

Please, Johnny, don't say 'ain't'

By Stephen G. Esrati

At a PNC³ seminar at Cincinnati, one of those in attendance said he collected "PNC³s and PNC⁵s."

I had planned to discuss terminology, and I used his weird collecting habits as a start.

I said he collected a club, but I did not know what a "PNC³" was.

He got angry and asked: "What are you, some sort of a dictator?"

"No," I said. "In an attempt to have us all speak the same language, I'm only doing what your first-grade teacher did when she told you not to say 'ain't.'"

When I got home, I got a check from a subscriber to my new-issues service who said he was only going to collect Transportation Coils from now on.

I realized, of course, that there were many people who called all PNCs "Transportation coils," even when they were not in the Transportation Series.

But of more concern to me with this customer was the fact that I was just sending out FDCs of the American Transportation Series. Could he have meant those?

So I sent out only the new 5¢ Circus Wagon from Stamp Venturers.

It may seem terribly rude of me to say so, but we have never all talked the same language. Early issues of *TPN* reflected quarrels about how to identify the stamp showing the plate number, was it really 1L?

But of even more importance were the following quarrels:

1. Should we call the printing base a "plate" when it is obviously a sleeve?
2. Should we then call them "sleeve-number coils" or SNCs instead of PNCs?
3. After precanceling with two black lines or text ended and the legends were printed along with the stamp, should we have continued to call them precancels or "service-inscribed" stamps?
4. Should the Scott Catalogue still call them "Bureau precancels" even when they are not from the Bureau?
5. Should we allow Richard Sennett to change the language of philately by differentiating between "slit" perforations and "round-hole" perforations or do we continue to say rouletted and perforated?

6. Should we allow stamp czar Azeezaly Jaffer to change the language of philately by calling worthless blind perfs valuable "shadow perforation" errors?

7. Should Dr. Robert Rabinowitz not be challenged for making a distinction between precancels and "mint stamps"? His precancels are mint, too, and his "mint stamps" are stamps that show no precancels.

8. Who is right, Richard Nazar—who describes various papers by what can be seen in the unlicked gum—or George V.H. Godin—who says you cannot describe different papers by differences in the gum because collectors of used stamps, such as Godin, cannot make those distinctions?

TPN has always tried to be consistent. Here's how I handled these quarrels in the 10 years I published:

1. I thought the idea of Plate Number Coils (PNCs) was almost sacred. I called all printing bases plates, even when they were sleeves or cylinders. Ken Lawrence and Wayne Youngblood carefully stuck to "sleeves."
2. SNCs, my eye! I stuck to PNCs. So did everyone else.
3. "Service-inscribed" stamps had a brief fling. The Postal Service kept calling them precancels. I always did. Others appear to

be coming back to "precancels."

4. Scott, as everyone knows, is not consistent. It can do as it pleases, but only stamps precanceled at BEP can be called "Bureau precancels."

5. Richard Sennett gets his name into almost every stamp announcement from USPS because he is the modeler. He is not, however, a philatelic authority. The most authoritative definitions of our hobby are by the late stamp editor of *The Chicago Tribune*, Richard McP. Cabeen, who showed Sennett's "slit perfs" as "ordinary roulettes in his *Standard Handbook of Stamp Collecting* (Page 340 in the 1979 edition).

6. Azeez knows how to sell. He has honors degrees in marketing, the art of salesmanship. He is charming. He makes you feel good. But he knows nothing about philately. Cabeen's definition of blind perfs is: "An American philatelic term for a condition in which the perforations are marked in the paper but not fully punched out."

7. Dr. Bob probably knows better, he just doesn't want to be long winded by saying things like "unprecanceled stamps." Before USPS purposely omitted tagging on stamps worth 9¢ or less, *TPN* used to call such stamps "tagged stamps." But the changed rules about tagging made that terminology

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THE FATHER OF PNCs

I participated in a seminar on Aug. 5 in Cincinnati with Wayne Youngblood of Scott Publishing and Michael Laurence of *Linn's*. The organizers of CINPEX knew that by inviting me there would be controversy, and there was.

I blasted the Postal Service for putting out stamps that were never intended to prepay postage but were intended to take money out of collectors' pockets.

Wayne countered with a comment that I, myself, was fostering the collecting of unneeded stamps, to wit, PNCs. He said the plate numbers were there only for USPS profits.

I quoted the late Jack Williams, then manager of the Stamps Division, who had told me that the Postal Service had never wanted plate numbers on coil stamps or booklets but had been forced to accept them because BEP wanted them for quality-control purposes.

Mike quickly put me down by stating, "That's a very nice story, but, unfortunately, it isn't true."

Only when I read Ken Lawrence's PNC column in the Aug. 28 issue of *Linn's* did I find out that Mike was not just taking potshots at a dead man, Jack Williams. Lawrence revealed that George Brett had been urging the Postal Service since the 1960s to put plate numbers on coils and booklets.

When I called Mike, he said the Brett version of the origin of PNCs is the only version he had ever heard and that he had never heard the quality-control story before. Mike said Don McDowell, Williams' successor as manager of the Stamps Division, had picked up Brett's idea as a way of revitalizing the collecting of plate numbers, which, according to Mike, McDowell realized had been killed off by the introduction of the large-format method of collecting plate blocks.

Interestingly, when I said I'd look up the paternity of PNCs in Ken's 1990 book, *Linn's Plate Number Coil Handbook*, Mike said, "That's the first place I'd look."

I did look it up, and it wasn't there.

Ken Lawrence explained:

I knew from Belmont Faries that George Brett was the father of PNCs shortly after *The U.S. Specialist* (i.e., George Godin) began promoting PNC collecting in 1983. But when I wanted to put it in my book, Brett declined to confirm the story. ... It is possible that Michael Laurence learned the story from the draft manuscript of my book, but he may have had his own source.

However, nothing I wrote in any way supports what Jack Williams told you, and I have never believed that story. I always believed what Belmont told me.

Mike Laurence, informed of the above, wrote: "I'm surprised to learn that the Brett involvement didn't make Ken Lawrence's book. In our dialog at CINPEX, I was assuming it was in there."

In the book, Ken attributed the birth of PNCs to a Postal Service news release in which the Postal Service said it was returning to plate blocks of four no matter how many presses were used and said it would introduce the printing of plate numbers on coil stamps.

The Plate Number

and Great Americans Review

Editor:

Stephen G. Easati

Contributing editors:

A.S. Cibulokas

Gerald H. Clark

Kim Cuniberti

Ken Lawrence

Richard J. Nazar

Phone: (216) 561-9393

FAX: (216) 561-6030

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Ken also quoted from that news release in support of the McDowell line:

The purpose of the new policy was clearly to revive the flagging popularity of plate number block collecting. The stated goal was "to make plate number block collecting a less expensive pursuit based on logic and consistency."

So here we are, 10 years after the first issue of *TPN* appeared, eating words from our second issue where I quoted that same "based upon logic and consistency" news release. But I also wrote the following, based on an off-the-record comment to me by Jack Williams, in which I called his explicit explanation a "rumor."

USPS today has no further information about why plate numbers were placed on coils.

It is rumored (which means that this is theory and cannot be confirmed) that USPS would just as soon get rid of plate numbers [on coils]. The numbers have caused much grief to the Postal Service because of collector demands. But BEP reportedly insists.

USPS succeeded in removing plate numbers only from one coil, the 22¢ Official, because of problems with collector demand. But it [quality control] did not matter there because only one plate was used.

I no longer have my notes of that conversation with Jack Williams, a true arrow who would never have lied to me. But I recall it quite clearly. I was sitting in the newsroom of *The Plain Dealer* a year or so after the first PNC and was working on a story about plate numbers on coil stamps for the following Sunday's paper (I said each stamp with a different number was a collectible item all by itself and suggested getting away from collecting coils as pairs because the plate number, as the feature, should be on the center stamp of a strip of three). I asked Williams outright why the numbers were put on the stamps, and he told me the quality-control story off the record. I even asked him why such an important policy decision would be shrouded in deep background and he told me that the Postal Service had promised BEP not to place the blame on BEP.

Thus it was that the Postal Service eventually took the heat for PNCs as a money-grubbing way of robbing collectors, and BEP emerged as the guys in the white hats.

In fact, BEP made PNC collecting hellishly difficult by releasing inaccurate, false, and late reports of plate-number activity.

But as we put *TPN* to sleep, it is best that the story be aired one more time.

I called Wayne and asked him how long he had known

Pedro's World of PNCs

by Pedro Ortega, M.D.

the George Brett story. "Oh, since about 1985," he said.

Wayne said BEP had denied the quality-control story to him. He added that BEP didn't need the plate numbers as identifiers, which was why several sleeves of the 22¢ Flag used the same plate number.

That, too, is something I was unaware of, but it would go a long way toward explaining the different heights of the plate number on Plate 13 of the 22¢ Flag. (My last *Plate Number Coil Catalog* showed three heights; Richard Nazar's catalog ignored the distinction, proving once again that the nit-picky method I fostered sometimes proved useful even when it was not known what the seemingly unimportant find meant.)

Frankly, I really believed the Jack Williams story, not only because this retired Army officer lived by the code of never telling a lie, but because it made sense for BEP to insist that its inspectors needed a way to identify the plate that had printed imperfect coil stamps.

But Wayne talked me out of it. The inspectors always knew which sleeve printed the stamps, Wayne said, because the full plate number was always in the trimmed-off portion of the web.

The historical revision has one huge virtue. Some years ago, a well-known PNC dealer referred to himself as the Father of PNCs. It now looks like that honor should have gone to George Brett.

Stephen G. Esrati

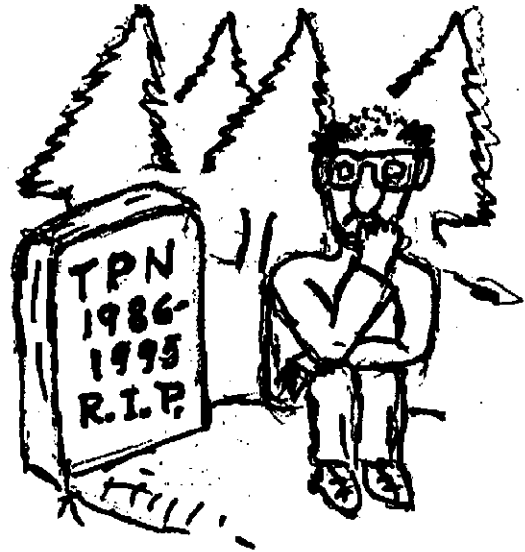
LETTERS:

*For the first time,
we print paeans of
praise to TPN*

Quite a few readers took the trouble to say goodbye. Here are excerpts from what some of them said. Apologies to those whose comments could not be squeezed in. I thank one and all for their kind expressions of appreciation. Steve Esrati

I think I'm probably one of the few who's subscribed to *TPN* from the beginning. I have a complete set, from Issue 1, Number 1 (February, 1986) to present. *TPN* has certainly come a long way since that first six-page issue that seemed to be prepared as a labor of love and was printed with a dot-matrix printer in a very simple newsletter format. The latest issue of *TPN* contained 24 pages, with multiple fonts, embedded graphics, multiple columns, advertisements, and a not-so-subtle indication that the publisher has an obvious sophistication with desktop publishing tools and the subject matter of PNC collecting. Quite a difference in 10 years.

I've been collecting for over 25 years. Although I still collect U.S. singles, I started my PNC collection in the hopes that it would be an interesting specialty that offered the possibility of completing a collection that included the strips themselves, errors, oddities, covers, and whatnot. Although I still believe this to be the case, the magnitude of what PNC collecting has become has simply been astounding, so much so that I've limited my PNC collecting to just the Transportation Series. And the



Transportation Series still poses some serious challenges to completing a PNC collection.

When *TPN* hit the scene, I signed up right away, figuring it would be a good source to get the specialty information I needed to aid me in my PNC collecting. I was right. Many is the time that information in *TPN* has enabled me to search out scarce or unusual items and get them for my collection long before the general collecting public became aware of them and scarfed up the existing stock. In this way I was able to scrounge a number of T4.9-4 Buggy Whips, various examples T8.3-1 with low and doubled numbers, and other errors from dealer stocks before their existence became general knowledge.

I remember being armed with *TPN* knowledge when I went to a conference in Philadelphia in late 1986. One dealer had a partial roll of T10.9-1 and 2 that he sold to me at face because, and I quote, "This is nothing but junk."

On another occasion I found a dealer who had the mother lode: a full roll of 100 of T20FP plate 1 and 2, superb centering, and a full roll of 100 of M20 [Consumer Ed] plates 1 and 2. He refused to break the rolls for the PNCs and would only sell the rolls at full retail—double face value. I paid what he asked, and to this day wouldn't have had those critical Fire Pumper numbers were it not for *TPN* and the advance knowledge gained from it (i.e., that \$40 for a full roll of T20FP was a bargain if the plates were numbers 1 and 2. This was before everyone, except *TPN* readers, knew that T20FP-2 was one of the scarcest PNC numbers).

I've also spent countless hours scrounging through several hundred pounds of used regular issue U.S. singles looking for those elusive PNC numbers. Thanks to *TPN*, I knew I

had something special when I found that PNC used strip of three of F18-6. I ended up trading that one to Ken Lawrence, and it actually made it into *Linn's* in one of his columns.

The finds are getting harder because now most everyone knows about PNCs, but there are still occasions when I finally read something in *Linn's* (or elsewhere) and can say to myself "Yeah, thanks to *TPN* I knew about that some time ago." *TPN* has scooped everyone in advanced knowledge of what numbers were becoming scarce, new errors and oddities, paper type varieties, etc., allowing a few of us to obtain critical items for our collections before the supply was depleted.

A thank-you at this point may be too little and too late, but nevertheless it is certainly well-deserved. When I read your article about shutting down *TPN*, it seemed that you were disappointed—not only in not being able to continue because of your health, but also because (just maybe) you've fought enough battles and have little thanks for it. I offer these instances of private successes because I thought you might like to know what *TPN* has meant to at least one of us out here in the collecting world, and that despite the battles, hidden agendas, who-knew-what-and-when arguments, there are still collectors like me who have enjoyed private collecting hunts and successes because of your efforts. My collection is far more complete, and my goal of having a complete Transportation PNC collection more realistically obtainable, because of *TPN*.

I know my subscription to *TPN* goes beyond the next issue. Keep whatever is left to help offset your costs.

Douglas E. Landon
Riverview, Fla.

...and comments from others

I have enjoyed *The Plate Number* and will miss it. I believe it to be one of the very best stamp publications I have read over many years of collecting. Thank you for doing it.

J. Ron Edwards, M.D.
Raleigh, N.C.

Please do not remit any of my balance. Use it to offset a portion of all your time and trouble. It is well worth the past receipt of *TPN*.

James J. O'Connell, III
Redondo Beach, Calif.

It seems funny that you are ending *TPN* and the Transportation Coils are ending. I'm sorry to see both go.

Thank you for what you have done, and for a great magazine.

George F. Stephenson
Parkersburg, W. Va.

I hope you did your running today. I'm going to miss your *TPN*.

Rev. Noel Ahrens
Deep River, Conn.

You have the ability to present different points of view in a professional manner. It will be missed from stamps' public forum.

Jim Hruschak
Albuquerque, N. M.

Now that I know your age, four years my senior, I won't presume familiarity. By all you have done and do, I thought you were about 30 years old.

(Judge) Leonard Goldstein
Santa Ana, Calif.

Please do not refund.... Thanks to you, I obtained a special permit from the Postal Service to use "bulk mail" stamps in place of first-class.

Gordon S. Davidson
Baton Rouge, La.

No need to refund the balance; apply it to putting me on the mailing list for your quarterly price list.

You deserve credit for your thoroughness and persistence in reporting PNC news.

Robert O. Read
Pittsburgh

Don't send a refund. You have done a tremendous job and we thank you for it. A great job with no thanks and not much editorial input from others.

Mark Larkin
New York

[*TPN note:* Larkin was one of the original members of the PNC Study Group.]

My doctor has urged me (a fellow heart-attack victim) to exercise aggressively to build secondary blood flow to the heart. Your comments support what he said.

Edwin L. Acker
Southfield, Mich.

Congratulations on your retirement. I can't think of another person who contributed so much to the stamp-collecting hobby.

Leon Olbrys
Waltham, Mass.

I'd like to add my "Thank You" for all the time and effort you have contributed to the hobby.

Stan Scieszka
Santa Clarita, Calif.

Since my first issue of *TPN*, I waited patiently for the next issue to arrive: So much information, so much technical data. And when you included the Great Americans series, it was something I needed for my Great Americans exhibits.

I wish to commend you for being so devoted and for taking all the flak.

