

Michigan state perfins pose challenge to collectors

By Douglas Cutler (#126L)

I have noticed that the State of Michigan is using a new perfin pattern. It is an "M" all alone with no circle or serifs. The reason it is different than the one before is that it is only 4 holes high rather than 5 holes high.

The weird thing is that the State of Michigan appears to be using four of its patterns at the same time, unless they are just using up old perfined stock.

At this time the State of Michigan is using or has used the following patterns.

- 5-hole-high M, in full-circle with serifs on "M" (in its fourth repair and returned to its original appearance).
- 5-hole-high M, in partial full-circle (missing every other hole) with serifs on "M" (no longer in use).
- 5-hole-high M, all alone with serifs on M (no longer in use).
- 5-hole-high M, all alone with no serifs on M.
- Large S, all alone.
- 4-hole-high M, all alone.

I do not know which patterns are partials of which others and I have not examined enough patterns to know which catalog numbers go with which patterns as of yet.

I know that the State of Michigan had com-



Several members have questioned recent changes in the perfin(s) of the State of Michigan (U.S. catalog #s M1, M1A, M1.5, M8.7, M9, M9.7, M10.5, M10.6, and S7.5). Doug Cutler, a former U.S. catalog editor, has done some research into the subject. If you can add to the information here, let Doug or the editor know.

missioned Allison Manufacturing (Cummins) to make a new perforator, but I did not know that it had been put into use.

Here is what I "KNOW" so far;

- The 5-hole-high M in full-circle with serifs on the M, comes from a 20 pattern diehead in a 2x10 format. This is the original perforator. It has been repaired many times, and has now been returned to its original full pattern.

- The 5-hole-high M in partial full-circle with serifs on the M comes from a repaired 20 pattern diehead in a 2x10 format. This is the above diehead repaired. Some serifs are reversed in the repair job.

- The 5-hole-high M—all alone with serifs on the M—comes from a 20 pattern diehead in a 2x10 format. This is again the above diehead repaired. Partial patterns of this diehead appear in the above two repairs and some, but not all, serifs do come up missing.

- The 5-hole-high M all alone with no serifs on M comes from a 15 pattern diehead in a 3x5 format.

This is a new perforator. The late Bill Allen was never able to

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