

Our 29th Year

PNC³



Coil Line

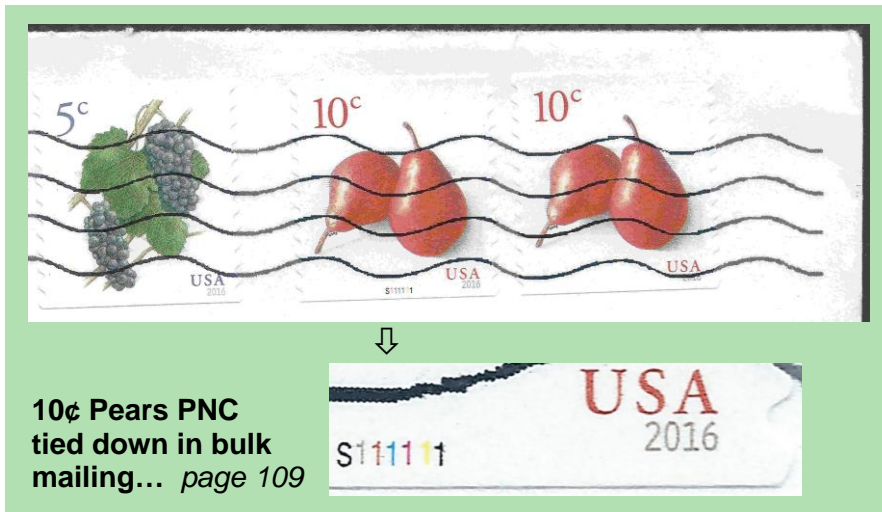
Journal of the PNC³ www.pnc3.org
Plate Number Coil Collectors Club
American Philatelic Society Affiliate # 185

September 2016
Vol. 29, No. 9
Whole No. 339



*B press image (left)
overlaid to show Height
difference with Cottrell*

**Refresher course:
Look-alikes...** ▲
page 112



**10¢ Pears PNC
tied down in bulk
mailing...** page 109



▲ **(25¢) Star Quilts
Catalog Corner...**
page 110



▲ **Not too late this year**
▼ **for new PNCs...**
page 111



.....
Also...

- SESCAL regional meeting **September 24...** page 107
- 25 years ago in *Coil Line*: September 1991 excerpts... page 108
- Change in editors... page 108
- Star-Spangled Banner's split plate #... page 109

Coil Line

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Coil Collectors Club (PNC³)

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Coil Line reserves the right to edit copy as necessary.

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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 August 31, 2016.



Scott #2134b (issued September 30, 1986,
30 years ago this month) **plate # 2**

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(For *Coil Line*-related matters, please
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President's Message



Welcome!



from the PNC³ president ...

Good news! We have a new editor for *Coil Line* who will start with the October issue. Her name is Vickie Canfield Peters and she is currently the editor for two other stamp journals.

I'm just back from the APS show in Portland, Oregon. On Saturday morning the board met to discuss old and new business. In the middle of the meeting we recessed so that we could see a USPS presentation called "Meet the Stamp Products & Exhibition Team-U.S. Postal Service." The board made up five of the six people in the audience.

After the meeting they asked if anyone had any questions. Richard Beecher and others began a detailed critique of the newest issue of *USA Philatelic Catalog*. For those of you not receiving it, it's a catalog that listed most of the current and new stamps for the quarter. It did not list all stamps available, nor does their online website.

The newest catalog (2016 Volume 21 Quarter 2), however, has completely changed. Except for the World Stamp Show-NY 2016 sheet, the catalog will no longer feature stamps yet to be released. According to the USPS, this is to help lower the number of pre-orders. The catalog does not show as many pictures of available stamps, but it does have a list in the back with the item numbers for orders. The list does not include all stamps available. We made it clear that the list should include all item options, such as the strips of 25 and 500. After all of this I viewed the USPS website and they are taking preorders for the new Star Trek forever stamp.

The board meeting reconvened and discussed several items, including financial matters. John Himes projects a slight decrease in revenue of about \$1200 at year's end. We've had year-end gains in the past four years. With this information the board voted to leave the club dues unchanged.

