

Ballot for 2014 PNC³ Election

The May issue of *Coil Line* and this issue have announcements of the candidates for elected office and members-at-large for the coming term. Please indicate your preferences below and return the ballot to the attention of the Ballot Committee chair, Melvyn Borofsky, whose address is given below.

Your ballot must be postmarked no later than July 1, 2014, and **MUST INCLUDE YOUR MEMBER NUMBER** on the outside of the envelope, in the return address space, along with your name and address.

For PRESIDENT: Robert Thompson _____

For VICE PRESIDENT: Michael Mules _____
(select **one**)

Lynette Wood _____

For SECRETARY: Richard Beecher _____

For TREASURER: John Himes _____

For MEMBER AT LARGE (select **two**):

Jill Ambrose _____

Melvyn Borofsky _____

Andrew Jakes _____

Thomas McFarland _____

Return ballot (by July 1, 2014) to:

Melvyn Borofsky
101 West Sterling Way
Leesburg, FL 34788

Our 27th Year

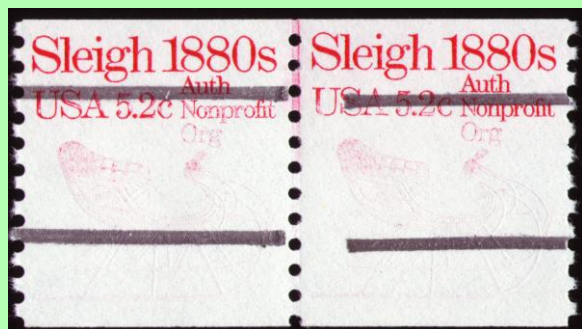
PNC³



Coil Line

Journal of the PNC³ www.pnc3.org
Plate Number Coil Collectors Club
American Philatelic Society Affiliate # 185

June 2014
Vol. 27, No. 6
Whole No. 312



**Ink
starvation
on 5.2¢
Sleighs...
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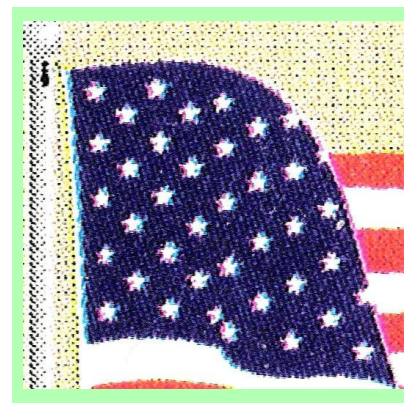
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on top"
PNCs...
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**Suspicious...
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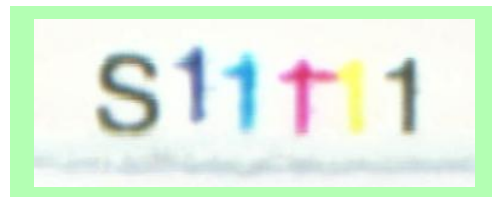
**100% number on top,
installation 9...
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- Red, White & Blue first-day report... *page 76*
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- Catalog Corner: 34¢ Hummingbird... *page 81*



Coil Line

Journal of the Plate Number
Coil Collectors Club (PNC³)

Published by: PNC³
ISSN: 1931-5112



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Scott #2529C plate # S111
(issued June 25, 1994 - 20 years ago)

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

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A check or money order, made out to **PNC³**, must accompany camera ready ad. Advertising copy must be submitted by the 1st of the previous month prior to the publication date. Please send all copy to Ronald Blanks, Coil Line Editor, PO Box 531, Windsor, VA 23487.

The Classified Ad rates are 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.

Coil Line is published monthly and as a member benefit is sent electronically with annual dues of \$16.00. Printed version of **Coil Line** is also available. To U.S. addresses, to receive printed version add \$14.00 for Bulk Mailing; add \$22.00 for First Class Mailing. To Non-USA addresses, add \$27.00 for mailing. Past print issues of **Coil Line** available at \$2.50 per copy (quantities limited).

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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 531, Windsor, VA 23487. Phone 757-478-8719; email: coilineditor@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: snippenb@gmail.com. Phone: 505-404-1624.
Mailed from Zip Code 87185 on or near May 28, 2014.

