

# Coil Line

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

<http://www.pnc3.org>

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## FOP 66666 sale leads Linn's

The lead front page story in the March 22 issue of *Linn's Stamp News* follows up on Alan Thomson's "Snippets" column in the February *Coil Line* about the sale in December by member/dealer Jim Nelson of a rare Flag Over Porch die cut variety.

The article includes a front page color photo of an on-cover example owned by member Dan Kauffinan. A black and white illustration is used on page 42 to accompany the portion of the story "jumped" inside the issue. Thomson, Nelson and Kauffinan are quoted heavily in the article.

The stamp brought \$3,500.

## 'Snippets' column will end with this month's Coil Line

At the end of this month's 'Snippets' column on page 51, Alan Thomson announces his decision to end the popular feature, effective immediately.

Alan has spent countless hours over the years putting together 'Snippets' and doing a variety of other things to help the club and its members. His monthly contribution to *Coil Line* has also included the roll chart, which he will continue, at least for a while. He is continuing to handle the distribution of *Coil Line*.

Both Alan and your editor are completing 14 years doing their respective tasks. The "Snippets" column was started 10 years ago and has appeared, with few interruptions, on a monthly basis.

Without Alan taking care of the distribution of *Coil Line*, I would have given up the editor's post a long time ago. The distribution work includes trips to the printer and takes more time than most of us can imagine. I can say without a doubt his efforts consume more time than the things I do. The monthly deadline requires adjusting one's life to sweat the details.

Items that would have been sent to Alan for "Snippets" should now be directed to the editor. Thanks.

- Harold Brown

## Message from the President:

### Membership Roster featured this month

This issue of *Coil Line* includes our annual membership roster of all PNC<sup>3</sup> members who want to be listed. On the PNC<sup>3</sup> application form there is a box to check if a member does not want his/her name and collecting interests shown on the annual roster. Members can change their inclusion preference at anytime by contacting the club secretary.

In the recent past, the membership roster has been printed later in the year. This year we printed it earlier while our data was current. For the first time in November 2003, each member received a personalized dues renewal notice. This notice showed each member the data PNC<sup>3</sup> had on file about the member and gave the member the opportunity to correct any erroneous data. The benefit of this updating effort should be apparent on the membership roster.

The membership roster allows members to make personal contact with other PNC<sup>3</sup> members who share their collecting interest(s). I still remember my years as a new PNC<sup>3</sup> member and cherish the many PNC<sup>3</sup> members who helped me get started in the hobby.

If there are ways we can make the annual membership roster more useful to you, please let me hear from you.

My thanks to Tom McFarland for his work in entering the members' updated information provided with their dues and for producing the current membership roster.

I have appointed Janet Gillis as our new membership chairperson. Information on how to contact Janet is printed under "Membership" in each issue of *Coil Line*. Our membership person acts as a gatekeeper for our club checking out references and making sure the application has been completed properly. I thank Janet for assuming this important club post.

### Last printing of Catalog pages in the mail

The last printing of Catalog pages was placed in the mail on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Within the United States these were sent as "Bound Printed Matter". This form of mail can

(Continued on page 50)

## Membership roster

(Continued from page 49)

take up to three weeks to arrive. Any one who does not have their catalog by April 2<sup>nd</sup> should contact me.

- Frank Covey

(Editor's Note: To help control mailing costs with the inclusion of the membership listing, this month's news portion of *Coil Line* has been limited. Most regular features will return with the April issue.)

## Letters

### Additional data on the Toy B11111 scarcity

To the Editor:

In the March *COIL LINE*, W. McDonald's letter confirmed the scarcity of the PNC 37c Toy B11111 and you commented on the situation.

Maybe the following stats will add some substance to the discussion:

In utility covers picked up by me from my source on 11/28/03, 37,300; 12/26/03, 34,800; & 1/30/04, 34,000; totaling 106,100 pieces., I found 2,363 PNCs (31 different numbers), of which there were 238 Toys B12222 & only 3 Toys B11111.

