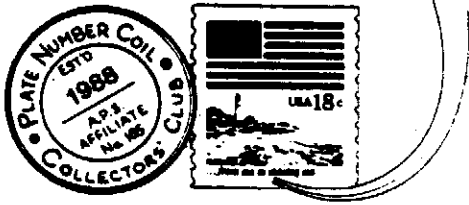


PNC³

Coil Line

Journal of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club PNC³



March 1, 1996
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Sarasota regional meeting helps warm up cool and damp Florida

By Harold Brown
Coil Line Editor

Mother Nature was having fun outside and about a dozen plate number coil enthusiasts were having fun inside on Saturday, Feb. 3 in Sarasota, FL.

Meeting in the Selby Library, a short but brisk walk from the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, the group brought up many topics. It never did get around to watching one of Dr. Joe Agris' slide shows that organizer Tom Haire had lined up.

However, everyone got to share at least something about their collections and interests, along with stories and general information that can benefit everyone.

The Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition did attract many of the key people from the American Philatelic Society, which held a special session before the show started.

The lone PNC exhibit was 'U.S. Transportation Series-A Thematic Viewpoint,' by member Mary Ann Owens.

The USPS station carried a variety of coil stamps but no one reported finding anything out of the ordinary. Unfortunately, none of the nearly 25 dealers had much PNC stock.

After Haire showed his collection of used PNCs, APS Vice President and PNC³ Member Ken Lawrence said a good source of used material can be found in APS sales books.

'There are tons of PNCs. There are no dedicated circuits but you can get the books by asking for plate blocks (ask for those that include coils) or in the plate number singles circuits.' He estimated 40 to 50 percent of material in the books are PNCs.

'Most are made up using the Scott catalog. If you go to the APS headquarters, you can ask for the proper books there. It really is possible to find things and most are priced at a discount from *Linn's Trends*. It's news that really needs to get around.'

Additional discussions involved collecting of back numbers, how to prove dates of use with bulk rate commercial covers,

(Continued on next page)

Two spring regional meetings set

Members in two parts of the country will have a chance to attend regional meetings this spring.

A regional meeting is planned for Saturday, April 27 at the Plymouth Stamp Show, Plymouth, MI. Joann Lenz, 37211 Alper Drive, Sterling Heights, MI 48312-2203, is the contact person.

Though the date is uncertain, Ray Janz is making arrangements to host a regional meeting at OKPEX in May in Oklahoma. Contact Ray at 924 NE 5th, Moore, OK 73160 for details.



Constant plate varieties on new coil

It didn't take long for collectors to start finding constant plate varieties on the 1c American Kestrel coil stamp issued in January. This photocopy was supplied by Eugene Liu of California. He has enhanced the black line on the numbered stamp. He gave it no name. Alan Thomson has one and confirms the variety. Alan has also found a CPV at 6L, which he is calling the Red Egg and there's another variety at 1R, which Alan has dubbed the Black Worm. It's a curved black line to the left of the Kestrel's breast.

Sarasota (from previous page)

how to display oversize covers, self adhesive coils, unhappiness with the USPS shipping charges on orders from Kansas City, making your own album pages, the 18c Flag #6 stamp and dumpster diving.

Andy Short of New York State showed the album pages he has made using SAFE brand paper. He prints the oversize pages on an IBM bubble jet printer and then mounts the stamps in either clear or black Showguard. He uses Microsoft's Publisher program to design the pages.

Haire collects only used PNCs. He makes album pages by recycling a fairly heavyweight paper and keeps his pages in an older three-ring binder. The collection is easy to reorganize as new numbers are issued. His method demonstrates how one can collect stamps and keep the supply costs to a minimum.

On dating bulk rate commercial covers, Lawrence said keeping the contents may be the best, but having a receipt date applied to the back would also be acceptable. He said receipt dates are common on 19th century postal history items.

With regard to displaying large covers, Lawrence suggested using 11" square pages. This allows display of legal-size envelopes. He puts 12 pages in a frame instead of 16 pages and said no judge had given him a hard time because of the format.

Paul Arnold of Clearwater, FL, and Lawrence talked about their trading of used 18c Flag #6 stamps in the early days of PNC collecting. No one was aware of the scarcity of the #6 at the time and Arnold had found several in the mixes he was sorting.

At one point he had 13 of the 18c #6's and 37 of the 18c #7's. Arnold said he had since traded all of the 6's except one (the best one) for other used stamps he had needed. One of the trades in the early days was with Lawrence.

'I don't regret any of the trades. I got some things I wanted and have had a lot of fun,' Arnold said.

He classifies himself as a 'flyspeck hunter' and uses a stereoscopic microscope, obtained as surplus equipment through his business. Arnold said he has lots of strips to trade and wants to start making his own album pages.

Lawrence said when dealers were asking \$60 for a strip of the 18c Flag he resented the idea. But over the years some of the PNCs and some stamps from the Americana and Liberty series have become expensive.

'If you'd have told people a few years ago that stamps from the trash would be worth money, no one would have believed you,' Lawrence said.

Dan Kauffman, who spends part of the year in California and part in Florida, laughed as he told about being upset the numbers on the coils. He said he thought the numbers detracted from the stamps. Dan has since changed his mind.

Lou Bauer, who calls Florida home but spends 9 or 10 months of the year roaming the country with his wife in a motorhome, said he now specializes in collecting paper types. Lou said he had to cut his collection down so that he didn't have to ask his wife to move out of the motorhome.

If he happens to be in your area and you want to know about paper types, he'll be happy to help out. He's spoken at sev-

eral stamp club meetings, mostly in Florida, about PNCs.

His trips around the country have netted many PNC finds and countless stories about large and small post offices and the various help (or lack thereof) from USPS employees. Lou has been instructed by the editor to spend a few of his evenings writing down some of the stories to share with members.

If your at a PNC meeting and Lou's present, ask him to demonstrate the way he separates coils to preserve the perforations.

Everyone who attended received a special name badge made by Dick Haire's wife, Teen, on her new sewing machine. Dick said his wife wasn't completely happy with the way the badges turned out. However, there were several compliments and mine is now part of the PNC collection. I'll have to remember to wear it to other regional and annual meetings.

Yes, Sarasota is a little far from Bowling Green for the editor but it was a good excuse to combine a visit with my parents and a visit to a different stamp show.

Only the chilly weather was a disappointment.

Exhibit - Mary Ann Owens' work

U.S. Transportation Series Coils - A Thematic Viewpoint

This was the lone exhibit featuring plate number coils at the recent Sarasota National Stamp Exhibit in Sarasota, FL.

The 8-frame exhibit uses a fictional story line to show how items featured on Transportation coils might have affected individual and family life and the continuation of life from one generation to the next.

The exhibit uses singles, strips and commercial covers to illustrate the story. The storyline is educational and is one that might help interest collectors that have thought about an exhibit but were put off because they thought most were 'stuffy' or overly technical. The editor can admit to having actually paid little attention to exhibits. But this one was read and enjoyed from start to finish. If Mary Ann enters it in a show near you, make sure to check it out.

