



Coil Line

Journal of the PNC³
Plate Number Coil Collectors Club

www.pnc3.org

American Philatelic Society Affiliate #185

April 2020

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What's Generating this Excitement?

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Figure 1

The unveiling - from the left: Larry Zettler, Georgia Tasker, Jakki Krage Strako, Jim Fowler, Susan Wedegaertner and special guest U.S. Representative Donna Shalala. (Photo by Walter Ezell)

Wild Orchids Unveiled

Jim Fowler

(photographer of stamp images and PNC³ member)

Although I have attended a few stamp unveiling ceremonies in the past at some of the big stamp shows, nothing quite prepared me for the experience of actually participating in one. The first-day ceremony for the Wild Orchid Forever® Stamps was scheduled for February 21 at 11 a.m. in the Library of the American Orchid Society headquarters at the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables, Florida.

I arrived early hoping to be able to help them set up in some small way. But that was totally unnecessary because Xhosa Bates, the senior events specialist for the USPS, took care of everything. She definitely earns every penny of her salary as she travels around the country setting up these events.

Georgia Tasker, author, horticulture writer and Pulitzer Prize Winner, served as Mistress of Ceremonies. Members of the 482nd Base Honor Guard from Homestead Air Reserve Base presented the colors with Gulliver Schools students Noah Celic and Kimberly Lampidis performing the national anthem.

Susan Wedegaertner, President of the American Or-

chid Society welcomed the group with myself and Dr. Lawrence W. Zettler, Director of the Orchid Recovery Program at Illinois College (and general stamp collector) offering remarks.

Jacqueline Krage Strako, Chief Customer and Marketing Officer and Executive Vice President at the USPS handled the Official Stamp Dedication.

The program began and proceeded without a hitch and the unveiling of the stamp images was quite the special event (see Figure 1). All the participants stood on either side of the large poster while most of the event attendees jockeyed for position to take pictures.

There were 100 chairs set up for attendees in the library event room and I figured ahead of time that 100 chairs would not be enough, especially since 30 of them were set aside for special guests and VIPs. As it turned out, I was correct: the ceremony was very well attended with standing room only.

After the ceremony, Jakki, Larry, Susan and I were seated at the signing table out on the balcony (Figure 2). The line of attendees wishing to have us sign their first day covers and programs stretched all the way through the library. Everyone seemed

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Coil Line

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Coil Collectors Club (PNC³)

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A check or money order, made out to PNC³, 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.

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Scott #2130a (issued April 18, 1985,) plate # 1

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President's Message

Tom McFarland



On February 21, the United States Postal Service released a stamp issue depicting Wild Orchids in 10 different designs. The formats issued include a booklet of 20 and coils of 3,000 and 10,000.

The technical details for the issue appeared in the January 16 issue of the *USPS Postal Bulletin* and indicated that the plate number interval for the coils would be every 27 stamps. Since the plate number interval is not a multiple of 10, speculation began as to how the designs would be sequenced on the coils. Recall that a similar situation occurred on the 2015 Spectrum Eagles reissue printed by Ashton Potter. That issue consisted of six designs and also had a plate number interval of 27. The sequence on the Spectrum Eagles turned out to be four groups of all six designs, followed by a repeat of the first three, so a similar sequence was expected for the Wild Orchids.

Prior to the issue date, John Himes obtained information from a postal clerk who saw the stamps that the sequence of the designs was two identical groups of all 10 designs followed by a group of seven designs, much as expected. However, the group of seven did not begin with the same design as the two groups of 10 but rather the fourth design in that sequence. Furthermore, the plate number appears in the ninth design of the second group of 10, or two stamps to the left of the beginning of the group of seven. This information was subsequently confirmed by PNC³ member Jim Fowler who attended the First Day ceremony and purchased the stamps. (See Jim's report of the ceremony and John Himes' article about Jim's particular connection to these stamps elsewhere in this issue.)

This sequencing of the designs made it impossible to save a plate-numbered strip in the traditional format with all designs present and the plate number in the center, either as a strip of 11 or a strip of 21.

VP John Himes reached out to a group of members including the board, the Catalog Committee, dealer members and other **Coil Line** contributors to discuss possible collecting options for the Wild Orchids. After a few days of discussion, a consensus was reached that the club would recommend saving this issue as an unbalanced strip of all 10 designs with the plate number on the ninth stamp. Such a strip would fit in an album, but would lack the symmetry of strips available from other multiple design issues to this point. Collectors are free, of course, to save this issue in any format they desire.

The last remaining piece of the puzzle was how the Wild Orchids would be listed in the Scott catalogue, as many

collectors are guided by the Scott listings. John Himes reached out to Scott catalogue and *Linn's Stamp News* Editor-in-Chief, and PNC³ member, Jay Bigalke, advising him of the discussion among the PNC³ members and our conclusions as to collecting format, and to ask if the Scott catalogue editors had yet made a decision on listing the Wild Orchids.