It is safe to say that B11111 toys are not too numerous! Also, that the PNC catalog prices of \$1.00 each used are not an indication of true value.

You also noted with amazement how few commemoratives are being used. I share your wonder. In all the covers reported here, only 3,521 (3.3 %) of them were used.

Rolly Grandahl

### Report on 2,500 covers from California

To the Editor:

In a 19# sort (approx. 2,500 covers) of a local disposal company's incoming mail of Jan. and Feb. 2004, the following PNCs were found:

Antique Toys	B1111 - 1	B1222 --10
Snowmen	G1112 - 1	
Egret	V1111 --9	V2111-4
Flag USA	1-1; 3-3; 5-7; 7-5'	8-3; 0-4; B1111 --5;
	S111 6 wag; 2 psa.	
Totals	-- 61.	

BEP 6s seem to be shy in this area; perhaps in others. No SSP stick or other 222222s or 333333s have been located here.

Dan Kauffman  
dwmn@inreach.com  
Clearlake Park, CA

### eBay seller explains why shipping costs needed

To the Editor:

As an occasional seller of PNCs I noted with interest Bob Calotta's letter to the editor in the January 2004 *Coil Line* in which he describes the difficulty he has encountered doing sales of PNCs on eBay's auction Web site. As a part-time seller on eBay I have also had similar problems of short payments missing postage/handling charges. I would like to add a few comments in support of his letter justifying the postage/handling charge to buyers.

eBay offers a service to purchasers who do not have easy access to many different plate number combinations and varieties on the market. Bidders on eBay are hoping to find bargains and in most cases will pay less than 40 percent of retail list. I am mainly a reseller of PNCs that I have managed to purchase at a favorable price. Many of my customers are long term purchasers with me and I try to take care of them with prompt service and the best prices I can find.

When I list an item the terms of my sale are very specific in the description area eBay provides. I usually follow up the sale with a personal e-mail to the buyer outlining the purchase(s) with the postage/handling expense shown as a separate amount. I charge \$1.25 for a single purchase and reduce additional purchases from the same auction date by 60 cents per item (postage only). My postage/handling expense on a five-lot purchase would be \$3.85, not \$6.25.

What many buyers do not know is that eBay has an escalating table of fees, based upon the value assigned to the item, that is charged back to the seller at the time of listing. This listing fee is collected from the seller even if the item does not sell. At this writing the minimum listing fee is 35 cents for an item #10 or less. In addition to this fee when an item is sold, eBay then adds what they call a "Value Added Fee" also based upon an escalating table of percentages. The more the item is purchased for the higher the fee eBay charges back to the seller. An finally, is a buyer uses eBay's PayPal service to complete the purchase, eBay will charge another fee to the seller.

As an example of the fees collected by eBay, recently I sold a PNC5 for \$60. I was charged \$2.20 to list the item; \$2.28 Value Added Fee when the item sold; and \$1.58 for the PayPal transaction fee. My postage expense was \$1.67. (This buyer wanted insurance.) Total expense for the item was \$7.73. My postage/handling fee was \$2.30, charged to the buyer. I absorbed the other \$5.43 in eBay fees. On single lot purchases I usually clear a few cents that helps to offset the larger purchases.

So my thoughts to an eBay purchaser who objects to postage/handling would be: "Not All is as it may seem. Look between the lines for the unseen."