The exhibit breaks the Transportation coils into several categories such as power, vehicles, carried and lifestyle.

It is then broken down into subcategories and features youth, family life, family remembrances, recreation, college and dating, summer occupations (three summers), marriage and career and married life.

A boy named Phillip is the featured character. It starts out with the 7.4c Baby Buggy with Phillip as an infant. The exhibits with the Baby Buggy with Phillip as a father.

In between, Mary Ann tells how Phillip encounters the various objects in the Transportation series. His riding of bicycles, the school bus, his visit to his grandfather's farm and the related vehicles, cars that the family owned and so on. At one point Phillip's great-grandfather from San Francisco visits and his remembrances cover some of the items that pre-date Phillip and his grandfather.

Other exhibits at Sarasota featured British Virgin Island Postal History 1173 to WWII; Edward (All for Love); Home on the Range; Fish and Game Stamps of North America; The U.S. Domestic Two Cent Rate; U.S. Issues of 1861 to 1868; Postal History of Puerto Rico 1802-1804; The Owl; U.S. First Issue Varieties, Shades & Cancellations; American Indians, Guadeloupe Hidalgo to the Golden Spike; Court of Honor

(for Clyde Jennings); Portugal Classics, 1853-1884; U.S. Airmail Sept. 11-June 1924; U.S. Three Cent 1851-57 Rate Covers; The 6c Lincoln Large Bank Note Issue 1870-85; Bats-The Flying Mammals; The History of Firefighting; U.S. Postage Booklet Panes-The First 85 Years; The 30c & 90c Denominations U.S. 1861 Issue; Zeppelin Mail; Blood-The Gift of Life; Haitian Revenue Stamps & Stamped Paper; The Postal Markings of Dublin 1818-1916; Muscat; French Forces Abroad, 1893-1939.

PNC³ member John Hotchner was among the judges.

Note to those hosting regional meetings

It is impossible for the *Coil Line* editor to attend more than a few PNC³ meetings each year. If those of you hosting meetings desire a more detailed account of the activity, it will be up to you to provide the information.

At the very least, please forward a report on how many attended, the topics discussed and program presented. Share whatever information is exchanged. Members are interested in reading about these meetings. Expanded reports are welcome.

Mountain coil stamp due March 16

A nondenominated Mountain coil stamp is among several items added to the United States Postal Service's 1996 stamp program.

The stamp will have a nominal value of 5c and will be issued March 16 at San Jose, CA

Roll sizes are expected to be 500, 3,000 and 10,000 stamps.

Details as to printer and back numbering were not available at the *Coil Line* deadline.

Several coils among stamps renumbered in latest Scott U.S. Specialized catalog

Scott Publishing Company has renumbered several stamps, including several U.S. coils in the 1996 edition of its *Specialized Catalog of United States Stamps*.

The affected stamps are:

10c Eagle & Shield (ABNC) to 2602 from 2604

10c Eagle & Shield (BEP) to 2603 from 2605

10c Eagle & Shield (SV) to 2604 from 2606

23c Flag to 2605 from 2607

23c USA (ABNC) to 2606 from 2608

23c USA (BEP) to 2607 from 2608A

23c USA (SV) to 2608 from 2608B

ABNC = American Bank Note Company

BEP = Bureau of Engraving & Printing

SV = Stamp Venturers

No coil stamp for Angel Love; 'G's' to go off sale

The latest issue of *Stamps, etc.* from the U.S. Postal Service lists a coil version of the 32c Angel Love self-adhesive. However, this is incorrect, USPS now says.

Also note that the 'G' stamps are listed as 'Last Chance Items' on page 27 of the catalog, along with three versions of the 23c USA First Class Presort stamps. No date is given.

Also, on page 14 note that the ABN and SV Eagle & Shield stamps are 'available while supplies last.'

New VRC only available from K.C.

Anyone looking for the new variable rate coil stamp in Virginia is going to be disappointed for an undetermined amount of time.

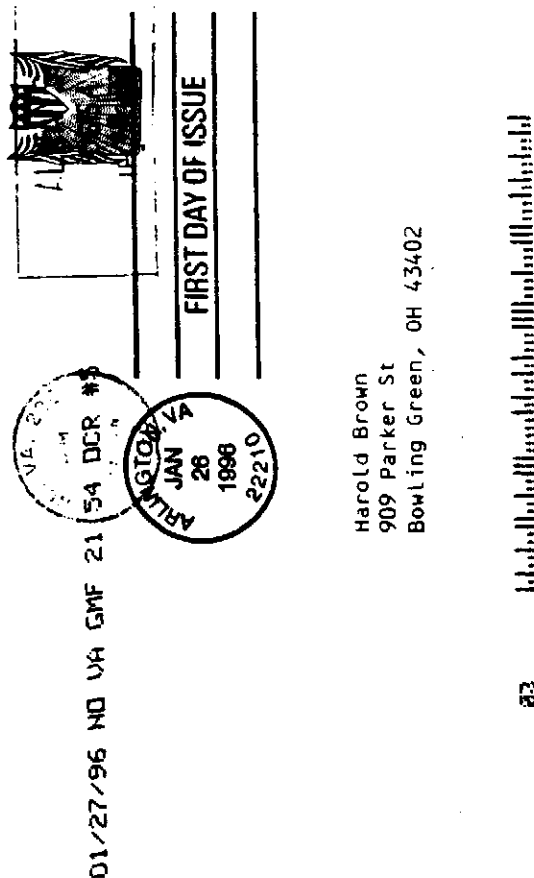
USPS won't be putting the new design in the machines until the current stamp stock are exhausted. The new design was apparently available at the first day site, Preston King Station in Arlington, VA. It now appears that Philatelic Fulfillment in Kansas City is the lone source. The caves are selling strips of 25 denominated only at 32c. The plate number appears every 24 stamps. The order number is 77765.

For those living in the Virginia area who want to keep their eyes open and extra cash handy the stamps are to eventually also show up at:

Eads Station in Arlington, Merrifield, Trade Center Station and Community branch in Alexandria; McLean main post office; West McLean branch and post offices in Woodbridge; Sterling and Herndon.

The stamp has water activated gum and is printed in phosphored paper. The stamp was issued Jan. 26.

Below is a cropped version of an FDC that was prepared by David Lee, under the direction of Joann Lenz. Unfortunately, the postal service saw fit to do double duty with the canceling devices.



Letters

New list of items available from Santa Ana

To the Editor:

Enclosed is a copy of the available plate numbers from the philatelic clerk in Santa Ana, CA. I purchase items from him from time to time. This is his first list of 1996. This was in reply to a request for some items that he had not yet received.

Philatelic Center, Spurgeon Station, 200 E. Civic Center Drive, P.O. Box 54, Santa Ana, CA 92702-0054. Hours are Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. Pacific Time. Please adjust for your time zone. Phone 714-973-7912 or Fax 714 973-1559.