For the membership meeting, about 15 members attended. At the end, door prizes were given out to the lucky members. Dave Cobb donated the stamps for the Portland and New York stamp shows. This was followed by a presentation made by Dan Forgues titled "Die-Cut Varieties."

I thank Michael Mules, Richard Beecher and Mel Borofsky for serving on the board. Their service on the board is greatly appreciated.

—Robert E. Thompson

If you are a new reader to *Coil Line*, PNC³ is in our 29th 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

SESCAL – Los Angeles September 24, 2016

PNC³ club members and guests will be meeting at 12:00 noon on Saturday, September 24 at the SESCAL 2016 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, September 23-25. **Our meeting will be held in the Newport Room C.**

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. Donations of door prizes by PNC³ club members and dealers are appreciated and will be duly acknowledged.

Several informative talks are being prepared for the meeting. Dan, in particular, is preparing another one of his great talks. This time he'll be concentrating on tagging varieties on PNCs, and the little bit that he's shared, so far, is amazing. You won't want to miss this informative session.

There will also be plenty of time for club members to ask questions about their PNCs, as well as time for trading material at the end of the meeting.

Visitors to the meeting are always welcome. Admission is free, and a special parking rate of \$9.00 is available to show attendees. Full information about the show is available at www.sescal.org.

25 Years Ago: September 1991 *Coil Line*

Some new issues difficult to find, others show up ahead of schedule – Harold Brown, editor.

While some PNC³ members found copies of the 29¢ Tulip coil stamp [Scott 2525] as much as three weeks ahead of the official Aug. 16 release date, other issues have been elusive weeks after the scheduled release date.

Some dealers have been advertising strips from the gravure printing of the 29¢ Mount Rushmore stamp [Scott 2523A] but few members have reported success finding the stamp at their post offices or nearby philatelic windows.

While the Toledo, Ohio (nearest the editor) philatelic window has never been a hot source for elusive items, the clerk said Aug. 9 she does not expect to receive the Mount Rushmore gravure stamp. She also had not received the 19¢ Fishing Boat coil [Scott 2529 issued Aug. 8] as of that day but reported many collectors were content to catch up on the fractional coils due to go off sale at the end of August. Most of the numbers in her stock drawer were No. 1, while No. 7 represented Mount Rushmore [Scott 2523]. She has no stock of the “F” coil [(29¢) tulip Flower, Scott 2518] and expects no resupply. The 23¢ Lunch Wagon was represented by plate No. 2. The centering on most was decent but the 24.1¢ Tandem Bicycle was terrible.

All of the new and missing coil items are being produced by private printers and apparently have limited distribution. If the first-class postage rate increase to 30 cents goes into effect this fall, it's hard to figure if some of these coils or numbers will ever have wide post office (please see page 114)

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

This issue of *Coil Line* is most likely the last one that I edit, if succession to the new editor progresses as quickly as it started in early August. Plans are for Vickie Canfield Peters to start as the new editor as of the October issue. Vickie joins the *Coil Line* production team as an experienced editor, also editing the *Airpost Journal* for the American Airmail Society, and the *Polonus* publication for the Polish philatelic club.

As Vickie does not collect PNCs, we will need to be more mindful and pitch in where we can with submissions that the rest of the members might like to read. By coincidence, I just started a “Refresher Course” column (more below). That could be a good venue for some of you to contribute expertise in a PNC area or two for the benefit of newer members, as well as the rest of us who can benefit from new (or reminder) tips or tidbits about particular issues and the like.

I will remind Vickie of our earlier years of *Coil Line* issues that are not yet digitally rendered (as well as issues of *The Plate Number* that editor Stephen Esrati donated to the club). If she does not receive sufficient material or letters from readers, the pages of *Coil Line* might be filled with more reprints than are some members' cup of tea, so you have been forewarned!

