

July/August 2013

The Bulletin

Volume 67, Number 4

Whole Number 641

- Cuba RV&Co. - Broken Pins
- W154 & W155 - Western Pacific Railroad & its Subsidiaries
- G97.5 - User I.D.
- S63 - Special Delivery Postal Card
- P153.4 - Listing Revisited
- Topical Collection with Holes
- Convention Registration Form
- Auction #133
- Auction #131 - Prices realized

A Call for Attendance at the Annual Business Meeting

Jerry Hejduk (LM#3710)

As you know, the combined Convention of the Perfins Club and the Precancel Stamp Society will be held August 20 through 24, 2013, at the Chattanooga Choo Hotel in Chattanooga, TN.

The Perfins Club Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 22 at 1:00 p.m. in the Galleries meeting room. Following the business meeting, Robert Littrell (#3992) will present his award winning, One-Frame exhibit entitled *Perfins on the Postage Stamps of Cuba*.

Please note in the tentative agenda found below the items of business that are scheduled for the meeting. In Old Business, the President will lead a discussion soliciting ideas for recruiting members for the Club's officer positions, volunteers to help with special interest projects, and suggestions for

attracting new members. Under New Business there are three items concerning the nominations of Vice President, Secretary, and a Director-at-Large.

If members have additional items that they would like to have included on the agenda, I will need to receive a request in writing by COB July 31, 2013. Because of time limitations, it will not be possible to consider unscheduled items of business at the Annual Meeting. Any such requests will be forwarded to the Executive Board for consideration at a future date.

Please remember that in addition to the hour and a half needed for the Club's business meeting, there will be many more hours of stamping: buying, selling, and trading to enhance your collection(s). I sincerely hope to see you in Chattanooga in August.

The Perfins Club

2013 Annual Business Meeting

Thursday, August 22, 2013, 1:00 p.m.

Tentative Agenda

Call to Order
Members Self Introduction/Collecting Interests
Minutes of Previous Meeting
Treasurer's Report
Committee Reports
Club Auction
Cover Sales
Foreign Catalog
Librarian
The Perfins Bulletin
Perfins Sales
Publication Sales
Sunshine
U.S. Catalog
U.S. Revenue Catalog

Old Business
Discussion of recruiting efforts for nominations for Club Officers, volunteers to help with the Club's special interest projects, and suggestions for attracting new members
New Business
Nominations for the office of Vice President
Nominations for the office of Secretary
Nominations for the office of Director-at-Large
Special Activities
Society Booth at APS Meetings
Good and Welfare
Announcements
2013 Floyd Walker Award
2013 Hallock Card Award
Closed Albums
Adjournment

The *Perfins Bulletin* is the official journal of The Perfins Club - Founded 1943

2013 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS & MANAGERS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT

Jerry Hejduk
P.O. Box 490450
Leesburg, FL 34749-0450
352-326-2117
fjprepers@comcast.net
Term expires 12/31/2014

VICE PRESIDENT

Pat Callis
5551 FM 2633
Santa Anna, TX 76878-6424
325-785-4400
pcallis@copper.net
Term expires 12/31/2013

SECRETARY

Ken B. Rehfeld
P.O. Box 125
Spokane Valley, WA 99016-0125
509-924-6375
kenrehfeld@comcast.net
Term expires 12/31/2013

TREASURER

Dan Baugher
14618 Big Timber Lane
Chesterfield, MO 63017-5659
636-537-5365
dbaugher@charter.net
Term expires 12/31/2015

DIRECTORS-at-LARGE

Duane Spidle
6140 Coyote Lane
Peyton, CO 80831-8300
719-683-3309
duaneandsue@elpasotel.net
Term expires 12/31/2013

Doug Turner
P.O. Box 3069
Ventura, CA 93006-3069
805-339-9575
dturner@west.net
Term expires 12/31/2014

Paul Mistretta
4148 Commodore Drive
Atlanta, GA 30341-1533
678-547-9344
paulmistretta70@gmail.com
Term expires 12/31/2015

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Bob Szymanski
10 Clarridge Circle
Milford, MA 01757-1371
508-478-7303
perfinman@comcast.net

The *Perfins Bulletin* EDITOR

Ken Masters
7909 N. Main Street
Kansas City, MO 64118-1449
816-835-5907
KRMasters@aol.com

MANAGERS

AUCTION

Joe Giampietro
6478 State Road, G-10
Parma, OH 44134-4166
440-888-1470
mo13jo@aol.com

COVER SALES MANAGER

Millard J. Driscoll
301 Driver Avenue
Summerville, SC 29483-2961
843-875-0847
mdriscoll@sc.rr.com

FOREIGN CATALOG CHAIRMAN

John M. Randall
2540 Carquinez Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530-1548
510-233-6647
jv.randall@comcast.net

LIBRARIAN

Doug Cutler
5943 Gullstrand St.
San Diego, CA 92122-3819
248-212-0821
sobearcat@hotmail.com

PERFINS SALES MANAGER

Robert T. Combs
P.O. Box 220
Tome, NM 87060-0220
505-866-0949
stampmgr@hubwest.com

PUBLICATION SALES MANAGER

David Lightle
10616 Cielo Vista del Norte NW
Corrales, NM 87048-8902
505-898-8037
perfinpaul@msn.com

SUNSHINE

For the time being, the responsibilities of this position are being assumed by the President, Jerry Hejduk, whose contact information is found elsewhere on this page.

U.S. CATALOG CHAIRMAN

Steve Endicott
20 Greensburgh Lane
San Anselmo, CA 94960-1000
415-454-1475
perfins@gmail.com

U.S. REVENUE CATALOG CHAIRMAN

Arthur J. Mongan
12432 Pretoria Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20904-1845
301-572-5459
revs.perfins@gmail.com

The *Perfins Bulletin*

EDITOR

Ken Masters

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Rudy Roy - U.S. Perfins
Doug Turner - Non U.S. Perfins
Myra Walker - Proofreader

The Perfins Club membership is open to all persons interested in the collection and study of Perforated Initials and Insignia in postage stamps. Yearly dues are \$15 for U.S., \$18 for Canada and \$25 for other Non-U.S. Since the club is on a July 1 to June 30 dues year, appropriate dues adjustments are made the first year based on the actual date of membership. Annual dues include a subscription to *The Perfins Bulletin*, mailed bulk rate printed matter. Mailing by 1st Class for an additional postage charge. Applications are available at www.perfins.org or from the Secretary listed above.

Please submit *Bulletin* articles, news, or advertisements to:

Ken Masters

7909 N. Main Street, Kansas City MO 64118-1449

(816) 835-5907 KRMasters@aol.com

The Perfins Club



www.perfins.org

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Visit The Perfins Club web site at <http://www.perfins.org> -- Mike Hynes, Webmaster (mike@precancels.com)

Last Chance for Chattanooga

Ken Masters (LM#3589)

In the last several issue of the *Bulletin*, including the front page of this one, we have encouraged you to seriously consider attending this year's Annual Convention in Chattanooga, TN, Tuesday, August 20 through Saturday, August 24. While, I realize that there are many circumstances that may prevent this, if you think you will become bored or not have enough to keep you busy, let me assure you that this is most certainly not true!

When you arrive at the Convention and check-in at the Convention Registration Desk in the hotel's Imperial Ballroom, you will receive a detailed schedule showing all of the planned activities. After looking at this schedule, you will note that the Convention Bourse will open at 8:30 a.m. each day and close at 11:30 p.m. on Tuesday through Friday and 5:30 p.m. on Saturday. This gives you a total of 69 hours to peruse the wide assortment of perfins and perfin covers, both U.S. and foreign, for you to acquire by purchase or trade to fill the "holes" in your collection.

Don't miss the Desert Welcome Reception at 8:00 p.m., Tuesday evening, in the Ballroom Lobby. These receptions are always lots of fun where old friendships are renewed and new ones made.

Thursday is a busy day for Perfins Club "business." First, the Club Group Photo will be taken in front of the Choo Railroad Engine at 11:40 a.m. Then, the Annual Business Meeting will start at 1:00 p.m. in the Galleries.

To help cover the Convention expenses, the Convention Auction will start at 3:00 p.m. on Friday in the Galleries. Donations are greatly appreciated. Consignments are accepted at a 20% commission. Auction items may be sent in advance to Stu Hanlein (page 91) or turned in at the Convention Registration Desk.

To cap off the Convention, you will not want to miss the Saturday evening Banquet, starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room. The speaker will be Mr. Thomas Broadhead, Professor at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and accomplished philatelist. He will tell us about a recent summer teaching assignment in China where he taught students about American culture and traditions, while also attempting to find a Post Office that would sell him Chinese stamps while traveling around on a government furnished bicycle.

When you need a break, Chattanooga has many interesting and exciting activities. These range from a visit to the Tennessee Aquarium, home of over 12,000 aquatic animals from around the world, to an exhilarating ride on the Lookout Mountain Incline Railway, or whitewater rafting on the exciting Ocoee River. To learn more about these and other fun activities, attend The Chattanooga Convention and Visitors Bureau presentation on places of interest in the area on Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. in the Ballroom Lobby. Also, the Convention Bureau will be on hand during our Convention to help you however they can.

