

# THE PREXIES

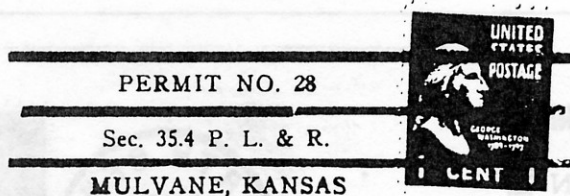
*The Bulletin of the BIA 1938 Presidential Series Study Group - Winter, 1993-4, No. 7*

## Notes from the Chairman.....

Have you ever seen a Prexie that has been precanceled with a device designed for use on stamped envelopes? I never have, at least not in person, but such items are known to exist, and several are listed in Precanceled Envelopes of the United States, published by the United Postal Stationery Society. One such item from that catalog is illustrated below. It is listed as Mulvane, KS, local type 10. Because the precancellation contains a permit number, I believe it was created and applied by the mailer, and not by the post office. However, it is not the standard mailer's permit postmark frequently found on both adhesive stamps and postal stationery.

That the UPSS chose to list this and similar items in a postal stationery catalogue was a judgment call. Personally, I would have decided differently. Nevertheless, I am still glad that such Prexie usages are listed somewhere, even if it's far fetched to think of them as precanceled postal stationery. Meanwhile, I'm still looking for a real life example to add to my Prexie rates and usages collection.....

*Steve Suffet*



## About those rates.....

### DOMESTIC SPECIAL DELIVERY FEES (PAID IN ADDITION TO POSTAGE)

Effective Date	First Class Mail		
	Up to 2 lbs.	2+ to 10 lbs.	Over 10 lbs.
(In effect, 1938)	\$ .10	\$ .20	\$ .25
November 1, 1944	.13	.20	.25
January 1, 1949	.15	.25	.35
January 1, 1952	.20	.35	.50
July 1, 1957	.30	.45	.60

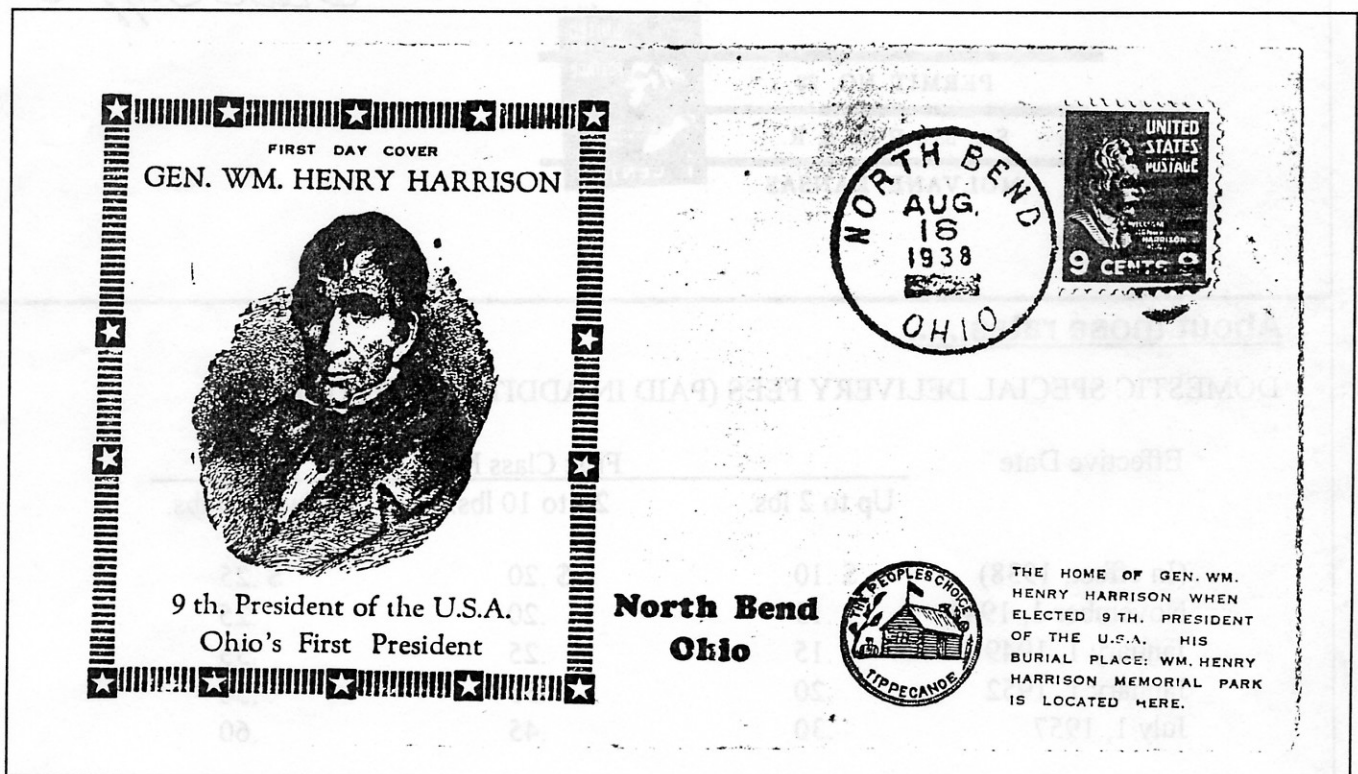
	Other Than First Class Mail		
	Up to 2 lbs.	2+ to 10 lbs.	Over 10 lbs.
(In effect, 1938)	\$ .15	\$ .25	\$ .35
November 1, 1944	.17	.25	.35
January 1, 1949	.25	.35	.45
January 1, 1952	.35	.45	.60
July 1, 1957	.45	.55	.70

