

COIL LINE

JOURNAL of PNC³

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The eager response to the survey on Philatelic Windows was gratifying. Pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter contain data on 97 windows in 34 states. Clerks were evaluated as wonderful or terrible, with few in the middle.

The venomous responses came in first. It is as if you were saying, "Thanks for asking; I've got to get this off my chest." A couple of you asked to have a copy of the results sent to your local postmaster, with the name of the offending window highlighted. I am happy to comply.

There seems to be a pattern. Good clerk, comprehensive stock; terrible clerk, inadequate stock. It is USPS policy that the philatelic windows have a "Philatelic Catalog" stock. If a window does not have a comprehensive stock, it is probable that the clerk is too disinterested or lazy to order it.

A copy of our findings will be forwarded to the director of philatelic marketing.

Since you get a collective grade of "A" on this last survey, dare we go for two? We have had 17 new coils this year, 13 of which were in the transportation series. That should give us a rest until the next rate change, which may come as early as 12 months from now. We had 4 rate increases during this Presidential Administration. And it's bound to continue.

Here's the question: Has the Post Office gone stale on Transportation designs? Should the series continue, even if the subjects are trite? And the \$64 Question: do you have any ideas for Transportation coil subjects? I think that the Citizens Advisory Group would like to know. Some of you beat the drum for the Conestoga Wagon, and you got it. There is a slack period now, with enough lead time to get some of our ideas implemented.

Please return the enclosed questionnaire. I know you have plenty of scrap postage in your desk.



width of splice

This is an example of a "tape splice" that got away from BEP. In this case, the tape is clear. Sometimes it is red. A September article in "Coil Line" noted that the BEP is no longer going to attempt to excise these splices. Note the proximity of the 2 plate numbers. (Courtesy of Doctor John Greenwood.)

Letters

Philatelic clerks in the Detroit area insist on selling a minimum of 50 stamps from the 25¢ rolls if they know you are looking for a plate number. They do this even if the number is clearly visible within the next 5-10 stamps to come off the roll. They cite the Domestic Mail Manual as the authority to do so (the applicable section says that a minimum of 50 stamps must be purchased "to guarantee" a plate number marking.

I believe this applies to mail orders, and not when the customer can see the number on the roll. What do the rest of you think? What is the policy in other areas? In the New Haven, CT area, I had been able to buy exactly the number of stamps I wanted (to nearest 10, in the case of the fractionals).

Does anyone know of any ruling on this matter from Washington?

(This letter was on the back of an unsigned survey form, so I am not certain of the author. The "Coil Line" would be happy to handle answers. I can guess, though, what the answer is: there is no uniformly implemented national policy.)
Editor

If you check the maximum number of PNCs possible, you will find that the hardest to find strip (18¢ Flag #6) has a relatively low number of PNCs possible when compared to the other plates. However, if the possible number of PNCs is compared to the #12/14 Fire Pumper which is now in plentiful supply, you will find that #6 is much higher. I know many were used, but where are the rest of these? Where were the #6 rolls sent (geographically). I know of used singles coming from California and New York State. Are these the only two areas of distribution? Were these in rolls of 100, 500, 3000?

A separate issue: can PNC³ formally request that the USPS label the plate #s on the outside of the cases of stamps it sends to distribution centers?

Edward Gould
Roscommon, Michigan

It's not how many were printed, but how many are distributed, and ultimately, how many are sold. The printing total represents how many times the plate rotated (times 18 or 20 rows, depending on the plate). Printer's waste is included in the official total. The amount of waste is always an unknown. Actually, very few used copies are known to exist. Only 4 copies are known on cover. This leads me to conclude that relatively few were sold. Coming near a rate change, local post offices no doubt shredded many of them. And there is always the spectre that many were not shredded, and sit at this moment in USPS vaults, just as Pumper 12/14 did.
Editor

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½ page, \$15; ¼ page, \$8.
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(2) free 40-word ads/yr.

Briefly...

