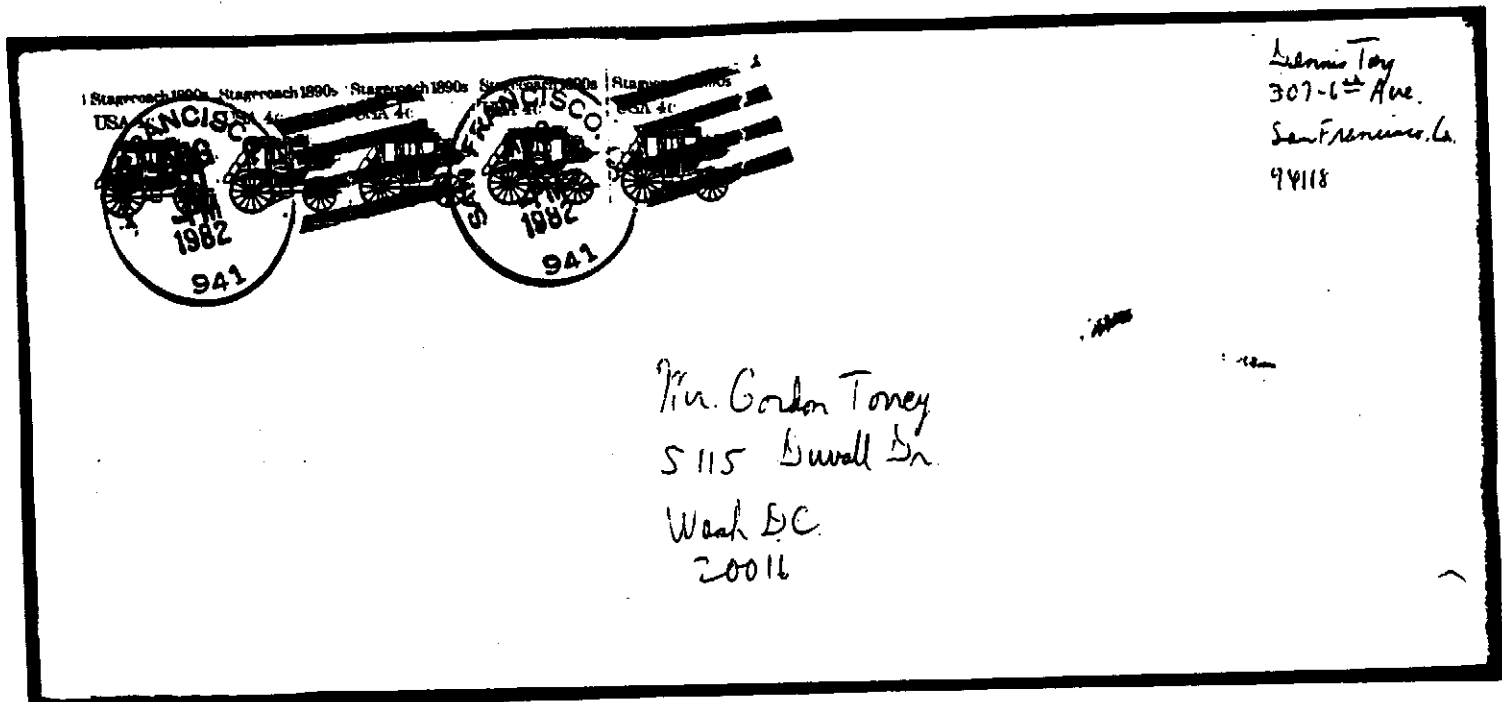
#S111 C, D

#S11111 D

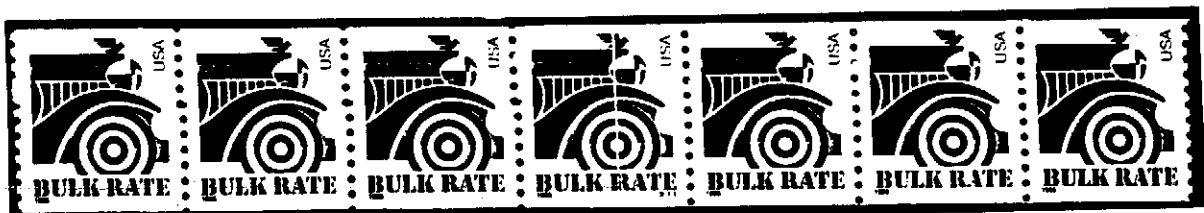
#S22222 D

Thanks for info go to:

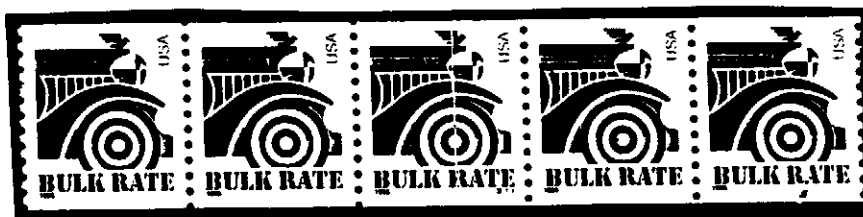
COVER OF THE MONTH



The above cover featuring the 4c Stagecoach #2 is the new earliest known usage for that PNC on cover...8/31/82, only 12 days after this stamp was issued. For some unknown reason, the stamps and the return address are in the opposite corners from where they are normally placed. (Cover courtesy of Ken Cherry.) (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 04976-0840.)



David Kemp of Tucson, AZ, has discovered splices on rolls of 500 of the bulk rate Car Front coil stamp issued earlier this year. Note the misalignment of the top six perforation holes on the left three stamps of the top example. The splice in the bottom example occurs in the middle of the middle stamp of the strip of five.



Watching the 'junk mail' for interesting PNC covers

By Michael Bourgault 17 Lakeview Place East Lynn, MA 01904-2347

Fig. 1 is a 23c USA Presort First Class with plate #4444. The last 4 (the black one) appears worn or under-inked. This was the first time I had ever received such a cover in the mail. Actually, it was received by my wife and I saved it from going into the circular file. The mailing was received in July 1994 as part of a promotion from Chemical Bank for a Shell MasterCard. The cover remains unopened.

P.O. Box 9147
Farmingdale, NY 11735-9147



Fig. 2 is a postcard notifying me that my mother had given me a subscription to Reader's Digest for Christmas. Low and behold an unplanned extra bonus/present. The post card bears a 10c Tractor Trailer with plate #22. The strange thing about this card is that the stamp appears to be placed on the cover with glue. I have circled the enlargement where this appears to be the case. The card was received Dec. 22, 1994.



Pleasantville, N.Y. 00401-0001

FIRST CLASS MAIL
ZIP+4 BARCODED

Tractor Trailer
Additional Presort 1930s
Postage Paid



SEASON'S GREETINGS

Fig. 3 I received in the mail Jan. 23, 1995. It was a mass mailing from the Marriott Hotel chain. It is franked with an Eagle & Shield #22221. The cover also remains unopened.

tt



Special Marriott Invitation Inside!

My question is: Should we go to the post office and have these uncanceled stamps on cover hand-canceled on the day we receive them in the mail or the next day the latest? What prompts this questions is the condition of the 10c Tractor Trailer PNC that appears to be glued onto the post card. What can we do to prevent people from making false PNC covers? How can we be sure when we purchase these covers from other collectors or through an auction that they are in fact legitimately used covers, when they lack a dated post office cancel? I would appreciate any comments.

(Editor's Note: I wouldn't take the cover to the post office for cancellation. That would destroy its legitimacy as much as someone creating fakes. Also, I doubt a clerk would cancel a stamp that's already been through the mail. You might place a current stamp on the back of the envelope and have that stamped, if the date is that important. But again, that would tend to destroy the legitimacy. The sealed contents of the cover might contain a date, but I would leave it sealed. I understand your concern about fakes and someone doubting what you have. Most collectors are honest. We just have to pay attention to details. Satisfy yourself as to authenticity but realize someone else may have a different standard).

Editor's Mail-Collectible covers or philatelic covers?

