



# Coil Line

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

www.pnc3.org

American Philatelic Society Affiliate #185

**May 2018**

Vol. 31, No. 5

Whole No. 359



**A Pleasant Day. See Page 55**

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# Coil Line

Journal of the Plate Number

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

Published by: PNC<sup>3</sup>

ISSN: 1931-5112

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## Advertising Rates (single insertion)

Full Page	\$75.00	Eighth Page	\$12.00
Half Page	\$40.00	Business Card	\$12.00
Third Page	\$30.00	Back Cover	Add \$37.50
Quarter Page	\$20.00	Inside Cover	Add \$20.00
Sixth Page	\$15.00	Color, full page	Add \$75.00

(For Color Ads, Digital Version only, Add \$20.00)

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.

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Mailed from Zip Code 87185 on or near April 20, 2018.



Scott 2468b (shiny gum, available in 1993) plate # 3

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

**Printed Distribution:** Brian and Cory Snippen

**Digital Edition Distribution:** Frank Covey

**Subscriptions:** Daniel Farrar



## President's Message

As mentioned in last month's **Coil Line**, Michael Conway recently passed away. While Michael was a relatively new member of PNC<sup>3</sup>, he was also the chairman and the full committee of the membership committee. He spent a tremendous amount of time getting new members by attending shows in his region and doing whatever he could to keep old members. He will be missed.

Michael stepped down from the membership committee at the NY2016 stamp show and I am still looking for a volunteer to fill his shoes. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, please let me know.

Another club auction has come to an end. If you get a minute, please thank Joe Sedivy for all the time and effort he puts in so we can have an auction. Also, remember it is time to start thinking about the next auction coming up in October.

The Catalog Committee has been busy. This seems to always be the case for that committee. The latest projects are "2017 New Issues" (30 pages in color) and the "2018 Cumulative PNC-ID Index." Both items, along with some re-offered publications are available from Andrew Jakes. There is an order form on the back of the April 2018 mailing wrap-per.

There is nothing new to report on fakes this month. Everyone seems to be waiting to see what the next counterfeit issue will be, since the new issues were issued beginning in January. Over the last two years, there have been two different coils, four different panes of 20 stamps (in addition to a reprint of one of the earlier versions) and one single-sided booklet.

**Coil Line** and our website are the tools we use to get information out to our members and the plate number

coil community. So it is important to keep up to date on all that is happening. I know there are new finds and new information all of us would be interested in. So please, if you have any interesting stories or information, why not share it in an article? Send your article to Vickie Canfield Peters, our editor, and she will do the rest.



## Letter to the Editor

### Coil Replacement?

Quite a while ago it was reported online (by I can't remember who, possibly Richard Beecher?), that "renaming of Presorted Standard to USPS Marketing Mail has been approved, but its implementation will not begin until July 1, 2018."

As that time is rapidly approaching, we may soon see a Marketing Mail coil replacement for the current Presorted Standard coil (4961-63).

Doug Iams

## Membership Update

*as of April 1, 2018*

### Reinstated

- C. Alice Archie 136
- Larry Haynes 501
- Mario Chevrette 600
- Rudy de Mordaigle 1830
- Scott Janke 1897
- John Zwyer 2143
- Donald Tomlinson 2273
- Bill Brown 2290

Membership at Beginning of Month .....	426
Reinstated .....	8
Membership at End of Month .....	434

## Regional Meeting Hosts Sought

Several members have made it a habit to promote meetings in their areas. New meetings are encouraged as a way to share your hobby and enjoy the fellowship of like-minded collectors.

For information about hosting a meeting, contact regional meeting chairman Tony Bruno, PO Box 624, East Lyme CT 06333-0624 or email [tbee@aol.com](mailto:tbee@aol.com).

PNC<sup>3</sup> meeting notices are advertised at no charge in the newsletter. Please submit details to the editor three months in advance of the meeting.



and later with #5. Centering and the size of the strips give clues to which were found together. Although there are strips of 4, my collecting interests are for strips of 6, followed by best centered lesser sizes.