Thomas H. Hamilton  
121 2ND Ave. W #205  
Kalispell, MT 59901

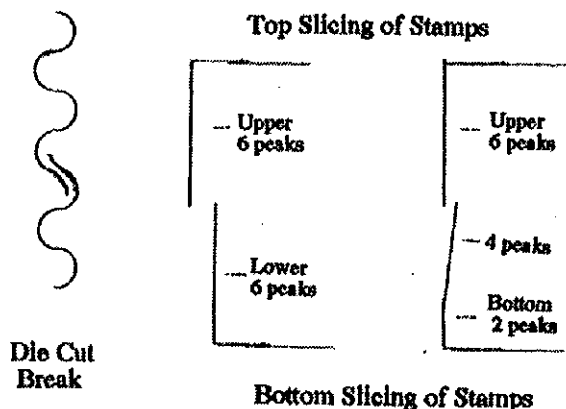
(More letters on page 54)

# SNIPPETS

By Alan Thomson

## Sennett Flag Has Die Cut Fault

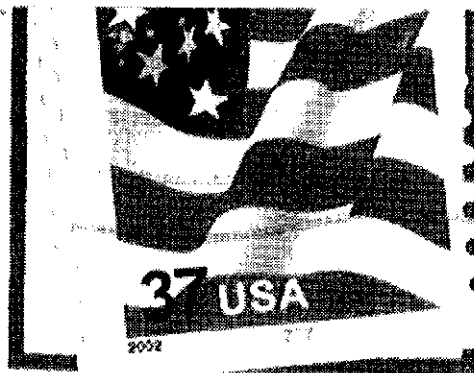
The recently released 37¢ Flag in 10 roll stick form from Sennett Security Products has been found with a significant fault in the serpentine die cutting. There are three cylinder combinations so far for this coil and the die fault seems to come only from S2222, and may occur only in one row of the web. We don't know much about this stamp yet, but if history is any guide, it was probably printed by J. W. Fergusson & Son from 10 X 28 subject cylinders and processed by American Packaging. The peak count on this stamp is 12/11. The die fault consists of a break in the serpentine line almost exactly at its mid point between top and bottom separators. The two ends that should be a continuous line pass each other then stop dead. This is best understood by examining the graphic depiction below, left. I have examined two separate strips of this and was surprised to find that they were not exactly the same. One came from Dr. Bob Rabinowitz and the other from George Ritter. One has a much larger space between the two line ends while the other requires a 4x lens to see the break. The size of the break is not the only difference. The top and bottom segments of peaks on the large break type lie on parallel but offset straight lines. On the small break type the top six peaks and the bottom two peaks lie on the same straight line. The four peaks in-between lie on an angled line. The graphic on the right, below, illustrates this by use of lines only.



It's been suggested that the serpentine line breaks are created by two parallel mats, one cutting the upper part of the web and the other the lower part, and they were not properly aligned. This doesn't stand up under scrutiny. Why would two mats be used to cut a 10 row wide web and create an almost insurmountable alignment problem? Further, why would the butting point of the two mats occur in the middle of a row of stamps? It's far more likely the fault is in the mat itself. The fact that there are two different types of break might indicate the faults) are in at least two different rows. We aren't going to know how many rows are involved until more reports are in and how common this oddity is. Examining a full stick of S2222 might tell us which and how many rows are involved. I've checked two full sticks of S3333 and found nothing. My strips of S1111 are normal also.

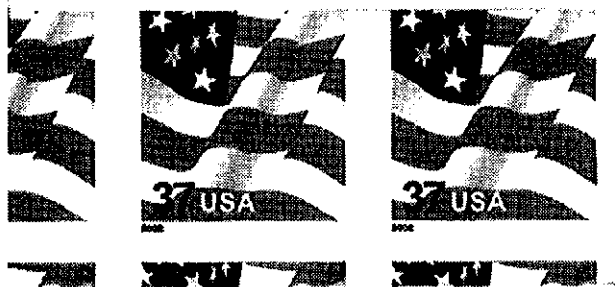
## BEP Flag 7777 Is 77\*7

I was a little skeptical of this partial plate number when Joe Sedlvy sent it to me last August. It seemed more than an isolated ink pull-out when Jim Stollenwerk came up with another example in January of this year. The blue 7 is almost missing, with only a small part of the horizontal bar inked. A cropped photo is below.



