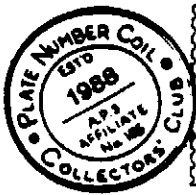


PNC³



Coil Line

Journal of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club PNC³

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Vol. 10, No. 8
Whole Number 108

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'Trends' changes methodology, new dealers help create 'buyers market'

By Harold Brown
Coil Line Editor

Some interesting changes have appeared on the Plate Number Coil market in 1997.

First, there have been some 'new' dealers. Prices on some strips have become more attractive for some buyers and probably less attractive from the standpoint of some dealers. Collectors who bought at the higher prices might not be so happy either. But that's business and the risk of being a collector. The prices of stamps (and stocks) can't go up forever.

My guess is that much of the attractive pricing will end in a few months after some of the new dealers have made a name in the market and perhaps pulled in the number of customers they want. If some of the new dealers are as successful at hunting down the new items as some of the established dealers, then maybe the tougher price competition will remain a part of the market.

The competition can only be good for the hobby, but the biggest problem for some remains the number of strips it takes to be 'complete.' My collection is no where near complete, but the chase is part of the fun. With a rate change in the next six to eight months, the time is at hand to find the Flag Over Porch material you might be missing. I'm slowly working on mine.

I think *Linn's Stamp News* is to be commended for the change in the way it compiles its Trends for PNCs. The list now reflects 21 dealers. Until now, the listing pretty much reflected the knowledge of a very few. There are a significant number of price decreases in the listing published July 7, 1997.

There are other dealers who could be added to the feature and hopefully *Linn's* will see fit to expand the number before the next publishing date, typically in December. If you don't subscribe, check around at your next stamp club meeting, someone may be willing to loan you their copy. Better yet, find someone who doesn't collect PNCs and maybe they'll let you keep the issue!

The case of the various die cuts

By Dan Kauffman

According to information supplied by Thomas J. Rogers, chief of Postage Stamp & Security Products for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, when the desire for frills or look-alike perforations, the BEP had nothing to perform the job.

They went out to a machine shop to meet their requirements. The producer of the die cutting device was un-schooled in the phases of stamp production and printing presses, but made up the first on-machine units.

These were the 12-count cutters. As the cutter dulled and clogged with the different papers and gums, additional devices were designed, including the small knife serration serpentine cutting devices. As any malfunction causing a press shut-down is an expensive situation, an off-press solution was sought.

Additional devices were manufactured and tried in different configuration modes and gauge sizes and, in fact, were made by the Goebel press people. Being more familiar with stamp production, die cutting was tried off-press on perforators, then die cutters were developed for the coilers. Serrations are now accomplished with self-sharpening, clean cutting, depth controllable dies and are of the 10/10 variety. Die cutting is now done in conjunction with the coiling operation.

In view of the above, this may account for the irregular die cuts on different coils. The printed paper may stretch or shrink according to the moisture content or atmospheric conditions.

The slicers may also cause changes in positioning.

Also, judging from the above, I think it's a fair guess to assume we'll be finding L10/R10 die cuts on the same numbers as previously reported in different gauges in the past as production is returned to presses for additional quantities. Die cuts can therefore be related to production periods.

Indicative of this are the recent finds of L10/R10 gauge numbers in the same plate numbers we've know in the past.

Letters

Some topics-issues seem to be ignored

To the Editor:

I recently attended Pacific 97 in San Francisco and much to my delight it was a good one. In spite of sore feet, long lines and standing at dealer's displays to view stamps and material of interest, I still enjoyed the show very much. I made a purchase each of the eight days that I attended and added some very nice stamps to my collection.

However, my reason for writing is the pleas for more input from the membership to *Coil Line* ('yea, you out there') so says Doug Iams in his report on the PNC3 meeting held at Pacific 97, which my friend Pete Peterson and I as members attended.

We usually attend at least two PNC3 meetings a year, so I often hear the call for 'input from members' so to speak. Well, this time, I came prepared. I purchased from *Stamps & Stuff* last fall at the Chicago Stampshow a plate strip of five of the 10c Tractor Trailer Gravure with a period after the plate #22. I made mention of this at the meeting and passed the strip around along with a magnifying glass for the members to examine. (However, it can easily be seen with the naked eye). I also mentioned that neither I nor Pete could find anything about it in *Coil Line*.

Richard Nazar informed me that he though there was something about it in *Coil Line* a year or so ago. Other than a comment from another gentleman that the period did exist, you would have thought I had said a dirty word. The room was silent, there was no discussion about nor did it seem to be of interest to anyone. Since there was no mention of it in the report written about the meeting, I would assume it is forgotten. According to Jerry Koepf of *Stamps & Stuff*, the strips he had were from a roll of 3000. If this is correct, I do hope Richard Nazar will find time to research this for his future PNC Catalog, since this would qualify as a constant plate variety.

I can recall another PNC3 meeting at Stampshow 95 in St. Louis, which was well attended by PNC dealers and members alike. I recall a discussion about the 18c Flag #6 and approximately how many exist of this rare number. I asked Ken Lawrence if he possible knew how many strips existed, his answer was 'I am not sure.'

I suggested that the club officer's take a poll to find out how many of the #6s were in the hands of club members. This went over like a lead balloon that never got off the ground, since this request was diverted by an argument between Lawrence and Robert Rabinowitz concerning how many forgeries Lawrence had expertized and the bleed through of back numbers on coil strips. Thus, the poll on the #6s was never head of again.

Well, here is the input you wanted, now perhaps you can understand why most of us just don't say anything.

Roger D. Oaks
2179 S. Toledo Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74114

Self adhesives become cash cow for USPS

To the Editor:

It has occurred to me the United States Postal Service has found a cash cow in the numbers game once again. Recall plate blocks in the 1960s and 70s to force people to buy a large strip.

This time it is worse. Try and soak off used self adhesive plate number coils. Many are unsoakable in an ordinary lukewarm water solution. Secondly, back numbers simple go away if the stamp has been used postally, then soaked so that you must collect mints only.

Hogwash. The PNC market has softened and no one should be surprised. Self adhesives are basically for non-collecting convenience and will soon replace the lick and sticks, except for the fact they may mess up the recyclers a bit.

I, for one, still like genuinely used philatelic material, as it has served its intended purpose and in superb condition and scarce, it represents a prize possession.

John Carson
2418 Voss Road #L 320
Houston, TX 77057

Commercial covers in Southern New England

To the Editor:

In the southern New England area these PNCs were found on commercial covers from about 120,000 pieces postmarked May 31 through June 26, 1997:

32c Flag/Porch [L/S]- 11111- 7; 22222- 5; 23222- 2; 33333- 13; 34333- 3; 44444- 9; 45444-3; 66646- 1; 77767- 13; 78767- 3; 91161- 3; 99969- 4. Total- 66.

32c Flag/Porch [S/A]- 11111- 71; 22222- 311; 23222- 9; 33333- 97; 44444- 31; 45444- 97; 55555- 2; 66666- 100; 78777- 14; 87898- 5; 88888- 10; 89878- 2; 89888- 1; 89898- 1; 97898- 1; 99899- 1; 99999- 251. Total- 1004.

32c Statue of Liberty- PNB- V1111- 8.

32c Yellow Rose- PNB- S1111- 4.

Others: 7 values totaling 9

Grand total: 1091.

L/Ss are disappearing.

Rolly Grandahl
via PNC3RLG@aol.com

Great job at Pacific 97 Regional Meeting

To the Editor:

The Plate Number Coil Collectors Club Regional Meeting Committee applauds and congratulates Doug Iams and Dan Kauffman for giving the PNC3 membership an opportunity to have a club regional meetings at Pacific 97. Doug and Dan stepped forward, took up the challenge and came through with an excellent meeting. All who attended that meeting came away wishing that they had more time to meet and most did, finding other places to continue discussions, trades, sales and PNC talk.

Planning and executing a regional meeting does take a bit of time and lots of planning. The results are always well worth the efforts. As Doug says, 'Folks, if I can do it, anyone can.' There are lots of you out there who can do the same, have a great time and promote PNC collecting

Letters (from previous page)

and the PNC3. Let's hear from you. Any stamp show will do, just write and the RMC will help you in every aspect possible and will send you a packet of material for your planning a regional meeting.