Illustrated here are two #4s, a strip of 6 and a pair. Comparing these to the #3 pair I have tells me the #3 and #4 pairs were found on the same roll (centering and size are the same). Maybe there is a #3 strip of 6 out there somewhere. I haven't found it.

Of the scarcer numbers the #1, #4, and #5 are the



Continuing with imperf Cottrell Transportation coils, we are now at the 20¢ Fire Pumper (Scott #1908a). It is my personal favorite. Imperfs can be found with plate numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 15 and 16. The most common numbers in strips of 6 are the 9 and 10, followed by 15 and 16.

When looking at individual imperf strips it is difficult to tell what other number the imperf is paired with in a roll. If my memory serves me, the #1 was first paired with #2



only ones I have found in a length of 6. This leaves the #2 (unique) and #3 to be found only as pairs. However, the #3 is found with number on top in a strip of 6. Just to confuse things, I have a very similar #1 with a number on top and I don't believe they were paired together. *Scott's Catalogue of Errors* prices strips of 6 anywhere from \$250 to \$1,250. Good luck if you can locate any strips of 6 at all.

# BCA Separator Cuts: Do Not Let Them Pass You By

Frank Covey

Some coil stamps cannot be purchased from either the Philatelic Fulfillment in Kansas City MO or your local post office. Starting in 2016 with the BCA Flag and Clouds (2016-7), Banknote Corporation of America came out with a new separator cut for their stick stamps. This is being called the saw tooth separator. The traditional stick separator used by Sennett Security Products, then owner of BCA, was the bridge separators. Both are illustrated below.



**Saw tooth separator on the BCA Flag and Clouds issue, 2016-7.22**



**Saw tooth separator on the BCA Fluttering Flag issue, 2017-2.22**



**Bridge Separator on the BCA Fluttering Flag, 2017-2.21**

When the 2017 BCA Fluttering Flag (2017-2) appeared, it could be found with both the bridge separators and the saw tooth separators. To get these you had to be in the right post office at the right time. USPS uses the same item number for both.

Because both separators were found on the 2017-2 issue, I believe there is a strong likelihood that we will see both separators on the new BCA 2018 "Z Flag." I am counting on PNC<sup>3</sup> members to tell us what kind of BCA 2018 "Z Flag" coils they have at their local post offices.

When you have a saw tooth roll, every stamp will have the saw tooth separator showing. Most rolls will have the saw tooth separator showing on the top and bottom of each stamp. However, rolls that come from the top row of the web only have a saw tooth pattern on the bottom edge of the stamp. Rolls that come from the bottom row of the web will only have the saw tooth separator pattern on the top of

the stamp. When looking at an individual roll with the bridge separator, most stamps on the roll will not have a bridge remnant on either the top or bottom. The saw tooth separator issues share the same PNC ID as the bridge separator issues of the same design, but have a sub-id attached at the end of the PNC ID indicating the different separator cut.

By getting the 2017 New Issue Catalog pages which you can order in March 2018, you will be able to know how to identify these two different BCA coils when you see them.

## 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  
\* \* \*

**PNC NEW Issue Service.** PNC dealer offers new issue service in used and mint PNCs specializing in BNs. For sale any PS13 25c Spectrum 2012 or 25c Spectrum 2015 \$9.50; any PS5 Forever Flower Garden; Forever Flag 2016, 2017 or 2018 \$7.50. Michael B. Lipson, [mblipson@hotmail.com](mailto:mblipson@hotmail.com). 19365 Cypress Ridge #612 Lansdowne VA 20176. 5/18  
\* \* \*

**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  
\* \* \*

**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  
\* \* \*

**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) #8 \$50; 2) #18 \$15; 3) #20 \$15; 4) #22 \$75. Al Haake, 84 Laurie Court, Germantown IL 62245 or send me email at [alhaake@hotmail.com](mailto:alhaake@hotmail.com) 618-523-4716 11/18

Members are entitled to two free 50-word ads per year. Send yours to the editor today.

