



# Coil Line



**Journal of the PNC<sup>3</sup>  
Plate Number Coil Collectors Club**

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

American Philatelic Society Affiliate #185

**September 2017**

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*Flowers From the Garden*  
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# Coil Line

Journal of the Plate Number

Coil Collectors Club (PNC<sup>3</sup>)

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## Advertising Rates (single insertion)

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A check or money order, made out to PNC<sup>3</sup>, must accompany camera ready ads. Advertising copy must be submitted by the first of the month prior to the month of publication. Please send all copy to Vickie Canfield Peters, **Coil Line** Editor, 11911 E. Connor Road, Valleyford WA 99036.

Classified ad rates are six cents a word per issue with a minimum of \$3.00 per ad. Members receive two 50-word ads per year per member at no charge. There is a 10¢ per word cost for more than 50 words.)

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

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

**Coil Line** is published monthly and is available digitally with annual member dues of \$14. A printed version of **Coil Line** is also available. To U.S. addresses, to receive printed edition add \$22 for First Class Mailing. To Non-USA addresses, add \$27 for mailing. Past print issues of **Coil Line** are available at \$2.50 per copy (quantities limited).

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All content, letters to the editor and advertising questions should be addressed to the editor. 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 20, 2017.



Scott #2253 (issued September 25, 1987) plate # 1

## PNC<sup>3</sup> Contacts

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Allan Clapp, Webmaster: email [webmaster@pnc3.org](mailto:webmaster@pnc3.org)

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

## Elected Officers

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**PNC<sup>3</sup> auctioneer:** Joe Sedivy

## Coil Line Production

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**Senior Consultant:** Gene Trinks

**Technical consultant:** Alan Thomson

**Contributing Writers:** John Himes, Robert E. Thompson, Bob Rabinowitz, Rob Washburn, Frank Covey, Doug Iams, Gene Trinks, Lynnette Wood, John Greenwood, Al Haake, Ron Blanks, Dan Forgues

**Proofreaders:** John Himes, Michael Mules

**Printing:** State Wide Printing, Albuquerque NM

**Printed Distribution:** Brian and Cory Snippen

**Digital Edition Distribution:** Frank Covey

**Subscriptions:** Daniel Farrar



## President's Message

I'm writing this article just a few days before the APS StampShow in Richmond, Virginia, so I won't have any information on the board or membership meetings until the October issue of **Coil Line**.

For our last four issues of **Coil Line** (May through August), there have only been eight pages in those issues. This is your journal and I know there is a lot of information out there that has not been passed on to other members. It doesn't need to be anything fancy, we just need the text and any pictures or diagrams that you want to go with it. Vickie Canfield Peters, our editor, will do the rest. The deadline is the first of each month for the following month (September 1 for October, October 1 for November, etc.) so please contact Vickie. Her contact information can be found on page 2.

Allan Clapp, our webmaster, has been working on some of the new issue data sheets. This project is behind schedule for the new issues and Allan is trying to bring that up to date. If there is anyone who would like to assist Allan with this, please contact him. He can handle the webpage side of things, but he could use someone with stamp/PNC<sup>3</sup> experience, since he is not a collector himself. His contact information can also be found on page 2.

Gene Trinks, our past president and head of the nomination committee, is looking for volunteers for club officers to start September of next year. Several of the current officers are term limited, including myself, and it will require someone else for those positions. There are positions for specific duties, as well as two at-large positions. If you have any interest, please contact Gene.

In next month's issue, auctioneer Joe Sedivy will have the items for the auction listed. Don't forget to check them out and, remember, you have to be current on your membership in order to participate.



## Collector Queries

### 37-Cent Flag Die Cut Question

Recently, collector Mark Cooper mentioned to me that the PNC<sup>3</sup> website data page for Scott 3632C and 3632Cd, the 37-cent Flag with plate number S1111 (smooth tagged and mottled tagged, respectively) indicates that they come both with die cuts gauging 11.50 and 11.75 vertically. (To find

this page on the website, go to "PNC Data" / "List of PNC Data Pages" / "American Flags" / "37c US Flag – SSP – SA – 3k/10k".) The *Scott U.S. Specialized Catalog* lists these stamps only with die cut gauge 11.75.

Mark commented that he has never been able to find one of these stamps gauging 11.50 and he asked me to check my dealer stock for this die cut variety. I only have a handful of the 3632C, but I have a nice little pile of the 3632Cd. In both cases, every copy turned out to be gauge 11.75.