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

Commercial covers from the Southwest

To the Editor:

The following PNC commercial covers are from the ladies wear mail order company in Tucson, AZ, for the period May 1 to June 30, 1997.

32c FOP - 11111-48; 22222-28; 23222-2; 33333-49; 34333-2; 44444-62; 45444-18; 66646-25; 77767-37; 78767-6; 91169-2; 99969-14.

32c FOP self adhesive - 11111-51; 22222-75; 23222-22; 33333-34; 44444-29; 45444-20; 55555-45; 66666-128; 78777-98; 87888-2; 87898-31; 88888-87; 89878-23; 89898-9; 99999-1,104.

32c Yellow Rose PNB #S11111-11.

32c Statue of Liberty PNB V#1111-6.

As one analyzes the totals, one has to come to the conclusion that the 32c FOP S/A 99999 had an exceptional press run or that the plates were reused after being reworked. The later is an interesting concept and needs research.

It is also obvious that plate numbers 91169 and 99969 of the 32c FOP L/S have limited use. Why then were they produced? Most all post offices only have S/As. My suggestion to all, get your PNC mint strips and PNC commercial covers now.

It is too early to determine any scarcity for the new FOP S/A PNCs 11111, 23222, 33333, 44444, 45444 and 55555. All are found in rolls of 100 and seem to have nationwide distribution. But don't wait to add them to your collection. Don't get caught waiting like some of use did for numbers 87888, 88898, 89899 and 99899. All four of these now command healthy premium retail prices. Wonder what will happen if the BEP uses the same cylinder numbers to produce another generation of the 32c FOP S/As as they have now started to do?

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

Mail theft changes in President's address

To the Editor:

On the morning of May 6, 1997, we had 15 pieces of outgoing mail stolen from our curb side (rural) mailbox. Authorities have indicated this is a growing problem in our area.

If you are sending anything of value or any package that won't fit into a normal sized curbside mailbox we suggest you use the following:

Gene or Nancy Ernst, P.O. Box 843501-286, Houston, TX 77284-3501 or 8524 Hwy 6 North #286, Houston, TX 77095. The second meets needs of UPS, Fed Exp.

More commercial covers from the Southwest

To the Editor:

Following is a listing of the PNC commercial covers found January 1 through March 31, 1997 from a national insurance company.

32c FOP - S11111-2; 11111-25; 22222-17; 22322-1; 33333-18; 34333-27; 44444-86; 77767-4; 78767-3; 91161-2; 99969-12.

32c FOP S/A - S11111-2; 11111-30; 22222-315; 23222-159; 33333-97; 44444-20; 45444-28; 55555 (10/10) -9; 66666-99; 78777-38; 87888-1; 87898-48; 88888-67; 89878-17; 89888-8; 89898-19; 97898-31; 99999-582.

32c Ferryboat - 2-1; 3-1; 4-1; 5-1.

20c Cog - 1-1.

20c Blue Jay SA - S111-8.

23c Lunch Wagon - 4-1.

32c Yellow Rose SA S1111(15) - 17; S1111 (30) -8.

32c Liberty V1111-5.

Anyone looking for covers or used singles of the different die cuts is encouraged to write. At this juncture, plate number combinations of 7s, 8s and 9s with 10L/10R die cuts seem to be rather scarce. Check your local post office and count those teeth carefully.

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

PNCs articles in other publications

- ◆ Trends of Stamp Values, Plate Number Coils, *Linn's Stamp News*, p. 32 & 37, July 7, 1997.
- ◆ The Activity Page, John M. Hotchner, *U.S. Stamp News*, p. 42, May-June 1997. Transportation Coil designs make up this game.
- ◆ Yellow Rose coil design expected to differ from booklet stamps, *Stamp Collector*, p.6, June 16, 1997.
- ◆ Check your Ferryboats-color variety selling high, Stephen Estrati, *Stamp Collector*, p.16, June 2, 1997.
- ◆ Text changes on some recent booklets, Robert Rabinowitz, *Stamp Collector*, p.8, May 12, 1997.
- ◆ PNC Pages, Gerald Blankenship, p. 7, *The Page and Panel Journal*, May 1997.
- ◆ PNC price war creates buying opportunity, Stephen Esrati, *Stamp Collector*, p.10, May 5, 1997.
- ◆ Varieties found on angel, omnibus and mountain, Gregg Greenwald, *Stamp Collector*, p.17, June 23, 1997.

SNIPPETS

By Alan Thomson

New Numbers

For the second month in a row there are no new numbers to report. However, there is a new die cut on a very old SA Flag Over the Porch number. Dan Kauffman has found a cover that has cylinder combination #78777 with a die cut of 10 teeth on the left side and 10 teeth on the right, or L10/R10. The letter was mailed in Baltimore on 23 April 1997, which shows that some of the very old numbers are still around. A few days later Bob Rowe found four used copies of the die cut in a mix. This die cut has been added to the chart and fills in one of the empty spaces in the cut pattern on the chart. One of Bob's used stamps is shown below.



Juke Box Number on Top

Not many numbers on top are turning up these days but Joe Simmons found a copy of BEP Juke Box #332222 on cover that has the number well clear of the top of the stamp. Stamps on cover never copy well but the number can be identified in the picture below. The light colored first and third digits did not register.



18¢ W. Monument PC Tagged

We've known about a lightly tagged version of the 18¢ Washington Monument precancel with dull gum from #33333 for a long time. The light tagging is due to taggant contamination of the lacquer coating added to the face of the stamp after printing. Now Jim Nelson has found this same light tagging on #33333 with gloss gum. Gloss gummed paper with this cylinder combination is from the first printing and the "to press" date is more than a year before the dull gum printing.

PNC Checklist

An updated PNC checklist is still available from me for a 32¢ #10 SASE. The address is P.O. Box 91 Northwood, NH 03261.

Lunch Wagon " #1 "

The #3 sleeve of the 23¢ Lunch Wagon is a pretty banged up printing surface and has been a treasure-trove for the CPV collector. This latest one from it is, in my estimation, the best of the bunch. The variety is a tiny 1 located right where you'd expect to find a real plate number. It appears every 48 stamps at 17L. A photocopy appears below.



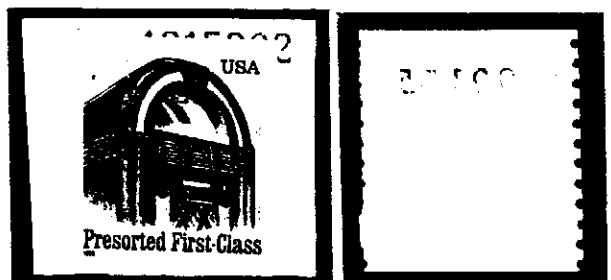
Lost "Ice-Cream Cone"

It must have been a hot night to have a cone after a night lunch, but that's what another CPV from the roll with the "1" would indicate. Then it was dropped. This sad loss occurred right outside the side door. This mark is only six stamps away (at 23L) from the "1". The example shown was the last stamp in the roll.



Offset on Back

The front page of the July 1996 Coil Line carried an article about an unusual "back" number. In the following issue I answered that article and stated my belief that what was on the stamp was not a back number, but an offset from a mailer's counting number. Now Dick Koenig has provided more evidence that some mass mailers number the pieces they prepare and that the numbering can transfer to the back of moisture activated gum stamps. The full numbers aren't clear in the accompanying pictures but are 1315302 on the envelope and 1300155 on the stamp back.