Now, a final favor. It is very helpful to the PSS volunteers planning this Convention if you pre-register for the Convention. We have printed a copy of the Registration Form on the inside back page of this *Bulletin*. If you have not already registered, please make a copy of this form, complete it, and send it to Stu Hanlein, Convention Chairman, as soon as possible. Even if you miss the July 1 requested return date, he still wants to hear from you.

So, there is plenty to do and fun for everyone. Make your hotel reservations now (1-423-266-5000 or 1-800-872-2529) now and look forward to a great time in Chattanooga!

Two Awards for Cuba Perfins Exhibit

We are very happy to report the Club member Robert Littrell (#3992) was awarded two medals for his single frame exhibit "Perfins on the Postage Stamps of Cuba" at the 2013 Rocky Mountain Stamp Show. This event, held May 17-19, 2013, in Denver CO, is part of the American Philatelic Society's prestigious National World Series of Philately shows.

In the One-Frame category, Robert received a Vermeil medal. Then, in the Special Awards

category, he won a Gold medal from the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors for "excellence in presentation."

Congratulations, Robert! All of us appreciate the hard work and the many hours that you spent to develop your exhibit for competition. We look forward to seeing your exhibit in Chattanooga, and thanks for your continuing efforts to promote perfins to the general philatelic community.

Proposed Delisting of Certain Newfoundland Perfins

Barry Senior (#3924)

When Russ Deveau completed the Newfoundland Perfin Survey in 1995 he tried with limited success to verify several questionable items on the list. The main problem was that Russ inherited the survey sheets that had been completed some 8 years earlier, and had no current contact information for many of the respondents.

Since that time much has been added to the knowledge base of Newfoundland perfins. However, there are still several items that are questionable and have never been confirmed.

The **A4** (Figure 1) perforator of the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company is last known to have been used in May of 1938. Three stamps on the current inventory were issued after that date, and, to the best of my knowledge, only 1 of each was reported. They are Unitrade (Scott) numbers 257, 260, and 261.



Figure 1
Pattern A4

The **A11** (Figure 2) perforator of Ayre & Sons Ltd. has a latest known date of April 1932. The following stamps were all issued after that date: Unitrade (Scott) 183, 186, 188, 195, 212, 215, 226, 236, 247, 256, and 269. With the exception of 186 and 226 having 2 reports each, all others were only reported 1 time. I believe these were simply typos on the part of the respondent, or, in some cases, a matter of confusing the 2 Ayre patterns as nearly all

of the Ayre items in question are common with the **A12** perfin (Figure 3).



Figure 2
Pattern A11

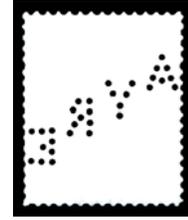


Figure 3
Pattern A12

I am proposing that without evidence that these items do exist that they be deleted from the list stamps with known Newfoundland perfins that is provided in the 5th Edition of the *Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials*.

Please respond to the Editor (page 70) or myself if you can provide a scan or photocopy of any of these items. My address is: Barry Senior, 4 Whiteway Place, Clarenville, NL A5A 2B5, Canada; email: barry.senior@nf.sympatico.ca.

[Editor's Note: This article is essentially a reprint of an article that appeared on page 3 of the June 2013 *The BNA Perforator*. To get the widest possible exposure to this proposal, it was also published in the June 2013 issue of the *G.B. Perfin Society Bulletin* and will be in a future issue of the *South Pacific Perfin Bulletin*.]

Schermack Control Perfins Census Reminder

Curt McCoy (#3962)



The Schermack with Control Perfins Census as discussed on pages 52 and 53 of the May/June 2013 *Bulletin* [67:52-53] is off to a fantastic start. We have had over 1,000 reported so far, including a couple new discoveries. Many thanks to those of you that have already participated!

For those of you that have not done so yet, please take a couple minutes of your time, and submit your Schermack data to me by regular mail: Curt McCoy,

10253 Collard, Lakeview, MI 48850-9143 or by email to cmccoy1@myfrontiermail.com.

This looks like it will be the best Census taken to date on the subject matter and we need your support. Remember that no collection is too small, as all information is important for this project. Any data you send me will be Strictly Confidential, and will only be used for the purpose of the Census. In addition, when the results are complete in several months, everyone who provided information will receive a copy of the report.

THANKS for your help. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Broken Pins of the RV&Co. Cuban Perfin

Robert Littrell (#3992)

Many perfin collectors dislike perfins which have missing holes. Depending on the rarity of the perfin and number of broken pins, such may end up as "seconds," "traders," or even discarded. On one common Cuban perfin, **RV&Co.**, I noticed certain missing holes appeared repeatedly, so I decided to take a second look.

Ricardo Veloso & Cía was a company that used perfin stamps from 1917 to 1948. So far, I have counted **RV&Co.** perfins on 75 different postage stamps and 9 different postal tax stamps. Libreria Cervantes was Ricardo Veloso Guerra's Havana bookstore, founded in 1910. In 1926, Veloso merged his company with Cultural S.A. and expanded business in Cuba as well as abroad. The wide proliferation of stamps and covers is second only to Cuba's Drogería Sarra (**SARRA**) and a large representative sample has allowed this study.

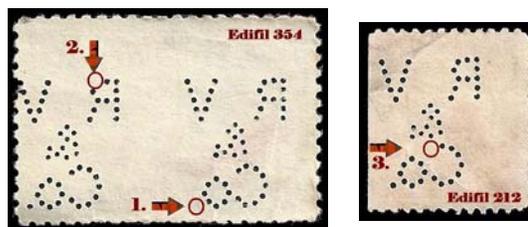
I found there are 3 varieties of the **RV&Co.** perfin caused by broken pins. They are:

1. Missing period after the "Co." You can see that in the illustration on the right side of Edifil #354 (Scott #374). Note that this variety is beside another variety on the same stamp as discussed in item #2 below.
2. Third punch from the left on the top of the letter "R." You can see that on the left side of Edifil #354.
3. Upper right punch of the letter "C." You can see that in Edifil #212 (Scott #272).

Does a pin break make a major variety? To me, obviously not. Yet because the pin break in the **DUN** variety occurs on a "code hole," it is included in *The World Perfin Catalog - American Section* listing. (The Perfins Club defines "code or control hole" as an additional hole extra to the normal design.) The **RV&Co.** perfin is not too different in that one of these three pin breaks wipes out an entire character, albeit only a period.

I have seen 10 of the Variety 1 (missing period) out of approximately 100 patterns which leads me to hypothesize that the company owned a perforating machine that had 10 dies. (The choices would be 1, 2, 5, or 10 dies.) This would statistically yield a 10% chance of encountering this (or any other) **RV&Co.** variety, assuming that few other pin breaks occur over time.

[Editor's Note: For those of you, like me, who are not familiar with Cuba stamps, "Edifil" refers to the *Edifil Catálogo de Sellos de Cuba* (Edifil Catalog of the Stamps of Cuba).]



The Broken Pins of RV&Co. Perfins
(Actual size.)

Notices from the Editor

Ken Masters (LM#3589)

September/October 2013 *Bulletin*:

Normally, I try to mail the current issue of the *Bulletin* very close to the first day of the month of that issue - for instance by July 3 for this one. However, due to the late August date of this year's Convention and the fact that I anticipate attending it, the September/October 2013 issue will be delayed until around September 11. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Membership Roster Update:

As a way to assist and promote contact between members, The Perfins Club has a long standing practice of publishing a current "Membership Roster" every two years. Therefore, we plan to publish the 2013-2014 Roster in the upcoming November/December 2013

Bulletin. If any of your information needs to be updated, especially your email address, please forward the corrections to our Secretary, Ken Rehfeld, by September 25, 2013.

The Roster will be published as Supplemental Pages in the *Bulletin* and located in the center of the issue to facilitate easy removal. It **will not** be distributed to any non-member, including philatelic libraries, other publications, etc., that might receive complimentary copies of the *Bulletin* or in promotional copies that we distribute to prospective members. However, if you prefer that your name and/or other information **not** be included in the published Membership Roster, please advise the Secretary or Editor. Our contact information is on page 70.

One Railroad's Perfins = Six Railroads' Perfins

Bob Combs (LM#24)



When are one railroad's perfins actually six railroads' perfins? In this case, when the Western Pacific Railroad is the parent company. This is not as unusual as it may sound. Many large "Class One" railroads had subsidiary railroads, either by merger or outright purchase (controlling interest). Additionally, some of the purchased railroads were spun off from the parent to operate their own businesses and they issued their own perfin patterns.

This article is about one Class One railroad that operated in 3 states - California, Nevada, and Utah - with a total of 1,524 miles of track. The Western Pacific Railway Company, was incorporated on March 6, 1903, with corporate offices located in San Francisco, CA. The railway defaulted on loans in 1935, and on March 1, 1935, reorganized as the Western Pacific Railroad Company.

This railroad used two perfin patterns, **W154** and **W155**, as listed in the 1998 edition of the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog) and the 2010 edition of the *Catalog of Perfin Patterns of the Railroads of the United States and Canada*. Figure 1 below illustrates a scan of each pattern punched in a U.S. stamp.

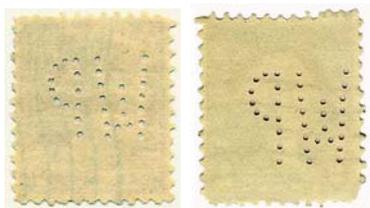


Figure 1

The pattern on the left is **W154** used in stamps issued between 1912 and 1972. The pattern on the right is **W155** used in stamps issued between 1908 and 1933.