The minimum purchase for a coil plate # is shown in () next to each item. Some items may be of a limited quantity. Availability may change without notice. Scrap means no plate numbers available. On mail orders, please state size of strip you save and if it is OK to mail flat. Checks should be made payable to 'Postmaster' and must include name, address, daytime phone number and drivers license number must be on check. List was effective 1-16-96. Abbreviations explained at end of list.

- 1c Omnibus 2 (U) (25)
- 2c Locomotive 8/10 (24) B Press 1 (25)
- 3C Conestoga Wagon (25)
- 4c Steam Carriage 1 (OT) (25)
- 5c Circus Wagon S1 (14) (T-P-0) 1 (25) (OT)
- 6c Tricycle - 1 (25)
- 10c Canal Boat 1 (25) (OT) low centering
- 11c Stutz Bearcat 1/2 (24)
- 15c Tugboat 2 (25) (OT)
- 19c Fishing Boat S111/ 2424/ 5555/ 55556/ 7667/ 7779 (24)
- 20c Fire Pumper 5/13/ & 9/10 (24)
- 20c Cable Car 2 (25) (BT)
- 20c Cog Railway 1 (25)
- 23c Lunch Wagon 3 (25)/ 3 (MT/SG)
- 29c 'F' Flower 2211 (25)
- 29c Flower S1111 (Roul)/ S2222 (Perf) (25)
- \$1 Seaplane 3 (5)
- 29c Flag/Porch S11111 (14)/ 11111/ 33333/ 45444/ (24)
- 32c G A1111/ A1212/ A1324/ A2212/ A3323/ A3435/ A3436/ A4427/ A5327/ A5417/ A5437/ S1111(Perf)/ S2222 (Roul)
- 5c Canoe S11 (SMG) 1/2 (25)
- 5c Butte S11111 (14) 10,000 (B-BL-E) and 3,000 (T-P-O & B-P-O)
- 7.1c Tractor Zip +4 1 (30)
- 10c Tractor Trailer 1 (25)
- 10c Eagle & Shield S22222 (B-BL-E) (14) S11111 (24) BEP 11111/ 22221(low)/ 22222/ 33333 ABN 21112/ 22113/ 43334/ 88888/ 99998/ 10 11 10 10 12/ 11 11 10 10 10/ 14 12 11 11 11 (24)
- 10c Auto S1111 (14) (10,000 T-BL-O) (3,000 B-P-O, T-P-O, T-P-E) 500 (B-P-O & T-P-O).
- 10.1c Oil Wagon 2 (30)
- 11c Caboose 2 (25)

- 13c Patrol Wagon 1 (25)
- 15c Auto Tail Fin 11111 (24) S11111 (14) B-P-O
- 16.7 Popcorn Wagon 2 (30)
- 20.5 Fire Engine 1 (30)
- 23c Flag/Presort A111 (25)
- 23c USA/Presort A1111/ S111/ 1111-SMG (25)
- 24.1c Tandem Bicycle 1 (30)
- 25c Jukebox 11111 (24) S11111 (14) B-BL-E
- 25c 'G' Presort S11111 (24)

Key to abbreviations

- (U) = Untagged
- (BT) = Block tagged
- (OT) = Overall tagged
- (MT) = Mottled tagged
- (PP) = Prephosphor paper
- (DG) = Dull gum
- (SG) = Shiny gum
- (SMG) = Stain matte gum
- (B) = Back # bottom
- (T) = Back # top
- (BL) = Back # black
- (P) = Back # purple
- (E) = Back # nits PNC
- (O) = Back # misses PNC

Back # on PNC 70 stamps minimum purchase to hit PNC each time.

Several self adhesive sheets are also available. Write or call for list.

Irving Rish
1139 Tall Timbers Rd.
Schaumburg, IL 60173

(Editor's note: Just to keep it clear-Irving is not from the Santa Ana post office, but a PNC³ member. Do not write to Irving for these items. Thanks for the list Irving. Does anyone else have other lists to share or know of very helpful philatelic clerks?)

Commercial covers from Southern N. England

To the Editor:

In the southern New England area these PNCs were found on commercial covers from about 192,000 pieces postmarked Dec. 28, 1995 through Feb. 1, 1996:

- 32c Flag/Porch 1111-118; 22222-148; 33333-394; 44444-137; 45444-40; 66646 -7; 66666-2. Total - 856.
- 32c Ferryboat - 2-4; 3-66; 4-13; 5-17. Total -100.
- 32c 'G' - 1111-4; A1313-3; A2214-7; A3314-6; A3315 - 1; A3324; A3436 -7; A5327-2; S1111(P)-31; S1111(R)-3; S2222(R)-18. Total - 91 (8.7 percent of 32c PNCs).
- 29c Flag/WH - 7 various values. Total -10.
- Grand total -1069.

Rolly Grandahl
3 Grandview Terrace
E. Windsor, CT 06088

(More letters on next page)

Letters (from previous page)
Mixture report-Third in a series

To the Editor:

Incidence of 'G' PNCs plus other recent PNCs, sound only, found in a 25-pound mixture.

A1111-11; A1112-2; A1113-1; A1222-2; A1311-1; A1313-2; A1324-1; A2212-1; A2213-4; A2214-11; A3113-3; A3314-4; A3323-1; A3324-2; A3433-1; A3436-1; A4426-4; A4427-1; A5327-1; A5417-1; A5427-1; S1111-4; S2222-26; 1111-2; 2222-2.

Flag Over Porch - 1111-3; 22222-2; 33333-3.

Juke Box - 1111-2

Butte - S1111-3

Ferryboat - None

Also of note: A 29c Rushmore Lenz Paper #6 with slightly defective perms. Also found were 29c Flag/WH #9-2 & 18-1.

John Carson
 2736 Lake Shore Dr.
 Waco, TX 76708

Any experiences with new permit process?

To the Editor:

I attended the PNC³ regional meeting held in Anaheim on Jan. 13. There was some discussion about the use of precanceled stamps on single-piece first class mailings.

Although you mentioned the new permit on the first page of the December issue, most in attendance didn't seem to be aware of the new rules when I mentioned them.

It's just a suggestion but perhaps you might want to reiterate this change. You may also want to inquire if other members have had success (or lack of success) in getting their new permit.

Richard Beecher
 2641 Locksley Place
 Los Angeles, CA 90390-2708

(Editor's note: I haven't bothered to try to get a new permit. Has anyone else?)

The form to ask for is 3615. The form replaces 3620. The form is to be phased in over the first half of 1996. If your postal clerk has questions, refer them to the Oct. 26, 1995 *Postal Bulletin*. Hopefully they keep the back issues.

Form 3615 is titled *Mailing Permit Application and Customer Profile*. It requires your name, signature, address, phone number, date and a contact person if the permit is in the name of a business. There is no cost involved.

