

## Small Categories Series

### Coal Companies

You might be surprised to learn that Coal Companies are actually a fairly popular category with a number of collectors. Why would anyone be interested in this somewhat offbeat category? I can think of three reasons right off the bat.

First, there may be those collectors who have personal associations with coal or the coal industry [*ah, those fond memories of the ol' coal bin back home!*]. So, Coal covers may have a special meaning to some.

Second, the majority of these covers, as you might expect, are older issues, which in and of itself would be enough to attract some collectors.

Third, although you can't really tell from the reproductions here, many of the Coal Company covers have very nice art work and are simply attractive covers. Also, there are some lengthy series here, and they will attract the sets and series collectors.

You won't see modern Coal Company covers around, and that limits you to finding the older covers, which, in turn, means you have to contact established collectors who have the older covers...or else go out into the community and offer to buy accumulations (but you'd have to do that in the East—coal country).

Larry Bell, CAN had 2,231 Coal Company covers back in 1990. [*Covers courtesy of Loren Moore, CA*]