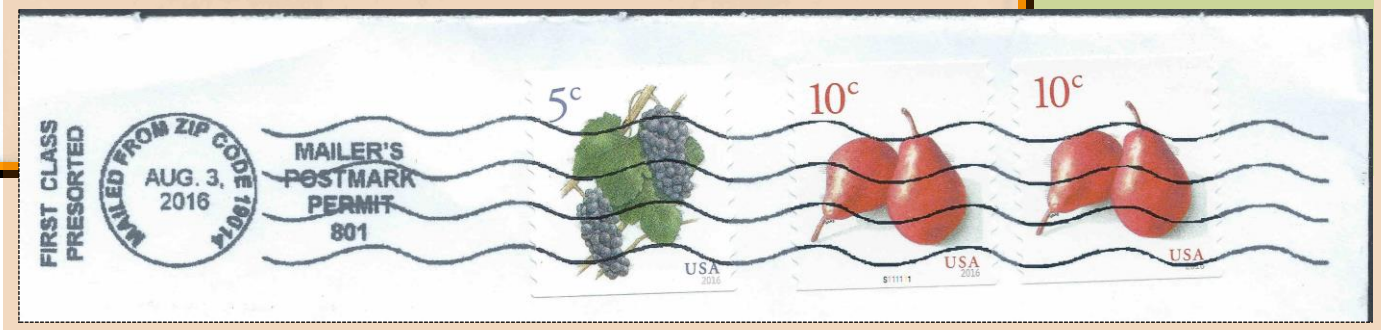
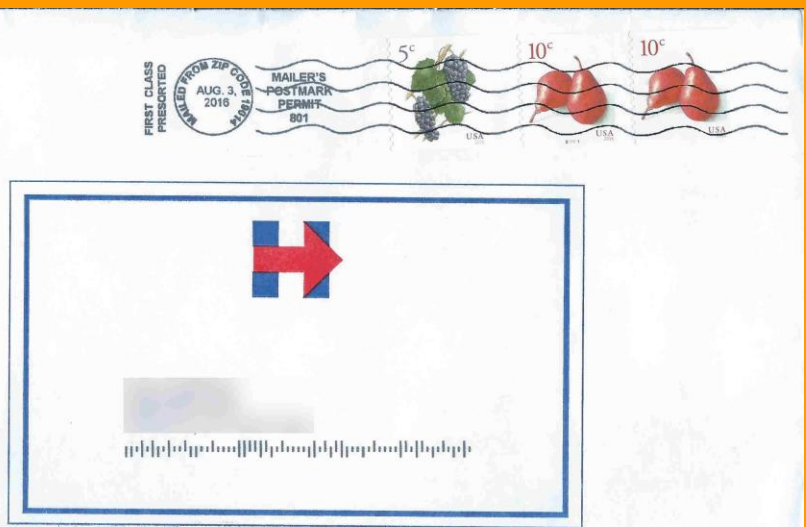
I thank the production team and our past and present contributing writers for their support over the past almost-eight years, since I became editor with the January, 2009 issue. I also thank all of the readers who took the time to submit material, questions, corrections, criticisms, and encouragement. (I will always appreciate the brief “You're doing a good job!” comments behind the scenes, especially of the past couple years when demands on my time increased.)

Ironically, I planned for this issue the “launch” (if it continues as a series of occasional articles) of the “Refresher Course” before I learned that a successor editor was about to be selected. When I looked into what PNCs, if any, were issued 30 years ago this month to feature on our masthead page, I found the 14¢ Iceboat from the B press. It turns out that 1986 saw three of these look-alikes issued, which gave me the (please see page 114)

Readers' Forum



Creative political mailer foregoes a (25¢) presorted first-class coil for 25¢ in newly issued low-value Fruits coils, one a numbered PNC. (To qualify for a discount presort rate, the mailer was also required to cancel the ordinary stamps.)



10¢ Pears numbered PNC tied to cover. In response to recent images showing uses of the new Fruits series' coils, member Peter Hoffman sent scans of his recently acquired cover. Pictured above with close-ups, it is the only marketing mailing we've seen so far with a dated cancel of a 10¢ Pears #S111111 PNC. Since the bulk mailer applied the postmark, a possible higher-threshold example that might be sought is from a mass mailing with a dated post-office cancel.

