

# PNC<sup>3</sup>



www.pnc3.org

# Coil Line

Journal of the PNC<sup>3</sup>  
**Plate Number Coil Collectors Club**  
American Philatelic Society Affiliate # 185

Vol. 24, No. 9

September 2011

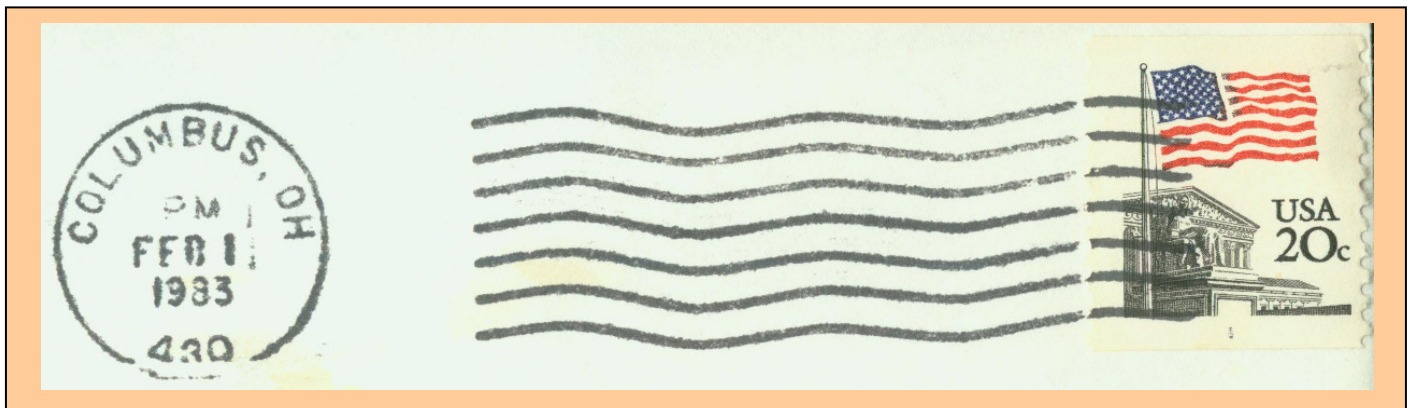
Whole No. 279



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# Coil Line

*Journal of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club*

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**Editor:** Ronald Blanks  
[coillineeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:coillineeditor@yahoo.com)

**Print Edition Mailings:** Brian and Cory Snippen  
[snippenb@comcast.net](mailto:snippenb@comcast.net)

**Electronic Edition Emails:** Frank Covey  
[ecoilline@macomb.com](mailto:ecoilline@macomb.com)

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The Classified Ad rate is six cents a word per issue, with a minimum of \$3.00 per individual ad. (Two 50-word ads per year per member are available at no charge. There is a 10¢ a word charge for words over 50.)

All material, including articles submitted, will be edited and formatted for inclusion in **Coil Line**, and must be received by the 1st of the month prior to publication.

### Coil Line reserves the right to edit copy as necessary.

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All content matters, letters to the Editor, and advertising questions should be sent to **Coil Line**, c/o Ronald Blanks, PO Box 9282, Chesapeake, VA 23321. Phone 757-478-8719; email: [coillineeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:coillineeditor@yahoo.com).

*For mail delivery problems, contact the mailer below.*

**Postal mailings prepared by:** Brian Snippen, PO Box 5542, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185-5542. Email: [bsnippen@comcast.net](mailto:bsnippen@comcast.net). Phone: 503-810-7825. Mailed from Zip Code 87185 on or near August 29, 2011.

# PNC<sup>3</sup> Contacts



Scott #1906 PS5 Plate Number 4

**PNC<sup>3</sup> Website** [www.pnc3.org](http://www.pnc3.org)  
Ron Maifeld, **Webmaster**  
email: [ron.maifeld@pnc3.org](mailto:ron.maifeld@pnc3.org)

(For *Coil Line*-related matters, please consult column at left for appropriate contact.)

## Elected Officers

Gene Trinks, **President**  
16415 W. Desert Wren Ct.  
Surprise, AZ 85374  
email: [gctrinks@cox.net](mailto:gctrinks@cox.net)  
623-322-4619

Andrew Jakes, **Vice President**  
5203 Hayden Woods Ln  
Hilliard, OH 43026  
email: [pnc treasurer@aol.com](mailto:pnc treasurer@aol.com)  
614-850-0305

Harvey Wales, **Secretary**  
13 Birmingham Place  
Vernon Hills, IL, 60061-2103  
email: [hwales16@aol.com](mailto:hwales16@aol.com)  
847-367-2629

Michael Mules, **Treasurer**  
PO Box 270252  
Milwaukee, WI 53227-7206  
email: [stampbuyer@wi.rr.com](mailto:stampbuyer@wi.rr.com)  
414-234-9867

Ron Maifeld, **Past President**  
Post Office Box 54622  
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45254-0622  
email: [ron.maifeld@pnc3.org](mailto:ron.maifeld@pnc3.org)  
513-231-4208

Robert Thompson, **At Large**  
12431 Golden Thistle  
Houston, TX 77058  
email: [rthompson@pncvarieties.com](mailto:rthompson@pncvarieties.com)  
713-419-1926

Todd R. Uebele, Sr., **At Large**  
1667 Wolf Road  
Iron Station, NC, 28080-9418  
email: [TRU120542@aol.com](mailto:TRU120542@aol.com)  
704-735-5484

## President's Message

*from the president*



...

were about 30 members and guests in attendance. Many other members who did not attend were able to stop at the club table on the show floor. Either they were working at a dealer booth, or could not attend the show Saturday. We were very happy to see so many members during the four days of the show.

Your Executive Board met earlier that day and acted to resolve the financial dilemma we have been facing. I think you all realize the club has been a fantastic bargain for members since its beginning in 1988. Our dues have only increased once, in 2001. At \$12 per year we have operated at a deficit for the last few years, due to increases in printing and postage costs. The deficit has risen substantially since our printer in Oregon went out of business.

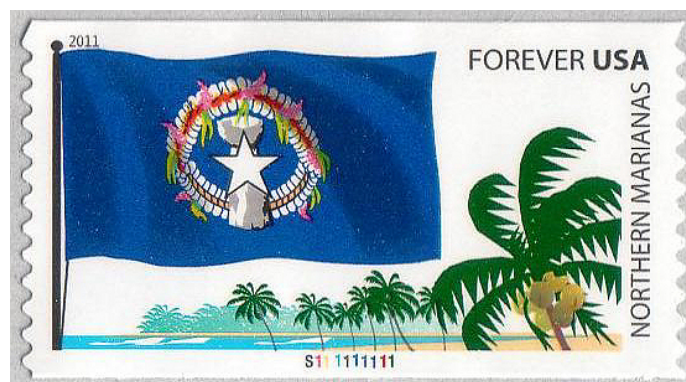
Consequently, the Board approved an immediate dues increase to \$16. This is still a great bargain for a club that publishes 12 times a year. Many clubs similar in nature to ours publish less frequently, yet have higher dues. Also, since the source of our financial distress is the cost of publication of the hardcopy journal, the Board approved a surcharge for those members who wish to receive a printed copy each month.