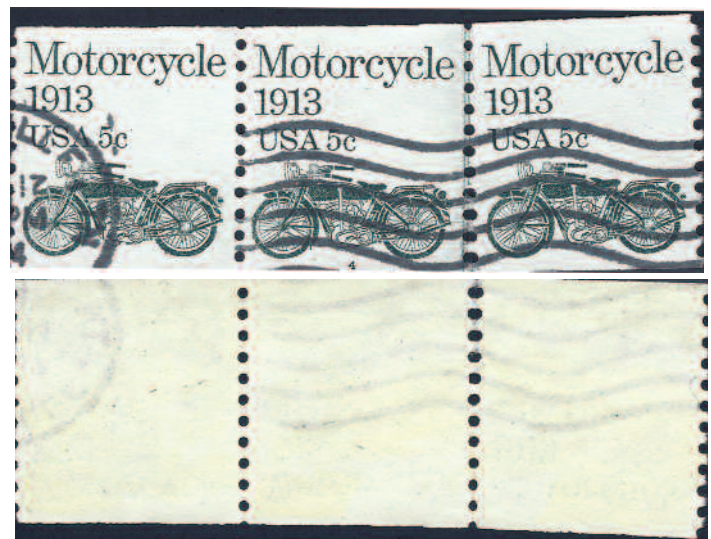
This raises the question of whether the website's description is accurate. I'd appreciate it if our members would check their copies of these stamps to see if anyone has the 11.50 die cuts on any of their copies. If not, we will need to modify our listing on the website to indicate that the 11.50 gauge stamps are unknown. As an added benefit, if you do find an 11.50 copy, I'm pretty sure it's going to be rare and you will have the satisfaction of knowing you have this rarer version.

Please contact me with any information you have about this variety via the information on this month's masthead page.

John Himes  
PNC<sup>3</sup> Vice President

### A Common Occurrence?

Here is an image (both front and back) of a PNC strip of three of the 5-cent motorcycle, Scott 1899. Please note the vertical perforated holes at the joint line and that the right stamp is sloping up to the right.



I believe there was a small paper fold in the joint line prior to perforating and slicing. I think that explains the odd shape of the holes. I was wondering if this is a common occurrence with coils or if this is rarely seen? Any comments anyone has would be appreciated.

Mike Sagstetter  
PNC<sup>3</sup> Member #2356

# Direct Mail Sightings

by Ron Blanks

## Reply Envelopes Show Interesting Coil Uses

I recently acquired a small cache of 50 courtesy-reply envelopes from a new source, a non-collector. They were represented as having 47¢ or 49¢ postage affixed. I don't know whether they were the last 50 such items received or if some were withheld or used by the recipient.

In any event, a quick study allowed some interesting observations. Based on the first-class rates and the stamps involved, it appears almost all these date from 2016 and 2017, with perhaps a few from late 2015. (A 49¢ rate instituted in 2014 was lowered to 47¢ on April 10, 2016, then increased to 49¢ on Jan. 29, 2017.)

Of note is that only five direct-mail marketers, all charitable-work nonprofits, are represented. Of these, two have only one reply cover present, leaving 48 covers from three mailers. They are: Shriners Hospitals for Children (28 covers), Mercy Home for Boys and Girls (14) and Covenant House (6).

Starting from least to most, Figure 1 shows portions

of the six Covenant House covers. (All figures with multiple envelopes show the oldest to newest arranged top to bottom, first left column then right.) None of these 17 coils have plate numbers, but one is unique in a material way among the 253 coils affixed on the 50 covers, to be discussed later.

Of note from the six Covenant House mailings is that half were prepared using rolls of obsolete issues. In this admittedly tiny sample, each is different: a 45¢ Weather Vane from 2012, a 46¢ Patriotic Star from 2013 and a 46¢ Kaleidoscope Flower from 2013.

Of the 14 Mercy Home reply covers, three are business-reply envelopes (BREs) shown in Figure 2. Notice how two of these have only two 1¢ coils affixed, while the other has four (one with plate number P111111). In recent years, we've seen other mailers also using either five or three 1¢ coils affixed to BREs.

This is an inexpensive alternative to affixing full retail first-class postage on reply envelopes, while hoping for

