



El Boletín

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Newsletter of the Albuquerque Precancel Club



President's Message

Greetings to all Albuquerque Precancel Club members! We are off and running, and I'm happy to report that we have a new member, Rod Watts of Rocklin, CA. Welcome Rod!!

At our last few meetings, in addition to the normal club business, we have had presentations on 1960 - 69 Precanceled stationery, foreign precancels, and Washington Franklin precancels. As part of every meeting, you are encouraged to bring in any unidentified precancels, and we will all help to identify them. We are also preparing an exhibit on precancels for the New Mexico State Fair in September, and will be working on it for the next couple of months. Thanks for being a member of APC, see you at the next meeting on 8/2.

— Loren

About our new club

The Albuquerque Precancel Club began formation in mid-2022 as the result of a small group of dedicated New Mexico philatelists interested in precancel collecting. After several monthly meetings we applied for, and have been accepted as, a local section of the Precancel Stamp Society. We are still a small group and most of our members are interested in U.S. precancels. However, we welcome all philatelists interested in any aspect of precancel collecting. We hold regular monthly meetings in the Albuquerque area. If you received this newsletter as a prospective member or through a friend, we invite you to join us. For meeting times and places, or further information, please see the last page.

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Featured Precancel



This issue's featured precancel is also a Plate Number Block (PNB) from the 1938 Presidential ("Prexie") series, Scott #804. It is an upper left PNB with a Bureau plate type 71, a so-called "narrow-line" type. The plate number indicates that this block was part of a sheet prepared after the introduction of electronic control of perforations, which can also be inferred from the close spacing of the plate number at the left of the vertical perf line. It was issued for St. Louis, and is a mint copy.

(references: *PSS Style Guide for Bureaus*; *Durland Standard Plate Number catalog*, 2016 edition.)

Truth or Consequences, New Mexico

by *Loren Neuharth*

It's rare that a town changes its name, but that's exactly what happened in southwestern New Mexico in 1950.

The town of Hot Springs (precancel 719 - \$15.00) was settled during the construction of nearby Elephant Butte Dam and Reservoir, which was completed in 1916. The area around Hot Springs contained hot pools and spas, which attracted tourists starting in the late 1800's. Hot Springs was incorporated in 1916 and became the county seat of Sierra County in 1937.

At the beginning of March 1950, Ralph Edwards, who hosted the very successful radio show, *Truth or Consequences*, was looking for a way to celebrate the show's 10th anniversary. He came up with the idea that if a town would change its name to *Truth or Consequences*, he would broadcast the show from that town.

A special Hot Springs city election was held on March 31, 1950, and the name change passed with 81% of the vote. Several subsequent efforts were made in the 50's and 60's to revert back to the original name, but they were all defeated. So, *Truth or Consequences, New Mexico* (precancels 707 and 855 - both \$.20) was born.

The town held a Fiesta to celebrate the initial broadcast in 1950, and it continues to this day.

see Fig. 1, next page

Figure 1. Illustration for “Truth or Consequences” article (above)



Foreign Precancels — Starting Out

by *Timothy Howard*

Some of you may have wondered, as I did when I got started in this, whether any other countries besides the USA ever used precancels? The answer is of course, yes, as most of you probably know already. As it turns out, there can be a lot to study with foreign precancels. This article will attempt an introduction to the subject, with more details to follow in succeeding issues.

First, as to literature, catalogs and research sources. A simple web search will turn up a number of links to sites documenting foreign precancel usage. Wikipedia, for example, gives a useful but cursory view of the topic, and lists Canada, France, Monaco, and the U.N. among postal administrations that have used precancels, and shows a few illustrations, including for Algeria, Belgium, and the U.S. Canal Zone. BUT WAIT! (as they say on TV), THERE’S MORE! Indeed there is, and if you thought of checking the PSS website for info you would find that they list a number of foreign precancel catalogs that have been published over the years, and that there is even a *PSS International Precancel Catalog* (published 2005) available for purchase. This latter publication covers “all countries except the U.S. and Canada” and is a useful addition to your library if you intend to collect any foreign precancels.

However, for those of you who also have general collections of other countries, you may find that specialized catalogs for some of those countries also list precancels. The following catalogs list, or at least mention, precancels for their respective countries:

Country	Catalog
France	<i>Yvert & Tellier</i> (Y&T) France specialized
Algeria, Tunisia	Y&T catalog for French Colonies
Monaco	Y&T catalog for Monaco and French overseas territories
Belgium	“C.O.B.” catalog for Belgium
Luxembourg	Michel catalog for Luxembourg
Canada	Unitrade catalog for Canada; also, the <i>Standard Canada Precancel Catalog</i> , which has much more information

In general, I’d recommend you start with the *PSS International Precancel Catalog*, and then search through country specialized catalogs, where you have them already. The PSS has much more detailed information in almost all cases, but the individual country catalogs (at least the relatively recent editions) usually have color illustrations, often with better resolution, which is a big help.