## Our First (Donation) Auction.....

An anonymous donor sends us a fairly scarce FDC along with the following article ("First Days", Nov.-Dec., 1968, p. 47) to help cover our mailing costs:

"Everyone knows about the famous Worden First Day Covers from North Bend, Ohio ("First Days", Vol. 6, No. 6), but hardly anyone has seen the North Bend FDC's produced by Edward T. Warneford. As an ardent admirer of William Henry Harrison, he believed that the 9-cent stamp of the 1938 Presidential series, Scott #814, should have been issued at North Bend. When Washington, DC, was named as the official First Day city, Warneford arranged to have a sheet of 100 stamps purchased early on August 18, and air mailed to him at Cincinnati.

Receiving them about 3:00 PM, he prepared 96 covers with a single stamp on each and one cover with the plate block number, and took them over to North Bend where they were canceled that same day by the Postmistress. Each cover has a rectangular printed cachet in red and blue with a portrait of General William Henry Harrison, 9th President of the U.S.A. and Ohio's first President. The cover also has a reproduction of the famous Harrison campaign button, 'The People's Choice -- Tippecanoe.'"



Please submit your bids on this FDC to the Editor by March 1, 1994. It will go to the highest bidder at that time. Appraisals are in the \$30-60 range.

## Meet the member.....

DAVID GILES

David sends us this note from Ontario:

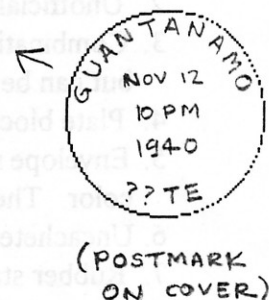
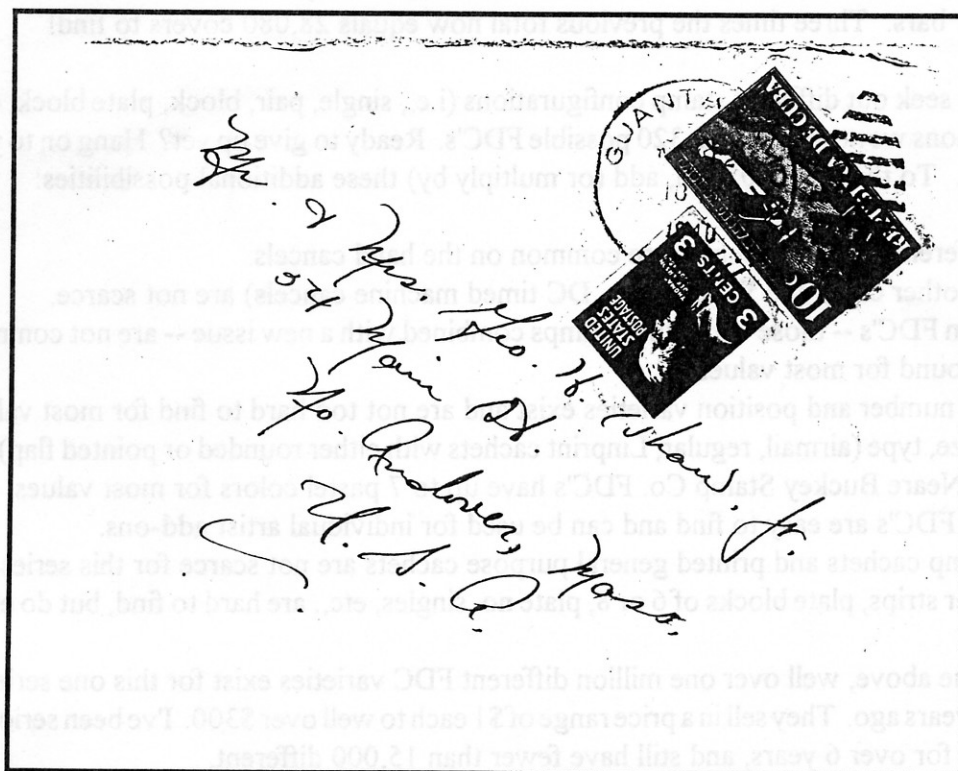
"I am 28, and began collecting stamps twenty years ago, when I was eight. I collect Canada, the British Commonwealth and used U.S., with the emphasis on plate number singles. I also collect cardiology on stamps and penguins on stamps.