By Harold Brown
Coil Line Editor

Over the past five-plus years I received a lot of mail from members of PNC³. About 25 percent of the covers have been tossed into a box, with the idea that someday I'd develop an article or two and show some of the material. All of the covers in this installment show various uses of Variable Rate Coil stamps. I suspect most would place a "philatelic cover" label on the items. But I think an argument can be made otherwise, since the covers did convey mail, ie, something for *Coil Line*. I have received other covers that were true philatelic creations, containing only a stuffer card to help ensure the cover didn't get folded into an accordion by the postal equipment.

All of the illustrations have been cropped. Envelope sizes vary from No. 6 to 9-inch by 12-inch manila.

Following are short descriptions of the 12 illustrations.

Fig. 1 - A strip of three of 24c VRCs and strip of three 1c VRCs totalling 75c and paying the three-ounce rate when the basic First Class rate was 29c for the first ounce and 23c for each additional ounce.

Fig. 2 - A strip of three of 1c VRCs on the top row with singles of 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 9, and 10c. Note that the denomination on the 6c stamp (fourth from left) is high on the stamp, just overlapping the top of the 'USA.' The postage totals 52c, paying for two ounces first class under the 29c First Class rate.

Fig. 3 - The friendly postal grease pencil canceled this Priority Mail cover franked with 10c and a \$2.90 VRCs, paying the current rate for this class of mail.

Fig. 4 - This combination cover used a 69c VRC and 29c Flag over White House. The 98c postage paid the four-ounce first class rate at the basic 29c First Class rate.

Fig. 5 - The \$1.29 VRC paid the 29c First Class postage plus the \$1 charge for Certified Mail service on this cover postmarked Aug. 25, 1992. This cover is a true philatelic creation.

Fig. 6 - This is a straightforward use of 29c VRC on a First Class letter. The information inside the cover was for *Coil Line* but there's no hint of that possibility unless one knows that both names on the cover are associated with the club.

Fig. 7 - The 28c variety of VRC is one likely to have been created by a collector looking for strips to fill out a collect. The addition of the 1c Omnibus finishes payment of the 29c First Class rate.

Fig. 8 - This combination of seven stamps with denominations of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8c pays the 29c First Class rate. Unfortunately the cancel only ties three of the stamps to the cover.

Fig. 9 - Here's a combination of two 1c VRCs and a plate strip of 5 (A22113) of the Eagle & Shield used to pay the 52c rate for three ounces at the basic 29c First Class. The USPS required permit stamp is also on the cover.

Fig. 10 - The pandas may appear to peaking into the 23c Lunch Wagon looking for food. The First Class rate was made up with a 6c VRC.

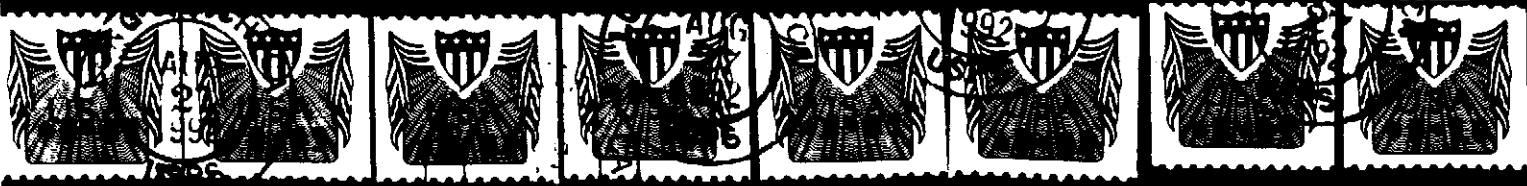
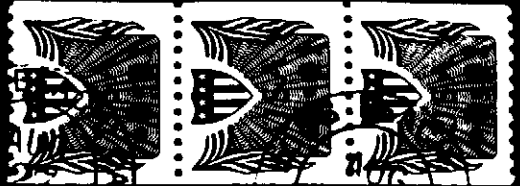
Fig. 11 - Sandwiched between a 1c Omnibus and a 23c Presorted First Class stamp is a VRC strip of 5 with 1-cent denominations. Again, only part of the combination is tied to the cover by the cancellation.