Elected Officers

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President's Message

from the PNC³ president ...

The ballot for this year's elections is found in this issue. Please fill it out now and mail it to Mel Borofsky, Elections Committee Chair, while you are thinking about it. Mailing instructions are on the ballot. Please be aware that, in order to be counted, the outside envelope must contain your membership number next to your return address, and be post-marked by June 30. If you can't find your membership number, contact either Harvey Wales, John Himes, or myself (contact info on previous page). The ballots will be counted in early July and results of the election published in the August issue.

New officers and Board members begin their terms in September. Terms are for two years, and officers are limited to two consecutive terms in the same office.

IMPORTANT: Please see the explanation about the ballot and the biographical sketch included in this issue on pages 77 and 82. My sincere apologies to Michael Mules and the membership for a huge error I made in submitting the bio sketches last month. I left out the bio of Michael Mules who is running for Vice President. See the more detailed note.

Although we have not publicly announced this before, I want all members who receive a printed *Coil Line* to know that they may also receive the electronic edition at no extra cost. All that is needed is a request to the Treasurer (currently, John Himes) to include your name and current e-mail address on the electronic distribution list, and you will receive the next issue of *Coil Line* in electronic format.

There are a couple of benefits to having electronic delivery. First, for those members used to looking at black and white images, the availability of color throughout the publication will enhance your viewing pleasure. In many cases, a detail in an image is not clear unless viewed in color. Your Editor tries to provide such images on the front or rear page so that color is present in the print edition, but it is not always possible to do so (and for some images, the printed page loses detail that remains visible in the electronic version). Second, the electronic edition is available in a more timely fashion, as it is not necessary to await mail delivery.

— Gene Trinks

Welcome!



If you are a new reader to *Coil Line*, PNC³ is in our 27th year. We are a community of stamp collectors specializing in plate numbered coil issues of the USA. The first PNCs were issued in 1981 and, in February 1988, a network of PNC specialists founded our club. *Coil Line* was launched in May, 1988 and serves (along with other club literature) to inform collectors on the many aspects of PNCs. Studies include scarce numbers, varieties, printing methods, market values, PNCs on mail, and more. Thank you for visiting, and we hope you'll join us!

PNC³ Regional Meetings

(no meeting notices received for this issue)

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

(PNC³ meeting notices in this column are free. Please submit details to the Editor 3 months before the meeting.)



The 19¢ Fishing Boat shown on preceding page is the *third* issued variety, noted by one rope loop on the post. It followed two types of the initial design with two loops (*above*). The first type (Scott 2529) was issued in 1991, with PNCs A1111 (*left image*) to A2424. In 1993 a version was released with a finer-dot image pattern (Scott 2529a), with PNCs A5555, A5556 (*right*), and higher.



First Day Issue at Westpex

There was a First Day of Issue ceremony at Westpex (April 25th in San Francisco) for the <49¢> Red, White & Blue coil issue, with a locally produced ceremony program (different from the bland generic ones that the USPS order fulfillment center in the Kansas City caves sells). Although the show opened at 10 a.m., they wouldn't sell the stamps until the ceremony in the afternoon. I was allowed to peek at the roll and found that the back numbers were split evenly behind two stamps at that end of the roll.

One of the first people in line after the ceremony wanted to buy the whole roll of 10K, but they only had the one roll and he was limited to 1,000. Because the back numbers were split between two stamps, the clerks were afraid to use them and instead proceeded to count out the stamps by hand. Luckily someone convinced them to count 100 and cut them off and use them as a ruler.

The next day, I checked the roll again and the back numbers were again split between two stamps. But one of the clerks told me that at one point they did wander back behind one stamp and one person did get a number-on-number strip (although I am uncertain if the number was entirely behind the PNC stamp or partly behind a second one). These wandering back numbers seem to be a real problem for CCL as they had the same problem with both versions of the Ferns. — Doug Iams

Plymouth, Michigan Show

PNC³ Regional Meeting Report

The annual Plymouth Show PNC³ Regional Meeting was held at 2:15 p.m. at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland, Michigan on Saturday, April 26th, and hosted by Jill Ambrose.

This is the third year that we have been meeting at the Hellenic Cultural Center. For years before that, we met regularly at the Plymouth Middle School.

