

Our 27th Year

PNC³



Coil Line

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

September 2014
Vol. 27, No. 9
Whole No. 315



▲ Hopping about... *page 113*



▲ Here come the flags...
page 115



FDC research query... *page 114* ►

Overlooked... on several occasions... *page 116* ►

What joined these coils on a 1992 political mailing?... *page 120* ▼



Another misalignment...
page 113 ►



Also...

- SESCAL regional meeting... *page 112*
- At press-time: new plate #... *page 115*
- Catalog Corner: <49¢> Ferns... *page 117*
- Current Plate #s, Roll Sizes chart... *page 118*

Coil Line

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Coil Collectors Club (PNC³)*

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Scott #2123 plate # 2
(issued June 8, 1985)

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see column at left for appropriate contact.)

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For mail delivery problems, contact the mailer below.

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President's Message

Welcome!



from the PNC³ president ...

Before I get started, I'd like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to Gene Trinks and the rest of the Board for all of their hard work and support over the years. I never realized how much time goes into running the club business. Anything from emails, to meetings, to votes and phone calls. I know at times to the board members it seems a thankless job, but I wanted to let you know that I do appreciate it. We wouldn't have a club as successful as it is, if it weren't for all of their efforts.

I want to welcome the new faces we are going to have on the board, beginning September 1. We will also have some familiar faces returning this year. I look forward to working with all of you over the next two years.

In addition to the new board, we have over ten Committee Chairs ranging from the "Auctioneer" to the "Web Master." It is obvious what some of the committees do for the club on a regular basis, between the regular auctions and updates to the web pages. There are others that are not as visible, but still just as important. Some of these positions are currently open, so if you have any interest in helping out, please let me know.

Probably one of the most active committees is the "Catalog Committee," which is responsible for the PNC³ Catalog and the values list. They are always looking for help on upcoming editions.

I sit here writing this column just three days before the APS StampShow begins in Hartford, Connecticut (August 21-24). I hope to see many of you at stamp shows and club meetings this year and next. For any of you that aren't able to make it, or that might have a concern, please feel free to drop me a note regarding a comment or criticism. Any input is appreciated.

— Robert E. Thompson



Closeup of plate number on 33¢ Apple (on postcard of June 27, 2014, shown at right, above).

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!

33¢ Apples Hang Around a Little Longer



"Forever" stamps have been available for one-ounce first class letters for seven years now, so it is interesting to note the situations where "makeup" postage is still used. Here are business examples of late use of the 33¢ Apples postcard rate coil.

The postcard shown above was canceled this past June 27. The 33¢ turned out to have a plate number (shown at lower-left). Another postcard was canceled August 2, partly shown below. With normal viewing, the lower-right edge of the 33¢ coil appears to show a *(please see page 112)*



PNC³ Regional Meetings

SESCAL – Los Angeles October 18, 2014

PNC³ club members will be meeting at 12:00 noon on Saturday, October 18, 2014 at the SESCAL 2014 Stamp Exhibition. This is a wonderful get-together for those of us who live in the Los Angeles area or for those who will be traveling to the show. SESCAL will be taking place at The Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel, 5711 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045, phone (310) 410-4000. The Exhibition will be held from Friday through Sunday, October 17-19.

The PNC³ meeting will be hosted by club members Dan Forgues 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, including the premier presentation of Dr. John Greenwood's talk on imperforate PNCs, another informative talk by Dan Forgues, and a couple of interesting demonstrations by John Himes on modern collecting methods. There will also be plenty of time for club members to ask questions about their PNCs, as well as time for trading extra material at the end of the meeting.

The meeting will be held in the Newport C room of the hotel. Visitors to the meeting are always welcome. Admission is free, and a special parking rate of \$8.00 is available to show attendees. Full information on the show is available at 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

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

Editor's Message

It's hard to believe that Labor Day is just two weekends away. It seems this year is just flying by.

In the "feast or famine" department, it's been mostly feasting as far as finding interesting uses of coils on political mailings this year. You might recall that last issue showed first-class mail examples that should have been postmarked, but weren't. And it was noted that the disappointment could have been worse had any of the coils sported plate numbers.

In reviewing a stack of similar mailpieces I thought had yet to be shown, I noticed two with plate-numbered coils mailed early this year and assigned them to "Direct Mail Sightings" for this issue. It turns out that one of them was already shown last month, but unrecognized as bearing a plate numbered coil.