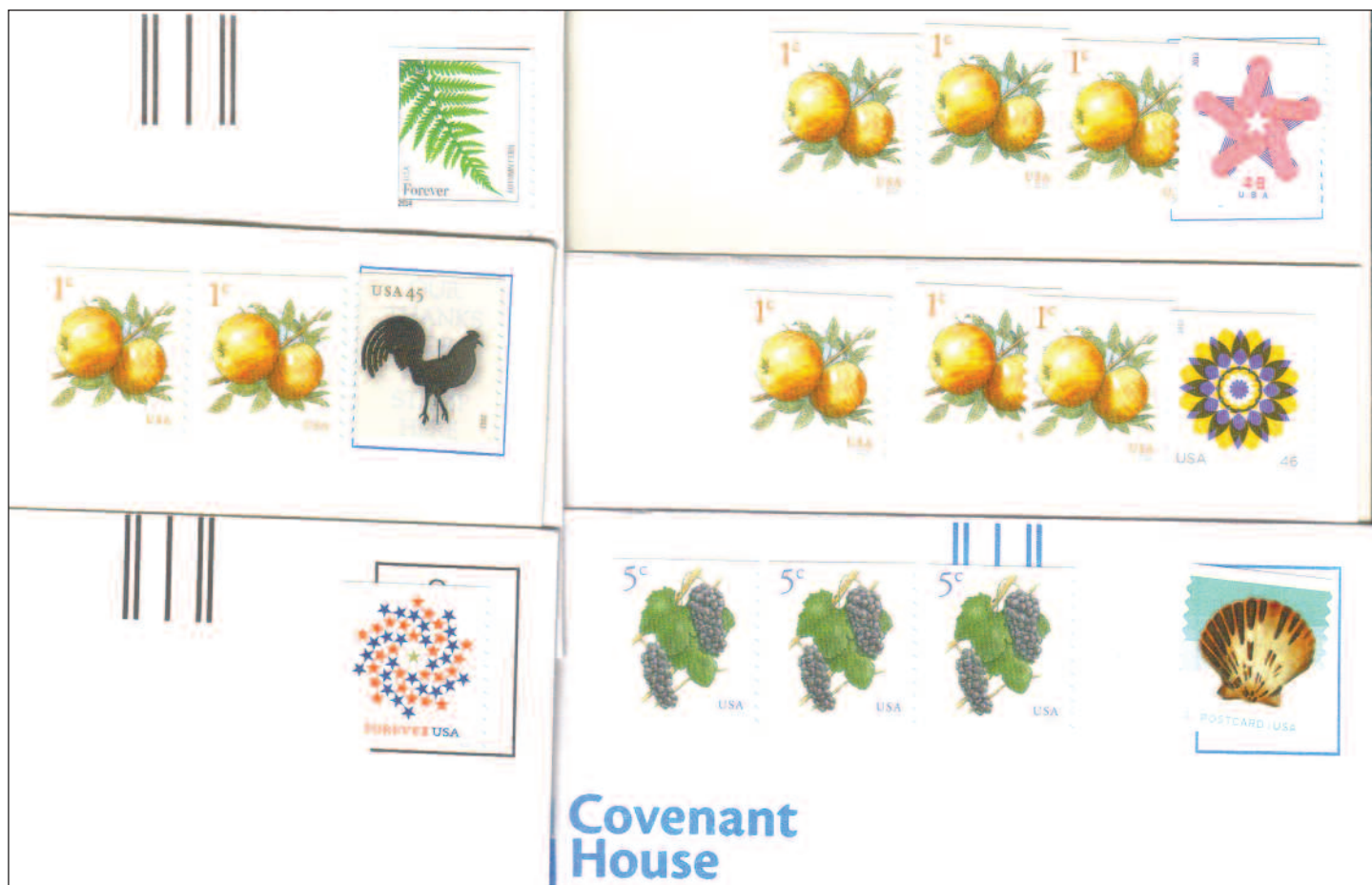


Figure 1

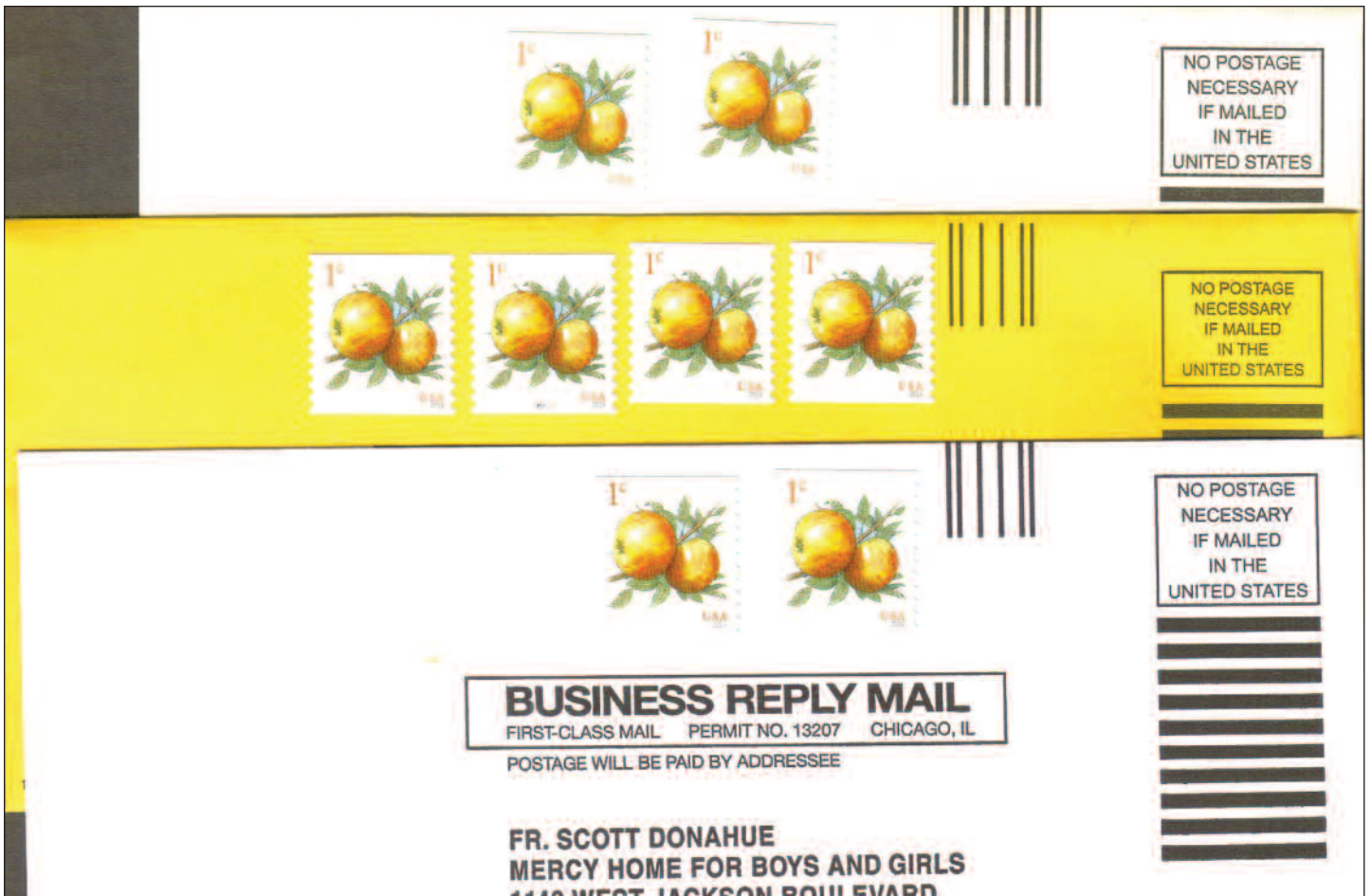


Figure 2



Figure 3

a similar raised chance of a response. Mailers often test to see if the look of “live postage” (as they call real postage stamps) improves response rates. Aside from the widths of BREs chosen, testing is evident from the varied counts in 1¢ coils used.

Figure 3 shows nine of the 11 plain Mercy Home envelopes affixed with first-class postage (the other two pre-date the 49¢ all-American-Design coils cover at top-left, with similar franking). More than half the 11 have the same, and oldest, “obsolete” coil in the cache of 50, the 44¢ Quill and Inkwell from 2011. With the 1¢ Apples coil issued on August 12, 2016, we can tell from the postage amounts, plus the marketing text “Easter Offering,” that the 44¢ rolls lasted at least into this past spring, five years after the 44¢ rate ended.

In earlier 2017 issues of **Coil Line**, the subject arose of fitting all the low-value coils required to meet the current 49¢ rate. Interestingly, it was not brought up that until “forever” coils became available in large-roll formats for use in lettershop affixing machines, mailers could usually fall back on using older first-class coils plus a few low-value coils and many did. To see this continue three years now since the 49¢ Ferns in affixer rolls were issued shows that marketers still want to use multiple stamps per mailpiece.

A possible solution would be if the U.S. Postal Service offered one or both of the additional-ounce rate (currently 21¢) or postcard rate (34¢) coils in affixer-roll formats. Currently they are offered only in consumer rolls of 100 or panes of 20. Interestingly, of all the 253 coils affixed across the 50 covers, only one could not be machine-affixed: the 34¢

postcard Seashell (seen in Figure 1, bottom right). While other affixer coils could have been hand-applied, this one had to be.