The attendance was about the same as in recent years, with nine members and one guest present. Members attending were Ed Acker, Jill Ambrose, Rick Jackson, Ed Kroy, Jim LaPlante, Joanne Lenz, Will MacDonald, Michael Sanders, and Carol and Frank Sandor.

The meeting started off with introductions and a discussion of current postage issues and how to collect them. There was also a discussion of “peaks” and “valleys” that resulted in a couple of members getting together after the meeting for a detailed analysis of some peak-valley/valley-peak stamps.

Jill introduced a plan for an additional new format on the club catalogs and the possibility of providing printed copies of out-of-print catalog sections and bound volumes of *Coil Line*.

When door prizes were awarded towards the end of the meeting, Jim LaPlante received first pick. He chose a counterfeit booklet pane donated by Jill Ambrose, which has a Scott catalog value of \$425.00. Other door prizes were from the club, including out-of-date catalog sections, the 41¢ Beautiful Blooms First Day Ceremony program and a Membership Pin. Everyone in attendance went home with something.

All in all, it was a good gathering, and it was nice to see everyone again. — Jill R. Ambrose

Unfolded Strips of 100 Update



USPS Item #s for Recent Large-Roll Coils (*strips-100*)

- 49¢ Ferns (3K) **790005**
- 49¢ Ferns (10K) **790805**
- <49¢> Ferns (10K) **777305**
- <49¢> Red-White-Blue (10K) **776505**

Elections 2014: Candidates for PNC³ Offices

(continued from May)

Current officers, with the exception of John Himes (Treasurer), are term limited, having served two terms in the same position, and must be replaced. There are two rival candidates for Vice President (Michael Mules – see below, and Lynette Wood – see May issue, page 63). Also consider **two** ballot choices among the four candidates for the two Member-at-Large positions.

Please consult the May issue and below in filling your ballot, found on the wrapper of this issue.

Michael Mules – Candidate for Vice President

I am a life member of PNC3, and joined in 1997. I have served the PNC3 as Treasurer and currently serve on the board as a Member-at-large. I would be honored to serve the PNC3 in the role of Vice-President. I am active in local stamp groups, and serve as the Vice President of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs. I received the Nicholas G. Carter Outstanding Young Adult Philatelist Award for 2013. This is awarded by the APS for service to the hobby. I collect mint plate number strips of 5, Precancel Gaps, Honeybee Seam Lines, and Errors. When I'm not collecting stamps, I reside in Mukwonago, WI with my bride Jennifer. To pay for my philatelic acquisitions, I am a Regional Sales Manager for Lipari Foods.

“No Number” PNCs

Dan Forgues



(image courtesy Mark Schultz)

“No number” plate number coils can come from the top row of coils printed on the Cottrell press (as well as other presses) and mis-slit so that no part of a plate number shows at the bottom.

In the case of the Cottrell press, it produced a vertical joint line of ink at the right edge of the stamp with the plate number. A no-number Cottrell press-produced single would have to show part of the joint line on the right edge and be miscut with no part of a plate number on the bottom or the top.

In the case of a slight mis-registration during perforating, a no-number Cottrell press-produced strip is possible without any of the joint line printed on the stamp with the plate number (*similar to strip above*). On a strip, the joint line could be printed 100% to the right of the perforations (thus found at the left edge of the stamp to the right of the plate number stamp). A no-number single might have come from this kind of strip, but we would not normally be able to identify it as such in the absence of the telltale joint line.

The accompanying scans (*below*) show five no-number singles I have in my collection.



Startling examples of extensive ink starvation have surfaced of the precanceled 5.2¢ Sleigh coil stamp from the Transportation Series. The lack of red ink in the lower half of the stamps makes the printed impression of the sleigh—the main part of the stamp design—difficult to see. The top half of the lettering on the stamps (“Sleigh 1880s”) is fully inked and legible. However, the lower half of the lettering (“USA 5.2¢ Nonprofit Org.”) was printed in varying amounts of ink, which makes some of the letters appear hollow and light. The top and bottom bars of the overprinted precancel appear gray-black, but evenly inked.