Imperfs have been found on the 13.2¢ Coal Car and 21¢ Mail Car. At least 17 plate number strips exist on the 21¢. They were found as partially imperforate rolls on three different rolls by one bulk mailer. The Breadwagon is imperf on #2,3,4; the 25¢ Flag on #2,3; the Honeybee on #1,2.

The December newsletter will include a roster of all PNC³ members and their addresses. If you wish to be excluded from this publishing, please notify Eric Russow, Secretary, by Nov. 15. His address is Box 17374, Whitefish Bay, WI, 53217.

This issue of the newsletter is the first one to have paid advertising. I usually show "paste-ups" of the newsletter to local collectors before I send it for printing. I got some interesting questions. "Does PNC³ get a share of Dr. Agris's profits?" "Do the Treasurer and the Editor have to pay for their advertising?" Perhaps it's a sign of the times that integrity isn't assumed. Dr. Agris paid for his insert at the normal one-page advertising rate, and even paid an additional 20¢ per letter since his ad put the letter over one ounce. He sent the Editor a review copy of his book (see reverse page), with no quid pro quo. Ads from members of the Executive Board and the Editor are charged at the normal rate.



Lighthouse®

As the acme of their research and development, Lighthouse are now in a position to offer collectors of **tagged** and **untagged** (precanceled) **STRIP** format PNCs:

- (a) All-inclusive, fully illustrated hingeless sets of pages with double-seam mounts that will hold — whatever you have or prefer — either **PS 3** or **PS 5** PNCs;
- (b) individual spaces for the usual »collectable« **gap** and/or **mat** positions;
- (c) and on top of all that, extra long **PS 7+** spaces and mounts to even accommodate 3L and 2R gaps.

There are two sets of pages for the whole range of **PNC strips**, viz:

- 53 PNC/1 SF:** off COTTRELL press, with »Joint Line«, regulars overall tagged, 1981—1985
- 53 PNC/2 SF:** B, C/D & ANDREOTTI PNCs, w/o. joint line, regulars block tagged, 1981 to date.

Additionally, there are sets of pages as well for **PNC SINGLES**, again both **tagged** and **untagged**. These can, moreover, also be had as »regular pages (without mounts)« and, of course, as »SF-Hingeless pages (with mounts)«, i. e.

- 53 CS/1** or **53 CS/1 SF:** off COTTRELL press, with »Joint Line«, reg. overall tagged, 1981—1985
- 53 CS/2** or **53 CS/2 SF:** off other presses, w/o. Joint Line, reg. block tagged, 1981 to date.

Originally, these pages were meant for **USED singles**. But, obviously, there seem to be quite a number of collectors, too, who save **PNC MINT** singles (see **STAMP COLLECTOR** of 11/28/87, page 20, »Modern Stamp Collecting«).

The aforementioned sets of pages are suitably inserted in either a

- DP-53:** Lighthouse **PERFECT** 2-post turn-bar Binder with »USA« on spine, or
- DE-red:** Lighthouse **EXCELLENT** 13-ring Binder (w/o. name of country on spine).
- KA-red:** matching **Slip Case** for either one of the aforementioned binders.

It is a matter of personal preference whether to choose a **PERFECT** or an **EXCELLENT** binder. In view of the lengths of particularly the **PS 7** spaces and mounts, the editors feel inclined to recommend the **DE-red** binder for items **53 PNC/1** & **2 SF**, since the pages usually get bent less when being turned over.

Supplements: PARTS 2 of the **STRIP** and **SINGLE** format albums will be up-dated by annual supplements (or possibly only every other year depending on the number of new **PNC** issues during any one year).