This mixup of what has a PNC and what doesn't reminds me to mention a new policy recently started for *Coil Line*. To keep content more interesting we are trying to minimize space that previously would be taken by showing covers in their entirety. In cases where seeing an entire cover does not add information, we will usually show only the postage area so space is available for better closeups.

In preparing for this issue, I reviewed the 20-year-old September 1994 *Coil Line* to see if any content deserved to be brought into the digital age (so future searches could easily find it). It turns out that issue has a fascinating item from the 1992 elections. That story is on the back page.

Len Piskiewicz, who shared the above item with us, is editor of *The United States Specialist*, monthly journal of the United States Stamp Society. I thank Len for taking time out of his busy schedule and promptly answering my inquiries. – Ron Blanks

(from page 111, 33¢ Apples)



misaligned die cut. It looks like the row separator shape of an Ashton Potter pattern (seen in *Readers' Forum*). (Only Sennett made the coils.) Magnified, the anomaly seems like an end-of-roll cut at a very slight diagonal that only clipped this part. The manipulated image here might show this in print.

Readers' Forum



Plate number closeups of front page's "E" coils

“Jumping jack” black ink on (25¢) “E” 2222. I just found this hopping “2” digit on a used “E” coil in a mixture (*closeup shown above, along with a normal example*). Note the black 2 not only is displaced very high in relation to the other plate number digits, but it is also shifted to the right. As the black color is only on the “earth” part of the design (*shown on front page*), the positioning does not do that much to distort the image, though.

– Jeff Fiszbein #1148

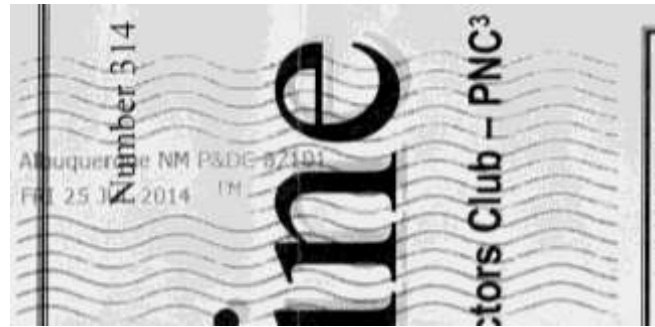
Missing “Reporting the Rarities”... I have not seen an update lately on the rarer PNCs. I have a question, though, regarding the 18¢ Flag with plate number 6. It always seemed to me that the retail price or market value of this stamp was high compared to the actual number that are in collections. Has anyone taken a census on them? It seems to me the scarcer numbers on the rarities list are much rarer, yet the 18¢ Flag #6 has a higher catalog value than the tough 37¢ Egrets and 32¢ Flag over Porches.

– Jeff Fiszbein #1148

First-class service for standard mail. I noticed your editorial in the August issue mention a potential delivery delay to first-class mailing for *Coil Line*. I get printed copy by bulk mail. To show how fast it is, I’m enclosing the August *Coil Line* cover sheet, apparently mailed Friday [July 25] from Albuquerque, NM. My copy was received in Pennsylvania today 28th July, the next Monday. Give me bulk mailing every time. Much improvement from our last mailing city. Still the same USPS, though.

– Ed Wigger, Jr. #188

[To clarify, a potential delay was raised in regard to mailing at our end due to last-minute news. Even though the copy’s cover was franked with a (10¢) Banner coil, it somehow wound up in another bin and received the first-class-only “flats” cancel.]



Closeup of “flats” inkjet cancel on cover postmarked July 25, 2014 in New Mexico, received in Pennsylvania two delivery days later.



More Bobcats on business reply. Ken Moreau #447 sent in a photocopy, shown in part above, of a business reply envelope he received in a USO appeal mailing earlier this summer. While none of the five Bobcats has a plate number, the envelope bears the code “P406.” The strip of five with a plate number on the last stamp shown in the January issue is on an envelope with code “P310.” And the unnumbered strip of five cover shown on December 2013’s back page has code “R311.”

Another oddity in <49¢> Star-Spangled Banner coils. This embedded separator was found in a roll with #P1111. To me, the odd thing is that this is the third report of production anomalies with these fireworks, one from each printer. Others were reported by Jeff Fiszbein (embedded “bell” in #C11111) and Robert Thompson (unslit vertical triplets with #S11111). Anyone else notice anything unusual?

