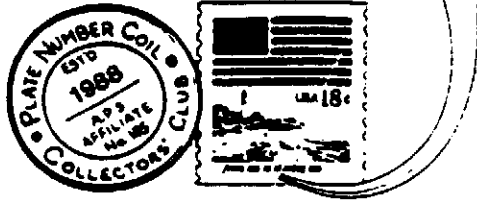


PNC³



Coil Line

Journal of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club PNC³

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Regional Meeting at ARIPEX 'national'

By Dick Koenig

The Plate Number Coil Collectors Club had an exceptional Regional Meeting at ARIPEX Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Tucson Community Convention Center. It was a great stamp show with lots going on and available for PNC collectors.

Twenty members and two guests, who joined, attended the meeting. If you missed this one, you missed the very best. Members attended from all over the U.S. -Illinois, Texas, Arizona, Wisconsin and California.

VP Dick Koenig called the meeting to order, announced the agenda and led the discussion on a few topics. A trade and talk period ended the session.

The announcement that the 32-cent FOP SA 99999 had been found with split digits, the brown 9 on the stamp to the right and misregistered, was a stunner for all. Everyone wanted additional information and was directed to the Feb. 1 *Coil Line*, which was in the mail.

This was followed by the announcement of award given to several PNC exhibits at the show.

A Vermeil and the PNC³ Presidents Award were awarded to Ron Hayes for his 10-frame 'Used U.S. Plate Number Coils.'

A Vermeil, an APS Excellence Award and a PNC³ Achievement Award were awarded to Tim Lindemuth for his five-frame exhibit '20 Cent Flag; Makings of a Classic.'

(Continued on page 34)

Feb. 1 Regional Meeting held in Florida

By Tom Haire

The Regional Meeting of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium on Sat., Feb. 1 attracted six people. All were members and we had an excellent meeting. The meeting was held during the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition.

We had plenty of time to talk about our PNC collections and how we mounted and housed our material

Several collect mint strips or used singles and some collected both. Most of us only accumulate covers. As a whole, we were not too enthused with the self stick issues.

(Continued on page 34)

Maeder to present PNC seminar at Pacific 97

Past Plate Number Coil Collectors Club President Tom Maeder is scheduled to present a seminar on Plate Number Coils at Pacific 97.

Maeder's program will be Saturday, June 7, at 3:30 p.m. in the Know Your USA Philately Room. The seminar is one of a series being planned by the Bureau Issues Association at the international stamp exhibition.

Advance notice of other members who might be presenting special programs at Pacific 97 or at stamp other events should be sent to the editor.

Volunteer(s) sought to host Pacific 97 meeting

Plate Number Coil Collectors Club members who attended the regional meeting in Anaheim, CA, Jan. 11 indicated they would like to see a regional meeting at Pacific 97 in San Francisco.

Would a member or two living in the San Francisco area be willing to set up and act as host for a regional meeting at Pacific 97? If so, contact Dick Koenig ASAP at P.O. Box 31872, Tucson, AZ 85751.

Also, anyone who attends Pacific 97 is welcome to submit an article for *Coil Line* about the show. An evaluation of the show for PNC materials & exhibits should be foremost but general impressions of the event are also welcome.

Peterson in charge of scheduling slide shows

John Peterson, 6605 Bell Bluff Ave., San Diego, CA 92119-1147, 619-265-2916, has been put in charge of the club's slide program. This is a function of the Regional Meeting Committee.

Please send all requests to John, effective immediately. Any arrangements previously made will continue in effect.

Inside this month:

Lots of letters, Alan Thomson's latest edition of Snippets and the updated roll size and Flag over Porch die cut charts, Rob Washburn's Commercial Covers, Leonard Piskiewicz offers his ideas on the Tractor Trailer 'overprints,' and a look at the BEP test coil self adhesive coils and roll wrapper.

Regional meeting at ARIPEX (Continued from 33)

A Silver and a PNC³ Achievement Award were awarded to Gary Davis for his 10-frame exhibit on 'The Romance of the Plated Strip.'

A Silver-Bronze and a PNC³ Achievement Award were awarded to Dean Hawk for his four-frame exhibit on 'Transportation Coils, 1981-1983.'

All of these exhibits were fascinating and were the best visited of 300 some frames in competition. Well done, gentlemen. It was a privilege to study your exhibits. All who attended the Regional Meeting expressed their thanks for your efforts to promote PNC collecting and to your research and organization to make up such fine exhibits.

At that point, everyone introduced themselves and told of their best and worst PNC experiences. The worst experiences, like lost opportunities or not knowing what was in hand and let go, received sympathy and lots of laughs. The best experiences were met with applause and congratulations. We had a lot of fun with this one.

The final announcement was that there were several dealers at the show with PNC material. Among them were Newport Harbor Stamp Co., Dave Cobb, Newport Beach, CA, with an excellent stock of PNC EFO material, PC gaps, tagging gaps, mid to very difficult to find PNC strips and a nice selection of general PNC strips.

Also, Joe's Stamps, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Molnar's Stamps, Scottsdale, AZ; BJ's Stamps, Glendale, AZ; and George Townsend Stamps, Kansas City, KS, had excellent selections of general PNCs unchecked for tagging, constant plate varieties, etc. Other dealers had PNCs available many a fine buy was made by PNC collectors.

Wayne Youngblood, associate editor of *Stamp Collector* gave his second program of the day during the meeting. Earlier he spoke to a general audience on 'Just How Are U.S. Stamps Printed Anyway?' His program for us was 'Tagging and Stamp Paper.' The program was constantly interrupted with questions. It was very interesting and audience interest was evident by the questions and intensity. It was almost too much to take in the information during one session. Wayne ended by giving out pairs of the new self adhesive test coil stamps from the BEP and Avery.

Door prizes were then awarded and everyone went home with one. John Tison and Dave Cobb together donated numerous imperf pairs and several hard-to-find PNC strips of five. Dr. John Greenwood donated a copy of Jon Rose's *Classic U.S. Imperf Stamps*; Mike Lipson donated 10 .05 Mountain #33343 PNC strips, several Mountain misregistration pairs, coil wrapper labels from the 10K rolls, a back numbered strip of the Eagle self adhesive coil and several blank, no denomination strips of the ECA-gard new font shiny gum coils.