I am looking forward to my 80th birthday. Two years

ago I bought a computer and started to exhibit. I have been awarded three silver medals and am going to try for a gold.

There may be a void in your life for a while, but you will soon overcome it.

Alphonse D. Ponzillo
Waterbury, Conn.

I enjoyed reading both the serious articles and the gossip, and I want to thank you for publishing what I wrote even though I was not a part of the Plate Number Coil Study Group.

Doug Iams
San Jose, Calif.

I'm sorry to say goodbye to *TPN*. I've heard nothing but regrets from my customers.

I'd like to thank you for providing the forum for my articles. It opened a door for me that can no longer be closed.

TPN will be missed by all.
Kim Cuniberti
Ridgefield, Conn.

In reply to all: I had intended not to run any of these comments because it has always been my policy to print the brickbats and not the huzzahs. But you took the trouble to write, so I've taken the space to print excerpts from what you wrote.

Thank you. Even an old troublemaker likes a pat on the back once in a while.

Why exclude PNC³?

I'm distressed to learn that you will not be offering information from the PNC Study Group to PNC³. I can understand that there are a few who do not care about technical details on PNCs, but I think most do.

Face it, some people collect Disney and Elvis stamps from St. Kitts. I'm sure there are also people who collect PNCs because they're pretty!

Now, instead of getting information through *Coil Line* and *TPN*, it looks like the information will be scattered among three or more publications. This won't help PNCs at all. I hope you will reconsider.

Mr. de Poont's Microradian is a kick!

I found Mr. de Poont's article funny. I don't agree with his using people's names, but all in all, it was FUNNY. It reminded me of the strip of 3 and 5 controversy or the back-number debate now raging. When the discussions about 3s and 5s were going on, I thought, "Why not collect full rolls and store them away?" Then, no matter what the gods of PNC collecting decide, you'll be right!

We are by nature flyspeck collectors. Although I love PNC collecting, there are a lot of *goobers* out there who need to be brought down to earth every once in a while. This article was satire and should not be taken as anything more. I don't think it should be a reason for closing *TPN* down.

By trade, I'm an entomologist. Perhaps all the "bug" jokes have given me a thick skin, but I think we all need to laugh at ourselves. I think the Microradian Perforator was a kick!

Jerry Michels
Amarillo, Tex.

In reply: In our last dying breath, we must salute Roger de Poont, an orthopedic surgeon who draws *TPN*'s cartoons. He is a man who can bring a smile to each of us during our duels and our deals, our feuds and our finds. In short, he is none other than Colombia's gift to PNCdom, Dr. Pedro Ortegón!

He is also the nefarious "X on Valdez," whose own procrastination caused our March 1991 cartoon to appear as a big "X." We ran a contest to guess what the "X" meant. The answer arrived in an Exxon envelope on Exxon stationery. So help me, I did not know that Pedro was "X on." He won the prize. His winning entry was in the July 1991 issue.

Stand up and take a bow, Pedro.

But in regard to the serious side of Mr. Michel's letter, I regret that in its five years of publication I cannot say I have ever found any usable information in *Coil Line*. Study Group data will appear in my price list, but I should point out that with the exception of Larry Haynes' masterful analysis of the Cottrell presses, *TPN* has not had news on PNCs from the study group with the exception of Alan Malakoff's Freedom of Information Act report on plate-activity between 1990 and 1995.

And, by the way, what's a goober? I thought it was a peanut.

Self-adhesives back in Lighthouse

Forget what I wrote you about self-adhesive coils [*TPN*, Page 109], which caused you to phone me. Your call, David Akin's letter [same page], and George Amick's *U.S. Stamp Yearbook 1994* persuaded me that the 1992-1995 Lighthouse supplement will come up with an entirely new series. The pages will be numbered PNC SA-1, PNC SA-2, etc.

Having written this, I refer to the note on Page 116 that there will be reprints of the Peaches and Pear coil. Does that mean there will be another strip with a plate number other than V11111? If so, when could I expect it?

Wolfgang Schön
Aumühle, Germany

[*In reply:* Aren't you asking the wrong person about new stamps? USPS won't tell us anything. We learned of the Ruth Benedict and Eddie Rickenbacker stamps in *The Postal Bulletin*, not in announcements to stamp writers. And, on Sept. 18, we received a USPS announcement, dated Aug. 18, about the 78¢ Alice Paul stamp that had not yet been issued then. We are getting almost no information about the private-sector printers from the Postal Service.]

How to mount Scotch tape stamps

I was intrigued by the article on Page 116: "...but how do you collect Scotch tape?" A possible answer is enclosed.

In this instance, I used the old backing of one of USPS' own "Priority Mail" stickums. Scotch tape can be put on the glossy surface and removed without losing its sticking capabilities, possibly innumerable times.

The purist might be offended because the stamp would not be as issued, but it works.

(Judge) Leonard Goldstein
Santa Ana, Calif.

[TPN comment: The writer enclosed a piece of backing from the Postal Service's Priority Mail address-label sticker. He mounted some Scotch tape on the glossy side. It can be removed and put back.

[On the other side of the backing, he noted by typewriter: "The stamps would not be as issued, but their gum would remain intact and usable. ... Wax paper might work as well."

[The trouble is that the linerless coil stamps would not come with any backing, so collectors would have to remove the coil stamp (or stamps, if possible) and transfer them to liner-like material or wax paper. That, in turn, could be mounted with stamp hinges.]

Good-bye, TPN Thanks, for the memory

- Great American sheets, plate blocks
- Plate-number coils
- Complete booklets
- Unfolded panes
- Self-adhesive panes
- All at discount prices

Send 55¢ SASE for complete list

DENIS FULLER

PO Box 1540
Lancaster, SC 29721

(803) 285-1540



Self-sticks are not doomed

You wrote: "If the Postal Service finds a way to make self-adhesives without liners, the collecting of self-adhesives is doomed except as used on piece. There is no way you can mount a piece of Scotch tape in your album."

First of all, this is misleading as the linerless effort is only being directed at the coils and the production of sheetlets with liners will continue, so self-adhesive collecting is not doomed.

Second, don't discount the possibility that the accessory manufacturers could come up with a mount for the linerless coils.

Doug Iams
San Jose, Calif.

In reply: TPN regrets that it overstated the case.

ADLETS

I'LL PAY \$58-\$100

DULL-GUM POSTAGE DUES J99a 50¢ VF or better. Need all positions of dull gum paper Plate 32483. Also need any shiny gum with tinted paper and most shiny gum on white paper. Also could use Plate 35283 UR and 37877 dull gum UR and LL. Also interested in most of the dull gums except 17¢. J. Ron Edwards, M.O. 1800 Braanfield Rd., Raleigh, NC 27614.

WANTED U.S. commercial covers: 32¢ G A4435, 10¢ Eagle/Shield A3334, 19¢ Fishing Boat PNCs on postcards; PNCs to foreign destinations, all better PNC covers. Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976.

FOR SPECIALISTS: We have what you need in tagging varieties—including untagged errors—gum types, prancocals, booklets, sheets. Send 75¢ LSASE for my list. We pay high prices for NH. Victor Bove, Box 1013, New Monmouth, NJ 07748.

WANTED PB 10a: Regular Perfed XF-S, imperf, misper, miscut. John Tison (PNC# 473, APS, ASDA), PO Box 8755, Newport Beach CA 92658. 1-800-854-4487.

LIGHTHOUSE ALBUMS, supplements, stock books, supplies, UV lamps. I offer a generous 15% discount. Also, KABE albums and supplements. Eszati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120.

TAGGED ERRORS

TAGGED USA: 23¢ USA Flag, BEP version, 1111. PS/5 XF, \$50; VF \$40. 5% off for PNC3. Also all BEP E&S 11111 tagged error, VF \$35, XF 40; E&S 22221 tagged error, VF \$25, XF \$30, E&S 22222 tagged error, VF \$150, XF \$200. Eszati, POB 20130, Shaker Hts., OH 44120

UNTAGGED 10¢ Red Cloud, full pane, \$2,500.00; overall-tagged 30¢ Laubach, pane \$99.00, plate block \$49.00, single 99¢, single with selvage \$1.50. Ken Moreau, 402 Coronation Dr., Franklin MA 02038.

ALL BACK ISSUES of TPN are available. For a list with key articles send SASE to POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120.

WANTED self-adhesive: 25¢ Eagle coil with Type D backing (upside-down writing), 29¢ Brown E&S coil with arrow on back of backing, 29¢ Love/Sunrise with parryial bull's eye registration mark at the bottom of the back of the backing. Prefer strips of 5 or longer, also self-adhesive test panes and coils and EFOs. Doug Iams, 1885 Victoria Landing, San Jose, CA 95132.

WANTED: FDCs with tied coil-wrapper labels. Will buy or trade. Please write to Bob Ross, 5800 Pine Dr., Sebring FL 33870-7484.

JOIN PNC# For details, write Joann Lenz, 37211 Alper Dr., Sterling Hts. MI 48312-2203.

PNC RARITY: 17¢ Auto, Plate 1, showing broken ade variety that was left out of the 1995 PNC Catalog. PS/7, Fine only, \$50; PS/5, Fine only, \$40; PS/3, \$25; PS/2, \$20. Eszati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120.

7th REVISION of Summary of Data on the Great Americans is out! Now 20 pages. It includes some new stamps, some new data, even CC1 squares. \$10 if you've not ordered before; \$7.50 for updates. Eszati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120.

G' STAMP FDCs

House of Foreman (my choice of numbers) \$5; ArtCraft, \$4; Artmaster, \$4. I have ABN, Stamp Venturers, BEP, non-profit and prosoft. Hurry, they will not last. Eszati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120.

HEY! Let me have your attention! As a dealer in Great American plate blocks, I always need position stock. That's because I get requests for lower left or lower right, etc. I also need all manner of plate numbers. Please inquire from me before you sell any Great American plate blocks. I generally pay half my advertised price. **BUT FOR YOU BUYERS,** here's what I found when I tried all the plate-block dealers in Linn's Yellow Pages. They either wouldn't answer at all, or they had only easy material. For the tough stuff (even when I'm out of stock), you do better with me. Eszati, POB 20130, Shaker Hts., OH 44120

FEDERLE

Stamps
3663 Pimlico Court
Hamilton, Ohio 45011-5508
(513) 863-2281

We purchased some Booklets, Unfolded Panes and Self Adhesive strips at a special price and we are passing it on to you.

Some of them we were able to purchase only one, so do not wait. All orders under \$100 shipping \$2.50; we pay over that.

- BK 30 — 2¢ Carmine Booklet, price unlisted in Scott — \$4,500.00
- BK 56 — 1¢ Green Booklet — \$50.00
- BK 90 — 1¢ Green Booklet 2.5mm — \$7.00
- BK 115 — 5¢ Washington — \$10.00
- BK 135 — 15¢ Windmills — \$6.00
- BK 136 — 18¢ "B" — \$8.00
- BK 137 — 18¢ Wildlife 1,9 — \$20.00
- BK 142 — Sheep 6 — \$9.00
- BK 143 — 22¢ "D" — \$10.00
- BK 153 — Stamp Collecting — \$3.00
- BK 160 — Owl 2222 — \$20.00
- BK 162 — Constitution 1112 — \$8.00
- BK 164 — Cars — \$15.00
- BK 172 — Wood Duck 2222, 3333 — \$15.00
- BK 187 — Balloon 1222 — \$45.00
- BK 197 — Pledge 2222 10x10 — \$12.00
- BK 197 — Pledge 2333 — \$135.00
- BKC 1 — Se-tenant airmail — \$200.00
- BKC 6 — 7¢ Airmail — \$15.00
- BKC 17 — 8¢ Airmail — \$1,800.00

Unfolded Panes

- 2398a Special Occasions, only 43 mint known. Price unlisted in Scott. We sold two last year and now have another— \$2,500.00
- 2490a Madonna K2 5555 — \$80.00
- 2566a, b Rock & Roll 13113 Set — \$400.00
- 2872a Stockings P2222 — \$18.00

Self-Adhesive Strips

- 2431 Eagle "C" Strip 8 with color bars on back— \$12.00
- 2480 Pine Cone B PNS-18 — \$20.00
- 2595 Brown Eagle, yellow splice, Strip 6 — \$9.00
- 2598 Blue Eagle A PNS-8 — Numbers on back — \$30.00
- 2598 Blue Eagle B PNS-7 — \$25.00

We now have 6 different numbers on the new Santa — \$13.00
If we do not have it in stock, we will try to help you find it.

Bove denies *TPN* article, calls it 'garbage'

Victor Bove, the New Jersey dealer who was called the finder of a rare Love Sunrise pane (B334-11) in the September issue of *TPN*, says the whole story is not true, "Garbage!"

The story told how Bove and Kim Cuniberti kept the find secret for seven months.

"I never said I thought the stamps were worth \$1,000," he said. "And you should have called me for comment."

TPN learned Bove's name only two days before the last issue was taken to the printer. His identity was then confirmed by Cuniberti, who had attempted to keep out Bove's name in the two months it took to research and write the story.

Ethics is discussable; this was a business deal

[TPN note: The following comment came after TPN told the writer that Bove had called three times to complain about the article in the September issue.]

By Jim Fowler

If what you wrote about Victor Bove was true, then you are right, he has nothing to "rant and rave" about. I don't know why all the fuss...

Just because he held on to the stamps and didn't let anyone else know about them is not a breach of ethics, in my opinion. I think it is just sour grapes on the part of others. An altruistically minded person would have let others know about the find immediately, but his first business is selling stamps—it was a business decision. I don't know if I would have done any different. As a matter of fact, I agreed not to divulge the information myself in order to make the trade that I made. I admit that, after several months, I wondered if the word was ever going to get out. That is really an interesting discussion topic, but nothing to get into a snit about. Ethics is always a topic on which everyone has an opinion.

By that time it was impossible to make any more changes in the September issue other than to put Bove's name in where earlier versions had said "the finder."

The \$1,000 figure came from a sales offer by Cuniberti. (See his letter below.)

Each version of the constantly growing story was disseminated to some members of the PNC Study Group, including Cuniberti.

Others who saw the story were Richard Federle and Ken Lawrence. It was Lawrence who suggested that 120 to 125 panes might be enough to satisfy the market. He made no other additions. Federle refused to say anything throughout other than to say he had obtained four copies

from Bove, whom he would not name.

A collector in Cincinnati recalled hearing Federle mention Victor, the clue that led to the discovery of Bove's identity.

Bove said later he was not the finder. He said the self-adhesive panes were in a large lot for which he paid "plenty."

"Don't I have the right to decide what to do with stamps I paid a lot of money for?" he asked.

Bove said he had a right to dispose of his property as he saw fit. He said he was not accountable to anyone.

He said he wanted to keep the stamps off the market because he did not want retailers to set a "ridiculous" price on them. He said that meant that the stamps should

Cuniberti letter clarifies, apologizes

Much of the discussion in the wake of the news on the Love/Sunrise self-adhesive pane B334-11 has prompted me to share some observations with *TPN* readers.

When any dealer or collector calls me and says to the effect of "guess what I found", I always assume that what I am about to hear is in confidence. If I acted in any other manner, I would receive many fewer calls (and of those most would be of little substance). So to those out there who wonder if I'm weighing a change in my position on confidentiality: rest assured that I still value the concept of trust. As a contributing editor to *TPN* all these years, I've had many conversations that have included "off the record" information. The same is true as a dealer, and I would not want to trade that privileged position for anything.

As to the pricing of the B334-11 pane, I confess that I have been totally surprised by the reception it has gotten. At this moment (Oct. 6), I can verify that nearly 100 panes have been purchased by collectors (this includes those who have made deposits, but have not yet completed the purchase of the pane). This is not meant to imply that everyone is happy with the price, but it is clear that this pane is perceived as being too important not to have by many SA collectors. The few who have voiced their decision not to purchase it are in an overwhelming minority from my perspective.

I would like to point out a mistake on my part in the letter to my customers from which you quoted in the September *TPN*. In the course of the months or discussion with Victor Bove about the value of the B334-11 panes that he found, we searched for common ground amongst the areas that each of us knew, but neither of us shared. The items that Victor discussed in an effort to understand how to value the B334-11 had a wide range, but none of them could really compare, because they were not self-adhesives. In my efforts to encapsulate all these discussions I picked \$1,000 as Victor's initial valuation of the pane, thinking I was simplifying our months of discussions. Victor, in fact, never said the pane was worth \$1,000, and I realize in retrospect that my statement gives a less than flattering characterization of him. I wish to apologize to your readers on Victor's behalf for that poor judgment on my part.

Anyway, I told the story about the find as it was told to me.

We sure do make a lot of mistakes in TNP!