For mailers wanting to use only the low-value coils, we’ve seen some adapt to higher rates by spreading seven or so in one long line, even covering up the Facing Identification Mark (FIM). Or, two lines are used. Another approach is seen in Figure 3 (second from top at right), still taking care to leave room for the return address but covering up the FIM: actually overlaying the self-stick coils on top of each other (against postal regulation). Here, less than half the 5¢ Grapes coil is visible.

The 28 Shriners covers are also interesting, but since space is running out, some of them will have to wait for another time. For now is the partial cover shown in Figure 4. It alone has the most numbered PNCs (three) among the 50 covers. Another Shriners cover has two numbers, a 10¢ Pear (S111111) with an older 4¢ Chair (S1111), and two covers have one number each (a 5¢ Grapes [P111111] and a third 10¢ Pear).

In recent years, most stamped direct-mail marketing covers I acquire have come from the same three or four households. A log of these covers allows on-average comparisons between those and another ad hoc source for the 20 months of Nov. 2015 - June 2017. Interestingly, the 28 Shriners covers compare to only two unstamped ones from the other recipients, 14 Mercy Home covers compare to only three BREs with token 1¢ coils and six Covenant House covers compare to zero stamped covers but six unstamped ones.



Figure 4

These disparities cannot be explained, but hint at some possibilities. The present recipient likely donated to charitable causes more than the other households and prefers charities much more than political or other nonprofits. This recipient likely donated at some time to these three charities, while the other households might still be only prospective donors. My fairly representative sampling of logged direct-mail examples is not as well-rounded as I'd thought. My typical caution to making generalizations remains well-founded.