There is no change being made in how precancels may be used on first class mail. Mail franked with these stamps must be given to a clerk in the post office for cancellation and not placed in street boxes or slots at the post office.)

Commercial covers from the great Southwest
 To the Editor:

Following is the report of commercial covers from January from the ladies wear company in Tucson, AZ. 'G's are no longer being reported because of the insignificant amount of such covers being found in the mail.

Flag Over Porch - 11111-97; 22222-78; 33333-175; 44444-82; 45444-16; 66646-12; 66666-4.

Ferryboat - 2-22; 3-57; 4-9; 5-2.

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

CURRENT ISSUE ROLL SIZES			
		KEY	02/14/96
		A-100, B-500, C-3000, D-10000	
		EP - EMBEDDED PHOSPHOR PAPER	
		SP - SURFACE PHOSPHOR PAPER	
		UNT - UNTAGGED (NON-PRECELS)	
32c FERRYBOAT		5c CIRCUS WAGON	
#2	A	#1	B, C
#3	A (SHINY)	#1	B, C (UNT)
#3	A (GLOSS)	#A1	D
#4	A	#A2	D
#5	A (SHINY)	#A3	D
#5	A (GLOSS)	#S1	D
32c PORCH FLAG		3c CONESTOGA	
#11111	A (GLOSS)	#1	A, B, C
#11111	C (SHINY)	#2	C
#22221	B	#3	C (DULL)
#22222	A (GLOSS)	#3	C (SHINY)
#22222	C (SHINY)	#6	D
#22322	C		
#33333	A, C		
#44444	A	(5c) BUTTE	
#45444	A (GLOSS)	#S111	C, D
#45444	? (SHINY)	#S222	C
#66646	A	#S333	C
#66666	A		
#S11111	D	(10c) AUTO	
#V11111	5000 SA	#S111	B, C, D
		#S222	D
23c LUNCH WAGON		(15c) TAIL FIN	
#2	A, B, C	#11111	C
#3	A, B (SP)	#S11111	D
#3	A (EP, DULL)		
#3	A (EP, SHINY)	(25c) JUKE BOX	
20c COG RAILWAY		#111111	B, C
#1	A, B, C	#212222	C
#2	A, B	#222222	C
		#S11111	D
1c KESTREL			
#1111	B, C		

Thanks for info go to: D. Eastman, D. Koenig

'Stamp People'

Here we go with another installment. A few more members decide to join in each month. Several people at the regional meeting in Sarasota said they enjoyed reading about other members. No deadline-I'll just add yours to the pile when I receive it!

Name: Glen L.C. (Leon) Roberts

Occupation: Retired

Memorable PNC or philatelic experience: My warmest memories are working on my stamp collection with my late mother as a teen-ager in the 1960s. Attending Stampshow '95 in St. Louis where I met many who I had read in *Linn's*, *Coil Line*, etc. Got to see numerous (block of 4 and 3 singles) of the inverted Jenny, purchased my U.S. #2. In 1989 trading airmail sheets for a mint 18c Flag #6 strip of 4. Buying C13-15 at RIPEX in 1991 with my father.

Three words that best describe me: Friendly, intelligent and overweight.

Pet peeve: People who use their turn signal for a tie tack.

I would like to meet: George Bush.

Favorite PNC stamp (and why): Eagle and Shield. I love all its varieties and uses. I also served in the 101st Airborne Div. and I am a lifelong fan of eagles.

Secret vice: Watching C-Span

What I do when I'm not collecting or studying PNCs: Try to keep up with other areas of U.S. philately. Collect Lledo die cast metal advertising trucks. Go to VA for aqua therapy.

People would be surprised to know: I wish I could afford to be a liberal.

My favorite stamp story: The Recalled Legends of the West and how it has affected so many. From the pompous, indignation, to joy, to quitting this great hobby. Yes, I got mine. Sold one to a friend for \$10 and got several others through submitting family names. I think everyone should develop a sense of humor and learn to have some fun.

Name: Howard R. Foster

Occupation: Retired elementary school teacher, 1982.

Memorable PNC or philatelic experience: Discovering 'G' A4435 commercial cover and many others of a similar nature.

Three words that best describe me: Ardent used PNC collector and accumulator.

Pet peeve: Inexplicable professional support for mint coil strips at the expense of many less endowed collectors.

Favorite PNC stamp and why: 'G' A1417. Seemingly showed up exclusively in Eastern Washington. None found in many pounds of mixtures from across the nation. Others: F/WH #18 on cover (no used); I love all 'G's and all used PNC singles, pairs, threes and fives.

What I do when no collecting or studying PNCs: Up to

three months ago my wife and I helped raise two great-grandchildren on a daily basis. They are now in child care and pre-school programs-ages five and two. Now I'm picking up the loose ends as a musician, writer, book collector (Dean Koontz, Dick Francis, Lawrence Sanders, et al), professional bridge player and teacher and supplementary involvement in promotion of newly organized postcard club.

Pet concern about stamps and stamp collecting: As a teacher who taught several aspects of stamps collecting for more than 20 years, such as designing and collecting First Day Covers, I, like others, am appalled at the total lack of information (and almost disinterest) among the public about stamps and its potential for children and youth as a free-time activity.

I would like to meet: Rob Washburn, with whom I have shared a number of philatelic items of interest over the years.

Secret vice: One shared by many-completion of a series of stamps, even in the face of impossibility.

People would be surprised to know: I started collecting at eight years old; still have my first album; flew 50 P-51 missions in Italy in WWII and I go to bed at night and get up in the morning thinking and planning my stamp activities for the day. What a way to live!

Name: Don Eastman

Occupation: Postmaster

Memorable PNC or philatelic event: The enjoyable time spent as first elected president of PNC³ and the time spent at World Stamp Expo '89 meeting other collectors and swapping stamps and stories.

Three words that best describe me: Loyal, fun-loving, conservative.

Pet peeves: Liars.

I would like to meet: Country music stars Reba McEntyre and Alan Jackson.

Favorite PNC stamp and why: 20c Cog Railway. I had the opportunity to work at the Second Day Dedication at the actual cog. It is also located practically in my backyard and is one of our state's finest tourist attractions.

What I do when not collecting or studying PNCs: Enjoying the camp on the pond and outside activities, especially 4-wheeling and snowmachining.

People would be surprised to know: I enjoy country music and country line dancing.

My favorite stamp story: The spring and summer of 1988 when I located Fire Pumper 12/14 after reissue, with good centering. Later in the year coming back from vacation I decided to post office hop. I had the good fortune of picking up two rolls of 10.9c #3/4 precanceled.

Name: Jerry Michels

Occupation: Professor of entomology, Texas A&M University.

Memorable PNC or philatelic experience: Having a
(Continued on next page)

'Stamp people'

(Continued from previous page)

postal clerk in Minneapolis let me search through all of her Transportation coils for about two hours in 1986, while on a business trip. I found numerous varieties including no number 8.3c Ambulance; 17c Electric Auto precancel types, and 5.2c Sleigh plates 3 and 5 in intact rolls.