# PNC<sup>3</sup> Auction # 58 Auction Results

Auction Closed March 31, 2018

Joe Sedivy, Auctioneer

We had 45 bidders in this auction with all bidders winning at least one lot. Of the 396 lots, 234 sold, about 59 percent, same as last auction. I waited until April 2 to close just in case there were late bids and we did not have any. We had several new bidders in this auction which is wonderful to see.

I would like to thank all who make these club auctions work so you can buy and sell to help fill holes or move out duplicates. Please remember most lots sell for under C/V so price them accordingly when sending in lots.

Again thank you to all and if you are on the internet place your bids that way. I do not need a formal bid sheet for you to place a bid.

Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid
2	\$3.00	71	\$2.00	130	\$55.00	184	\$18.00	245	\$10.00	301	\$10.00
3	\$55.00	75	\$4.00	131	\$3.00	185	\$35.00	246	\$11.00	302	\$5.00
4	\$25.00	77	\$4.00	133	\$5.00	186	\$18.00	247	\$10.00	303	\$5.00
5	\$17.00	79	\$3.00	134	\$5.00	187	\$30.00	248	\$3.00	304	\$11.00
6	\$35.00	82	\$6.00	135	\$5.00	188	\$11.00	250	\$15.00	305	\$15.00
7	\$67.50	84	\$2.00	136	\$260.00	193	\$28.00	254	\$6.00	306	\$15.00
8	\$43.00	86	\$5.50	139	\$5.50	195	\$50.00	257	\$13.00	307	\$41.00
10	\$200.00	87	\$5.50	140	\$7.50	196	\$45.00	258	\$11.00	311	\$115.00
11	\$45.00	88	\$4.00	143	\$9.00	197	\$210.00	259	\$28.00	314	\$16.00
12	\$50.00	89	\$44.00	144	\$9.00	199	\$6.00	261	\$65.00	316	\$110.00
13	\$24.00	98	\$45.00	145	\$8.00	200	\$10.00	262	\$130.00	317	\$16.00
15	\$8.00	99	\$105.00	147	\$20.00	202	\$10.00	264	\$120.00	318	\$4.00
20	\$15.00	100	\$6.50	149	\$6.00	204	\$5.00	266	\$230.00	319	\$20.00
22	\$2.00	101	\$22.00	151	\$6.00	205	\$95.00	267	\$50.00	321	\$16.00
24	\$2.00	102	\$33.00	152	\$6.50	206	\$12.00	270	\$6.50	327	\$5.00
27	\$150.00	104	\$8.50	153	\$5.00	207	\$35.00	271	\$6.50	328	\$6.00
28	\$150.00	105	\$6.00	155	\$7.00	208	\$35.00	272	\$7.50	329	\$9.00
29	\$230.00	106	\$6.50	156	\$5.50	213	\$100.00	273	\$6.00	330	\$5.00
30	\$9.00	107	\$6.50	158	\$7.00	215	\$6.50	276	\$11.00	331	\$9.00
33	\$15.00	108	\$4.00	159	\$6.00	218	\$7.00	277	\$9.00	333	\$10.00
35	\$3.50	109	\$6.00	160	\$6.00	227	\$8.50	278	\$13.00	336	\$50.00
40	\$12.00	110	\$5.00	161	\$6.00	228	\$180.00	279	\$10.00	339	\$28.00
41	\$11.00	111	\$60.00	162	\$4.00	229	\$18.00	281	\$10.00	341	\$25.00
44	\$38.00	112	\$70.00	164	\$4.00	230	\$6.00	282	\$6.00	343	\$55.00
45	\$55.00	113	\$6.00	165	\$6.00	231	\$6.00	283	\$12.00	344	\$70.00
48	\$6.00	115	\$6.00	166	\$8.50	233	\$26.00	284	\$55.00	351	\$67.50
50	\$70.00	116	\$6.00	167	\$3.50	234	\$6.00	285	\$55.00	352	\$100.00
51	\$75.00	118	\$5.00	168	\$8.00	235	\$7.00	288	\$3.00	353	\$60.00
52	\$92.50	119	\$5.00	169	\$6.50	236	\$8.00	289	\$9.00	358	\$5.00
55	\$80.00	121	\$8.00	170	\$6.00	237	\$7.00	293	\$190.00	359	\$1.00
56	\$75.00	123	\$9.00	171	\$25.00	238	\$8.00	294	\$5.00	360	\$1.00
59	\$3.50	124	\$7.00	173	\$23.00	239	\$7.50	296	\$50.00	361	\$35.00
63	\$5.00	126	\$5.00	174	\$15.00	241	\$45.00	297	\$31.00	364	\$2.00
66	\$2.00	127	\$9.00	176	\$9.00	242	\$8.00	298	\$4.00	365	\$10.00
68	\$2.00	128	\$7.00	179	\$5.00	243	\$12.00	299	\$7.00	367	\$250.00
69	\$2.00	129	\$9.00	182	\$35.00	244	\$11.00	300	\$10.00	370	\$1.00

Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid
372	\$5.00	378	\$4.00	381	\$2.00	385	\$31.00	388	\$2.00	393	\$1.00
374	\$50.00	379	\$3.00	383	\$2.00	386	\$12.00	389	\$1.25	394	\$6.00
375	\$50.00	380	\$3.00	384	\$10.00	387	\$1.00	390	\$2.00	395	\$0.75



## Beyond the Numbers

*Lynnette Wood*

### The Promise of a Pleasant Day

I've always liked the 19¢ Fishing Boat stamp design. Perhaps it's because it seems so peaceful with that little boat just floating there. I can almost hear the quiet breeze, the gently lapping waves and the rustle of reeds along the shore. The boat itself holds the promise of a lovely day on the water, recumbent, face toward the sun, perhaps balancing a fishing pole on one's knees while watching distant clouds pass overhead. For the PNC collector, the stamp also holds the promise of spending a pleasant day sorting and identifying some interesting varieties, then organizing and labeling them for future viewing enjoyment.

This stamp, Scott #2529, was issued on August 8,



1991 to meet what was then the first-class rate for postcards. Two design types are recognized. The Type II design has a finer dot pattern than the Type I design. This can be most easily seen by looking at the numeral "1" in the denomination. Under magnification, the vertical edges of the Type I "1" appear jagged, almost sawtoothed, while the edges of the Type II "1" appear relatively smooth.

If you are looking only at PNCs, it's even easier to tell them apart. The plate numbers for the Type I stamps are A1111, A1112, A1212 and A2424; the plate numbers for the Type II stamps are A5555, A5556, A6667, A7667, A7679, A7766 and A7779. From last month's column, we now know that the "A" most often indicates the stamp's printer. Indeed, these stamps were printed by the American Bank Note Company.

One stamp can also be found untagged: A5555. This stamp, Scott #2529b, sells for a slight premium over the tagged version. According to the Scott catalog, imperforates (without perforations) can also be found. These are from

printer's waste. Printer's waste is often misprinted or otherwise damaged (e.g., misperforated, mistagged, misgummed) material. It could also be material that was used to test or to clean the printing plates. Regardless, it is material that should have been destroyed, but somehow reached the philatelic market instead. Printer's waste differs from errors, which are mistakes that have been sold through the post office. Thus, a misprinted, misperforated, mistagged or misgummed stamp can either be printer's waste or an error: it depends on its origin.

The fishing boat stamp was reprinted in 1994 (Scott #2529C) with a small design change. The double loop of rope holding the boat to the wood piling was replaced by just one loop of rope. According to [arago.si.edu](http://arago.si.edu), this design change was intentional. It was incorporated to enable collectors to readily distinguish between American Bank Note's 1991 printing and the 1994 printing by Stamp Venturers. The plate number for the latter is S111.