Teresa Wajek donated a 32c FOP SA with double back numbers, Jewell Meyer and Tison donated many misperfs strips of the 10.1c Oil Wagon, red precancel pairs; Koenig donated a complete collection of 1995-6 Butte, Car Front and E/S precancel PNCs on commercial cover; and Joe Neri of Colorado Springs, CO, donated a pair of misperf 4c Lincoln coils.

Also, Frank Marrelli donated several strips of the 10c

gravure Tractor Trailer. All were great donations that helped make the meeting a success.

Input from the members was requested regarding their interest on an Internet website and collecting plate number booklets.

During the show and tell session, Tison shared a binder notebook full of color copies of his 32c FOP imperfs as well as the newly found SA imperfs. John also had a nice group of color copies of some of his renowned imperfs, including the 20c Flag/ 17c Electric Auto PC strip. Dr. John Greenwood also had a huge binder full of color copies of his collection of PNC EFOs. Both of these were impressive.

Koenig showed a PNC strip of the 32c FOP SA with split 5's. he followed with a BEP error label from the just re-released 25c Juke Box SA 3,000 roll. The label clearly states that the 25c Juke Box is for 'non-profit' use. Not so, it is an error in printing as the 25c Juke Box is for pre-sort first class mail. Others showed unusual PNC items and several traded and showed their collections.

On the Plate Number Block question, 14 members said the plate number is on the stamp and that's what we collect and will collect. All admitted it isn't a coil but seemed to be a logical branching out of the club.

The website input was interesting. Eight attendees have some Internet access but have not submitted their e-mail addresses to *Coil Line*. All made comments about the cost of a website and who would be placed in charge and what it would contain. The feeling seemed to be a careful consideration. It appears a lot more study is needed before the club decides to proceed. The idea seems good but the cost and technical factors need to be considered.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m. and most headed back to the show. The post office station was a popular place where both Renate Fearonce and Lynn Foraker helped the collectors in an excellent manner.

Feb. 1 Regional (Continued from page 33)

but probably would collect them. We thought a strip of seven with the two end stamps removed from the backing paper until 'they' would tell us how much backing paper to leave. Of course, this does not help solve the collecting method for self sticks without backing paper.

We also discussed the best method to separate the used self sticks from paper. One suggested a small amount of bleach, but the rest of us were skeptical.

As a group we thought collecting used singles of the new booklet stamps with a plate number on the stamp itself, like the yellow rose, would not be included in the PNC³ area, although we would no doubt collect them.

The formal meeting lasted an hour and a half and after a bite to eat, several of us met to trade, buy and sell and to exchange addresses and want lists. Five of the six in our group were repeaters from the 1996 meeting.

At the philatelic booth, with four clerks, I noticed on two occasions people buying huge quantities of coil strips. I asked if then if they were interested in attending our meeting. Neither of them new of our association, nor were they interested. I wonder how many closet collectors there are.

Letters

Commercial cover report from New England

To the Editor:

In the southern New England area these PNCs were found on commercial covers from about 144,000 pieces postmarked January 3 through January 30, 1997.

32c Flag/Porch- 11111- 16; 22221- 1; 22222- 18; 22322- 3; 33333- 38; 34333- 3; 44444- 20; 45444- 27; 66646- 9; 77767- 71; 78767- 4; 99969- 11. Total- 221.

32c Flag/Porch- [S/A]- 55555- 11; 66666- 59; 78777- 65; 87888- 2; 87898- 2; 88888- 62; 89878- 12; 89888- 2; 89898- 7; 97898- 6; 99899- 5; 99999- 701.

Total- 934.

Others: 10 values totaling 17. Grand total: 1172.

In the SNE area report in the February "Coil Line", FOP PN 79777 was shown as 1. Thanks to Alan Thomson, a much sharper look was taken of this item and it was determined to be 78777 instead. Under this close scrutiny, what originally appeared to be a 9 now is actually an under-inked 8. Therefore, this item is deleted from the original report and the quantity of 78777 is revised to 141. Alan had this to say: "Although it is not a new number the cover [or used single] is a nice item to save simply because it is so clearly under-inked. It's the first I've seen like that."

I thoroughly enjoyed the February "C.L.", especially Joe Sedivy's slant on his club Auctions. Thank you, Joe.

Rolly Grandahl
via PNC3RLG

Good to see new of Split '9' first in Coil Line

To the Editor:

It was surely great to get the news of the latest Flag Over Porch discovery ("Split 9") in Coil Line before seeing it in the trade press (SC2-10 issue). Congrats to Bob Novak for sending it to Alan for write-up and to all at *Coil Line* for getting to print first. This kind of news should always appear in *Coil Line* first, in my view, since we're often the discoverers. Thanks, also, to Wayne Youngblood for the mention of *Coil Line* in SC. The way to increase our membership is to get the proper credit for the contributions our members make to the hobby.

Gene Trinks
via gctrinks@tir.com

New self-adhesives are in plate block domain

To the Editor:

I read your article in the February *Coil Line* about the new self-adhesive booklets fitting in with the idea of Plate Number Coils. I disagree. I believe that the way one would collect them would constitute a plate number block. The format to collect these 'plate numbers' are not coils, but blocks or booklet format.

Jerry Grove
via JGrove@Prodigy.net

Response to questions asked in Feb. Coil Line

To the Editor:

Questions in "Booklets offer numbered strips"

I don't think that booklet individual stamp numbers fit into plate number coil collecting at all and would probably eventually discontinue my membership if Coil Line took up too much space addressing this subject, or the auctions became cluttered with this material. Simply stated, booklet blocks containing a numbered stamp are not coils and should not be addressed at all. Let some other booklet collectors club do that. I would like to hear your rational for your statement, "The editor and the PNC3 think this type of stamp fits in with the idea of Plate Number Coils". (I assume the PNC3 is the other club officers, or Board)

Question in "PNC3 Website"

Definitely YES!, I want a web site. I think that the club is missing out on a more efficient means of communication and doing business by not having one. I would think that some of the auction communication could be improved by using e-mail. The consignment and bidders sheets could be downloaded and used immediately. (I had to wait a month to receive the consignment sheet form because it wasn't in the January issue. The bidders sheet was inserted instead.) Snail mail is still required for physically sending lots and money, but bidsheets and notification of won lots could be done electronically. The sooner the club gets on the web, the better.