Within a couple of days, *Linn's* published an article on their website describing how the stamps would be listed. The Scott catalogue will list a strip of 10 with the plate number in the ninth position as well as a strip of 17 with the plate numbered stamp in the center. The strip of 10 will be included in the 2020 Scott Plate Number Coils album supplement. The larger strip of 17 will have all 10 designs, and will include an unnumbered example of the design with the plate number. However, the 10 designs will not be equally represented in the strip as this is impossible given the sequencing.

Many thanks to John Himes for taking the lead on this, to all the club members who participated in the discussions, and to the Scott catalogue editors for their quick decision on the formats that will be listed. Timely action on everyone's part enabled us to get the information together in time to be published in this issue of **Coil Line**.

Regional PNC³ Meeting in Michigan

A PNC³ regional meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 25 during the 2020 Plymouth Stamp Show sponsored by the West Suburban Stamp Club. Jill Ambrose, PNC³ Website Content Manager and At-Large Board Member, hosts the 10 a.m. meeting.

The agenda includes a time for socializing as well as trading, buying and selling PNC material. All attending are also welcome to bring a show-'n-tell item. As usual, door prizes will be awarded.

If you need more information about the meeting, Jill can be reached via email at jillambrose@zoomtown.com.

The Plymouth stamp show is set for Saturday, April 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more show information, visit the website www.plymouthshow.com. For the ninth straight year, the show is being held at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, Westland, Michigan 48185.

Looking for Something?
Check out the Classifieds!



Figure 2

Myself and Susan at the signing table. (Photo by Walter Ezell)

Unveiled —

Continued from Page 38

to be patient to wait their turn for our signatures. I didn't keep count, but I must have signed several hundred items: everything from prepared sets of first day covers purchased at the USPS table, to programs to framed mementos to all sorts of contrived items complete with postage stamps. Having been at a book signing as an author, it was not new for me, but the other signing participants remarked at how different this was for them. I even managed to get a few first day covers for myself.

After the signing, we all got together and said our goodbyes, still glowing from the day's event. For me, it was the culmination of my "15 minutes of fame." I managed to pre-purchase a coil of 3,000 stamps special ordered from the USPS and sent to me at the ceremony, so I'll probably never run out of stamps for the rest of my life! These have the standard, mass-mailer separation between stamps and are back-numbered at the top. I checked, and there are instances of "number-on-number" for my collection (Figure 3).

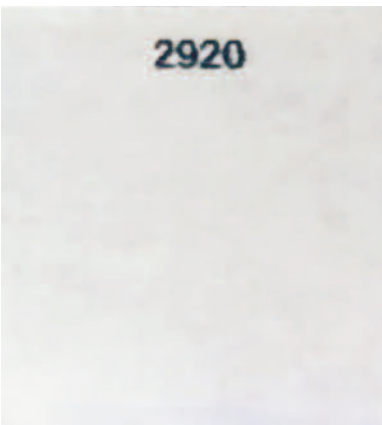


Figure 3

PNC³ Elections Set for June

2020 is again an election year for the PNC³ Board of Directors. Board members serve two-year terms, with the terms starting on September 1, every even year. Voting takes place in June, the votes are tallied in July with the results announced at the annual meeting in Hartford, Connecticut in August. In the 2018 election, all the candidates ran unopposed.

So far we have nominations for the following positions:

- President – Thomas McFarland
- Vice President – No candidate
- Secretary – Daniel Farrar
- Treasurer – Melvyn Borofsky
- Member-at-Large – Lynnette Wood
- Member-at-large – Jill Ambrose

John Himes, our current vice president, is term limited, and cannot run again for that position, so we need a candidate for that position. Having a position on the board does not require you to attend the annual meeting. That meeting is usually held in conjunction with the annual APS Great American Stamp Show.

If Thomas McFarland is elected president again, Robert Thompson will continue on the board as the past president. This is not an elected position.

All candidates for the board are currently unopposed. If anyone is interested in running for a position on the board, please contact Robert Thompson at rthomp5711@gmail.com. Robert will need the nominations by April 15 in order for them to make the June issue of **Coil Line**. They should also include a brief biography of the candidate.

Accessing the Members Area of the PNC³ Website (pnc3.org)

New club members receive a welcome message inviting them to access the website. New members should follow the link in the email.

- Choose a UserID and Password and entering both into the resulting webpage.
- Record the UserID and Password for future access.
- When three green check marks and the words "Passwords Match" appear, click on the "Activate Account" button.

Existing members who have not yet followed this process or are having access issues should send email to webmaster@pnc3.org.

Provide a phone number and contact time and the webmaster will make contact to get access set up or resolve other issues.

Have you used your free classified ad yet?

The Wild Orchids and PNC³

John Himes

By now everyone has seen images (or gotten the actual stamps) of the new Wild Orchids Forever stamps issued on February 21. The stamps are available in both booklet and coil format and feature 10 different images. What's amazing is that those images were photographed by our own PNC³ Life Member Jim Fowler!