Page 10 (*Summary of Data on the Great Americans* 6th revision), writing about the 20¢ Appar said the T/A press printed one sheet of 800 stamps (four panes) at each feed. While we still do not know whether the T/A press prints 400 or 800 stamps at a feed, if it were to print 800 stamps, that would surely be two panes, not one.

Page 14 (*Summary of Data on the Great Americans* 6th revision), in the "Known Hamilton varieties" box, the statement

that all stamps from right panes show a shifted perforation hole is untrue. In no case do all stamps in a pane show the errant hole. Also, some right panes do not show the hole. This error also was printed on Page 124 of the September *TPN*.

Page 140 November 1994 *TPN*—Figure 1 accompanying Larry G. Haynes' series on the Cottrell presses shows the paper going through the wetting process in such a way that the gum side of the paper was

moistened. Dr. David P. Stiff noticed this and said the side to be printed has to be the one that is moistened. He wrote: "In Figure 1 water is applied to the gum side of the pregummed paper, in effect licking the stamps before they are printed."

Page 93 July 1995 *TPN*—We reported the plate-number interval on the 20¢ Cog Railway and the 32¢ Ferryboat as "Not stated, probably 24." When the stamps were issued, the interval turned was 48.

Bove was right, complainers are just sour grapes

By Dr. Robert Rabinowitz

I read and heard a good deal about how upset people are that Victor Bove, a U.S. dealer with no ties to the self-adhesive market, found a Love Sunrise sheetlet with a then-unknown plate number (B334-11) in late 1994, and held off reporting it until July 1995.

Bove is a businessman; he did some homework and learned that the highest-priced sheetlet number at that point was the Brown Eagle and Shield B4344-3 at \$225 and reasoned that the 125 or so B334-11s that he had were in far shorter supply than the B4344-3. Thus, the simple conclusion was that if no more B334-11s were found, it should be worth more than \$225.

Bove decided to holding them without any announcement. If more were found while he held them, his would be effectively worth very little. If none were found, particularly after the rate change and the destruction of most stocks of Love Sunrise, his B334-11s would be very valuable. It was strictly a business decision. Well Bove won and he defined a retail price of \$475 each.

Many customers who understood the rarity of this plate number added it to their collections. Others decided to complain. They were going to boycott the number. Bove doesn't care; about 100 of the 125 have already been sold and Bove will raise his price on Nov. 1.

Yes, some of the self-adhesive pioneers don't have this one; they want to buy it at face and either won't or can't come up with the \$475. Many collectors rejected the Toledo brown version of Plate 1 of the 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rushmore when it was \$450; my last one sold at \$2,800!

I find it very interesting that some of those who are most vehement about the B334-11 situation didn't say a word as they saw the prices rise on several of the other self-adhesive sheetlets such as Love Sun-

rise B111-5 and B434-10, and of course, the E&S B4344-3. They had those already and presumably were pleased when the B4344-3 quickly ran up to \$225.

To me this complaining is sour grapes. A businessman has a right to make a business decision that is in his interest. Frankly, in this case it probably wouldn't have mattered much.

At the time Bove found B334-11, many excellent searchers, including Kim Cuniberti, Jerry Koepp, Mike Lipson, Wayne Meyers, and other dealers and collectors had looked long and hard through essentially all the stocks out there. By November 1994, very little was available and even had the information been made public then about B334-11 doubt if another find would have been made. If Al Haake and I had secreted away the undenominated 10¢ Eagle and Shield with the plate-number combination A33334 when the find was made in September 1992, the same individuals upset the B334-11 today would have made mince-meat of us. However, we did put it up for sale immediately and as it turned out, no more were ever found.

Update (New stamps, withdrawals, catalog changes)

New PNCs

T3CW-6—Plate 6 of the 3¢ Conestoga Wagon, glossy gum, untagged, printed in rolls of 10,000 by BEP for the DAV. (Dr. Rabinowitz, in *Linn's*)

T32-5—Plate 5 of the 32¢ Ferryboat. Sept. 16 (Dr. Rabinowitz, Federte)

New Great Americans

32¢ Hershey, two plate numbers per pane, comb perf, low-gloss gum. B1, B2 (Lenz, Fowler)

78¢ Paul, two plate numbers per pane, comb perf, low-gloss gum. B1, B2 (Lenz)

New self adhesives

32¢ Peaches and Pear—V11122 (Clark); V12221 (Malakoff); and V12132, V12232, V33142, V33243 (Clark)

32¢ Christmas (4 designs)—V1111, V1211, V3233, V3333, V4444 (Steve Grandi via Internet, Lenz, via Internet)

32¢ Christmas (Midnight Angel)—B1111

New Scott numbers

2176d—10¢ Red Cloud, Plate 2, prephosphored, shiny gum, red color similar to the 5¢ Muñoz Marin.

PNCs withdrawn from sale

The following withdrawals, effective Aug. 5, were announced in the Aug. 3, 1995, *Postal Bulletin* (some had been spotted earlier in the *Stamps, etc.* catalog, and were reported on Page 120 in the September issue of *TPN*):

M19—all—Rolls of 500 and 3,000 of the 19¢ Fishing Boat printed for American Bank Note by Multi-Color and Guilford Gravure and printed by Stamp Venturers

MVDC-A11—All ABN-printed UVM stamps for the Unisys Postal and Mailing Center. This indicates that another printer will be producing these stamps.

M29—all—Rolls of 100 and 500 of the 29¢ Flower (perforated and rouletted)

I hope some of you complainers lighten up a bit and understand the key role dealers play in this emerging self-adhesive market. During the time when largely collectors only were involved, those traders took care of themselves but just about no one else. That's why some of the E&S B4344-3 and some of the Loves retail from \$100 to \$225 each. Once dealers seriously became part of this market, no tough numbers on NEW issues have emerged since dealers buy for current and future customers.

One other thing about the "trader elite." While some of us know who they are, it appears to me that they are a relatively closed group. Where are the ads in *Linn's*, *TPN*, and *Coil Line* offering access to the trader network? Ken Lawrence's recent column in *Linn's* referred to traders but again, no mention of how other collectors can get involved. Do they prefer this anonymity?

The almost 100 B334-11s that have been sold, have largely gone into the collections of non-traders although a few have broken ranks and for the sake of completion have made the plunge. The others may find out very shortly that they waited too long.

Plate and mat varieties

Last report

By A.S. Cibulskas

5¢ Butte

a. Back number mangled and indiscernible, centered 18 stamps apart. (Lipson)

20¢ Cog Railway

a. "Falling coal"—Small dot above track and below coal bucket at rear of engine. Constant at 1L. (Kerr)

b. Dot below track and left center of design. Constant at 3L. (Lenz)

[*TPN* note: This was Al Cibulskas' 58th report of constant plate and mat varieties for *TPN*. It is the longest-standing, constant contribution to this magazine and required a vast amount of effort for just a few lines of type in each issue.]

T1—all—Rolls of 500 and 3,000 of the B Press-printed 1¢ Omnibus. C Press rolls of 500 and 3,000 remain on sale

T3CW-1—Rolls of 500 of the B Press version of the 3¢ Conestoga Wagon. C Press rolls of 3,000 remain on sale

T45C—all—Rolls of 500 of the tagged and untagged 4¢ Steam Carriage. Tagged rolls of 3,000 remain on sale

T5CWE-A1, A2, A3—Rolls of 10,000 of the graver 5¢ Circus Wagon printed by American Bank Note

T18CB-2—Rolls of 3,000 of the 10¢ Canal Boat printed on the C and D presses

T10TT-1—Rolls of 500 and 3,000 of the intaglio 10¢ Tractor Trailer

T23—all—Rolls of 100, 500, and 3,000 of the 23¢ Lunch Wagon

The following withdrawals, effective Nov. 1, were announced in the Aug. 31, 1995, *Postal Bulletin*:

F29MR—all—All sizes of 29¢ Flag over Mt. Rushmore, intaglio and graver

F29WH—all—All sizes of 29¢ Flag over White House

Self-stick withdrawals from sale

The following withdrawals, effective Nov. 1, were announced in the Aug. 31, 1995, *Postal Bulletin*:

29¢ Statue of Liberty self-adhesive pane and coil strip

29¢ Squirrel self-adhesive pane and coil strip

29¢ Christmas (4 subjects) self-adhesive pane and coil strip

29¢ Pine Cone self-adhesive pane and coil strip

29¢ Rose self-adhesive pane

29¢ Blue Eagle self-adhesive pane and coil strip

Great Americans withdrawals

The following withdrawals, effective Nov. 1, were announced in the Sept. 14, 1995, *Postal Bulletin*:

29¢ Earl Warren

Great Americans

As *TPN* goes to sleep, it is important to note what we have been doing that has not been done by others. We have never simply printed information handed out to us by the Postal Service. Like Con Edison in New York, we can proudly put up a sign saying: "Dig We Must."

And we've been digging for years, not always successfully. We have been least successful in unearthing information from the private-sector printers. And this comes to mind on the 78¢ Paul, 55¢ Hamilton, 32¢ Hershey, and 20¢ Apgar—all printed by Banknote Corp. of America (BCA).

Starting with the Apgar, we wondered about what BCA called a "sheet-fed intaglio press." So we asked the Postal Service (since we are no longer allowed to call the printers). Our concern, at first, was that every other sheet in some pads of stamps found by Gerald H. Clark was on high-bright paper. We assumed that one sheet was fed in from one side and the next sheet from the opposite side.

We never did clarify that problem. When we asked whether Plates B1 and B2 were printed simultaneously at one feed of the press, we were told that Plate B1 was damaged during the initial production run, and the run was completed using Plate B2. The USPS spokesman was emphatic: The press printed only 400 stamps at a time.

But another spokesman told us that the Apgar stamp was printed on a "sheet-fed intaglio T/A press built for American Bank Note Co., printing one sheet of 800 stamps (four panes) at each feed." That statement, of course, is self-contradictory since four panes would print 400 stamps.

While we accepted that "damaged Plate B1" scenario, we started to wonder about the 400-stamp issue again when the 55¢ Hamilton and 78¢ Paul were issued with two plate numbers. We suspected that it was unlikely that Plate B1 again "was damaged during the initial production run, and the run was completed using Plate B2."

We asked the Postal Service again.

But in the meantime, Alan Thomson noticed the perforation phenomenon we showed with great big black circles on the Hamilton stamp on Page 123 of our last issue. To the right, you will note that the same thing happened in the perforations of the Paul stamp.

George Leduc, who has worked closely with Thomson, went back and found the weird perms on the Apgar, too. The oddly spaced perms on the Apgar varied in position from Plate B1 to Plate B2.

Leduc also noticed a doubling on the 55¢ Hamilton that we could not reproduce with the primitive printing technology we use. The doubling was most apparent by partial letters under the words "SOCIAL REFORMER" and above the plate number.

SOCIAL REFORMER

The doubling illustration was drawn on the *TPN* computer and is only an approximation of what you find. But there is another place where the doubling shows up, and Leduc managed to put it on a first-day cover (illustrated at bottom of left column).

In this instance, the doubling shows up in the form of an arch mirroring the top loop of the "2." In fact, it looks like a circumflex



How does Banknote Corp. perforate its sheet stamps?



MISPLACED PERF—As on other stamps printed by Banknote Corp., the 78¢ Alice Paul has a perforation that is too close to the next hole. This is believed to be caused by use of a harrow perforator.

accent over the "2."

According to Leduc, the doubling appears only on the right B2 panes of the 55¢ Hamilton. The weird perms appear on all right panes.

The doubling of "SOCIAL REFORMER"—when it occurs—is visible only on some stamps on the bottom of B2 panes. Unfortunately, because there are two plate numbers to a pane, we are not certain whether the strips we saw come from the bottom of an upper right or a lower right pane.

The misplaced perforation, according to Ken Lawrence, is proof that BCA is using a comb perforator. The proximity of perforation holes noted on these Great Americans, he emphasized, is perfectly normal whenever a comb perforator is used and is the only way one can distinguish comb-perforated stamps from harrow-perforated stamps. In other words, this is not a variety.

What we are seeing is the end of the comb. "It is a technology that has been superseded by the harrow perforator," Lawrence said. Alan Thomson is wary of Lawrence's explanation, saying that the strangely placed hole is most probably caused by some breakdown in the speed of the paper feed, causing the comb to hit at the wrong place. [*TPN* agrees with Lawrence.]

Lawrence noted that other stamps have been issued with comb perforations, but hardly anyone noticed because, unlike the Great Americans, there were no collectors who specialized in them.

Officially, we have been told that BCA prints its sheet stamps on a sheet-fed, intaglio T/A press that it bought from ABN, which no longer has a contract to print stamps for USPS.

Stamp Venturers uses a T/A-2 press that prints two plates of 600 subjects in 12 panes using two plate numbers.

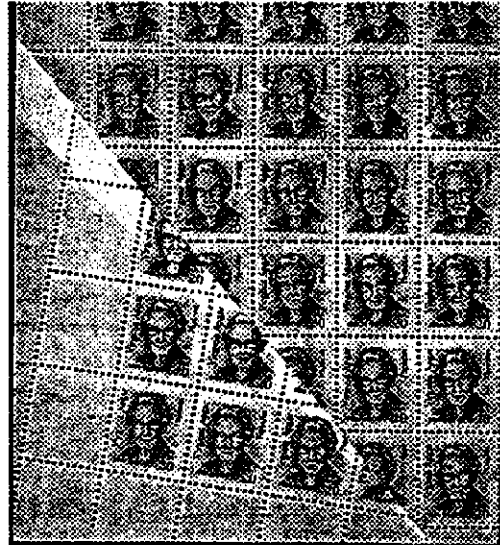
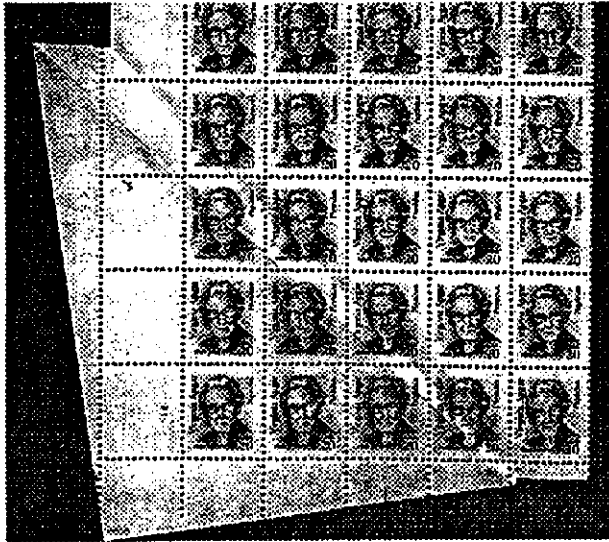
Arthur E. Leske
 Rangeley Ave.
 Oquossoc, Me 04964

Robert M. Washburn
 65 Cross St.
 P.O. Box 442
 Skowhegan, Me. 04976



SHORT-LIVED RATE—Rob Washburn sent in this photocopy of a commercial cover showing the use of only a 35¢ Drew stamp to pay the rate for a two-ounce letter.

This was possible only from June 31, 1981, (when the Drew was issued) until Oct. 31, 1981, when the first-class rate went to 20 cents.



APGAR STRIKES AGAIN—The 20¢ Virginia Apgar, which has already been found overprinted by a dot-matrix printer, has now been found with a foldover, shown folded

and unfolded. This again raises the question of how many panes are printed by the sheet-fed intaglio press used by BCA. These are from Plate B1.

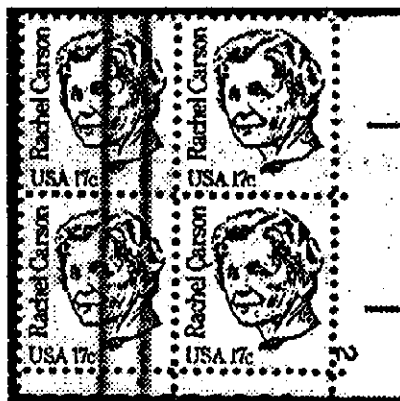
2 Crazy Horse papers

Ken Moreau sent in two untagged single errors of the 13¢ Crazy Horse. One is on paper that is dead in longwave UV; the other fluoresces bluish white.

A 1981 tagging break?

Moreau also sent in the photocopy you see on the right. He drew in the untagged portion as two vertical lines.

In this instance, Moreau may have destroyed a theory. We had believed that most tagging breaks (or track tagging) on Great Americans occurred in the 1985 period after the BEP fire because tagged stamps were then being printed on the precancel



press (which had no tagging capability).

Plate 2 of the 17¢ Carson, however, was printed in April 1981. Or, so at least, we were told.