So, this peaceful little stamp has given us a range of collectible varieties, enough to fill an album page. As the USPS Souvenir Page for the 1994 issue says, the "fishin' hole" holds a special magic for all its visitors" as does its depiction on this coil stamp for PNC collectors.

Please email me at [PNCsAreCool@gmail.com](mailto:PNCsAreCool@gmail.com) with your thoughts and comments or send me your favorite fish story!

### Mailing List Available

The club mailing list can be rented. A one-time usage fee of \$50 includes preprinted labels.

Contact secretary Daniel Farrar

[farrard2@gmail.com](mailto:farrard2@gmail.com)

for more information.

# What's a Gap?

Robert Rabinowitz



**Image #1: 1901a 5.9c 3, 4 6L, 6R farthest out gap for Cottrells; 5.9c 3, 6L PS12**

While precancels weren't collected to any significant degree before PNCs came along in 1982, suddenly interest grew tremendously. The precancels, like 4c, 5.2c, 5.9c, 7.4c, 9.3c, etc., came along to meet specific bulk rate needs. The mint versions were printed as a result of demands from the philatelic community and were sold only in rolls of 100 or 500 to meet that purpose.

Early on, besides the die-hards who were devoted to the mint pairs and mint line pairs of pre-PNC issues, the early format was a PS3 with the number stamp in the middle. It made for nice symmetry. But soon collectors noted that in some precanceled issues, a gap (space) existed between both precancel lines. In other PS3s of the same issue, no space existed, and still in others, the space was in a different place relative to the joint line. It was these precancel collectors who wanted to see more of the gaps who fostered the PS5 format that was quickly adopted to the mint versions.

The precancel lines were applied by a rubber stamp-like mat that was 12 stamps wide. The mats were very similar, but not identical. With the plate numbers on the Cottrell issue being 24 stamps apart, it should be obvious that the position of the gap relative to the joint line would be fixed. Since there was no standard at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) for positioning the precancel mats relative to the joint line, different positions resulted. In a simple case, the 4c Stage, Scott 1898Ab, shows gaps at 1L, 2L and at the line (LG) for both pairs on numbers 3,4 and 5,6. Actually, this is a limited number of known gaps, unusual when theoretically 13 for each plate number is possible. For example, 1900a 5.2c 3,5 with gaps are known in most positions (some rare) including 6L and 6R.

Gaps are named simply with reference to the joint line. If the gap surrounds, or is in close proximity to, the joint

line it is called a line gap (LG). If it is surrounding or very close to a vertical column of perfs 1L 2L, 6L, 1R, 2R, 6R, etc., it is given that designation. Today collectors seek out 1/2s and 3/4 gaps based on the same definition.

The enthusiasm for gap collecting occurred early on led by collectors including Larry Haynes of Texas and Dr. John Greenwood in California. One of the early proponents and probably a gap-collecting leader was Wolfgang Schon (1914-1997), the president of Lighthouse Co. His strong interest and publishing capability led him to issue a still highly regarded album that included all the Cottrell and related issues as well as providing spaces for a gaps 3L to 3R. Many collectors own them. When Cottrells were phased out, he continued until the mid-1990s to provide supplements.

How did collectors and dealers assemble gaps? Kansas City sold the rolls of 500 and 3,000 and so did many philatelic outlets. Most of these came from the early printing and had the same gaps. Only when the philatelic center reordered was there a chance for a different gap. Precanceled rolls constantly arrived at the Stamp Distribution Offices through the country that had the responsibility of supplying the needs of local post offices and their bulk mailers. Imagine a dealer or collector who had access to these rolls as they came in! Some did and could pick through and find the new or elusive gaps. Others went to the end of the line, being in contact with bulk mailers. These mailers rarely ever used an entire roll since the job was limited to envelopes on hand. These roll remnants were sought after and were the basis for a number of new or scarce gaps.