Fig. 12 - A 10c VRC and a 19c Fishing Boat with plate number 5556 make up this First Class cover.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Fig. 3



Coil Line

The efficient
You don't pack
document:
2 lb. Priority
restrictions
We Deliver

Fig. 4



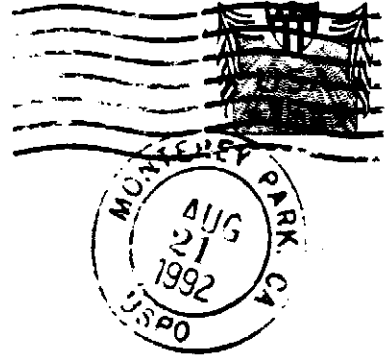


Fig. 5



Harold Brown
909 Parker St.
Bowling Green, OH
43402



Mr. Richard Thomas
P.O. Box 665
Lewisburg, PA 17837

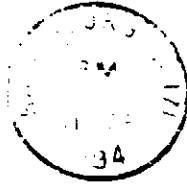


Fig. 6

HAROLD BROWN
909 PARKER ST.
BOWLING GREEN, OH
43402

RICK STAIGER
P.O. BOX 541
LAKE ZURICH, IL 60047-0541

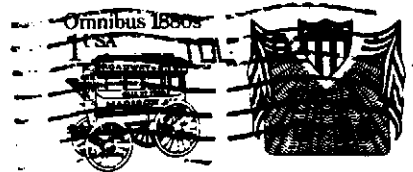
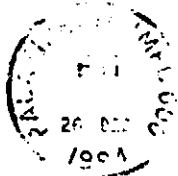


Fig. 7

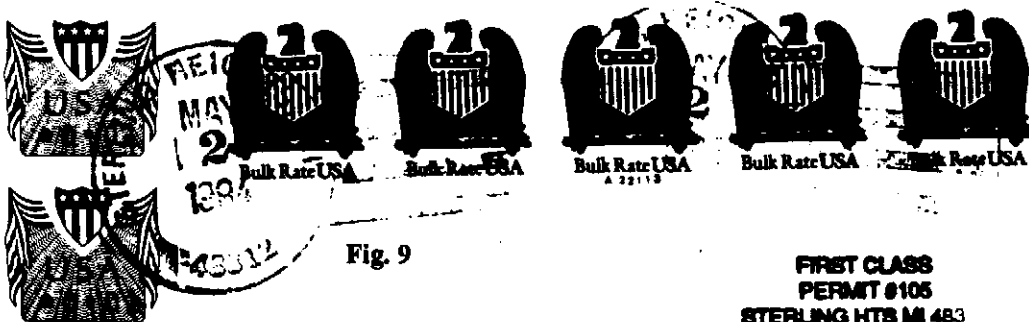
HAROLD BROWN
909 PARKER ST
BOWLING GREEN OH 43402



Fig. 8



R. HAROLD BROWN, EDITOR
 900 ...



FIRST CLASS
 PERMIT #105
 STERLING HTS MI 483

Fig. 10



Omnibus 1880s
 1 USA

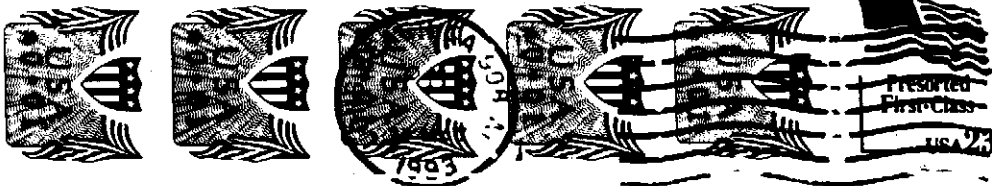


Fig. 11

Fig. 12



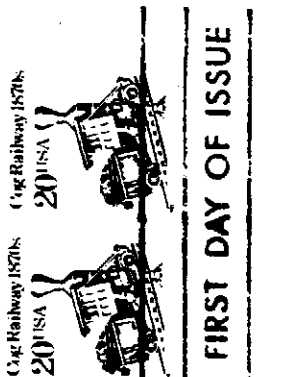
20c Cog Railway Second Day

Member Don Eastman, postal worker in New Hampshire, had the opportunity to work on the Second Day 20c Cog Railway committee at Mount Washington, NH on June 10. The last of the Transportation series coil stamps were issued June 9 in Dallas.