Jim has been a photographer most of his life. His mother was an accomplished portrait photographer in the 1940s, so he was introduced to photography early on. His interest in orchid photography began in the 1970s when a friend introduced him to some wild Lady's-slipper orchids on her property in South Carolina. That was when he got hooked on wild orchids. Since then, he's taken thousands of photographs and published two books on the subject.



Jim Fowler

In March 2019, Jim was approached by the U.S. Postal Service about using his orchid photos on an upcoming stamp issue. They got his name from a botany professor friend who knew he had photographed hundreds of different North American wild orchid species. When originally approached by the USPS, the theme was chosen and there was a mock-up of a selection of Phalaenopsis orchids that are native to Asia. These are the orchids that are available at the local grocery stores and big box hardware stores. Jim's professor friend didn't like that idea and suggested concentrating on wild orchids found in North America. He provided Jim's name as a source for those photographs and the rest is history!

The original idea was to produce 20 different orchid images on a stamp product. Jim didn't know if it was to be a sheetlet or booklet. After much discussion, it was decided that it would be less expensive to produce a double-sided booklet of 10 images. Jim later found out that the stamp images would also be issued in a coil format of 3,000 and 10,000 for mass mailers of first-class postage items.

Jim gave the stamp design team access to more than 6,000 orchid images on his online Flickr photo stream. After the original selection was made, Jim was able to suggest changes to those selections. He knew they were interested in orchid flowers that showed contrast with the background

and that would work well with stamp-sized images. They were also interested in having the flowers appear in their natural outdoor setting. With Jim's suggestions, the images were finalized.

Jim attended the first-day ceremony at the headquarters of the American Orchid Society in the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables, Florida, on February 21, and his report on that ceremony can be found on page 38 of this issue.

Jim says that being part of this stamp issue is a "trifecta" for him: stamps, orchids and photography! How could it get any better? Many thanks to Jim for helping put this article together and for his accompanying article on the first-day celebration.

Miscut Yellow Flag

Member David Trutwin sent in a photo of a (41c) Flag stamp, Scott #4134, with plate number V1111. The stamp is seriously miscut, so much so that the flagpole is on the right, instead of the left, side of the stamp.



This falls into the errors, freaks and oddities (EFO) category. It's quite rare to find one this seriously miscut.

If anyone else has seen one, be sure to let our editor know so it can also be recorded in **Coil Line**.

Coil Line Classifieds

PNC USED singles, used strips, MNH PS5s, purple machine cancels. 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 12/20

* **

USED PNCs on and off cover. Our new eight-page list 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 4/20