Question in "New SA Test Coils"

No! , test coils are not PNCs, but if the membership (not the editor or board) wants to include them, then OK. I wouldn't collect them, but they are coils (stickers, not stamps), and I probably wouldn't quit the club because of this issue.

Keep up the good work! I liked the addition of "Articles about PNCs in other publications" I feel better now that I've got this off my chest, and it didn't even cost me 32c. Thanks!

Al Knoch PNC# 1043
via al_knoch@compuserve.com

Website OK but who will maintain it?

To the Editor:

I saw the idea about the website. I believe there are more people who are online than you have listed. I for one am not listed and I think there are several others. Just copy the news on rec.collecting stamps and you will find many who collect PNCs but are not on your list. I think a website will fly, but who will maintain it? Also, make a general call for all to be included with e-mail addresses. There was not a spot for e-mail address on the dues statement either.

Joe Zika
via jzika@earthlink.net

Letters (from previous page)

Website would add extra dimension

To the Editor:

The recent (February) issue of *Coil Line* asked whether members would be interested in the Internet as a possible link for plate number coil collecting. I just wanted to express the thought that it would add an extra dimension for the membership, and I feel I would be inclined to interact more with other collector/dealers by this method.

John Boscardin
via e-mail

Year and make sought for trucks on PNCs

To the Editor:

Can you ask any of our members if they will tell me the year and maker of every truck on PNCs?

Ken Moreau
402 Coronation Drive
Franklin, MA 02038

About the size of the 11111 and 22222's

To the Editor:

Jeff Fiszbein certainly made an interesting observation on the water-activated Flag over Porch coils with plate numbers 11111 and 22222 in the January *Coil Line*.

The illustration itself, not well reproduced, already gives a hint to the cause. A study of the issue with semi-gloss gum reveals that each plate number is space wider and well impressed, resulting in a thicker printing easily reproduced. These first two sets of the plate number differ not only from their counterpart of the shiny gum version, but all other later plate numbers as well, in the same fashion.

Do you receive the Plate Activity Report from USPS? Due to limited availability, we saw false alarms such as some numeric codes are reused. A wider distribution to collectors could have resolved the issue before reaching a wrong conclusion. If you do, can you have it published in *Coil Line*? If not can other members help?

Eugene Liu
P.O. Box 52
Downey, CA 90241-0052

(Editor's Note: No, I do not have any plate activity reports. However, any member with a copy is welcome to send one for publication or to write an article based on the information. The editor is also following up on a suggestion by Eugene as to how to obtain a copy).

Commercial cover report from Southwest

To the Editor:

Following is the PNC commercial cover report from the national ladies wear mail order company in Tucson, AZ, for the period Jan. 1-31, 1997.

32c Flag over Porch - 11111-18; 22222-14; 22322-01; 33333-27; 44444-25; 45444-11; 66646-17; 77767-26; 78767-7; 99969-03.

32c Flag over Porch SA-55555-17; 66666-69; 78777-115; 87898-6; 88888-62; 88898-3; 89878-3; 89898-4;

97898-2; 99899-1; 99999-343.

It again is very apparent that the lick and stick FOPs are fading from the scene. Complete your collection now. The key numbers are 22221, 22322, 34433, 66666 and 99969. Contact other cover collectors or any of the cover dealers for your needs.

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

Why not an 'associate membership' category?

To the Editor:

An open letter to Gene Trinks, PNC³ Secretary and By-laws Chairman:

I have often thought about and wondered why we have no associate membership in our club? It would seem this would provide an opportunity for greater participation and sense of belonging to some classifications of persons who are interested in the activities, yet feel full membership is unwarranted.

I cite my own case: When my son was here, I took out and maintained a membership for him as an inducement and encouragement to his stamp and PNC interests. With receipt of *Coil Line* and other info coming to this address, there was no need for dual memberships. When he took a residence in Port Charlotte, FL, the situation changed. I then forwarded the journal to him (after reading) and provided him the chance to 'keep the faith!' Again, as long as we were both here-dual memberships were not needed. When he moved, I took out my own membership. An associate membership would have been nice during this period.

Husband and wife relationships could also benefit with such an arrangement. I know there are some where the interest is shared but only one membership exists. The non member may feel intimidated toward input expressions due to not belonging.

A reduced dues structure could be established and the journal cost could be eliminated as a non benefit feature. Membership would be restricted to the same address situations.

Such an establishment would necessitate a By-laws amendment and vote.

What to you think?

Dan Kauffman
P.O. Box 133
Clearlake Park, CA 95424

Member sees Internet website as good idea

To the Editor:

I believe the establishment of a *Coil Line* website is a good idea. I recently began to use the Internet.

Thanks for your interest.

Cameron Walker
3802 Mark Lane
Midland, TX 79707

Members: We need additional input on the website and plate number booklet/pane issues raised in the February issue of *Coil Line*. Please write or e-mail the editor.

SNIPPETS

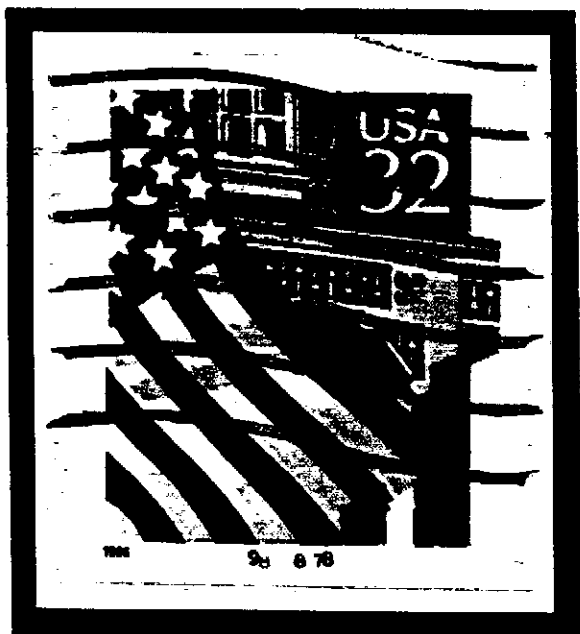
By Alan Thomson

New Numbers

There are five new numbers. Three of those are BEP issues with 1997 dates for the Porch Flag #11111, the Juke Box #111111, and the Mountain #1111; all with SA gum. The three are fully die cut, rather than being slit top and bottom with die cut sides. There is a space between the stamps on the backing paper on each issue and the serpentine cuts would interlock if the space were eliminated. Lunch Wagon #5 is known used. Number 11111 of the SA Flag with slit top and bottom has appeared, and BEP has dodged the #10 cylinder "bullet".