Since it currently costs the club \$29.40 a year to send *Coil Line* at bulk rates and \$35.15 for first-class mail, there will be a surcharge of \$14 to members who receive *Coil Line* as bulk mail, plus an additional \$8 for first-class delivery. Thus, the dues and surcharge will just cover the cost to print and deliver *Coil Line*. Once again, I urge that members consider switching to electronic delivery if possible.

Many members have said they like the ability to pick up their issue and take it with them to work or elsewhere. I'd like to remind them that a printed-out color copy is much more useful than a bland black/white issue. We'll send a sample electronic copy to anyone requesting one. Contact Frank Covey at [ecoilline@macomb.com](mailto:ecoilline@macomb.com).  
– Gene Trinks

## New PNC Issue

### “Flags of Our Nation,” Set 5



#### A PNC and unnumbered flag design in Set 5

Reporting from the APS show in Columbus, OH this past August, member Michael Lipson shared images from the new Flags of Our Nation (Set 5) coil issue, the first set of flags in the series to bear the “Forever” denomination indicator. However, as the above images of two different “Northern Marianas” flag stamps from a roll demonstrate, the novelties do not end there.

For the first time, a “FOON” PNC flag is also available as an unnumbered stamp. This time, stamp producer Sennett placed the plate number every twenty stamps (instead of every ten, as has occurred in the four prior sets). (You might recall, each set has ten flag designs. So the prior sets had no unnumbered version of the flag design that also is the PNC, the only times this has happened with multiple designs in a coil issue.)

Compared to any earlier set's stamps, you will also note that placements of the plate number and the year date have also changed.  
– Ron Blanks

## PNC<sup>3</sup> Regional Meetings

### *This month's regional meeting ...*

#### MILCOPEX – Milwaukee, WI September 17

Michael Mules will be hosting a regional meeting of the PNC<sup>3</sup> in conjunction with MILCOPEX, Milwaukee, WI, September 16-18.

MILCOPEX is being held at the Wyndham Airport and Convention Center (formerly Four Points Sheraton) at 4747 S. Howell Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The PNC<sup>3</sup> Meeting is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Saturday, September 17th. The PNC<sup>3</sup> will be a participating society at the show, with a staffed table for all three days. Please contact Michael at [stampbuyer@wi.rr.com](mailto:stampbuyer@wi.rr.com) if you are interested in volunteering. Stop by and say hello, or better yet, bring a friend to sign up as a member! Additional show information is available on the Internet at [www.milwaukeephilatelic.org/Milcopex/Milcopex.html](http://www.milwaukeephilatelic.org/Milcopex/Milcopex.html).

### *Upcoming regional meeting ...*

#### SESCAL – Los Angeles October 15

PNC<sup>3</sup> club members will be meeting on Saturday, October 15, 2011 at the SESCAL 2011 Stamp Exhibition. SESCAL will be taking place at The Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel, 5711 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045, phone (310) 410-4000. SESCAL will be held from Friday through Sunday, October 14-16. The PNC<sup>3</sup> meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. Saturday and will be hosted by club members Jewell Meyer and John Himes.

Door prizes will be given, and we should have enough to assure that everyone attending goes home with a nice item. Several informative talks are being prepared for the meeting. There will also be plenty of time for club members to buy, sell,

and trade extra material at the end of the meeting. Check for the precise room location when you arrive at the show. Visitors to the meeting are always welcome. Admission is free, and a special parking rate of \$7.00 is available to show attendees. Full information on the show is available at [www.sescal.org](http://www.sescal.org).

### Want to Sponsor a Regional Meeting?

Contact Tony Bruno for suggestions. He can put you in contact with others who have taken on the task. Several members have made it a regular habit of promoting meetings in their area.

#### Regional Meeting Chairman

Tony Bruno, PO Box 624, East Lyme, CT 06333-0624; email, [tbbee@aol.com](mailto:tbbee@aol.com)

(PNC<sup>3</sup> meeting announcements in this column are free. Please submit details to the Editor three months prior to the meeting date. Thank you.)

### **Brief Report** **from the Annual Meeting**

The 2011 PNC<sup>3</sup> Annual Meeting was held at the Columbus (Ohio) Convention Center during the APS StampShow on Saturday, August 13th.

President Gene Trinks started the meeting on time. There were 24 members and four guests in attendance. Attendees introduced themselves.

Gene Trinks then introduced current and past officers. A summary of the Board Meeting held that morning was given, followed by a discussion of the decision to not pursue IRS 501-c3 (“non-profit” organization) status. Other items discussed were the new dues structure and PNC<sup>3</sup> board elections next year.

Door prizes were awarded. Donations were generously contributed by Michael Mules, Ron Maifeld, the PNC<sup>3</sup>, and Frank Covey (of those I can recollect; I apologize if I omitted anyone).

Several members had items for sale. We held a mini-auction of PNC covers donated by Webster Hall.

The PNC<sup>3</sup> Annual Meeting next year will be held at the APS StampShow in Sacramento, California.  
– Ron Maifeld

## Readers' Forum

**Regarding your hint** on page 113 of July's issue ["About the Die-Cut Shapes Chart"], "With a magnifying glass, you can pick up one of these examples to study" – That is a most wonderful magnifier you have, that allows you to pick up stamps. Guess I'm still in the Stone Age, since I have to use tongs. Also, in the chart ["A Checklist of Corner-Area Shapes"] on page 212 [sic], # 4295 should be 4395. – *Rudy de Mordaigle #1830*

*[Actually, the "Scoop-n-See"® magnifying glass with a scooping mechanism underneath the lens (that also holds the stamp steady for viewing) is still only my invention on paper. Time spent working on Coil Line prevents me from finishing the patent application, but I never divulged the idea to the proofreaders so maybe they thought it already exists. Turning serious, I rarely check Scott numbers on incoming material I thought to be previously reviewed, because of the time it would require. Interestingly, the original chart submitted has "3295" for the 44¢ Star Flag large roll version, which I circled. Somehow I managed to "correct" it to the wrong number printed on page 112. – Editor]*