Summary	Period	No. of Pages	Regular Pages without mounts		SF-Hingeless Pages with mounts	
PNC PS 3/PS 5/PS 7 (Regulars & Precancels)						
Part 1: COTTRELL press/joint line/reg. overall tagged	1981/85	82	---	---	53 PNC/1 SF	US\$ 158.00
Part 2: Other presses/no joint line/reg. block tagged	from 1981	32	---	---	53 PNC/2 SF	US\$ 82.00
PNC Singles (Regulars & Precancels)						
Part 1: COTTRELL press/joint line/reg. overall tagged	1981/85	13	53 CS/1	US\$ 18.50	53 CS/1 SF	US\$ 36.50
Part 2: Other presses/no joint line/reg. block tagged	from 1981	14	53 CS/2	US\$ 19.50	53 CS/2 SF	US\$ 39.00
PERFECT 2-post turn-bar Binder with »USA« on spine			DP-53	US\$ 51.00		
EXCELLENT 13-ring Binder (without name of country on spine)			DE-red	US\$ 52.00		
SLIP CASE			KA-red	US\$ 24.00		

Please place your order with your favorite dealer or else contact **LIGHTHOUSE PUBLICATIONS, INC.**, P. O. Box 705, Hackensack, NJ 07602-0705. Canadian residents will request Canadian-Dollar-Prices from their Canadian dealer or contact **LIGHTHOUSE PUBLICATIONS (CAN.) LTD.**, 210 Victoria Ave., Montreal, P. Q. H3Z 2M4, Canada.

Books...

Authors have sent copies of their books for review. They are PNC³ members. They have not requested special treatment, nor sought to have the newsletter promote their books. The opinions expressed are those of the Editor alone.

Denson's Specialized Catalog of Plate Number Coils on First Day Covers, Souvenir Pages, and Ceremony Programs, by Ed Denson.

For those that share Ed's passion for PNC's on First Day Cover, this specialized compilation of data in 150 pages is worth the \$14.95 price.

The catalog lists over 2200 different plate number coil first day covers--including a separate listing for each stamp, number, cachet, and strip length. After the main body of the listings there is a 7 page summary of the prices for each stamp and number listed both as First Day Cover and on commercial covers. I believe that this pricing reflects accurately on the current market.

Confusing to me is a 00/00/00 listing for earliest use postmark on commercial cover for many numbers. I don't know if Ed's computer glitched, because the information (although ever-changing) is available.

The catalog is interestingly illustrated with various cachets. The information is comprehensive, and while up-dating will always be necessary, I can't imagine a more thorough and scholarly work being presented on the subject than this one.

Transportation Issue Plate Number Coil Stamps, by Joseph Agris, M.D.

Joe's book will be reviewed in the Specialist by John Hotchner, and in TPN by Myron Hill. I have not talked to either of them, but the grapevine has it that they have some criticism of the book.

Let me begin with what I like. It is handsomely bound, and the pages are quality glossy stock. It is an attractive "coffee table" book. The stamps and covers are nicely reproduced, and many are enlarged. There are several color plates. Since I received the review copy, I have returned to it several times. I enjoy browsing through it very much.

There are several technical problems, and a few errors of fact that could have been saved with more careful editing. For example, the illustrations of the 3 precancel types on the 17¢ Auto are incorrectly labeled. The illustrations of the color varieties on the 5¢ Motorcycle are in black and white.

And while the book is titled Transportation Issue, it does in fact deal with all the plate number coil issues.

Also, it lacks a certain coherency. It appears that Joe gathered his illustrations first, and built the text around it, rather than vice versa. Yet, even at that, the illustrations of EFO, covers, programs, and early photos of the stamp subjects are marvelous. I hope he does not ask me to send the review copy back.

Collector Interest

Survey Results

Evaluations of philatelic windows by PNC³ members included these categories: (I) Coil stock on hand. Is everything that is available from Washington also at this window?
 (II) The clerk. Is he/she knowledgeable? Courteous? etc.
 (III) The window. Accessible? Convenient hours?

10-highest 1-lowest

Alabama
 Birmingham
 5 10 6

Colorado
 Boulder-Main
 10 9 ?

Maryland
 Baltimore-Main
 6 2 8
 Benson
 8 10 10

Alaska
 Anchorage
 7 9 10

Connecticut
 Marion
 8 8 8
 Waterbury
 6 3 3

Michigan
 Detroit-Main
 8 5 8
 Detroit-W. Fort St.
 8 10 9
 Flint
 3 1 ?
 Grand Rapids
 7,7 5,6 7,7
 Lansing
 10,9 10,9 8,9
 Royal Oak
 7 8 6
 Saginaw
 6 6 ?
 Traverse City
 6 7 ?