Hop, Skip and Jump

The Bureau of Engraving & Printing has earned one "hop" and two "jumps" in the hot new game of plate number shuffling. First it was split 5s, then split 9s. Now it's a hop of one cylinder number over another causing what at first glance appears to be #98878. Close examination of the reproduction of a color photo shown below reveals that the number is a color misregistration from #89878. The dark blue cylinder number has hopped over the tan cylinder number, reversing the first two digits. Once again, this is probably the result of a press start-up where the auto-alignment had not yet taken effect. Note the extreme shift of the blue that leaves a white space to the left of the porch post and overprints part of the post and part of the second floor of the building on the right side. (Black and white copying does not do justice to the color photo where blue over tan, red and brown is distinct.) This has the effect of making the porch roof appear to project beyond the right side of the image area. When determining a cylinder combination number, it is important to keep in mind the correct color printing sequence. The Flag digits should appear in order as tan, dark blue, light blue, red and brown. This example has a sequence of dark blue, tan, light blue, red and brown, and that immediately tells us something is wrong. This lone used example was the basis for listing #98878 as a known number. That number has been deleted from the tables.

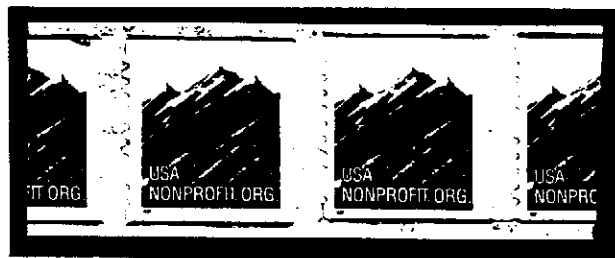


Scarce Number Found Used

Richard Andrews says his search of a 30 pound lot of used stamps yielded two very good quality examples of the SA Flag #89899. He collects only used PNCs and was obviously delighted. As far as I know, these are the first used copies of this combination to turn up. All the stamps were clippings, so no post marks were evident.

Another BEP Glitch

While on a local philatelic counter visit I found rolls of all three of the BEP SA reissues. I bought 100 stamps each of the Flag, Juke Box and Mountain from the rolls of 3000. Back home as I was removing PSSs from the Mountain strip, an interesting die cut shift caught my eye. Every 21 stamps there is a transition point where the stamps jump up or down about one millimeter. The images are in line but the tops and bottoms of the cut stamps are offset. The 21 interval has nothing to do with the plate number interval, which is also 21. It's possible a plate number could occur at the shift point, but my roll shifted ten stamps away from the number. How this miscut happened is a puzzle. Maybe this issue was cut on a rotary die cutter that has two mats mounted on a cylinder and thus cuts 42 stamps per revolution. The two mats may have been installed so that they were not exactly aligned, one being offset from the other. In order to illustrate the shift I had to destroy one of the transition pairs by outlining the tops and bottoms of the stamps with a ball point pen. The altered strip is shown below. Is there a different solution to this puzzle?



BEP Backnumbering

With the new reissues and the appearance of backnumbered test coils, BEP has started backnumbering some SA stamps. The system used differs from that used by Stamp Venturers, which differs from Avery's. BEP has numbered every twentieth stamp but no number appears on the last stamp in the roll. SV numbers every tenth stamp while Avery numbers every stamp. You can get a PN/BN combination from BEP about every 420 stamps in the roll.

Self Adhesive Gums up the Works

High grade paper recyclers are having problems with SA stamps, address labels and envelope flaps. The gum jams the processing machinery. USPS, 3M and paper makers are working on the problem.

Membership Renewal

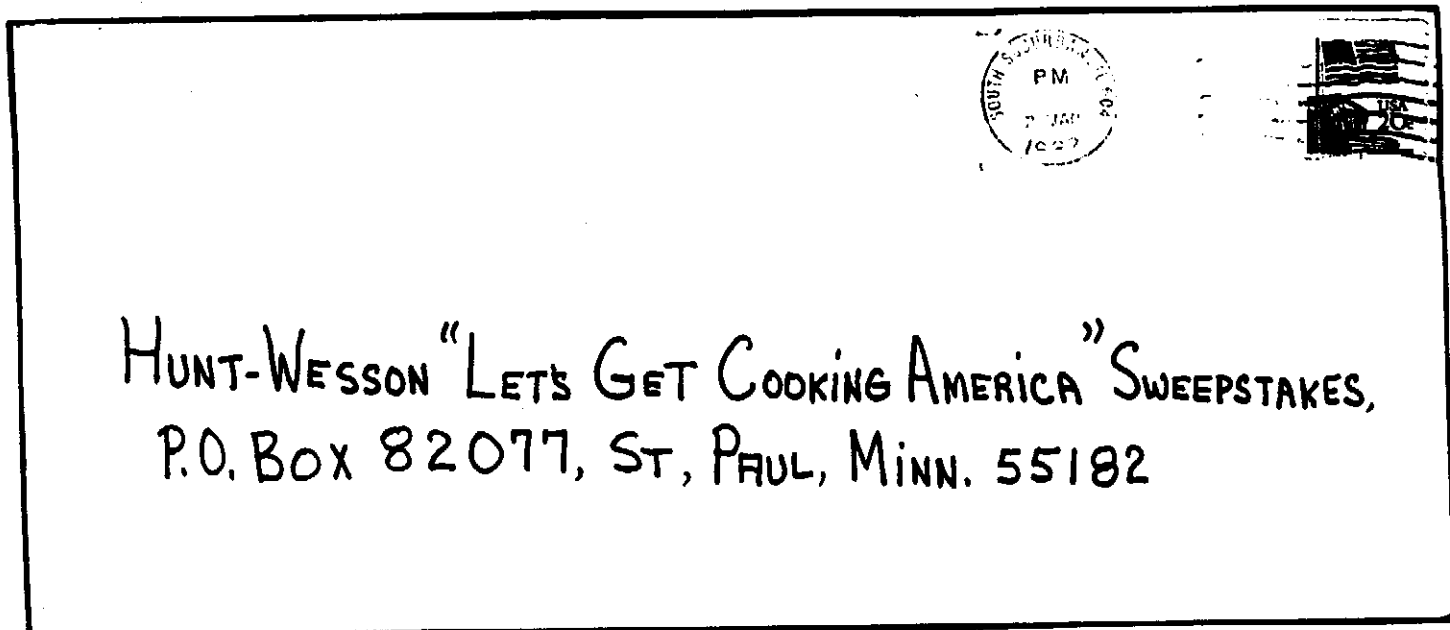
Renewal time brings cries of "I don't know my number." Check your Coil Line address label. It's there. There have been 19 resignations, and 61 people have still not been heard from. (2/15/97)