The gaps that show in the PS5 are collected that way. For those that appear out further, the ideal way to save them is three stamps before the gap and three stamps beyond the line. Some were cut with two stamps beyond and are just about as collectible. The existence of certain gaps was defined early on by the



**Image #2: 4.9c # 5-gap 3R if cut as PS5, it would be considered a No Gap (NG) strip (like the 5.9c'sers); 5.9c #5 gap 3R rare PS7**

defined early on by the "dumpster divers" who recovered "used" singles that showed a gap space. Thus, a 5.2c 1,2 or 4,6 single that showed a gap near one end or the



**Image #5 1902a 7.4¢ #2 Gap 7L (must be “B” or “C” press since Cottrell is “B” Press - plate # every 52 stamps; 7.4¢ PC Gap 7L**



**Image #4: 1903 9.3¢ #4 unusual 1/2 gap Gap 1-1/2R; 9.3¢ PC gap 1-1/2R PS8**

other indicated it came off a roll with a gap that was either a 1L or 1R or a 1/2 gap. The latter means the gap was centered on the # stamp, another collectible.

What fun GAP collecting was for many during these early days, but the BEP/USPS giveth and taketh away. The Cottrell Press was taken out of service in 1985 which, of course, meant no more gaps from those early issues. But did it? Collectors continued to search for rolls and strips in dealers stock and bulk mailer holdings. A few new ones were found.

An amazing find occurred at a midwest stamp show in the 1990s. A very committed gap collector came into the PNC<sup>3</sup> meeting there with a 5.9¢ #3 or 4 1L or 1R, a very, very rare gap worth more than \$1,000 at the time. The skeptics among us pulled out our UV lamps and quickly determined that it was tagged. Someone had taken a mint 5.9¢ #3 or 4 and carefully panned in what appeared to be perfect precancel lines. We were all alert to that type of a possibility. Thus the 9.3¢ 5,6 1R is known and at one time sold for about \$3,000. While it would be costly to deface the very scarce 9.3¢ mint 5 or 6, the profit could be great. I hope the very few who own this rare gap examine it with UV and confirm that it is untagged.

When the BEP switched from the Cottrell Press it continued to manufacture precanceled stamps. Actually, many new ones appeared, like the 6¢, 7.4¢, 12.5¢, some 10.1¢, and some 12¢. Without going into excessive detail, some were printed on the B press where the plate numbers appeared every 52 stamps and others on the C press where the interval was every 48 stamps. Here, too, gaps were present but much more infrequently. The gaps were all over the place, like 10.1¢ #1 with 2R and 13 L/R known. Collectors pursued them and with the long strips usually mounted them in the long SAFE albums that easily fit strips of 18.

One interesting facet is that when the Cottrell Press was dismantled, certain denominations were still in demand and further quantities were printed on the new press. Thus examples of both Cottrell and B press gaps are readily collectible for such issues like the 8.3¢ and 12¢. While a number

of different Cottrell gaps are known and quite a few B press gaps exist for the 8.3¢, only one, 5L is known for the 12¢. This reflects the amount of need there was for each issue and apparently only one printing occurred for the 12¢. Either only a limited number of rolls were made with this gap or almost all were used by one major mailing house before collectors had a chance to get it.

## Is it FOP 9.9899?

**John Himes**

Recently I was breaking down the collection of a deceased PNC<sup>3</sup> member from Tennessee. I was not at all surprised to find a mint PS3 of the 2915A Flag Over Porch stamp with plate #99899. Looking more closely, I thought I saw the red “dot” that is a constant plate variety and appears on the #9.9999 variety. Could this be the first find of a #9.9899 stamp?

The “dot” was reddish, just like the one on the #9.9999, and it was in just about precisely the right position. Since that “dot” is on the red printing plate and the red 9 is the fourth digit in the plate number, it seemed within the realm of possibility that this plate imperfection could have been found on a #99899 strip, even though none have been found in the many years since the stamps were issued. What to do?

