

The Cover Story

National Parks, 1934 and Beyond by The Editor

Part II of IV

The three cent value of the series which was released on August 2, 1934, depicts Mount Rainier. It comes in a number of different formats – some because of James Farley and others because of the production of the souvenir sheet [Figure 1, on front cover]. This value mirrors in many ways the one cent value for diversity of material. The deep violet stamp was produced as a souvenir sheet, a sheet stamp and as an imperforate. Figure 2 is of the sheet stamp version. The vertical and horizontal cross gutter pairs Figure 3 & 4 on the front cover are significant because they show the wording



Figure 2

from the souvenir sheet as proof of the origin. Visually interesting – yes! In 2004 I spent a night in Paradise which is a tiny town located on the south slope (5,400 feet above sea level) of Mt. Rainier. The experience was beyond compare. The scenery from this very simple hotel was spectacular.

Figure 5



The final format is of course the Farley's which can be found in many different configurations – Figure 5 shows imperforate issue as a crossed gutter block of four. On a scale of 1-10, I would give this issue a 7 for capturing the spirit of the subject. I have often mused that the

Figure 6

color should have been deep black to better define the image.



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The four cent value was released on September 25, 1934 in the color of brown [Figure 6]. This subject works beautifully with this color. I visited Mesa Verde in 1993 and just about the only color you see there is brown. After spending about 6 hours walking around I felt like a desiccated bag of bones. Take water – lots of it – if you want to survive! These cliff dwellings are truly a must see if you have any interest in early North American civilizations. Like the previous values this one also comes in all the Farley configurations. Simply because I find the crossed gutter blocks of four attractive – here is the four cent value Figure 7.

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Figure 7



Figure 8

In many ways the five cent value, issued on July 30, 1934 in the color of blue is simply my



favorite [Figure 8]. I have had the incredible good fortune to visit this outstanding park in 1978, 1993, 1996 and 2001. No matter how many times one goes to Yellowstone there is always something new – or old to see. The character of the park is always changing as thermals ebb and flow. One can't put into words the wonders of the park. The experience of spending a night in the Old Faithful Inn [Figure 11], just steps away from the famous geyser is a life experience everyone should have on their bucket list. I feel bad spilling the beans early in the series, but Yellowstone is simply my favorite of the parks. The blue stamp from

the 1934 series and the issue from 1972 [Figure 9] work perfectly with the subject matter. The Farley issue with crossed gutters [Figure 10] is another example of what is available.



Figure 9

On a related issue since what we see as Yellowstone National Park is actually the remains of a collapsed caldera, I would highly recommend that you have your life insurance paid up. Just recently I heard an NPR piece on Yellowstone and chuckled when a geologist made the statement: "Visit Yellowstone, before it visits you."

One of the best parts of a trip to Yellowstone is grabbing a cup of coffee or a glass of wine and sitting out on the second floor patio that extends over the front entrance of the Inn that affords a perfect vantage point to watch Old Faithful erupt. If you are able to do this at night, bundle up -- as the nights even in July can be very cold, and enjoy the view of a thermal wonderland. To be continued.....



Figure 10

Look for the additional parts of this series:

- Part I, August 2016
- Part III, October 2016
- Part IV, November/December 2016

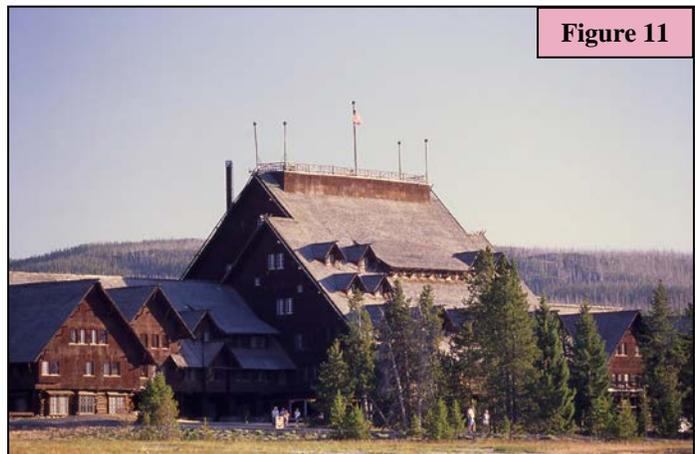


Figure 11