COMMERCIAL COVERS

Installment #76

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

UNSOLVED MYSTERIES CONCERNING THE 20¢ FLAG COIL

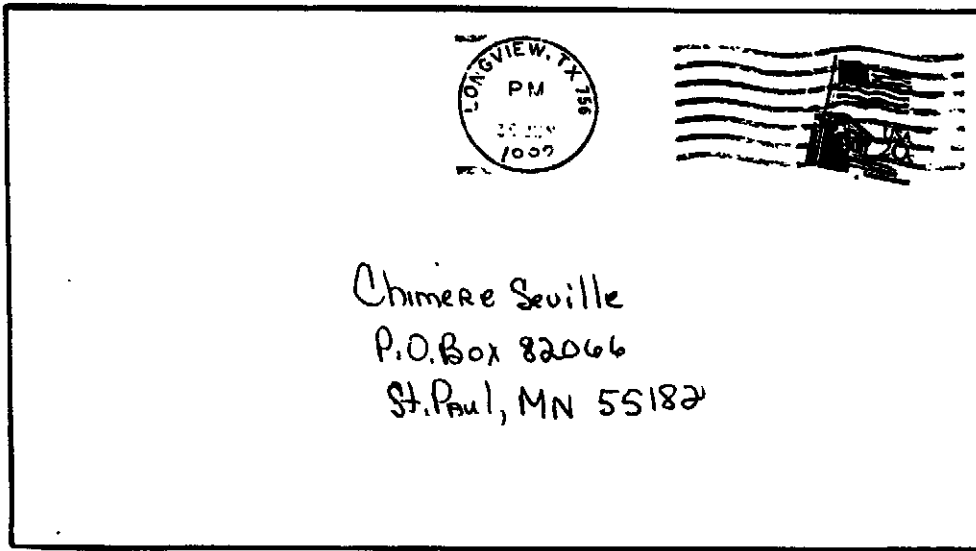


The earliest known 20¢ Flag PNC commercial cover (1/2/82)

Almost all 20¢ Flag over Supreme Court PNCs are relatively easy to find on commercial cover. A hoard of 18¢ and 20¢ PNC covers was found by Jerry Koepp in 1990, and the 20¢ Flag PNC cover quantities he found should suffice to satisfy collectors for years to come. Koepp's find, however, did lack the higher plate numbers, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14, and that is why those numbers command higher prices than the rest of the 20¢ Flag numbers today. Koepp's find also did not solve any of the following mysteries concerning 20¢ Flag PNC covers:

Mystery #1: The 20¢ Flag coil was issued on December 17, 1981 (seven weeks after the first class rate had increased from 18¢ to 20¢). Strangely, after all these years, the earliest known commercial usage for plate number 1 is 1/2/82, more than two weeks after the stamp was issued. Why hasn't an earlier cover surfaced? Perhaps the stamps were just slow in being shipped to post offices. Maybe post offices had already stocked up on the new 20¢ coil, the Fire Pumper, issued just seven days previously (12/10/81).

Mystery #2: There are two 20¢ Flag plate numbers in which earliest known usage covers have been found which pre-date the official "To Press" dates reported by the USPS. Plate number 4 reportedly went to press on 10/1/82, but many covers, including the EKU cover pictured at the top of the next page, show that the official to press date was reported in error.



20c Flag #4 earliest known usage 6/30/82

Plate number 8 was also reported incorrectly. The official "To Press" date is 7/29/83, but many covers exist with cancellations earlier than the official date. The EKU for #8 is 12/13/82. These errors are not just slightly off, they're months off. Why?

Mystery #3: The 20c Flag Precancel #14 was issued in 1984. It is known that it was used on mailings from the National Republican Party and a few others, but I have still not received a single confirmed report of an actual 20c Flag #14 commercial cover. In fact, only a few covers using this coil without plate numbers have surfaced. They're definitely scarce, but you'd think a 20c Flag Precancel #14 commercial cover would have been found by now. I've been searching hard for one for years, with no luck.