– Mark Schultz #2114



Negative image, P1111 PNC with misaligned diecut (higher in relation to design)

Research Query

What are Recent References for Scarce PNC FDCs?

by John M. Hotchner



I started down the road of searching for catalog or retail values for the 5¢ Motorcycle plates 3 and 4 on FDC, and rapidly found that the last comprehensive treatment of this subject seems to have been a 1988 booklet by Ed Denson; long since out of date. Brookman has a listing, but does not list some numbers that exist, and for others that are noted, there is no value. They also list pairs and strips of three, but not strips of five.

I note that there are dozens of PNC FDC collectors among PNC³'s membership, so I am hoping that some of you will know of a current source for information on the full range of PNC FDCs. If you can help, please contact me at jmhstamp@verizon.net, or at PO Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041-0125.



From the Past President ...

As I welcome our new President, Robert Thompson, to the PNC³ Board this month, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing officers, department heads, and committee chairs for their support and efforts on behalf of the club membership for the last four years of my tenure. The club could not function without the unceasing dedicated service these generous people have given (most without compensation) in support of a hobby that we all love.

Many times I have praised these members' service without mention of their names, so I'd like to take one last moment to recognize them. They are:

Auctions: Joe Sedivy

Coil Line: Editor & Layout – Ron Blanks
Proofing – Ron Archer and John Himes
Final Electronic Layout – Jill Ambrose
Distribution, print – Brian Snippen
Distribution, electronic – Frank Covey

Catalog: Chair, Frank Covey

Members: Andy Jakes, Pete Tukker,
Jill Ambrose

Website: Webmaster – Allan Clapp

Content Mistress – Jill Ambrose

Committee chairs: Bylaws: Walt Figel

Awards & Exhibits – Paul Bravell

Ethics – David Merkle

Historian – Dan Kauffman

Regional Meetings – Tony Bruno

Membership – Michael Conway.

I would also like to thank the members who have contributed to *Coil Line* with articles, letters, and constructive criticisms. This is a vital service to the club and members in keeping us informed of the happenings within our specialty area. Keep it going.

This brings up a VERY IMPORTANT issue, namely, that we desperately need members to volunteer to serve as back-ups to these individuals. At the moment, we are at risk of losing vital services if any of these people should become disabled. PLEASE, please contact incoming President, Robert Thompson, at president@pnc3.org if you can offer your services to assist the club in any of these areas of activity. – *Gene Trinks, Past President*

100% # on Top Census, Update 11

Mark Schultz



I have put off writing specifically about American Flags thus far simply because there have been so many PNC Flag issues since 1981 as to seem to defy comprehensible organization. For the purpose of our census, one issue has a single miscut while another has none or perhaps several.



I kept thinking the task might best be approached using broad strokes with a large brush. Not an insurmountable job but certainly an intimidating canvas. And looking for “happy accidents” (#-on-top) as Bob Ross might say on *The Joy of Painting* would require a very patient soul indeed, given the many, many plate numbers involved in all of those issues.

My solution is to once again turn to you, the membership, to help me find and identify as many #-on-top Flags as possible for cataloging and later publication. I will give you four examples of

earlier issues where I know (or am fairly certain) that additional plate numbers exist and hope you can help me fill in the rest of the blanks. Yes, I know that there are many more Flag issues in addition to these four and I welcome any and all information on them as well.



The four *starters* scanned for presentation here are: 20¢ Flag over Supreme Court, 22¢ Flag over Capitol, 25¢ Flag over Yosemite (“happy little trees”) and 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rushmore.



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.



Late-breaking News

**P2222 discovered –
new plate number
on 1¢ Bobcat**
(report and image source
courtesy of Michael Mules).

Direct Mail Sightings

Ron Blanks

(C) Closeup of uncanceled coils on two-ounce letter of April 2014.



Interestingly, use of a 49¢ Fern coil [image (B)] on the reply cover “doubles” the odds of obtaining at least one 49¢ Fern PNC on this mailing from the “one in 30” possible for only one example. (Note the odds of *both* Ferns with numbers are 30 x 30, or one in 900.)

