



# Coil Line

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

www.pnc3.org

American Philatelic Society Affiliate #185

**April 2018**

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**Another Torn Father Hesburgh. See Page 46.**

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# Coil Line

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

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Scott 2260 (issued July 12, 1988) plate # 1

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# Letters to the Editor

## Where to Go from Here

I have been collecting stamps for more decades than I wish to recall. Like most kids, I collected as many stamps from as many foreign countries as I could get my hands on. My parents would take me to Gimbel's Department store in New York City where I would spend my allowance buying packets of colorful stamps from a variety of counties. Eventually, school, college and women took my attention and I strayed from stamps. After marriage, I returned to my stamps. In my late 20s, I decided to focus on the stamps of the U.S. So far, my story is like many others: collecting, stopping and returning.

I spent afternoons in post offices, bid in mail-in auctions and bought stamps from dealers, the few that still existed. This was all before the internet but after the stamp stores on Nassau Street went out of business. After purchasing my third album to house my growing U.S. collection, I discovered that I had just about all the U.S. stamps my budget would allow. So what do I do next?

It was the 1980s and I received a letter franked with a Transportation coil. I no longer remember which one it was. All I remember is that I fell in love with the simplicity of the stamp. Not knowing anything about coil stamps, I began to read (primarily in *Scott's Catalog* and *Linn's*.) I was ecstatic that the Transportation series continued for so many years. The colors, the unusual subjects and the variety fascinated me. I was not sure how to collect them, so after reading some articles in *Linn's*, I simply started to acquire plate number coils of three. This was a throwback to the joint line pairs I collected before in pairs.

When I discovered that the preferred method was strips of five, I immediately switched to that format. I searched for at least one number of each coil and was overjoyed just to look at them in my stock book. They sure were attractive. I was addicted and began to move both backward and forward in collecting PNCs for older and newer issues, but the Transportation coils remain my favorites.

I finally discovered PNC<sup>3</sup> and have been a member for a few years now. I read each issue cover to cover and am now deciding how to expand my collection. Do I try to collect all the numbers for each Transportation issue? Do I move into used strips? Up until now I have only bought mint strips. Do I stop collecting newer PNCs and only focus on my love, the Transportation series? Do I begin to look for errors? (I have bought coils with perfs through the center of the stamps.) I have a copy of the 2016 *Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog* where I keep track of my coil holdings.

This is where I look to you, my fellow collectors, for suggestions about where to go from here. Is there a list of dealers who specialize in coils for me to contact? I hope there will be more ads in **Coil Line** for stamps for sale in the months to come. Perhaps we could have a column geared toward the new collector to help him/her delve into the world of PNCs. I live on Long Island, not far from NYC, and hope that in 2018 there will be a local chapter formed or local show held in the area that specializes in coils.

Thanks to my fellow collectors for all your help. I look forward to many years of happy collecting!

Stewart Lyons

## Tagging, ORCOEXPO and 'Sawtoothed' Edges

Dan Forgues' article on tagging in the March 2018 issue was interesting. He writes that overall tagging is grainy, but sometimes it's not grainy at all unless you use 10x or more magnification to examine the stamp. It's certainly not as grainy as the Canal Boat example in Figure 2.

If you have selvage, overall tagging usually does not run across the selvage. If you don't have selvage, and you don't mind turning a stamp into a lab rat, you can use a single-edged razor blade and carefully scrape off the taggant. If you scrape through the printing and the underlying paper doesn't respond to shortwave u/v, then the tagging is on the surface and ought to be described as "overall." The USPS, in their postal bulletin data sheets, sometimes calls this "block



The old style "bridge" that held adjacent coils together in a stick. These occur roughly every 5.5 cm along the edges of the coil.

tagging," which is misleading. If you're really careful, you can remove a patch of taggant and not the printing.

In John Himes' report on the ORCOEXPO meeting, he used "separator" to describe the teeth that hold recent BCA 10-coil sticks together. PNC<sup>3</sup> has been using "sawtooth" to describe the coil edges.

There are two issues here. Separators are the vertical or sloping sections in the diecutting that separate the wavy diecuts of one coil from the wavy diecuts of the coils above and below it in the web.