Well, I called for help. Dan Forgues, Gene Trinks and Doug Iams all weighed in. Doug didn’t think the “dot” looked red in my initial scan. (See Figure 1.) I checked it under a small microscope, however, and it did appear to be red. There was quite a bit of back-and-forth between the four of us and finally Dan said, “Why don’t you send it to me so I can do a high-powered scan of the stamp under magnifi-



Figure 1

cation? I can also check the position of the 'dot' vs. the red 9 to make sure the spacing is appropriate." This sounded like a plan.

The next day, I placed the strip in a Lighthouse plastic stock card and mailed it off to Dan. When he got it, he didn't see any "dot" at all. He scanned it and sent the scan to me via email. (See Figure 2.)



Figure 2

Whoa! Where was the dot? I compared Dan's scan to mine and this was obviously the same strip, but the dot was missing. It took me about 10 seconds to realize what had happened. There had been a small bit of reddish detritus adhering to the stamp and it fell off when I put it in the mount. Rats!

Whoa! Where was the dot? I compared Dan's scan to mine and this was obviously the same strip, but the dot was missing. It took me about 10 seconds to realize what had happened. There had been a small bit of reddish detritus adhering to the stamp and it fell off when I put it in the mount. Rats!

The really frustrating thing for me was that if this was proven to be a 9.9899, it would have been worth quite a bit of money and I was hoping to give the good news to the owner, the widow of our deceased member. But, it wasn't to be.

What's the moral of the story? Be careful. When you think you've found something rare and important, have it checked out by the experts. I handle PNC strips every day and have broken down a couple dozen nice collections, but I was initially fooled. Until I got others to weigh in on the problem, and until the stamp was examined by others, I couldn't be sure of what I found.

In this case, it didn't end so well. But other times, I've seen it go the other way. Always be careful about a new "find" until you've gotten firm opinions from others in the hobby to corroborate the find.

# When the Lights Go Out

by Dan Forgues



Figure 1, above and left

This month we will look at some of the overall tagging varieties. The first three stamps (Figure 1) show tagging missing from the top area of the stamps. The stamps are 1899 #3, 2005 #2 and 1899 #1.

The next four stamps (Figure 2) show tagging missing from the bottom area of the stamps. The stamps are 1897 #1, 1898A #4, 1908 #7 and 2005 #4. These stamps come from the top or bottom row of the web. The main cause is the drifting up or down of the web during printing. The last two stamps might also have tagging not fully applied.

Two great varieties are found with the 1898A 4c Stagecoach issue. The next two stamps (Figure 3) are both



Figure 2

plate #3 showing the dramatic Prairie Fire variety and the Lightning tagging variety. These can be found on both plate #3 and #4.

The next two stamps (Figure 4) have tagging missing from the printed image area. The stamps are 1899 #3 and 1906 #4.

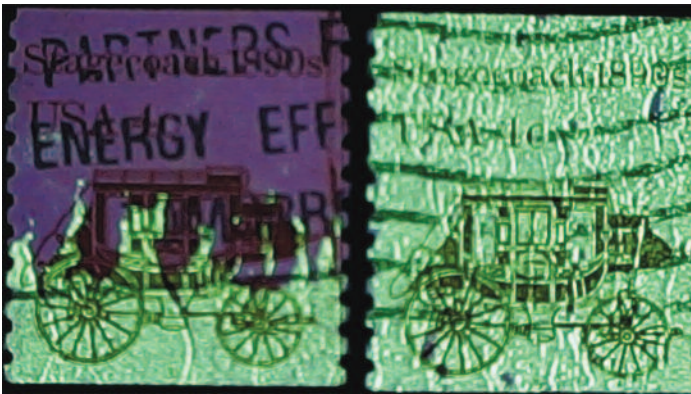


Figure 3

The next two stamps (Figure 5), 1898A #3 and 1907 #6, have areas lacking tagging. The 1907 #6 could have been from cleaning solvent on the plate.