## 37¢ Flag Miscut

Coil specialist and EFO collector George Ritter acquired the miscut BEP 37¢ Flag strip shown here, cropped. The plate number is unknown. It's clear the web was not properly aligned when it entered the die cutting phase and while it was sliced because the full die cuts are apparent, with the square corners at top and bottom of the each set of stamp pieces.



## A Good Membership Year

This has been the best new member year and the best renewal year PNC3 has ever had. Just since October 90 new people have joined. The club's web site and publicity from Linn's Stamp News are largely responsible. Thanks to Ron Malfeld and the Linn's staff. The 4% loss during the renewal process is the smallest ever. Only 12 members resigned and 20 have not been heard from. Some of those 20 will probably awake and renew late. There are always a few stragglers. PNC collecting is very much alive.

## Finis

I regret to say that this will be the last edition of Snippets. Meeting the monthly deadline and struggling for material have become a burden. It's no longer fun to write the column and ten years is enough. I must also say I won't miss some of the silly discussions, nit-picking and recriminations that come my way after each edition of Coil Line appears. It's time to step aside.

# CURRENT ISSUE NUMBERS & ROLL SIZES

03/10/04

A111

**KEY:** A-100, B-500, C-3000, D-10000

EP - EMBEDDED PHOS      UT - UNTAGGED  
 SP - SURFACE PHOS      [xx] - NUMBER INTERVAL  
 BK - BLOCK TAG          (NL) - LINERLESS  
 OA - OVERALL TAG        \*NEW NUMBER

Plate number intervals are shown in brackets following the stamp name. If more than one is indicated, the order is that in which the different printer's plate numbers are listed.  
 Example: G. Washington: [12] for BCA, [11] for Avery.

**PRINTER PLATE NUMBER PREFIX LETTERS:**

A - American Bank Note	P - Ashton-Potter
B - Banknote Corp. of Am.	S - Sennett Security Prod.
G - Guilford Gravure	V - Avery-Dennison
M - 3M	None - BEP

**(37c) FLAG (SA) [24]**

#1111 A  
 #2222 A

**37c FLAG (SA) [20] [20]**

#B1111 C, D  
 #S1111 C

**37c FLAG [14]**

#S1111 A, C, D

**37c F (SA) [24] [12] [14]**

#1111 A  
 #2222 A  
 #3333 A  
 #4444 A  
 #5555 A  
 #6666 A  
 #7777 A  
 #8888 A  
 #9999 A  
 #1111A A  
 #B1111 A  
 #S1111 A  
 #S2222 A  
 #S3333 A

**37c TOYS (SA) [12]**

#B1111 A  
 #B12222 A

**37c SNOWMEN (SA) [12]**

#G1111 A (NL)  
 #G1112 A (NL)

**37c EGRET (SA) [11]**

#V1111 A  
 #V2111 A  
 #V3222 A

**37c OFFICIAL [14]**

#S111 A

**1c KESTREL [24]**

#1111 B, C (TYPE I)  
 #1111 B (TYPE II)  
 #1111 C (TYPE III)

#2222 C  
 #3333 C  
 #4444 C

**1c LAMP [14]**

#S1111 C

**2c WOODPECKER [24]**

#1111 C, D  
 #2222 D

**3c STAR [14]**

#S111 D

**5c CIRCUS [48][24][14]**

#1 B, C (OA) [32]  
 #1 B, C (UT) [32]  
 #2 C  
 #A1 D  
 #A2 D  
 #A3 D  
 #S1 D  
 #S2 D (GLOSS)  
 #S2 D (SHINY)  
 #S3 D

**5c TOLEWARE [14]**

#S111111 D

**23c G. W. (SA) [12] [11]**

#B11 A  
 #V11 A  
 #V13 A  
 #V21 A  
 #V22 A  
 #V24 A  
 #V35 A  
 #V36 A  
 #V45\* A  
 #V46 A

**(5c) SEA (SA) [20][22]**

#B111 D  
 #P1111 D

**(5c) SEACOAST [10]**

#B111 B, D

**(5c) WETLANDS [14]**

#S1111 C, D

**(5c) WETLND (SA) [21]**

#1111 C (light color)  
 #1111 D (dark color)  
 #2222 C, D  
 #3333 C, D  
 #4444 D  
 #5555 D  
 #6666 D

