

COIL LINE

JOURNAL of PNC³

Vol. I, Number 2

July, 1988

Gene Trinks, President
3603 Bellows Ct.
Troy, MI 48083
(313) 528-1857

Tom Maeder, Editor
1604 Bardale Ave.
San Pedro, CA 90731
(213) 833-7937

H. L. Mencken once wrote "What is a cynic, except a disappointed idealist?" I think that we collectors are a pretty pure bunch. We thrill at discovery, treasure the solitude of working on our collections, and enjoy the comradeship of others who share our mania. We are archivists, and perfectionists; and if our spouses do not collect, they at least tend to indulge us in this. Collecting is a quasi-religious experience.

If the Attorney General is sleezy, and the Pentagon, and defense contractors, and Cabinet members, and the House Speaker, and the neighborhood used car salesman, at least we are not, and neither is the philatelic fraternity.

If it is government and corporations, "What do we expect?" We certainly do not take kindly to "sleeze" in our own ranks. The Canadian dealer who was forging 18¢ Flag #6's upset us. Was there favoritism in providing first day cancellations on the re-engraved Stagecoach? And aren't you glad you weren't the last collector to buy 20¢ Pumper #12 and 14 before the supply came off the post office shelves? (They may well become the most common of the 16 numbers.)

I attended a show in late June in Los Angeles. I was sitting at the table of a nationally-known dealer, a man I have known for several years, and whose integrity I believe in. Another collector sat down and asked to look at a 9.3¢ #8 in XF condition. The dealer had 3 copies, and wanted \$115 for a strip. The collector exploded. After ten minutes, what it all seemed to boil down to was this: "I bought Pumper 12/14 from you three months ago, and all you dealers are manipulative rip-off artists."

Let's keep our feet on the ground. Are there post office supplies of 20¢ Flag #4 and Pumper #2. Maybe. Maybe not. Are there supplies of 18¢ Flag #6 sitting around against the possibility that it may become the postcard rate at some future time? Maybe. Are there 9.3¢ #8's, 5.9¢ #5/6, 5.2¢ #1/6, 10.9¢ #3/4 sitting in stockpile. I doubt it.

The post office has collected and destroyed the surplus 20¢ Officials. They have had an internal shake-down on "after the fact" first day cancellations. And the Canadian dealer is being criminally prosecuted by civil authority. And is \$115 for a 9.3¢ #8 PS5 XF a rip-off? Not when a dealer who specializes in PNC's, and is an active buyer of the material, cannot manage to get more than three copies in stock.

Let's be alert and thoughtful, but at the same time avoid the creeping cynicism which can destroy this thing that we love so much.

Letters

"I would like for someone to discuss in an article the pros and cons of various albums. I think Scott could and should improve their album

Lon Griffin,
412 N. McAdoo
Little Rock, AR 72205

"I would like to see PNC³ set up a "Clearinghouse/Depository of duplicate material from members only; values to be set based on market price and condition. A member would have a want list to be filled against his value of deposited items when his 'wants' become available. A nominal fee (maybe 1%-2% of value to be charged for postage and handling. I envision this as a tightly controlled market for members only, as a way of at least breaking even on their investment in the PNC market."

Peter C. Rider
69 Hurtin St.
Port Jeff. Sta., NY 11776

"I would like to see a mail auction in the future for and from members. I do have a question about a recent issue in the transportation coil. Linn's had an article about the 3¢ Wagon having a pebble in the road, but not about the missing spokes on the front wheel. This does not appear on all the stamps; is this a flaw or what."

Joseph Hansen
415 So. Orange St.
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

The 'pebble' is constant because it is from a pit in the plate that picks up and transfers ink. The 'missing spoke' is not a plate flaw, but results from inking, and its appearance is transitory. (Editor)

"I own a Consumer Education PS4 #1. Should I remove the fourth stamp to make a PS3 or should I keep it the way it is?"

Bernard Klieger
130 Cedar St.
New York, NY 1006

The personal opinion of the Editor is that I would be reluctant to ever tear a stamp from a strip. However, if I had a PS3 complete collection, I think I would tear it for symmetry's sake. Some collectors chose PS4's at the beginning, but it seems to have disappeared. I certainly would not tear a PS5 to make a PS3. (Editor)

"What is confusing me is that the two numberless stamps adjacent to the plate number stamp sometimes (always?) appear to be worth more than the plate number stamp itself. For example, look at 10.9¢ #3/4. Some dealers are selling a PS3 for \$380. Then they offer the same stamps in PS1 for \$40. Simple math tells me that the adjacent (numberless) stamps are worth \$170 each."