CURRENT ISSUE ROLL SIZES

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

07/08/87

EP - EMBEDDED PHOS
 SP - SURFACE PHOS
 BK - BLOCK TAG
 OA - OVERALL TAG

UT - UNTAGGED
 [xx] - NUMBER INTERVAL
 (NL) - LINERLESS
 * **NEW NUMBER**

32c PORCH FLAG [24][14]

#11111	A (SEMI-GLOSS)
#11111	B, C (SHINY)
#22221	B
#22222	A, B (SEMI-GLOSS)
#22222	C (SHINY)
#22322	A, B, C
#33333	A, C
#34333	B, C
#44444	A, B, C
#45444	A
#66646	A ALL
#66666	1995
#77767	A
#78787	A
#91161	A
#99969	A
#911111	D

20c COG RAILWAY [48]

#1	A, B, C
#2	A, B

10c CANAL BOAT [48]

#1	A, C (BK) [52]
#1	B, C (OA) [52]
#1	C (EP) [52]
#2	B, C
#3	C

5c CIRCUS [52][24][14]

#1	B, C (OA)
#1	B, C (UT)
#A1	D
#A2	D
#A3	D
#S1	D
#S2	D

32c FLAG (SA)[24][21][20][7]

#11111	A
#22222	A
#23222	A
#33333	A
#44444	A
#45444	A
#55555	A
#66666	A
#78777	A
#87888	A
#87898	A
#88888	A
#88898	A ALL
#89878	A 1986
#89888	A
#89898	A
#97898	A
#99898	A
#99899	A
#11111	C 1987
#S11111	D 1986
#V11111	5000 1985
#M11111	A 1986 (NL)

3c CONESTOGA [48]

#1	A, B, C [52]
#2	C
#3	C (DULL)
#3	C (SHINY)
#5	C
#6	C, D

1c KESTREL [24]

#1111	B, C
-------	------

20c BLUE JAY (SA)[14]

#S1111	A
--------	---

(5c) BUTTE [14]

#S111	C, D
#S222	C
#S333	C

(5c) BUTTE (SA) [21]

#S111	D
-------	---

(5c) MOUNTAIN[24][14]

#11111	B, C
#S111	D

(5c) MTN (SA) [21] [15]

#1111	C
#V222222	D
#V333323	D
#V333333	D
#V333342	D
#V333343	D

(10c) E & S (SA) [21]

#S11111	D
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(10c) AUTO [14]

#S111	B, C, D
#S222	B, D
#S333	B, C

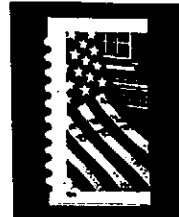
32c FERRYBOAT [48]

#2	A
#3	A (SHINY)
#3	A (SEMI-GLOSS)
#4	A (SHINY)
#4	A (SEMI-GLOSS)
#5	A (SHINY)
#5	A (SEMI-GLOSS)

23c LUNCHWAGON [48]

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

Flag Die Cut Types by Plate Number ('96 Flag)



- Type a - L12VP/R12PV
- Type b - L11VV/R12PP
- Type c - L11PP/R10VV
- Type d - L10PV/R10VP
- Type e - L10VV/R11PP

In the type designation, P and V are "peak" and "valley". In the illustration above the serpentine cut starts with a peak at the top and ends with a valley at the bottom. That is type "d" which is L10/R10.

Type "e" is an inverted type "c" and is known on only two numbers. See the bold print in the table below.

- #11111 - L10/R10
- #22222 - L10/R10
- #23222 - L10/R10
- #33333 - L10/R10
- #44444 - L10/R10
- #45444 - L10/R10
- #55555 - L12/R12, L10/R10
- #66666 - L12/R12, L11/R12, L11/R10, L10/R11
- #78777 - L11/R10, L10/R10
- #87888 - L11/R10
- #87898 - L11/R10, L10/R10
- #88888 - L11/R10, L10/R10
- #88898 - L10/R11, L10/R10
- #89878 - L11/R10, L10/R10
- #89888 - L11/R10, L10/R10
- #89898 - L11/R10, L10/R10
- #89899 - L10/R10
- #97898 - L11/R10, L10/R10
- #99899 - L11/R10, L10/R10
- #99999 - L11/R10, L10/R10

There are 34 collectible strips from 20 different numbers.

Information contributors: D. Kauffman

In the Roll Size Chart, plate number intervals are shown in brackets following the stamp name. If more than one is indicated, the order is that in which the different printers' plate numbers are listed. Example: Juke Box [24] BEP, [14] SV.

(10c) AUTO (SA) [21]

#S111	D
-------	---

(25c) JUKE BOX [24][14]

#111111	B, C
#212222	C
#222222	C
#332222	C
#S11111	D
#S22222	D

(15c) TAIL FIN [24][14]

#11111	C
#S11111	D

(15c) TAIL FIN (SA)[21]

#S11111	D
---------	---

(25c) JUKE BOX (SA)[21]

#111111	C
#S11111	D
#M11111	D [7] (NL)



REPORT by Dan Kaufman

The Stamp Show at Moscone Center in San Francisco was an outstanding event. Perhaps the greatest I've ever attended. All eleven days were chocked full of events, seminars, meetings and activities - leaving one ready to reflect and "hit the hay" at days end.

The venue was large, extending into two mammoth halls. And the exhibits were so numerous, one couldn't explore them all. There just wasn't enough time. Many societies had booths which were attended by courteous and knowledgeable people - all of whom tried to get you to join. The USPS stamp sales counter boasted 16 stations and a queue which doubled or tripled around barricades throughout the show. Coil stamps and booklet sales had their own Kiosk which was also well attended. They started with a fair selection but ran out of linerless Jukes and mounting strips within four days. Additional strips and stocks were secured but didn't last throughout the remainder of the show. The selection of numbers was limited to older issues and the newer, more difficult numbers were unavailable, other than the linerless FOP. The congeniality of the clerks was unsurpassed.

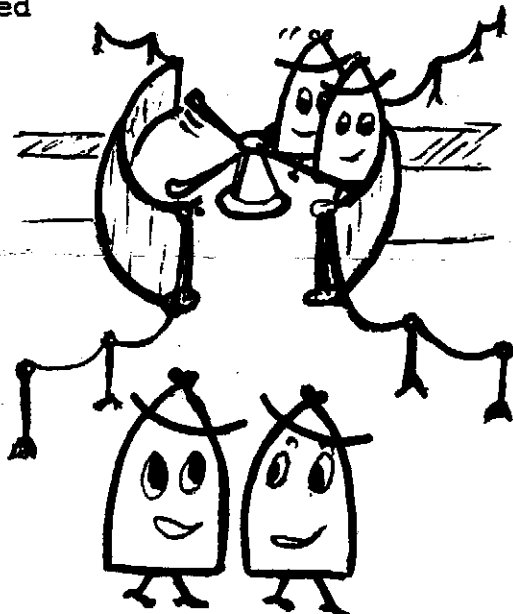
The bourse boasted several dealers who carried PNC material, but like the USPS booth, most items were older issues and in less demand to fill those current spots. Stamps & Stuff did have current issues of all but the most difficult numbers. And Newport Harbor Stamp Co. had a good selection of older items. Most other dealers had the picked-over supplies one generally finds at such events - with pairs and threes prevalent. I was lucky enough to find two used 18¢ Flag #6s. Both had minor flaws but they filled those empty holes and the price was right!

The first day was significantly eventful as I went to the airport and picked up Al Thomson and Rich Nazar and delivered them to the hotel. Soon other members arrived and we all had the chance to renew friendships prior to the PNC3 meeting on Sunday.

At the meeting, a good turn-out introduced themselves and discussed current status' of numbers and situations. A drawing and trading session followed. One member produced several rolls of the light blue Ferryboat and helped finance his trip. (Some dealers had PS5s of these and were selling in the neighborhood of \$100. I sold one of the early covers previously reported in Coil Line a bit later.) Joann Lenz kept tally on attendance and we all saw a PS6 of the eagle dummy test coil which will be offered in the next auction.

Many great meetings and seminars were presented by BIA, USPS, and the stamp producing contractors, as well as others. We had the opportunity to meet with officials and discuss several items of PNC interests. Hopefully, some of these items will be included in Coil Line.

Our own Tom Maeder presented a PNC program on the last Saturday which was enjoyed by all attending. He related the early days of PNCs and the



"Those PNCers sure like to stick together, don't they?"