[Editor's Note: In finalizing this article, I thought we should point out, particularly for our non-railroad perfin members, that prior to the 1998 edition of the



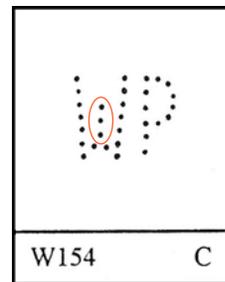
Image © Bob Combs 2013

Figure 2

Western Pacific 334, 2-8-2 steam locomotive located in Rio Vista, CA.

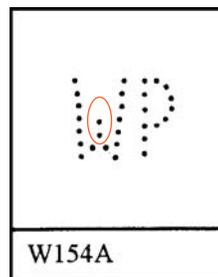
U.S. Perfins Catalog, three variations of pattern **W154** (**W154**, **W154A**, and **W154B**) were recognized. As shown in Figure 3, the difference is number of holes in the center leg of the letter "W" - **W154** has three holes, **W154A** has two holes, and **W154B** has only one. In the 1998 Catalog, patterns **W154A** and **W154B** were deleted as partial punches of the three hole variation, and pattern **W154** is the single, recognized version of the group.

It is also noted that the Catalog's Supplemental Information pages state: "After the late 1940's, only the damaged patterns (former **W154A** and **W154B**) have been seen." The four covers in this article that are franked with a stamp perforated with **W154** are all one of the damaged varieties.]

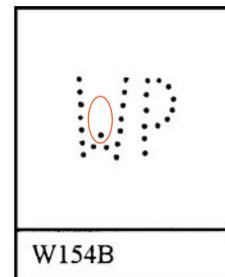


W154

C



W154A



W154B

Figure 3

Pattern **W154** and Deleted Patterns **W154A** and **W154B** with the holes in the center of the "W" highlighted.

One Railroad = Six Railroads (cont.)

The Western Pacific Railroad (the parent company) and the railroad's five siblings (Alameda Belt Line, Central California Traction, Oakland Terminal Railroad, Sacramento Northern Railway, and the Tidewater Southern Railway) banded together to make the Western Pacific Railroad a more competitive and efficient system of rail links.

While most of these lines were jointly owned with other railroads, they were allowed to operate under their own railroad names. Additionally, all were headquartered at the Western Pacific offices in San Francisco, CA, sharing the same building, but

each with their own little rooms located therein.

Three of the five ceased operations as an independent railroad with the 1983 purchase of the parent company by the Union Pacific Railroad, who also gained their second Sierra Nevada Mountain pass. The UP still operates over most of these former lines' track.

The vast majority of these smaller railroads' engine fleet were sold to other small railroads, scrapped, or, in the case of the Western Pacific's larger road motive power units, repainted and are now running on the Union Pacific Railroad.



Figure 4
Western Pacific # 605,
a EMD SW-9.
Sits in tandem at
Stockton, CA,
1978.



Figure 5
Western Pacific Railroad corporate offices in San Francisco, CA.
This cover, postmarked January 26, 1949, is franked with a
6-cent Prexie stamp (Scott #811) that is perforated with pattern W154.
(70% of actual size.)

One Railroad = Six Railroads (cont.)

THE SUBSIDIARIES

Alameda Belt Line: This small railroad ran within the city limits of Alameda, CA. It was acquired in 1925 and discontinued as a named railroad with the Union Pacific merger in 1998. The line ran 1.2 miles. It mainly serviced the Del Monte

Cannery and interchanged with the parent railroad, Western Pacific.

The ownership was a joint one with the Western Pacific Railroad and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railways. Through mergers in the late 1990's, the owners became the Union Pacific RR and the BNSF (Burlington Northern Santa Fe) respectively.



Figure 6
Alameda Belt Line Railway unit 105, Alco S-2, resting in Alameda (California) Dock yards, 1978.

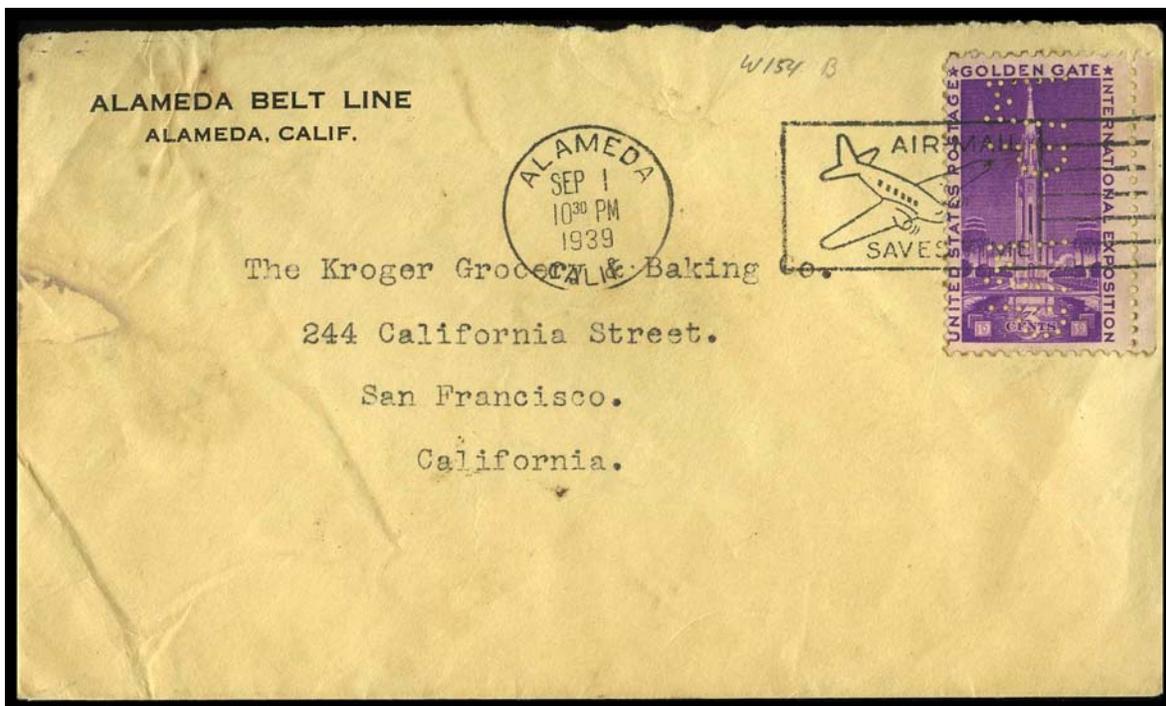


Figure 7
Corner card reads Alameda Belt Line, Alameda, Calif. This railroad used a W154 pattern in a Golden Gate International Exposition commemorative (Scott #852), tied to the cover with a September 1, 1939, postmark. (Actual size.)

One Railroad = Six Railroads (cont.)

Central California Traction Company: This short line was formed in 1905 as a streetcar operation in Stockton, CA. The line ran from Stockton to (eventually) Sacramento, CA, approximately 78 miles.

The railroad was jointly owned by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway, the Southern Pacific Railroad, and the Western Pacific Railroad. This railroad still survives, although now owned by the Union Pacific Railroad and the BNSF Railway.



Figure 8
Central California Traction unit #70.
An EMD (Electromotive Division of GM) GP-9, at the Sacramento, CA, northern terminus yards, 1981.

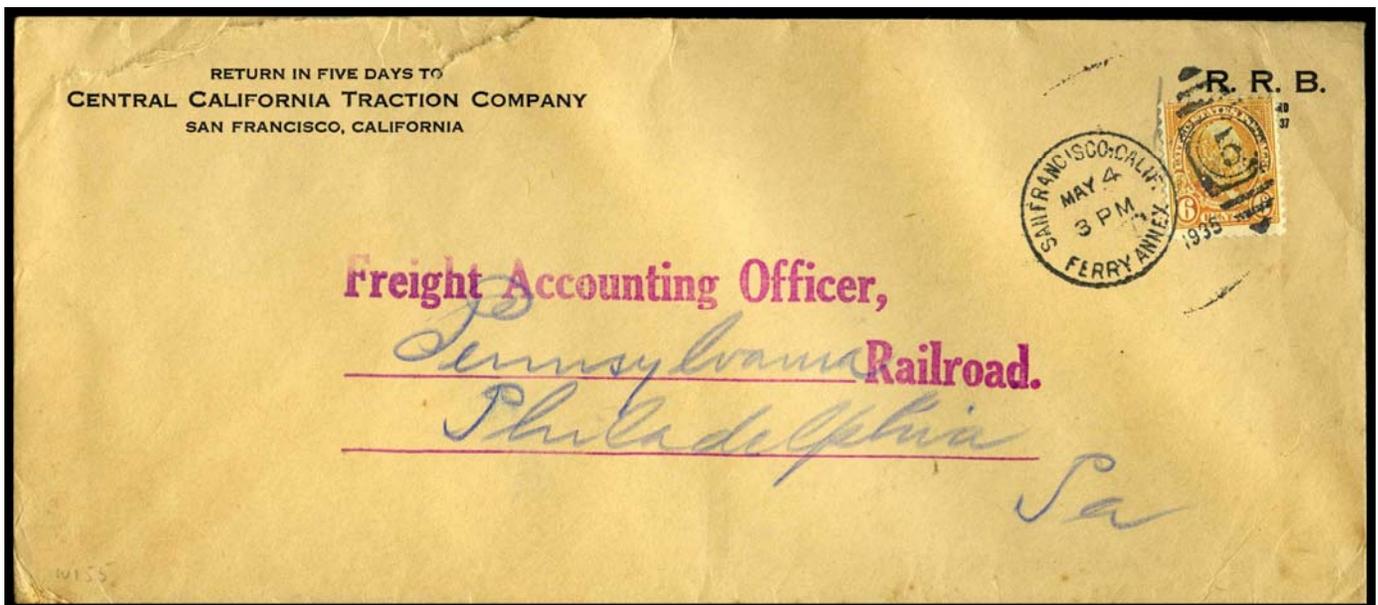


Figure 9
Western Pacific pattern W154 usage by the Central California Traction Company.
CCTC shared the offices of the WP in San Francisco, CA.
The 6-cent Garfield stamp is tied with a San Francisco Ferry Annex cancel dated May 4, 1935.
(75% of actual size.)