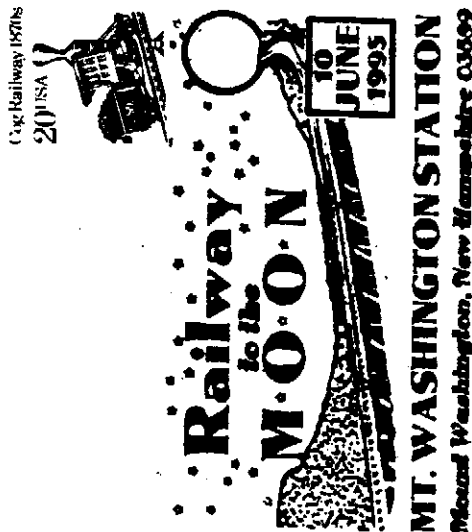
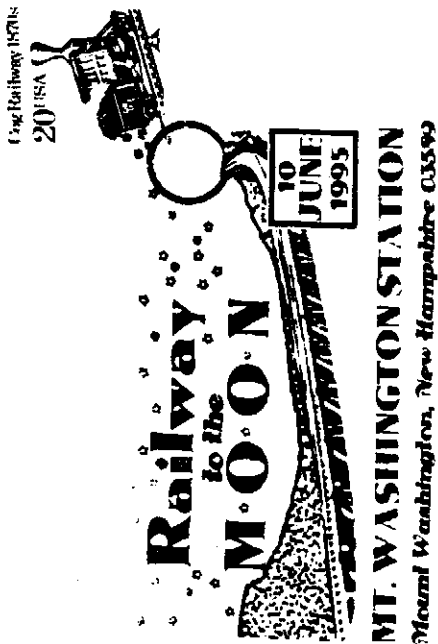
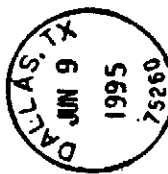
Below is a postcard commemorating the stamp and the cog railway at Mount Washington. The reverse side contains brief history of the railway.

The No. 10 cover contains both a FDC cancel and a second day cancel.

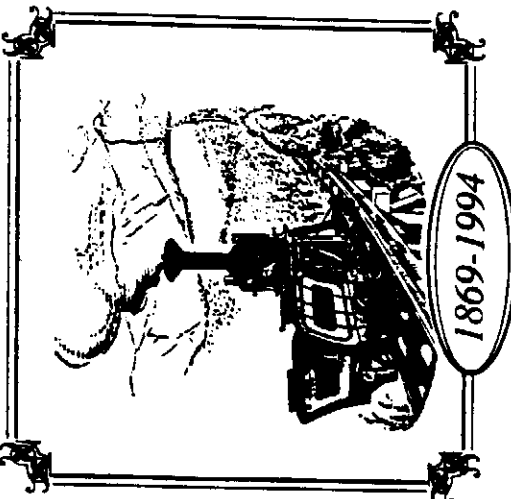
On the next page is the inside of the ceremony program for the second day event. The program folds in half. On the reverse side is a color photo of the cog railway in action. Unfortunately black and white photocopy reproduction doesn't do it justice.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



The Mount Washington
COG RAILWAY
 Route 302 ~ Bretton Woods
 Mt. Washington, New Hampshire 03589



Join the festivities on June 19th as we celebrate our 125th anniversary!

MASTER OF CEREMONY

WAYNE W. PRESBY
President, Mount Washington Railway Co.

REMARKS

WINIFRED G. GROUX
District Manager, Customer Service and Sales
New Hampshire District, United States Postal Service

HONORABLE STEPHEN MERRILL
Governor, State of New Hampshire

JOSEPH MCQUAID
Editor-in-Chief, *The Union Leader*
Past Engineer, Cog Railway

DONALD BRAY
Cog Railway Historian
Mount Washington Cog Railway

AWARDS PRESENTATION

WAYNE W. PRESBY
President, Mount Washington Railway Co.