Three words that best describe me: Curious, bearded and friendly.

Pet peeve: The strip of 3 vs. strip of 5 controversy in the 1980s. Always has and always will irritate me since most of my early material is in strips of 3. I also strongly dislike the non-coil self-adhesives purported to be coils!

I would like to meet: Stephen J. Gould.

Secret vice: Machins and Canal Zone Airmail Covers.

Favorite PNC stamp and why: All intaglio PNCs because of their simple beauty and the 25c Honey Bee because of all the printing variations.

What I do when not collecting or studying PNCs: Scientific research, spending time with my wife, model railroading, writing railroad history, teaching at church.

My favorite stamp story: The Rabinowitz-Lawrence word wars of the 1980s.

Name: Wayne Hise

Occupation: United States Postal Service

Memorable PNC or philatelic experience: Though I collect PNC # strips of 5 & 7, I mainly collect U.S. postal cards, unused with early illustrated ads, early stamp machines (many coil types) and other coin operated machines and postal artifacts.

Three words that best describe me: Extremely politically incorrect.

Pet peeve: Either none or so many I can't list 'em!

Favorite PNC stamp and why: I'll have to go with any of the flag types. Nice designs.

What I do when not collecting or studying PNCs:

Work, restore slot machines, gumball, nut machines, etc.

My favorite stamp story: I was part of the U.P.U.

(United Postal Union) at the 1989 U.P.U. World Stamp Expo and was one of the very few who stock pulled stamps from Auto-Post machines #11 & 12. I kept some full stock books until 1991 and sold 95 percent of them to buy a new vehicle.

Name: Joseph Simmons

Occupation: Retired

Memorable PNC or philatelic experience: Finding a #15 Surrey on commercial cover in a 50c junk box a few years ago.

Three words that best describe me: Old stamp collector.

I would like to meet: You (the editor, I guess) and Dick Koenig.

Favorite PNC stamp and why: Old engraved Transportation coils.

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

Fishing and using a metal detector on the beach.

People would be surprised to know: That I can cook.

My favorite stamp story: Reading about people making great finds in *Coil Line* and your article on missing persons.

Name: Burton Robbins

Occupation: Retired from USPS

Memorable PNC or philatelic experience: Probably three days at World Stamp Expo in 1989 in Washington, D.C. My first big stamp show. Winning a beautiful pair of 10.9c Hansom Cab #3&4 plate number singles in one of Bobby Reece's drawings.

Three words that best describe me: Disorganized TV nut.

Pet peeve: Lawrence-Esrati bashing.

I would like to meet: Ben Franklin (seriously!).

Favorite PNC stamp and why: The 2c Locomotive. Its powerful, bold, design fits the stamp nicely and I like trains!

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

Trying to keep my house livable, a little golf, lots of TV, other stamps (U.S. and Canadian blocks).

Secret vice: Diverting household funds to buy stamps for the collections.

People would be surprised to know: That I have a part-time business engraving (metal or plastic) and sell trophies and plaques.

My favorite stamp story: George LeDuc's 'dumpster diving' finds or any other story about Joe Collector finding any item of value or interest someplace other than a dealer or other collector's stock.

Name: Charles Miller.

Occupation: Retired

Memorable PNC or philatelic experience: Had Tom Maeder censure a PNC dealer for misconduct-negative. Getting to know what a super guy Tom is -positive.

Three words that best describe me: Stamp nut.

Pet peeve: Dealers and collectors that won't use philatelic stamps on mail.

Favorite PNC stamp and why: No favorite. I enjoy hunting for used singles in mixes.

What I do when I'm not collecting or studying PNCs: Play with my wife or computer.

People would be surprised to know: If somebody would give me a bushel of stamps and send in my meals, I would be in heaven.

My favorite stamp story: Met my second wife in a stamp store because the inept clerk couldn't find a stamp album to sell her. I struck up a conversation. We recently celebrated our 16th wedding anniversary!

The series will continue at least one more month and longer if more questionnaires continue to drift to the editor's desk. Mail or e-mail yours today!

Junior exhibitor rates at top with 64-page false franking effort

Charles J. 'Chaz' Vukotich III of Mt. Lebanon, PA, won the sixth annual North American Youth Stamp Exhibiting Championship (NAYSEC) held as part of the 09th annual exhibition of the Chicago Philatelic Society, Nov. 17-19, 1995.

NAYSEC is a competition among youth exhibitors (up to age 18) each of whom has won their invitation only by being judged the best qualified exhibit at one of the National Stamp Shows of the United States or Canada. The NAYSEC, sponsored by the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE) is the best meeting the best.

Vukotich won with his exhibit 'U.S. Bulk Letters: False Franking 2/3/91 to 12/31/94. All of the items are so-called 'junk mail.' New postal rates for bulk mail which started 2/3/91 ushered in a new era of automation. It also created 10 rate structures where once there were only three. The exhibit analyzes bulk mail envelopes to determine the actual rate paid. Further, it showed the use of postage stamps in bulk mailing, where the vast majority of mail is sent with a preprinted indicia. Stamps are used by mailers to get the attention of recipients.

The competition was created primarily to encourage and improve youth exhibits. Young people are often competitive by nature and the competition brings out their best efforts. The opportunity to try their skills against the best of two countries is a prize they work hard to achieve. Having won a national level competition, they redouble their efforts for the championship.

For many it is not just a one-year quest. Chaz qualified for the last three years before winning this year. His exhibit went from 32 to 64 pages. Along the way this material garnered numerous Youth Grand Awards, including 2 gold medals (at the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Exhibit and the Columbus Philatelic Society Exhibit). Chaz has several unique distinctions. He is the only youth exhibitor to win the AAPE Creativity Award and Modern Postal History Society Award. He is one of few exhibitors of any age to win the Creativity Prize twice. The exhibit has also won numerous other awards, such as the Junior Philatelists of America Blue Ribbon, the H.E. Harris medal, the SESCAL Award of merit and the Bureau Issues Association Award for an outstanding U.S. exhibit.

Vukotich is a freshman at Central Catholic High School, where he is an honor student, freshman football manager and a member of several clubs. A Boy Scout, he is working on his Eagle rank. He also plays the cello, is involved in a junior orchestra and has been honored by The Center for Talented Youth of Johns Hopkins University.

(Editor's note: Member Janet Gills of Pittsburgh provided this information. Chaz was also the subject of an article in *Coil Line* a couple of years back. Janet had Chaz in a youth stamp group and is understandably proud of his accomplishments. In the ad section of this issue, Chaz is looking for a cover to help enhance his exhibit before it goes on to the big competition. Anyone who can help? What the editor wants to know is when does this talented young man get any sleep? Meanwhile, keep up the good work! Following on the next page is a clip from a newspaper with a feature story about Chaz.)