Commercial Covers

with Rob Washburn

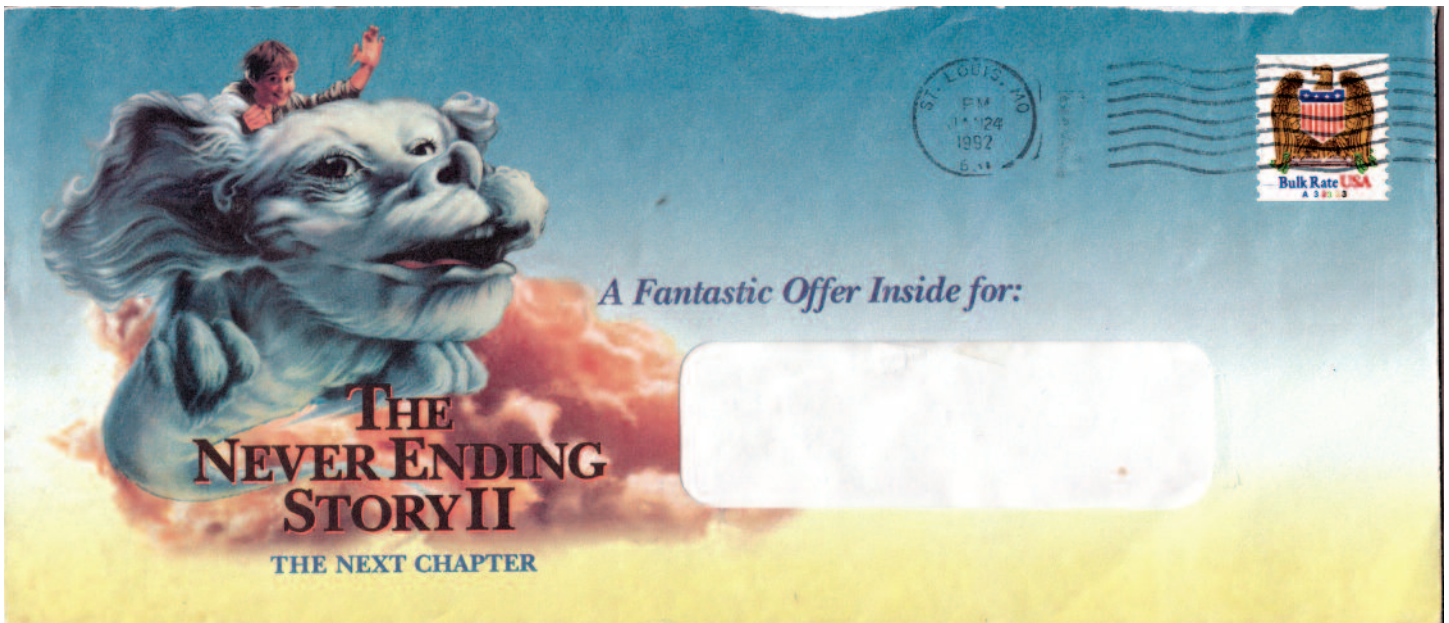
Installment #140

10¢ Issues

Part 1

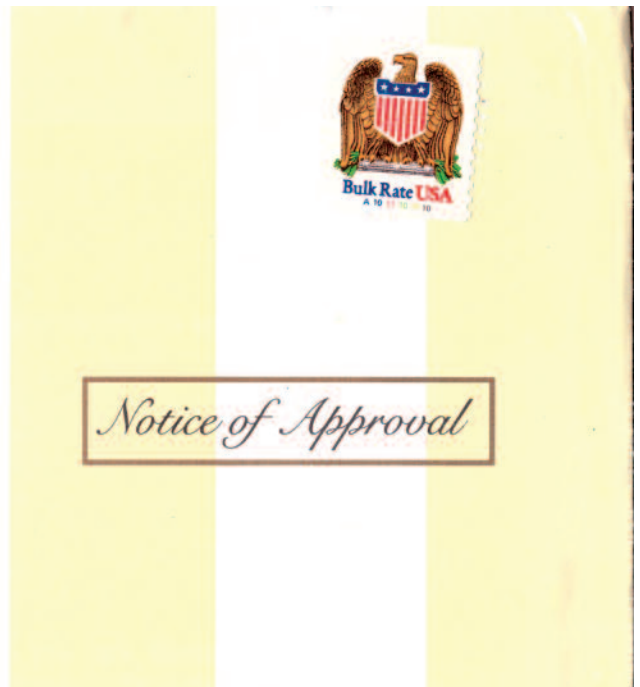
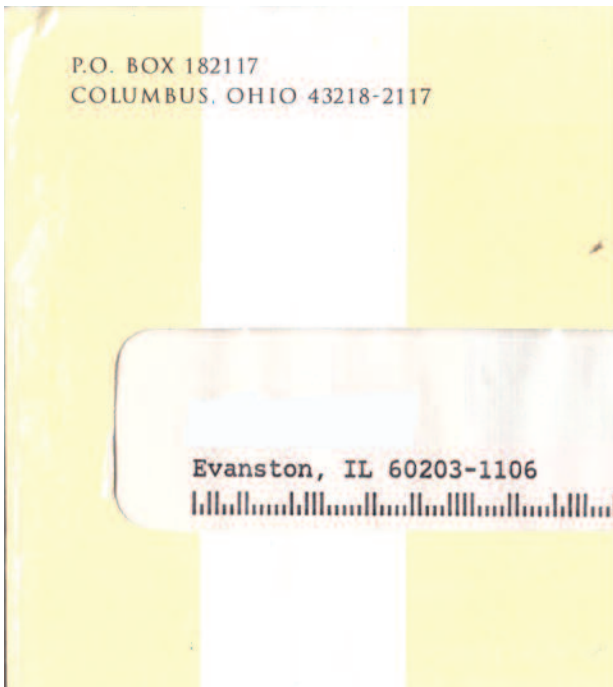
This is the first of two installments of 10¢ pnc cover usages.

Description	Plate #	Earliest
10¢ Canal Boat, block tagged, dull gum	1	4/11/87
10¢ Canal Boat, overall tagged, dull gum	1	1/30/93
10¢ Canal Boat, mottled tagged, shiny gum	1	11/23/92
	2	12/16/93
	3	6/5/96
	4	7/6/98
10¢ Canal Boat, smooth tagging, shiny gum	4	6/2/98
	5	9/29/01
10¢ Tractor Trailer	1	6/4/91
	11	11/9/94
	22	6/17/94
(10¢) Eagle/Shield	A11111	12/6/91
broken yellow 1	A11111	no date
	A11112	12/6/91
broken yellow 1	A11112	no date
	A12213	10/6/92 (PO label)
broken yellow 1	A12213	no date
	A21112	12/22/91
broken yellow 1	A21112	no date
	A21113	1/28/92
broken yellow 1	A21113	no date
	A22112	12/19/91