Peter Wurzbach
Dallas, TX 75374

A very interesting observation! Many of the early PNC's were torn to PS2 to conform to a decades-old practice with Cottrell lines. 10.9's were off-sale before PS5 became established. PS2's on the 10.9¢ are not scarce, but longer strips are. On later issues, there is very little price variance between a mint single and a PS5. (Editor)

Ads

Members are entitled to (2) free 40-word insertions per year. We encourage you to avail yourself of it.

Wanted: Trading partners. PNC's, Precancel gap positions (Cottrell and B-press), Constant plate and mat varieties. I currently have many extra constant varieties for trade. Contact Tony Maves, 1228 Harding Ave., Ames, IA 50010.

Wanted: PNC trading partners wanted for exchange of duplicates. Please send want list and PNCs available for trade. APS member. Larry Thibodeau, 634 Derringer Dr., Bel Air, MD 21014-4815.

For Sale: First Book on PNC's. Hard cover, color section. A reference work you cannot be without. Regular price \$49.95. Club members \$33.95. Eclectic Publishing (Joe Agris), P.O. Box 20373, Houston, TX 77225-0373

Information: I am in the final stages of compiling a PNC FDC catalog.

If you have unusual cachets or combinations of PNCs on FDC please contact me. Send photocopies if at all possible. Ed Denson, POB 158, Alderpoint, CA 95411.

New Applicants (previously unpublished)

Louis Bauer	Plant City, FL
Lon Griffin	Little Rock, AR
Robert Soccorsi	Youngstown, OH
✓ Stephen Sickerman	Winter Haven, FL
✓ Richard Sandford	Spring Valley, CA
✓ Edwin Simonton, Jr. MD	Shreveport, LA
✓ Harold Brown	Bowling Green, OH
✓ Harvey Tourangeau	Norwell, MA
✓ William Howard	Portland, OR
✓ Jeffrey Gordon	Chicago, IL
✓ Edward Wigger, Jr.	Mechanicsburg, PA
✓ Henry Albrecht	Elmhurst, NY
✓ Lawrence Bigos	Buffalo, NY
✓ William Hoe	Honolulu, HI
✓ Robert Schwab	Greendale, WI
✓ Trygve Blom	Spofford, NH
✓ John Sweeney	New York, NY
✓ Sidney Lewis, Jr.	Corvallis, OR
✓ Theordore Chylack	Conshohocken, PA
✓ Eugene Kiehlmeier	Erie, PA
✓ George Richards II	Duxbury, MA
✓ Peter Tukker	Douglasville, GA
✓ Debbie Pezzillo	Birmingham, AL
✓ Kenneth Fedoruk	Southington, CT
✓ Robert Novak	Edison, NJ
✓ J.B. Braman	Barstow, CA
✓ Albert Mikula	Cumberland, RI

Dealers Offering Discounts to PNCJ Members

Steve Esrati
P.O. Box 20130
Shaker Heights, OH 44120

Al Cibulskas
28 Westwood Rd.
Stamford, CT 06902

Ed Denson
PO Box 158
Alderpoint, CA 95411

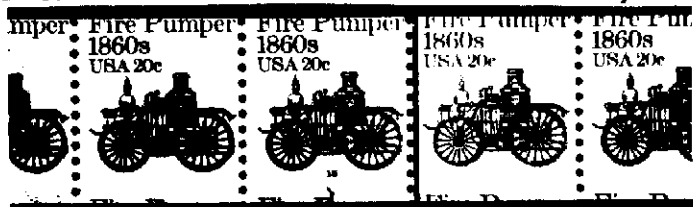
Lee Warzala
10 St. Mary's Court
Springfield, IL 62702

Red Raider Stamp Co.
4123 W. 18th
Lubbock, TX 79416

Stamps 'n Stuff
2700 University Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50265

Stewart Kusnitz
17 Second St.
Fall River, MA 02720

Tom Maeder
1604 Bardale Ave.
San Pedro, CA 90731



"Freak of the Week": "Wounded P" at bottom. We invite you to send xeroxes of interesting material for inclusion in this newsletter.

Editor's Note: I am a high school teacher. I will be in Europe all of July escorting spoiled, indulged high school students. Please excuse my inability to answer your mail until August.