DON SUNDQUIST
United States Congressman



Citizens For Reagan
P.O. Box 37010
Washington, D.C. 20013

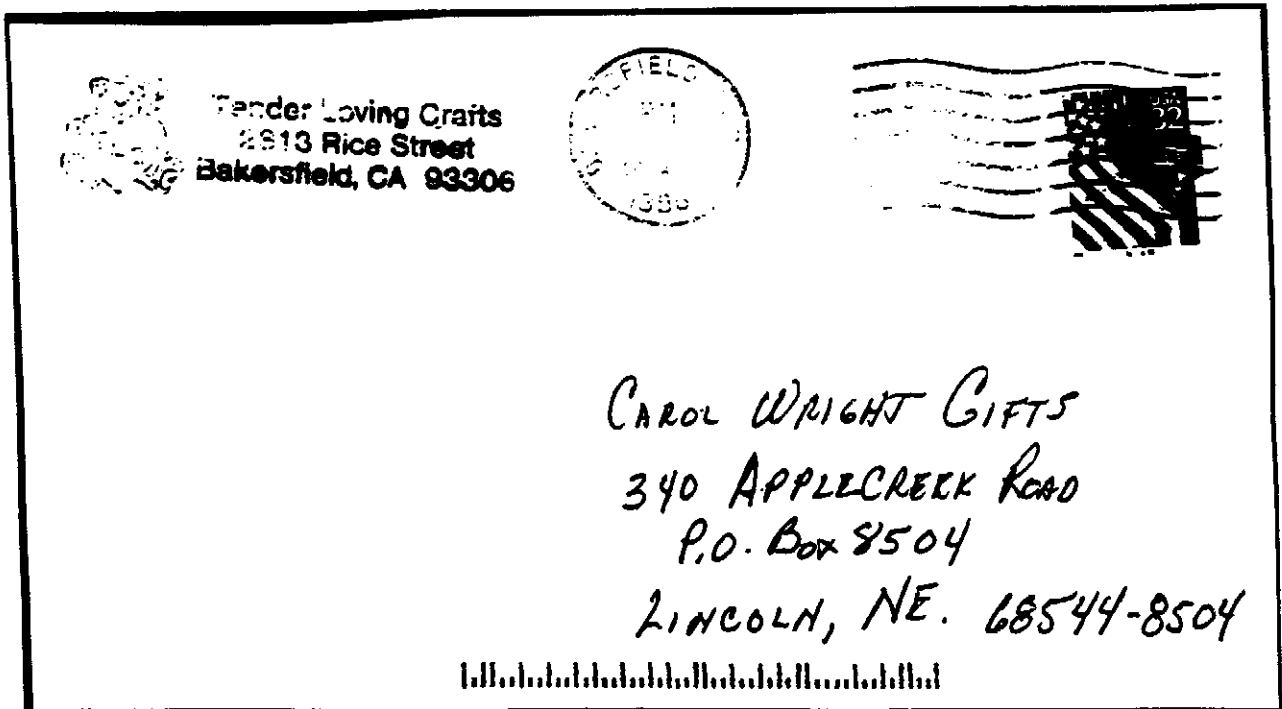


LEGISLATIVE ALERT . . . LEGISLATIVE ALERT . . . LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Two commercial usages of 20c Flag Precancel

Mystery #4: I collect purple machine cancels, especially on PNC covers. Such cancels were pretty much phased out in the United States by 1984. All the 20¢ Flag numbers 9 and below are known on covers with purple machine cancels. Numbers 10 through 14 have never been found on covers with purple machine cancels, but I think that perhaps numbers 10 and 11 could be found. 20¢ Flag plate numbers 10 and 11 are known on covers dated as early as 2/7/84 and 3/20/84, respectively. Places such as Wilmington, DE, Laguna Beach, CA, Beaumont, TX, Brooklyn, NY, and Northern Virginia are known to be still using purple machine cancels in 1984 or later. Unfortunately, the Jerry Koepp PNC cover hoard only covered the period from 1980 through about January, 1984, or else there might have been a pretty good chance of finding such covers. They could exist.

COVER OF THE MONTH



The above cover featuring the 32¢ G #98878 self-adhesive, cancelled 8/26/96, is the only known usage of that particular number to date. (Cover courtesy of David Bizé.) (If you have a candidate for *Cover of the Month*, please send a photocopy of your cover against a black background to Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, Maine 04976-0840.)

10c Tractor Trailer stamps - Overprints or not?

By Leonard Piskiewicz
951 Rose Court
Santa Clara, CA 95051
408-241-4626

Recent articles in *Coil Line* by Alan Thomson and Rob Washburn prompted me to take a closer look at my collection of 10c Tractor Trailer 'overprinted' stamps on cover. Both Alan and Rob seem to agree that some overprints were probably applied to the stamps before the stamps were affixed to the envelopes but that others were not.

The illustration (below), I believe, shows proof that the most commonly seen overprint, 'First Class' in red ink (meter ink?) running up the left side of the stamp, was applied to the stamps before the stamps were affixed to envelopes. These three stamps are on identical covers from the same mailing (return address, American Express, Ft. Lauderdale, FL) to the same 5-digit Zip Code in Texas, all post office boxes. I think it is safe to assume that they were all prepared at the same time.

First, notice that the overprint is in EXACTLY the same position on each stamp. The F of First Class is on top of the right front fender of the truck. Second, notice that the stamps are at DIFFERENT distances from the right edges of the covers. The distances from the right edge of the trailer of the truck measures differently for the three covers. This evidence tells me that it is much more likely that the stamps were overprinted first, possibly feed into the printed by the perforation holes, yielding identical printing positions. If one were to argue that stamps were affixed first, the printer would have to measure the exact position of the stamp before printing each stamp in exactly the same spot. I believe that's very unlikely.

Alan Thomson pointed out to me that the stamps may have been overprinted just before they were affixed by a printing head on the affixing machine, and I think this is a good possibility. I have always been puzzled about why there seemed to be many of these overprints 'out there' but none have ever been reported as mint stamps or strips.

Alan may have the answer. Perhaps there never were mint strips because of the way they were printed and affixed. If there were a few mint stamps left in the overprinting-affixing machine, they would have probably been used on the next batch of covers.

If any of our readers has ever seen a mint copy of any Tractor Trailer overprint, please contact me.



Automatic Flight Insurance coverage has been expanded.
Please read the enclosed Description of Insurance.



Automatic Flight Insurance coverage has been expanded.
Please read the enclosed Description of Insurance.



Automatic Flight Insurance coverage has been expanded.
Please read the enclosed Description of Insurance.