Ashton Potter uses vertical separators and their coils have square corners. BCA uses sloping separators, so their coils have angular corners. We should be careful to not use a term that applies to one thing in a description of something else. These tiny teeth actually hold coils together in the stick and don't separate anything.

Shown is an example of the "sawtoothed" edge. If I had a saw with teeth like that, it wouldn't cut wood. Saw teeth are triangular. These "teeth" aren't triangular and look like micro-versions of the much larger bridges that formerly held coil sticks together. Micro-bridges would make more sense as a description of the feature, and "toothed" or "micro-bridged" instead of "sawtoothed" would be more accurate when describing the coils.



The new style micro-bridges occur every 0.7 mm along the edge. They're not triangular.

It sounds like it was a great meeting and I'm sorry I couldn't attend.

Rudy de Mordaigle

## More to the Story

In the "When the Lights Go Out" article in the March issue, it was written, "Embedded tagging has the phosphorescent penetrating into the paper. It is also known as blotchy or mottled" and "Surface tagging has the phosphorescent applied to the surface of the paper. Also known as smooth or solid."

This is an incomplete story.

I will give you three examples:

First is a coil. The Sennett version of the 37¢ Flag (Scott #3632A) has surface tagging, but its appearance can either be solid (also commonly called smooth) or uneven (also commonly called mottled, despite Alan Thomson's objections). The same can be said for 4140 and 4141.

The other two examples are from booklets, but that is irrelevant to the issue being discussed.

The Sennett version of the Forever Liberty Bell (Scott #4127) has surface tagging, but its appearance can either be solid or uneven and, in fact, some panes are uneven on one side and solid on the other.

An even better example is Scott #3636 (Sennett 37¢ Flag). It has surface coated tagging and can be solid, grainy or uneven.

Doug Iams

## Membership Chair Sought

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of membership chairman Michael Conway on January 10, 2018. Michael was an enthusiastic PNC collector and active recruiter for the club. He introduced many new members from the New England region where he resided.

His passing results in an opportunity for some other member who would like to serve the club in a meaningful way. Please contact President Robert Thompson if you would like to be considered for this post.

Michael also served as the club's liaison to the American Topical Association (ATA). PNC<sup>3</sup> has been affiliated with the ATA for four years and we'd like to keep this relationship active. It would be ideal if a PNC<sup>3</sup> member who is also a member of ATA could step forward and serve both clubs in this position. Contact Robert Thompson if you can offer your assistance in this manner.

### 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.



## President's Message

Last month I mentioned that **Coil Line** would contain a list of the members who were dropped due to failure to renew their memberships. The list contained the names of 56 members. Please take a look to see if you know any of the members on the list and try to contact them to see if this was just an oversight.

Along that same line, I'm still looking for a volunteer to head the Membership Committee. In the past, one of the things that Michael Conway, the chairman of the committee, did (along with John Himes) was to contact each of the dropped members by phone to remind them of their dues. Michael found that this was very effective. So if anyone is interested in helping, please let me know.

Bob Murrin has asked me to mention two items in my column this month. The first is for the Red, White and Blue Flags that was issued in 2014. In the November 2015 issue of **Coil Line**, in an article by Rudy de Mordaigle, it was reported that Bob had found a used, fully tagged (bright green tagging) example of this issue. The version that was shown in that article was referred to as Type A. Bob has now found a used fully tagged (bright green tagging) example with the Type B die cut. He has also found both types with plate number C11.

The second item is for the Ashton Potter version of the US Flag (2016). On September 14, 2017 he found a counterfeit pair on piece. The die cutting along the sides is shifted up. I believe that these are the first examples that have been reported for this issue. Since then, he has found numerous other examples. All of them are after the Ashton Potter version of this issue.

I will have scans of both of the items in next month's issue.

Finally, don't forget to get your bids in to Joe Sedivy for the club's semi-annual auction. Bids are due by March 31, 2018.

*John Greenwood's*

## Error Corner

This month we are talking about Scott #1907a, the imperf 18¢ Surrey. It was an early (1981) Transportation Cottrell and was cut into pairs and then later into more collec-



tor-appreciated sizes. My preference for collecting is a strip of six rather than a pair that is better centered.