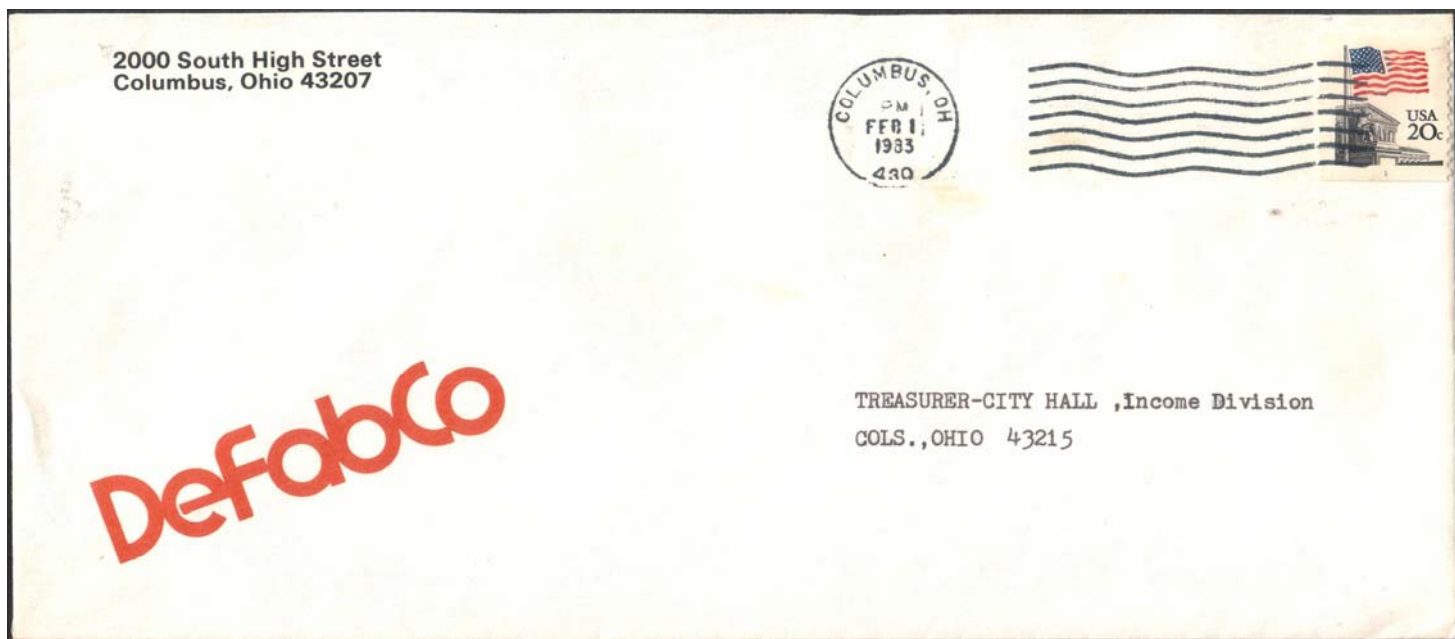
**Please find enclosed** a scan of a 20¢ Flag #1 PNC *untagged error* on cover. I believe that February 1, 1983 could be the earliest known usage for an untagged error for this issue. – *Michael Lipson #383*

*[PNC<sup>3</sup> member Robert Thompson now owns this cover (shown below), and confirms the stamp is untagged. I asked member and commercial-cover specialist Rob Washburn about EDUs for untagged errors, and his reply follows – Editor]*

I know of no one who has kept track of untagged error EDUs, except I did keep a listing for the 19¢ Fishing Boat #A5555 untagged (4/2/93 EDU). I do not believe anyone can prove or disprove whether the untagged 20¢ Flag #1 cover is an EDU. The earliest usage of the *tagged* PNC is a year earlier on 1/2/82. (That itself is a curiosity, since the coil was issued on 12/17/81 and plate 1 was the only one available at first. Of course, the 20¢ Pumper was issued a week before the 20¢ Flag and was apparently the one initially supplied to post offices.)

– *Rob Washburn # 4L*

*(please see page 139)*



**Untagged 20¢ Flag PNC of plate 1, on cover postmarked Feb. 1, 1983  
(possibly Earliest Documented Usage of untagged #1)**

## Editor's Message

from the  
editor...



Working on this issue of *Coil Line* the past couple of weeks, I have encountered a large number of coincidences, something I am not used to. (Usually, if someone asks me how things are going, I am full of "Murphy's Law" tales of things going wrong just because they can, but not so much lately.)

First was the matter of receiving a mailing at the house, and then its duplicate at the PO box, both franked with the *same* PNC. As I pondered this for mention in this issue, more coincidences came up... the interesting whole story begins on page 144.

Then there was the matter of ensuring a sixteen-page issue for September, on the heels of a twelve-page August issue (even though I suppose that could be considered "balanced" due to the 20-page July issue; more on that issue later). Coincidentally it's the middle of summer, the slowest time of year for indoor hobbies... and writer submissions, it would seem, since they were lacking. But also coincidentally, the APS StampShow was held while this issue was being prepared, so we have a little news from that in addition to some interesting

readers' input. Thus, my byline wound up on three articles. (At one point a few days before this writing, it looked like it would be *five* articles.)

I wasn't going to mention my bylines, but (again) by coincidence, just this morning I learned that more than one reader felt "annoyed" by my one-page article in the July 2011 issue after Richard Cole's die-cut shapes chart. The only elaboration I got was that the editor is supposed to be "invisible".

Well, just so there is no misunderstanding, when my byline is used, I am wearing my writer's hat, not my editor's hat! Coincidentally, at one point Richard and I thought that the chart's byline would have both his name and mine, but in the end I decided to leave mine off since my two-plus page article was to follow.

Yet my article turned out to be only one page, because again, by coincidence, the 2010 PNC<sup>3</sup> Board Meeting minutes and 2010 Annual Meeting minutes arrived unexpectedly. I felt it important that they be published in time for the 2011 meetings last month. I bring this up because "How to Use the Chart" and "Subject History" were not the only sub-topics for that story; "Chart History" (about its development) and "Terms Challenge" (especially in this "subtle" and highly specialized area) were chopped out to make room for the five pages of meeting minutes.

On a lighter note, while finishing this issue for the proofreaders, today's mail arrived with a presort cover with a "MERLIN" number on it. By coincidence, I had been pondering the past couple weeks writing about them, since I hadn't seen one in years. "What are those?"... Stay tuned. – Ron Blanks

# Coil Line

PO Box 9282, Chesapeake, VA 23321 Phone: 757-478-8719

E-mail [coillineeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:coillineeditor@yahoo.com)

Website [www.pnc3.org/](http://www.pnc3.org/)

### Journal of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club

#### Editor

Ronald Blanks

#### Associate Editor (electronic version)

Ron Maifeld

#### Senior Consultant

Gene Trinks

#### Subscriptions

Harvey Wales

#### Auctions

Joe Sedivy

#### Proof Readers

Ron Archer  
Joe Chinnici  
John Himes

#### Technical Consultant

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#### Printed Mailings

Brian Snippen  
Cory Snippen

#### Electronic Mailings

Frank Covey

#### Staff Writers

Frank Covey  
Doug Iams  
Gene Trinks  
Rob Washburn

#### Contributing Writers

Daniel Forgues  
John Himes  
Michael Mules  
Mark Schultz  
Robert E. Thompson

#### Graphics

Ronald Blanks  
Ron Maifeld

#### Cartoonists

Thomas Babb  
Eric Moreno

#### Printing

State Wide Printing  
Albuquerque, NM

#### Webmaster

Ron Maifeld

## ... Readers' Forum ...

(from page 137)

I received President Gene Trinks' appeal about the possible \$10,000.00 deficit this year. I think we need to put "first things first" before asking life members to donate. How do we spend more money than we have? We need to cut out something immediately. Here are a couple of suggestions for immediately savings:

1. Stop all color printing. It is nice, but we cannot afford it. I know that would save thousands of dollars.

2. Cut the monthly *Coil Line* issues to six at first, and if that does not work, issue it quarterly.

The above two will probably save the PNC<sup>3</sup> from going broke. I like a monthly PNC<sup>3</sup> *Coil Line* but not if we cannot afford it. To help matters, I do love a mailed hardcopy but please start me on the online copy. That will save \$35.64 (12 x \$2.97). Get another 100 members to do so and that will save another \$3,564.00.