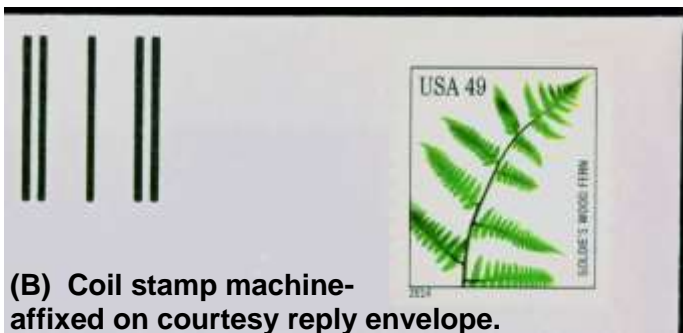
About that “same-looking franking” of last month: It was presented with two other political mailings without postmarks as also being without numbers. Image (C) at top is an enlarged closeup of it that shows otherwise. (Can you spot the plate number?)

In reviewing this search for postal history examples of PNCs, we can lower the frustration level now back to “normal.” The next cases below missed having plate numbers among the coils used, even as they also missed getting postmarks. One thing they have in common is that they involve first-class large envelopes (9 by 12 inches) and were processed as “flats.” As a reminder, the one-ounce rate for a flat is currently 98¢, with each additional ounce costing 21¢.

The highest coil count on a cover so far from the August issue until now is four; the large-envelope case shown in (D) has five coils. Including its reply cover, the three <49¢> Red-White-Blue coils allow a one in 10^{2/3} chance that one of (please see page 119)

(A) Postage franking of a two-ounce 6x9-inch envelope, received February 8, 2014.

(1¢ Bobcat self-adhesive is a PNC example, P1111.)



(B) Coil stamp machine-affixed on courtesy reply envelope.

Caution: Cringe-worthy PNC covers are illustrated this month. As hinted in last month’s column on this topic, some advocacy and fund-raising mailings during this busy year’s political campaigns using unprecanceled coils for postage are not getting postmarked. Usually, the more-creative coil uses are the ones not getting canceled. For any examples that include PNCs, this can be doubly frustrating.

Image (A) above shows one of these cases. All of the coils came from affixer rolls, the large (3,000 or 10,000 count) rolls that the USPS offers for lettershop equipment use. Unfortunately, as was the case for a same-looking franking shown last month, the 10¢ Clock (2008) pair is of the latest type, lacking phosphored tagging. Since the cover bears USPS-applied letter mail barcodes front and back, it is likely the placement of the only phosphored coil (49¢ Fern) is too far left to be recognized. Otherwise, the 1¢ Bobcat PNC could have been machine-canceled, “tied” to the cover.

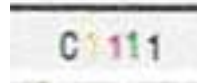


(D) (top) Two gummed coils & pair of self-stick coils used to meet \$1.19 two-ounce first-class flats rate (received August 11, 2014).

(bottom) Enclosed in above large envelope, reply cover franked with <49¢> affixer coil.



The self-adhesive (SA) **Forever <49¢> Ferns, in 10K rolls** only, had a stated release date of March 6, 2014 in Kansas City, Missouri. The same design was issued January 27th denominated as a 49¢ stamp (2014-2).



The **C1111** plate number shown repeats **every 30th** stamp along the roll. (Two out of every three “Autumn Fern” stamps will be unnumbered, with the remainder having the plate number.) Most collectors will save this as a long plate strip of eleven (PS11), though some might only want a PS5.

The “C” prefix of the plate number represents CCL Label, a division of CCL Industries (a Toronto, Ontario based company) which purchased the Avery Office and Consumer Products division on July 1, 2013.

Back numbers occur every 10 stamps along the roll, with the highest numbers on the outside of the roll. They are printed halfway between the top and the bottom on the back of the liner. On a given roll, the back number is always in the same position relative to the plate numbered stamp because of the plate # interval of 30.

Collectors may buy these in boxes which contain unfolded strips of 100 from 10K rolls from Stamp Fulfillment Services in Kansas City, MO.