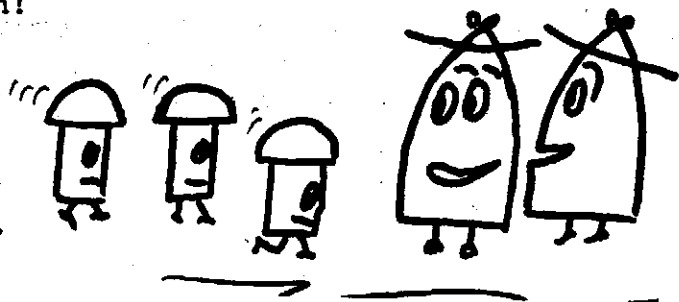
PAC '97 REPORT (con't)

chase for numbers. He found PNCers "different" in congeniality and in helpfulness. The discussion led to tales of early line pair coils and the number pairs, then to threes, to Chamberlain's "Luxury Format" of four, to the strips of five. Even today, pairs languish in dealer's stocks as mentioned earlier. Ken Lawrence assisted with his vast reservoir of knowledge, and a pair of test coil stamps was a memorable reward for all who attended. Tom is to be complimented for his fine presentation.

Some of the exhibits included coils in their displays, but only one on the 20¢ Flags was devoted specifically to PNCs. Tim Lindemuth added another award to his collection.

I hope this is not too repetitious. I know others will be writing their notes. In final analysis, it's difficult to define a highlight of the show; there were too many. But it goes down in my book of memories as truly one never to be forgotten!

"Was anything new discovered at the big PAC '97 Stamp Show?"
"Mmmmmmm, I dunno!"



COVER OF THE MONTH

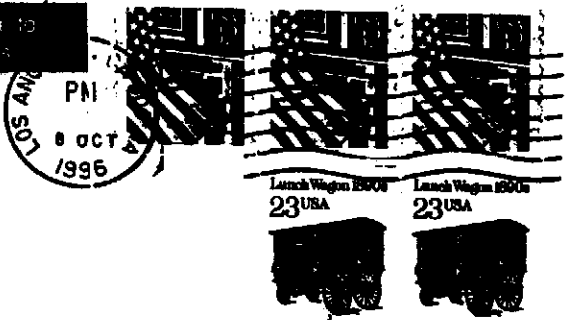
Senator Bob Dole
310 First Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Fold at line over top of envelope to the right of the return address

CERTIFIED

P 249 475 759

MAIL



Mr. Charles A. Mc Luen
2781 Engel Drive
Rossmore, CA 90720

907204714 [Barcode]

The above cover features two PNCs, the 32¢ Flag Over Porch #22222 and the 23¢ Lunch Wagon #3. This certified mail letter was part of a mass mailing done just prior to last year's elections. The \$1.42 in postage is for the \$1.10 certified mail fee, plus 32¢ first class letter rate. (Cover courtesy of Richard Beecher.) (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, ME 04976-0840.)

Commercial Covers

Installment #80

Rob Washburn

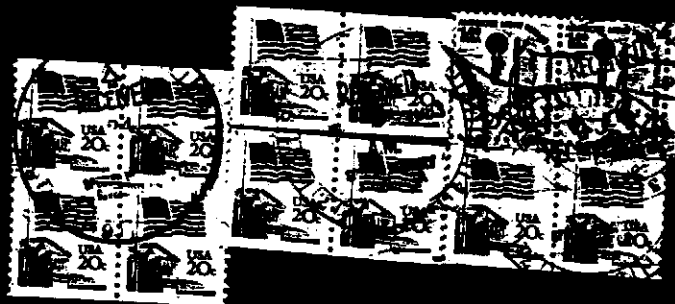
P.O. Box 840

Skowhegan, Maine 04976-0840

(207) 474-8021 (evenings)

SPECIAL SERVICE PNC USAGES

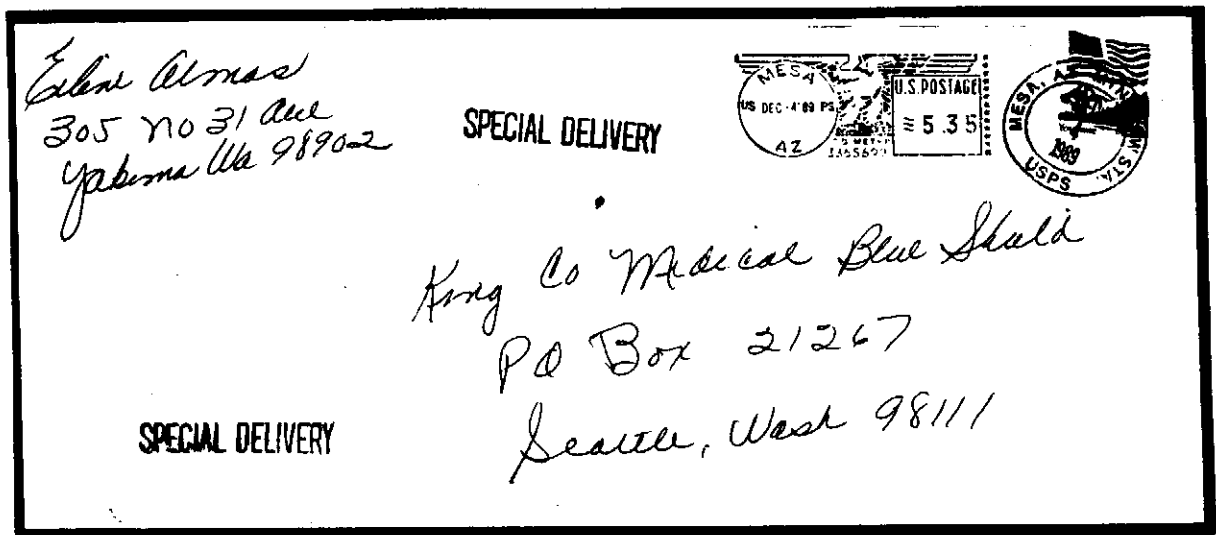
This article will feature some interesting PNC usages of what I call special postal services. I'm referring to such services as special delivery, certified mail, insured mail, express mail, priority mail, certificate of mailing, and registered mail, and these are just a few of the special services that can be found with PNCs. Check out the following covers:



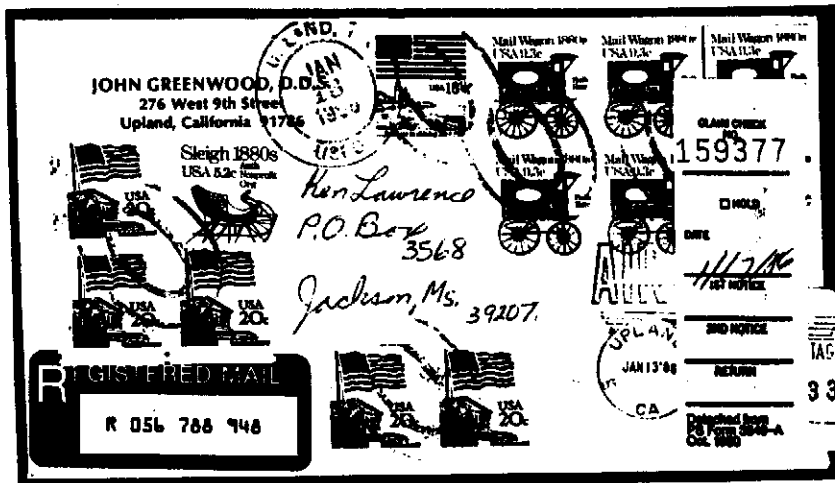
**SPECIAL
DELIVERY**

**SPECIAL
DELIVERY**

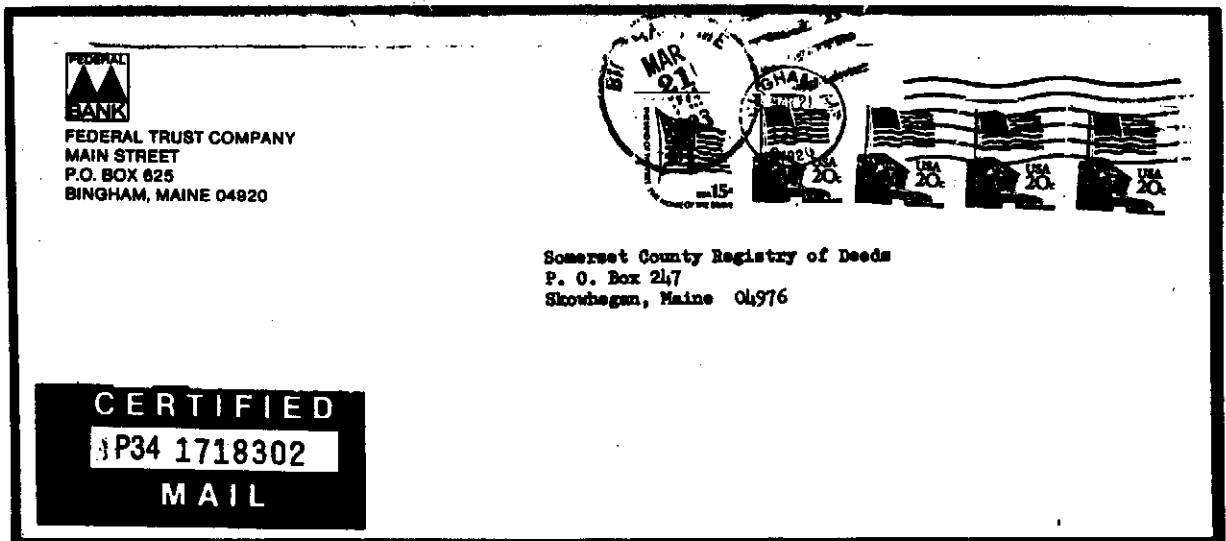
Special delivery service in the United States was discontinued on June 8, 1997. The above special delivery cover features a 20¢ Flag #9 PS2 and is tied by 3/24/83 handstamps. The \$4.00 postage exactly pays the special delivery fee of \$2.10, plus \$1.90 postage presumably for an eleven ounce letter (computed at 20¢ for the first ounce and 17¢ for each additional ounce).



Another nice special delivery cover, this one featuring the 25¢ Flag Over Yosemite #9. The cancel is dated 12/4/89. The \$5.60 postage pays the \$5.35 special delivery rate, plus the 25¢ first class letter rate.



This registered mail cover was sent by a stamp collector which explains the use of tagged PS3s of the 9.3¢ #3 and #4. The cancel is dated 1/13/86, which is the earliest known usage date on cover of those two PNCs. The \$4.12 total postage (including the \$2.33 meter) covers the \$3.90 registered mail fee (\$500 insurance), plus 22¢ for the first class letter rate.



20¢ Flag #6 tied by 3/21/83 cancel on certified mail cover. The 95¢ postage exactly pays the 75¢ certified mail fee, plus the 20¢ first class letter rate. -111-



25¢ Earth #1111 tied on certified mail cover by 7/19/88 cancel. The \$2.00 postage covers the 85¢ certified mail fee, the 90¢ return receipt fee, plus the 25¢ first class postage rate.

NEXT DAY SERVICE

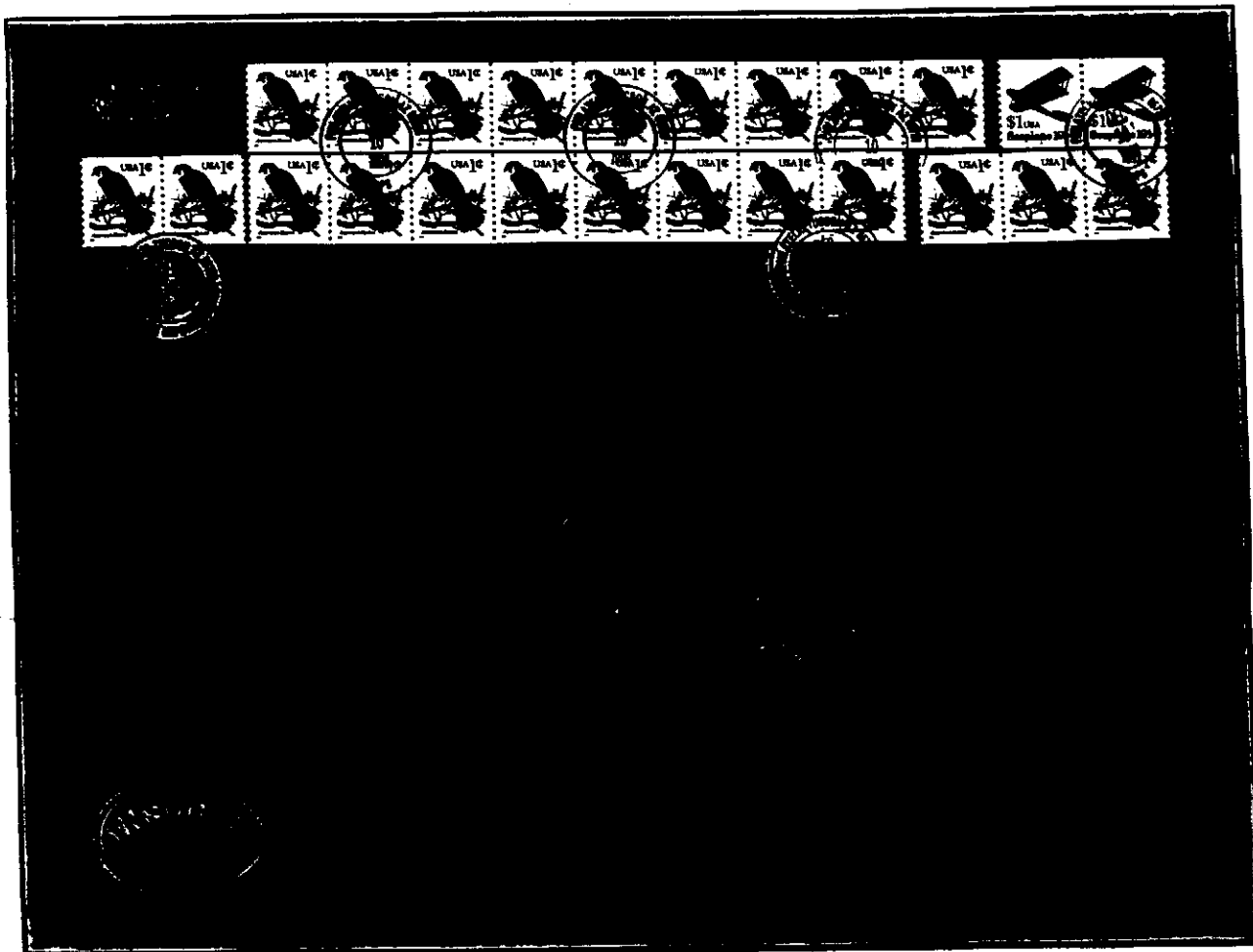
2-POUND PAK

RUSH TO ADDRESSEE

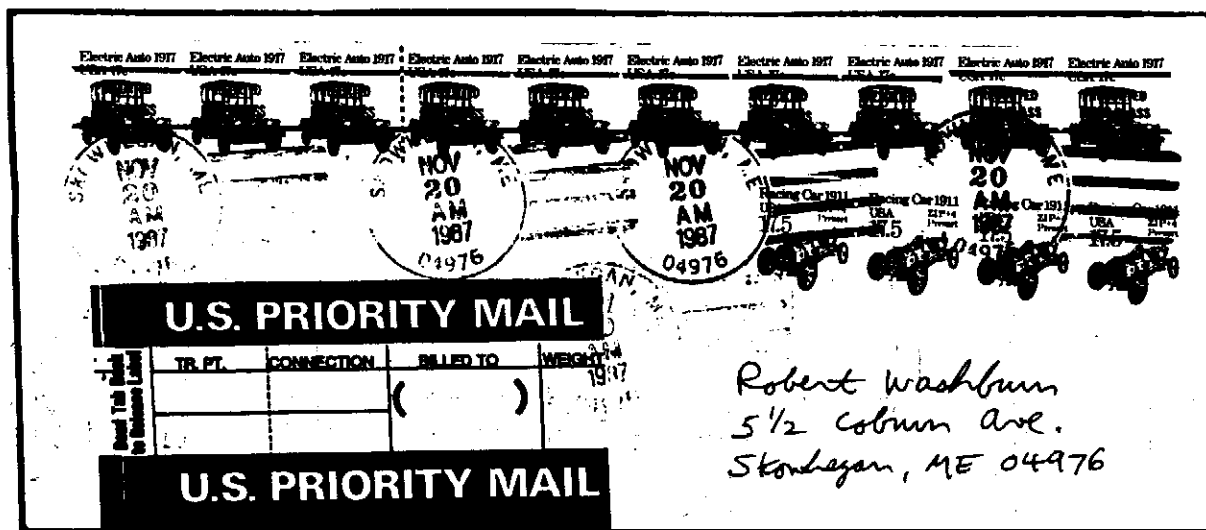
POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE EXPRESS MAIL