In the case of the Surrey, the earliest found were better centered but cut into pairs. I have examples of a nicely cen-

tered #2 pair and a not-sonicely centered strip of six. Scott's Catalogue of Errors by Datz prices the Surreys in strips of five or six at \$500 to



\$750. I wish you luck in finding a numbered pair. I have only seen #1, 2, 9 and 10 in strips of six.



I have the #8 and unique #13 in strips of three and four. The #14 is listed but I am not convinced it exists. There are transition strips that are imperf-to-perf and perf-to-imperf. An example is shown.

**Want to read about it?  
Then write about it!**

*Coil Line* is YOUR journal.  
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# Candidate Information for June Elections

Last month we published the list of persons nominated for election to the Executive Board for the next two-year term. We also provided brief biographies of some of the candidates. Since no other individuals have stepped forward as alternative candidates and there are no challengers to the below candidates, the following will be elected to the board of Directors in the election process with a single vote by the club secretary. It will not be necessary for members to mail in ballots this year.

President – Thomas McFarland

Vice President - John Himes

Secretary – Daniel Farrar

Treasurer - Melvyn Borofsky

Member-at-Large - Lynnette Wood

Member-at-Large – Jill Ambrose

Robert Thompson will serve on the board as past president. This is not an elected position.

Here are biographical sketches for candidates not featured last month.

## Thomas McFarland - for President

I have been collecting stamps for more than 55 years, having started a collection as a Cub Scout. I joined PNC<sup>3</sup> in 1994, shortly after beginning to collect PNCs. I have previously served as club treasurer, secretary, vice president and member-at-large. In 2016, I also joined the Catalog Committee and coordinated the publishing of the most recent PNC Values List. I look forward to continuing as a board member and to look for ways to improve the club, promote PNCs and enhance the collecting of them.

In addition to PNCs, my other collecting interests are modern U.S. booklets, general U.S., Canada, Ireland and Great Britain Machin definitives. I've been a member of APS and the United States Stamp Society for almost 25 years and also belong to the Eire Philatelic Association.

Professionally, I have worked in the IT industry for 40 years in a variety of positions. In addition to stamps, my leisure interests include old cars and music.

\*\*\*

## Melvyn Borofsky – for Treasurer

I have collected stamps off and on for 70 years. I have been an avid plate number coil collector for the past 12 years. I am the secretary and a director of the Central Florida Stamp Club. I am also the treasurer of the Mid Florida Lakes Homeowners Association, Inc. and provide accounting and bookkeeping services to many companies. I am a 1962 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania (BSEE). I am a Vietnam era vet, having served six years in the USAF. I am currently the Chief Financial Officer of the local U.S. Coast

Guard Auxiliary flotilla and a USCGAUX National public affairs and boating safety staff officer.

I have served as the PNC<sup>3</sup> treasurer for the past two years and converted our accounting system to modern computing. I will continue to serve the club by assuring that members' dues, payments and expenses are properly and promptly executed. One of my goals is to bring the club into the 21st century by making PayPal a dues payment option. Hopefully, with professional IT assistance, this can come quickly to fruition.

\*\*\*

## Jill Ambrose – for Member-at-Large

I have been a member of PNC<sup>3</sup> for many years and have member number 425. I have served in many capacities over the years, including two terms as president. I initially started the club website and served as webmaster for more than 20 years. I'm currently the Content-Mistress and a member of the Catalog Committee. I attend the Annual Meeting in August almost every year and I have officiated at numerous Regional Meetings including those at the APS winter shows and the Plymouth Show in Michigan.

I'm currently one of two "at-large" officers and I look forward to serving the club for another term as a Member-At-Large.

## Regional Meeting in Michigan

A PNC<sup>3</sup> regional meeting, sponsored by the West Suburban Stamp Club, is scheduled for Saturday, April 21 during the 2018 Plymouth Stamp Show.

For the seventh straight year, the show is held at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, Westland, Michigan.

Jill Ambrose, PNC<sup>3</sup> Website Content Mistress and At-Large Board Member, hosts the meeting.