Some serious decisions by the PNC<sup>3</sup> board need to be made immediately.

I support what all of you are doing for the PNC<sup>3</sup> membership. I have retired now and am hoping to have more time to enjoy my PNCs. I have about 50,000 in my drawers, including a lot of the hard ones to obtain.

This is a positive suggestion list and not intended to be critical of anyone or anybody.

— Gerald Blankenship #587L

[Following are responses of the two club officers to whom this was first addressed. — Editor]

**Thank you for** your reply. I appreciate you stepping forward and switching to the online copy. Your decision benefits the club as you said (\$35 per year – not just this year, but *every* year). Thank you. We have had almost two dozen members do the same so far – which helps tremendously. As an electronic subscriber I think you will be even more pleased. Every picture and every page in the online edition are in full color. This is something we could never afford to do in the print edition.

The annual board meeting was being held in Columbus, Ohio as this *Coil Line* was being prepared. The board members were meeting in person and working on the budget for the upcoming year. The board members do this entirely at their own expense, with no subsidy from PNC<sup>3</sup>. What has happened is the cost of printing and postage has increased dramatically in the last several years, and even more recently as our previous printer closed. The club has not raised dues since 2001. The entire budget shortfall is related to the printing and mailing of *Coil Line*.

I agree that we have some difficult decisions to make as a group. The issue of frequency of *Coil Line* was planned to be discussed, as well as color printing. Club dues certainly requires discussion. As the treasurer, I audit all of the bills and am responsible for presenting the exact costs to the board. (Since this is done on an annual basis, the board has to vote on changes, etc.) The board is aware of the seriousness of the situation and we will be taking steps to ensure that the PNC<sup>3</sup> will not be going away. President Gene Trinks is a founding member of this organization (as member #1) and I can assure you that PNC<sup>3</sup> will continue. The solution will likely be a combination of several ideas and suggestions. I appreciate your input.

*Respectfully,*

*Michael Mules, Treasurer, PNC<sup>3</sup>*

**Thanks very much** for your concern and suggestions. Perhaps we have painted the picture a little bleaker than it really is. It is true that we have run a deficit in the last couple of years, but you could not have been aware that this was intentional to a degree. We had a big surprise when we lost our Oregon printer, and the increases in postal rates have been larger than anticipated.

The reason we chose to run negative in the last couple of years was that there was a proposal that we should try to obtain IRS 501(c)(3) status so that members wishing to make donations would be able to claim them as tax deductions. (It was decided this year that it was not feasible to do so.) We felt that in order to enhance our non-profit status, we could afford to run in the red for a couple of years. However, we just got *(please see page 143)*

# Catalog Corner

by Frank Covey



The 29¢ Herbs coil roll of 100 from Avery Dennison went on sale nationwide on April 7, 2011. These stamps of five designs pay the postcard rate of 29¢ which went into effect on Sunday, April 17, 2011.

The V11111 plate number found at the bottom center of a plate-numbered coil repeats every 40 stamps, and is found only on a Sage design.

Like other Avery coils which preceded the Herbs coil, the PV (peak/valley) and VP (valley/peak) die cuts are both available. Both of these die cuts are shown to the left.

Errant die-cut shapes are found on this issue, as on most of Avery's recent rolls-of-100 issues. They include: knoll top, bell top and bottom, and thimble top. "Bell, top left" and "bell, bottom right" have been found so far, but it's believed that "bell, top right" and "bell, bottom left" are also possible.

Both PV and VP roll types are usually present in all packaging flats of 50 rolls. However, in some flats VP is the more numerous die cut while in other flats PV is more common.

A 2011 date is printed in the upper left corner of the stamps. (See close-up of the plate number, below.)



**29¢ Herbs  
Plate V11111  
PNC ID 2011-4**



# Current Plate Numbers, Roll Sizes, Tagging & Die Cuts

### === KEY ===

**Roll Size:** E = 50, A = 100, B = 500, C = 3000, D = 10,000

► **NEW NUMBER OR VARIETY**

\*\*\* **DATA ARE TENTATIVE**

≠ **USA PHILATELIC (USPS CATALOG) "SOLD OUT" OR NO LONGER SHOWN**

[xx] - plate number interval

BK - Block Tag

EP - Embedded Phosphor (coil paper not presently used)

SP-S - Surface Phosphor, Smooth appearance

SP-U - Surface Phosphor, Uneven or grainy appearance

OA - Overall Tag

un - untagged

Water-Activated (WA) if shaded; otherwise, Self-Adhesive (SA).

Plate number intervals are shown in brackets [ ] following the plate number(s) and roll size(s), followed by die-cut types on self-adhesive stamps:

PV = Peak/Valley VP = Valley/Peak VV = Valley/Valley

PP = Peak/Peak S = Serpentine Die Cuts with no transition.

Tagging is listed within ( ). Note some #s have varieties.

### PRINTER PLATE NUMBER PREFIX LETTERS

A - American Bank Note

P - Ashton Potter

B - Banknote Corp. of America

S - Sennett Security Prod.