Ink starvation varieties occur when the ink supply is somehow interrupted from reaching the printing surface. This can happen for several reasons. The most common ink starvations occur when the ink trough (or “ink fountain”), which is manually filled by the press operators, becomes empty; or a blockage in the ink supply line prevents ink from reaching the printing surface. An ink starvation variety differs from a color-omitted error because ink starvation varieties show some presence of the ink color on the stamp. In contrast, color omitted errors must not show any trace—not even a dot—of the omitted ink color. As shown in the images of these precanceled 5.2¢ Sleigh stamps affected by the ink starvation, this type of variety can cause notable differences in the appearance of the printed stamp image.



Figure 1. Precanceled pair of 5.2¢ Sleigh with extensive ink starvation (left) and tagged pair showing the full design (right).

The precanceled 5.2¢ Sleigh coil stamp was originally issued on March 21, 1983, to meet the third-class basic presort rate for qualified nonprofit bulk mailers. It was produced in rolls of 500 and 3,000 stamps. A tagged version without the precancel, which was only produced in 500-stamp rolls, was also issued on the same day. The tagged version met no postal rate and was issued solely for stamp collectors. Both versions were withdrawn from philatelic sale on June 30, 1985.

The precanceled 5.2¢ Sleigh coil stamps were produced by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) using a single-color intaglio printing process on a Cottrell press. The stamps were printed in red ink and overprinted with two horizontal thick lines of black ink (or “bars”) to precancel the stamps. The precancel was applied using a configuration of four hard rubber mats (arranged 2 x 2) on a roller at the last station of the Cottrell press.

In total, 24 stamps with the ink starvation were purchased by the author in September 2012 from a single source in the following strip lengths:

- 2 pairs
- 2 strips of 3 stamps
- 1 strip of 6 stamps
- 1 joint line pair
- 1 strip of 6 stamps with the joint line at the center row of perforations

(please see next page)

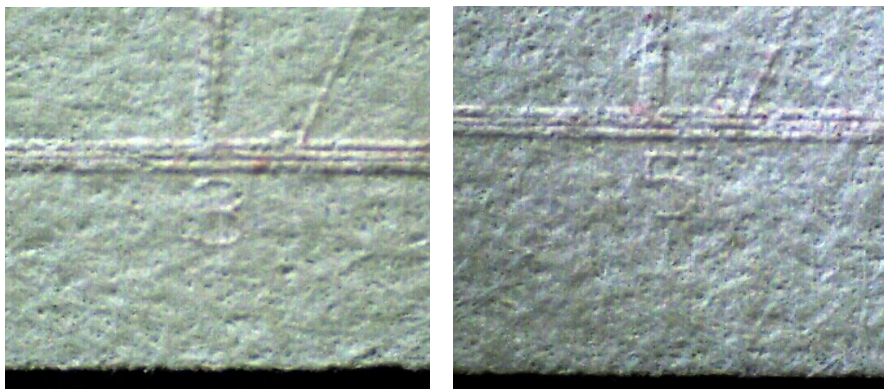
The pair and the strip of six stamps that have the joint lines also show an embossed impression of the plate number that identifies the curved, semi-cylindrical printing plates that were paired to print these specific stamps. A “joint line” is a line of ink color that runs along a row of perforations between two stamps. It is a characteristic of stamps printed on the single-color Cottrell presses. The line of ink is result of ink collecting at the narrow space where the edges of the two semi-cylindrical printing plates meet and then being transferred to the paper web as the stamp images are printed.



Figure 2. Line pair with embossed plate number 3 at bottom of left stamp (top) and strip of six stamps with joint line at center and embossed plate number 5 at the bottom of the stamp to the left of the joint line.

With examination under magnification and a low-angle light source, the plate numbers are visible as 3 for the joint line pair and 5 on the strip of 6 stamps with the joint line in the center of the strip. Plate 3 of the 5.2¢ Sleigh was only paired with plate 5. The plate numbers alternated through rolls at an interval of 24 stamps.

Figure 3. Enlargements of the under-inked, embossed plate number 3 (left image) and plate number 5 (right image) from the pair and strip shown in Figure 2.