**(10c) GREEN BIKE [14]**

#S111 B, C, D

**(10c) G. BIKE (SA) [21]**

#111 D  
 #221 D  
 #222 D  
 #333 C, D  
 #344 C  
 #444 C, D  
 #555 C, D  
 #666 C, D  
 #777 C, D  
 #888 D  
 #999 D

**(10c) ATLAS (SA) [20] [10]**

#B1111 D  
 #V11111 D

**(10c) LION (SA) [21]**

#S11111 D  
 #S22222 D  
 #S33333 D  
 #S44444\* D

**(10c) LION [14]**

#G11111 B, C

**(10c) E&S STD [24]**

#11111 D  
 #22222 D

■ The Wetlands color differences on 1111 are in the stamp background.

■ The Kestrels differ in the order of color laydown. Colors are black, yellow, cyan and magenta. Type I sequence is BYCM. Type II is BCYM. Type III is YMCB. The color order shows in the plate number.

# Membership

Names of applicants are published for members to review. Any member who questions the suitability of a prospective member should contact the chairperson of the Membership Committee, Janet Gillis, 6 Robb Hollow Rd., Pittsburgh PA 15243-1718 with the objection. The committee will recommend for or against membership.

## *New applicants:*

Gerold Vongerichten (1809)  
17 Austin St.

Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660-1401  
(201) 296-0137 (Day & Evening)  
[vongie@bellatlantic.net](mailto:vongie@bellatlantic.net)

Walter M. Bush (1810)  
1935 Mooring Line Dr.  
Vero Beach, FL 32963-3052  
(772) 234-4056 (Day)  
[bushsan@aol.com](mailto:bushsan@aol.com)

James Hamilton (1811)  
11221 Corsica Ct.  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730-6748  
(909) 980-0592 (Day & Evening)

Glen Anderson (1812)  
N28W22570 Peachwood Ct.  
Waukesha, WI 53186-8821  
(262) 549-4722 (Day & Evening)  
[ganderson19@wi.rr.com](mailto:ganderson19@wi.rr.com)

Jerry Peale (1813)  
PO Box 1823  
Sun Valley, CA 91353-1823  
(818) 764-9807 (Day)  
[jerrp@aol.com](mailto:jerrp@aol.com)

Jerry Snider (1814)  
859 Overlook Mountain Rd. E.  
Buda, TX 78610-2953  
(512) 771-9201 (Day)  
(512) 295-3684 (Evening)  
[jlsnider@aol.com](mailto:jlsnider@aol.com)

Don Wittke (1815)  
245 Highview Dr.  
Youngsville, NC 27596-7910  
(919) 562-8320 (Day & Evening)  
[witt\\_don@yahoo.com](mailto:witt_don@yahoo.com)

## *New Life Member:*

Anthony Willson (1305-L)

## *Reinstated:*

Raphael Peretz (316)  
Thomas Griesbach (449)  
Jim Haugh (1162)  
Anthony Willson (1305-L)  
Roger Christol (1399)  
David W. Anderson (1685)

## *Address changes/corrections:*

Raphael Peretz (316)  
Zip Code 11357-3501

Tad Edelis (1658)  
2017 Stockton Hill Rd #A  
Kingman, AZ 86401-4682

Donald E. Roberts (1681)  
700 E. St. Charles Apt 1309  
Brownsville, TX 78520-5254

## *New/changed telephone numbers:*

Robert A. Hawk  
(581)-8461 (Evening)  
Michael D. Hamm  
(940) 367-2636 (Day & Evening)  
Anthony Willson  
(714) 423-4781 (cell)

(Continued on next page)

## PNC<sup>3</sup> meetings and slide shows

A monthly listing of scheduled Regional and Annual Meetings will be published in *Coil Line*.