WILLIAM WRIGHT
Postmaster
Twin Mountain, NH

DEDICATION OF STAMP

NANCY L. GEORGE
Vice President, Area Operations
Northeast Area, United States Postal Service

A Railway to the Moon

In the spring of 1858, retired businessman Sylvester Marsh applied to the New Hampshire State Legislature for a charter to build a railroad up Mount Washington. The idea was thought to be so ludicrous that one member suggested an amendment that would allow Mr. Marsh to extend his railroad to the moon! Marsh was steadfast, however, and, since he did not ask for an appropriation of money, they felt that he was free to waste his own and approved his charter.

A ride up Mount Washington on the World's first mountain-climbing cog railway remains, as it has for well over a century, an exciting and unforgettable experience. The ever changing surroundings, the magnificent views, the sights and sounds of unique steam locomotives in action, and some of the steepest railroad tracks in existence, combine to place it in company with the best of the world's great railway journeys. This is a trip that must be made to be fully appreciated.



The United States Postal Service is proud to commemorate the Mount Washington Cog Railway with the issuance of its new "Cog Railway" stamp and special pictorial cancellation.

This new 20-cent stamp for postcards is based on the "Cloud," one of the first cog engines to ply the Mount Washington Cog Railway. We are gathered here today, June 10, 1995, to honor that stamp and the Cog Railway here at Mount Washington, NH which inspired it.

Membership

Names of applicants are published for members to review. Any member who questions the suitability of a prospective member 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 780 if all applicants are accepted.

New applicants:

Clark M. Johnson
P.O. Box 466
Glenwillard, PA 15046

Floyd L. Haskell
18955 Myron Dr.
Livonia, MI 48152-3112

Robert H. Desrosiers
2250 Old Moultrie Rd. #50
St. Augustine, FL 32086-5127

Peter Eberl
12 Samoset Rd.
Worcester, MA 01604

Richard Henderson
90 Twill Valley Dr.
St. Petees, MO 63376

Changes of address:

John L. Larson
402 Fairlawn Dr.
Urbana, IL 61801
JLARSON@CSR.D.UIC.EDU

James Adams
P.O. Box 21121
Lansing, MI 48909

Correction:

Zip Code for James P. Weiland,
Evanston, IL is 60202-2162

Resignation:

Richard Schulman

PNC³ meetings

A monthly listing of scheduled Regional and Annual Meetings will be published in *Coil Line*.

Regional Meetings are to be arranged through Dick Koenig, Regional Meeting Committee Chairperson, P.O. Box 31872, Tucson, AZ 85751. Please contact Dick as far in advance as possible.

Oct. 7 - SESCOAL 95, Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California. Wyndam Hotel (formerly Hyatt) at Los Angeles International Airport. Contact J.L. Meyer, 20112 Westpoint Drive, Riverside, CA 92507, 714-788-6276.

Oct. 21 - CIAPEX-Central Iowa Philatelic Exposition, Des Moines, IA. Contact David Phelps, 3031-64th, Urbandale, IA 50322.

Oct. 22, 1995 - Thamespex, 1 p.m. in Clarke Center at Mitchell College, New London, CT. Bruce Menia will speak on Ceremony Programs of the \$1 Seaplane. Time for a formal trading session and discussion also planned.

Jan. 6, 1996 - ARIPEX, Mesa, AZ. Contact Dick Koenig, P.O. Box 31872, Tucson, AZ 85751.

Feb. 3, 1996 - Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition, Sarasota, FL. Contact Tom Haire, 112 Fern Creek Drive, Flat Rock, NC 28731-9512. After Nov. 1, 16725 Bobcat Drive SW, Ft. Myers, FL 33908.

May 18, 1996 - PIPEX, Salem, OR. Contact Larry Crain, P.O. Box 4395, Medford, OR 97501-0170.

PNC programs are available

A series of slide shows and video tapes regarding Plate Number Coil collecting are available to members. For information and availability, contact Dick Koenig, Regional Meeting Chairperson, P.O. Box 31872, Tucson, AZ 85751. The only cost involved is for shipping the program back to Dick after its use.

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 September issue was mailed August 19.

President: Gene Ernst, 15522 Windy Cove Dr., Houston, TX 77095 (713) 855-0146.

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. There is a charge.