10K boxed strip/100, Item # 777305

Forever <49¢> Ferns
(self-adhesive)
Plate C1111
PNC ID 2014-8



Round font



Square font



← slanted left

slanted right →

Square fonts



Autumn Fern

Goldie's Wood Fern

Painted Fern

Fortune's Holly Fern

Soft Shield Fern

Current Plate Numbers, Roll Sizes, Die Cuts & Tagging

Issue	Plate#	Roll	Freq	Cut	Tag
▶ 1¢ Bobcat	P1111, P2222*	3k	27	VP	
1¢ Bobcat	S111111	10k	31	w	
1¢ Tiffany Lamp 2008	S11111	3k	31	w	
		10k	"	w	
1¢ Tiffany Lamp 2003 ≠	S11111	3k	14	w	
2¢ Navajo Jewelry	S111111	10k	31	w	
3¢ Silver Coffeepot	S1111, S2222	10k	14	w	
4¢ Chippendale Chair 2013	P1111	10k	24	w	
4¢ Chippendale Chair 2007	S1111	10k	14	w	
5¢ Toleware	S1111111	10k	14	w	
10¢ Clock 2008 ≠	S1111	10k	31	w	OA
	S2222	"	"	w	
10¢ Clock 2006	S1111	10k	14	w	
20¢ Washington	P11111, P22222	100	31	VP	OA
21¢ Lincoln	C111	100	20	PV, VP	OA
32¢ Aloha Shirts ≠ (5 diff.)	S1111111	100	25	PV	S
33¢ Apples (4 diff.) ≠	S11111	100	32	PV	S
34¢ Hummingbird	P11111	100	31	VP	S
34¢ Hummingbird	P22222	100	31	VP	OA
42¢ Flags of Our Nation Sets 1&2, ≠					
44¢ Flags of Our Nation Sets 3&4 ≠ (10 diff./set)	S111111111	50	10	PV	S
44¢ Flag ≠	S111	3k	31	w	S
44¢ Flag (affixer) ≠	V1111	3k	16	VP	S
		10k	"	"	"
44¢ Quill & Inkwell ≠	S1111	3k	27	S	S
		10k	"	"	"
45¢ Weather Vanes (5 diff.)	S1111111	3k	25	S	S
		10k	"	"	"
◊46¢ Kaleidoscope Flowers ≠ (4 diff.)	S11111	3k	28	PV	S
		10k	"	"	"
◊46¢ Patriotic Star ≠	S111	10k	27	PV	S
49¢ Ferns (5 diff.)	C1111	3k	30	VP	OA
		10k	"	"	"
▶ (5¢) Art Deco Bird	P1111, P2222	3k	27	S	
P3333 (roll size unknown)		10k	"	"	
(5¢) Sea Coast	P7777, P9999	3k	27	S	
	P7777 ≠, P9999 ≠	10k	"	"	
(5¢) Sea Coast	B111	500	10	w	
		10k	"	w	
(with luminescent ink)	S1111	3k	14	w	
		10k	"	w	
	S11111	500	31	w	
(10¢) Snowflakes (5 dif.)	C11111111	10k	30	VP	
(10¢) Banner	S111	10k	27	S	
	V111, V222, V333	3k	10	VP	
		10k	"	"	

Printer IDs by Prefix: P = Ashton Potter
 B = Bank Corp. of America V = Avery-Dennison
 C = CCL Label S = Sennett Security Products

Issue	Plate#	Roll	Freq	Cut	Tag
(10¢) Banner	S111	500	31	w	
(25¢) Spectrum Eagle (6 diff. designs)	V11111	3k	30	S	
		10k	"	"	
(25¢) Eagle 2003 (10 diff.)	S3333333	3k	20	S	
	S1111111, S2222222, S3333333	10k	"	"	
(weakly tagged)	S3333333	10k	"	"	S
(25¢) Eagle (10) 2005	S1111111	3k	25	S	
(25¢) Eagle (10) 2004	S1111111	3k	10	w	
<49¢> Ferns (5 diff.)	C1111	10k	30	VP	OA
▶ <49¢> Red-White-Blue (4 diff.)	C11	10k	32	VP	OA
<49¢> 2014 Spangled Banner	C11111	100	20	PV	OA
	"	"	"	VP	"
<49¢> 2014 Spangled Banner	S11111	100	32	PV	OA
<49¢> 2014 Spangled Banner	P1111	100	31	VP	OA
<> 2013 Flags-Seasons	P1111	100	32	VP	??
<> 2013 Flags-Seasons	S1111	100	32	PV	??
<> 2013 Flags-Seasons (4 diff.)	V1111	100	20	PV	S
	"	"	"	VP	"
◊<> 2012 Four Flags ≠	P1111	100	32	VP	OA
	P2222	"	"	"	S
◊<> 2012 Four Flags ≠	S1111, S22222	100	32	PV	S
◊<> 2012 Four Flags ≠	V1111	100	32	PV	S
	"	"	"	VP	"
<> 2011 Liberty & Flag ≠	P111111	100	32	VP	S
<> 2011 Liberty & Flag ≠	S111111	100	32	PV	S
<> 2011 Liberty & Flag ≠ (2 diff.)	V111111	100	40	PV	S
	"	"	"	VP	"
<> 2011 Flags of Our Nation Set 5, ≠					
<> 2012 Flags of Our Nation Set 6 ≠	S111111111	50	20	PV	S