The agenda includes a time for socializing as well as trading, buying and selling PNC material. As usual, door prizes will be awarded. The planned meeting time is 11 a.m. For more details on the meeting, Jill can be reached via her contact choices on page 38.

The Plymouth stamp show is set for Saturday, April 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more show information, visit the website [www.plymouthshow.com](http://www.plymouthshow.com).

**Questions about your subscription?**

**Contact PNC<sup>3</sup> Secretary**

**Daniel Farrar at [farrard2@gmail.com](mailto:farrard2@gmail.com)**

# Collecting Tray and Roll Package Labels

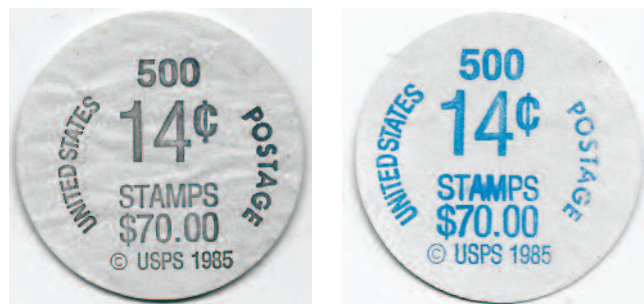
Dennis Ladd

An interesting sideline of collecting PNCs is searching out the labels that come with the packages of coil rolls. Rolls that were packaged had labels on each package describing the contents, including the roll size. The roll packages would then be bundled into trays and the trays given their own label, as below.



there can be varieties of fonts, designs and, as below, colors. (These package rolls are from the 1985 Sailboat stamp.)

For the Wheelchair coil roll labels below, note the



design change and, for the second roll label, the addition of a handstamp, "Precanceled."

Some PNC specialist dealers carry these labels in



their inventory. It is worth contacting them to see what they have. With all the varieties available, though, it can be hard to know what has been produced. Fortunately for us, these labels have been scanned and catalogued by Conrad Keydel. You can find his catalog on the PNC<sup>3</sup> website. Just log in to [www.pnc3.org](http://www.pnc3.org), click on the "Reference" button, then click on the "Coil Labels" button. There you will find out what a deep, complex area of collecting this can be.

**REGULAR**  
**20¢ 3000's**  
**8-COILS**  
**(Item No. 728)**  
SERIES 1981

**Positively not to be placed on sale until the day following the (First Day Sale Date) as announced in the Postal Bulletin.**

Since coils are produced in a variety of roll sizes (from 100 up to 10,000) there can be a variety of label sizes available for collecting. The package labels can vary from the smallest at 25 millimeters or 1 inch (18¢ Flag and Lighthouse) to the largest at 240 millimeters or 9.5 inches in diameter (15¢ Woody Wagon and others).

Even for the same stamp and the same size roll,

## PNC New Issue Service Michael B. Lipson

19365 Cypress Ridge Ter Unit 612 Lansdowne VA 20176

PNCs (mint and used), Back Numbers, No number

**Request price list:**  
**[mblipson@hotmail.com](mailto:mblipson@hotmail.com)**

# Remembering Lines and Gaps

Jim Hirstein

I have been a U.S. precancel collector for more than 40 years, starting with Bureaus and still collecting, so I knew that coils have line pairs and gap pairs. Coil stamps have had joint lines ever since the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) started using rotary presses in 1915. The BEP began printing precancels in the mid-1920s with the city and state between continuous lines across the stamp.



**Figure 1**  
Some early precancel coils

From the beginning, the coil precancels had gaps in the continuous lines caused by a space between two half-cylinder mats forming a roller that printed the precancel. Figure 1 shows a gap pair from Pittsburgh and a line-gap pair from Jackson, Mississippi. The press operator had to be sure the gaps occurred between two stamps so the city/state names would be centered on the stamp. The 4¢ Presidential coil from Minneapolis shows the gap did not always hit exactly between the stamp designs, but it wasn't far off.