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:

Joseph Lober
321 Center Ave.
Carnegie, PA 15234

Al Maestas
9211 Alburts
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Edward Wejrowski
3775 So. 27th St. Apt. 113
Milwaukee, WI 53221

Thomas H. Luellen
Box 61122
San Angelo, TX 76906

William S. Gullo
9900 Acacia Ave. #77
Garden Grove, CA 92841

Stanley M. Klepacz
908 Steuben Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15220-5617

Thomas Smith
P.O. Box 23149
Phoenix, AZ 85063

Changes of address:

Paul Dixon
1420 W. 6th St.
McMinnville, OR 97128

Ted Wajek
5387 176th St.
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Len Ebersberger
1171 Crackers Neck
Greensboro, GA 30647

Robert Friedman
10770 Sun Palm Ln, Apt 102

Boynton Beach, FL 33437
Until 3/31/97

Gerald Lane
Florida Lutheran Retirement Center
450 North McDonald Ave. #188
Deland, FL 32724

Doug Pollard
17 Partridge Road
Etna, NH 03750-4400

Orville Harris
RR1 Box 1916F-4
Cassville, MO 65625

Warren E. Heidenis
2300 Aaron St. #205
Port Charlotte, FL 33952-5377

Jeffrey Schlom
84 Camino del Oro
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688-3139

Alex Gray
155 SW Exmore Ave.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34983-2525

(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.

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

Make your plans now so that members have plenty of time to make their plans to attend.

August 23, 1997, Milwaukee, WI - Annual Meeting of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club. The meeting will be held during the American Philatelic Society's annual Stampshow. The time and location of the meeting will be announced later.

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 Jan. 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.

Membership

Changes of address:

Ron Hoehn
2045 Kohn Road
Wright City, MO 63390

Mitchell Kauffman
242 Taylor Lane
Port Charlotte, FL 33952

John Frankowski
702B Village Drive
New Brunswick, NJ 08902

Alan E. Rothberg
17764 Whitestone Dr.
Tall Timbers, MD 20690-2027

Ronald Mapp
4307 Pembroke Pkwy N
Colleyville, TX 76034

Ads

USED PNCs (110) - \$10; (235) - \$20; 375-\$30; 550 - \$40. Random mix. Albert Alson, 7836 Trent Drive, Tamarac, FL 33321.

STILL HAVEN'T SENT FOR my free PNC used single list? Why not join dozens of other club members and send for it right away. I've got a wide selection and they're priced to sell. You can pay with cash or 32c postage and I'll even consider trading if you have solid material, including PS3 & PS5 strips. Some one-of-a-kind. 32c SASE appreciated. John Himes, P.O. Box 453, Cypress, CA 90630-0453.

FOR SALE: USED PLATE Number singles, all diff. from panes. 20 used plate singles - \$. SASE Please. Norman Ellis, 568 Forest St., Kearny, NJ 07032-3608.

I NEED 'G' A1113, A3114, A3423, A4426, A4435. I have the rest to trade. Roman Otten, 3878 Ridge Road, Kewashum, WI 53040.

WANTED: FOP SA PS5 with the following perfs- 66666 12-12; 56666 11-12; 89898, 97898, 98878, 99899 11-10; 88898, 89878, 89888, 89899 10-10 and 88898 10-11, Send prices

and trade info. Joe Nelson, 716 Springhill, Hurst, TX 76054-2316. Will pay your postage.

SEND 55c #10 size SASE for my PRICELIST #15 and Auction #1 (closing 3/29/97) featuring many tough to find PNC commercial covers, including quite a few scarce Cotrell Precancel PNC commercial covers. Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976-0840.

FOR SALE: Strips of 3 of 9.3c Mail Wagon No. 5 and 6. \$300 or best offer. Ken Moreau, 402 Coronation Dr., Franklin, MA 02038. Phone/Fax 508-528-9028.

E-mail addresses:

John F. Hallgren - JFridolph@aol.com
Mac Johnson - mackie279@aol.com
Jerry Grove - JGrove@Prodigy.net
Tony Bruno - tbbee@aol.com
Philip F. Rose - srose@suffolk.lib.us
Ron Hayes - rhayes@hayesmarketing.com
Elizabeth Jones - liz@saltspring.com
- Curt Stafford - curt@ns.net
John Hotchner - 104444.3217@compuserve.com
Peter Hoffman - peterh5292@aol.com
Thomas Jillson - TJillson@TrivalentUSA.com
Bob Novak - RNovak1941@aol.com
Jim Perry - Eastexmojo@aol.com
- Joann Lenz - krj83a@prodigy.com
Ken Martin - kpmartin@stamps.org
Gregg Greenwald - greenwag@mfldclin.edu
Carol Morehouse - CMYRAM@aol.com
Ken Lawrence - apskan@aol.com
- Harold Brown - PNCer@aol.com or halallen@wcnet.org
- Steve Esrati - StevStamps@aol.com

J.D. Coelho - perfaholic@cyberbury.net
Rick Thomas - rickstetz@earth.sunlink.net
Michael Lipson - mlipson@mitre.org
Gene Estus - gestus@westelcom.com
Richard E. Crowe - rcrowe@cris.com or richcrowe@aol.com
- Gene Trinkis - gctrinks@tir.com
Howard 'Skip' Medlock Jr. - Red Raider Stamps & South Plains Mail Postal Station - Ustamps4U@aol.com or 102073.673@compuserve.com
Ed Denson - edenson@asis.com
Rolly Grandahl - PNC3RLG@aol.com
Mike Davenport - miked@ionet.net
- Steve Unkrich - SUnkrich@aol.com
- Alan Malakoff - AMMalakoff@aol.com
John Dahlstrom - Dahlstrom2@aol.com

PNCs in other publications

- ◆ Details for new '1997' Porch stamps, others, Linn's, p-16, Jan. 13, 1997.
- ◆ Yellow Rose on sale in 30-stamp booklets, Linn's p-8, Jan. 13, 1997.
- ◆ No. 5 reported on 3c Conestoga, Linn's, p-2, Jan. 13, 1997.
- ◆ The spotlight is on Kenneth Zeigle's Stampmaster dummy stamps and postal stationery, Scott Stamp Monthly, p.21-22, Feb. 1997.
- ◆ Photos unavailable but electric auto got stamp of approval, Stamp Collector, p. 16, Feb. 3, 1997.
- ◆ Michel incorporates tagging data, Steve Esrati's column, Stamp Collector, Feb. 3, 1997.
- ◆ More on 3c Conestoga, Linn's, p-2, Feb. 3, 1997.
- ◆ PNC³ auction indicates strong market for coils, Stamp Collector, P.27, Jan. 27, 1997.
- ◆ New booklets have numbers on stamps, Linn's, P. 12, Jan. 27, 1997.