One Railroad = Six Railroads (cont.)

Sacramento Northern Railway: This 183 mile line connected Chico, Ca, (in the Sacramento Valley) to Oakland, CA. The dates of operation were from 1918 to 1983. Several railroads were acquired to form this route which ran both freight and

passenger service.

The line was purchased by the Western Pacific in 1922. It became a part of history in 1983 when the Union Pacific Railroad purchased the Western Pacific and it's subsidiaries. Portions of the original track are still in use today by the Union Pacific Railroad.



Figure 10
Sacramento Northern Railway Baldwin VO 1000 engine, road number 407, has seen better days. Here it is at the Western Pacific repair facility at Stockton, CA, in 1971. This unit was sold soon after this photo was taken.

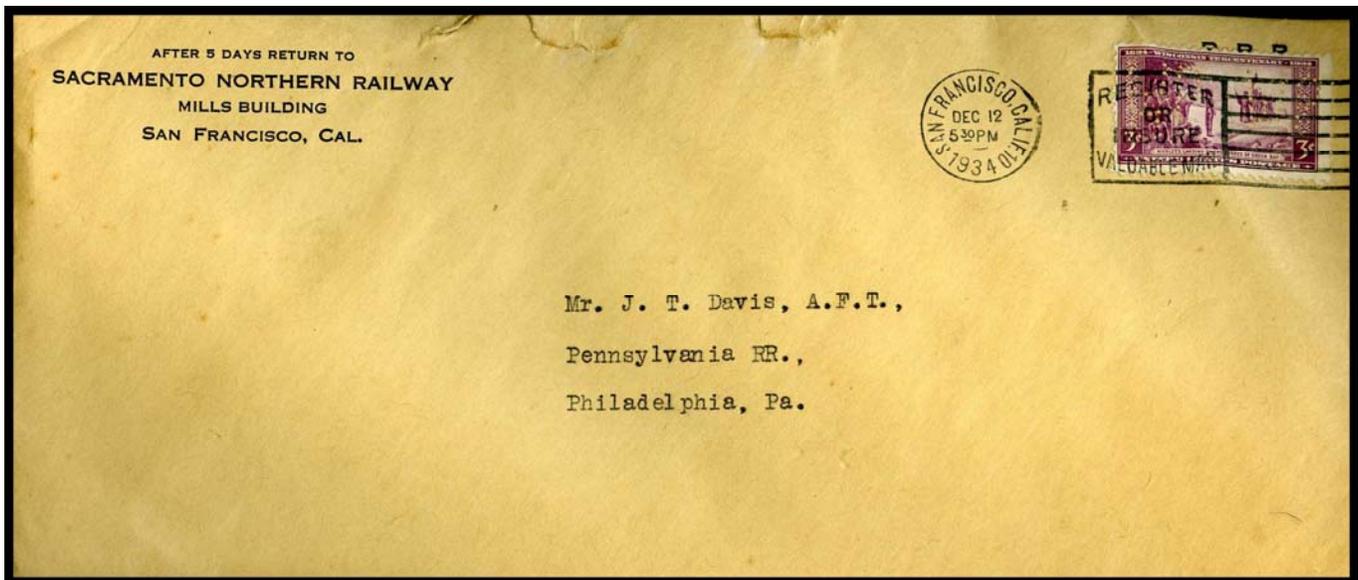


Figure 11
Sacramento Northern Railway, using W154 pattern perfin in a Wisconsin Tercentenary commemorative (Scott #739) tied to cover with a December 12, 1934, San Francisco, CA, postmark. (75% of actual size.)

One Railroad = Six Railroads (cont.)

Tidewater Southern Railway: This was an 85 mile railroad that operated between 1910 to 1987. It operated south from Sacramento to Hilmar, CA, in the San Joaquin Valley.

It was a freight operation. Western Pacific owned most of the line from 1917, but did not obtain complete ownership until the 1960's. This company name ended in 1983 with the advent of the Union Pacific takeover.



Figure 12
Tidewater Southern Alco RS-1, road number 747
working in Modesto, CA, 1973.

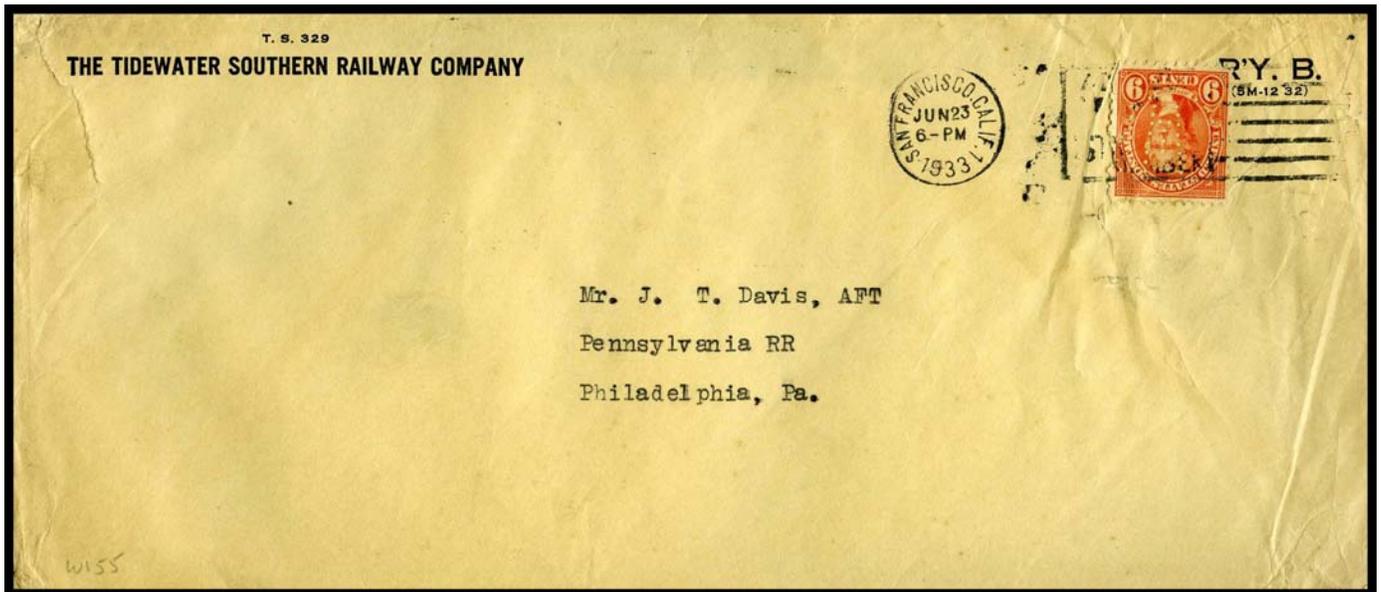


Figure 13
Western Pacific pattern W155 in a 9-cent Jefferson stamp adorns this cover postmarked in San Francisco, CA, on June 23, 1933. To date this is the only cover I have seen with the W155 pattern. (75% of actual size.)

One Railroad = Six Railroads (cont.)

Oakland Terminal Railway: This line was jointly owned by Western Pacific and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway in 1943. It allowed both shippers access to the Oakland, CA, Army Base. It consists of ten miles of track and is still in operation today - jointly owned by Union Pacific and BNSF.

☹ I do not have a cover of this short line associated with any of the mentioned railroad perfins. Maybe someday. If anyone has such a cover that they are willing to sell or trade, please contact me with a price. My information is on page 70 under "Perfins Sales Manager."



Figure 14
Oakland Terminal Railway unit # 102, Alco S-2,
found at Oakland, CA, Terminal Docks, 1973.

SUMMARY

I hope you have enjoyed this little write up about these 6 railroads - 4 who have since gone the way of other fallen flags (gone but not forgotten). It was fun doing it. I also hope that it has generated a little interest in your learning more about railroad perfin usage by the various railroads around the country.

If one collects railroad envelopes or stamps, not only from the Western Pacific Railroad but from other railroads, it is possible to obtain postmarks from many of the various railroads' local town stations along the line. Each depot (or station) was authorized the use of perfins on railroad business mailings by most railroads.