Split P; overlapping coils. I found this split PNC P2222 (shown at right) in a mixture recently. On those coils affixed over another [last month's issue, page 102], I've thrown away as scrap probably 50 on-piece. That 1¢ over 4¢ seems to be fairly common. Next is 1¢ over 1¢. Once I had a 1¢ over 5¢ over 4¢. (please see page 114)

Paper mis-aligned downward during row-slitting. ►





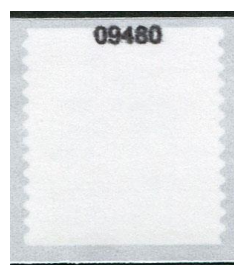
(25¢) Star Quilts
Plate **B11111**
PNC ID **2016-6**



“USPS”
Microprinting



Bottom 4-digit
back number
(3K Roll)



Top 5-digit
back number
(10K Roll)

The (25¢) **Star Quilts** Presorted First-Class coils of 3,000 and 10,000 went on sale July 6, 2016 in Washington DC. The large-roll format is designed for use by mass mailers. The issue is a replacement for the Spectrum Eagle issue (2012-1 and 2015-7).

Banknote Corporation of America (BCA) produced the rolls, which bear a **B11111** plate number that occurs every 28 stamps.

Two designs (*shown below*) alternate throughout the rolls. “USPS” is microprinted underneath a star point on the left edge of each design. A 2016 date is printed in the lower right corner. The stamps adhere to a liner that is larger than the stamp itself, with spaces between stamps, to facilitate affixing-machine use.

Small black back numbers occur every ten stamps on the back of the liner. The 3K roll has 4-digit back numbers and the 10K roll has 5-digit back numbers. Because the back number interval is even and the plate number interval is even (but two shy of a multiple of ten), back numbers creep in relation to the plate number in increments of two on any given roll.

Back numbers can be top or bottom. The plate number is on the stamp that has a more red appearance and a smaller white circle in the design. If a roll starts with this design it is deemed an even roll and will have a number-on-number (back number behind plate number) strip every 140 stamps along the roll. If the roll starts with the stamp with a blue appearance, it will be an odd roll and the closest the back number will come to the plate number is one right or one left. Eight separate rolls are needed to get all possible BN positions.



New PNCs: Fruits Series Expands, Large-Roll “Patriotic” Added



USPS media image



USPS media image

The August 4, 2016 *Postal Bulletin* announced two new coil designs issued in August. On August 12, a new 1¢ Apples joined the “Fruits” series. And on August 19, the U.S. Postal Service issued a first-class “Forever” Patriotic Spiral stamp in large-roll format and also in booklets.

The **1¢ Apples** design (pictured above) comes in self-adhesive rolls of 3,000 and 10,000, supplied by Ashton-Potter. This is the second design for an ordinary 1¢ stamp sold in self-stick large rolls; the currently available 1¢ Bobcat is first. They are set slightly apart on liner paper for use in affixing machines, employed in lettershops that mechanically prepare large mailings.

The 1¢ Apples join the first two designs in the series, the 10¢ Pears issued this past January and the 5¢ Grapes of February. Interestingly, within the “Denomination & Type of Issue” slot in its technical details, the USPS added “Mail-Use” only for the 1¢. Also, the “Series” designation for all three is listed as “N/A”, presumably “Not Applicable.”

The details also indicate the 1¢ coils have a six-digit plate number, prefixed “P”, on every 27th stamp. The coils are offset-printed and feature microprinting (expected to be rendered as “USPS”, not evident in the media image provided, although it is not spelled out as it was in the 5¢ Grapes details).

According to a brief item in the August 29th

Linn’s Stamp News Weekly, Stamp Fulfillment Services (SFS) of USPS offers collectors a partial coil roll of 500 as an order item smaller than a full roll. The item number is 780015, priced at \$5.

The <47¢> **Patriotic Spiral** (shown above) is offered in self-adhesive rolls of 10,000 suitable for affixing equipment. But the USPS is also offering the design in booklets of 10. The technical details are not in the August 4 *PB* but in the August 18 one.

Ashton Potter is the supplier for both the rolls and booklets. The plate number is expected to be P1111 and will occur every 27th stamp in the rolls. The stamps are offset-printed with microprinting (not shown in media image). The *PB* lists the paper type for both formats as “Nonphosphored Type III, Block Tag Applied.”

According to the same *Linn’s* story, SFS offers two strips of 10 <47¢> coils for \$9.40 (item 760013), a strip of 25 [likely folded] with plate number for \$11.25 (item 760003), and a partial roll of 500 for \$235.00 (item 760015).