While this is an unscientific sampling, one takeaway is that conventions about coil use are fewer than we might think. Between marketers' creativity and the practicalities of lettershop equipment and post office inventory, we should only expect that sometimes coils will appear unexpectedly.

If you have an interesting direct-mail coil use to share, I can be reached at [rblanks\\_stamps@yahoo.com](mailto:rblanks_stamps@yahoo.com) or PO Box 531, Windsor, VA 23487.

## USPS Issues New 'Forever' Stamp

The United States Postal Service issued the *Flowers From the Garden* first-class "forever" stamps on August 16 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The stamps were available nationwide the same day. A pair of coil options are available: PSA coil of 3,000 (Item 755000) and a PSA coil of 10,000 (Item 760100).



*Flowers From the Garden* stamps features four different paintings of flowers found in typical American gardens. Each bunch is artfully arranged in a container.

One stamp highlights red camellias and yellow forsythia in a yellow pitcher. Another features white peonies and pink tree peonies in a clear vase. The third stamp shows an arrangement of blue hydrangea in a blue pot while the last stamp displays white hydrangeas, white and pink roses, green hypericum berries and purple lisianthus in a white vase.

### Looking to Recycle Coil Strips?

PNC<sup>3</sup> welcomes donations of mint postage, including presort coils.

Send donations to:

Brian Snippen, PO Box 5542,  
Albuquerque NM 87185-5542.



## Happy Hunting with Albert Haake

### The Beauty of Being Left Alone

PNCs took hold of the entire collecting community in the 1980s. My business was thriving in a world I thought unattainable because of a lack of financial resources. After all, the major dealers were quite wealthy and the little guy couldn't compete with them.

To my surprise, every major dealer left this market wide open for me. There was virtually no competition. I thought I charged fair prices and I was making a fair profit. Collectors loved the stamp designs and the transportation series was an unbelievable hit.

Bob Dumaine of Sam Houston Philatelics changed the market forever. I wholesaled and retailed in those years and I supplied most of the market. Some plate numbers were impossible for me or anyone to find. Collectors wanted Pumper #2, 10.9¢ PC 3, 4, etc. I couldn't provide those and yet I thought they may be out there waiting to be found.

Dumaine thought high buy prices would bring them in. Huge prices were put in buy ads in the back of *Linn's*. The market for PNCs just got hotter. The hunt for the better numbers intensified. Finds were eventually made on most numbers and prices stabilized. Then more finds were made and prices came down on most. If you made an early find of a scarce number it was like a winning lottery ticket. The thrill of the hunt was great.

Even through all of this, few dealers carried PNCs at stamp shows. Most missed this market and did not want to admit it. Even in the early years most dealers said it was a fad. I would go to shows and just grin because I knew collectors wanted them in their collections. The market remained wide open for me.

Next time: "Getting a Little Assistance."

Want to read about it?  
Then write about it!

*Coil Line* is YOUR journal.  
Send an article to the editor today.



# Beyond the Numbers

Lynnette Wood

## The Transportation Coils, Part 2

In the July issue, we began exploring “transportation coils,” the series of definitive coil stamps issued by the United States Postal Service between 1981 and 1995. We looked at three “Types” of pre-cancels on Scott 1906a, a transportation coil depicting a 1917 electric auto.

This month we will look at joint line pairs, another way to expand your PNC collection beyond the numbers. Looking more closely at our catalog descriptions, we see that some stamps are listed as having a “joint line pair” variety. What is this?

The glossary in the reference section of the [www.PNC3.org](http://www.PNC3.org) website defines a joint line pair as a “printed line between two coil stamps caused by ink deposited in the seam of two adjoining curved printing plates.” The glossary goes on to say that “the lines can vary from very light to very dark and run the range of the colors on the stamps being printed.”

In the figure, we see two examples of Scott 1908 joint line pairs, one with a faint line and one with a heavy line. Like pre-cancels, joint line pairs existed before 1981 and some collectors specialize in joint line pairs and/or their cousins, guide line pairs (lines that are deliberately engraved into the printing plate and used to help with counting the stamps).

The design of the Scott 1908 Fire Pumper shown in the figure is based on the steam-powered engine of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company, Manchester, New Hampshire. The fire pumper carried a boiler that produced steam to power a suction pump that pumped water from any available source. During a test in March 1891, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, it threw a stream of water horizontally more than 381 feet. The Amoskeag fire pumpers contributed significantly to saving



lives and property in the Great Boston Fire of 1872 and the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906. (See <http://www.beanfoundation.org/uploads/documents/Nehemiah-Bean-article-for-Bean-Foundation.pdf>). They were well-built and lasted a long time. I have found internet sources that describe these fire pumpers still operating into the 1930s and one even until 1940 (in Vancouver, British Columbia). Please email me if you know of any that were operating even longer than that.

Next month we will take a look at purple machine cancels and then I will take a break to respond to reader comments and suggestions and to report on any “finds” you may have discovered among your existing stamps. Please contact me at [PNCsAreCool@gmail.com](mailto:PNCsAreCool@gmail.com) with your thoughts and discoveries.