Arizona
 Phoenix-Osborn
 10 10 9
 Tucson-Cherrybell
 7,10,9 1,9,8 1,5,5

Delaware
 Newark
 7 10 8

Arkansas
 Little Rock
 10 9 10

District of Columbia
 L'Enfant Plaza
 10,10,9 10,7,2 10,10,8

California
 Anaheim
 8 10 10
 Barstow
 4 10 6
 Davis
 10 10 8
 Sacramento
 10 3 5
 San Diego-Midway
 10 10 6

Florida
 Ft. Lauderdale
 5 3 3
 Leesburg
 1 6 3
 Orlando
 5 3 3
 Tampa
 8 8 6

Minnesota
 Minneapolis (City/Lakes)
 8 8 8

San Jose-Main
 8 8 8
Santa Barbara
 ? ? 5
Santa Rosa
 7 1 1
 (Los Angeles County):
Inglewood
 8,8 8,7 5,3
L.A.-Federal Building
 4 3 3
L.A.-Terminal Annex
 7,5 6,5 9,8
L.A.-Village Station
 3 2 2
Long Beach
 10,10,10,10
 9,10,10,9
 9,8,10,8
Redondo Beach
 10,10 10,10 9,8
West Covina
 10 10 9

Hawaii
 Honolulu-Main
 10 10 10

Mississippi
 Jackson-LeFleur
 8 10 4
 Jackson-Main
 7 7 5

Illinois
 Chicago-Main
 9 1 10
 Chicago-So. Clark
 9,5 3,2 10,9
 Des Plaines
 9 10 2

Missouri
 St. Louis-Clayton
 8 7 9

Indiana
 Terre Haute
 10 8 8

New Hampshire
 Berlin
 8,9 7,10 8,2
 Hanover
 5 8 8
 Manchester
 10 6 5

Kentucky
 Lexington
 6 10 10

New Jersey
 Hazlet
 10 10 10
 Red Bank
 10,5 4,2 5,2

Maine
 Portland
 10 8 8

New Mexico

Albuquerque
8 9 10

New York

Buffalo
8 9 9
Elmira
7 6 8
Hauppauge
2 2 8
Smithtown
3,2 2,2 4,8
Syracuse
9 6 9
(New York City):
Franklin D. Roosevelt
2,3 3,8 7,8
Grand Central Station
6,3 6,8 8,8
New York City-Main
2 4 7
Rockefeller Center
3,6 4,4 6,6
Times Square
2 5 6

Nevada

Las Vegas
8 9 9
Reno
9 8 7

North Carolina

Ashville
10 6 ?
Raleigh
6,5 7,8 9,8

Ohio

Akron
10 10 10
Canton
5 5 10
Cleveland-Arcade
3 3 5
Cleveland-Main
5 5 8
Dayton
3 3 8

Oregon

Corvallis
7 10 10
Portland-Main
10 10 10

Pennsylvania

Erie
10 10 9
Gettysburg
6 1 5
Johnstown
10 10 9
Harrisburg
8,10 7,10 7,10
Lancaster
8 7 6
York
6 7 7

Rhode Island

Providence
8 10 10

Tennessee

Bristol
4 3 ?
Chatanooga
7 8 ?

Texas

Dallas-Downtown
5 1 10
Dallas-Olla Podrida
3 7 3
Houston
5 6 ?
Lubbock
8 3 3

Utah

Plano
10 10 9
Salt Lake City-Main
10 2 10
Salt Lake City-Dntn.
6 5 2

Washington

Bellingham
8 10 2
Everett
6 9 7
Seattle-Main
9,7 10,7 10,7

Wisconsin

Milwaukee
10 5 5

Many survey forms included comments. Here are some samples.

About the clerk:

"The clerk takes well to new info such as types and gaps."

"Calls me when new issues come in."

"Clerk is handicapped by other duties and inventory limit."