Key to Symbols

▶ **new number or variety** ◊ **update or correction**
 ≠ new "sold out" (strips of 25/100 with PNC) or no longer shown in *USA Philatelic* (USPS catalog)
 ?? unreported attribute <> Forever first-class value
Freq – frequency or interval of # appearing in roll
Cut – w = water-activated gum (perforated);
 PV = peak/valley die cut; VP = valley/peak;
 S = serpentine without corner variation.
Tag – phosphor tagging if not blank/white: S = surface phosphor with smooth appearance; U = surface phosphor with uneven or grainy look; OA = overall.

Notes to this Report

The *Postal Bulletin* of May 29th announced that after June 30, USPS sales of the 2012 Four Flags, 46¢ Patriotic Star, and 46¢ Kaleidoscope Flowers rolls were prohibited and remaining stock was to be turned in for destruction. (Prior chart: July, p.94.)

Classified Ads

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 * * *

CLASSIFIED AD rates are 6¢ per word, with a minimum cost of \$3.00 per insertion. (Only members may advertise in *Coil Line*.)

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 (please see page 110).

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 Richard Beecher, Secretary. Email: richardlater@aol.com or see page 110 for more contact methods.

(from page 116, Direct mail sightings)

them is a PNC; however, no such outcome this time.

The final uncanceled example [(E) below] is the only one this month with a non-affixer-roll coil applied by hand along with an affixer-roll coil.

So the search continues for one of these first-class mailings... with a PNC *and* suitable postmark!



(E) Stamps used (top) for a 2-oz. large-envelope mailing August 14, and its reply envelope (left).

Display Advertising Rates *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 (for full page)	Add \$ 100.00
• Color Ad - Electronic Version	Add \$ 25.00

(Discounts available for multiple insertions.)

Membership Update

New Applicant

Paul T. Rainey (2252)
124 O’Gorman Ave
Staten Island, NY 10306-3737
ptra127@gmail.com

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.

Previous Membership Count	518
New Applicant	1
Rejoined	0
PNC³ Membership Count	519

Coil Topics Index this issue...

<46¢> Flag 2013 SSP dramatic die cut shift...	111
(25¢) “E” #2222, black “2” hopper.....	113
20¢ Flag #9 #-on-top.....	115
22¢ Flag #12 #-on-top.....	115
25¢ Flag #13 #-on-top.....	115
29¢ Flag #4 #-on-top.....	115
<49¢> Ferns C1111 Catalog Corner	117
29¢ Mt. Rushmore gravure A11111 on-cover..	120

Blast from the Past: “Cover of the Month”



Twenty years ago this issue in *Coil Line* (September 1994, page 167), Rob Washburn’s “Cover of the Month” feature showed a grainy black-and-white image of the cover above. The description read: “The above cover features a commercial usage of the 29¢ Flag Over Mt. Rushmore gravure #A111111. All of the stamps appear to have been affixed by a machine. The total postage is \$2.13 which pays exactly the rate for a 9 oz. or less mailing. The cover has an 11/3/92 cancellation. (Cover courtesy of Leonard Piskiewicz.)”

Twenty year later, Len still has the cover and graciously provided a color image from which images on this page were made. Len also passed along this observation: “... noticed today that the pair with the number show double printing (not a smear) to the right of the tops of the heads – but the other stamps don’t.” This apparent doubling, hidden in plain sight, is shown in the lower-right closeup, above.

A close look at the cover (left-side closeup, above) reveals the postmark date of Oct 19, but nary a trace of the year. Len answered a query by noting the year in question is 1992. He was acquainted with the addressee, a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives in the election held the following month.

While 2014 is midway between presidential elections, the national elections for many seats in Congress will be held this autumn. “Direct Mail Sightings” columns in *Coil Line* have shown some mailings from this year’s campaigns. None of the first-class covers have reached the coil count above of eight.