After you do a little research to determine what might be available, go out, look, and see how many you can obtain. You may be surprised and discover the joy of collecting railroad perfins and their covers!

References:

1. All Railroad Images © 2013 Bob Combs, Tome, NM.
2. All Railroad Stamped Covers from the collection of Bob Combs.
3. Baugher, Dan, *Catalog of Perfin Patterns of the Railroads of the United States and Canada*, The Perfins Club, 2010.
4. Fickewirth, Albert, *California Railroads*, Golden West Books, 1992.
5. *Handy Railroad Atlas of the United States*, Rand McNally, 1971.
6. Randall, John, *Catalog of United States Perfins*, The Perfins Club, 1998.
7. Strapac, Joseph, *Western Pacific's Diesel Years*, Overland Models Press, 1980.
8. Various Internet sources (Wikipedia and others).

Cover Identifies U.S. Pattern G97.5

James E. Sneed (LM#128)

I found this rather plain cover illustrated below in a box of miscellaneous covers. The initial attraction was that the total postage on the USPO 1-cent pre-stamped envelope has been uprated to the 2 cents First Class rate with a 1-cent perfined Scott #405 Washington stamp.

After consulting the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog), I identified the perfin as the previously unidentified A rated pattern **G97.5** (diagonal GHS). With this cover, that fact is no more - the user appears to be "George H. Sidwell Company, Chicago, IL." In addition, the Scott #405 stamp extends the period of usage of **G97.5** to include stamps issued in 1914.

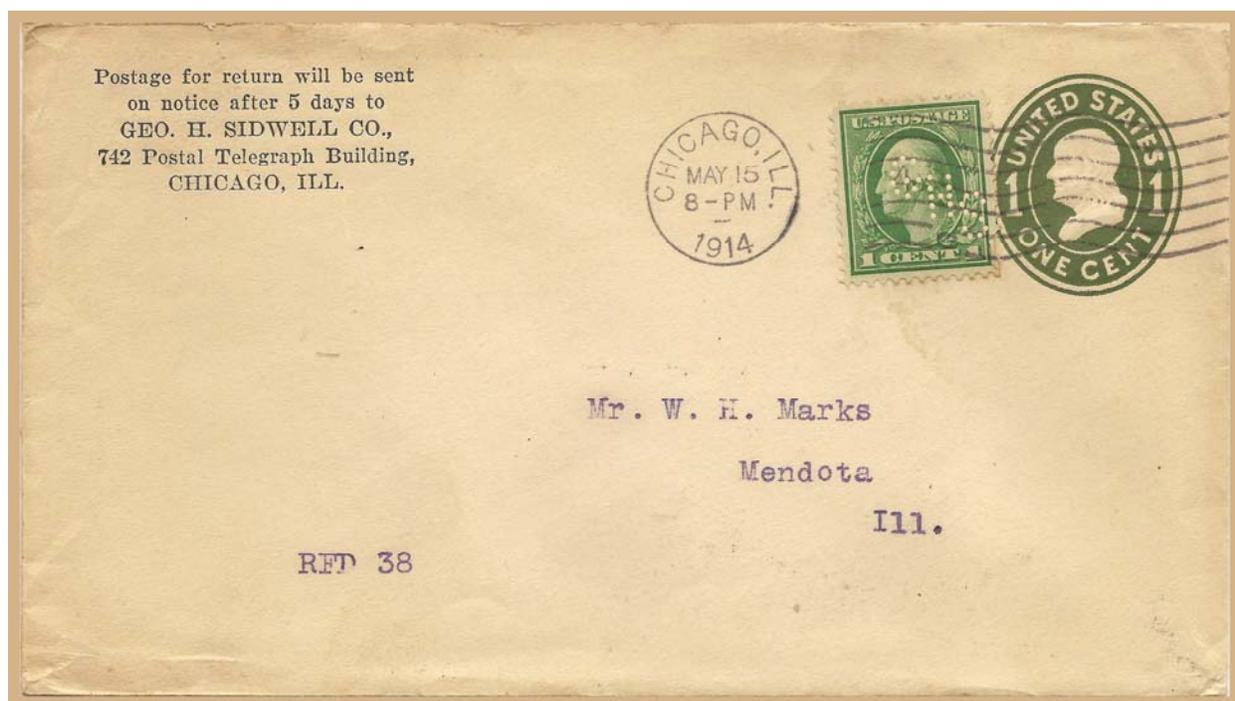
Internet searches find the firm at this address in 1912 "Chicago Board of Trade Annual Report."⁽¹⁾ George H. Sidwell is listed as the President of the George H. Sidwell Company that was in the "Commission" business. Based on his obituary printed in the June 10, 1913, issue of *Milling and Grain News*, Mr. Sidwell died on June 4, 1913.⁽²⁾ He founded the George H. Sidwell Company in 1869 as "grain dealers," and was a pioneer member of the Chicago Board of Trade .

One amusing bit of information was found about this company. The 1910 "Interstate Commerce Commission Annual Report (ICC)" reports that on October 4, 1910, they authorized an \$18.91 refund from the Illinois Central Railroad (ICRR) to the George H. Sidwell Company for an overcharge on a shipment of corn from Charles City, IA, to Chicago.⁽³⁾ That may not seem like a very large amount until one realizes it would be nearly \$450 today!

A scan of this cover and the information about the company were forwarded to the U.S. Catalog Chairman for his review. He agrees with my observations. The "George H. Sidwell Company, Chicago, IL," will be listed as the verified user of **G97.5** in A&C#4 of the U.S. Perfins Catalog. Also, its period of usage will be extended to 1914.

References:

1. <http://books.google.com/books?id=qS8wAQAAMAAJ>; Search "George H. Sidwell"
2. <http://books.google.com/books?id=Kz0fAQAAMAAJ>; Search "George H. Sidwell"
3. <http://books.google.com/books?id=IgrVAAAAMAAJ>; Search "George H. Sidwell"



George H. Sidwell Company, Chicago, IL, May 15, 1914, cover franked with 1-cent Scott #405 stamp, perforated with A rate pattern G97.5. Perfin provides positive identification of pattern G97.5. The Scott #405 extends period of usage of G97.5 to include stamps issued in 1914. (Actual size.)

The Good Old Days!

Rudy Roy (#1124)

When I saw the postal card in Figure 1 (page 83) on eBay, I was immediately attracted because of two factors - it is a relatively scarce use of a special delivery stamp on a postal card, and the perfins is pattern **S63** (SC) used by Studebaker Corporation, South, Bend, IN. In addition, it would certainly be a nice addition to my Indiana collection.

Please note the following features on this card:

1. The South Bend, IN, machine cancel (applied twice) is dated Jan. 10, 1951, at 8 PM.
2. The purple South Bend handstamp shows receipt by the Special Delivery section on Jan. 10 at 9:30 PM.

Refer now to the reverse of the card as shown in Figure 2 on page 83. The card is a notification to the addressee to come into the Studebaker employment office "AT ONCE" on "JAN 11 '51 - 8⁰⁰ AM"

I like to think that Mr. Mlnarik was already aware that he was (probably) being recalled to work, but it is also not beyond the realm of possibility that this card was his first notification. Whether he received the card in time is unknown, but in the days before email, IMs, and almost everyone having a telephone, what was the quickest and most inexpensive way to contact someone? By special delivery mail! In this case, it would seem so, even though the card was not

placed in the postal system until 12 hours before the addressee was required to present himself at the employment office.

Special delivery of mail, if receipted in a special delivery post office before the regular mail closed, and addressed within the city of mailing, was to be delivered that day, if possible.⁽¹⁾ This means that mail that closed at 8:00 p.m. but had special delivery service paid for was to be delivered if at all possible.

Studebaker being the largest employer in South Bend at this time probably was well aware of mail closing times and that a postal card with a special delivery stamp affixed would most probably be delivered. Quite a change from what current Express Mail (there is no more special delivery service) will guarantee - next day delivery, if posted by 4:00 p.m.!

We will never know if Mr. Mlnarik got the job (assuming he wanted it), but we are left with a rather scarce use of a special delivery stamp on a postal card that is also is an example of perfins postage being used to frank the card.

Reference:

1. *Postal Laws and Regulations of the United States of America*, edition of 1940, Title VI, Chapter 4, Special Delivery.

U.S. Pattern P153.4 Revisited

Steve Endicott (LM#2284)

As the U.S. Catalog Chairman, I have found it necessary to change my decision about the listing of pattern **P153.4**. Readers will recall that John Lyding (LM#116) was the author of a fascinating article on pages 56 and 57 in the May/June 2013 issue of the *Bulletin* [67:56-57]. He found a perforator with the "PNG" letters and a control hole in a position that none of us had ever seen! There are over 6,500 U.S. perfin patterns, yet just a handful of their perforators still exist. Here we have the reverse situation: a perforator, but no perforated stamps!

At the recent June 2, 2013, meeting of the local Bay Area Perfins Association (BAPA), several collectors wanted to discuss my decision to include this new pattern in the *Catalog of United States Perfins* (U.S. Perfins Catalog). It was pointed out that we do not know if the perforator was used in commercial stamps, in something else, or even used

at all. Perhaps it was purchased but then set aside and never used.