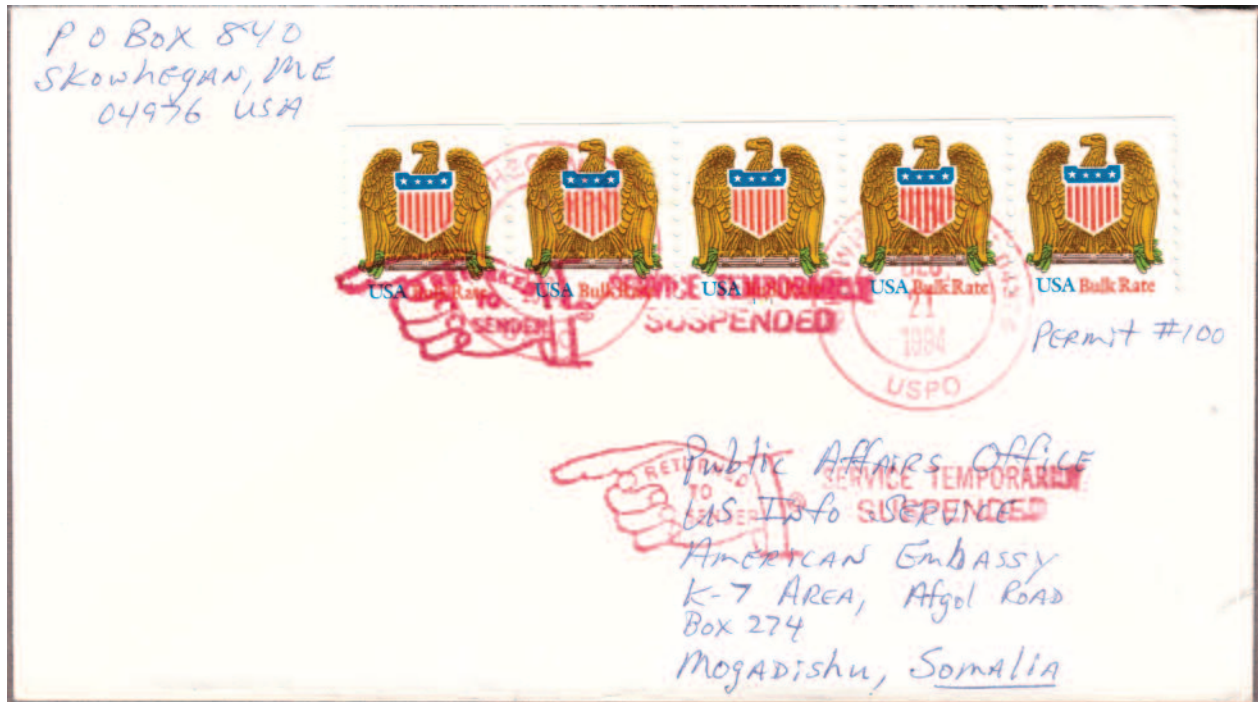
A32333, earliest known usage

Description	Plate #	Earliest
(10¢) Eagle/Shield		
broken yellow 1	A22112	no date
	A22113	2/18/92
broken yellow 1	A22113	no date
	A32333	1/24/92
	A33333	2/18/92
	A33334	no date
	A33335	2/6/92
	A34424	no date
	A34426	6/6/92
	A43324	3/17/92
	A43325	3/17/92
	A43326	3/17/92
	A43334	7/9/92 PO label
	A43335	3/10/92
	A43426	4/2/92
	A53335	12/3/92
	A54444	3/17/92
	A54445	3/17/92
	A77777	11/10/92
	A88888	2/1/93
	A88889	7/9/97
	A89999	no date
	A99998	7/25/95
	A99999	no date
	A10101010	7/22/94
	A10111010	6/2/94



A1011101011	no date
A1011101011	7/94 mailer's permit
A1011101012	11/94 mailer's permit
A1110101010	

Description	Plate #	Earliest
(10¢) Eagle/Shield	A1110101011	no date
	A1110111010	10/94 mailer's permit
	A1111101010	no date
	A1111111010	no date
	A1211101010	2/95 mailer's permit
	A1411101010	no date
	A1411101011	no date
	A1412111110	6/94 mailer's permit
	A1412111111	7/8/94



10¢ Eagle/Shield 11111

(tagged)	11111	6/3/93 backstamp
	11111	no date
	22221	4/25/94
(tagged)	22221	no date
	22222	6/94 mailer's permit
(tagged)	22222	no date
	33333	4/24/95
	44444	11/3/98
(10¢) Eagle/Shield WA	S11111	12/13/95
	S22222	7/17/95
(10¢) Eagle/Shield SA	S11111	9/25/97
(10¢) Eagle/Shield Presorted Std WA	11111	4/27/99 PO label
	22222	no date
(10¢) Eagle/Shield Presorted Std SA		
(sq)	1111	3/6/99
(round)	11111	
(sq) (tagged)	1111	
(sq)	22222	12/23/99
(sq) (tagged)	22222	
	33333	no date

National Manufacturing Week.