"No interest--considers it to be a waste of his time."

"A negative experience with a clerk waiting for retirement and totally uninterested, and with personality problems."

"Clerk is rude and abrupt. Not knowledgable."

"Clerks not very interested--seem bored."

"Clerk keeps inventory records for alot of small post offices--thus knows where some off-sale material might be located."

"We don't have any. What little numbers?'"

"Has no idea what PNCs are and doesn't care to learn."

"Courteous and to the point. Will not check for plate numbers."

"Insists on folding the strips."

"The window was good until replacement took over: very rude and doesn't know anything about stamps."

"It's only a job. You must know what you want."

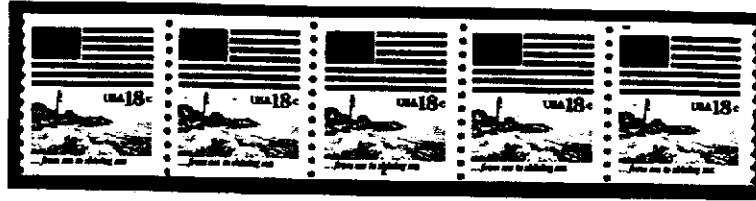
"I can't sell you precancels. You need a permit."

"Knowledgeable, yes; interested, yes; courteous, yes; extra mile, usually."

Recent Auction Results

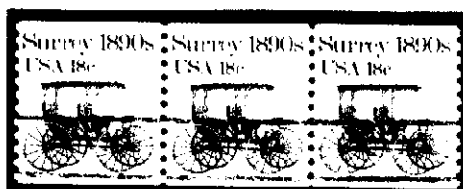
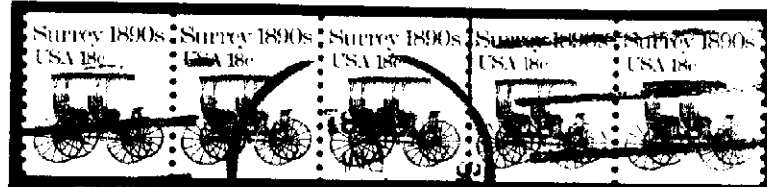
September 24, 1988; Suburban Stamp, Inc. Public Auction (Buyers add 10%)

18¢ Flag #6	PS5	XF	1,000.
20¢ Flag #6	PS3	VF	40.
9.3¢ #5 Mint	PS3	F-VF	100.
9.3¢ #6 Mint	PS3	F-VF	100.
10.9¢ #3	PS3	VF	250.
10.9¢ #4	PS3	VF	250.
20¢ Pumper #2	PS3	VF	110.
20¢ Pumper #7	PS3	F	46.
20¢ Pumper #8	PS3	F	46.
1¢ Pair Imperf	VF		480.
1¢ Imperf #5	PS6	VF	4,000.
2¢ Imperf #3	PS6	VF	300.
10.1¢ Imperf #1	PS6	VF	1,050.



September 29, 1988; Sam Houston Philatelics; Mail Auction.

18¢ Flag #2	PS3	XF	22.
18¢ Flag #3	Mint Single	XF	80.
18¢ Flag #7	PS3	XF	22.
20¢ Flag #4	PS3	VF-XF	36.
20¢ Flag #6	PS3	VF-XF	36.
9.3¢ #3 & #4	Tagged, PS3	VF-XF	40.
17¢ #3B & #4B	PS3	XF	55.
17¢ #5C & #7C	PS3	XF	32.
18¢ Surrey #1	PS3	used XF	12.
18¢ Surrey #1	PS5	used XF	20.
18¢ Surrey #1	PS3	XF	36.
18¢ Surrey #3	PS5	used VF-XF	12.
18¢ Surrey #3 & 4,	PS3	XF	36.
20¢ Pumper #7	PS5	used (2 sht/pfs)	44.
20¢ Pumper #7 & 8	used	PS2	8.
22¢ Flag #1,3,6.	PS3	VF-XF	22.
"D" Official #1	PS3	XF	34.
"D" Official #1	PS5	XF	75.