G - Guilford Gravure

V - Avery-Dennison

M - 3M

none - BEP (only above 3 now make US coils)

1¢ LAMP 2003 (un) ≠  
#S11111 C [14]

1¢ LAMP 2008 (un)  
#S11111 C, D [31]

2¢ NAVAJO JEWELRY (un)  
#S111111 D [31]

3¢ SILVER COFFEE POT (un)  
#S1111 D [14]

4¢ CHAIR (un)  
#S1111 D [14]

5¢ TOLEWARE (un)  
#S1111111 D [14]

10¢ CLOCK 2006 (un)  
#S1111 D [14]

10¢ CLOCK 2008 (SP-S)  
#S1111 D [31]

17¢ BIGHORN SHEEP (SP-U, SP-S) ≠  
#S11111111 A [31] VP

20¢ WASHINGTON (OA)  
#P11111 A [31] VP  
► #P22222 A [31] VP

28¢ POLARBEAR (SP-S) ≠  
#V11111 A [20] VP, PV

29¢ HERBS (SP-S)  
#V11111 A [40] VP, PV

44¢ FLAG (SP-S)  
#V1111 A [20] VP, PV

44¢ FLAG (SP-S)  
#S111 A [31] VP

44¢ FLAG (SP-S) ≠  
#P1111 A [31] VP

44¢ FLAG (SP-S)  
#S111 C [31]

44¢ FLAG (SP-S)\*  
Rounded Corners  
#V1111 C, D [16] VP  
\*=**corrected from "OA"**

44¢ QUILL & INKWELL (SP)  
#S1111 C, D [27] S

FOREVER LIBERTY & FLAG (SP-S)  
#V111111 A [40] VP, PV

FOREVER LIBERTY & FLAG (SP-S)  
#S111111 A [32] PV

FOREVER LIBERTY & FLAG (SP-S)  
#P111111 A [32] VP

### (5¢) SEA COAST

#B111 D [20] (SP-S) VP ≠  
#P1111 D [22] (un) S  
#P2222 C, D [27] (un) S  
#P2222 D [27] (un, SP-S) S  
#P3333 D [27] (un) S  
#P4444 D [27] (un) S  
#P5555 D [27] (un) S  
#P6666 D [27] (un) S  
#P7777 C, D [27] (un) S  
#P8888 D [27] (un) S  
#P9999 C, D [27] (un) S  
#S1111 D [20] (un) S

### (5¢) SEA COAST (un)

#B111 B, D [10]  
#S1111 C (Lum. Ink) [14]  
#S1111 D (Lum. Ink) [14]  
#S11111 B [31]

### (5¢) ART DECO BIRD (un)

#P1111 C, D [27] PP

### 42¢ FLAGS 24/7 (SP-S) ≠

Rounded Corners  
#V1111 C, D [8] VP  
#V2222 C, D [8] VP

### 42¢ FLAGS 24/7 (SP-S) ≠

#S1111111 C [12/16 alternating]

### 42¢ FLAGS OF OUR NATION [FOON] (SP-S)

#S111111111 E [10] PV (Set 1)  
#S111111111 E [10] PV (Set 2)

### 44¢ FOON (SP-S)

#S111111111 E [10] PV (Set 3)  
#S111111111 E [10] PV (Set 4)

### FOREVER FOON (SP-S)

► #S111111111 E [20] PV (Set 5)

### (10¢) ATLAS (un) ≠

#B1111 D [20] VV, PP  
#V11111 D [10] VP  
#V11222 D [10] VP  
#V12111 D [10] VP  
#V12222 C, D [10] VP  
#V13222 ? [10] VP  
#V21111 D [10] VP  
#V21113 ? [10] VP  
#V21211 C, D [10] VP  
#V22111 D [10] VP  
#V22112 D [10] VP  
#V22211 C [10] VP  
#V22222 D [10] VP  
#V23113 D [10] VP  
#V32332 D [10] VP  
#V33332 D [10] VP  
#V33333 D [10] VP

### (10¢) LION (un) ≠

#S11111 B, C [14]

### (10¢) BANNER (un)

#S111 D [27] PP  
#S111 B [31]  
#V111 C, D [10] VP  
#V222 C, D [10] VP  
#V333 C, D [10] VP

### (25¢) DINER (un) ≠

#S11111 D [14]

### (25¢) EAGLE (SA) (un)

#S1111111 D (2003) [20] S  
#S2222222 D [20] S  
#S3333333 C, D [20] S  
#S3333333 D [20] S, Tag SP-S\*  
#S1111111 C (2005) [20] S

### (25¢) EAGLE (un)

#S1111111 C [10]

? = known used only

\* = weak tagging

**New PNC:** As shown in August issue, 20¢ Washington also available with P22222. Other updates are coils off-sale via USA Philatelic catalog (≠) after September 30.

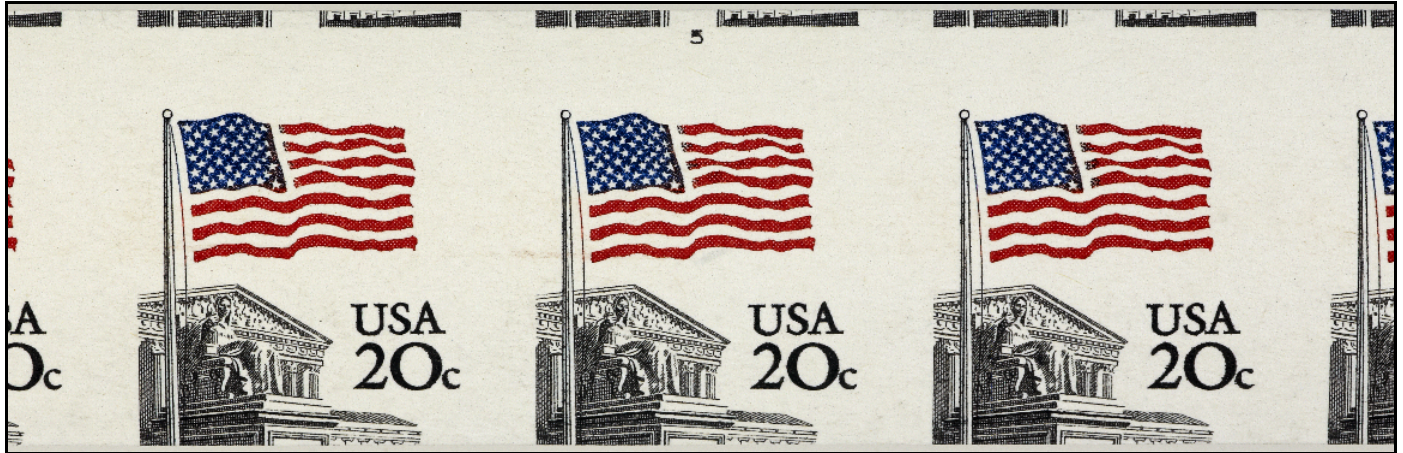
**Also, Banner V333 now known from rolls of 3,000.** Note PNC interval change to 20 for new Set 5 Forever FOONS.

Rolls in the large sizes (B, C, and D) marked unavailable via USA Philatelic (≠) might still be in inventory of (or for) large mailers. For example, some mailers were still using 41¢ Flag rolls (no longer shown here) in mass mailings as of June, 2011.

KEY types revised Dec. 2008: Phosphor-tag paper terms finalized in Aug. '08 specialists' meeting as "EP", "SP"; Surface Phosphor (SP) terms have added appearance qualifier: "-U" for Uneven and/or Grainy, or "-S" for Smooth.

Ashton Potter's SA Sea Coast P2222 are die-cut two ways. One is serpentine-cut on all 4 sides; the other only at the sides.

For Sea Coasts of P2222-P9999, AP changed cylinder size from that of P1111, so plate number intervals changed from 22 to 27. P3333-P9999 have a small date and color order of BCMY.