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mailings, please visit manufacturingweek.com or call our Privacy Administrator at 888-306-2344, or from outside the US at 203-940-5810.

Description	#33333 Plate #	Earliest
(10¢) Auto WA	S111	5/95 mailer's permit
	S222	5/4/96
	S333	6/22/96
(10¢) Auto SA	S111	no date

Several of the 10¢ PNCs are difficult to acquire on cover. The 10¢ Canal Boat #5 is the toughest of the Canal Boat PNCs to find on cover. Both the 10¢ Tractor Trailer #11 and #22 are quite hard to find on cover. As for the (10¢) Eagle and Shield, several that are not easy to find on cover: #A21113, #A33333, #A33335, #A34424, #A43324, #A53335, #A88889, #A1011101011, #A1111101010, #A1211101010, #A1411101010, #22222 (tagged), and the Presorted Std WA #22222. In addition, there are a few that are downright scarce: #A12213 (2 reported), #A32333 (8 reported), #A33334 (3 reported), #A1011101010 (5 reported), #A1110101011 (3 reported), #A1411101011 (4 reported), #44444 (5 reported) and the Presorted Std SA #33333 (3 reported).

Rob can be reached at:

P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976

Email: stamps@beeline-online.net

Telephone: (207) 474-8021

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 tbbee@aol.com.

PNC³ meeting notices are advertised at no charge in **Coil Line**. Please submit details to the editor three months in advance of the meeting.

Want to read about it? Then write about it!

Coil Line is YOUR journal.

Send an article to the editor today.

Membership Update

as of March 1, 2020

New Member

Timothy McMurray 2411
33 Grove Ave
Wolcott, CT 06716
* * *

Resigned

J Richard Fehler 1890
Patrick Cunningham 2387
Robert Toland 2394
* * *

Deceased

Fred Jensen 1042
Denver, CO
* * *

Dropped

108 Paul L. Bongiovanni	1814 Jerry C. Snider
116 Conrad Keydel	1867 Warren L. Kellner Jr
464 Dwight L. Buschlen	1877 Charles Cook
1313 Peter A. Conrad Sr	1948 E. Decker Adams
1485 Bill Scarpantoni	1983 Edward J Sawdo
1809 Gerold Vongerichten	2122 Patricia Brendel
	2390 Brent Williams

Membership at Beginning of Month	416
New Members	+1
Resigned	-3
Deceased	-1
Dropped	-13
Membership at End of Month	400

New Publications Available

Frank Covey

A trio of new publications are being offered with this issue of **Coil Line**.

First are the 2020 PNC ID Lists with the 2019 New Issues added to all three indices, i.e. Name Index, Scott Number Cross Reference and the PNC ID Master List with plate numbers. Also, the "Recent PNC List" has USPS item numbers for ordering from Philatelic Fulfillment in Kansas City. Included in this list are the first new issues of 2020, i.e. the Presorted Standard Star and the Wild Orchids.

Next is the 2019 New Issues in color. A full page is devoted to the difference between the B1111 and B2222 plate numbers on the U.S. Flag 2019 from BCA (2019-2).

Lastly is a new publication titled "Forever Flags 2014-2018." Nomenclature on some pages differs from that used in the original New Issues publications to agree with new naming conventions adopted this year by the Catalog Committee. Some new images are shown.

Starting this year you can pay for these publications using PayPal. See the order form for details. The two-page order form can be found on this month's wrapper. We print enough of each publication to meet the initial demand. Orders are filled in May

