

Federal Talls

I prefer the use of ‘XL’ rather than ‘Tall’, but the latter is the term traditionally used within the hobby for those older covers that are longer (app. 4 7/8”) than what we now consider normal. On the other hand, the Talls *were* the norm for the very older covers. They eventually disappeared with the advent of vending machines in the late 1930s. The latter required a slightly shorter cover (for some reason).

Characteristically, Talls also usually come with the recognizably wider strikers. All the early manufacturers issued Talls—Diamond, Universal, Star, Atlas, Columbia, and so on...and, of course, Federal. The Federal Talls were issued from c. 1923 - c. 1939. The Federal listing lists Federal Talls dated from 1932-1939, so the 1923 date, here, is a guess on my part. That’s when Federal started, and all the major companies were issuing Talls during that era, so I’m assuming that Federal must have been issuing Talls in the 1920s, as well.

I always like Talls from any manufacturer. A Tall cover means you’re looking at an old cover, and, when you’re looking at a Tall and a regular from the same company, you know you’re looking at an older cover in comparison...and *old* is g-o-o-d!

And, as you might expect, it’s the older covers that tend to have the best artwork, and with Federal Talls it’s no exception. That’s another plus. It’s been my experience, as well, that the Federal Talls don’t suffer as much from the striker corrosion so often seen, for example, on older Diamond covers.

Yep! They’re nice!...Which is why I’m always looking!



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