I became interested in the Prexies because of their long period of issue and the number of varieties available. Although I find rate and usage covers interesting, I don't pursue that line of the hobby. I am more interested in printing varieties, colors, errors and plate numbers.

I am currently employed as a sales manager at Compucentre, a computer retail store in Ottawa. I am also a member of CPEPS -- The Canada Post Employees Philatelic Society. I find stamp collecting to be very relaxing and I enjoy the number of new friends I meet through my hobby."

## The Puzzle Corner -- a call for help.....

Phyllis Vonnegut from Indiana sends this interesting November 12, 1940 cover from Guantanamo (Bay) to Mass. and asks why the mixed franking (.03 Prexie + .10 Cuba airmail, #C13)?



...and a second call for help..... John Koch writes from NY to ask about coil strip leaders: "I have both manila and white paper coil leaders. I can guess that the paper type change took place during WWII. Does anyone know which was used when?"



## **Feature article: Prexie FDC's -- Numbers That Boggle the Mind**

Roger L. Listwan

For the last few years, I've pretty much specialized and limited my collecting interests to first day covers of the 1938 Prexies. This sounds simple and not too overwhelming until you start to crunch through the numbers.

The set consists of 32 face different stamps (1/2 cent through \$5.) One FDC of each would be 32 covers, worth about \$200-300, with 75% of the value residing in the top 3 values.

A specialist searches for all possible varieties however, and that is where the fun starts. The 32 grows to 78 when adding in the \$1 reprint of 1954, the 3 booklet panes varieties, the 13 horizontal and vertical coils, and the 29 lower values with the experimental electric eye format. One FDC of each would total 78 covers, with a value of maybe \$600-700. Hang onto your calculator and wallet, because we have barely started!

Serious FDC collectors look for as many different cachets as possible. Planty's catalog lists 104 different cachets for this series, and there are probably another 10-20 others that I've found which are not listed in the Planty catalog. Now we have 78 stamp varieties times 120 cachets which equals 9,360 covers to find.

Specialists also collect cancellation varieties. The 3 most common here are the First Day of Issue machine cancel, the Washington, DC circular hand cancel with killer bars and the Benjamin Franklin station circular hand cancel with killer bars. Three times the previous total now equals 28,080 covers to find!

Another specialty is to seek out different stamp configurations (i.e., single, pair, block, plate block, etc.) With just these 4 additions we now have 112,320 possible FDC's. Ready to give up yet? Hang on to your seats, we're still flying. To the 112,320 total, add (or multiply by) these additional possibilities:

1. Several different killer bar lengths are common on the hand cancels.
2. Unofficial (other cities and Washington, DC timed machine cancels) are not scarce.
3. Combination FDC's -- those with other stamps combined with a new issue -- are not common, but can be found for most values.
4. Plate block number and position varieties exist and are not too hard to find for most values.
5. Envelope size, type (airmail, regular, Linprint cachets with either rounded or pointed flap) and color. The Neare Buckey Stamp Co. FDC's have up to 7 pastel colors for most values.
6. Uncacheted FDC's are easy to find and can be used for individual artist add-ons.
7. Rubber stamp cachets and printed general purpose cachets are not scarce for this series.
8. Plate number strips, plate blocks of 6 or 8, plate no. singles, etc., are hard to find, but do exist.