New Flag Over Porch Incision

Dan Forgues

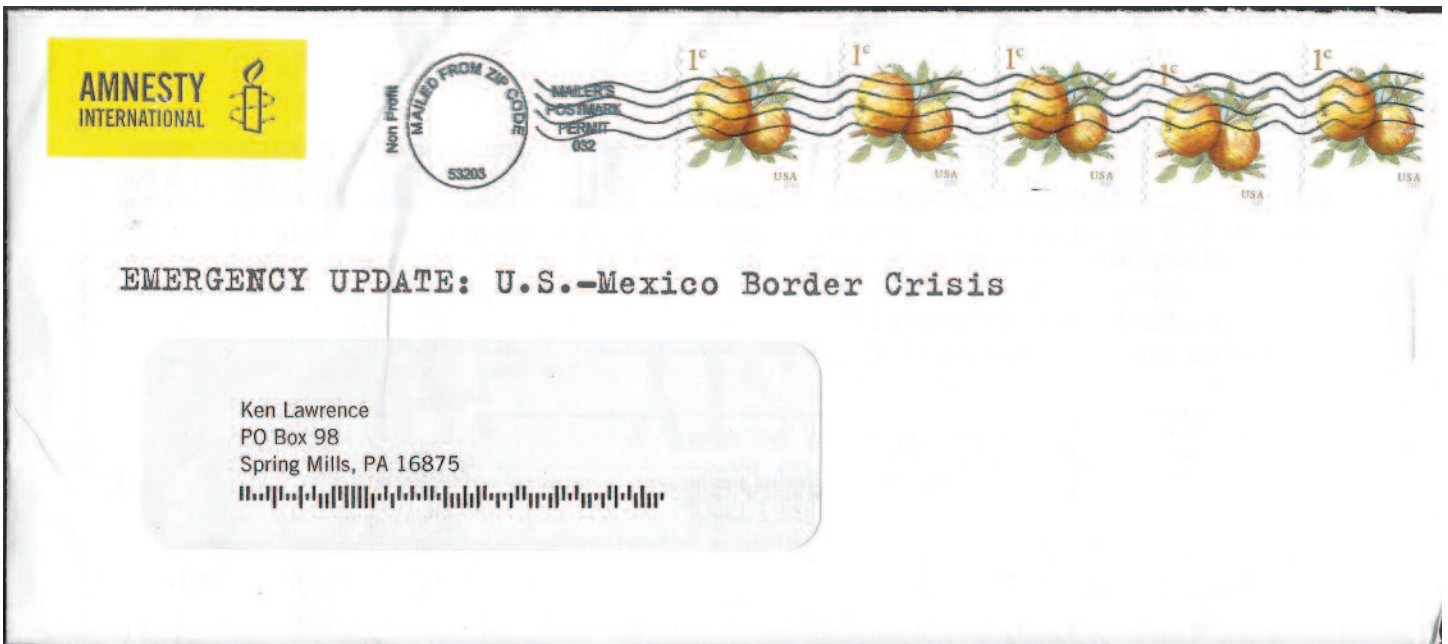
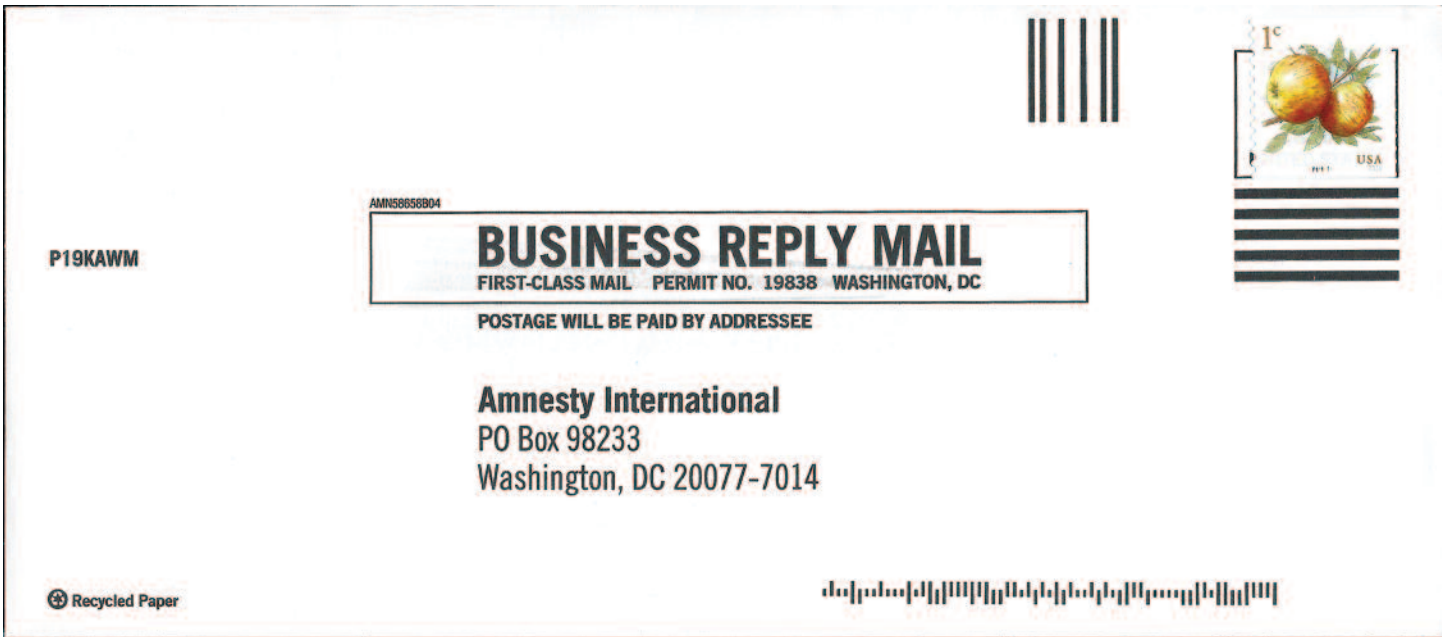
I have two 2915A 32¢ Flag over Porch #55555A 10X10 P/V that are incision style "C."

The Die Cut and Incision Style chart in the 2010 Flag over Porch Catalog only shows incision styles "A," "B" and "D" for this stamp. The scans accompanying this article clearly show incision style "C."