POSTAGE

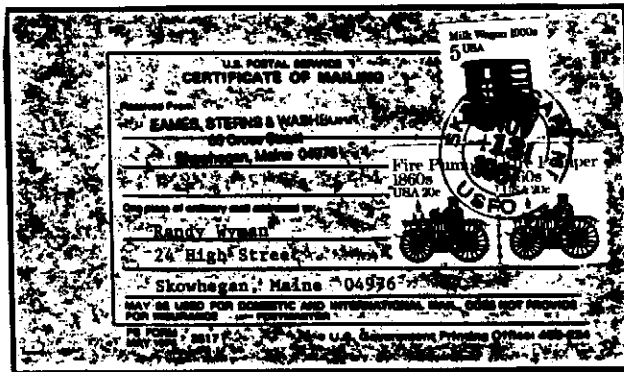
The above Express Mail cover features the 22¢ Flag #2. The total postage of \$8.75 exactly pays the Express Mail rate in effect at that time (5/10/88).



The above insured philatelic cover features the 10¢ Kestrel #1111 and the \$1.00 Seaplane #3. It is dated 12/10/96, and the \$2.12 postage pays the 75¢ insurance fee (\$50 value or less), plus \$1.47 for the postage for a 6-ounce first class letter.



This philatelically contrived priority mail letter features the 17¢ Electric Auto #7 Precancel Type AB. It is dated 11/20/87, and the \$2.40 total postage exactly pays the priority mail rate in effect at that time.



This is a semi-philatelic usage of Certificate of Mailing. It is dated 11/13/87 and features a 20c Pumper #13 PS2. The 45c Certificate of Mailing fee was in effect from February 17, 1985 until February 2, 1991.

Do you have any PNC covers of any other special USPS services not shown in this article? If so, please send me a copy of your cover, and I'll try to use it in a future article.

I received a letter from Ken Cherry reporting a new EKU cover...the 20c Flag #13 (5/5/84). Also, Lou Simmons reports a new EKU date on cover for the 23c Flag #A222 (thin red 2 variety) ...3/21/92.

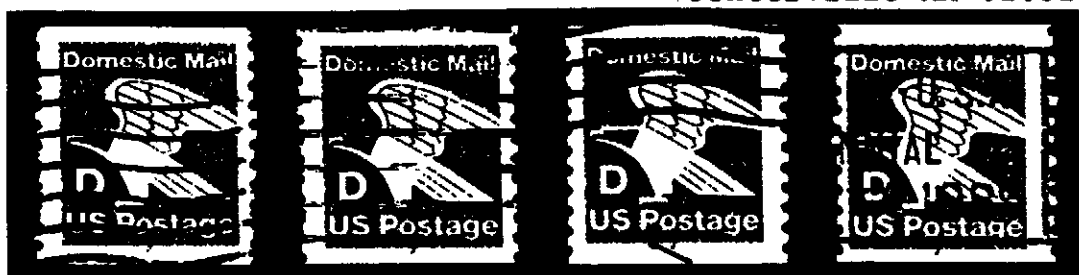
More on the 'D' coil plate number

Adding to the May and June "Coil Line" articles regarding the 'D' coil stamp plate number 2 I found the four pictured stamps in my collection. The 3rd stamp from the left is so far tilted to the right (I added the line) that if the foot of the 2 was missing, like the first two, it would leave a semi-circle similar to the one shown in the May issue sent in by Dan Forgues, but it would be in the reverse direction. It would have to be a distortion of the angle between the foot and the back side of the '2' to circle the other way, but the angle is pretty sharp. It would take a lot to turn the sharp angle into a semi-circle.

I assume that the "number" on Dan's stamp is the same color green as the stamp. Also it does seem to be in the proper location.

The fourth stamp is also tilted to the right and has only one or two tiny dots of color in the foot of the number. The inking on the 'D' stamp is so poor that further enlargement of the lightly inked example looks like nothing! Its still a mystery!

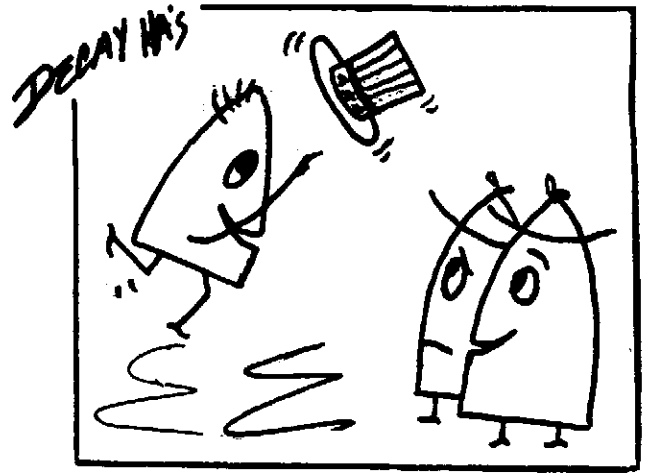
Burt Robbins
21 Pheasant Way
Centerville MA 02632



INCIDENCE OF REPORTED PNC COMCL COVERS BY NUMBER

Flag Over Porch (perf)

11111	_____	5017
22221	-- 35	
22222	_____	2695
22322	-- 47	
33333	_____	
34333	_____	8730
44444	_____	
45444	_____	5613
66646	_____	1931
66666	_____	3479
66666	-- 87	
77767	_____	2419
78767	_____	333
91161	-- 5	
99969	-- 114	
S11111	-- 16	



"What's the celebration?"
 "The 'H is for HAT' rate change coils a-coming."
 "Must be a PNC collector with a job!"

Flag Over Porch (self-adhesive)

11111	_____	455
22222	_____	663
23222	-- 27	
33333	-- 39	
44444	-- 10	
45444	-- 31	
55555	_____	469
66666	_____	3209
78777	_____	4128
87888	-- 94	
87898	_____	337
88888	_____	2288
88898	-- 22	
89878	_____	295
89888	-- 57	
89898	_____	419
89899	-- 15	
97898	_____	177
99899	-- 59	
99999	_____	
S11111	-- 29	
V11111	-- 6	
M11111	-- 4	
11111(97)	1	

Ferryboat

2	_____	424
3	_____	1341
4	_____	325
5	_____	251

Cog Railway

1	-- 8
2	-- 4

Conestoga Wagn

2	-- 3
3	-- 23
4	-- 0
5	-- 1
6	-- 13

"HOWGOZIT" Chart
(increments=100)

Blue Jay

S1111	-- 10
-------	-------

See Narrative Elsewhere

INCIDENCE REPORT

The graph includes all cover numbers reported through the July Coil Line plus 1100 additional PNC covers from a MD source and a No. Calif. disposal utility.

In the interest of accuracy, the number 97898 (L10/R10) appeared without count in Jeff Fiszbein's report. However, totaling the entire count and comparing with Jeff's total, there is a difference of three. I attributed 3 to the blank. But the total tally of the perf numbers reveals a 267 total vice 266 in the same report. Therefore, the chart may be off a stamp here or there.