Changes of address: Should be sent to and membership applications are available from Joann Lenz, Secretary, 37211 Alper Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48312-2203.
E-mail -KRXJ83A@prodigy.com

Mailing list: Rental of the club mailing list is available. A one-time usage of labels costs \$50. Contact the secretary (above).

Dues: Are \$10 per year (\$15 for First Class mailing of *Coil Line*, \$15 for Canada and Mexico and \$20 for all others) and should be sent to Jim Perry, Treasurer, P.O. Box 20120, Beaumont, TX 77720.

Advertising rates: Are \$42 for a full page, \$22.50 for 1/2 page and \$12 for 1/4 page per issue. A check or money order made payable to PNC³ must be submitted with the advertising copy. All copy should be sent to the Editor, 909 Parker St., Bowling Green, OH 43402-2107.
E-mail - PNCer@aol.com

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

Membership

E-mail addresses:

Send e-mail addresses to the editor at 909 Parker St. Bowling Green, OH 43402.

Ads

PS5 collector has numerous older PS3's for trade. Would like to exchange for strips of 5 (Eagle/Shield, Flags, etc.) Please send list of PS5 extras and needs to Jeff Fiszbein, 824 Chatham, Milford, MI 48381.

TRADE PNC commercial covers Scott 1891, 1895 and 1908 for used PNC singles, strips of 3, 5 and commercial covers that I need. L.S. Midtun, 3817 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85015

BEAUTIFUL hand-colored PNC FDCs, EFO FDCs currently available: Flag over Porch imperforate pair with normal plate number single for comparison on Anagram H/C FDC-5 made. \$300 each. SASE for list to Anagram, 6301 Poindexter, Rockville, MD 20852. Phone 301-309-6637.

Door prizes donated for Annual Meeting

There were a total of 23 prizes donated for door prizes at the Annual Meeting in St. Louis in August.

Board members made themselves ineligible and dealers present declined to sign up, meaning all but four of those attending went home with a prize.

Donations and the donors:
Herman Druckman (Eagle Albums), Condor Deluxe album.
Bob Reese, Hayes Album for used PNCs.

Shirley Corp, Five different FDCs.
Dick Federle, Three different PNC strips of 5.

Al Cibulskas, PS 5 of the untagged 15c Tugboat.

Al Haake, Three different varieties of PS5.

Frank Marrelli, misprint roulette 'G' (PS3) and misperforated 'G' (PS3 and PS2).

Dr. Robert Rabinowitz, Imperforated Eagle & Shield (PS2).

Steven Cripe, Mill Creek Ltd.,

miscellaneous 9.3c Mail Wagon (PS2).
Richard Nazar, The 1995 PNC Catalog.

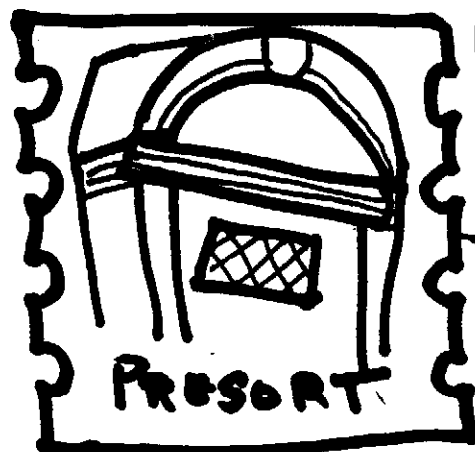
Bill Castle, color variety, indigo blue (PS2).

Dr. Joe Agris, Transportation Issue Plate Number Coil Book.

Minutes of the meeting will likely be published in the November issue of *Coil Line*. The editor was unable to attend due to last-minute complications.

The 1996 Annual Meeting has tentatively been planned for Stampshow 96, which will be held in the Orlando, Florida area. The event had been planned for San Diego but the APS was encouraged to find another location because the Republican National Convention was also planning to be in town at the same time. Must have been afraid we'd demonstrate to restart the Transportation series.

The PNC board does not plan any dues increases for the 1996 membership year. The renewal notices will go out with the December *Coil Line* and should be mailed in late November.



"INFLATION IS KILLING ME, I USED TO GET THREE PLAYS FOR A QUARTER!"