Regional Meetings are to be arranged through RMC Chairperson Tony Willson will coordinate PNC<sup>3</sup> meetings and also supervise the PNC<sup>3</sup> slide programs. Anyone who wishes to host a regional meeting or check out one of the slide programs can write to Willson at: 1041 Bradcliff Dr, Santa Ana CA 92705-2334. He can be reached by e-mail at:

**ANTHONY.  
WILLSON@WORLDNET.ATT.  
NET** or by phone at (714) 544-6799.

He will make sure the editor is notified so that ample notice can be included in *Coil Line*. The local organizer can also submit additional information. Please work as far in advance as possible.

## COIL LINE

Published monthly as the journal of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club, also known as PNC<sup>3</sup>. Copy must be in the hands of the editor no later than the 15th of the month. The March issue was mailed Feb. 23.

**President:** Frank Covey, 16 Grandview Dr., Macomb, IL 61455  
[president@pnc3.org](mailto:president@pnc3.org)

**Distribution:** Alan Thomson, P.O. Box 91, Northwood, NH 03261 or [mrsnips@tds.net](mailto:mrsnips@tds.net) Mailed under Bulk Rate permit No. 1, Northwood, NH 03261. Contact Alan first about which back issues he has in stock. He may refer you to Charles Still at 23913 Benton Road, Kirksville, MO MO 63501 for older issues. Please include an SASE. There is a modest charge to cover expenses.

**Changes of address:** Should be sent to and membership applications are available from Tom McFarland, Secretary, P.O. Box 756, Princeton Jct., NJ 08550 [secretary@pnc3.org](mailto:secretary@pnc3.org)

**Mailing list:** Rental of the club mailing list is available. A one-time usage of labels costs \$50. Contact the secretary (above).

**Dues:** Are \$12 per year (\$17 for First Class mailing of *Coil Line*, \$17 for Canada and Mexico and \$22 for all others) and should be sent to Andrew Jakes, 2303 Horseshoe Ct., Grayslake, IL 60030-9327 [treasurer@pnc3.org](mailto:treasurer@pnc3.org)

**Advertising rates:** Are \$42 for a full page, \$24 for 1/2 page and \$12 for 1/4 page per issue. A check or money order made payable to PNC<sup>3</sup> must be submitted with the advertising copy. All copy should be sent to the Editor, 909 Parker St., Bowling Green, OH 43402-2107.  
E-mail - [halallen@wcnet.org](mailto:halallen@wcnet.org)

Members are entitled to two free, 40-word ads per year. Word ads are available at 6 cents per word per issue to nonmembers and those members who have used their free ads.

## Ads

WANTED: PLATE BLOCKS 1860 #13LR, 1861 #8 AND 9. SEND PRICE OR TRADE F.D. COVERS 1907 SURREY #5,6, 9, 10 Artcraft PR5. Also have other Transportation covers. E. Stein, P.O. Box 85, Bath, NH 03740 (603) 747-3055.

WANTED: Scott 2893 (5c.) G green not with plate number. Needed for members of Danish U.S. stamp collectors club. Also Scott 2936 (used) 32c Lila % DeWitt Wallace. Exchange preferred. Arne Rasmussen, Pilevej 9, DK 2740 Skovlunde, Denmark e-mail [avr@tdcadsl.dk](mailto:avr@tdcadsl.dk)

WANT TO TRADE? Recently retired. I've got plenty of time. Send your want list, get list of what's available. Frank Beck, 13306 Hillside Dr., Suring, WI 54174.

PNC USED SINGLES, used strips and MNH PS5s. Great prices! Visit <http://www.angelfire.com/ca5/HimesPNCs> or send SASE for details. John Himes, P.O. Box 453 Cypress, CA 90630-0453.

