



The Philately Fun Times

The Columbia Philatelic Society
October 2016

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www.columbiaphilatelicssociety.org

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Columbia Philatelic Society will be Tuesday, **October 18th** at our usual place, Boone Landing Activity Room, 109 Keene St. in Columbia. The meeting will start at 7 PM. The club meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

This month's activity will be the APS program:

“Violating the Rules”

This should be an interesting look at what some people do to “push the envelope” (and beyond!) with the U.S. Postal Service.

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Last Time

We had some good “Clothesline Exhibits” for our members to peruse and judge.

Congratulations to all of the winners: **Dick Robinson, Charles Peterson, John Marquardt and Dave Benish**. A big “Thank You!” to everyone who brought something to exhibit!

Upcoming 2016 Programs

Oct.: APS Program: Violating the Rules!

Nov.: Fall Auction/Elections

Dec.: Christmas Party

2016 Officers

President: **Charlie Brown**

Vice President: **Dick Robinson**

Treasurer: **John Marquardt**

Lib./APS: **Dan French**

Newsletter: **Dave Benish**

Webmaster: **Rebecca DeCourley**

This Month's Winner

The fickle finger of fate for this month's random winner of an extra \$30 Columbian with the newsletter points to **Don Barnett**.

Slice of Club History

In 1995, 1996, and 1997, our club had a sales booth at the National Hot Air Balloon Championships held at the Boone County Fairgrounds near Columbia.

We had a beautiful cachet developed by the artist wife of a member and used it to produce some nice covers, some officially flown (“balloon mail”) and signed by the pilot. Each year had a different color combination. We sold covers, postcards, balloon stamps, etc. and gave our club treasury a nice boost.



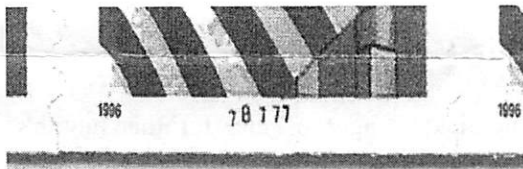
Member Spotlight

This month's spotlight shines on one of our recent club Presidents, **Charles Peterson**. His father got him started collecting early with a partially filled album. After a break for college, his collecting continued, particularly Chilean stamps. After another break for teaching, he got interested in his family history which led him to collecting Sweden and other Nordic countries. He is a (retired) Emeritus Faculty member at the University of Missouri in Astronomy.

Plate Number Coils

A plate number coil (PNC) is a United States postage stamp (1981 and after) with the number of the printing plate printed on it. The plate number typically appears as one or more small digits in the margin at the bottom of the stamp.

The plate number may be centered or, on some coil issues, located toward the right. Although most plate numbers are composed of just numbers, both a combination of letter and number(s) may be used.



In unused stamps, the current convention is to save a strip of 5 PNC stamps, with the “numbered” one in the middle. In the early days of this type of coil, 3 was the standard (making the 5's rarer). And I have some with just 2 stamps (saving like a joint line pair—ouch!). Of course, on used stamps, a person typically has only a “Plate Number Single” or PNS.

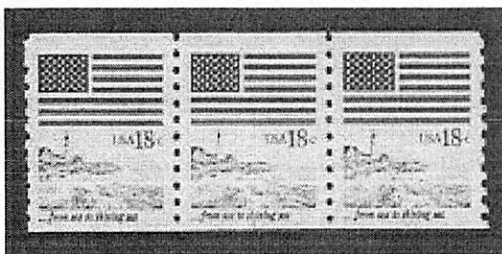
As **John Marquardt** noted at the last meeting, alert collectors keep their eyes out for those PNS stamps, even on junk mail. They're fun plus consider these examples:

18c Flag stamp PNS #6 \$500

20c Flag stamp PNS #14 \$30

5.2c Sleigh PNS #5 \$140

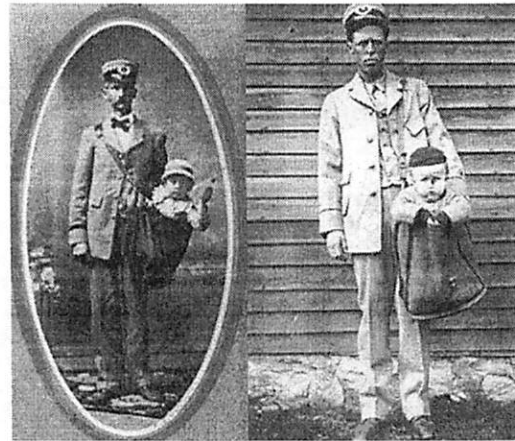
The mint strip of 5 PNC stamps of the 18c Flag catalogs for a whopping \$2,000!



Mailing Children

Following up on our discussions of the last meeting regarding the mailing of children, the website Snopes.com notes the following:

“In 1913 it was legal to mail children. With stamps attached to their clothing, children rode trains to their destinations, accompanied by letter carriers. One newspaper reported it cost fifty-three cents for parents to mail their daughter to her grandparents for a family visit. As news stories and photos popped up around the country, it didn't take long to get a law on the books making it illegal to send children through the mail.”



Dave's Corner



I noticed something when I was looking at some early regular issues of the U.S. Virtually every commemorative up to the 1918 WWI Victory Issue was for some type of Exposition. These include the Columbian Exposition, the Trans-Pacific Exposition, the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, the Jamestown Exposition, the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (above), the Hudson-Fulton Exposition, and the Panama-Pacific Exposition. Whew! And that's just 40 commemoratives over a span of 25 years. How things have changed!