A more appropriate solution is to illustrate the perfin pattern at the end of the letter P section of the Catalog, and include a note that the perforator is in the possession of a collector but no usage has been seen. If a commercial usage is discovered, then the pattern will be formally included in the Catalog. There is a precedent for this: patterns "GCO" and "WCB," and patterns "Guam" and "Hawaii" - the latter two which were recently discovered in commercial postage, and therefore are now included in the Catalog.

I always enjoy hearing ideas from our members. If you have other thoughts on this subject, please contact me. (See page 70.) The Catalog continues to improve in knowledge and in quality because of your input.

The Good Old Days! (cont.)

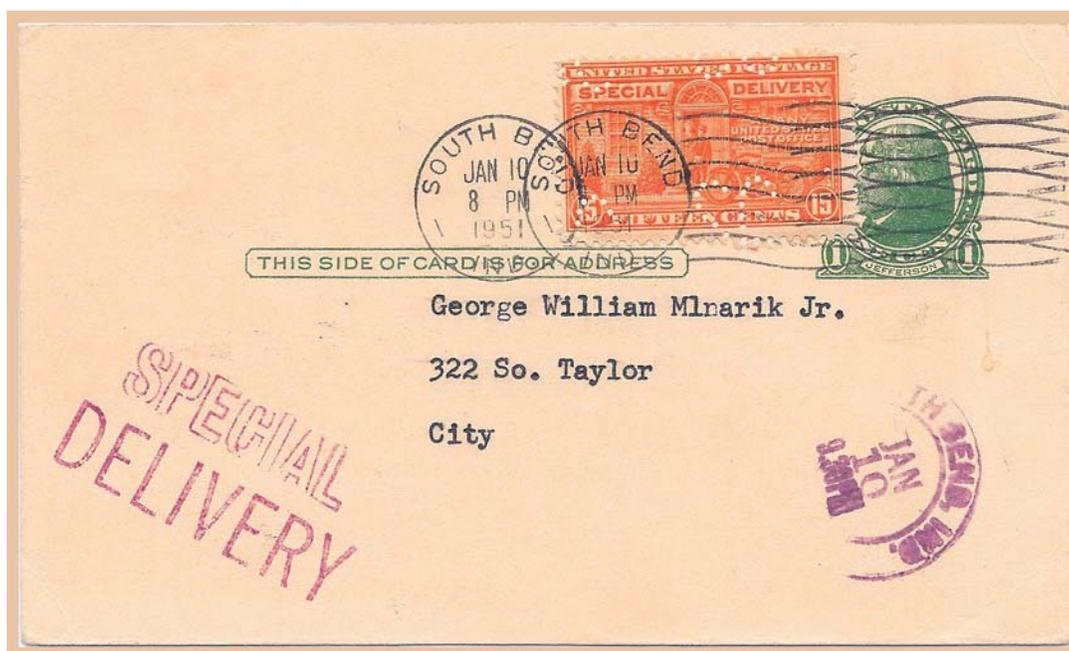


Figure 1
1-cent postal card uprated to Special Delivery mail with 15-cent Special Delivery stamp that is perforated with pattern S63 and postmarked January 10, 1951, 8:00 p.m., South Bend, IN. The then current Postal Regulations required delivery of this Special Delivery mail within the city of South Bend that day, January 10, 1951, if possible. (Actual size.)

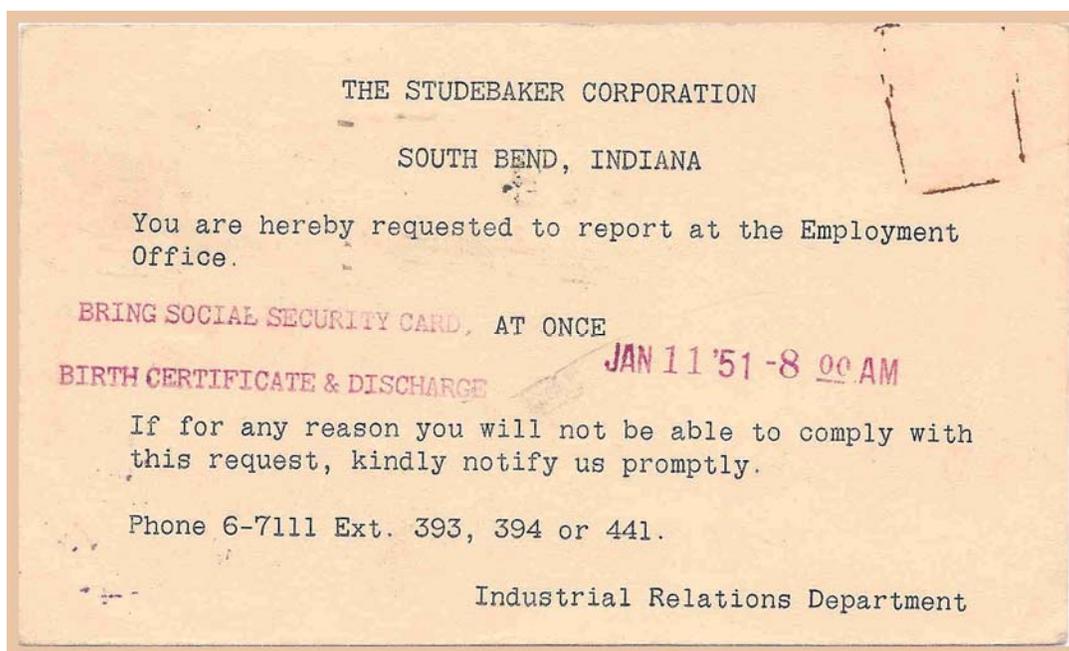


Figure 2
Reverse side of postal card sent to George William Mlnarik Jr. requesting him to report to Studebaker Corporation's South Bend, IN, Employment Office at 8:00 a.m. on January 11, 1951 - 12 hours after the card was mailed! He is also instructed to "Bring Social Security Card" and "Birth Certificate & Discharge." (Actual size.)

Does Your Topical Collection Have Holes in It? [Part 1]

Larry Dodson, Ruud van Dam, and Wobbe Vegter

{Editor's Note: This article was originally published by the American Topical Association in the November-December 2012 issue of *Topical Time* [Vol. 63, No. 6, Whole No. 376: 18-29], the Journal of Thematic Philately, and is reprinted with the permission of the editor and authors. We deeply appreciate their agreement to allow this reprint and sharing of their work with our members. Due to the article's length, the first half is published in this issue of the *Bulletin* and the remainder will be published in the September/October 2013 *Bulletin*.}

Introduction

Our collections of computer-related stamps have several holes in them, and we are happy about it. No, we are not talking about the stamps we can never find. You know, like that rare inverted overprint of Upper Bongostan that shows a laptop computer. The holes we are talking about are those punched in the stamps, those "damaged" stamps many collectors shun. These stamps are called perfins.

This article is written to show how perfins can add a new element to our topical collection. In particular, it provides an overview of perfins that have a connection to computers. Our study of these perfins continues, and the information presented here is far from complete.

"Perfin" is a philatelic term made up as a contraction of the words "perforated initials." One authoritative source gives the following definition for perfins:

"Stamps perforated ...with identifying initials, designs or holes in coded positions. Perfins are normally used by a business or government office to discourage pilferage or misuse of stamps by employees. Perfins may be either privately or officially produced." ⁽¹⁾

Perfins in general

Before we get into the topical aspects of perfins, let's talk about perfins in general. A representative of the United States Perfins Club indicates that, *"The heyday of US perfins was ... from 1910 to 1930. Many perforators were destroyed during WWI for the metal, and most of the rest were destroyed during WWII for the same reason."* ⁽²⁾ Another contributing factor was likely the development of metered postage. Thus, most perfins are found on stamps of that era, although

perfins on more recent stamps are not uncommon. Perfins of earlier times also exist, as the use of perfins received official approval in Great Britain in 1869.⁽³⁾ While most perfins are on definitive stamps, commemoratives can also be perfins.

The orientation (upside down, reversed, etc.) of the perfin in relation to the stamp design does not matter. When the perfins are punched, the sheets of stamps are often folded in halves or in quarters along the perforations. In that way two or four stamps can be punched at the same time.

Many companies from many nations have used perfins. Some companies have used a single design, while others have used many different, but often similar, designs. For example, General Electric (GE) in the United States has a basic design of a G that surrounds an E. However, for GE to distinguish its various locations around the country, an extra hole or extra holes are placed at various locations around the outside of the G. See Figures 1 and 2. This results in 45 different major types of GE perfins, plus several additional varieties.



Figure 1
Basic GE perfin (Schenectady, N.Y.)



Figure 2
GE perfin with additional hole above
the third hole of the "G."

The perfin variations of other companies are often not so easy to distinguish. These sometimes occur when the die used to punch the perfins is replaced, and the new die has pins in slightly different locations. The use of multiple perforating dies was possible in some perforating machines, and this can also cause small differences. At times, sophisticated techniques are needed to identify the various types.

Topical Collection with Holes (cont.)

For example the classical method for comparing two perfins is to put one of them on top of the other, holding them against an illuminated background and aligning the holes. This can be done with the naked eye or by using a magnifying glass. This is easier said than done, and sometimes there is no material available for comparison, or the perfin is still on cover.