USED PNC & STRIP price list available for .60 postage. Bob Murrin, P.O. Box 10100, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-0100.

## Attention Snowbirds

As a result of this year's dues renewal mailing, the Secretary has received requests to automatically update seasonal mailing addresses for some members. Unfortunately, the club doesn't have a computer system that is capable of handling this. Those members who have seasonal addresses must notify the Secretary for each move. Please be sure that the notification is received by the Secretary by the 15th of the month before the move is effective, so that printing and mailing deadlines can be met. Please don't make the club pay for USPS address corrections unnecessarily.

## Membership

(Continued from previous page)

E-mail addresses:

Raphael Peretz (316)  
[bones24@aol.com](mailto:bones24@aol.com)  
Roger M. Christol (1399)  
[rchristol@yahoo.com](mailto:rchristol@yahoo.com)

### Recap:

Previous membership count	838
New members	7
Reinstated	6
New Total	851

## Catalog 'Feedback'

Following are excerpts from the 'Feedback' sheets mailed with the recent catalog updates:

Casey Sadowski, Aurora OH  
I liked: The Catalog is generally the best thing PNC3 did. Keep up the great job you're doing. Going over the pages, they are "full" of info and complete.  
Suggestions: None  
Introduction: Helpful

John Remakel, Moab UT  
I liked: The whole effort is Great!  
Suggestions: I would like to have the option of purchasing pages without the holes punched. I place the pages in sheet protectors, hence the holes punched are redundant. Also I would like to have space for a mint or used single.  
Introduction: Helpful!

Richard Day, Apple Valley MN  
I liked . . . This entire catalog is a superb highly organized project that will be appreciated by many. THANK YOU!

James Parimeter, Springfield PA  
I liked . . . WOW! I'm overwhelmed!  
Changes . . . Don't!

David Rankin, Stinton TX  
I liked . . . 37c Flag Comparison pages were great. Also information on 23c Washington help to clarify different types. Color edition is fantastic.  
Changes . . . Maybe more information on errors, freaks and oddities.  
PNC ID & Intro comments . . . PNC ID was good especially since you cross reference to Scott. Introduction very helpful in adjusting to PNC IDs.

## Letters

(Continued from page 51)

### Another report on the 'Toys' To the Editor:

A few comments on the B11111 vs. B12222. In the last 2-3 years I went through over 920+ pounds of regular stamp mixtures through ads in *Linn's*, *Stamp Collector*, etc. I also buy from dealers and collectors. It took me a very short time to amass 1,000 B12222's. In that time I found about 50 B11111. I only keep in stock 1,000 of each soaked plus 200 still on paper. I now have enough B12222's and pass them by in mixtures or as sent by collectors/dealers, but I still pull out B11111's and now have 145 total. Damaged not counted.

So, in my mixtures, etc, 5 percent would seem to be reasonable.

Very few were purchased from collector/dealers, but I do not keep records that detailed. This is from memory.

Bob Murrin  
P.O. Box 10100  
St. Petersburg, FL 33733-0100

## Update on 23c Geo. Wash.

To the Editor:

At the end of my "Die Cuts on the Avery 23c George Washington" article in the December 2003 *Coil Line* I noted "the theories may change as further information becomes available." Since then, two people have found rolls of the V35 with the "bell," which can only come from the second die cut mat design. In addition, I recently looked through about 25 rolls of the V35 and only found 2 PV rolls, which is also consistent with the second mat design.

In the chart near the end of my article I had placed the V35 in with the first mat design, but it is now clear that at least part of the V35 production was processed with the second mat design. The "bell" has also been found on the V21, which confirms that at least part of the V21 production was processed with the second mat design. It is possible that all of the numbers other than V11 and V22 were exclusively processed with the second mat design (the finding of a shallow valley on a number other than V11 or V22 would prove that wrong).

While my article only addressed the 23c GW, it appears that all of the 37c Egret coils have been processed with the second mat design.

Doug Iams  
via e-mail