The next batch of four stamps are more tagging varieties I've set aside. The stamps are 1908 #5 and the last three are all 1906 #4.



Figure 4



Figure 5

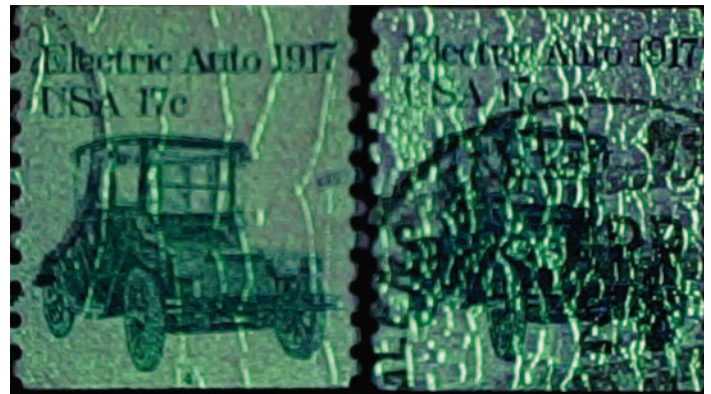
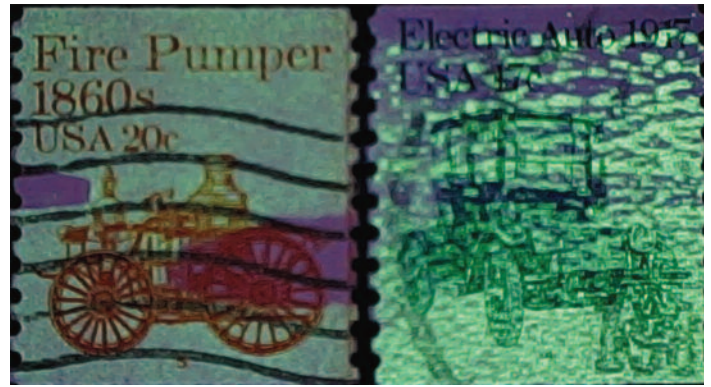


Figure 6



Figure 7

The last two stamps show examples of untagged errors. The stamps are 1898Ae #4 and 1906 #4. Another variety are the "tracks." You can read about them in my January 2018 *Coil Line* article.

The overall tagging issues have many varieties that are very collectible. You can find information on these and others in *The United States Specialist* reprint series #4 "Luminescent Tagging On United States Stamps."

Next month we will look at embedded tagging and see what can be found "When The Lights Go Out."

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# Catalog Corner with Frank Covey

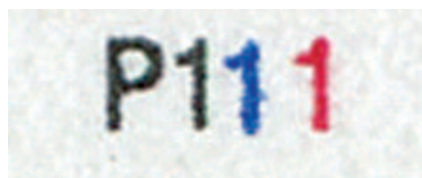
The <50¢> Forever Z Flag 2018 coil of 100 was issued February 9, 2018 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33310 and nationwide. No denomination appears on this stamp as it is intended to pay the current first-class rate forever. In January 2018 the first-class rate increased from 49 to 50 cents.

Produced by Ashton Potter, the coil has a P111 plate number every 31st stamp. Most will collect this as a PS5 as there is only one design in the issue. A phosphor tagging break is evident under shortwave ultraviolet light, just left of the plate numbered stamp as seen in the image below.

Wrappers like the one shown seal the coil. Each wrapper has a number inside either a circle or square that can go as high as 12. The wrapper shown is a square 7 wrapper.

The rolls of 100 come individually wrapped in clear plastic. The 2018 date is printed horizontally in the upper right hand corner of the design. USPS is microprinted vertically near the bottom red stripe to the right of the blue star field.

This same design is used in a coil by Banknote Corporation of America (BCA) (2018-3) issued on the same date.



<50¢> Z Flag 2018 (AP)(SA)  
Plate P111  
PNC ID 2018-2