Trivia Question...

What was the last letter-rate design issued as large-roll coils and also one or more consumer-friendly formats such as rolls of 100? (Answer on page 115.)



(upper pair) 4¢ Stagecoach mint pair, plate # 1, very faint joint line (Cottrell press);
(lower) similar to above, no joint line (B press)



(top) plate # 1, Cottrell press; (bottom) B press

Thirty years ago last month, collectors of U.S. stamps (PNC collectors in particular) first saw results of the U.S. Postal Service’s and Bureau of Engraving and Printing’s actions to deal with loss of the Cottrell printing presses. The Cottrells had produced monocolored intaglio-engraved stamps, mostly workhorse regulars, for three decades before being retired in November 1985. The presses printed many of the Transportation coils, including the 4¢ Stagecoach (Scott 1898A, shown at left, top).

But by mid-1986 stocks of many denominations had run low while their ongoing demand required more stamps. The three-color intaglio “B” press, installed two decades after the first Cottrell, had already been printing some of the Transportation coils since 1984. For expediency, the USPS and the BEP decided to adapt some of the Cottrell-printed designs to the B press.

The B-press 4¢ Stagecoach (Scott 2228) is the first of these stamps that collectors saw. It leads four coil adaptations in 1986 and 1987 that look exactly like their Cottrell counterparts at first glance, but differ in ways that make them collectible separately for most collectors interested in varieties that reflect production changes. Selected attributes of note are listed below. (With only a single stamp at-hand, test candidate for an attribute shown in boldface. Note: “design width” refers to lettering at top of design.)

4¢ Stagecoach		
source:	Cottrell	B press
design width:	19.5 mm	17.8 mm
design height:*	20.5 mm	19.3 mm
phosphor tag:	overall	block
plate # interval:	24	52
shared plate #(s):	1 (<i>unprecanceled only</i>)	
not-shared #(s):	2,3,4,5,6	(none)
also not shared:	precancel	(no precancel)
first sale date:	Aug. 19, 1982	Aug. 15, 1986

*—a design height difference exists only for this issue among the four, well over 1mm. This is because, for the 4¢ Stagecoach only, the decided adaptation was to make a new re-engraved master die *of the same design but smaller*. Master dies of designs that exceeded .73 inches in width used to make Cottrell plates could not be used to produce seamless print cylinders used by the B press. (please see next page)

(from previous page, Look-alikes)

8.3¢ Ambulance		
source:	Cottrell	B press
design width:	18.4 mm	18.0 mm
design height:	(same)	
phosphor tag:	(not used)	(not used)
plate # interval:	24	52
shared plate #(s):	1 and 2, <i>precanceled only</i>	
not-shared #(s):	3,4	(none)
also not shared:	unprecanceled*	(no plain)
Scott catalog #:	2128a	2231
first sale date:	June 21, 1985	Aug. 29, 1986

*—since only unprecanceled version is from Cottrell printing, note: An example cut across lettering helps test in case of missing joint line. See back page for color overlays with millimeter ruler of the four issues.

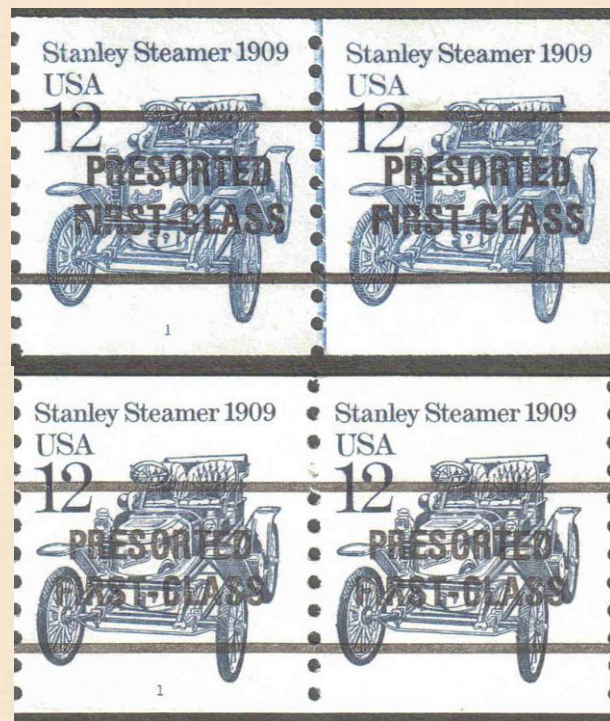
12¢ Stanley Steamer		
source:	Cottrell	B press
design width:	18.0 mm	17.8 mm
design height:	(same)	
phosphor tag:	(not used)	(not used)
plate # interval:	24	52
shared plate #(s):	1 (<i>precanceled only</i>)	
not-shared #(s):	2	(none)
also not shared:	unprecanceled*	(no plain)
Scott catalog #:	2132a	2132b**
first sale date:	April 2, 1985	Sept. 3, 1987