Sam Houston's November 13th Public Auction will feature some of PNC³-member Tom Beschorner's better constant plate varieties. Sam Houston (Bob Dumaine) is also a PNC³ member. I am sure he would be happy to provide an auction catalog upon request: 13310 Westheimer #150
Houston, TX 77077
(713) 493-6386

Ads

Wanted: Colorano FDC franked with 1906 (Electric Auto) PNC.

Julius Clark, Jr., 5241 Todds Rd., Lexington, KY 40509.

Wanted: FDCs and Commercial Covers of PNCs, especially fractionals.

Also, do you receive metered mail? Watch for Olympics/Sports meters. G.A. Estus, POB 451, Westport, NY 12993.

Trade: PS6, #4 imperforate Breadwagon for a PS #4 of the "Erie Blue" 22¢ Flag coil, or write for buy offer. Debbie Pezzillo,

1129 Aurora Circle, Birmingham, AL 35215.

Trade: PS5, PS3: some varieties, gaps, paper types. Your want-trade list for mine. Dave Agrodnia, 219 School St., Berlin, NH 03570.

Buying: Tag Shifts on coils with or without plate numbers in quantity.

ALL US TAG VARIETIES WANTED in quantity. TAG SHIFT HARRY Mueggenburg, 3525 Bluff Court, Carmichael, CA 95608.

Free List of precancel stamps, catalogs, books, and clubs. 500-page town and type catalog, \$15.00. 100 mixed National Bureaus, \$2.50.

Bureau and local precancel collections for sale. Art Damm, 8215 Pine Rd., B-3, Philadelphia, PA 19111.

Book: First major text on the subject: "Transportation Coils and Other Plate Number Coil Issues" by Dr. Joe Agris, Hard Cover only. Color plates, 300+ photos: regular, precancelled, officials, errors, oddities, interesting anecdotes. Reg. \$49.95, members \$33.95 + 2.55 postage. Eclectic Publishing, P.O. Box 20373, Houston, TX 77225-0373.

!! ATTENTION !! PNC COLLECTORS & SPECIALISTS

Two new PNC booklets will soon be published:

PNC Varieties

A compilation/checklist of all known PNC varieties including plate flaws, imperfs, color and inking varieties, mat varieties, numbers on top and tagging varieties. Contains approximately 40 pages with over 1,000 listings.

\$10.00 if order postmarked by Dec. 1, 1988

\$11.00 if order postmarked after Dec. 1, 1988

Release date - December 10, 1988

PNCs On Cover

A compilation of all known earliest usage dates of PNCs on cover. Emphasis is on commercially used covers, but also includes separate listings for FDCs.

\$6.00 if order postmarked by Dec. 1, 1988

\$7.00 if order postmarked after Dec. 1, 1988

Release date - December 10, 1988

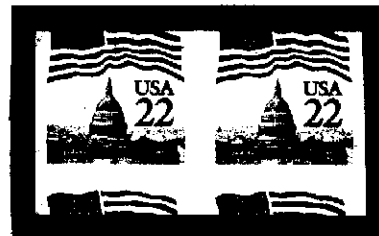
Both booklets will be updated annually.

SPECIAL

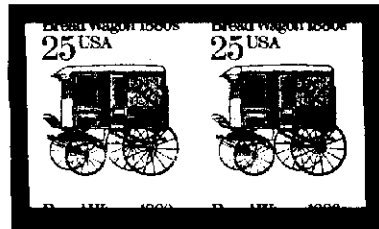
Both booklets for \$14.00 if order postmarked by December 1, 1988.

Rob Washburn
P.O. Box 840
Skowhegan, ME 04976

miscut imperfs



22¢ Flag \$17.50/pair



25¢ Breadwagon \$20.00/pair
(multiples of each, pro rata)

Write for free price list:
>Errors, Freaks, Oddities
>First Day Covers
>Commercial Covers
>Comprehensive Offering
of 17¢ Auto gaps
>Used singles and strips

Tom Maeder
1604 Bardale Ave.
San Pedro, CA 90731