Part of a roll of 100 20¢ Flag stamps, imperforate and mis-cut (note plate “5” at top)

When Gene Trinks informed me that a gentleman had sent him a photograph of an imperforate 20¢ Flag coil stamp which was mis-slit with the number on top, and asked me would I be interested in following up the report, I said, “Sure, why not. Imperf or not, it’s still a #-on-top.” What I received in the follow-up was a real treat.

The gentleman, James McElveen, did indeed have a 20¢ Flag Over Supreme Court plate #5 existing as both an imperforate (Scott 1895d) and 100% number-on-top! Crosschecking my copy of the Datz Errors catalog, I was able to find that, while offering no definitive information on the miscut variety of the stamp, “miscuts exist” and the #5 imperf appears to be a rarely seen bird to begin with.

In subsequent correspondence and a phone call, I discovered that James describes himself as a general collector of stamps and coins. Although not active in the collecting community for the 53 years he has been collecting, he has simply been storing purchases for a rainy day or retirement. Contained in his “several crates” of accumulations are, for instance, four complete sets of Federal “Duck” stamps and several hundreds of rolls of coil stamps, most still in their original shrink or bubble wraps.

Born on a Louisiana farm, James McElveen received his PH.D from Louisiana State University and served as Director of Insurance at LSU and as Executive Director of Insurance for the State of Louisiana until his retirement in the summer of 2010. James describes himself as a “red-blooded

American and a proud Army veteran.”

The image in the scan shown nearby is cropped from a complete roll of 100 20¢ Flag over Supreme Court #5 which is imperforate as well as 100% #-on-top. This is a Bureau of Engraving and Printing “B” press issue (with large-block tagging, and including two plate numbers in the roll). The roll’s original bubble pack was also retained. The 20¢ Flag was the second Flag issued as a plate-numbered coil in 1981 and the sixth PNC design overall. James recollects he probably acquired the roll some 25 years ago over the counter at a Baton Rouge post office.

*[The PNC catalog includes a listing for Plate 5 with “Imperf/Miscut (PS6)” but no price. The catalog gives no indication as to the nature of the miscut. With only two plate numbers available in the roll, it is obviously an item of curiosity for the owner and most readers as to what value might be ascribed to a plate numbered strip of six.]*

*I tried reviewing as many PNC<sup>3</sup> auctions as I could, and results of other auctions reported in Coil Line in the first half of the 1990s. One auction (reported in November 1993) had a PS7 of #8 bid at \$100 (estimated range, \$150-\$200). A PS9 of #4 sold at \$400 (minimum \$400) in our September 1995 PNC<sup>3</sup> auction. A PS6 of #2 went unbid in March 2007 (min. \$125). A “superb” pair of #3 in our October 2008 auction was bid at \$23 (min. \$20). If anyone knows of a recent sale of a similar 20¢ Flag imperforate PNC strip, please let us know. – Editor]*

## ... Readers' Forum

(from page 139)

deeper in the red than intended this year. In fact, we have enough in the treasury to complete this year given the current level of expenditures. We would have enough to start off next year as well.

At the Board Meeting in August we will establish dues and fees for the following year. [See President's Message on page 135 for a first report from this meeting. – Editor]

Since our financial difficulty is due to printing and distribution costs, my proposal will be that those requesting hardcopy journals should bear most of the cost, keeping the burden off of those receiving the journal electronically. This will mean a large increase in fees for mailed hardcopy. We should also increase dues modestly, in my opinion. We have always tried to keep our dues low, but it's been 10 years since the last increase and we should not expect to hold dues unchanged indefinitely.

Please be assured that PNC<sup>3</sup> will remain a viable and solvent organization. We will make every effort to continue offering excellent programs and benefits for our members.

You are most welcome to continue offering suggestions and please know that we will carefully consider the merits of all. – Gene Trinks # 1L

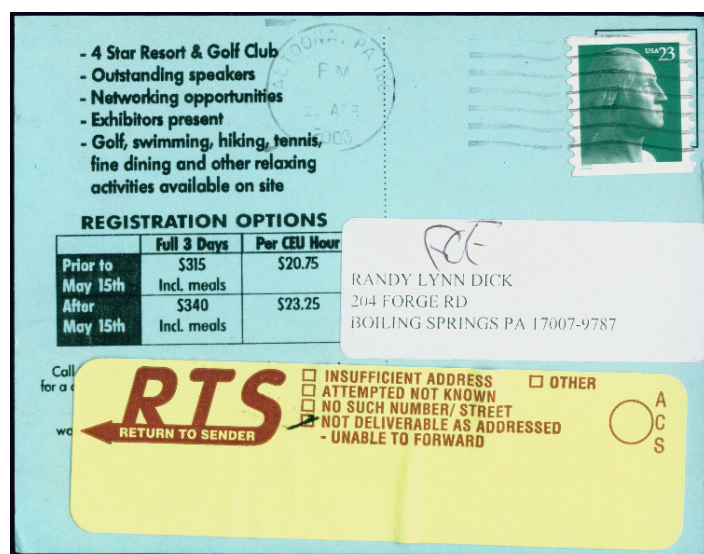
**I use my precancel-use** mailing permit regularly. Usually my mail goes through with no difficulty. Yesterday, I received a mailpiece back on which I had used Patriotic Banner and Library Lion stamps; the envelope had a Return-to-Sender label attached. I had not seen this style of RTS label before and thought our readers who use their precancel use permits might like to view it. I have attached a copy of the label [shown below].



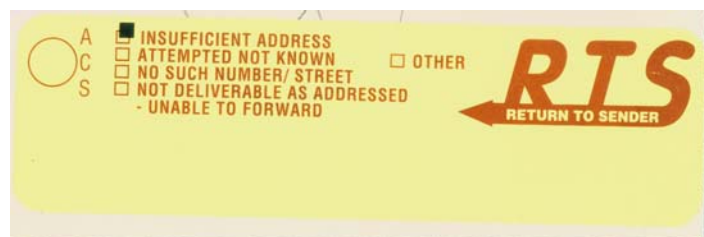
Return-to-Sender label from a collector's mailing using precanceled stamps under permit

(I wish I would have had the time to copy the whole envelope with this on it, but alas it was a credit card payment that I had to get back in the mail right away.)  
– Frank Covey #319L

[I have over two dozen mailpieces with these labels returned to a Pennsylvania golf resort due to addressing problems, most postmarked in 2003. Below is an example of a second type of this label, applied to a postcard affixed with an unnumbered 23¢ Washington coil (2002 year date). On this label, the "RTS" logo is at the left instead of the right.