Just
e in

Stamp collector doesn't balk at bulk mail

Vincent Iampietro photo

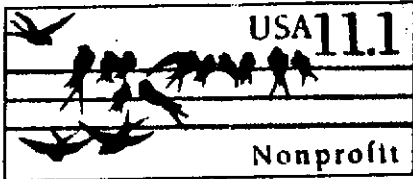
By Pete Bishop
TRIBUNE REVIEW

Being frank, it's false.

Not Chaz Vukotich's victory earlier this month at the sixth annual North American Youth Stamp Exhibiting Championship in Chicago. The Mt. Lebanon teen-ager has the large, multi-colored ribbon to prove it.

What's false, in truth, is the subject of his first-place exhibit: "U.S. Bulk Letters: False Franking, Feb. 3, 1991, to Dec. 31, 1994."

Vukotich, the only child of Chuck and Janet Vukotich, came to philately almost naturally six years ago. His father is a collector specializing in space and spacecraft themes, primarily first-day covers of those issues.



One of Chaz Vukotich's stamps

The 14-year-old Central Catholic High School freshman started with dinosaurs on stamps, particularly first-day covers, and moved on to similar covers from the Tour DuPont, the largest bicycle race in America.

In 1990, "I read an article in 'Linn's Stamp News' about the new postal rates for bulk mail" that would take effect the next February, Vukotich says. "I'd been looking for a new exhibit. The Tour DuPont (exhibit) got no recognition."

False franking "caught my interest and I decided to go for it. I'm very interested in computers. That's what this is basically about, that they automated mail."

On Feb. 3, 1991, the U.S. Postal Service began automating the sorting of bulk mail and added seven rate structures, included bar codes and ZIP+4, to the previous three.

Vukotich said in the introduction to his exhibit that false franking occurs when the postage rate is higher or lower than the value of the stamp. The mailer pays or the Postal Service rebates the difference between the rate and the

stamp value.

The Postal Service sets bulk rates based on the amount of presorting done by the mailer and by the post office where the mail is delivered. The more work the mailer does, the lower the rate. Because of a government subsidy, non-profit groups qualify for a lower rate to begin with.

Vukotich's exhibit analyzes bulk mail envelopes to determine the actual amount paid. It also displays the use of stamps on bulk mail, most of which is sent with preprinted indicia, which are markings indicating that postage has been paid.

Why do mailers affix stamps atop indicia? Because market research has shown that mail with stamps gets recipients' attention and entices them to open it, whereas mail with

indicia alone screams "junk" and often gets pitched unopened.

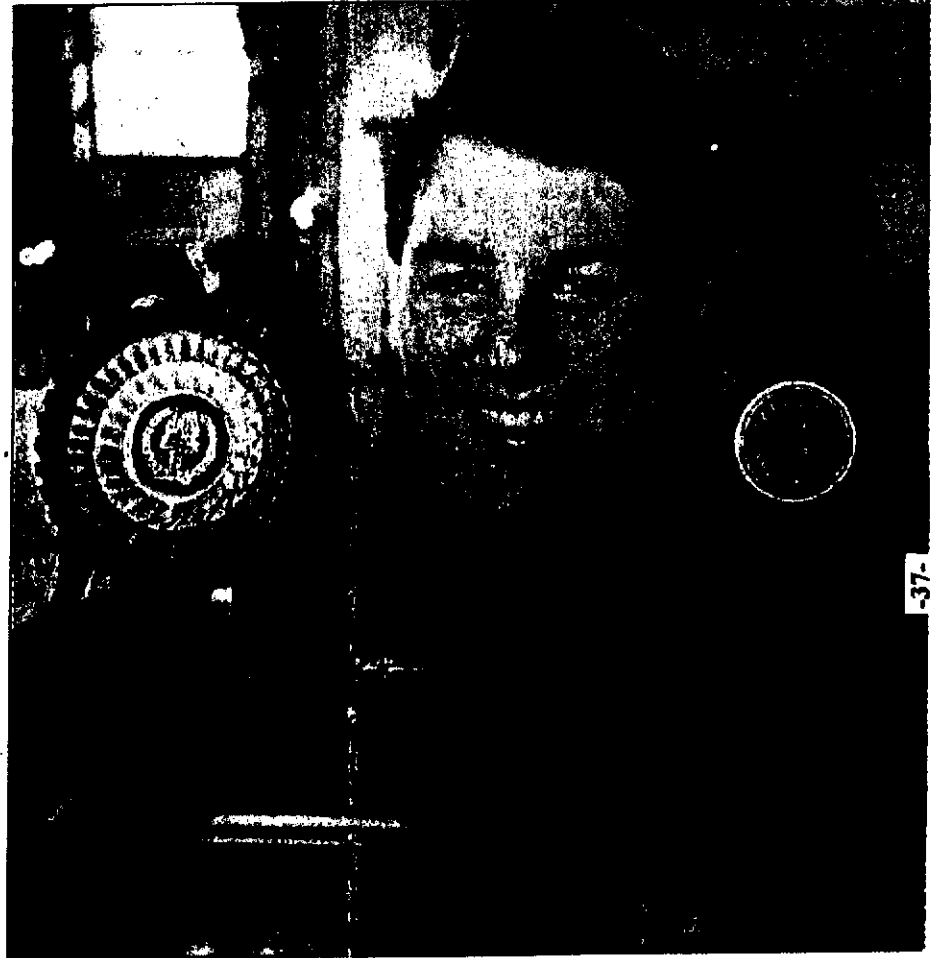
That created a big problem for Vukotich. On one hand, collecting falsely franked mail was easy because plenty of it arrived at his house, but it was the same kind time after time.

On the other, though, because much such unsolicited mail "just gets trashed" by many people, few dealers were able to acquire different items he wanted for his exhibit, he laments.

"Sometimes you really, really have to root for this stuff," he says, and that he did, scavenging his family's mail and that which arrived at his parents' workplaces, and enlisting relatives to save their false frankings for him. He also bought items from some of the few dealers who had acquired and stocked them.

His exhibit has grown from 32 pages to 64, and during its doubling won several youth (up to age 18) grand awards, including gold medals at shows in Columbus, Ohio, and Denver.

To qualify for the Chicago show, it had to be judged the best-qualified exhibit at an American or Canadian



Chaz Vukotich, 14, displays some of his awards

national stamp show. Vukotich's rang that bell at STaMpsHOW 94 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Downton, last year.

Vukotich says his efforts have taught him "that stamp collecting's a lot of fun. I've been putting this exhibit together for four years, and I've had a blast."