The figure below shows examples of precancels from some of these countries. These are all relatively easy to find. I’ll be talking about each of these countries in turn in succeeding installments of this article. For now, besides the above-listed references and the (U.S.) PSS website, I’d recommend having a look at the PSS of Great Britain site, which has lots of useful info. You might wish to start with the illustrated glossary, which you can find at <http://www.pssgb.org.uk/glossary.html>. There are links in the side navigation bar which take you to other parts of their site. It isn’t clear that this site is still being updated regularly, but the information there is still useful.

— to be continued —



Figure 2. Foreign Precancels, left to right: France (2 examples); Netherlands; Luxembourg; Belgium; Canada.

Meeting Notes

Here is some info on recent club meetings. Most of our meetings begin with a short business segment, where we address administrative and organizational issues, then move on quickly to collecting topics. At recent meetings we have had presentations and discussions of the following: Basic identification for Bureaus vs. Locals; Precanceled U.S. Postal Envelopes and Postal Cards; Collecting Bureaus by state; Foreign precancels (also see the article in this issue); Precancels with perfins.

Our next meeting will be Wed., 8/2 at the Erna Fergusson Library at 6pm. Beginning with our September 7th meeting, we will meet from 7 - 8:30 pm at the Bear Canyon Senior Center, 4645 Pitt St. NE, Albuquerque.

New Mexico State Fair Display

The club for the first time will be sponsoring 4 different stamp related displays for the New Mexico State Fair in Albuquerque, New Mexico. These displays will be on display for the entire time of the State Fair (September 7 to September 17, 2023).

The displays are as follows:

1st display; Precancels: (in general, what are they, along with some examples and short definitions). Thanks to Tim Howard, Loren Neuharth and Tom Stone for their inputs to this club display.

2nd display; New Mexico: U.S. postal items issued only in the state. Items that were First Day of Issue between 1940 and 2023 (postage stamps, aerogrammes, and postal cards).

3rd and 4th display; Are general stamp related areas that show a very wide range of stamp collecting (postage stamps, postal cards, stamped envelopes, Official mail, postal announcements, and postal history).

See you at the Fair!

Call for Articles

We'd like to feature articles from our members in future editions of *El Boletín*. Articles can focus on unusual precancels, tips for collectors, specialty collecting areas, and illustrated submissions of "oddities" that need further identification or clarification. Also, commentary on anything you read in this newsletter is welcome.

In general, short articles of 100 - 300 words with one or more illustrations are ideal. Please email short articles and news to the editor, or you may send a brief proposal or request publication guidelines. Longer articles are also welcome, but query the editor before submitting.

Members' ads

New to Hobby, LOOKING for precanceled embossed envelopes, clean with no return address, unused. Precanceled from Washington DC, all sizes of envelopes with and without window.

Contact Tom Stone APC#002 at sansui1099@gmail.com.

Looking for Town and Type from Cordova, Germantown, Millington, and Raleigh Tenn.

Contact Tom Stone APC#002 at sansui1099@gmail.com.

Washington-Franklins For Sale

7c San Francisco L-1 p12 DN 5.00 20c Decatur (c17) L-2 p12. 15.00

1c due Cedar Rapids 207 p10. 7.50 1c Detroit L-1 p12 (1912) DBL. 1.50

8c Columbus 212 p11 DBL INV 1.00 15C PPost Philadelphia L-3. 3.00

13c. Beaver Dam 219 p11. 1.50

Contact Loren Neuharth, lorenneu@aol.com

Looking for USPOD Bulletin on the "Palace of Governors" with sheet and or coil precancel affixed to it.

Contact Tom Stone APC#002 at sansui1099@gmail.com.

The Albuquerque Precancel Club is seeking donations of material and supplies. Please contact any of the officers below.

Individual members of the APC may submit brief (1-to-3 line) ads for items wanted or for sale. Please include your contact info (email preferred).

El Boletín is published quarterly in April, July, October, and January, and is distributed electronically to APC members as a PDF file. Submissions are welcomed, including brief letters, detailed articles, and reports of significant news events relevant to precancel collectors.

Meeting and Contact Info

The Albuquerque Precancel Club meets monthly, on the first Wednesday evening of the month; see "Meeting Notes" for location and time updates. Visitors are always welcome. For further info, please contact an officer:

President: Loren Neuharth lorenneu@aol.com

Secretary: Timothy Howard thnphil@outlook.com

Treasurer: Tom Stone sansui1099@gmail.com