By Sherwood Day

THE 1¢ OMNIBUS COIL STAMP

In 1983 supplies of the 1¢ Inkwell and Quill coil in the Americana series, and the 1¢ Jefferson coil in the Prominent Americans series, both of which were still in use, were becoming depleted.

To replace them, the 1¢ Omnibus coil stamp in the Transportation Series was issued on August 19, 1983, at the national convention of the American First Day Cover Society, in Arlington, Virginia.

The design depicted a horse-drawn urban mass-transit vehicle, called an omnibus. An omnibus was developed and used for public transportation in Paris in 1828, and in London in 1829. The idea was copied in the US and an omnibus line began operation in New York City in 1831. The design is a model used in New York City during the 1880s.

Two of the early coach builders were Brewster & Company, and Studebaker. Around the turn of the 20th century Studebaker Corporation of South Bend, Indiana, claimed to be the worlds greatest producer of horse drawn vehicles.

Printed on the Cottrell press in purple ink, the stamp was overall tagged and released in rolls of 500 and 3,000. The stamps have a joint line at 24-stamp intervals, with the plate number on the stamp to the left of the line. A total of 9 plates were prepared, but only the first six were sent to press and used in the printing. A total of 768,909,512 stamps were printed from the six plates.

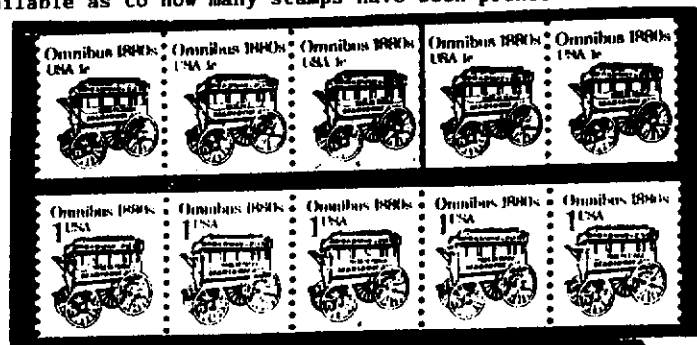
The major usage of the stamp has been as a changemaker in stamp vending machines. Many vending machines would vend one 17¢ Electric Auto stamp and three Omnibus stamps, and later one 22¢ Flag coil with 3 Omnibus stamps. During the 29¢ rate a later version of the Omnibus was used as a changemaker.

A lot of 1¢ Omnibus stamps were left dangling at post office vending machines. I have seen strips of 5 or more, before someone tore them off and took them. The vending machine in the local postoffice, uses the 3¢ Conestoga Wagon coils as the changemakers with the 32¢ value "G" stamps. It is not unusual to see one or more of them still hanging out of the slot.

When the supply was depleted in 1986, the Cottrell presses had been scrapped, so a redesigned version was engraved and printed on the B press. The re-engraved version has no "c" for cents, but the denomination numeral

is much larger. The B press has no "joint line", and its single sleeve number repeats at 52-stamp intervals.

The B-press version was originally only issued with block tagging, but since the USPS policy was changed in 1991 to omit tagging on lower value stamps, they have been printed without tagging. To date, a total of 3 printing sleeves have been used in printing this version, but no figures are available as to how many stamps have been printed.



This page is reproduced from the May 6, 1995 issue of Stamping Around North Arkansas prepared by member Everett Wheeler. He edits the newsletter of the Mountain Home, Ark., stamp club and often puts together a page on PNCs.



Plate Number Coil Collectors Club

'Stamp People'

Please complete and return the following information for future use in Coil Line. This is an effort to get the membership to share a few things about themselves, foster contact among members and promote the general interest of Plate Number Coils and philately in general. Your participation is requested but certainly not required. This has nothing to do with the collecting interests charts!

Name: _____

Occupation: _____

Memorable PNC or philatelic experience: _____

Three words that best describe me: _____

Pet peeve: _____

I would like to meet: _____

Favorite PNC stamp (and why): _____

What I do when I'm not collecting or studying PNCs: _____

Secret vice: _____

People would be surprised to know: _____

My favorite stamp story: _____