But before discarding a workable theory, let's consider the possibilities. It is even more likely that the block shown here was printed during a 1985 return to press. In that period, Linda Foster edited out most returns to press from the BEP's plate-activity reports.

Ms. Foster did this to reduce the vast bulk she would have had to cope with had she left them in.

We'll probably never know if this was a 1985 printing, but we think so.

Dry printing, wet printing, totally dry printing

It's all a matter of curling

By David P. Stiff, M.D.

The 19¢ Sequoyah and examples of the 35¢ Drew from Plates 1 and 2 tend to curl, whereas examples from Drew Plates 3 and 4 do not. An explanation is suggested in an article by John Gulka in the April, 1982, *U.S. Specialist*.

In the latter half of 1981, the 7¢ Franklin stamp of the Prominent Americans Series (Scott 1393D) was reprinted from new Plates 39870 and 39902 on dull-gum paper.

[*TPN* note, based on the Gulka article: The stamp was reissued for operators of vending machines at airports who used two 13¢ and one 7¢ stamp in a holder that sold for 50¢. The stamp was not made available to the Philatelic Sales Division, but was heavily ordered. It was also used for makeup postage on first-day covers of the 13¢ Crazy Horse.]

Gulka noted that the stamps of the new printing were 0.25mm taller than those of the old, suggesting a new die. Stamps from the old, shiny-gum printing curled; the new ones did not.

Belmont Faries, then editor of *The Specialist* and chairman of the Citizens Stamp Advisory Commission, obtained a straightforward, if unexpected, explanation from BEP.

According to Page 83 of the 1995 *Scott Specialized Catalogue*, wet-printed stamps were produced on paper with 15% to 25% moisture content, whereas dry-printed stamps had 5% to 10%. Faries learned that in 1981 BEP had commenced printing on completely dry paper. In the absence of moisture, the paper did not shrink and thus did not curl.

As TPN says goodbye, here's a whole new topic to be investigated on PNCs. Obviously, Cottrell-printed PNCs that were contemporaneous to these Great Americans and postage dues should show the same characteristics.

The lesson of the dues

The 1959 series of bicolored postage dues (Scott J88 to J104) were all produced on the Cottrell presses. The 17¢ value (Scott J104) was issued in June 1985, just months before the last Cottrell press was retired in November 1985. The shiny-gum and the dry-gum printings on tinted paper all exhibit a sheen (gloss) on the printed side of the paper. On late printings with dull-gum white paper, the sheen is missing, the paper has a dull finish, and the stamps don't curl.

The 17¢ postage due is on dull-gum, dull finish, white paper; the very scarce dull-gum 7¢ (Scott J95a) and the rare dull-gum 6¢ (not listed in Scott) are both on dull-finish, white paper.

A plate block of the 17¢ and one of the shiny-gum bicolor postage dues make useful references for comparison studies. Observations on the postage dues are uncomplicated by tagging. Block tagging on the great Americans is sometimes recognizable as a sheen over the tagged area.

Checking for sheen

After identifying characteristics of the late printings of the postage dues, it is logical to seek them elsewhere. Examination for gloss (sheen if you prefer) is best performed with the stamp held between the light source and the observer such that the light rays slant across the stamp toward him or her.

On the first issue of the Great Americans, the 19¢ Sequoyah, the paper tends to curl and has a shiny finish similar to that of the dull-gum, tinted-paper postage dues. Similar features are seen on examples of Plates 1 and 2 of the 35¢ Drew. However, on examples from Drew Plates 3 and 4, the paper has a dull finish and does not curl.

[*TPN* note: *The Summary of Data of the Great Americans* shows that Plates 1 and 2 went to press May 14, 1981; Plate 3 and 4, with only 12,098 impressions—lowest of all Great Americans—went to press May 22.]

Ken Lawrence has suggested to me that the initial and late printings of the 17¢ Carson and the 18¢ Mason might show similar characteristics.

[*TPN* note: Plates 15 and 16 of the 17¢ Carson do not curl; all Masons curl. The 20¢ Bunche does not curl.]

Points to consider

Several questions come to mind.

- Was the sheen on the dry-printed product there prior to printing, or was it the result of the printing process, in effect calendering the paper?
 - Is the dull finish of the late Cottrell printings the result of a change in printing techniques, or is it due to a change in paper?
- [*TPN* note: all the stamps being discussed are on Paper I.]
- Is the absence of sheen a hallmark of completely dry printing?

The change from wet to dry printing was a major milestone in intaglio-printed BEP production. Could it be that we've failed to appreciate an event of similar import in the changeover from dry to completely dry intaglio printing?

Good-bye TPN

We will miss the valid, enriched information

Steve Esrati

Good Luck in your future endeavors

PNCs Unlimited

PO Box 38
Bruce, WI 54819

Contact us for all your PNC needs

Data Bank

(all text from USPS, TPN additions in brackets)

'Airmail' disappears from stamps;

first-day ceremonies are out

WASHINGTON (Sept. 8, 1995)—Four new U.S. stamps and stationery items are planned for new U.S. international card and letter rates that went into effect July 9.

Anthropologist Ruth Benedict will be featured on a 46¢ stamp intended for use on half-ounce rate mail to Canada and the 1 oz rate to Mexico. Thaddeus Lowe, aeronaut and inventor, graces a 50¢ aerogramme. Aviator Edward Rickenbacker is featured on a 60¢ international half-ounce rate stamp and a Soaring Eagle is pictured on the new 50¢ international rate post card.

With the introduction of the new international rates, the last distinction between airmail and surface mail disappears. All letters, letter packages, postcards and postal cards will now receive air service. As a result, the word "airmail" is being removed from all new issues intended for international rates except for the Lowe aerogramme.

Also, with the exception of the 60¢ Eddie Rickenbacker stamp, which will be issued Sept. 25 in Columbus, Ohio, all new international rate stamps and stationery will be issued without ceremony at stamp shows.

[No biographical details about Benedict were released by the Postal Service. TPN, however, received e-mail from an extremist group denouncing Benedict. It is not known whether the 10 pages of hate and filth were related to the issuance of the stamp.]



TECHNICAL DETAILS

Issue:	46¢ Ruth Benedict
Type:	Regular-issue (definitive) stamp
Format:	Sheet (single design)
Series:	Great Americans
First day:	Oct. 20, 1995
First-day site:	VAPEX, Virginia Beach, VA 23450
Manufacturing process:	Intaglio
Printer:	Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP)
Printed at:	BEP, Washington, DC
Processed at:	BEP, Washington, DC
Press:	Intaglio—"D" 902—Goebel
Stamps per pane/sheet:	100
Print quantity:	200 million (initial printing only)
Paper:	Prephosphored
Gum:	Water-activated
Colors (PMS colors):	Red PMS 193
Size:	
Image:	0.71x0.82 inches/18.0x20.8mm
Overall:	0.84x0.99 inches/21.3x25.1mm
Full pane:	9.1x10.24 inches/231.1x260.1mm
Plate:	4 positions, 400 subjects
Plate numbers:	One (1) single digit
Marginal markings:	"© USPS 1995" • Plate position diagram • price • Promotional copy (catalog offer)
Item:	1078, sheet of 100; F1078 first-day cover (single)

SPECIAL NOTES: This stamp meets the new international rate for 1/2 oz. to Canada and 1 oz. to Mexico.

Hershey stamp unwrapped in Chocolate Town, U.S.A.

HERSHEY, Pa. (Sept. 13)—Milton S. Hershey, the man who gave us *The Great American Chocolate Bar*, and whose philanthropic deeds made life sweeter for many Americans, was honored with a postage stamp here today as part of the U.S. Postal Service's Great Americans series.

More than 5,000 children from local schools joined Postmaster General Marvin Runyon and Postal Governor LeGree Daniels in officially dedicating the stamp at a ceremony at the Hersheypark Arena.

"He possessed the one thing sweeter and more pure than even his chocolate—a loving heart," said Runyon. "On cards and on letters, Hershey's legacy and example will live on, inspiring another generation of Americans."

"It is a fitting tribute to a man whose generosity and caring have left such a lasting mark on our world."

Hershey is best known as the founder of a chocolate empire, but his philanthropic deeds are legendary.

In 1909 Hershey and his wife, Catherine, established the Milton Hershey School for orphan boys, which today includes girls. Its first four students enrolled [on] Sept. 1, 1910. Today the school provides a home and no-cost education for more than 1,100 disadvantaged youth[s].

In 1963, the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center of the Pennsylvania State University was founded with a \$50 million grant from the M.S. Hershey Foundation for construction and endowment. The 550-acre medical complex, located on a former Milton Hershey farm, opened its doors to the first class of students in 1967, and accepted its first patients in 1970.

Hershey's early ventures into the confectionery business in Philadelphia, and later in Denver, New York, and Chicago, were unsuccessful. However, his entrepreneurial spirit prevailed, and when he returned to Lancaster, Pa., he found success.

He opened the Lancaster Caramel Co. in 1886. After purchasing German chocolate-making machinery at the 1893 World's Colombian Exposition, he began producing a variety of chocolate creations.

In 1900, Hershey sold the caramel company so that he could focus on his chocolate business. He built a new factory in his hometown of Derry Township and began producing Hershey's milk chocolate bars. Around his factory he constructed a town: a self-sufficient community that came to include schools, churches, stores, a bank, an inn, golf courses, an amusement park, zoo, football field and dancing pavilion.

Hershey died in 1945 at M.S. Hershey Hospital. He was 88.

(The Great American Chocolate Bar, Hersheypark, and Hershey's are registered trademarks and used with permission from Hershey Foods Corp.)



TECHNICAL DETAILS

Issue:	32¢ Milton Hershey
Type:	Regular-issue (definitive) stamp
Format:	Sheet (single design)
Series:	Great Americans
First day:	Sept. 13, 1995
First-day city:	Hershey, PA 17033
Manufacturing process:	Intaglio
Printer:	Banknote Corp. of America (BCA)
Printed at:	BCA, Greensboro, NC
Processed at:	BCA, Greensboro, NC
Press:	Intaglio [Probably sheet-fed T/A press]
Stamps per pane/sheet:	100
Print quantity:	105 million stamps (initial printing only)
Paper:	Prephosphored
Gum:	Water-activated/PVA [low-gloss gum]
Color:	Brown PMS 175
Size:	
Image:	0.71x0.82 inches/18.0x20.8mm
Overall:	0.84x0.99 inches/21.3x25.1mm
Full Pane:	9.1x10.24 inches/231.1x260.1mm
Plate:	4 Positions, 400 Subjects
Plate numbers:	"B" followed by one single digit [B1, B2]
Marginal markings:	"© USPS 1994" • Plate position diagram • Price • Promotional text (catalog offer)
Item number:	Sheet of 100 F1034 First day cover (single)

Stamp Services Update (Sept. 1995)

Subject	Format	Item	Date
46¢ Ruth Benedict	Pane of 100	1078	Oct. 20

Bureau of Engraving and Printing

Deliveries will occur on the following stamp items in A/P 1 [October]

Subject	Format	Item	Date
28¢ Cog Railway	Coil of 100	7770	
28¢ Cog Railway	Coil of 500	7771	

The 28¢ Cog Railway coils of 100 ... and ... 500 are back-ordered. BEP will process back orders immediately as production permits. ... Item 7772, coils of 3,000 ... are available.

Requisitions at BEP for Item 7906A, coils of 3,000 [5¢] Canoe bulk rate pre-cancel stamps are back-ordered. This stamp coil will be converted to a new design. The first date of sale is not available at this time.

Requisitions at BEP for Item 6663, \$6.40 Peaches and Pear water-activated booklet, will be canceled. In Fiscal Year 1996, there will be more Peaches and Pear peel-and-stick booklets produced.

Private Stamp Suppliers

Deliveries will be made to SDOs and APDs for the following items:

[TPN note: It is not known what USPS means by "reprint"]

Rose (Reprint)

Stamp Venturers will begin (Sept. 26–Nov. 3) another distribution of these booklets...

Flag Over Porch (Reprint)

Avery Dennison will begin (Oct. 2–Nov. 23) the fourth distribution of these booklets...

Fruits (Peaches and Pears) (Reprint)

Avery Dennison will begin (Oct. 3–Oct. 31) another distribution of these booklets...

'Ho, ho, ho!'—new Santa stamps tell origins of the 'scrapbook'

[Pictures from the USPS server on the World Wide Web of the Internet. Pictures were transmitted singly, but should look like a block of four.]



WASHINGTON (Sept. 25)—With only 86 days 'til Christmas, Santa will take a short break Sept. 30 while the U.S. Postal Service borrows his North Pole workshop to dedicate the first of its holiday postage stamps. ...

Santa's Workshop, North Pole, N. Y., was designated a Postal Service rural substation of the Lake Placid post office on Dec. 16, 1953. Over the past 42 years, thousands of pieces of holiday mail have been postmarked to destinations all around the world. The Workshop, founded in 1949, is open daily from mid-June to Columbus Day.

The four contemporary holiday stamps are ... based on images of unknown Victorian artists who worked for commercial printers and publishers nearly a century ago.

The stamp featuring "Santa on a Rooftop" is from an antique ... writing-tablet cover. Writing tablets were essential tools for Victorian-era schoolchildren, and were enhanced with popular images printed in dazzling colors.

The image of "Santa in the Workshop" comes from an antique ... postcard published by Stuecher Lithographic Co., Rochester, N. Y., postmarked 1915.

Sending picture postcards became one of America's biggest crazes of the early 1900s. In 1909 alone, more than 900 million postcards were mailed in the United States. American consumers embraced the postcard industry with such devotion that Christmas postcards became one of the most popular forms of Victorian holiday greetings.

The two remaining stamps, "Child Holding Jumping Jack," published by James Campbell & Son about 1880-1890, and "Child Holding Tree," published by HWB and printed in Germany about 1910, are examples of postcards based on "scrap."

Scrap were colorful paper images, usually die-cut, often embossed, and able to be cut apart. Children and adults bought them for pennies per sheet.... For a few cents more, merchants sold scrap with gold embossings.

Victorian women and children pasted scrap on many everyday objects, and embellished such items as holiday cookies, stockings and tree ornaments with scrap.

But their most recognized use came on album pages. Victorians assembled scrapbooks for family entertainment and personal amusement. Parents reveled in

an activity that taught children ABCs, colors, reading, science and cultures of the world in addition to practical skills of manual dexterity, organization and design.

In addition to the holiday contemporary stamps, the Postal Service will issue several other holiday stamps. On Oct. 19 at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D. C., this year's Madonna and Child stamp will be issued. The same day, in Christmas, Fla., a peel-and-stick stamp featuring a "Midnight Angel" will be issued, along with a Victorian-style stamp depicting two children sledding (available only through participating ATMs).

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Issue:	32¢ Holiday contemporary
Format:	Booklet of 20 peel-and-stick stamps (4 designs)
Series:	Holiday
First-day city:	North Pole, N.Y.
First-day:	Sept. 30, 1995
Mfg. process:	Gravure
Printers:	Avery-Dennison, Clinton, S.C.
Printed, process at:	Avery-Dennison, Clinton, S.C.
Stamps per booklet:	20
Paper:	Prephosphored
Gum:	Pressure-sensitive adhesive
Colors:	Process yellow, magenta, cyan, and black
Size: Image:	.77x1.05 in/19.6x26.7mm
Overall:	.91x1.19 in/23.1x30.2mm
Full panel:	3.575x6.750 in/90.805x171.45mm
Plate number:	"V" followed by four single digits [Numbers reported before release: V1111, V1211, V3233, V3333, V4444 (all unconfirmed)] 6642 (booklet); [66421 (coil of 20)]

Item:

[Avery will also print the sheet stamps and the regular booklets]

[As TPN goes to press, it is not known which of the four designs will carry the plate number in the self-adhesive coil. It is likely that collector will want a minimum of eight stamps in the coil strip to obtain one of those stamps with and without a plate number, or a strip of five if the location of the plate number is acceptable at the end of the strip.]

The USPS wishes you a 'peel & stick' Christmas

[Pictures from the USPS server on the World Wide Web of the Internet.]



WASHINGTON (Oct. 3)—The U.S. Postal Service made a list and checked it twice, and what Americans want for Christmas is more self-adhesive holiday stamps.

On Oct. 19, in Christmas, Fla., they will get their wish when the Postal Service issues a total of more than 900 million "Midnight Angel" and "Children Sledding" holiday stamps, both of which are being produced exclusively in the self-adhesive format. This is in addition to another 1.4 billion self-adhesive contemporary holiday stamps issued Sept. 30.

Postal Service District Manager Viki M. Brennan will dedicate the new stamps during an 11 a. m. ceremony at historic Ft. Christmas, located in Christmas, Fla.