## Membership Update

as of August 1, 2017

### New Applicants

Peter Wurzbach 2360  
605 Ashford Dr  
Coppell TX 75019  
[peter.wurzbach@gmail.com](mailto:peter.wurzbach@gmail.com)

Jeffrey Lutz 2361  
1035 Walled Lake Villa Dr Apt 616  
Walled Lake MI 48390-3324

Michael Flanagan 2362  
1036 E Jensen St  
Mesa AZ 85203  
[Mflanagan77@gmail.com](mailto:Mflanagan77@gmail.com)

### Reinstated

Jim Carmack 651  
Cameron Walker 739

12	
Membership at Beginning of Month	465
New Applicants	+3
Reinstated	+2
Membership at End of Month	470



## Sorting a 4.5 Pound PNC Used Mixture

Dan Forgues

This 4.5 pounds of used PNCs (about 38,000 stamps) off paper is from collectors' extras. They have already been gone through. I find that collectors miss many errors and varieties that are hidden in their extras.

The first picture shows my work area. My Raytech LS-218 is in the background and my Canon scanner just to its right. I sort out 12 to 15 issues into piles with all the other issues going into the shoe box lid. I also throw out all the damaged stamps during this first sorting. I sort out all the pairs and strips as you can see at the bottom left of the first picture. The different issues go into sealable bags to be searched later.

When I have sorted out all the first round of stamps I then pick the next 12 to 15 issues and sort them. With every round the mixture gets smaller. I find this is easier than trying to sort out every issue all at once.



The second picture shows the large plastic tub with 27,000 stamps still needing the first round of sorting. To the right is the shoe box lid and a large sealable bag with stamps ready for the second round. All the smaller bags in the front are sorted by issue.

The first round I'm sorting the 18¢, 20¢, 22¢, 25¢ both 29¢, 32¢, 37¢ and 41¢ Flags along with the "G," Egret, Atlas and all the Transportation. I'm also doing a quick tag check on issues known to have tagging errors.

I'm very early in sorting this batch and I've found two untagged errors. Both are the 1907 18¢ Surrey, a #5 and a #6. I already have both so these are extras.

My Raytech LS-218 has homemade legs that give it working room under it. I don't have to lift it. I just place 40 or more stamps under it and turn it on. When checking many of the same issue for tagging it's easier to see the one odd item out of 40 than by checking them one at a time. Now back to sorting and hopefully more great finds.



### Uh-Oh!

The editor  
is running out  
of articles!

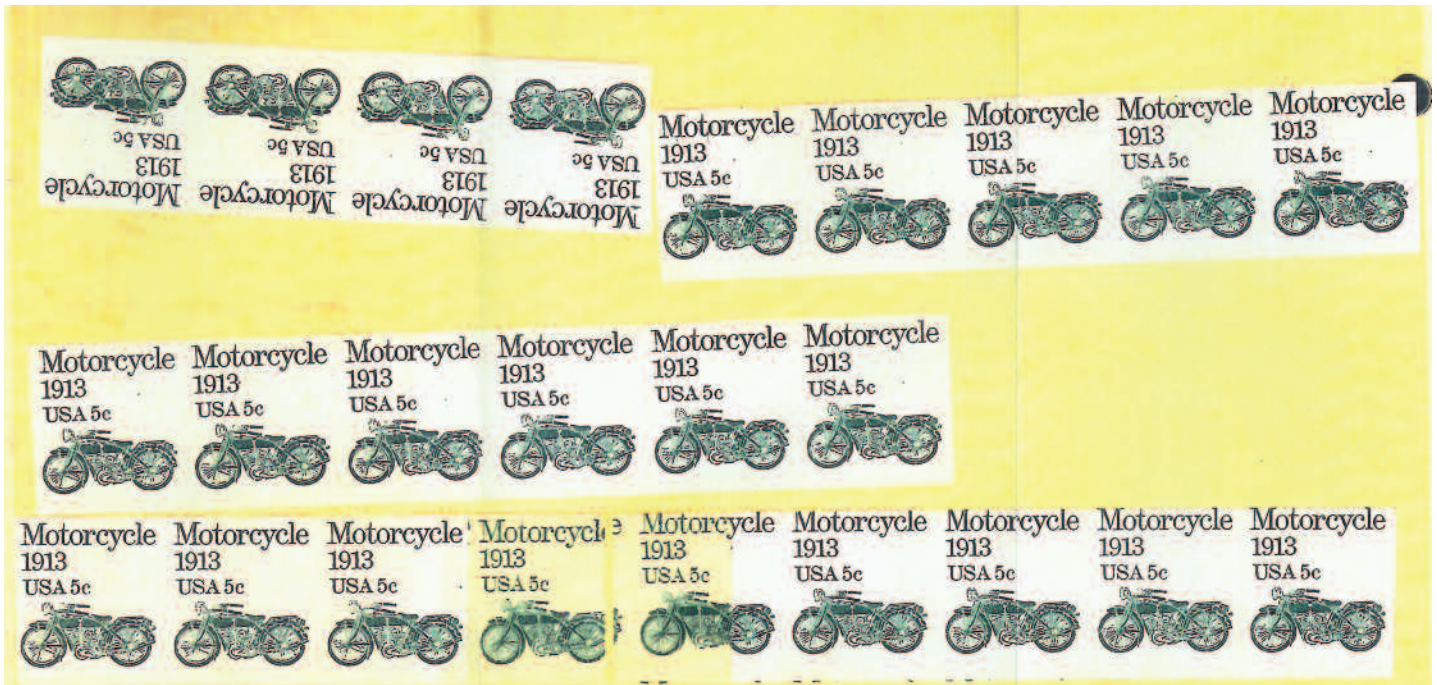
The **Coil Line** "Finished Copy" folder is running low and as I put the October issue together, I find I don't have enough to fill another month.