The arrangement of joint lines and gaps has varied over the years depending on the presses used. I have an end-of-roll long strip of the 3¢ Stuart coil (Scott #721) with an Atlanta, GA, precancel. The joint lines occur every 17 stamps; the gaps occur every six stamps. Six possible combinations are available: the line-gap, 1L (the gap is one stamp to the left of the line), 2L, 3L, 4L, and 5L.

In September 1978, a postal bulletin announced that BEP precancels would no longer have the city and state identified. The mats for "lines only" precancels on coils were de-

livered to the bureau in October and the first were printed on Americana coils. The 8.4¢ Piano coil (Scott #1516C) with lines only precancel has a joint line every 24 stamps and a gap every 12 stamps. The joint line and gap can occur at the same place, so the line-gap pairs appear every 24 stamps. I have seen other rolls where the line and gap do not start in the same place so there are line pairs and gap pairs, but no line-gap pairs.



**Figure 2**  
Gaps can be anywhere

Plate numbers on the coil stamp design started in April 1981. Later that year the Transportation coils gave us precanceled PNCs with lines only. It was sometime later that I saw my first precancel stamp with a gap in the center of the stamp. (I'm sure it was on a Transportation coil.) I was so surprised by this stamp that I made a photocopy and sent it to a friend with a note saying "Look at this, a gap single!" Little did I know how common these would be. Now that city/state names did not have to be centered on the stamp, precancel gaps could be anywhere, and they were. Figure 2 shows the 5.2¢ sleigh with gaps at the  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{2}{3}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  positions.

Another change was in the width of the gap. In the city/state years, the gap widths were typically in the 1-2 mm range. The new precancels often had much wider gaps, sometimes in the 5-6 mm range (see Figure 3). The 10.9¢ Hansom Cab has a 15 mm gap; that one is unusually large.

When plate numbers are added to the discussion, there are new collecting opportunities found only here. The 9.3¢ Mail Wagon has plate number 6 with the gap one stamp to the left of the line (1L); the PNC<sup>3</sup> *Precancel Gaps Values List* (2013) reports this position is known only on a used single.

Bureau precancels started to include what are called service indicators, such as "Bulk Rate" or "Presorted First

Class." Initially these inscriptions also appeared between two continuous lines with gaps.

The Cottrell press was retired in 1985, ending the era of joint lines. By 1986 the service indicators were being printed without continuous lines, so the gaps were going away, too. Finally, in the early 1990s, the service indicators were incorporated into the stamp design and the printing of precancels on U.S. stamps by the BEP was a thing of the past.

I joined PNC<sup>3</sup> three years ago to learn more about this era of precancel coils. I appreciate the valuable information that has been gathered and published here. It has helped me organize and understand the history of precancels on PNCs like I never did before. In the whole of U.S. philately, it is not a long story. But even though it ended 25 years ago, I am enjoying this fascinating field more than ever.

## Snowman Mystery Solved?

John Himes

Back in October 2002, the post office issued a set of four experimental Snowman "linerless" coil stamps, Scott 3680-83. The four designs were also issued in sheets of 20 and different types of booklets. Of course, the PNC community was interested in the coil versions and used coil collectors were zeroed in on Scott 3682, the stamp with plate #G1111.



Figure 1

The stamps were very easy to obtain via mail order from Kansas City, and the interesting feature was the absence of a liner behind the stamps. They were self-adhesive and as you unrolled them, the stamp underneath was revealed. Why they didn't stick to each other was a bit mysterious, but it seemed to work fine.

The first interesting thing about this stamp was that exactly one stamp was found used with plate #G1112. Mike Lipson, who found that stamp, sold it to one of his customers right away for \$100. Since it was the only one found

that Christmas season, many felt it would be an incredible rarity. Mike was very up front about the fact that more might be found, and that it was a bit of a crap shoot if someone paid a significant amount for this initial-find stamp.

We were held in suspense for about 12 months until late 2003, when the stamps were available again for that Christmas. Many more of the G1112 plate number stamps were found, both mint and used. The original buyer was a good customer, so Mike refunded the purchase price once the stamps were found in quantity.

The second interesting thing about this stamp had to do with many of the used singles appearing with a cloudy surface after being removed from the envelopes. Recently, I received a large batch of these from the hoard of a deceased accumulator and there were many of these Snowmen with a cloudy appearance. See Figure 1, in which you can (hopefully) see the cloudy surface stamp on the left vs. a normal surface stamp on the right.