The last report (pp 76) queried whether the SA 3s and 4s would be forthcoming in view of the findings of the 1s and 2s. We now know the answer to that! As they have now run the gauntlet of numbers, I supposed we could expect exotic new combinations, reusing existing sleeves with the same combinations and reruns of some existing numbers. This, too, has come to pass. And there was always the possibility of a new flag issue - as yet unannounced.

Looking at the totals of 99999 reported, it is now confirmed some of those plates bore the same representative number as previously used. So the question of duplication is moot. At PAC '97, the BEP people were questioned on this situation and the following was proffered; several plates are made up at one time. Representative numbers are added as needed and the plates sent to press. I attempted to pursue this info further with Carla F. Kidwell, Associate Director, & Chief Operating Officer, BEP, the following day, but she had returned to Washington. I attempted a phone call, but it was unreturned. In any event, the last cartoon turned out to be more accurate than prophetic and jestful!

It is interesting to note the linerless FOP issue is starting to show up in mixtures from the East Coast where they are undergoing tests. There were two in my last sort. However, those scarce mixed digit 7-8-9 numbers are still as elusive as ever. If you have a cooperative PO clerk dispensing 9s off a bubble pack carton, ask to check the numbers. Most are visible at the front of the roll. Those difficult ones are mixed in with the batch. The costs are reflective of their scarcity.

UPGRADE OF DIE CUT FREQUENCY

Plate	10-10	11-10	11-12	12-12	TOT	Plate	10-10	11-10	11-12	12-12	TOT
11111	170				170	88888	48	110			158
22222	65				65	88898		2			2
23222	16				16	89878	1	8			9
33333	4				4	89888		2			2
44444	2				2	89898	14	11			25
45444	11				11	89899		1			1
55555	1			20	21	97898	6	14			20
66666		56	190	98	344	99899	3	1			4
78777	1	285			286	99999	357	290			647
87888		2			2	9.9999	1	13			14
87898	38	9			47						
						Dan Kauffman					

Be alert for L10/R10 varieties indicating new production on 6s, 87888 & others. 78777 recently found.

PNC3 WEBSITE Committee

August 10, 1997 Committee Report

***** Discussion DRAFT *****

June 29, 1997

* = changes since last edition

1. What are the various costs involved?

1.1. Internet Service Provider

- *See <http://www.best.com> (B)
- <http://www.mindspring.com> (M)
- <http://www.netcom.com> (N)

*1.1.1. Set-up and Monthly Fee

	B	M	N
a	\$30+30/mo	\$75+50/mo	\$50+25/mo
b	\$30+50/mo		

*1.1.2. Disk Space

	B	M	N
a	25 MB	10 MB	10 MB
b	50 MB		

*1.1.3. Data Traffic

	B	M	N
a	200 MB/day	500 MB/mo	750 MB/mo
b	200 MB/day		

*1.1.4. Email address

	B	M	N
yes	yes	yes	yes

1.1.5. Domain Name

- *1.1.5.1. See <http://rs.internic.net/index.html>
- *1.1.5.2. \$100(first 2 years), \$50/year after that.
- *1.1.6. Password for read access for members to

members-only areas

*1.1.7. Password for write access for webmaster and coordinators

1.2. Software

*1.2.1. HTML authoring software - Adobe SiteMill, PageMill, which may be included with ISP account

*1.2.2. Adobe Acrobat authoring software for Coil Line

1.3. Other Expenses

1.4. Advertising Income

- *1.4.1. From Dealers (see section 4.2)
- *1.4.2. From PNC3 members and non-members

1.5. Volunteer Sites

1.5.1. At least two PNC3 members have volunteered their site to PNC3 for the establishment of a WWW site at no charge.

1.5.1.1. What are the ISP's policies and fees regarding commercial use of the site?

*1.5.1.2. What are the offered resources/services? MBs of storage, MBs of data transfer per month, email address, ftp, cgi, backups, maintenance/support, domain name registration, resource/service expansion capabilities

2. Who will operate it (webmaster or others)?

2.1. Organization

*2.1.1. Webmaster and Site Coordinator. The purpose of the Webmaster is to interact with the Internet Service Provider; to manage and resolve problems

with the resources of the site; to help, when necessary, in updating the site with the Section Coordinators; and to interact with the PNC3 Executive Committee regarding operation of the site.

*2.1.2. Section Coordinators. The purpose of Section Coordinators is to verify and filter information for correctness; to divide the work and minimize conflicts in site updates; to limit the number of people making updates to the site; and to update the site in their area, or whenever necessary to provide information to the Webmaster in Web-ready format (see section 6.6).

2.1.2.1. PNC3 Promotion Coordinator (public area)

2.1.2.2. Commercial Coordinator (public)

2.1.2.3. New Information Coordinator (private area)

2.1.2.4. Education Coordinator (private)

2.1.2.5. Archive Coordinator (private)

*2.1.2.6. Coil Line Newsletter Coordinator (private)

2.1.2.7. Other Coordinators

*2.2. Identify person(s) willing to operate it.

Volunteers needed - one person for Webmaster, and half a dozen for the Section Coordinators. The PNC3 Web-site project is not a one person operation.

2.2.1. Webmaster -

2.2.2. PNC3 Promotion Coordinator -

2.2.3. Commercial Coordinator -

2.2.4. New Information Coordinator -

2.2.5. Education Coordinator - John Larson

2.2.6. Archive Coordinator -

2.2.7. Coil Line Newsletter Coordinator -

2.3. Operation of the Site

*2.3.1. The site has public and members-only(private) areas. Private areas may only be accessed with a password

*2.3.2. Email links should be provided on pages to provide feedback to coordinators and the webmaster.

*2.3.3. Where possible, information should include the date when it was provided. Newly updated information should be highlighted.

3. What are the mechanics of setting it up?

3.1. Selection of Internet Service Provider and Services

3.2. Selection of Section Coordinators

3.3. Content Submission

3.4. Test Drive

3.5. Friendly User Period

3.6. Public Access

4. What should be the contents of the site?

4.1. Prioritized List of Content Topics

4.1.1. Promotion of PNC3 Activities

4.1.1.1. Membership Forms

4.1.1.2. Schedule of Events

4.1.1.3. Sale of Publications

4.1.1.4. List of Auction Lots and Forms

*4.1.1.5. Online, example copy of Coil Line

4.1.2. Timely Communication of New Information

- 4.1.2.1. New Plate Numbers Found
- 4.1.2.2. New Varieties Found
- 4.1.2.3. USPS Announcements
- 4.1.3. Commercial
 - 4.1.3.1. Stamp Dealer Links and Advertisements
 - 4.1.3.2. Supplies Dealer Links and Advertisements
 - *4.1.3.3. PNC3 member Advertisements
- 4.1.4. Education
 - 4.1.4.1. Information for beginning or advanced collectors
- 4.1.5. Archive
 - 4.1.5.1. Storage of information of long term value
- 4.1.6. Other Resources
 - 4.1.6.1. Links to other non-commercial sites
 - *4.1.6.2. Links/email to PNC3 members
- 4.2. Would we be allowed to accept advertising?
 - *4.2.1. Yes. It appears that some ISPs charge by the amount of disk space and data traffic one uses, and are not concerned with how these resources are used.
 - 4.2.2. Survey of Dealers' willingness to advertise and pay a fee needs to be done. (see APS site)
 - 4.2.2.1. APS site charges \$49/year for dealer advertisements. See <http://www.west.net/~stamps1/commercl.html>
 - *4.2.2.2. Some dealers to contact are:
 - Kim Cuniberti, Ed Denson, Steve Esrati, Dale Hendricks, Al Haake, Jerry Koepf, Mike Lipson, Robert Rabinowitz. See <http://www.west.net/~stamps1/dealer.html>
 - *4.2.3. Survey of PNC3 members' and non-members' willingness to advertise and pay a fee needs to be done. How much would you pay to advertise?
- 5. What are the potential areas of conflict with Coil Line?
 - 5.1. Not every PNC3 member has WWW access, but all members pay membership dues.
 - 5.2. Members with WWW access have earlier access to information.
 - 5.3. Members with WWW access have enhanced access to information.
 - 5.3.1. Information is available at any time.
 - 5.3.2. Information is available in electronic form that can be downloaded, modified, and printed.
 - 5.3.3. Information is available in color.
 - 5.4. The PNC3 Website may contain different or more information than is available in Coil Line.
 - 5.5. Consideration may be given to publishing Coil Line both on the WWW and on paper. See Ed Jackson's site <ftp://ftp.cviog.uga.edu/pub/exchange/jackson/apn/apn.htm>
- 6. Provide a draft of proposed guidelines and rules for posting.
 - 6.1. Website Charter
 - *6.1.1. The Purpose of the PNC3 Website is to:
 - *6.1.1.1. Promote the collection of Plate Number

Coil and related materials.