Articles don't have to be long and they don't have to be perfectly written. Just send me a paragraph or two about a favorite or interesting item and I'll take it from there.

Deadlines and procedures information can be found on Page 90 of this issue.

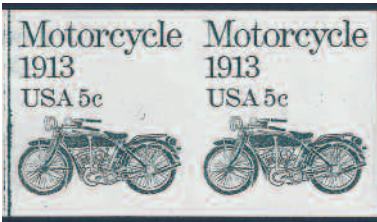
The best things in life are **FREE**  
and that includes  
PNC<sup>3</sup> classified ads!

Members are entitled to two free 50-word ads per year. Send yours to the editor today for inclusion in the next *Coil Line*!

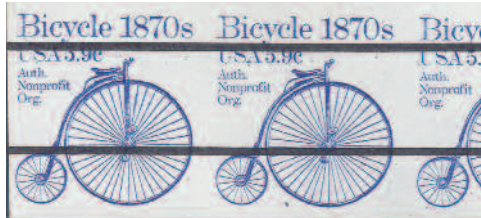


The next Cottrell Transportation Imperf is the 5¢ Motorcycle (1899a). The 32 pairs found included the unique plate strips of #1 and #2, a tape splice and a transition piece.

These pairs were expensive from the start and never came down. It was my first expensive purchase and I bought the plate numbers. *Datz's Errors Catalogue* prices them at \$2,500 a pair and they can be found occasionally for around \$1,500 at auctions.



I started this column with a scan of a Xerox I received sometime in early 1984. It shows what was left when I was offered the plate numbers. The splice, which was clear tape, and the transition from perf-to-imperf were still available. My budget would not allow me to get anything but the plate numbers. You can see the dealer that owned the 32



pairs cut the plate strips into strips of 5, an acceptable collectable size at the time. It was also an attempt to maximize the

number of pairs but it only realized him a single extra stamp, making a no number strip of 5.

The 5.9c Bicycle Precancel imperf (1901b) was found

in quantity. The plate number strips, #3 and 4, are readily available in the \$500 range, sometimes less.

### Coil Line Procedures and Deadlines

#### Deadline

Deadline for the receipt of articles, letters, advertising and news is the first of the month preceding the month of publication. For example, we need everything for the November issue by October 1, everything for the December issue by November 1, everything for the January issue by December 1 and so on.

The preferred method of receiving copy is via an email attachment. Please send as an MS Word document. We also welcome compact discs (CDs). Hard copy is acceptable but must be rekeyed so electronic submission is preferred.

#### Illustrations

The most effective way to transmit illustrations is electronically. They should be TIFF or JPEG, preferably scanned at 300 dpi but no less than 150 dpi. Do not embed illustrations in a Microsoft Word document, but attach separately to an email.

Questions can be directed to editor Vickie Canfield Peters by emailing [vcanfieldp@gmail.com](mailto:vcanfieldp@gmail.com).

Thank you for your support of, and contributions to, **Coil Line**.

# PNC<sup>3</sup> Meeting at SESCAL

John Himes

PNC<sup>3</sup> club members and guests are meeting Saturday, October 14 as part of SESCAL 2017. At this time, we don't have the meeting room or precise time firmed up, but we've asked for a mid-day meeting. We'll have specifics for you in next month's **Coil Line**.

This is a wonderful get-together for those of us who live in the greater Los Angeles area and for those traveling to the show.

SESCAL takes place at the Ontario Convention Center this year for the first time. The address of the Convention Center is 2000 E. Convention Center Way, Ontario, CA 91764. The exhibition opens Friday, October 13 and runs through Sunday, October 15.

The PNC<sup>3</sup> meeting is being 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 PNC<sup>3</sup> 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 concentrate on "Look-Alike PNCs -- What Makes One Rare?" 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, but we're not sure yet if there will be a parking fee. If so, it will probably be very reasonable compared to the rates at the LAX location in prior years. Full information on the show is available at [www.sescal.org](http://www.sescal.org).