I thought to myself, "I wonder is there is a residue on the surface left over from the layer that was used to keep the stamps from sticking together and if that's what's causing this cloudy appearance?"

Since I had a number of examples and I wasn't too worried about destroying a single copy, I took my fingernail and gently began scraping the surface on the right 25 percent of one of the stamps. It only took a few seconds to see that there was indeed some sort of film on the surface. Much of it quickly came off, revealing the bright red stamp color underneath. (See Figure 2, and the right 25 percent of the stamp should show that it's pretty much free of residue.)

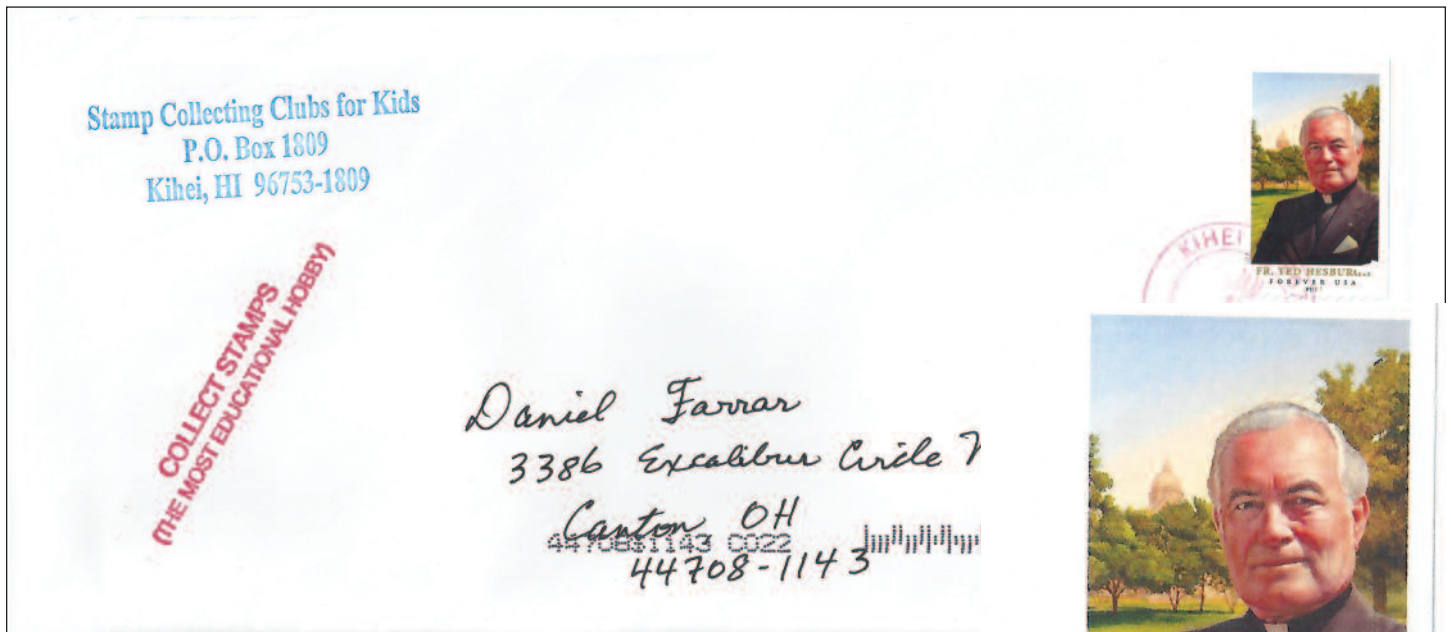


Figure 2

Does this solve the mystery of why some of these stamps are cloudy after soaking? I'll let you be the judge. If you have some of these cloudy stamps in your collection, I invite you to try this same method for removing the film on the surface of the stamps. Just go about it gently, being careful not to apply too much pressure, which might damage the underlying ink on the stamp. I'd love to hear from any member who tries this to see if you get the same result and wind up with a nicer, more attractive stamp instead of one with a cloudy appearance.