The city of Christmas, Fla., draws its name from Ft. Christmas, built in 1837 during the Seminole Wars and occupied by U.S. soldiers on Dec. 25th of that year. Old Ft. Christmas was destroyed by a forest fire many years ago, and all that remains at the original site are live oaks, pines and a tangled undergrowth of palmetto. A replica of the fort, housing a museum, was built in an Orange County park and dedicated on Dec. 17, 1977.

Hosting a First-Day-of-Issue ceremony is nothing new for the Christmas Post Office, established on June 27, 1892. In November of 1969, Christmas was selected as the dedication site for that year's holiday stamp.

The Midnight Angel and Children Sledding ... feature colorful Victorian-style images reflecting the moods of the holidays.

The image on the Midnight Angel stamp comes from an antique original greeting card by an unknown company around 1910.

The other stamp being dedicated at the ceremony, "Children Sledding," is a self-adhesive stamp available from selected automatic-teller machines (ATMs). Financial institutions in various parts of the country offer the option of purchasing sheetlets of stamps through their ATMs.

"Children Sledding" is adapted from an antique original postcard in the "Happy Days" series of Christmas postcards. The original card, chromolithographed on card stock and embossed, was published by Raphael Tuck & Sons, Ltd., Lon-

don, printed in Saxony, and postmarked Dec. 23, 1911, from Toledo, Ohio.

Tuck & Sons, was perhaps the most prolific publishing company of the Victorian and Edwardian eras. Begun in 1866 as a modest art and framing shop in London, this thriving business grew into a worldwide publishing empire.

Issue:
Format:
Series:
First-day city:
First-day:
Mfg. process:
Printer:
Printed at:
Processed at:
Press:
Stamps per pane:
Print quantity:
Colors:
Paper:
Gum:
Size: Image:
Overall:
Full pane:
[TPN note:
Plate number:
Item:

TECHNICAL DETAILS
32¢ Children Sledding
Sheetlet of 18 self-adhesive stamps (for ATM)
Holiday
Christmas, Fla.
Oct. 19, 1995
Gravure
Avery-Dennison
Avery-Dennison
Avery-Dennison
Chestnut
18
90 million (5 million sheetlets)
Process yellow, magenta, cyan, and black
Untagged
Pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA)
.71x0.82 in/18.0x20.8mm
.87x0.982 in/22.1x24.94mm
6.125x2.60 in/156.7x66mm
Sizes reported in *Postal Bulletin* were different and were used by many other publications]
"V" followed by four single digits
5513

Issue:
Format:
Series:
First-day city:
First-day:
Mfg. process:
Printer:
Printed at:
Processed at:
Paper:
Gum:
Stamps per pane:
Print quantity:

TECHNICAL DETAILS
32¢ Midnight Angel
Booklet of 20 self-adhesive stamps (single design)
Holiday
Christmas, Fla.
Oct. 19, 1995
Offset
Banknote Corp. of America (BCA)
BCA, Greensboro, N.C.
BCA
Prephosphored
Pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA)
20
818,010,000 in booklets of 20 (40,801,500 booklets)
plus 1,980,000 in coils of 5,000 (396 coils)
Process yellow, magenta, cyan, and black

Colors:
Size: Image:
Overall:
Full pane:
[TPN note:

.932x.72 in/21.1x18.3mm
.982x.87 in/24.9x22.1mm
7.2748x2.61 in/184.8x66.3mm
Sizes reported in *Postal Bulletin* were different and were used by many other publications]

Plate number:

Item:
[Note: The Postal Service did not announce the existence of a self-adhesive coil strip for the four-design Christmas stamps nor for the Midnight Angel Christmas stamp. None of the philatelic publications that printed USPS data bothered to check for their existence. *TPN* did and they exist]

What's new in self-adhesives?

By Doug Iams

During STAMPSHOW '95 in St. Louis, Carol Morehouse found in a dealer's stock a strip of the Love Sunrise self-adhesive coil with a registration mark on the bottom of the back of the liner.

Although others have found such a mark, hers (shown at right) is more complete than others I am aware of.

An earlier report appeared on Page 74 of the May *TPN*.

At that time, Michael Perry was cited as follows: "While the mark appears to be black or gray, close examination reveals it to be a 'dingy' green with traces of red ink mixed in."

Under magnification it can be seen to be a mix of blue, red, and yellow. The blue and yellow combine to give the impression of green seen by Perry.

The reason the mark is incomplete is because it is not printed on the liner but is offset from the face of the unfinished coil below.

On Morehouse's copy, portions of the stamp design can also be seen on the back, which allows it to be determined that the mark is centered horizontally between two stamps. When the matrix between the stamps was removed, the mark on the front went with it.

The mark probably served a dual purpose as both a color-registration mark and a cutting guide mark, although its complicated shape remains a mystery.



Back when most of us were paying no attention to self-adhesives, John Hotchner wrote in his July 23, 1990, *Linn's* "U.S. Notes" column seeking information about a test self-adhesive stamp that has not previously been reported in *TPN*. Thanks to a find by collector Larry Weiss of a pair of these stamps in a dealer's stock at STAMPSHOW, this item has again come to light.

The stamp is printed in dark blue on white paper and the flag appears to be based on the one in the 6¢ Flag over White House (Scott 1338).

Other aspects resemble those found on the 1974 Christmas Dove self-adhesive. Both have stamps with rounded corners, exposed blank liner between stamps, and horizontal and vertical rouletting in the liner between stamps.

There are, however, a number of differences as the test stamps are of a different size and format and they lack the cross-shaped scoring found on the Christmas stamps (readers interested in information on test stamps directly related to the Dove

Christmas issue are referred to *Linn's*, Sept. 18, 1995, Page 50).

Also, the test stamps found by Weiss lack the adhesive staining commonly found on the Christmas Dove stamps, but it is not known if these stamps have a different adhesive or if they were just better preserved.

Weiss reports that he never saw an update on these test stamps in a subsequent Hotchner column, so we are still in the dark on who produced them, when it happened, etc.

Any information would be appreciated. Please send it to me at 1885 Victoria Landing, San Jose, CA 95132. Steve Esrati assures me that any report will be printed in his new price list along with other information on self-adhesives.

For list of new self-adhesive plate numbers, please see 'Update' on Page 139

The unorthodox collector

La commedia `e nita 

*The curtain line in "I Pagliacci," or "The play has ended!"

By Roger de Poont

How long does a snowflake last in our hand? How long will a tulip bloom stand the snow? Impermanence is the essence of things, but fate has shown itself unusually cruel to this your friend: hardly has a door opened for him to share his philatelic adventures (and misadventures) when it is suddenly closed in his face by a heartless cardiologist. Nobody will feel the passing away of *TPN* more than this sporadic collaborator, old de Poont, whose pen, albeit reputedly responsible for *TPN*'s demise, shall now remain silent: "de Poont," the Swan's song says, "by any other name will never be the same." On hearing the bell toll, I know it tolls for thee, but while thy time comes, study thy coils, collect thy flyspecks, and have thy fun!

Recalling the Donne we just met, let me finish this complex note (like Oedipus), with a riddle: "Yes, a man is an island, but who is that man?" (you will find out somewhere else in this issue, if you have not already figured it out.) But, before my feelings carry me away, I have some news that will delight my PNC collector friends; after all, as Shakespeare was wont to say,

"The show must go on!"

It is hard to tell what you are going to find next in the BEP refuse bins. A few days ago, after securing my daily dose of perforations, among some leftover refuse which I need not describe, I found what I consider a major find in the Great Ameri-



FIG. 1—A Great Americans essay?

Editor's note: It is too late to name Roger de Poont, a frequent contributor, as an associate editor. He lives near BEP and regularly finds treasures in its dumpster.

can series, and one which contains a human story, so telling of the wonders of stamp collecting. A half burnt piece of paper, obviously a proof for a coming issue, in chocolate brown, bearing a face half forgotten in the West, well remembered by me from some talks we had a few years ago while I was working on his profile for *The New Yorker* (Fig. 1):

Pablito Gonzalez, the last surviving veteran of the Mexican-American War who died in Los Angeles about two years ago, his Aztec lungs finally succumbing to the smog. The proof is based on a photograph taken around 1942, perhaps during a birthday celebration. We are sure it is Pablito, because all the other relatives insisted on going bareheaded, and because to the last minute, he refused to dye his moustache. He was barely a teen-ager, a courier in the 4th Tijuana Voluntarios, on their way to join Gen. Santa Anna's army, when they saw their first, and for Pablito, his only action of the war in an encounter with the Texas Rangers. Left for dead with a rifle-butt wound to the head, Pablito recovered, and the only consequence of his injury was, strangely, that he was sure Mexico had won the war. He wandered around Texas, drove cattle to Montana, picked fruit in California (his favorite, grape, preferably squeezed), and eventually settling around Los Angeles. His main complaints were that the land was getting more and more full of people who could not speak Spanish, and he hoped the Mexican government would institute a stricter immigration policy, because, as he was wont to say, "One of these days, the only way to get around here will be to learn English." He appears to have given up hope, because "Those bureaucrats in Mexico City do not give a hoot for California; we might as well have sold it to the United States." Except for the fact that he was a very good man and very sensible, there was nothing unusual about him, and he passed away without leaving any magnificent accomplishments. Since

he was passed up for the inclusion in the Legends of the West, I hope his inclusion in the Great American series is announced soon.

Collectors of the new American Culture coil series will be happy to know that, if my findings are correct, (Figs. 2a and 2b), a couple of new stamps may be coming their way. I may have even discovered an

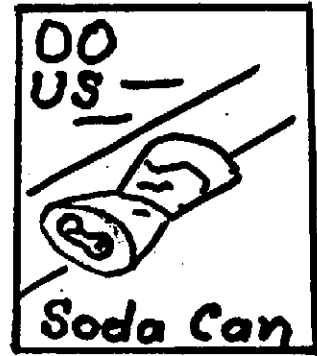


FIG. 2a—This design will end false franking by requiring exact payment for mail on which no return is requested. The black service inscription says: 'No deposit; no return.'



FIG. 2b—Design for full insured mail whose contents were verified by a postal clerk. Service inscription will read: '100% PROOF.'

autograph of Postmaster General Marvin Runyon in a fragment of what may be another proof for the same series (Fig. 3). I

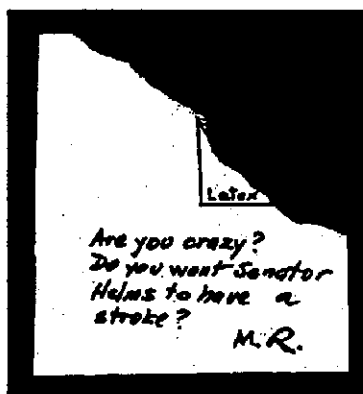


FIG. 3—The treasures of the dumpster may include this rejected essay with 'MR,' possibly the initials of Postmaster General Marvin Runyon.

would not know what the vignette is supposed to represent. Had I found the rest of the design, I would gladly share it with TPN readers.

After receiving a free copy of Mr. Esrati's publication, full of superb information, I looked around and found a few old copies at a flea market. They have brought me great instruction and greater pleasure. The only factual error I could point at was in an otherwise excellent article written by a group of coil researchers. Their title "E=mc²," while original, dates from much farther back, to the Irish mathematician Seamus O'Shaughnessey, who conceived it while a clerk at the Dublin Liquor Licencing Board, and who later migrated to America during one of the periodic decreases in raw material which made it necessary to close the Liquor Board, otherwise known as the Potato Famines. He eventually died in the Institution for Advanced Decay (nuclear, I think), somewhere in New Jersey. In its original form the formula was written "A=Mc" and was pronounced "Hey, Mac!"

I cannot leave without a note about my favorite topic: perforations. I just found a real, honest to goodness perforation flyspeck: would you believe the Center for Disease Control actually charged me for issuing a certificate of authenticity? I just wish I had an entomologist friend who would have done it for free.

We have run out of stamp stories, and by now, all of my PNC friends have left, some sleepy, most maybe bored, while outside, December snow is quietly falling. The innkeeper sleeps soundly in an armchair, candles burn low, and the fire, while warm, has lost its flame: my getting up to throw another log will break the

magic of the moment. Mr. Esrati and I (perhaps by now I could call him Steve) are left by ourselves at the table. Some wine is still left in that last bottle; we fill our glasses and drink: "Steve, your health."

The answer to the riddle is "Manhattan." The other one is so obvious it does not count. (Of course, the Isle of Man!)

TPN note: If the pictures look awry and funny to your eye, it's because of that last bottle. I got them in as straight as I could!

Production Data on Self Adhesives

Plate no.	Plate	Name	Color	Assigned	On Press	Off press	Impressions
S111	S1	Pink Rose SA pane	Green	02/09/95		05/09/95	3,052,529
S111	S1		Pink	02/09/95		05/09/95	3,052,529
S111	S1		Black	02/09/95		02/15/95	813,800
S112	S2		Black	02/09/95		05/09/95	813,800
Y1111	Y1	Flag/Field ATM pane	light green	02/01/95	02/02/95	02/02/95	18,344
Y1111	Y1		Red	02/01/95	02/08/95	02/13/95	363,564
Y1111	Y1		Blue	02/01/95	03/29/95	03/31/95	363,564
Y1111	Y1		Black	02/01/95			
Y11111	Y1	Flag/Porch SA coils	Gold				4,950
Y11111	Y1		Red				4,950
Y11111	Y1		Dark blue				4,950
Y11111	Y1		light blue				4,950
Y11111	Y1		Black				4,950
Y11111	Y1	Flag/Porch SA pane	Gold	12/15/94			21,975
Y11111	Y1		Red	12/16/94			21,975
Y11111	Y1		Dark blue	12/16/94			21,975
Y11111	Y1		light blue	12/16/94			21,975
Y11111	Y1		Black	12/15/94			21,975
Y12211	Y1	Flag/Porch SA pane	Gold	12/15/94			406,605
Y12211	Y2		Red	12/27/94			406,605
Y12211	Y2		Dark blue	12/29/94			406,605
Y12211	Y1		light blue	12/16/94			406,605
Y12211	Y1		Black	12/15/94			406,605
Y12212	Y1	Flag/Porch SA pane	Gold	12/15/94			420,975
Y12212	Y2		Red	12/27/94			420,975
Y12212	Y2		Dark blue	12/29/94			420,975
Y12212	Y1		light blue	12/16/94			420,975
Y12212	Y2		Black	01/13/95			420,975
Y12312	Y1	Flag/Porch SA pane	Gold	12/15/94			240,900
Y12312	Y2		Red	12/27/94			240,900
Y12312	Y3		Dark blue	01/10/95			240,900
Y12312	Y1		light blue	12/16/94			240,900
Y12312	Y2		Black	01/13/95			240,900
Y12321	Y1	Flag/Porch SA pane	Gold	12/15/94			397,885
Y12321	Y2		Red	12/27/94			397,885
Y12321	Y3		Dark blue	01/10/95			397,885
Y12321	Y2		light blue	01/11/95			397,885
Y12321	Y1		Black	12/15/94			397,885
Y12322	Y1	Flag/Porch SA pane	Gold	12/15/94			47,010
Y12322	Y2		Red	01/10/95			47,010
Y12322	Y3		Dark blue	01/10/95			47,010
Y12322	Y2		light blue	01/11/95			47,010
Y12322	Y1		Black	01/13/95			47,010
Y13322	Y1	Flag/Porch SA pane	Gold	12/15/94			97,940
Y13322	Y3		Red	01/10/95			97,940
Y13322	Y3		Dark blue	01/10/95			97,940
Y13322	Y2		light blue	01/11/95			97,940
Y13322	Y2		Black	01/13/95			97,940
Y22211	Y2	Flag/Porch SA pane	Gold	01/13/95			160,060
Y22211	Y2		Red	12/27/94			160,060
Y22211	Y2		Dark blue	12/29/94			160,060
Y22211	Y1		light blue	12/16/94			160,060
Y22211	Y1		Black	12/15/94			160,060
Y23322	Y2	Flag/Porch SA pane	Gold	01/13/95			216,795
Y23322	Y3		Red	01/10/95			216,795
Y23322	Y3		Dark blue	01/10/95			216,795
Y23322	Y2		light blue	01/11/95			216,795
Y23322	Y2		Black	01/13/95			216,795

the printing cylinder. The interval was 48, or just one plate number per revolution.

Most of the information from Stamp Venturers left nothing but puzzlement. Each time a plate was put back on press, it was listed as having been mounted on the first day it went to press. In other words, we were not told when a plate was returned to press. Dates off press, on the other hand, were changed.

But with that odd way of reporting, we cannot tell if the impression totals are for the print run being reported or a cumulative total for all press runs with that plate.