## Coil Line Classifieds

**RETIRING** and selling PNC collection. Valued at \$4,000, sell for \$2,500. Reasonable offers considered. Egrets V2121VP, V3221PV, V3221VP; Mountain V333342 RC; Atlas V13222, V12111; F/P 89899. Eugene B. Paul, 7017 York Road, Abottstown PA 17301. 9/17

\*\*\*

**WANTED:** Western AirLetter (including Burlington, American Express and PRIDE) material. FDCs, press sheets, pads of stamps, commercial usages, test mail, autographs, errors, sketches, proofs, artwork, promotional items, AirLetter Lists and newsletters. Robert Thompson, 12431 Golden Thistle, Houston, TX 77058. [rthompson@pncvarieties.com](mailto:rthompson@pncvarieties.com) or 713-397-1772. 9/17

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**SELLING PNCs** (PS-1 to PS-13 and longer). Booklets and booklet panes (printing varieties, perf scoring, cover types, plate numbers, Hi-Brites and more). Example items: 5201 Strawberries PS-5 \$1.49, PS-9 \$2.09; 5172 USA/Star blue frame PS-5 \$2.79. PS-9 \$3.49; BK153 \$1.65; BK192 #111111 \$7.95. Send email [www.robsstampshop.com](http://www.robsstampshop.com) or write PO Box 1987, Gillette WY 82717 10/17

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**USED PNCs** on and off cover. Our new eight-page list #16-3 of Used PNCs is yours free. We also have a free new 33-page list of MNH PNCs, Booklets, Booklet Panes, many by plate number and position. Specify which list is wanted. Vic Collinino, PO Box 300-P, Stratham, NH 03885-0300 or email your name and address to [vimco@comcast.net](mailto:vimco@comcast.net). 9/17

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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 email [johnwhimes@yahoo.com](mailto:johnwhimes@yahoo.com) 12/17

### Coil Line Display Advertising Rates

(per insertion)

Full Page		\$100
Half Page		\$80
Third Page		\$65
Quarter Page		\$45
Sixth Page		\$35
Eighth Page		\$20
Back Cover	Add	\$50
Inside Cover	Add	\$25
Color ad (full page)	Add	\$100
Color ad (electronic version)	Add	\$25

(Frequency discounts available)

### Classified Ad Rates

**PNC<sup>3</sup> classifieds are available to only PNC<sup>3</sup> members at a cost of 6¢ per word with a minimum of \$3 per insertion.**

Membership in the society includes two free 50-word classifieds per year. There is a 10¢ per word cost for every word over 50.

Send ads to the editor using the information on Page 82.

# Catalog Corner with Frank Covey



**3¢ Strawberries (AP)  
(SA)  
Plate P1111  
PNC ID 2017-6**

The 3¢ Strawberries went on sale May 5, 2017, in Acton, Massachusetts and nationwide. It only comes in 10K rolls. It is a self-adhesive makeup rate stamp that will replace the 3¢ WAG Silver Coffeepot (PNC ID 2005-4).

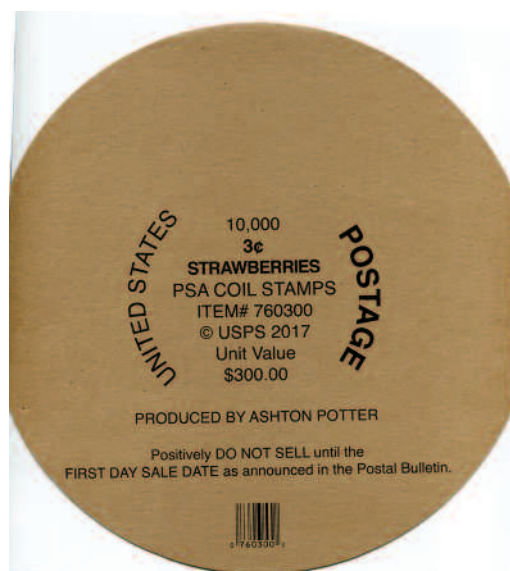
Ashton Potter produced this issue. There is a P1111 plate number every 27th stamp. Most will collect this as a PS5 as there is only one design in the issue. This issue is untagged and was printed on nonphosphored Type III paper.

USPS is microprinted in the greenery just left of the smallest strawberry. A vertical 2017 date appears in the lower left corner. The stamp is affixed to a liner that is larger than the stamp itself with spaces between stamps.



**Microprinted "USPS" in the greenery near the middle of the stamp**

There are tiny back numbers every 10 stamps on the back of the liner. Ashton Potter has ceased to do top and bottom back numbers on their large rolls. Instead all seem to be in the upper middle portion of the stamp on the back of the liner. Two versions are shown at the top of the next column. BN 8060 has a grey shadow behind the numbers while BN 5110 does not.



Ashton Potter reduces the number of digits on their back numbers as the number falls below 1000 and again as the number falls below 100. Therefore, 4-digit, 3-digit and 2-digit back numbers exist on this and other Ashton Potter rolls. There is only one 5-digit back number on the roll. Back number 10000 is behind the first stamp on the roll.