*—(see same note for 8.3¢ above).

**—30 years later, it remains an inconsistency in the Scott specialized catalog that the 8.3¢ B-press type has a major number while the 12¢ and 14¢ B-press types have a minor number. It's as if the 8.3¢ was treated as a re-engraving like the 4¢, when it is not.

14¢ Iceboat		
source:	Cottrell	B press
design width:	17.95 mm	17.75 mm
design height:	(same)	
phosphor tag:	overall	block
plate # interval:	24	52
shared plate #(s):	2*	
not-shared #(s):	1,3,4	(none)
Scott catalog #:	2134	2134b
first sale date:	Mar. 23, 1985	Sept. 30, 1986

*—a plate 1 was prepared for the B press but turned out defective and was not used.



(top) plate # 1, Cottrell press; (bottom) B press



(top) plate # 2, Cottrell press; (bottom) B press

For all but the 4¢, the original master dies were usable to make transfer rolls impressed into B-press cylinders. But Cottrell plates were flat when impressed, then bent into semi-cylinders. Thus a pair of semi-cylinder plates (please see page 116)

(from page 108, 25 years ago in Coil Line)

distribution. Who knows what an order to the Philatelic Caves [in Kansas City, MO] would bring or how soon it would be filled.

The interval for the A11111 plate number on the 29¢ gravure version of the Mount Rushmore is 24 stamps. One Eastern PNC³ member obtained 500 of the stamps and reported the color on the monument is dark (muddy) chocolate brown and the blue in the flag is more of a sky blue. The paper is thin and the gum has a semi-shiny appearance.

Membership at 499

Including the applicants for membership in this [Sept. 1991] issue of *Coil Line*, membership has reached 499. In all likelihood the figure will have topped 500 by the time this issue reaches most members.

The club continues to grow and interest in plate number coil collecting is strong. Some of the new issues are difficult to find but that just seems to add to the interest and maybe also creates a little frustration. Ken Lawrence jumped the gun a bit in the Aug. 19, 1991 issue of *Linn's Stamp News* by announcing the 500th member but pointed out the unprecedented growth of PNC³. [As of July, 2016 applications, PNC³ has 521 members.]

Letters: Philatelic Sales experiences delays

In the August 1991 issue of *Coil Line* you asked "What will happen to the long-awaited 29¢ denominated version of the 'F' stamp." In a phone call today (Aug. 1) to the Philatelic Sales Customer Service Department, they indicated that the 29¢ denominated version of the "F" stamp is due to be released by them Aug. 16.

In separate correspondence, they confirmed the 19¢ Fishing Boat and the denominated 29¢ Flower coil were still backordered and would be shipped. ... Philatelic Sales is again experiencing the delays of last year. An order I placed June 14th was shipped July 30th [1991]. The sales person I spoke with said on July 31st that Philatelic Sales had received 20,000 orders that day. It sounds like the stamp business is booming. – Frank Covey

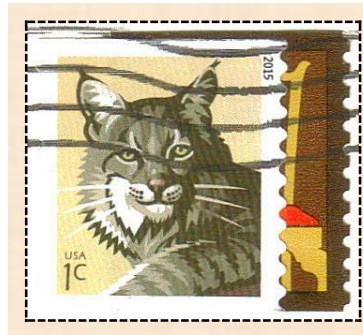
Letters: Untagged 2¢ report unfounded

I've made a great error in announcing the untagged 2¢ Locomotive. The roll I examined was only partially untagged. (please see page 116)

Reaching the New Editor

Before the masthead page is changed next month, our new editor Vickie Canfield Peters can be reached by email at vcanfieldp@gmail.com, and by phone at 509-991-5376 (be mindful of Pacific time zone). Any correspondence to the previous editor will be promptly forwarded.