On the Pink Rose self-adhesive, however, Stamp Venturers broke it down correctly and reported that it printed 813,880 impressions with the combination S111 and 2,238,649 impressions with the combination S112.

TPN was thrown for another loop by Stamp Venturers' report, first, that it shipped 1,980,000 Pink Rose panes as of July 7, 1995, but on another sheet said it shipped 757,440,000 panes as of the same date.

Stamp Venturers did list the quantities of stamps delivered to the Postal Service. We list only one "shipped" total per press run, not one for each plate.

It may be of interest that the paper used by Stamp Venturers for its stamps came

***Production data
for self-adhesives
may be found
on Page 147***

from CPL in Bollington, England. BEP's paper was supplied by Ivex in Troy, Ohio.

Stamp Venturers turned to a Massachusetts paper supplier for its self-adhesives, using Kanzaki paper from Ware, Mass.

BEP used an off-line Goebel stroke perforator on its coils of 100 and an off-line Huck stroke perforator on coils of 500 and 3,000.

It listed the gum used on the 32¢ Flag Over Porch coil as PVA but listed the 20¢ Cog Railway's gum as dextrin. The first Flag 1111 found by collectors had low-gloss gum that was later replaced by glossy gum. The Cog Railway's gum is glossy.

In other words, the Flag for which we have a report (presumably the first to be printed) was the low-gloss gum. We have no reports on later plate-number combinations or the glossy-gum stamp.

We are infuriated by the lack of data from Banknote Corp. of America because these might have solved the problems we have had with its sheet-fed intaglio T/A

press. It is our opinion that this press prints two plates of 800 stamps with each feed, but we're still not sure.

We were totally puzzled by Avery's report on its printing of the Flag Over Field ATM panes. It lists data for "gross impressions," which we are reprinting in our table. But these figures are all different, and the total for the black plate is missing.

On the other hand, we are told that Avery printed a total of 366,433 net impressions of the pane.

It appears that Avery printed each succeeding color at a different time and lacked the date to press and the impression total for the black plate. But all dates were in the first quarter, a time period that was supposed to have been covered in the plate-activity report for the first quarter.

All you ever wanted to know
about Great Americans
**Summary of Data on the Great
Americans**
(7th Revision) \$10 postpaid
Reorders: \$7.50
Steve Esrati
PO Box 20130
Shaker Heights, OH 44120

*In appreciation to
Stephen Esrati
for dedicated service
to our hobby
Michael B. Lipson*

JimStamps strikes out with a crochety woman

Here's a chance to read *TPN's* e-mail: From JimStamps (Jim Fowler in South Carolina) to StevStamps (you know who):

In looking through the thousands of covers I get from the local newspaper and water department, I recently found an untagged 29¢ Rushmore. It is printed on very hi-brite paper.

Have I been in the dark or has this been reported?

Sadly, there was no return address (probably since the jerk did not put the extra 3¢ on the cover) and only the generic "upstate SC" cancellation, so I can't even tell which town it was mailed from. I have been known to call people who use "interesting" stamps on the envelopes used to pay their bills. C'est la vie.

From JimStamps to StevStamps:

The Good News: I found the lady with the untagged Rushmores. I got 56 from her including the Plate 4.

The Bad News: I went to her house after calling her on the phone. I had told her I would trade her current 32¢ postage for the 29¢ Rushmores. She said OK.

She proceeded to dump the contents of an envelope on the table. "There's 56 total in there," she chirped.

All the stamps had been separated!

Wait, there's more.

She said her habit is to separate the stamps when she buys them and to put them on blank envelopes for use later. Yep, they had been soaked.

Wait, there's more.

I asked her how she had soaked them and she indicated that she just tore off the corner of the envelope and put it in warm

water. Seems as though she uses Elmer's glue to attach even the new stamps to envelopes. (She doesn't like to lick.)

OK, I thought. Maybe there's still something salvageable here. I thanked her, gave her 56 32¢ stamps and was on my way.

Wait, there's more.

I get home and rush to my black light. I spread out the day's take and turn on the short wave. They all glowed bright

white—in short wave!

But wait, hi-brite only shows up well in long wave. What's that? I look into the pile and about one-third of the stamps show splotches of taggant! Some of the stamps still retained the taggant even after she soaked the poor things in God-knows-what! Can I learn a lesson from this? Who knows. I am now crying in my beer.

Well, I had a lot of 32¢ scrap and didn't have anything better to do with it. Close, but no cigar. Maybe tomorrow.

Does he write for Linn's or doesn't he?

Dr. Bob finds Conestoga No. 6

Dr. Robert Rabinowitz laid a bombshell in the Oct. 16 issue of *Linn's* when he disclosed that BEP had printed rolls of 10,000 of the 3¢ Conestoga Wagon for the Disabled American Veterans on Plate 6.

He was not allowed by *Linn's* to write the story under his own name, because of ostensible rules by that publication against conflicts of interest (despite the fact that Bob Dumaine is its resident expert on duck stamps while being one of America's prime dealers in them). So the story was written by Michael Schreiber of the *Linn's* staff. That, however, did not stop Dr. Rabinowitz from writing an article about PNCs in that very same issue about the plat-number interval of recent issues.

[Personal note from Steve Esrati: I was barred from writing about PNCs by *Linn's* when I became a dealer.]

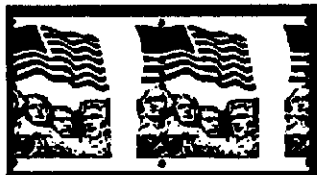
It is not known, according to the article, if there ever were Plates 4, 5, or 6.

The new DAV stamp is untagged and has glossy gum, according to the article.

Dr. Rabinowitz told *TPN* he had a few of the stamps, but not enough to supply Al Haake (who is a partner with Dr. Rabinowitz in obtaining new issues) for his wholesale customers. Dr. Rabinowitz, however, was confident that he would obtain more of the stamps because he was sure the Postal Service would not wish to repeat the disaster that befell the 3¢ *Look* magazine coil.

Nor did he wish to advertise his free offer of the stamps (with a purchase totaling \$50) in *TPN* because "he did not wish to give the appearance" that he had large supplies of the stamps and was hoarding them. But he did place such an ad in *Linn's*.

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That Hamilton Woman

To upset the applecart on how to collect plate blocks, the Postal Service is putting two plate numbers on each pane of the 55¢ Hamilton. The upper positions include a plate-position diagram, giving the true location. They are priced at \$4.50 for UR and UL, \$5.50 for LR and LL. Lower positions are \$4.50, but there is no way of knowing whether they are from upper panes. Strips of 20 are \$22 for LR and LL, \$20 for UR and UL.

Scott	Description	Single	Inscr. BL or Pos. BL	PS/4	PS/6	PS/20
1844c	1¢ Dix BE	.10		WANT (15E, 25E)	3.00 (1, 2)	4.00 (1, 2)
1844	1¢ Dix BE	.10		1.25 (1)	2.50 (1)	3.00 (1)
2168	1¢ Michell BE	.10		.25 (1)		
1845	2¢ Strensky Catrel	.10		.35 (1, 2, 3, 4)		
	Same, premium			10.00 (5, 6)		
	Same, vert tag break			15.00 (8)		
2169	2¢ Lyon BE	.10		.35 (1)		
	Same, premium			.55 (2)		
1846	3¢ Clay Catrel	.10		.70 (1, 2)		
2170	3¢ White BE	.10		.90 (1, 2, 3)		
NEW	3¢ White untagged (dull)	.10		.90 (4)		1.25 (4)
NEW	same untagged (shiny)	.10		.90 (4)		1.25 (4)
1847	4¢ Schurz Catrel	.15		.80 (1-4)		
	Same, vert tag break			10.00 (1-2)		
2171	4¢ Flanagan BE	.15		.80 (1)		
2171a	4¢ Flanagan UE	.10		.40 (1)		2.00 (2)
NEW	4¢ Flanagan UE	.10		.60 (2)		
1848	5¢ Buck Catrel	.15		.90 (1-4)		
	Same, vert. tag break			10.00 (3)		
2172	5¢ Block BE	.15		.70 (1)		
2172	5¢ Block BE	.15		1.25 (2)		
2173	5¢ Mufcoz OE	.15	.70	.75 (1)		
	Same, with ZP			1.00 (1)		6.00 (1)
2173	5¢ Mufcoz UE	.15	.70	.75 (2)		
	Same, with ZP			1.00 (2)		6.00 (2)
1849	6¢ Uppmann BL	.15		.60 (1)	1.20 (1)	3.90 (1)
1850	7¢ Baldwin BL	.20		.90 (1)	1.80 (1)	4.50 (1)
1851	8¢ Knox OL	.20		1.20 (3-4)		5.00 (3-4)
1852	9¢ Thayer BL	.25		2.00 (1)	2.50 (1)	5.50 (1)
1853	10 Russell BL	.25		1.20 (15E)	2.50 (1)	7.00 (1)
2176	10¢ Red Cloud BE	.30		.85 (1)		
2176a	10¢ Red Cloud OE	.30		WANT (1)		
2176b	10¢ Red Cloud untagged	.25				
2176a	10¢ Red Cloud PE dull	.20		.85 (2)		4.50 (2)
2176a	10¢ Red Cloud PE shiny	.20		.85 (2)		4.50 (2)
2176d	10¢ Red Cloud shiny	2.00		10.00 (2)		40.00 (2)
1854	11¢ Portridge OL	.30		1.60 (2-5)		6.00 (2-5)
1855	13¢ Crazy Catrel	.30		2.20 (1, 2)		
	Same, premium			3.00 (3, 4)		
1856	14¢ Lewis BL	.30		1.20 (1)	3.00 (1)	9.00 (1)
2177	14¢ Howe BE	.25		1.90 (1)		7.00 (1)
	Same			2.90 (2)		
2178	15¢ Cody BE	.30		4.00 (1)		10.00 (1)
2178	15¢ Cody BE	.30		4.00 (3)		
	Plate 3 BE wanted, pay \$3 per block, Plate 1 BE wanted, pay \$2 per block					
2178a	15¢ Cody OE	.25		3.50 (2U, 3)		10.00 (3)
	Same, tagged selvage			3.50 (2)		10.00 (2)
	Same, with tagging break			5.00 (2)		12.00 (2)
2179a	15¢ Cody prephosphored	.25		3.50 (1)		
	Same on high-bright paper	1.50		WANT (1)		10.00 (1)
1857	17¢ Carson Catrel	.35		2.85 (1-4, 13-14)		
	Same, with tagging break			10.00 (13)		
	Same, premium			20.00 (15, 16)		
	Same, with tagging break			30.00 (15, 16)		
	Plates 15, 16 wanted, pay \$10 per block,					
2179	17¢ Lockwood	.35		2.00 (1, 2)		
1858	18¢ Mason Catrel	.35		3.50 (1, 2, 5, 6)		15.00 (2, 5, 6)
	Same, premium			6.00 (7, 4)		
1859	19¢ Sequoyah Catrel	.40		3.00 (both)		
1860	20¢ Bunche Catrel	.40		5.00 (1, 2, 5-7)		20.00 (5, 7)
	Same, premium			7.00 (8, 10)		
	Same, premium			12.00 (3, 4)		
	Same, premium			25.00 (11, 13)		
1861	20¢ Gallaudet Catrel	.40		3.90 (1, 2)		
	Same, premium			12.00 (5, 6)		25.00 (6)
	Same, premium			75.00 (8, 9)		
1862	20¢ Tuman BL	.40		5.00 (1)	10.00 (1)	13.00 (1)
1862a	20¢ Tum BE	.40		3.90 (2)		
1862b	20¢ Tum OE Paper IIIb	.40		4.00 (3)		
1862b	20¢ Tum OE Paper IIIc	.60		6.00 (3)		
NEW	20¢ Tuman PE shiny	.40		2.50 (4)		13.00 (4)
2179b	20¢ Aggar,	.40		2.50 (B2)		8.00
	Same, hi-brite paper	.80		4.75 (B1)		15.00
	Same, dead paper	.60		3.75 (B1)		13.00
	Same, hi-brite paper	.60		3.75 (B2)		13.00
2179	21¢ Colson BE	.40		3.20 (1)		
1863	22¢ Audubon BL	1.25		5.30 (1)	27.50 (1)	30.00 (1)
1863d	22¢ Audubon BE	.45		5.00 (3)		
2182b	23¢ Cassatt OE	.50		5.00 (1U)		10.00 (1U)
2182	23¢ Cassatt BE	.50		2.65 (1)		

Scott	Description	Single	Inscr. BL or Pos. BL	PS/4	PS/6	PS/20
2182b	23¢ Cassatt OE	.50				3.75 (2)
2182b	same, horiz tag break					5.00 (2U)
2182b	23¢ Cassatt PE	.50				3.00 (2)
NEW	23¢ Cassatt PE shiny	.50				3.00 (3)
2183	25¢ London BE	.50				3.00 (1)
2183	25¢ London BE	.50				10.00 (2)
2184	28¢ Sitting Bull BE	.50				3.80 (1)
2184A	29¢ Warren PE	.45	3.00	2.35 (51, 52)		13.00 (51, 52)
2184B	29¢ Jefferson	.45	6.50 (8)	5.00 (51)		12.00 (51)
2184B	29¢ Jefferson	.45	4.50 (8)	2.50 (52)		9.00 (52)
1864	30¢ Leuchow BL	.75		5.00 (1)		19.00 (1)
1864a	30¢ Leuchow BE	.45		5.50 (2)	10.00 (1)	
1864a	30¢ Leuchow OE	6.00		25.00 (2)		
NEW	32¢ Hestey Upper lower	.55		3.25 (B1, B2)		13.00
NEW	32¢ Hestey Others	.55		2.75 (B1, B2)		13.00
1865	35¢ Drew Catrel	.75		4.50 (1, 2)		
	Same, premium			WANT (3, 4)		
	Plates 3 and 4 wanted, pay \$7.50 per block					
2185	35¢ Chavez PE	.50	3.50	3.50 (51, 52)		
1866	37¢ Million Catrel	.80		4.50 (1-4)		
	ZP blocks wanted from Plate 4 with upside down inscription. Pay \$5.00					
1867	39¢ Clark BL	1.00		6.00 (15E)	16.00 (1)	30.00 (1)
1867c	39¢ Clark BL	1.00		5.90 (2)		
1868	40¢ Gilreth BL	.95		9.75 (15E)	19.00 (1)	23.90 (1)
1868a	40¢ Gilreth BE	.95		6.50 (2)		16.00 (2)
2186	40¢ Chennault OE	.85	5.00	4.00 (1)		
2186	40¢ Chennault PE dull	.85	5.00	4.00 (2)		
NEW	40¢ Chennault PE shiny	.85		4.00 (2)		17.50 (2)
2188	45¢ Cushing BE	.75		3.50 (1)		
2188	45¢ Cushing OE	1.00		10.00 (1)		26.00 (1)
1869	50¢ Nimetz OL	1.00		11.25 (1-4)		
1869a	50¢ Nimetz BE	1.00		6.50 (1, 2)		20.00 (1)
1869d	50¢ Nimetz OE	1.00		17.50 (2)		
1869d	50¢ Nimetz OE	1.00		7.50 (3)		20.00 (3)
NEW	50¢ Nimetz PE (shiny)	1.00		4.00 (3)		20.00 (3)
2190	52¢ Humphrey PE (dull)	1.00	5.50	4.00 (1)		
NEW	52¢ Humphrey PE (shiny)	1.00	5.50	4.00 (1, 2)		25.00 (1)
2940	55¢ Hamilton Upper lower	1.00	5.50	5.50 (B1, B2)		20.00 (B1, B2)
2940	55¢ Hamilton Others	1.00	5.50	4.50 (B1, B2)		20.00 (B1, B2)
2161	56¢ Harvard	1.10		7.50 (1)		
2192	65¢ Arnold BE	1.30		5.20 (1)		
2193	75¢ Willsie PE (dull)	1.15	7.00	5.50 (1)		30.00 (1)
NEW	75¢ Willsie PE (shiny)	1.15	7.00	5.50 (1)		
NEW	78¢ Paul Upper lower	1.35		7.25 (B1, B2)		30.00 (B1, B2)
NEW	78¢ Paul Others	1.35		6.25 (B1, B2)		30.00 (B1, B2)
2194	\$1 Bavel	1.95		14.00 (1)		
2194A	\$1 Hopkins BE	1.50		7.00 (1)		
2194Ab	\$1 Hopkins OE	1.50		7.00 (1)		
2194Ab	\$1 Hopkins PE phos, dull	1.50		7.00 (2)		
2194Ab	\$1 Hopkins PE, shiny	2.00		8.00 (2)		
2195	\$2 Bryan	3.50		21.00 (2)		
2196	\$5 Morse BE	9.00		40.00 (1)		
2196	\$5 Morse PE	9.00		35.00 (2)		

The following are not Great American stamps, but you may not have them.