Looking for Something?  
Check out the  
Coil Line Classifieds!

# Father Hesburgh Torn Up. . . Again!



Dan Farrar sent along this cover bearing another torn Father Hesburgh Forever stamp. Dan reports that the new information on the Hesburgh coil is that even hand cancels are being torn. This Hesburgh was mailed from Hawaii, hand canceled, placed about 1/2 inch from the top and right edge and it still got torn.

In a letter to the editor in the January 22 *Linn's Stamp News*, John Himes reported that he had received three different PNC singles from this issue that were badly torn by postal processing equipment. He speculated that the USPS had changed paper stock to a type that was susceptible to

tearing. In the February 5 edition, reader John Coupal responded that he suspects that the USPS is using recycled paper. Recycled paper has shorter fibers than regular paper, and is subject to tearing for this reason. Time will tell if this is the actual cause of this anomaly.

## Coil Line Classifieds

**USED PNCs** on and off cover. Our new eight-page list #17-1 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) 3/19

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**I AM LOOKING** for a Scott 1908, the Fire Pumper plate 11, the "Smoking Engine" variety. I would love to buy one, but a high-def scan will suffice. [Vtukkerp@att.net](mailto:Vtukkerp@att.net) 4/18

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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) 12/18

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**SELLING PNC** strips of 28 "Flowers of the Garden," 56 stamps, 3k and 10k, PNC and back numbers. \$32 check for first class, 12 in flat. \$36 priority small box, no folds. Karl Vinsek, 1330 Main Street, Ferdinand IN 47532, [vinsekk@aol.com](mailto:vinsekk@aol.com) 5/18

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**SALE:** Fill in your collection. 2115b 22c Flag wide tagged PS5. Prices are for F/VF. Add 20% VF and 40% XF if preferred: 1) #2 \$175; 2) #8 \$50; 3) #18 \$15; 4) #20 \$15; 5) #22 \$75. Al Haake, PO Box 290, 84 Laurie Court, Germantown IL 62245, [alhaake@hotmail.com](mailto:alhaake@hotmail.com) 618-523-4716 11/18

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# Interesting EFOs Discovered

Jeff Fiszbein

Here are two EFOs I recently came across.



Figure 1

The banner (Figure 1) is a number hopper. Note the gold 1 between the red and blue 1s. The vertical gold stripes are shifted.



← Figure 2



Figure 3 →

On the USA presort (Figure 2), the diecutting mat shifted. The date is farther left than normal and the U in the USA at the bottom is partially cut off.

Shown as Figure 3 is a normally diecut stamp with a mailer's postmark permit cancel with a "plate number" of 3006.

## Membership Update

as of March 1, 2018

### New Applicants

Michael Kayes 2373  
510 Evergreen Dr  
Longbeach, MS 39560  
bullbat@cablone.net

Thomas Moss 2374  
P O Box 3135  
San Jose, CA 95156  
tmoss78393@comcast.net

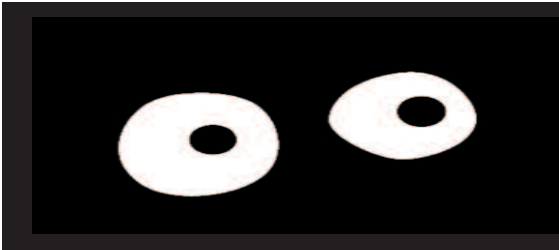
Sheldon Gittleson 2375  
1100 NE 163rd St #401  
Miami, FL 33162  
sdgcpa@gmail.com

### Reinstated

Charles White 2287  
George Mercier 2292

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Membership at Beginning of Month | 421 |
| New Applicants                   | 3   |
| Reinstated                       | 2   |
| Membership at End of Month       | 426 |

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# When the Lights Go Out

by  
Dan Forgues

This month we will look at some of the block tagging varieties. The most common varieties are the different sizes produced by the "B," "C" and "D" presses. Examples are shown in Figure 1 of two of the 2281 25¢ Honeybee. Both are plate #1 with the left stamp from the "C" press and the right stamp from the "D" press. Honeybee plate #2 also has different size tagging.