- *6.1.1.2. Promote the PNC3 organization.
 - *6.1.1.3. Provide for the collection, verification, dissemination and archiving of information on Plate Number Coil and related materials.
 - *6.1.2. The Scope of the PNC3 Website includes:
 - *6.1.2.1. All postage stamp coil issues released since 1981.
 - *6.1.2.2. Non-postage stamp issues released in coil form, e.g. "For Testing Purposes Only" dummy stamps.
 - *6.1.2.3. Other postage stamps which contain a plate number within the boundaries of the individual stamp design, e.g. some self-adhesive booklets.
 - *6.1.2.4. Other stamp issues as the membership would like to include subject to space and cost limitation of the PNC3 Website, e.g. vending booklets and convertible booklets.
 - *6.1.3. Rules and Standards
 - 6.2. Guidelines on Commercial content
 - *6.2.1. Disclaimer of endorsement and liability
 - 6.3. Guidelines on using Scott Numbers
 - *6.3.1. Inquiry email letter submitted to Scott (JL-6/28/97)
 - 6.4. Guidelines on competing with other Plate Number Publications
 - *6.4.1. Nazar's PNC Catalog
 - *6.4.2. BIA's Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog
 - *6.4.3. Malakoff's Self-Adhesive Catalog
 - *6.4.4. Scott's U.S. Specialized Catalogue
 - *6.4.5. Perry's Folded Cover Booklet Catalog
 - *6.6.6. The PNC3 Website should strive to cooperate and not compete with other Plate Number Publications.
 - *6.6.7. The PNC3 Website should not attempt to establish a catalog value for items.
 - *6.6.8. The PNC3 Website should provide a free link/address for the above listed publications in the spirit of cooperation.
 - 6.5. Guidelines on Member/Public access
 - *6.5.1. An area of the PNC3 Website should be freely accessible to the public. This area should include areas for PNC3 membership promotion and commercial promotion.
 - *6.5.2. An area of the PNC3 Website should be accessible only to PNC3 members. This area should include current on-line copies of Coil Line, New Information, Education material, and Archive material. The private area should be accessible via a password known only to PNC3 members.
 - 6.6. Guidelines and HTML primer on supplying Web-ready information
 - *6.6.1. See <http://www.htmlgoodies.com/primers.html>
 - 6.7. Glossary and definitions
 - 6.8. Job description for Section Leaders
 - 6.9. Guidelines on information flow and processing
- John L. Larson (630) 897-1315 or (630) 892-2526
 306 S. LaSalle Street larson@eagle.ais.net or jlars@csrd.uiuc.edu

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.

New applicants:

Ralph Ragucci
67 Marblehead St.
North Reading, MA 01864

Michael C. Mules
P.O. Box 342
Big Ben, WI 53103-0342

Herbert H. Holmes
P.O. Box 64
Middleport, NY 14105-0064

Changes of address:

Raymond C. Kusmierski
3535 W. Pineridge Blvd.
Beverly Hills, GL 34465

Paul C. Lukens
309 E. Woodrow
Taft, CA 93268

Deceased:

Allen Freeman, Bakersfield, CA #884

Slide shows available

Members interested in obtaining PNC slide shows for use at local club meetings and stamp shows should contact John Peterson, 6605 Bell Bluff Ave., Sand Diego, CA 92119-1147 or call 619-265-2916.

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.

It would be helpful if someone involved with the planning or attending the meeting would submit a report to *Coil Line*.

August 2, 1997, Cincinnati, Ohio - CINPEX 97, at 11 a.m. Joann Lenz, Harold Brown and a mystery guest will lead a discussion on 'What's New in PNCs?' Contact Pat Buse at 606-581-3400 or 606-581-3420 fax.

August 23, 1997, Milwaukee, WI - Annual Meeting of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club, 2 to 4 p.m. Wisconsin Center Room E4. The meeting will be held during the American Philatelic Society's annual Stampshow. The Board will meet starting at 10 a.m. in Wisconsin Center Room E8.

For those who are also members of APS, general details about the event are being announced from month-to-month in the *American Philatelist*, can be found on the APS website or via mail or e-mail.

November - 1997 Chicagopex97 - Date and time to be announced. Contact John T. Dahlstrom II at 3305 W. Sunnyside #2, Chicago, IL 60625-5409 or 773-267-6123. John will have information later but if you live in the area and can help out in any way, he'd be happy to get a call or a note from you.

January 31, 1998 Sarasota, Florida - Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition 10 a.m. Tom Haire indicates the operations manager of the show is looking for exhibits from PNC³ members. Information and entry forms are available from Tom at 112 Fern Creek Drive, Flat Rock, NC 28731.

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 July issue was mailed June 23.

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 Gene Trinks, Secretary, 3603 Bellows Court, Troy, MI 48083. gctrinks@tir.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.

Ads

WANTED TO BUY/TRADE 32c FOP/SA 66666, 10x11; 87888, 11x10; 88898, any; 89878, 10x10; 89888, any; 89898, 11x10; 89899, 10x10; 97898, 11x10; 99899, any. Jim Nelson, 5649 E. 100 N Kendallville, IN 46755-9670. 219-897-3975 or 219-897-3818 (FAX).

SEND FOR MY USED PS1, mint PS5 and used PNC strips list. The prices are GREAT! A 32c SASE would be appreciated. John Himes, P.O. Box 453, Cypress, CA 90630-0453.

SEEKING: CENTER-ON-CENTER back numbers. Increasing my supply of all combinations of PS5s: Self Adhesive and lick-em. Tops, bottoms, pinks, purples, blacks, etc. Send inventory list for my offer or SASE for my price list. Brian R. Engler Sr., P.O. Box 21952, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-1952.

MAIL BID SALE: PLEASE send a large 50c SASE for PNC bid list, no min bid, want to sell at reasonable price. Closing date Sept. 30, 1997. Wali A. Motorwalla, P.O. Box 12402, Capitol Station, Columbia, S.C. 29211-2402.

TRANSPORTATION COIL FDCS. Voids, changes, starting FDCs? 60 Colorano silks from Scott 1897-2468 (not inclusive) in Black Showgard cover album. Unaddressed, most XF, some Masonic, PN. B.O. over \$125. Write, call Dan Kauffman, P.O. Box 133, Clearlake Park, CA 95424 707-994-0540.

SEND LARGE 55c SASE for current 1981-date PNC price list. Includes current buying and selling prices on 32c FOP/SA by plate number and die cut. Includes mint strips and used singles. Jim Nelson, 5649 E. 100 N, Kendallville, IN 46755-9670. 219-897-3975 or 219-897-3818 (FAX).

E-mail addresses:

John F. Hallgren - JFridolph@aol.com
Mac Johnson - mackie279@aol.com
Jerry Grove - JGrove@Prodigy.net
Tony Bruno - tbbee@aol.com
R.L. Buse Jr. - StampPat@aol.com
Steve Crown - scrown@flash.net
Tom McFarland - tmcfarland@worldnet.att.net
Bill Proctor - paproctor@juno.com
Ken Lawrence - apskan@aol.com
Harold Brown - PNCer@aol.com or halallen@wcnet.org
Steve Esrati - StevStamps@aol.com
Ron Maifeld - ronmaifeld@juno.com
John Hotchner - 104444.3217@compuserve.com
Peter Hoffman - peterh5292@aol.com
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