1894 20¢ Fog BL Dull .80 18.00 (4)

1894a 20¢ Fog BE Shiny .80 4.75 (2, 3) 9.50 (2, 3) 20.00 (2, 3, 4)

Shiny gum from Plates 3, 4 wanted. Pay \$5 for PS/6, \$10 for PS/20.

Dull gum from Plates 2, 3 wanted. Pay \$4 for PS/6, \$10.00 for PS/20.

C118 45¢ Langley OE 3.00 25.00

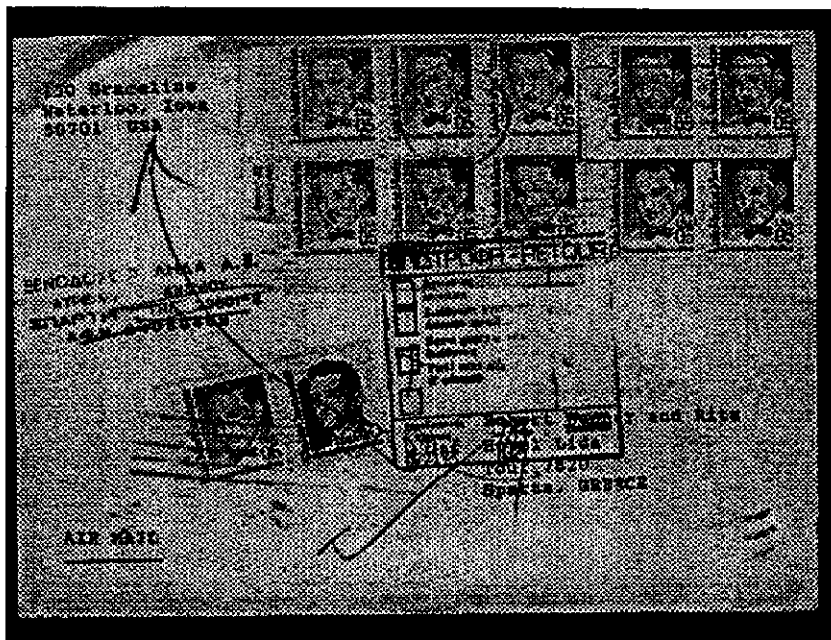
Abbreviations used in descriptions:
 Tagging: B=Block; O=Overall; P=Prephosphored; U=Untagged (or Untagged self-veg); T=Tagged selvage.
 Perforations: L=L Perforator; E=Eureka bull's eye; SE=Strait edge
 I have a complete stock of ZP and copyright blocks. All prices net. No discounts. Prices subject to change. Some quantities limited. I pay postage on orders over \$10, otherwise please add 55 cents. I am buying some plate numbers at half my selling price.

Lighthouse supplements, UV lamps

I carry all Lighthouse products at a 15% discount.

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Cover of the Bi-Month

By Richard L. Beecher

This cover, postmarked Sept. 9, 1993, with 95 cents in postage to pay the one-ounce airmail rate, was mailed from Iowa to Sparta, Greece, and returned to sender. There are some nice routing marks on the front and back of the cover.

In addition, some of the Mufoz stamps are tagged while others are untagged. The untagged version is not an error. When issued in 1990, the first printings were tagged. In early 1991, USPS changed its policy and stopped tagging low-denomination stamps. As a result, Mufoz stamps went back to press and emerged untagged.

Since both versions were widely available in post offices in 1993 (and still are), the mailer apparently had access to both.

The block in the upper left and the single are untagged. The block of six is tagged.

Please, don't say 'ain't,' teacher says

Continued from Page 131

useless. I now say "precanceled" and "unprecanceled." I say "used precancel" or "mint precancel," too.

8. It is not a matter of who is right. Both men are. But to make distinctions in mint stamps (which is what most of us collect) among various papers, Nazar's method works. Godin would have us think that all these papers are alike. We know we can tell Paper II from Papers I and III by their acidity. We can do so even on used stamps, although the test is destructive and requires us to use selvaie or extra stamps. We also know that we can see a latticework pattern in some stamps by holding them up to a bright light. Neither of these tests has anything to do with the gum. But the gum, which is either smooth or striated, is a big help. *TPN* never had any trouble using the gum as a paper identifier.

Now that *TPN* will be no more, the arguments may continue. I may occasionally tackle such disputes in my quarterly price list, which will also feature "Data Bank," "Catalog Update," and occasional contributions from the Plate Number Coil Study Group. The initial circulation of the price list will be about 2,200 copies. I urge you to subscribe, even if you never intend to buy a stamp or FDC from me.

I have had to backtrack, too. At first I called untagged lines from the B Press "tagging gaps." Dr. Bob and others objected that this would confuse collectors. They wanted to reserve

"gaps" for precancels. I listened. The "tagging gaps" became "tagging breaks."

Find an 'oops,' win a prize

As a result, I plan to continue *TPN*'s "Oops" column, but I shall add a new twist because I intend to quote other publications when they are wrong. (Most of the time, this will be when the publications quote the Postal Service without even looking at the stamps, and so the "Technical Details" will be all wrong.)

I doubt there will be many erroneous citations from *Stamp Collector* because that publication has downsized itself at the expense of content. Dr. Bob has stopped writing for it, I kept trying, but my stuff simply never saw daylight. And now that it belongs to Walt Disney, it may have to run Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse cartoons instead of stamp news.

Contributions of "oopses" from readers would be most welcome. There will be prizes for some published "oopses."

WANTED: Trade or purchase
PNCs on Precancel and G-Rate commercial covers
Michael B. Lipson
Box 2543
Reston, VA 22090



SPECIAL OFFER, SCOTT 1863C

22¢ Audubon, L Perforations, imperforate between.

What appears to be a vertical row of blind perfs runs just to the right of the second "2" of the left stamp.
Scott value: \$2,250. Pair, \$100; block of 4, \$200.

STEVE ESRATI

PLATE NUMBER COILS

	LP	PS3	PS5
2902 (5c) Eagle S111	.60	.65	.75
2604 (NOC) Eagle and Shield			
A11111, A11112, A21112, A22112, A22113, A43334, A43335, A53335, A77777, A88888, A89999, A99999, A99999			
A1010101010, A1011101010, A1011101011, A1011101012, A1110101010, A11101101010, A1111101010, A11111101010, A1211101010, A1411101010, A4111101011, A14121111101, A14121111111	2.64	2.72	2.80
A33334, A33335, A34424, A34426, A43324, A43325, A43326, A43424, A54444, A54445, A88889			
A12213	3.80	3.88	4.00
A32333	180.00	180.00	180.00
A33334	85.00	85.00	85.00
A1110101011	12.00	12.00	12.00
2605 (NOC) BEP 11111, 22221, 22222, 33333			
11111, 22221 phoshozed (over)	2.64	2.72	2.80
2606 (NOC) SV S11111, S22222	2.64	2.72	2.80
2905 (NOC) Auto S111	2.20	2.30	2.50
2908 (15c) Ted Fin 11111	2.00	2.30	2.45
2909 (15c) Ted Fin S1111111	1.80	2.10	2.25
1891 18c Flag 1	96.00	112.00	352.00
2	13.72	20.58	36.00
3	288.00	290.00	800.00
4	4.41	4.66	8.00
5	2.45	3.29	4.40
6	WAHT	1.440	WAHT
7	26.60	28.99	31.20
2149 18c Wash 1112, 3333	1.93	2.10	2.80
2149a 18c PC 33333 shiny & dull	3.20	3.60	4.00
PC 11121, 43444	4.60	4.92	5.20
2529 19c Boat A1112, 1212	8.00	8.20	8.40
A1111, A2424, A5555, A5556, A6667, A7667, A7766, A7779, S11	2.60	3.00	3.60
A5555 untagged	9.60	10.00	10.40
2005 20c Consumer Ed. 1, 2	3.19	26.25	160.00
3, 4	3.19	26.25	96.00
1895 20c Flag 1	3.92	6.40	68.00
2, 11, 12	5.29	7.00	9.60
3	2.35	2.45	6.00
4	26.44	45.50	640.00
6	72.00	75.00	120.00
8	3.82	3.92	12.00
5, 9, 10, 13, 14	1.93	2.80	4.80
1895a 20c PC 14	48.00	48.00	48.00
0125 20c Official 1	7.35	17.50	56.00
2150 21.1c Ladies 111111	2.10	2.21	3.80
111121	2.84	3.08	4.60
2150a 21.1c PC 111111, 111121	3.08	3.08	4.60
2115 22c Flag 1, 7, 13	3.82	10.15	12.00
3	8.40	11.20	48.00
5, 6, 10	4.80	4.90	6.00
14	20.40	20.80	21.60
2, 4, 8, 12, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 11	2.80	2.87	3.60
11, 17, 18, 20	4.76	6.64	7.60
2112 22c "D" Eagle 1, 2	3.80	4.08	6.20
0139 22c "D" Official 1	24.50	35.00	64.00
2607 23c Present Flag			
A111, A212, A222	2.60	3.00	3.20
A112	7.20	7.60	8.00
A122, 333	3.60	4.00	4.40
2608 23c USA			
A1111, A2222, A2232, A2233, A3333, A4364, A4443, M444			
A4453, S111	3.20	3.60	4.00
2608a BEP version 1111 (shiny)	2.80	3.20	3.60
2608a BEP version 1111 (dull)	3.20	3.60	4.00
2280 25c Yosemite			
Block 1, 7	5.60	6.40	7.20
Block 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	2.66	2.94	3.60
Block 9	8.00	8.80	9.60
Plus 1	38.40	39.20	40.00
Plus 2-3, 7-11, 13-14	2.80	2.98	3.80
Plus 5, 15	4.80	5.60	6.40

	LP	PS3	PS5
Plus 6	11.20	12.00	12.80
2279 "T" Earth 1211	3.80	3.92	5.80
2272	4.00	4.40	4.80
1111, 1222	1.68	1.84	3.00
2281 25c Horseman 1, 2	1.68	1.96	3.60
1 Orig. full seal	24.00	25.20	25.60
2911 (25c) Joka 11111	3.25	3.50	4.00
2912 (25c) Joka S11111	3.00	3.25	3.75
2518 "F" (29c) Ruby			
1111, 1222, 2222	2.80	3.20	3.60
1211	31.20	31.60	32.00
2211	6.40	6.80	7.20
2525 29c Flower S1111, 2222 SB	2.80	3.20	3.60
S2222 (Phil.)	3.20	3.60	4.00
2523 29c Mt. Rushmore			
1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	2.80	3.20	3.60
6 on Laser Paper	120.00	120.00	120.00
5, 8, 9	6.80	7.00	7.20
2523c Toledo lower, 7	120.00	120.00	120.00
2523a green A11111, A22211	2.80	3.20	3.60
2690 29c White House 1-16, 18	3.60	4.00	4.40
2893 6 Hounddog A11111, A21111	1.35	1.40	1.50
2888 6 Present S11111	4.15	4.50	5.00
2889 BEP G 1111, 2222	4.15	4.40	5.00
2890 6 A1313, A3114, A4426	5.35	5.65	6.25
All other ABN	4.15	4.40	5.00
2891 6 S1111 (over, perf), S2222	4.15	4.40	5.00
2913 32c Flag over Patch (BEP)			
11111, 22222, 33333, 44444	4.00	4.25	4.75
2914 Same (SV) S11111	3.50	3.75	4.25
CP331 Variable Rate Shield (OVN) BEP version Plate 1 per P5/P5			30.00
1c-18c			10.00
19c-29c			10.00
CP32 Unkeys, ABN version A11, 19c-29c			10.00

Self-stick coils

2400 Fine Coat B1		5.00
2813 Love B1		5.00
2598 Eagle 111		5.00
2599 Statue of Liberty D1111		5.00
2791 James rays PS/8 V11111111		6.00
2873 Santa V1111		5.00
2886a G Self-stick		5.00
2915 Flag/Patch V11111		5.00
NEW Patch & Pear V11111		5.00
NEW Pink Rose S111		5.00

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TERMS: Payment with order. Prices subject to change without notice. U.S. postage taken in trade at 90%. Single plate number coils available at pair price minus one stamp. Average coils available on better terms. Please send for list.
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2431a Eagle and Shield 1111	15.00
2478a 29c Red Squirrel D11111, D22211	10.50
D23133	11.00
D2221, D2222	13.00
2479a Rose S111 (94)	10.00
S111 (91 over)	13.00
2480a Pine Cone B1	25.00
85, B12, B15	15.00
B2, B3, B4, B6-811, B-13, B-14, B-16	11.00
2595 Eagle Brown B1111-1, B1111-2, D2222-1, D2222-2, B3331-1, B3434-1, B4444-1	11.00
B4344-3	250.00
B4344-1, B4444-1, B4444-3	15.00
2596a Eagle Green	
D11111, D21221, D22322, D32332, D32342, B54561, B54563, B54571, B54573, D65784	11.00
D43352, D43452, D43453	15.00
B54673, B61384	30.00
D42342	20.00
2597a Eagle Red	10.00
2598a Blue Eagle M111, M112	11.00
2719a Christmas Train V11111	9.50
2802a Christmas	
Y111-1111, Y222-1222, Y222-2112, Y222-2122, Y112-2221, Y222-1222, Y333-3333	7.50
2830a Snowman Y1111	11.00
Y2222	13.00
2813a Samson Love B111-1, 2, 3, 4, B222-4, 5, 6, B111-5	150.00
B222-4, B222-5, B222-6, B333-9	11.00
B333-5	25.00
B333-8	20.00
B221-5, B333-7, B344-12, B344-13	13.00
B333-10, B333-11, B333-12, B333-17	11.00
B333-14	75.00
B344-11	PR
B444-8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19	11.00
B434-10	100.00
B444-7, B444-16	13.00
2599a Statue of Liberty B11111, B1212	10.00
2873a Santa V1111	8.00
2874a Cardinal V1111	8.00
Y2222	11.00
2886a G stamps V11111, Y22222	11.00
2887a G ATM (no number)	11.00
NEW (32c) Love Cherub B1111-1, B2222-1, B2222-2, B3333-2	12.00
2920a Flag/Patch V11111	25.00
Y12211, Y12211, Y12212, Y12312, Y12321, Y12322, Y13322, Y22211, Y23322, Y23452	10.00
NEWS5c Love Cherub V1111	15.00
NEW Patch & Pear ????	????
NEW Pink Rose ????	????

5% Discount on orders over \$100

10% Discount on orders over \$200

TPN cuts hacker's career short

A mysterious stranger was hacking on the Internet. He purported to be the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center and signed his e-mail "USPSPFSC."

But his biography wasn't in America Online's directory of members and he refused to answer mail sent to him by *TPN* and by another member of the PNC Study Group to ascertain who he is. He is known to have received small sums of money (at face) from collectors for specific plate-number combinations.

When *TPN* challenged him on the Internet (after all, would we accept statements coming from "The White House" without knowing who was making them?), he said in a huff that he would transmit no more information. Good!

TPN does not believe in anonymous sources and refuses to let people go off the record after they have spoken. It's just proper journalism.

Why did we need to know? Well, this hacker announced to one and all that the self-adhesive Christmas sheetlet showing children and Santa included the plate-number combination V1121. Then, a week or so later, he sent the following message:

It now appears that plate number V1121 may not exist. Due to the accountable-paper convention this week, I may be unable to receive a confirmation. I rely heavily on reports from SDOs [stamp distribution offices] for plate information.

It's my guess that it may have been misread from the carton or it was misprinted on the carton. Either is a possibility. I'll keep everyone updated.

Sorry for the error. From now on I'll wait until I've actually seen it before I report it.

USPSPFSC

What was even more upsetting was that the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center, which doesn't want to let us order by plate number, would be the last place on earth to disseminate plate-number information.

In any event, no postal employee is entitled to masquerade as Postmaster General Marvin Runyon, or as Azeezaly Jaffer, or as the cave.

And, let us not forget, it could have been private information such as that provided by USPSPFSC that led to the find of the Love Sunrise pane that was put on the market at 100 times face value.

Who said the Transportation Series is dead?

The September issue of *Update*, the internal memo of the Stamp Distribution Branch, indicates that a new 5¢ stamp may be issued as a replacement for the 5¢ Canoe. Stocks of coils of 3,000 have been depleted, but BEP is still receiving orders for them from post offices supplying nonprofit mailers.

Stamp Distribution said: "This stamp coil will be converted to a new design." Other details were unknown.