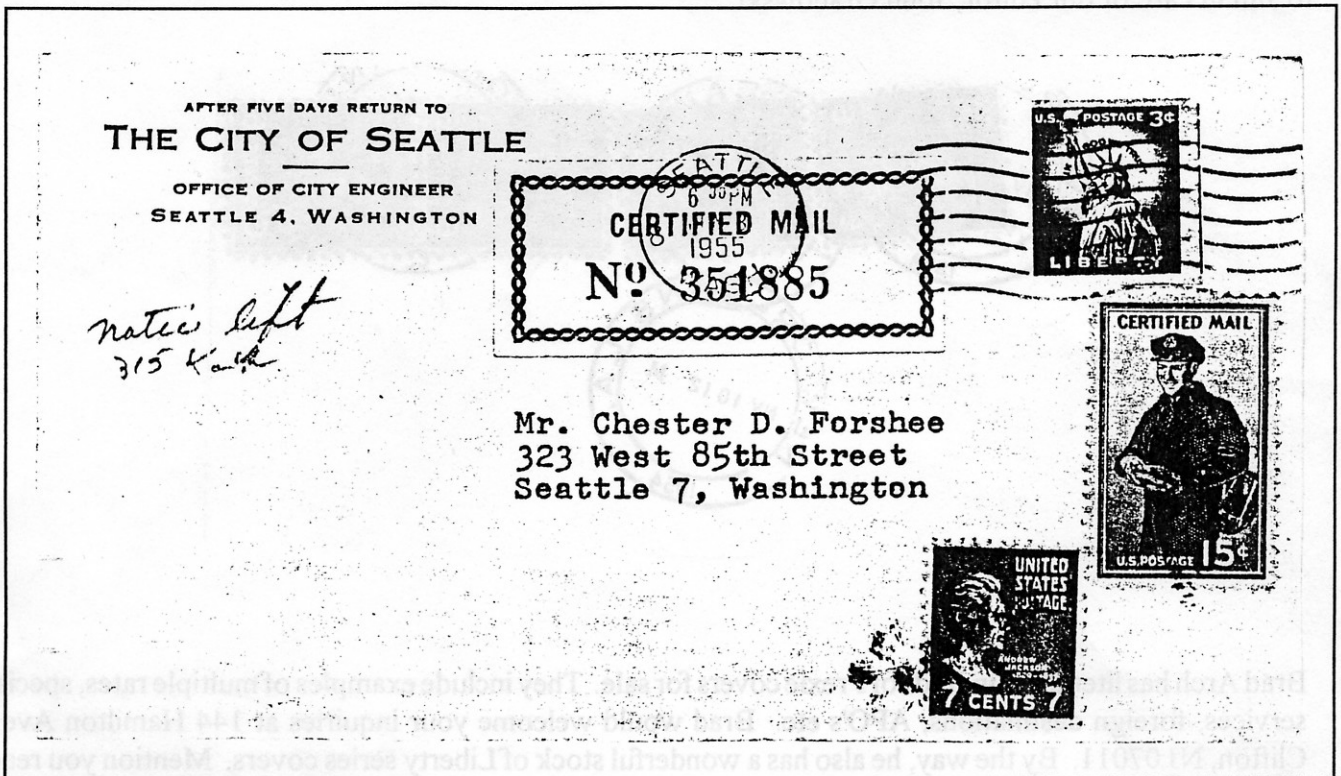
As you can see from the above, well over one million different FDC varieties exist for this one series of stamps issued over 50 years ago. They sell in a price range of \$1 each to well over \$300. I've been seriously collecting these FDC's for over 6 years, and still have fewer than 15,000 different.

There is obviously a lifetime of searching, spending and FUN here, collecting the FDC's of just ONE set of U.S. stamps. WHEW!!

## Prexie Certified Mail Rarity (continued from last issue),....

Dickson Preston writes in response to the 'first day' certified mail usage shown in the last issue, specifically about the certified mail label "No. 868001." He surmises that each label pad was probably serially numbered by the last 3 digits, indicating this letter to be the first certified mail from the Breese, IL P.O.