Alternatively, one can use tangents – straight lines at well-chosen positions – that can show even slight differences, as illustrated in Figures 3 and 4. In this case, one needs to have the illustrations from a catalog or scans from real stamps. The first step is to make enlargements of about 200% of the two patterns on a scanner. Then try to find the lines that illustrate the differences as much as possible. By using an appropriate tangent it is, in most cases, possible to determine the various perfin types with the naked eye and a straight line.

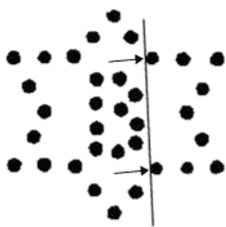


Figure 3
Burroughs Type B15. "B" is smaller and more curved than the Figure 4 example.

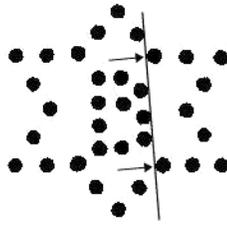


Figure 4
Burroughs Type 15A features a "B" that is wider and less curved.

Topical perfins

If you have read this far, you could well be thinking, "This may be somewhat interesting, but why do I care? I am a topical collector, not a perfin collector." As for the authors of this article, we care because all three of us collect stamps relating to computers, and several companies that are – or have been – in the computer business have used perfins. Similarly, there are companies that made calculating instruments preceding the computer era, such as adding machines, slide rules and cash registers that have used perfins.

For you, if your topic involves any type of manufactured product, it is likely that there are companies that make that product that have also used perfins. If there are any organizations involved with your topic, there may be perfins for them. A little research can lead to related perfins for most topics.

Computer-related perfins

The early days of the computer business were dominated by International Business Machines

(IBM). In fact, at one time in the industry, the major companies were known as IBM and the Seven Dwarfs. The other seven prominent companies in addition to IBM were General Electric, RCA, UNIVAC, Honeywell, Burroughs, Scientific Data Systems (SDS) and Control Data (CDC).⁽⁴⁾ Later additions and subtractions resulted in the BUNCH, which is an acronym made up of the first letters of Burroughs, UNIVAC, National Cash Register (NCR), CDC and Honeywell.⁽⁵⁾

Several of those companies mentioned have used perfins. There also are a number of other companies that have a computer relationship and also have used perfins. The following listing, in alphabetical order, includes some of these companies. The list of companies and the samples of perfins shown are by no means exhaustive; many more exist.

The following illustrations show images of the fronts and backs of perfins. Computer software has been used to make all the back images read from left to right and top to bottom.

Albert Nestler: Until electronic calculators became readily available, the calculating device favored by engineers was the slide rule. Albert Nestler was a German manufacturer of slide rules and other

calculating machines. When the German rocket scientist Werner von Braun came to the United States after World War II, he brought his Nestler slide rules with him.⁽⁶⁾



Figure 5
Albert Nestler, Germany. Shown is a cover (front and back) bearing a perfin and the actual perfin (inset).

Topical Collection with Holes (cont.)

American Telephone & Telegraph Company

(AT&T): In 1956, John Bardeen, Walter H. Brattain and William Shockley jointly received the Nobel Prize in Physics for inventing the first transistors⁽⁷⁾ while working for Bell Laboratories. This invention became



Figure 6

AT&T perfin (United States).

the foundation of modern computer technology. AT&T and Western Electric Company owned Bell Labs at the time.

Burroughs Corporation: From its beginning in 1886, Burroughs was a maker of adding machines and, by the 1960s, was one of the largest makers of computers. There are Burroughs perfins for the stamps of both United States and Canada, with two types known for each country.



Figure 7

A 1913 cover and off-cover examples of Burroughs Corporation perfins (U.S.).

Canadian General Electric: Founded in 1892, Canadian General Electric was a manufacturer of electrical products. The company was a



Figure 8

An example of a cover and stamp perfined by Canadian General Electric.

forerunner of GE Canada, the counterpart of GE America, which is discussed in a following section.⁽⁸⁾

Compagnie Générale d'Electricité (CGE)

(France): This company was created in 1898 and



Figure 9
Compagnie Générale d'Electricité (France) .

was the origin of Alcatel, a leading company of Internet communication systems. In the 1980s Alcatel also produced the Alpha-plus word-processor.

General Electric (GE): GE's Aeronautics and Ordnance Systems Division developed its first electronic digital computer in Schenectady, N.Y., in 1950.⁽⁹⁾ By the mid-1950s GE had established its Computer Department in Phoenix, Ariz. This was GE's computer headquarters until 1970, when the computer business was sold to Honeywell. See Figures 1 and 2 [page 84].

General Electric Company (GEC) (Great Britain):

The origins of this major industrial conglomerate can be traced back to 1886. It was the holding company of GEC Computers, which started life as Elliott Automation in 1950. The first computer, the Elliott 152, appeared that year. GEC computer production peaked during the 1980s but contracted quickly during the 1990s and production was stopped before the end of that decade.⁽¹⁰⁾

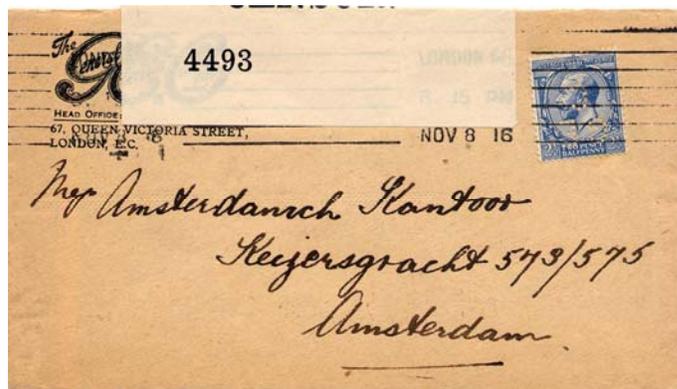


Figure 10

General Electric Corporation perfins (Great Britain).

Topical Collection with Holes (cont.)

Harvard University: The Harvard Mark I computer was conceived by Dr. Howard Aiken of Harvard. It was one of the earliest machines that could perform long calculations automatically.⁽¹¹⁾

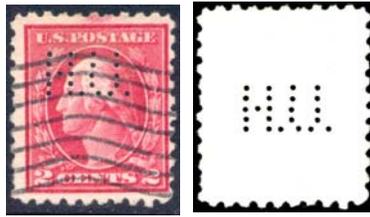


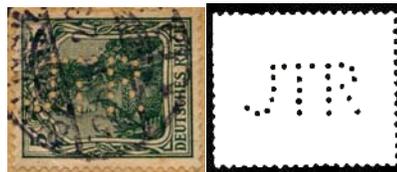
Figure 11
Harvard University (United States).

International Business Machines (IBM): For years the word computer was synonymous with IBM. Its perfin design is a little different, in that it consists of a “B” and an “M,” with a large “I” in the middle. As a result, perfin catalogs list it under “B” instead of “I.” [Figure 12 at bottom of this page.]

International Time Recording Co.: In 1911, the Computing-Tabulating-Recording Company (CTR) was founded through a merger of four



Figure 13
International Time Recording Co. (Germany).



companies: the Tabulating Machine Company, the International Time Recording Company, the Computing Scale Corporation and the Bundy Manufacturing Company.⁽¹²⁾ In 1924 CTR changed its name to IBM.

Note: The perfin reads “JTR” standing for International Time Recording Co. During the time of this perfin the letters J and I were often used interchangeably.

Footnotes:

1. *Linn's World Stamp Almanac*, Millennium Edition, 2000, Sidney, Ohio, page 720.
2. Endicott, Steve, “Re: Computer perfins,” email to Larry Dodson, Aug. 17, 2011.
3. Sutton, J.R., *The Stamp Collector's Encyclopedia*, New York, N.Y., 1966, page 246.
4. Oldfield, Homer R., *King of the Seven Dwarfs, General Electric's Ambiguous Challenge to the Computer Industry*, Los Alamitos, Calif., 1996, pages vi-vii.
5. Vegter, Wobbe, “Cyber Heroes of the Past: Thomas John Watson, Jr.,” wvegter.hivemind.net
6. “Slide Rule,” Wikipedia, www.wikipedia.org
7. “Bell Labs,” Wikipedia, www.wikipedia.org
8. “Canadian General Electric,” Wikipedia, www.wikipedia.org
9. Oldfield, Homer R., op. cit., page 11.
10. “General Electric Company plc,” Wikipedia, www.wikipedia.org
11. “Harvard Mark I,” Wikipedia, www.wikipedia.org
12. “IBM,” Wikipedia, www.wikipedia.org

[Editor’s Note: As noted on page 84, the second part of this article will be published in the September/October 2013 *Bulletin*.]