Here are two used copies with an enlargement of the right side of the second scan. There are likely to be mint strips out there.

Members should look through their Flag over Porch holding and try to find more copies. Send a letter to the editor with info on your finds.



Unusual Fund Appeal Usage

Ken Lawrence

Here is an unusual use of a plate number coil for a fund appeal mailing.

A single 1¢ Albemarle Pippin Apples plate No. P111111 self-adhesive coil stamp of 2016, Scott 5037, is affixed to the Business Reply Envelope as part of the return postage, while five plain singles can-



celed by a mailer's permit postmark franked the envelope that brought the letter and enclosures.

Looking to Recycle Coil Strips?

PNC³ welcomes donations of mint postage, including presort coils.

Send donations to:
Brian Snippen
1010 Blue Sage Rd NE, Rio Rancho NM 87144.

PNC³ PNC Catalog Chapters Order Form (March 2020)

The Plate Number Coil (PNC³) Catalog Committee is accepting orders from PNC³ members for new publications and reoffered publications, all listed below and on the next page. Orders may also be placed for 2002-2018 annual new issues chapters. These will be available as long as inventory is available. Orders can be expected to be filled within 60 days.

	Price	Quantity Ordered	Total Cost
A. New Publications			
2019 New Issues: 24 pages, color	\$8.00	_____	_____
2020 Cumulative PNC-ID Index, Cross Reference PNC ID and Scott numbers index, recent PNC data and Alphabetical Name Index (4 items), B&W, 72 pg.	\$6.00	_____	_____
Forever Flags 2014-2018 (<.49>, <.50>) 35 pages, illustrations in color	\$12.00	_____	_____
B. Re-Offered Publications			
2019 Precancel Gaps Values List, 3rd Edition 30 pages, black & white	\$5.00	_____	_____
2019 PNC ³ Illustrated Glossary, illustrations in color new terms, 28 pages, 6th Edition	\$11.50	_____	_____
2017 Values List, 7th Edition (PS 7, PS 5, PS3, Used Singles, Covers), 62 pages, black & white	\$5.25	_____	_____
First Forever Flags 2010-13 (<0.44>, <0.45>, <0.46>), 29 pages, illustrations in color	\$11.00	_____	_____
Avery Die Cuts (5th Edition)	\$10.50	_____	_____
CCL Die Cut Varieties, 10 pg., color illustrations	\$5.50	_____	_____
Flags of Our Nation (FOON), 20 pages, color	\$7.65	_____	_____
\$0.42 Flag 24/7 (15 pages, illustrations in color)	\$8.25	_____	_____
\$0.41 Flag on Pole (27 pages, illustrations in color)	\$12.50	_____	_____
\$0.39 Lady Liberty & Flag (28 pages, illus. in color)	\$12.75	_____	_____
\$0.37 Flag Waving (26 pages, illustrations in color)	\$12.25	_____	_____
\$0.32 Flag Over Porch (19 pages, illus. in color)	\$8.50	_____	_____
SUBTOTAL THIS PAGE (A)		_____	_____

Continued on Page 2

Note: Instructions for payment by check or PayPal are on the next page.

PNC³ Member Number _____

Your Name (PRINT) _____

Your Mailing Address (PRINT) _____

email address or evening telephone number _____

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Reprints of Annual New Issues (in color)

Year	No. of Pages	Price	Quantity	Cost
2002	32	13.50	_____	_____
2003	24	11.50	_____	_____
2004	14	9.75	_____	_____
2005	16	10.50	_____	_____
2006	24	11.50	_____	_____
2007	43	16.50	_____	_____
2008	29	12.75	_____	_____
2009	22	11.00	_____	_____
2010	13	9.00	_____	_____
2011	18	10.50	_____	_____
2012	22	11.00	_____	_____
2013	23	11.00	_____	_____
2014	26	14.00	_____	_____
2015	17	10.25	_____	_____
2016	25	9.25	_____	_____
2017	30	10.00	_____	_____
2018	18	6.00	_____	_____

SUBTOTAL THIS PAGE (B) _____

SUBTOTAL FROM FIRST PAGE (A) _____

ORDER TOTAL (A + B) _____

C. Postage & Handling (P&H)

\$3.00 for **first item** ordered

\$3.00

\$0.30 for **each additional item** ordered

\$ _____

TOTAL REMITTANCE (U.S. FUNDS ONLY), payable to PNC3 (A+B)+P&H

\$ _____

Mail Order and Remittance to:

Andrew M. Jakes
6000 Riverside Dr. #R4402
Dublin OH 43017
pnc3treasurer@gmail.com

PAYPAL: If you wish to remit your payment via PayPal, please send the funds to:

pnc3treasurer@gmail.com

This is our Paypal ID. Then email us at the same address to tell us what you ordered.

PLEASE NOTE: This PayPal address is **ONLY** for catalog publication ordering.
Please do not use it to pay other PNC³ expenses.