He also sends along a copy of early usage: June 8 (2nd day of usage outside Washington, DC)



## The Exhibit Circuit,....

PSG member Leonard Piszkiwicz's exhibit: "Usages of the U.S. Presidential Issue of 1938," won a gold medal and the reserve grand award at MIDAPHIL '93, held Nov. 5-7, at Kansas City. Way to go Len!

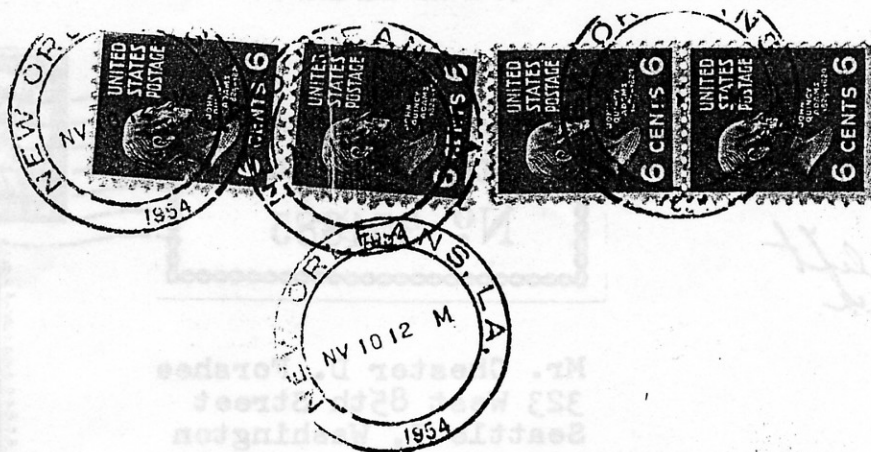
There should be good PSG membership attendance at the Garfield-Perry March Party in Cleveland which is also the BIA annual meeting, and the APS Show ("STaMpsHOW '94") this August in Pittsburgh for the PSG annual get together. Get those exhibits ready and send for the prospectus (STaMpsHOW '94: Box 8000, State College, PA 16803 -- deadline is May 1; frames are \$8.00 each.)

Is anyone planning any single frame PREXIE exhibits? If so, we'd like to hear about it.

**Last Issue's Puzzle,....** The answer to the .08 franking question last issue was .03 for 3rd class postage (2-4 oz, probably coins enclosed) + .05 for the minimum insurance fee. From April 15, 1925, through July 31, 1958, a piece of mail had to weigh more than 8 oz. to be in 4th class. Merchandise weighing 8 oz. or less was 3rd class mail. The correct answer was supplied by Dickson Preston.

## Sells, Swaps & Needs....

PSG member Jim Felton is compiling a list of U.S. cities and towns which used the double ring steel datestamps manufactured by Pitney-Bowes. Originally designed for use in Canada, they were introduced into the U.S. around 1953. There are 3 basic types: (1) a 31 mm diameter regular handstamp; (2) a 35 mm diameter regular handstamp; and (3), a roller type used mostly on parcels and large flats. An example of type 1 is shown below. If you have any such examples you would like to share, please write to Jim in care of our editor, John Grabowski.



Brad Arch has literally hundreds of Prexie covers for sale. They include examples of multiple rates, special services, foreign destinations, APO's etc. Brad would welcome your inquiries at 144 Hamilton Ave., Clifton, NJ 07011. By the way, he also has a wonderful stock of Liberty series covers. Mention you read about his covers in "THE PREXIES."

Does anyone collect the \$1 Prexie erroneously printed on "USIR" watermarked paper (#832b)? If so, you are not alone. Robert Markovits shares your interest and he would like to get in touch with you. Bob especially needs leads on where he can find a #832b used on cover and where he can find mint position pieces such as plate number blocks. You can write him at Box 891, Middletown NY 10940.

An unsolicited plug from our chairman.....If you're looking for some serious Prexie postal history -- covers, cards, mailing tags, wrappers, etc. -- then you should check out Jim Johnson (aka "Postal History International"). He can be found at many regional and national shows, or you can contact him directly at Box 2178, Burlington, NC 27216. His phone no. is (919) 584-1967. Either way, let Jim know you heard about him in "THE PREXIES."

To all PSG members: feel free to use this space to advertise your needs or surplus material!