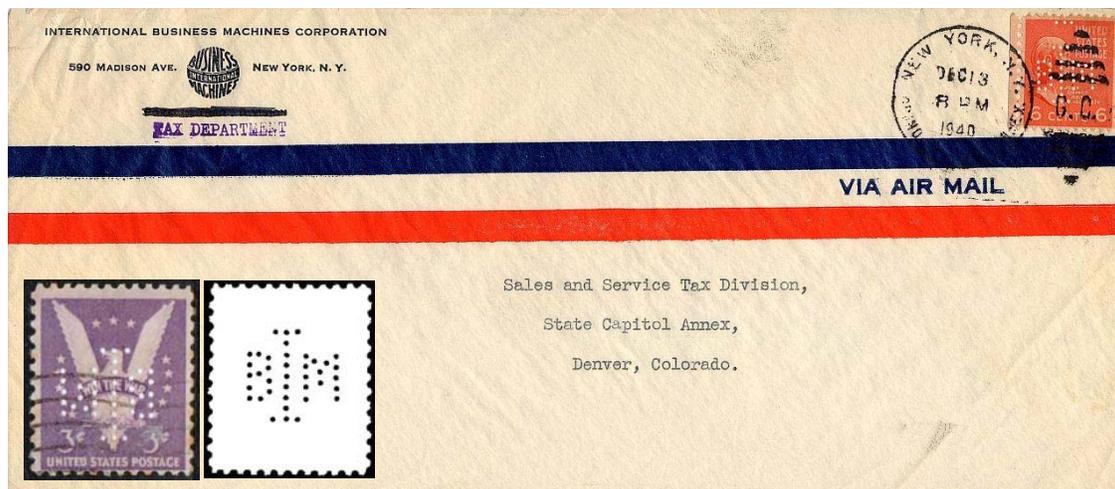


Figure 12
IBM (United States).

Secretary's Report

Ken Rehfeld (#3394)

New Members:

#4039 Michael Bullied
12 Monterey Drive
Hazlet, NJ 07730-2144
m.bullied@verizon.net
Beginner, USA
fellow collectors

#4040 Hugo Bernaers
Pastoor Eykenslaan 12
Lint B-2547
Belgium
hugo.bernaers@milcobel.com
Advanced, Topic Cinema
Steve Endicott

#4041 Lewis Stewart
4729 Idaho Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63111-1445
genestamps@charter.net
Beginner
local members

#4042 Scot Kamins
4210 SE Pine Street
Portland, OR 97215-1045
Beginner, U.S.
kamins@modernlib.com
Web

#4043 Thomas Tillapaugh
6 Tilton Avenue
Oneonta, NY 13820-2628
Beginner, U.S.
tillapaw@stny.rr.com
Web

#4044 Pat Norman
P.O. Box 9128
Brooks, OR 97305-0128
Advanced, U.S.
thebookbeetle@gmail.com
Web

#4045 James Felton
414 North Washington Street
Tiffin, OH 44883-1363
Beginner, U.S. & Canada
Web

#4046 Chuck Cummings
77 5th Avenue SW
Etna, OH 43062-8469
cummc1942@aol.com
Beginner, U.S.
Terry Rowe

#4047 Norman Alan Cohen
P.O. Box 29543
Dallas, TX 29543-0543
normanacohen@gmail.com
U.S. Q1 - Q12, Parcel Post
Web

Welcome Back:

#2989 Dave Larkey
P.O. Box 93
Guide Rock, NE 68942-0093
diaspar3@aol.com
Intermediate, Argentina

#469 Chester VanWhy
333 W Main Street
Searsport, ME 04974-3505
cvanwhy@roadrunner.com
Intermediate, Canada, Germany

Address Change:

LM#114 Francis Adams
6006 Portobelo Court
San Diego, CA 92142-1114

LM#42 Neilen Boatwright
1681 Milford Creek Overlook SW
Marietta, GA 30008-8108

#4000 Richard Brown
200 Emerald Avenue Apt 58
Lake Wales, FL 33853-4613

#3951 Kerry Bryant
P.O. Box 5104, Station B
Victoria, BC V8R 6N3
CANADA

LM#82 Ray Coughlin
6324 Canyon Circle
Fort Worth, TX 76133-4412

#4012 John Mahoney (eff. 7/15/2013)
650 E Greenwich Avenue Unit 405
Building 2
West Warnick, RI 02893-2367

#3549 George Shaw
3925 Collis Oak Court
Fairfax, VA 22033-2476

New Life Member:

LM#3589 Ken Masters

Closed Album:

#3398 Richard Butts, Sr
#2304 John Harting

Secretary's Report (cont.)

Resigned:

#3862 Walter Barankiewicz
 #766 David Bize, Jr
 #3603 William Malloy
 #2774 Glenn Mallory
 #3917 Kenny McKean

#3978 Hugh Merritt
 #3944 Edward John Ptak
 #2670 Ken Sultana
 #815 Leo Walasinski

Membership **487**

Remember your Club Dues are payable by June 30 of each year to the Secretary.

Yes, it is that time of year again! Please look at your mailing address on this *Bulletin*. If the date above your name is 6/30/2013, then you need to renew.

> PLEASE MAKE THE CHECK OUT TO "THE PERFIN CLUB" < Do not make the check payable to the Ken Rehfeld. Then send it to Ken Rehfeld, P.O.

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Annual Dues	US\$15	US\$18	US\$25
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Member Want Ads

WANTED: U.S. Defense Issue Perfins (Scott #899, 900, and 901). Bring your extras to the Convention. I am buying what I need. **Contact:** Francis Stunzi, 37 Smith Street, Rouses Point, NY 12979-1602; email: fastunzi@primelink1.net

WANTED: Argentine stamps and cover with perfin "EL" from Electrolux, Buenos Aires. **Contact:** Stellan Swenson, Odonbärsvägen 32, SE-293 41 OLOFSTRÖM, SWEDEN.

Want ads are published for members on a space-available basis at the following rates: one insertion - 10 cents per word; three consecutive insertions of the same ad - 20 cents per word. **Members are entitled to one free ad per year.** Neither the Perfins Club nor the Editor accepts responsibility for the validity of the ads. Payment for the ads should be sent to the Editor or by PayPal to perfin@charter.net with prior notification to the Treasurer and Editor.

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A Request & A Correction

Ken Masters (LM#3589)

The Request:

Joe Giampietro (#2968), Club Auction Manager, advises that he is very low on available inventory for future Club Auctions. So, when you have a few minutes, please look through your duplicates and send him any C+ rated or higher U.S. perfins or interesting foreign ones that you would like to turn in to cash. Remember, for each U.S. perfin that you send Joe, it is your responsibility to identify it by its current Catalog Pattern Number and rating, and the stamp's Scott number. See either page 70 or 90 for Joe's contact information.

The Correction:

I recently received an email from Club member Ian Longley (#3382) very gently pointing out a typo in the 2012 Financial Report that was printed on page 41 of the March/April 2013 *Bulletin* [67:41]. The bottom line in the right hand column of this Report should read: "Increase in Assets in 2012," not "2010." Thanks, Ian, for advising us of this error. I really appreciate your input.



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PLEASE RETURN BY JULY 1, 2013

Name(s) as desired on badge:

Name _____ City & State _____

Name _____ City & State _____

PSS or Perfin Club Member Convention Registration Fee: _____ @ \$5.00 = \$ _____

(Please circle your affiliation in the line above)

Non-Member Convention Registration Fee: _____ @ \$7.00 = \$ _____

Thursday, August 22, PSS Convention Photo: _____ @ \$10.00 = \$ _____

Perfins Club Photo: _____ @ \$10.00 = \$ _____

Saturday Evening August 24, Convention Banquet _____ @ \$35.00 = \$ _____

Circle Your Choice: Roast Sirloin of Beef Chicken Picatta Special Diet Request (If Available)

(Salad, beverage and chef's choice vegetables included)

BOOSTER BUCKS: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED FOR REGISTRATION, PHOTOS, BANQUET, ETC.

(MAKE CHECKS TO: TENNESSEE PRECANCEL CLUB) total _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Email: _____ Cell Phone Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Number coming to Dessert Welcome Reception Tuesday Aug. 20 at 8:00 pm _____

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1-800-872-2529 (ask to be connected to the Choo Registration desk). Mention our

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Visitor information will be available at the registration desk!

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Periodicals

Periodicals

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If the date over your name above is 6/30/2013, please renew now.
 See Secretary's Report (p. 89) for Details

Prices Realized Perfins Club Auction #131 - April 30, 2013

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Price</u>										
1	13.50	18	4.25	35	NB	51	22.75	67	4.00	83	NB
2	5.25	19	4.00	36	6.00	52	4.25	68	4.25	84	NB
3	14.00	20	NB	37	4.25	53	NB	69	NB	85	5.00
4	3.50	21	5.50	38	3.75	54	4.25	70	22.50	86	5.00
5	4.25	22	4.00	39	4.25	55	4.00	71	4.25	87	9.00
6	5.50	23	NB	40	4.25	56	5.00	72	5.00	88	32.00
7	4.00	24	NB	41	4.25	57	5.50	73	4.25	89	5.00
8	4.25	25	4.00	42	3.75	58	NB	74	5.00	90	9.00
9	4.00	26	4.00	43	NB	59	3.75	75	3.75	91	8.00
10	4.25	27	4.25	44	4.25	60	37.25	76	3.75	92	5.00
11	4.25	28	NB	45	4.00	61	13.50	77	NB	93	10.50
12	4.25	29	4.00	46	5.50	62	5.50	78	NB	94	8.50
13	4.25	30	4.25	47	4.25	63	5.00	79	NB	95	NB
14	5.50	31	3.75	48	21.75	64	NB	80	12.00	96	10.00
15	5.50	32	5.50	49	4.25	65	4.25	81	NB	97	44.44
16	3.75	33	5.50	50	6.00	66	4.25	82	NB	98	NB
17	4.00	34	NB								

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