Below is another RTS label attached to the lower-right of a #10 envelope. Note the crisp, black printed square indicating the reason as "insufficient address." Other labels have different reasons X'ed like this, while many other labels have hand-written marks like the above example. "ACS" stands for Address Correction Service. Were the printed-mark labels machine-marked in processing, perhaps part of "live" testing of automated label affixing? Perhaps a reader who is familiar with this aspect of auxiliary markings might shed further light for us. – Editor]





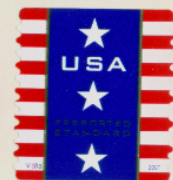
3535 T7 P1 \*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*C011

RONALD BLANKS  
OR CURRENT RESIDENT  
628 CHESAPEAKE RD  
CHESAPEAKE VA 23321



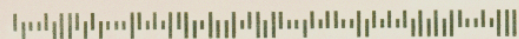
**One of many recent advertising mailings with a (10¢) Banner V333 PNC**

At the house one day in late July, I received the mailing shown above. Franked with a V333 PNC of the (10¢) Banner presort coil, it contained news of an “invitation-only” advance going-out-of-business sale for a small retail shop that dealt in sports memorabilia and sports trophies. I didn’t think anything of it, until a few days later I visited my PO box and found the exact same mailing (*below*) addressed to (*please see next page*)



12947 T27 P3 \*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*B003

RONALD BLANKS  
OR CURRENT RESIDENT  
PO BOX 9282  
CHESAPEAKE VA 23321-9282



(received  
July 26,  
2011)

# Membership Update

## New Applicants

Horst J. Balke (2189)  
585 ½ Willoughby St  
Grand Junction, CO 81504  
(970) 523-1292

John D. Earle, M.D. (2190)  
33 Tifton Way S  
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082-3320  
(904) 553-3112  
[jandsearle@gmail.com](mailto:jandsearle@gmail.com)

Glenn Beimesch (2191)  
3848 Idlebrook Ln  
Burlington, KY 41005  
(859) 586-5229  
[gbeimesch@fuse.net](mailto:gbeimesch@fuse.net)

Names of applicants are published for review. A member who questions the suitability of a prospective member should contact the Membership Committee c/o Robert Thompson with the objection (see page 134 for contacts). Applicants are accepted as members one month after publication if no objection is made.

## Mailing List Available

Rental of the club mailing list is available upon request. A one-time usage fee of \$50.00 includes preprinted address labels. Contact Harvey Wales, Secretary. Email: [hwales16@aol.com](mailto:hwales16@aol.com) or use his contact information given on page 134.



## Address Changing?



Change of Address forms and membership applications are available from Harvey Wales, Secretary, 13 Birmingham Place, Vernon Hills, IL 60061. Email: [hwales16@aol.com](mailto:hwales16@aol.com). Membership form is also on our website at: [www.pnc3.org](http://www.pnc3.org).

## Reinstated

Roland Austin (1980)

## Deceased

Raymond "Pat" Buse Jr. (423)  
Newtonville, OH

## Resigned

Mary Anne Lewis (848-L)

## Information Changes

Gerald Blankenship (587)  
[asppp134@verizon.net](mailto:asppp134@verizon.net)

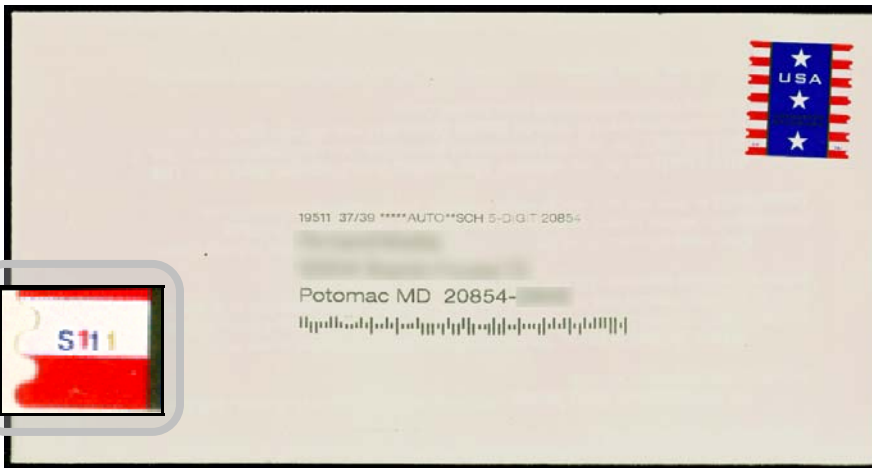
<b>Previous Membership Count</b>	<b>703</b>
<b>New Members</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Reinstated</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Deceased</b>	<b>(1)</b>
<b>Resigned</b>	<b>(1)</b>
<b>New Membership Count</b>	<b>705</b>

(from previous page) to the box number, with another V333 PNC! I thought that being on the same mailing list at two different addresses, and then receiving two mailpieces with the same PNC, was quite a coincidence. I noticed on the back that the mailing was from an outfit called "G. A. W." out of Denver, CO.

As you can see by consulting the Roll Size, etc. chart on page 141, the plate number interval for the (10¢) Banner self-adhesives from Avery (PNCs V111, V222, V333) is only ten. So, at first thought it's not surprising that there happened to be nine of my neighbors' addresses between my two addresses in the mailing list. But if you notice the "keyline" above the address on each cover, you will see the two pieces were far apart: The last characters "C011" above the street address indicates "carrier 11", while the "B003" above the box number address indicates "box unit 3". So at the least, the carrier-routed item was part of a tray that went to the delivery station, while the box-unit item was part of a tray that a clerk filed into (please see next page)

(from previous page) the post office boxes at the retail postal store. While I studied probability in college, I have to admit I am so rusty now on the subject that this becomes just a guess. But I believe the odds of receiving a V333 PNC on both mailpieces is no better than one out of 100 (1 in 10 for one mailpiece by the plate number interval, times the same odds for a second mailpiece in another random place in the mailing, given a total large number of addresses of both types.)

Within a few days of the above coincidence, I was examining a batch of direct-mail covers received in trade from a fellow collector and came across the cover shown below, *left*. It looks almost exactly like the previous two covers, except this one has a Sennett (10¢) Banner presort self-adhesive coil with S111 PNC affixed. I turned it over and found it was from the same “G. A. W.” of Denver, and interestingly it held some content that might indicate a mailing date.

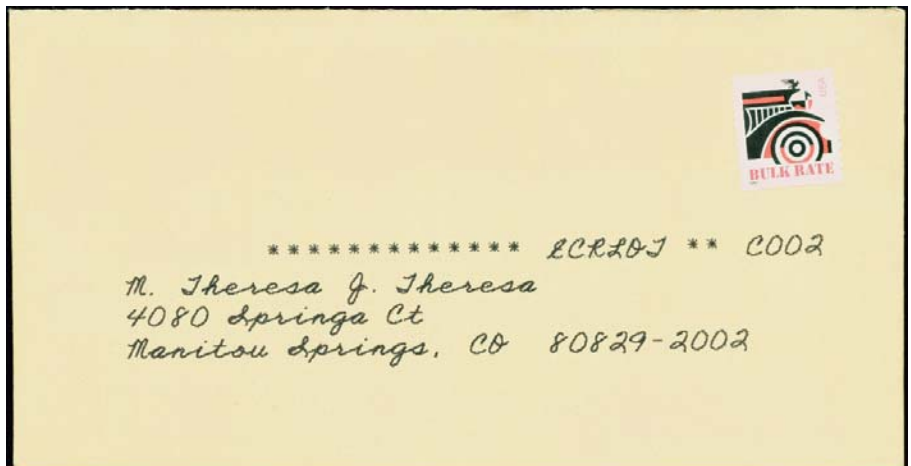


Indeed, it also contained a “going out of business” announcement, this time from a local retail shop self-described as “importers of fine French antiques.” Based on the sale dates given, I date the mailing as being received on or near Thursday, September 3, 2008.