(from page 109, Readers' forum)



I've had maybe three that were right on top. I had to hold them up to a light to see the one underneath. They are just rare on cover, that's all. –Cerel Fritz, Jr. #2071

(from page 108, Editor's message)

idea to start a column for a refresher course of education about older PNCs.

This "Look-Alikes (Part 1)" article on page 112 has no hint of the drama that ensued in the hobby as the U.S. Postal Service tried to keep a low-key approach (i.e., no publicity) to more printings of what they considered "the same" workhorse stamps... that happened to come from a different, more modern press. The three resources cited for further reading have slightly different versions of the controversies that arose from the unfolding news in 1986 and 1987.

The most serious problem was that the USPS initially had blinders to the creation of rarities in the realm of first-day cancelations for revised printings, in some cases made by those taking advantage of exclusive access and/or rules bent or ignored.

Speaking of different versions, when it comes to reference sources like the ones given, I have a caution to add (especially for those writing up history or details for album pages or exhibits). Try to consult more than one reference, no matter how detailed and thorough the one at-hand might seem. Each resource seems to have its surprising share of hiccups (some if only by omission of a key fact), better noticed in comparison with other sources. –Ron Blanks

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

* * *

Got duplicates you don't need? Want a nice tax deduction? Donate stamps, covers, philatelic supplies to Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. SCCFK is dedicated to helping beginners, and starting children (and adults) in stamp collecting. See website www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org. Our 14th year. Member 2242

* * *

For sale, used singles. Very scarce Mountain, 2904a, V333343, rounded corners, best offer, and 37¢ Egret V3221, PV on paper, and V3221, VP, V2121 VP. Also an Atlas V13222, all for best offers. Eugene B. Paul, 7017 York Rd, Abbottstown, PA 17301. Member 2133

In Memoriam Stephen G. Esrati

Co-founder, The Plate Number Study Group. Philatelic writer, columnist, editor and dealer, passed at the Dayton, Ohio VA Medical Center August 18, 2016.

Trivia Answer (question on page 111)...

The last design to be issued as a large-roll coil as well as consumer-friendly format of roll of 100 is 2009's 44¢ Star Flag.

Coil Topics Index this issue...

10¢ Pears S111111, tied to political mail..... 109
 <49¢> SSB P1111, split # on-piece..... 109
 (25¢) Star Quilts B11111, Catalog Corner.....110
 1¢ Apples, new issue details.....111
 <47¢> Patriotic Spiral, new issue details.....111
 4¢ Stagecoach, 8.3¢ Ambulance, 12¢ Stanley
 Steamer, 14¢ Iceboat: look-alikes.....112

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.)

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. (See page 106.)

Membership Update

New Applicants

Sean D. Kennedy (2339)
 1650 Arch Street Rd
 Blue Bell, PA 19422-3445
sdkenedy6@gmail.com

Mike Hodas (2340)
 598 28th St
 San Francisco, CA 94131-2220
mikelaurieh2@gmail.com

Deceased

Henry A. Stevens (1777)

PNC³ Members Count

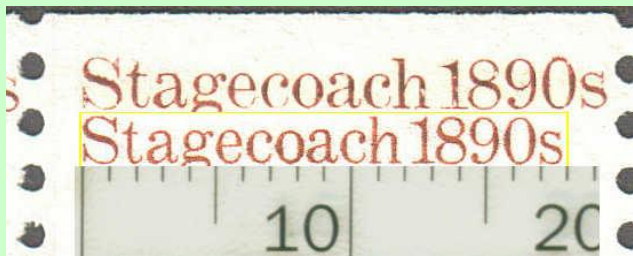
Previous Members	520
New Applicants	2
<u>Deceased</u>	<u>-1</u>
PNC ³ Members	521

Names of new applicants are published for review. A member who questions the suitability of a prospective member should contact the Secretary Daniel Farrar with the objection (farrard2@gmail.com or 330-477-6913.) Applicants will be accepted as members one month following notice in *Coil Line* if no material objection is made.