As an added bonus on this pair and strip of six precanceled 5.2¢ Sleigh stamps that have the embossed plate numbers, the precancel gap is located at the line of perforations where the joint line was printed. A precancel gap falling on this location is referred to as a “line gap.” A line gap position for plates 3 and 5 from the precanceled 5.2¢ Sleigh coil stamp is scarce.

The author is interested in hearing from other collectors who have found ink starvation varieties on other Transportation Series coil stamps. Richard.Nazar@USAstamps.com

Readers' Forum



Mixed soaking results for a 2012 self-adhesive. I do not know if anyone else has noticed or mentioned this, but after trying to soak the <45¢> Forever Freedom Flag S22222 PNC and later Sennett Security Product (SSP) issues, they don't seem to come loose in water at all. The S11111 Freedom soaked off rather easily after 20 minutes, but all later ones have either ended up as "onion skin" stamps or had most of the envelope paper still attached. I also noticed that the 45¢ Weathervanes exhibit the same qualities; maybe they were printed on two different papers? — Jeff Fiszbein #1148

[Doug Iams comments: They are only supposed to change plate numbers these days when they change something in production, so the change to S22222 on the Forever Freedom could have been a reflection of a change in paper.]

USPS greed? In the May issue, Bob Rabinowitz wrote, "Maybe I'm paranoid, but I do think the tendency these days to print multiple design issues (like all five of the recent first class stamps) involves the same mentality that brought us the 'biggies' [jumbo plate blocks] 40+ years ago."

The Flags of our Nation coil issues were released with collectors in mind, although they did so

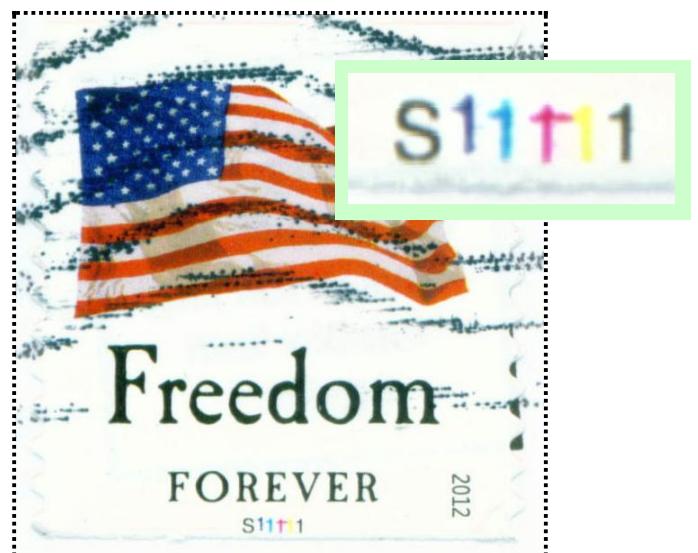
much too late to take advantage of any tie-in with the U.S. Mint's popular State Quarters program. Apart from that, the multi-design issues they have been giving us on the large-roll issues are strictly an attempt to please the large mailers who have been requesting more designs. And I'm sure that mentality has simply spilled over into the small-roll issues. In their mind they are mail-use stamps, not collectable stamps.

There are plenty of intentional excesses in the stamp program aimed at collectors' wallets, but I don't think this is one of them. But I do wish they would keep the number of designs to no more than 3 to keep the strips from being too long – that is more of an issue to me than the cost of a few extra stamps in the strips.

The differences in the latest four designs (Red, White, & Blue) are subtle enough that I didn't even notice that they were different, and someone else had the same comment. There is no way the general public is going to notice that there are four different designs when they get them one at a time weeks apart on their advertising mail, assuming they get enough to even see more than one of them. (I suspect the same might be true for the 46¢ Kaleidoscope Flowers which differ only in the mix of colors). So much for the idea of pleasing the large mailers with a variety of designs. — Doug Iams #625

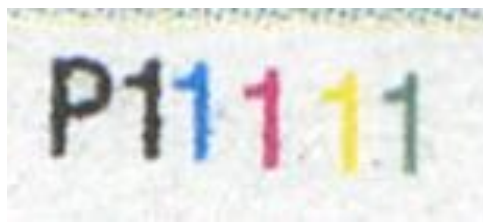
PNC digit gains crossbar. Speaking of SSP-produced <45¢> Forever Flags, member Cerel Fritz, Jr. mailed in an interesting inking oddity involving an S11111 PNC example, shown below.