These covers give a picture of an enterprising “mailing house” that apparently provides clients, at competitive prices, turnkey advertising mailings such as these “advance sale” notices described.

### A September 2008 ad mailing with (10¢) Banner S111 PNC

Now consider the cover I stumbled upon (shown at right) the same week I was preparing the previous material for this article. Affixed to it is an unnumbered water-activated-gum (10¢) Auto (large-date 1995). There was something familiar about it (size, color, showing only a stamp and address on front). I turned it over hoping for a mailing-date clue, which I did not find. However, the flap did have a return address (shown below, *top*). It is similar to the one printed on the flaps of the three Banner covers (below, *bottom*).



### A mailing similar to those shown previously, circa 1995 - 1999

G.A.W. - P.O. Box 7661 - Denver, CO 80207-7661

G.A.W. - P.O. Box 17188 - Denver, CO 80217-9725

These covers have the makings of a nice exhibit on commerce and its direct-mail uses. PNCs would add a nice cachet to those examples tracked down, especially if “tied” to the covers some way by postmarks or errant codes. Do readers have such examples to share?

# Classified Ads

**WANTED TO BUY** – Sealed Coils of 500, and 3000. From the 1c Kestrel to \$1 Seaplane – What do you have? No pre-1981 issues please. Michael Mules, PO Box 270252, Milwaukee, WI 53227 or email [stampbuyer@wi.rr.com](mailto:stampbuyer@wi.rr.com). Member 1289

\* \* \*

**PNC used singles**, used strips, MNH PS5s. Great prices! Guaranteed quality! No hassles! Visit <http://www.angelfire.com/ca5/HimesPNCs> or send LSASE for lists to John Himes, PO Box 453, Cypress, CA 90630-0453. Please specify what you collect. Or e-mail [johnwhimes@yahoo.com](mailto:johnwhimes@yahoo.com). Member 957L

### *Coil Topics Index this issue...*

(Forever) Flags of Our Nation, Set 5's PNC.....	135
20¢ Flag #1 PNC untagged on-cover.....	137
29¢ Herbs Catalog Corner.....	140
20¢ Flag #5 #-on-top mis-cut, imperforate.....	142
18¢ Surrey #11 on undated parcel wrapper.....	147
44¢ Flag "bell" die cut on-cover.....	148

**CLASSIFIED AD** rates are 6¢ per word, with a minimum cost of \$3.00 per insertion.

**PNC<sup>3</sup> members** are entitled to two free 50-word ads per year. (There is a 10¢ charge for each word over 50 with free ads.) Contact the editor to place an ad.

### Display Advertising Rates

#### PNC<sup>3</sup> Coil Line

• Full Page	\$ 100.00
• Half Page	\$ 80.00
• Third Page	\$ 65.00
• Quarter Page	\$ 45.00
• Sixth Page	\$ 35.00
• Eighth Page	\$ 20.00
• Back Cover	Add \$ 50.00
• Inside Cover	Add \$ 25.00
• Color Ad ( <i>for full page</i> )	Add \$ 100.00
• Color Ad - Electronic Version	Add \$ 25.00

(Discounts available for multiple insertions.)

## 18¢ Surrey PNC on Parcel Wrapper by Ron Blanks

Bulk-rate or standard presort rate envelopes are not the only items without postmark dates that might carry PNCs. A large image on the next page is of a Parcel Post wrapper with long strips of 18¢ Surrey coils but no cancel, sent from a hobby dealer to a collector. The lack of postmark is surprising in light of the above-minimum insurance obtained for the mailing. A careful look shows that the last Surrey in the top strip is a PNC of plate 11, so this might be interesting postal history if the mailing date can be established. Is there enough information to do that?

To proceed, one must assume the stamps affixed pay exactly the postage and fees involved (here, \$4.09). Below is an excerpt of a spreadsheet I made to show the options involved with the few facts at hand. The left side shows the Insurance fees in effect for the 1981 (from March 22) and 1985 (from Feb. 17) rate eras. The right side used math to subtract the insurance fees from \$4.09 to yield the postage portions available to meet a Parcel Post rate.

Only one 1981-era rate (\$2.84) matches, but for a weight that seems too high (22-23 lbs.). For 1985 rates, just two weight/zone entries match. We can no longer ignore the zone, so a lookup with the ZIP codes shows Zone 4 rates apply. The February 17, 1985 rates

ended on April 3, 1988, so the parcel was likely mailed between those dates and weighed between four and five pounds.

Insurance (numbered)	1981		1985		cost avail. after insurance		
	1981	1985	1981	1985	1985	Zones 1,2	Zone 4
	\$0.85	\$1.10	\$3.24	\$2.99			
(>\$50-\$100)	\$1.25	\$1.40	\$2.84 (22<23 lbs)	\$2.69			
	\$1.70 (>\$100-\$150)	\$1.80	\$2.39	\$2.29			(4<5 lbs)
	\$2.05 (>\$150-\$200)	\$2.10	\$2.04	\$1.99		(8<9 lbs)	
	\$3.45	\$3.00	\$0.64	\$1.09			
	\$4.70	\$3.70	-\$0.61	\$0.39			
		\$4.40		-\$0.31			

(given postage = \$4.09)      > rate doesn't exist

**Worksheet of postage & fee rate choices**



Undated Parcel Post wrapper with 18¢ Surrey #11 PNC (story on previous page)

## On-Cover 44¢ Flag with Die-Cut “Bell”

by Ron Blanks

Die-cut misalignments of self-adhesive coils haven't been discussed much in recent issues, and rarely are ones on-cover shown because they are usually impossible to see against white envelope paper. Many months ago, PNC<sup>3</sup> member Tom Babb sent in a cover with a 44¢ Flag produced by Avery that shows a full “bell” (a shape of the transition area along the vertical die cutting from one stamp row to another row above or below).

Acting on a tip from Doug Iams about positioning along the line of a scanner's light, I made two scans to get light towards each die-cut side. I then tried some contrast editing and made a composite image (right). It worked this time. At upper left a bell shape can be seen (at top is a valley that is supposed to be the last one for the stamp from the row above). Likewise, a bell at upper right has a peak that belongs to the row above it.



Die cutting misaligned downward in relation to stamp design