This brief notice tells us two things:

- Some mailers are rejecting the gaudy 5¢ Butte.
- The Postal Service may have to eat its words about the demise of the Transportation Series.

Spokepersons for the Postal Service are unable to comment about future stamps.

Self-stick rolls of 10,000 coming

An internal Postal Service memo indicates that rolls of 100 of the Flag Over Porch and 20¢ Bluejay coil will be made available as self-adhesives next spring.

Rolls of 10,000 of the Flag Over Porch self-adhesive coil will be made available next summer. These will not be linerless (like Scotch tape) but will continue to look like the coils being sold to collectors from the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center.

Artmaster makes find, saves money

When the small-date self-adhesive panes of the 32¢ Flag Over Porch were hard to get, Dr. Robert Rabinowitz offered them at \$3 a stamp (that's \$60 a pane) to Artmaster for making first-day covers.

Fortunately for Artmaster, the panes turned up in Louisville, Ky., where Artmaster has its home. The stamps were bought at face.

all the PNC news that fits we print
(and some Great Americans, too)

PNC³er quits over Dr. Bob's award

A longtime member of PNC³ resigned from the 750-member organization recently to protest against its presentation of an achievement award to Dr. Robert Rabinowitz.

According to *Linn's*, the award recognized Dr. Rabinowitz's "continued contributions to PNC literature through regular weekly articles in national weekly stamp publications."

PNC³'s timing was dreadful. In a dispute with the editor of *Stamp Collector*, Dr. Rabinowitz stopped writing about PNCs in that newspaper in June.

Further, Gerald H. Clark expects to resign from PNC³ this month to protest two things: the award to Dr. Rabinowitz and PNC³'s failure to do anything about Kim Cuniberti's withholding of information on the finding of the Love Sunrise pane with the plate-number combination B334-11. Clark believes that holding back information is a clear violation of PNC³ bylaws.

That brings up the question of what the PNC Study Group should do about Cuniberti's withholding of information. That question is more difficult because the study group has no bylaws, no ethics code, no code of conduct.

Ken Lawrence resigned from the study group because he believed that the withholding of information by Dr. Rabinowitz was a violation of an unwritten ethics code. He resigned when Rich Nazar invited Dr. Rabinowitz to join the group.

Ken never came back; Kim remains a member. The sole criterion for membership has always been work to learn more about PNCs. At one time, work was also required toward getting the catalog out. Now that Nazar has "dissolved" the study group, one wonders what the cover of the next edition of his catalog—if there is one—will say.

The 1995 edition said: "Compiled by the Plate Number Coil Study Group."

Red Red Cloud gets its own Scott number

Scott Publishing Co. has recognized the red 10¢ Red Cloud as a variety by assigning it its own catalog number (2176d). Scott's sister publication, *Linn's*, ran a story about the new number and then added a table of the Scott-listed varieties of the Red Cloud. Its list omitted the untagged error of Plate 1.

Linn's said it was told by BEP that the red color resulted from a new ink supplier. Scott calls it a "temporary change of color."

My PNC prices

You'll love my my no-quibble return policy, my VF quality. Prices subject to change. Prices are for F-VF PS/5. Deduct 10% for PS/3 or Fine; add 25% for XF. If you prefer PS3, deduct 5% except where separate prices are noted. I have precancel gaps, varieties. Ask!

1c Omnidisc 1, 2, 5, 6	.40
3, 4	.50
B Press 1, 2	.55
B Press Untagged 2	.50
C Press 3 (normal)	3.00
C Press 3 (variety 1)	.75
Full size 3 (Variety 3)	2.00
2c Locomotive 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10	.50
3 Smoking I or com.	15.00
B Press 1	.60
Spika variety (no #)	10.00
C Press 2	.60
3c Humber 1, 2, 3, 4	.70
3c Camouflage Wagon 1	1.00
2, 3 untagged	1.00
3, shiny gum	1.00
3c School Bus 1, 2	1.00
PC 1, 2 (1R, No Gum)	6.00
4c Shakespeare 1, 2, 3, 4	1.00
5, 6 (VF Poor only .50)	1.50
PC 3, 4, 5, 6	6.50
Same, B Press 1	1.00
Overall tagged 1	14.00
4c Steam Locomotive 1, tagged, untagged	1.00
4.9c Dashboard 3, 4	.90
4 Dugby Whip (Gum)	10.00
PC 1-6	1.80
5c Motorcycle 1, 2, 3, 4	1.00
5c Milk Wagon 1	1.00
5c Circus Wag. 1, unit 1, A1, AZ, AS, S1	1.50
5c Cannon 1, 2, 3	1.50
General S11 (Black in IV, sweet gum)	1.25
General S11 (Black in IV, sweet gum)	2.00
(5c) "6" Humpback, A11111, A21111	1.00
(5c) Dodo Humpback, S111	1.00
5.2c Sleigh 1, 2	8.50
3	240.00
5	170.00
PC 1, 2	12.00
PC 3, 5	14.00
PC 4, 6	13.00
5.3c Elephant 1	1.00
5.5c Star Route Truck 1	1.75
PC 1	1.50
PC 2	4.00
5.9c Bicycle 3, 4	15.00
PC 3, 4	25.00
PC 5, 6	80.00
6c Bicycle 1, reg or PC	1.50
PC 2	8.00
7.1c Tractor 1, PC 1	3.00
PC 1 "2P-4"	2.00
7.4c Baby Buggy 2	9.00
PC 2	5.00
7.6c Cannon 1, 2	2.50
3	6.50
8.3c Ambulance 1, 2	1.50
PC 1, 2	2.00
PC 3, 4	5.00
B Press 1	3.25
2	7.50
8.4c Wheelchair 1, 2	2.00
3	13.00
8.5c Tow Truck 1, reg or PC	2.50
PC 2	11.00
9.3c Mail Wagon 1, 2	12.50
3, 4	33.00
5, 6	250.00
PC 1, 2	20.00
PC 3	25.00
PC3 or 5, Hash mark (PS/10)	45.00
PC 4	20.00
PC 5, 6	3.00
PC 8	180.00
10c Canal Boat 1 (black tag)	1.50
1 overall tag (dull gum) F-VF	3.50
1 overall tag (dull gum) XF	5.00
1, 2 plus shiny gum F-VF	3.50
10c Tractor Tractor 1	2.00
10c Tractor Tractor gears 11, 22	2.25
(10c) Eagle, Shield	

AB8888, AB9999, AB101010, AB101010, AB101010, AB101010	2.75
AB1111, AB1111, AB1111, AB1111, AB1111, AB1111, AB1111, AB1111, AB1111, AB1111	2.75
AB1111, AB1111, AB1111, AB1111, AB1111, AB1111, AB1111, AB1111	3.50
AB2222, AB2222, AB2222, AB2222, AB2222, AB2222, AB2222, AB2222	15.00
AB3333, AB3333, AB3333, AB3333, AB3333, AB3333, AB3333, AB3333	150.00
AB4444, AB4444, AB4444, AB4444, AB4444, AB4444, AB4444, AB4444	5.00
AB5555, AB5555, AB5555, AB5555, AB5555, AB5555, AB5555, AB5555	20.00
AB6666, AB6666, AB6666, AB6666, AB6666, AB6666, AB6666, AB6666	200.00
AB7777, AB7777, AB7777, AB7777, AB7777, AB7777, AB7777, AB7777	12.00
AB8888, AB8888, AB8888, AB8888, AB8888, AB8888, AB8888, AB8888	85.00
(10c) Auto Bulb Rate, S111	1.75
10.1c Oil Wagon 1	2.50
PC 1, 2	2.50
Rail PC 2, 3	2.50
10.9c Hummer Cab 1, 2	28.00
PC 1, 2	30.00
3, 4 (PS/3 only)	250.00
11c Cabs 1, PC 1	3.50
Untagged PC 2	2.00
11c Suez 1, 2, 3, 4	2.00
12c Steamer 1, 2	2.00
PC 1, 2	2.50
B Press PC 1	20.00
12.5c Peacock 1	2.65
2	4.50
PC 1 light olive, Paper like	2.70
PC 1 Dark olive, Paper like	3.00
PC 2	5.00
13c Petrol Wagon 1	2.50
13.2c Coal Car 1, 2	2.50
14c Caboose 1, 2, 3, 4	2.00
14c Caboose B Press 2	3.00
15c Topcoat 1	2.00
Overall 2, Block 2	3.00
(15c) Tail Fin, Present, S1111	2.25
(15c) Tail Fin, Present, 11111 (REP)	2.25
16.7c Popcorn 1, 2	3.00
17c Auto 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2.00
6	12.00
7	5.00
PC 1C, 2C (F only)	6.00
PC 3A, 4A	3.50
PC 3A, 4A	3.50
PC 3B, 4B	22.00
PC 3C, 4C	7.00
PC 3BA, 4BA (PS/10)	23.00
PC 5A	5.00
PC 5B, 6B	18.25
PC 5AB, 7AB (PS/9) (50)	13.00
PC 6A	13.00
PC 5C, 7C	24.00
PC 7A	12.00
17c Dog sled 2	3.00
17.5c Racer 1, reg or PC	3.00
18c Survey 1	74.00
2, 5, 6, 8, 17, 18	3.00

3, 4	63.75
7	30.00
9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16	12.50
13, 14	5.50
18c Flag 1	345.00
2 PS/5	40.00
2 PS/3	18.00
4	7.00
5	4.00
7	30.00
18c Wash, 1112, 3333	3.00
PC 11121	6.00
PC 33333	3.00
PC 33333 (dull gum, tagged)	5.75
PC 43444	7.00
19c Fishing Boat	6.00
A1112	4.00
A1212, 1111, 2424, 5555, 5555, 6667	4.00
7667, 7679, 7766, 7779, 5111	4.00
A5555 untagged	10.00
20c Fire Pump 1 PS/5	175.00
1 PS/3	50.00
3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16	4.50
7, 8 (PS/5 FW only)	160.00
12, 14	8.00
6	35.00
11 PS/5	75.00
11 PS/3	29.00
20c Consumer Ed. 1, 2 PS/5	150.00
1, 2, 3, 4 PS/3	25.00
3, 4 PS/5	95.00
20c Flag 1 PS/5	70.00
1 PS/3	4.25
2, 11, 12	8.00
3	5.00
4 PS/3 only	33.50
5, 9, 10, 13, 14	4.00
6 PS/5	125.00
6 PS/3	69.00
8 PS/5	12.00
8 PS/3	7.50
12	3.00
PC 14	50.00
20c Official 1 PS/5	57.00
1 PS/3	11.00
20c Cable Car 1, 2 (black)	3.00
Overall tagged 2	5.00
20c Cog Railway 1	3.00
20.5c Fire Engine 1	3.00
21c Rail Car 1, 2	3.00
21.1c 1111111, plain and PC	3.00
111121 plain and PC	14.00
22c Flag 1, 2, 13 PS/5	5.00
1, 7, 13 PS/3	10.00
3 PS/5	48.00
3 PS/3	11.00
14	30.00
2, 8, 12, 15, 16, 19, 22, T 1	3.00
4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 17, 18, 20, 21	5.50
(22c) "D" Eagle 1, 2	7.00
(22c) "D" Official 1 PS/3	32.50
23c Lined Wag 2, 3 (solid tag)	3.50

3 (modified, dull or shiny)	3.50
23c Present A1111, 212	3.50
A222 full middle 2	3.50
A222 thin middle 2	4.00
A112, 122, 333	4.50
23c USA A1111, A2222, 1111 (shiny)	4.00
S111, 1111 (dull gum)	4.50
A2232, A2233, A3333, A4444, A4445, A4444	4.50
A4455	4.50
1111 plus (star)	40.00
24.1c London 1	3.50
25c Breed Wagon 2, 3, 4	3.50
1, 5	4.00
25c Yosemite	
Block 1, 7, Pies 5, 15	6.00
Block 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	3.50
Block 9	9.00
Plus 1	40.00
Plus 6	12.00
Plus 23, 7-11, 13-14	3.50
(25c) "E" Earth 1211, 2222	4.25
1111, 1222	2.50
25c Honeybee 1, 2	3.50
1 Olig. full seal	20.00
(25c) "6" Present S11111	4.75
(25c) Julia Box, Present S11111	4.00
(25c) Julia Box, Present 11111 (REP)	4.00
(25c) "T" Top	
1111, 1222, 2222	3.50
1211	20.00
2211	5.00
29c Flower S1111, S2222	5.00
S18	5.00
S2222 (Perforated)	5.00
29c Mt. Rushmore Flag	
1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	3.50
7 Toledo Brown VF PS/3	127.50
5, 8	6.00
9	15.00
A11111, A22211	5.00
29c White House Flag 1-16, 18	4.50
29c UNM 1 (29c PS/5) (dull)	8.00
29c UNM 1 (32c PS/5) (shiny)	8.00
29c UNM Unlvs A11	4.50
29c UNM 1 new font (29c PS/5) (dull)	8.00
29c UNM 1 new font (32c PS/5) (shiny)	8.00
29c Pine Cone PS/5, B1	4.50
29c Knox, PS/8 V1111111	5.00
29c Love PS/5 B1	4.50
29c Eagle PS/5 111	4.50
29c Liberty PS/5 D1111	4.50
29c Santa PS/5 V1111	4.50
32c "6" stamps	
Most 32c 6PS/5	5.00
A1222, A1417, A2223, A2313	5.25
A1314, 3114, 3426	6.50
A4435	125.00
32c "6" PS/5 V11111	5.00
32c Flag 11111, 22222, 33333, 44444, S11111	5.00
32c Pond V11111	5.00
32c Fairyboat 2	5.00
S1 Seaphone 1, 3	8.00

VARIETIES

I have varieties, some illustrated in the 1995 PNC Catalog, some left out. If you need plate cracks, gaps, low transfers, hash marks, all the stuff that makes PNC collecting interesting, drop me a note.

I ALSO PUBLISH THE MOST COMPLETE LIST OF THE GREAT AMERICANS SERIES. ASK FOR IT!

All stamps are guaranteed genuine and (unless otherwise noted) in VF condition. All stamps may be returned (within 30 days) for a complete refund, no questions asked. Some strips may be in limited supply. For XF, please add 25%.

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Thanks for the memory, it's been swell

By Stephen G. Esrati

It is difficult to name each and every person who helped me make *TPN* into what I think of as the best specialty journal ever. It has been a lot of work, but it has also been great fun—a wonderful way to spend my time after retirement.

My primary thanks, of course, go to the loyal subscribers who stuck with the magazine from the beginning. They gave it a very high percentage of renewals and made it possible to keep going.

(If that sounds cryptic, it is because bulk mail requires a mailing of at least 200 pieces. In the early days, my family and friends were sent *TPN* just to bring up the mailing total, but that was soon unnecessary.)

The collective called the Plate Number Coil Study Group was made up of people who helped greatly all the time or who came through only once in a blue moon. But if anyone deserves to be recognized it is my old friend Myron Hill, a founding member of the study group, who was behind my launching of this magazine which was intended to go beyond the

study group, who spurred me to publish a PNC catalog, and who even came up with the idea of the PNC that has been on the front page of almost every issue, where this issue carries a large "6."

Jerry Clark expanded *TPN* into the world of self-adhesives; Wayne Youngblood and Richard Nazar helped with illustrations; Ken Lawrence contributed many, many articles, and helped with many others that did not carry his byline; Larry Haynes finally resolved most of the questions about the Cottrell presses, and Alan Malakoff provided a series of scoops.

Obviously this cannot mention everyone who helped, but Richard Beecher, Doug Iams, Kim Cuniberti, Rob Washburn, Gene Ernst, and Dr. Robert Rabinowitz need to be mentioned.

So do Kelly Keough, the former contract enforcement officer of American Bank Note Co., and Leah Akbar, the former public information officer of BEP, both of whom went out of their way to provide information I could not obtain from the Postal Service.

Then, too, there were Jerry and Barb Koeppe, who advertised faithfully in issue after issue. Their full-page ad took the edge off the red ink, as did an ad from Scott Magdole of Montclair Stamp Co.

Finally, I need to thank all those who wrote letters to the editor, assuring me that someone was reading the stuff, disagreeing with it, agreeing with it, praising it, or damping it. It all helped.

If you aren't named here, just include yourself in. You all made the first 10 years of my retirement much more enjoyable and meaningful.

I hope all of you subscribe to my quarterly price list, the first issue of which should come out around February (but don't hold me to it, because I refuse to stick to any schedule from now on). The list will include some features now available only in *TPN*, including plate-activity reports, data bank, updates, and the occasional technical article.

But please remember, you'll only get one issue free. After that, it's \$5.

REFUNDS on unfilled subscriptions will go out after Jan. 1.

Stephen G. Esrati
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