(from page 113, Look-alikes)

were joined to form a press cylinder, printing two alternating plate numbers in a roll and a joint line of ink at the right side of each numbered coil. But the plates' bending stretched the engravings about a third millimeter each. This explains why the newer B-press printed widths turned out narrower (see below).

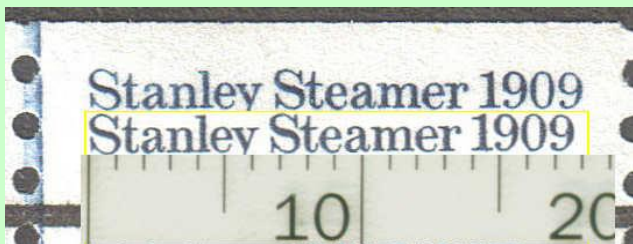
Cottrell / B Press Comparison Close-ups (Cottrell above B overlay in each pair)



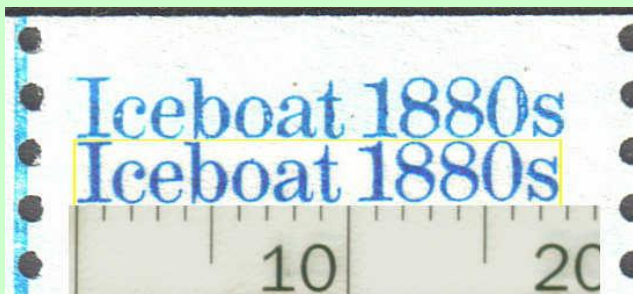
4¢ B press adaptation: New smaller engraving (This accounts for most of the narrower width.)



8.3¢ B press adaptation: None (lack of plate stretching means B printing is a tiny bit narrower).



12¢ B press adaptation: None (see 8.3¢).



14¢ B press adaptation: None (see 8.3¢).

Several more differences exist between the Cottrell and B-press versions, a few technical (e.g., paper types) and a few subjective (e.g., ink colors). For further reading, including background stories, the following are excellent: *Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbook 1986* by Fred Boughner (also the 1987 edition with 12¢ Stanley Steamer); *Linn's Plate Number Coil Handbook* by Ken Lawrence, 1990; *The 1995 Plate Number Coil Catalog*, Eighth Edition, edited by Richard J. Nazar (donated to the club via downloadable PDF from www.pnc3.org); Alan Thomson's "Transportation Coils When the Cottrells Were Dying," *Coil Line* Jan. 2001 (pp.3-6).

(from page 114, 25 years ago in Coil Line)

My UV light detected no [phosphor] tagging; however, a fellow collector's light much stronger than mine detected a small amount of tagging on the edges only. I apologize for this mistake. – Steve Crown

Commercial Covers by Rob Washburn (pages 3-4) featured earliest documented usage dates for 10.9¢ Hansom Cab PNCs (some might be superseded now).

25¢ Honeybee variety study (page 4) shared an initial report from member Margaret Stanchfield of her study on 25¢ Honeybee "blade of grass" lines.

Covers of the Month (page 5) shows: 9.3¢ Mail Wagon #5 plate strip of 5 from Al Haake to Ken Lawrence 12/30/85. 20¢ Official Mail plate #1 paying the second ounce rate on a 22¢ Official Mail postal stationery envelope. No date given (appears uncanceled), cover of former PNC³ president Don Eastman. [Rate in effect Feb 17, 1985 – April 2, 1988.]

Purple machine cancels part two by Ken Lawrence (page 8): Shows a basic checklist of cities named within purple machine cancels found on PNC covers in a cache of national sweepstakes mail. Ken noted three locations that he had not seen reported on other PMC checklists (Gadsden AL, Greensboro NC, and San Antonio TX). Ken's list is confined to the sweepstakes cache and does not include cities reported in other lists.

Paid advertisements – commercial covers: For those interested in historical market prices of PNCs on cover, Stamps 'N' Stuff of West Des Moines took out two full-page ads. One (page 7) is a fixed-price pricelist; the other (page 10) is a mail-bid sale. ■