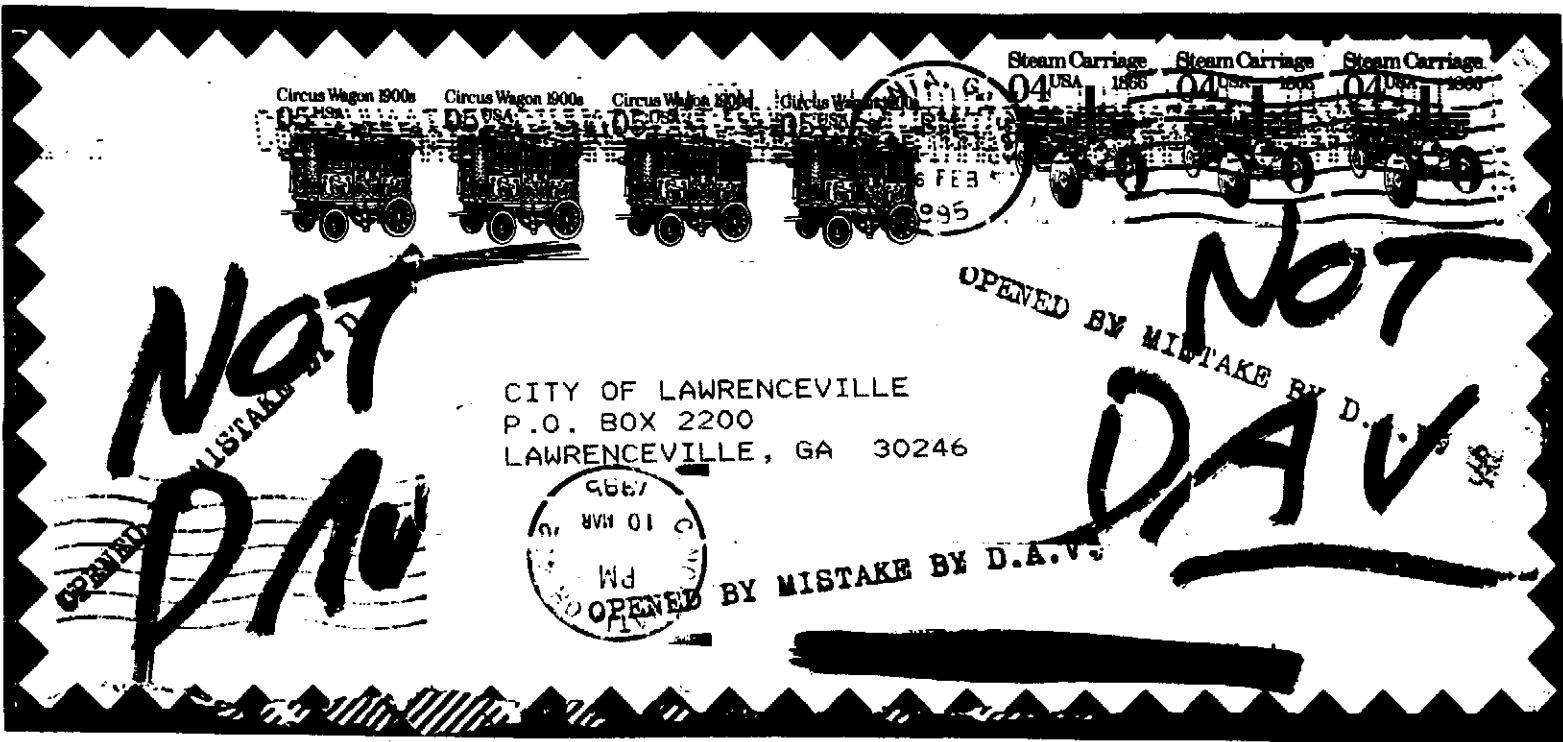
Winning "feels very good — and very relieving because it's taken me four years of work to get where I am now."

Vukotich is far from one-dimensional. At Central Catholic, he's an honor

student, a freshman football manager and a member of the games and chess clubs. He belongs to Boy Scout Troop 28 at Bower Hill Community Church, Mt. Lebanon, and is working toward Eagle Scout ranking. Also, he plays cello in South Hills Junior Orchestra.

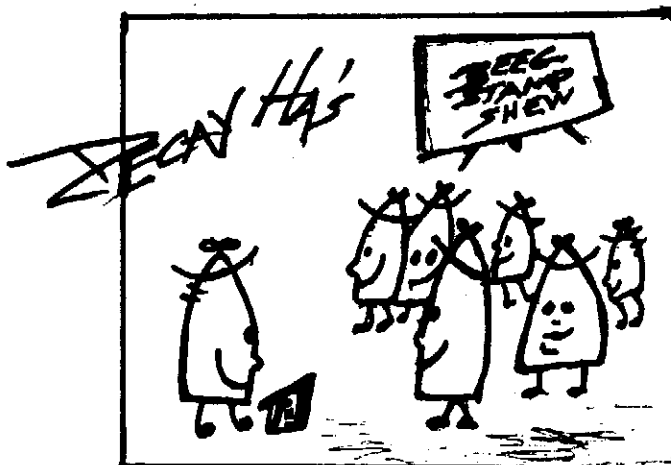
Not that he's going to abandon stamps. "I have to start looking for a new exhibit," he says firmly. "They've never had a person win two national grand awards with two different exhibits."

COVER OF THE MONTH



The above cover featuring the 5¢ Circus Wagon and the 4¢ Steam Carriage coils is an interesting usage. The mailer put some use to his Disabled American Veterans return stamped envelope by covering the old DAV address with a new address label. Unfortunately, the mailer did not cover the bar code at the bottom (now crossed out by felt tipped marker), and the cover was sent to the DAV anyways. It was finally forwarded on to the intended addressee almost a month after it was mailed. (Cover courtesy of Rick Lancaster, Maine-ly Modern Philatelics.) (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.)

Dan Kauffman's view on the Sarasota, FL, meeting



Happiness is meeting friends with uncommon things in common

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 797 if all applicants are accepted.

New applicants:

Gregg Greenwald
2401 Bluebird Ct.
Marshfield, WI 54449-3128

Jack L. Wassweman
8733 Beverly Blvd. #100
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Clinton Jones
RR2 Box 192J
Missouri Valley, IA 51555

Arthur V. Miller
210 Randolph Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904

David Walsh
PO 377
Weymouth, MA 02188-0003

C. R. Bryan
1508 Gragg St.
Centralia, IL 62801-3752

Sy Bricker
5 Brewster Road
Monroe, NY 10950

Mark Nedrow
P.O. Box 644
Selah, WA 98942

Richard Dehner
407 W. Vine St.
Hatfield, PA 19440

Ichiro Ashida
3-3-11 Kamata, Ota-Ku
Tokyo 144 Japan

Grace E. Marchese
10 Windsor Ct.
Fairfield, NJ 07004-1227

Changes of address:

William King
8024 Sky Ridge Road
Las Vegas, NV 89128

Mark Caruthers
P.O. Box 704
Fairfield, NJ 06430-0704
(More on next page)

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.

April 27, 1996 - Plymouth Show,
Plymouth, MI. Contact Joann Lenz at
37211 Alper Dr. Sterling Hts. MI
48312-2203.