(please see page 84)



Catalog Corner

Frank Covey

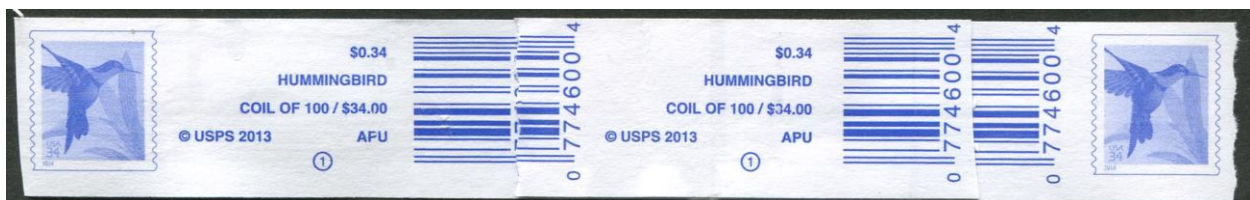
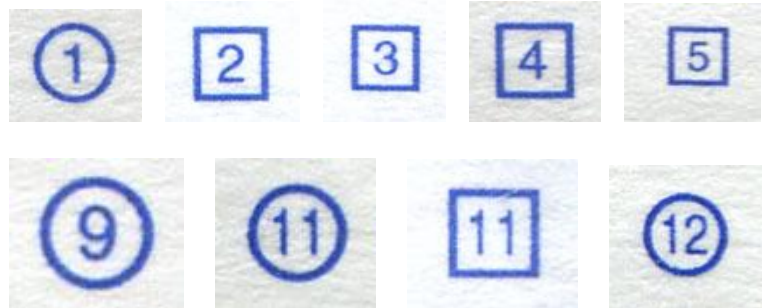


34¢ Hummingbird (AP)
(self-adhesive)
P11111
PNC ID 2014-5

The **34¢ Hummingbird** from **Ashton-Potter** had a release date of February 7, 2014, but these were not available until later in the month (and by March some post offices still did not have them). The 34¢ Hummingbird comes in shrink-wrapped coil rolls of 100 and pays the new postcard rate that went into effect January 26, 2014.

The **P11111** plate number shown to the left repeats **every 31** stamps along the roll. Most collectors will save this as a PS5 (plate strip of 5) with the plate numbered stamp in the middle of the strip. In April, a second plate number **P22222** was found in rolls.

The wrapper on this issue will be an item of interest to collectors. In the past, Ashton-Potter used various small symbols such as a star or open rectangle on wrappers. This issue has numbers from 1 through 12 inside of a box or circle printed on the wrapper, making 24 different collectable wrappers. See below for several examples of these numbers and examples of the wrapper.



Here's something interesting. Not so long ago I was having a conversation with another member over the 8.3¢ Ambulance (Cottrell-press issue, Scott 2128, 2128a), specifically having to do with #-on-top. I'm sure most of you are familiar with the plate #1 miscut where the #1 can occur at both the top and bottom of a single stamp. (See Figure 1.)



Figure 1. 8.3¢ Ambulance from row 2.
(Bar added to compare with Figure 2.)

This is due in part to an engraver's goof where the #1 from the first row of the web was incorrectly engraved about 1mm down (lower than it should have been) *and* 1mm to the right. And this misplaced #1 from the top row made it particularly tricky to slit and separate rows 1 and 2 into coils so that part or all of the #1 from the top row didn't end up on the top of row 2 coils, or that the #1 correctly engraved from row 2 didn't become sliced and diced in some way.

I have a couple of these “#-on-top & bottom”

strips and had been considering them as part of the 100%-on-top Census. Not so, said my PNC³ friend, with the conversation continuing something like this:

“But the plate number is printed on top!”

“Yes, but it's a misplaced plate number.”

“But I can see it right there! The whole thing is on top of the strip!!”

“Yes, but it's not in the right place. It's misplaced down and to the right.”

“So you're saying it is not #-on-top?!?”

“Right. To be a true #-on-top it would have to have been printed in the correct position and then mis-slit like all the other #-on-top you have.”