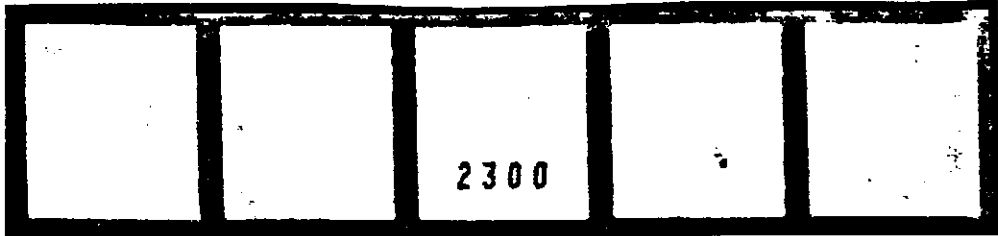
BEP test coil information

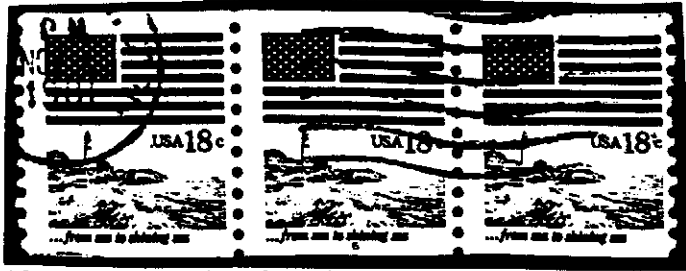
Joann Lenz has shared the following information regarding a BEP test coil of 3,000 stamps.

The first illustration is off the back side of a strip of five with the backnumber 2300. Joann said there is no number 3,000 on the strip.

The second illustration is a photocopy of the wrapper.

The third illustration is of a strip of seven with the plate number 1111 on the center stamp. The wrapper is the original size, while the strips have been enlarged in an attempt to show the numbers.

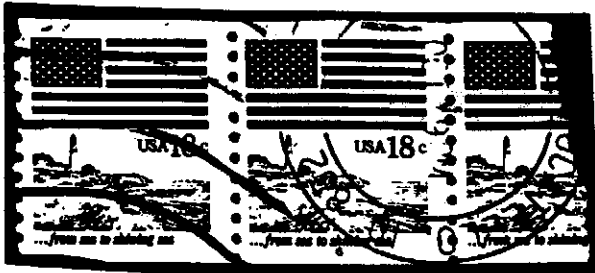




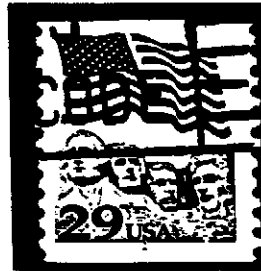
18c Flag #6 strip of 3 with purple machine cancel - \$800⁰⁰



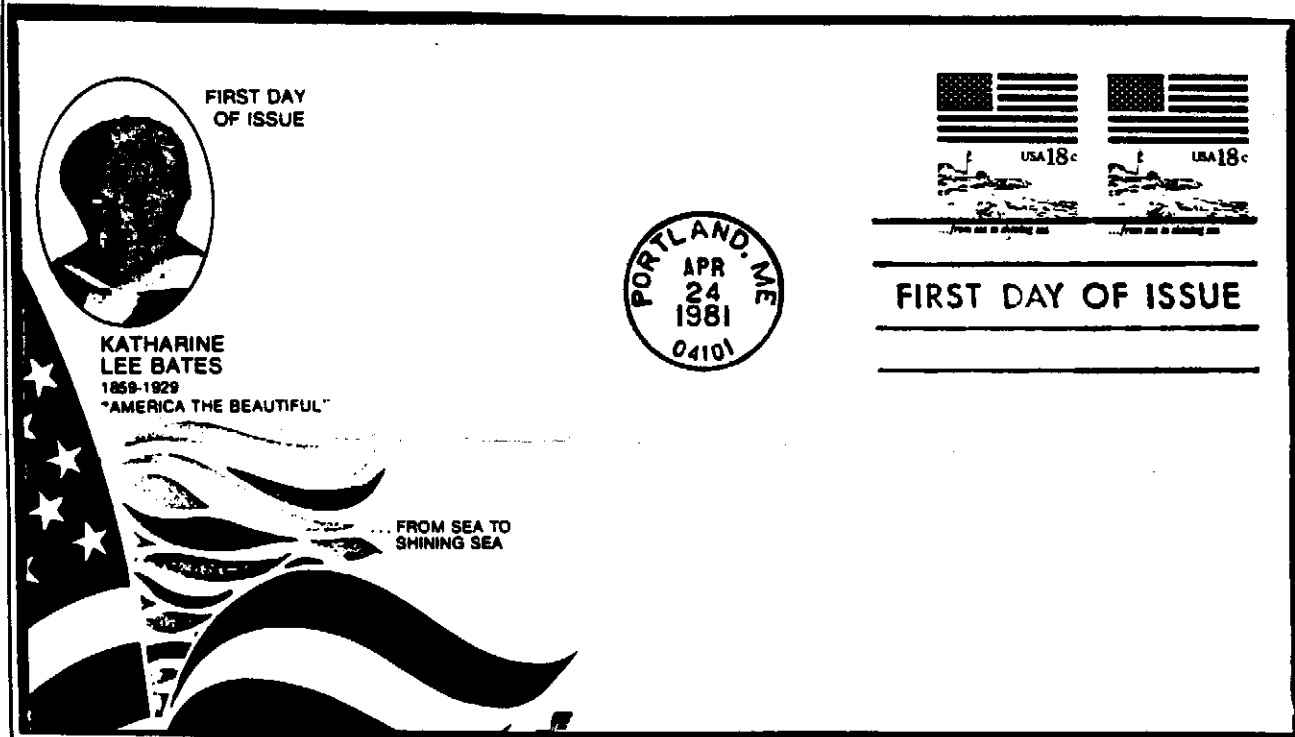
18c Flag #6
Single \$300⁰⁰



18c Flag #6
Single \$500⁰⁰



29c Mt. Rushmore
Toledo Brown #1
Rare \$1,500⁰⁰



18c Flag #3 Pair on First Day Cover \$195⁰⁰

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