May 1996 - OKPEX, date
uncertain. Contact Ray Janz, 924 NE
5th, Moore, OK 73160.

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 through Dick Koenig, Regional Meeting Chairperson, P.O. Box 31872, Tucson, AZ 85751.

The shows are excellent programs for local club meetings as well as at larger shows.

There is very little effort involved in setting up and showing the programs and a written script is provided.

The only cost involved is for shipping the program back to Dick after its use.

Dick's phone number is 520-886-7754.

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 February issue was mailed January 25.

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

Changes of address:

Wayne H. Hadden
9420 Farnham St. #210
San Diego, CA 92123-1321

Debbie Pezzillo
1257 Montevallo Road SW
Leeds, AL 35094-2440

John Carson
2736 Lake Shore Drive #1207
Waco, TX 76708

Dixon Correctional Institute
Randall Tobin
DOC 97840 Unit 1, Dorm F
Jackson, LA 70748

Resignation:

None

E-mail addresses:

Gregg Greenwald -
greenwag@mfldclin.edu
Carol Morehouse -
CMYRAM@aol.com
Ken Lawrence - apskan@aol.com
Harold Brown - PNCer@aol.com
Steve Esrati - StevStamps@aol.com
Alan Malakoff -
AMMalakoff@aol.com
Todd Feldman - Feto@aol.com
Steve Unkrich -
unkrich@IGLOU.com
Bob Bowditch -
BSDW58A@prodigy.com

Send e-mail addresses to
Pncer@aol.com

Ads

IT'S THE CENTENNIAL YEAR.
Searching for machine cancelations mentioning the Olympics (including past games). Australia is already using a number of cancels, will the USA? Contact me for trades: Glenn Estus, P.O. Box 451, Westport, NY 12993-0451 or gestus@nylink.org

WANTED: USED PNCs. Want and have lists available. Will trade my U.S., Canada and world also for used PNCs. SASE for PNC lists. Norman Ellis, 568 Forest St., Kearny, NJ 07032-3608.

WANTED: MODERN U.S. commercial covers: 32c G #A4435, 10c Eagle & Shield #A33334, 19c Fishing Boat and 15c Tail Fin PNCs on postcards. PNCs to foreign destinations, all better PNC covers. Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, Maine 04976.

WANTED: EFOs on FDCs, Jerry Marcus, 15 Faxon Drive, West Hartford, CT 06117. Fax 860-257-8404.

WANTED: 'G' and 'E&S' used PNC singles. Will buy or trade. Have mint and used singles and strips, as well as PNC-FDCs to trade. Bob Rowe, 5800 Pine Drive, Sebring, FL 33870-748.

KMC VENTURE PANAMA CANAL Treaty event cover dated 9-7-77 wanted. Is there anyone who collects KMC Venture? If so, write me and let me know what you have for sale or trade. Richard Perls, 17 Birk St., Saddle Brook, NJ 07663-5221.

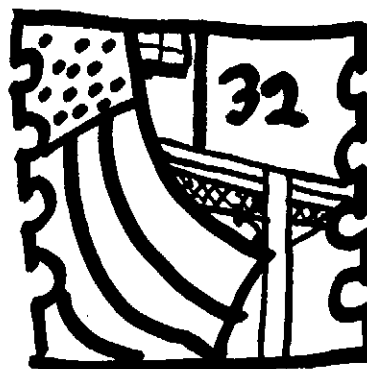
COMPREHENSIVE COIL AUCTION includes Transportation Coils, Flags and misc. coils. All numbers plus PNC FDCs. Also includes coil errors, freaks & oddities. Closing date: April 4, 1996. Write for free list. P&E Stamps, POB 871, Naugatuck, CT 06770.

COVER SHARKS. Check out the feeding frenzy of modern postal history and covers in the stock of Rick Lancaster, P.O. Box 428, Skowhegan, ME 04976.

YOUTH EXHIBITOR seeks properly forwarded bulk mail cover for the rate period 2/3/91 - 12/31/94. Other rate periods considered. This is for NAYSEC winning exhibit which is going to international shows. Also seeking cover with two Eagle & Shield stamps. Chaz Vukotich, 635 Ridgefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15216-1161.

WANTED IN STRIPS OF 5: Honeybee D-press #1, san serif; D-press #2 with screen tagging; T7.4-2 type II and IIa paper/gum; T-7.4-2P type II and IIa paper/gum; T11-1P type I paper/gum; T12.5-1P dark olive on type I paper/gum; T20CC-2blk on type III and IIIb paper/gum. Jerry Michels, 27 Dewey Rt. 6, Amarillo, TX 79124.

WANT TO TRADE: Plate number coils in strips of 8. I have many older strips. Send your want list and I'll send you mine. Bob Mohr, 471 Roosevelt St., Fond Du Lac, WI 54935.



"THEY'RE
TWINNS,
SHINY AND
GLOSS!"

By Sherwood Day

My exhibit plans for 1996

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____
ZIP _____ PHONE _____

EXHIBIT
TITLE _____

SHOW (1) NAME _____
SPONSOR _____
DATES _____
ADDRESS _____

SHOW (2) NAME _____
SPONSOR _____
DATES _____
ADDRESS _____

SHOW (3) NAME _____
SPONSOR _____
DATES _____
ADDRESS _____

SHOW (4) NAME _____
SPONSOR _____
DATES _____
ADDRESS _____

NOTE: I will write the shows you list and make the PNC3 Awards available to them and I will notify Coll Line of your plans so PNC3 members in the area will get a chance to view your exhibit. Please send completed form to Bill McMurray, P.O. Box 342, Westerly, RI 02891. I realize these are only plans the exhibit might not be accepted.

THANKS, BILL

THE PLATE NUMBER COIL COLLECTORS CLUB

AWARDS CHAIRMAN
Bill McMurray
P.O. Box 342
Westery, RI 02891

REQUEST FOR PNC3 AWARDS

THIS REQUEST IS FOR ONE PNC3 PRESIDENT'S AWARD.

THIS REQUEST IS FOR ____ PNC3 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS.
NOTE ONE AWARD SHOULD BE ORDERED FOR EACH EXPECTED PNC3 EXHIBIT.

THE NAME OF THE EXHIBITION IS _____

THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATION IS _____

THE DATES OF THE EXHIBITION ARE _____

THE EXHIBITION HAS ____ FRAMES AND ____ PAGES PER FRAME.

**THE EXHIBITION IS OPEN TO ANY COLLECTOR WITHOUT RESTRICTION
YES/NO? _____**

EXHIBITS WILL BE JUDGED IN OPEN COMPETITION YES/NO? _____

**THE AWARDS SHOULD BE SENT TO: _____

_____**

PLEASE ENCLOSE AVAILABLE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SHOW.

THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD CONSISTS OF CERTIFICATE AND A RIBBON TO ATTACH TO THE FRAMES

THE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD CONSISTS OF A CERTIFICATE AND A SILVER PNC3 PIN.