Exasperated I pulled out another, precanceled strip with a single #1 on-top and said, “Like this?”

“Well... huh?... I've never seen one of these. That #1 is in the right place!” (See Figure 2.)

(please see page 84)



Figure 2. “True” #1-on-top, Scott 2128a.
(Bar added at same size, position as Figure 1.)

★ ERROR IN LIST OF PNC³ BOARD CANDIDATES ★

There was a most unfortunate error in last month's *Coil Line* in regard to the list of candidates for office in the coming term. I inadvertently left out the mention of Michael Mules as a candidate for Vice President. In that President's column I mentioned that all candidates for officer positions were running unopposed. This is incorrect, as Michael had requested some months ago to be listed as a candidate for VP, and somehow I lost track of his request. So, please keep in mind we have two candidates for this position, and you must vote for either Lynette Wood (see bio in May Coil Line) or Michael Mules (bio elsewhere in this month's edition). Both are well qualified to serve in this capacity and we will welcome the successful candidate to the Board for the new term.

– Gene Trinks

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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. Member 957L

* * *

Jill Ambrose, Member #425. Two terms as President, Two terms as Past President, 20+ years as Web-Master, Current Web-Content-Mistress, Current Catalog Committee member. Please vote for me for an "At Large" position on the PNC³ Board. Thanks!!!!

* * *

CLASSIFIED AD rates are 6¢ per word, with a minimum cost of \$3.00 per insertion. **PNC³ 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 (see page 74).

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 or see page 74 for more contact methods.

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The Current Plate Numbers, Roll Sizes chart will return in a future issue.

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Membership Update

New Applicants

Abraham Beder (2246)
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Names of applicants are published for review. A member who questions the suitability of a prospective member should contact the Membership Committee Chair Michael Conway with the objection (mjconway@hotmail.com or (203)268-5896.) Applicants are accepted as members one month after notice if no objection is made.

Reinstated

Milton L. Maas (498)

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|---|------------|
| Previous Membership Count | 510 |
| New Applicants | 2 |
| Reinstated | 1 |
| PNC³ Membership Count | 513 |

Did you catch the calendar error in May's issue? For the 7.1¢ Tractor's re-issue (page 58), the math was right but not the year: "1984" should be 1989.



More counterfeits. I saw the article in last month's *Coil Line*, "More Counterfeits Found to Mimic Coil Issues" by Robert E. Thompson. I have these three examples of the undenominated (41¢) Flag to share. Note that all have different diecuts and two have a dot-like pattern in the background.

I remember the previous report of a "PNC" counterfeit of this issue (March 2013 *Coil Line*). At that time I only had acquired the one with the magic marker cancel. I have since found the other two in recent mixes. It is interesting how dissimilar they are; makes you wonder how many different enterprises are into printing counterfeit stamps...

– Jeff Fiszbein #1148



A close-ups study of counterfeit (41¢) Flag coils, apparently from three different sources.
(At top, no micro-printing but dots in red stripes; at right, solid background.)

At which point we put our heads together and came up with an appended nomenclature for these Ambulances. One that includes *misplaced* #-on-top and *true* #-on-top. The top-&-bottom (misplaced) variety is from row 2 of the printed web, and the true version (with only the one number on-top) is necessarily from rows 3 through 18.

I point out that, thus far, true and misplaced #1s have been found only on precanceled Ambulances: true #-on-top with gaps at position 2L (second column of perforations to the left of the numbered coil), and 0L (or, gap at the joint line); misplaced (top-&-bottom) at 0L only. No true #1-on-top is yet known in the phosphor-tagged variety.



Figure 3. Precancel counterpart to Figure 1.

And now I need to hear from you if you have any of these Ambulance miscuts. The true #-on-top are relatively easy to spot because the #1-on-top lines up over the "n" in Ambulance (and the misplaced #1 over the "c"). There are probably more gaps available for either true or misplaced #-on-top. And there might be a tagged true #1-on-top. Get your rulers out or send me some scans. Keep 'em coming, folks, and please contact me with information, questions and scans at: Mark Schultz, 1002 Wisteria Trail, Austin, TX 78753, mschultz@jomarpress.com.