Figure 1

Another issue printed on different presses is the 2115 22¢ Flag. Three presses were used. The "B," "C" and "D" and three sizes of block tagging was the result. Information on the block tagging sizes can be found on the club website and also in Richard Nazar's book, *The 1995 Plate Number Coil Catalog*. The book can be viewed or downloaded from the club website.



Figure 2

The block tagging is clear ink and can't be easily seen for quality control. This allows tagging shifts to be overlooked. Two examples are shown in Figure 2. Both stamps are from the 1895 20¢ Flag. Left stamp is plate #9 and has an almost 50 percent horizontal tagging shift. The right stamp

is plate #4 with a 50 percent vertical shift and a horizontal shift.



Figure 3

The most major block tagging variety would be the complete lack of tagging. This would be called an untagged error. Two examples are shown in Figure 3. The left stamp is 2112c (22¢) "D" plate #1. The right stamp is 2279b (25¢) "E" plate #1111. These were more than likely produced when the clear tagging ink ran out and the presses kept on printing.

Next month we will look at overall tagging varieties and see what can be found "When The Light Go Out."

## USPS Discontinues Sales

The following stamps were off-sale as of March 31:

777300 Ferns PSA Coil of 10,000

778100 \$0.05 American Toleware  
WAG Coil of 10,000

786900 \$0.01 Bobcat PSA Coil of 10,000

787300 U.S. Flag 2016 PSA Coil of 100

790000 Ferns PSA Coil of 3,000

Coil Line is  
**YOUR Magazine**  
We need **YOUR** articles to make it  
the best it can be!

## PNC<sup>3</sup> PNC Catalog Chapters Order Form (April 2018)

The Plate Number Coil (PNC<sup>3</sup>) Catalog Committee is accepting orders from PNC<sup>3</sup> members for new publications and re-offered publications, all listed below. These will be available as long as inventory is available. Orders received in March can be expected to be filled within 60 days.

|   | Quantity<br>Ordered | Total<br>Cost |
|---|---------------------|---------------|
| <b>A. New Publications</b>  |                     |               |
| 2017 New Issues: 30 pages, color  | _____               | _____         |
| 2018 Cumulative PNC-ID Index, Cross Reference,<br>PNC ID and Scott Numbers Index, Recent PNC data and<br>Alphabetical Name Index (4 items), B&W, 72 pg. | _____               | _____         |
| <b>B. Re-Offered Publications</b>   |                     |               |
| 2017 Values List, 7th Edition (PS 7, PS 5, PS3, Used<br>Singles, Covers), 62 pages, black & white   | _____               | _____         |
| 2017 PNC3 Illustrated Glossary, illustrations in color<br>near terms, 28 pages, 5th Edition   | _____               | _____         |
| 2016 New Issues: 30 pages, color  | _____               | _____         |
| First Forever Flags 2010-13 (<0.44>, <0.45>, <0.46>),<br>29 pages, illustrations in color   | _____               | _____         |
| Avery Die Cuts (5th Edition)  | _____               | _____         |
| CCL Die Cut Varieties, 10 pg., color illustrations  | _____               | _____         |
| Precancel Gaps Values List, 29 pages, black & white   | _____               | _____         |
| Flags of Our Nation (FOON), 20 pages, color   | _____               | _____         |
| \$0.42 Flag 24/7 (15 pages, illustrations in color)   | _____               | _____         |
| \$0.41 Flag on Pole (27 pages, illustrations in color)  | _____               | _____         |
| \$0.39 Lady Liberty & Flag (28 pages, illus. in color)  | _____               | _____         |
| \$0.37 Flag Waving (26 pages, illustrations in color)   | _____               | _____         |
| \$0.32 Flag Over Porch (19 pages, illus. in color)  | _____               | _____         |
| <b>C. Postage &amp; Handling</b>  |                     |               |
| \$3.00 for first item order   | _____               | _____         |
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TOTAL REMITTANCE (U.S. FUNDS ONLY), payable to PNC<sup>3</sup> \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Order and Remittance to:**

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[pnc3treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:pnc3treasurer@gmail.com)

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