



The Maine Philatelist

Vol. 28, No. 3

January 1996

Whole No. 102

Maine "Old Home Week" seals are seldom found

By Terence Hines

The idea of Old Home Week was first proposed in 1896 or 1897 by New Hampshire Governor Frank Rollins. The idea was to attract former state residents who had moved West back to their hometowns for a week during the summer. Ideally, they would purchase their "old home place" or otherwise aid the local economy.

The first Old Home Week was held statewide in New Hampshire from August 26 to September 1, 1899. Among other things, the celebration saw a string of nighttime bonfires lit on the top of New Hampshire's highest peaks. This chain of fire ran from one end of the state to the other and must have been an inspiring sight. The first Old Home Week also saw the issuance of commemorative seals. These were rather plain and showed a map of the state. Only a few varieties are known.

The next year, in 1900, Maine celebrated its own Old Home Week from August 6 through 13. Seals were issued for this celebration as well, but they were far from plain. Illustrated here is one of those seals from 1900. All had the same attractive design showing a central pine cone and a hunting and fishing scene. What is most unusual about these seals is the number of different color varieties that are known. The seals were printed on at least eight different paper colors (blue, salmon, bright pink, light blue green, yellow, deep yellow,

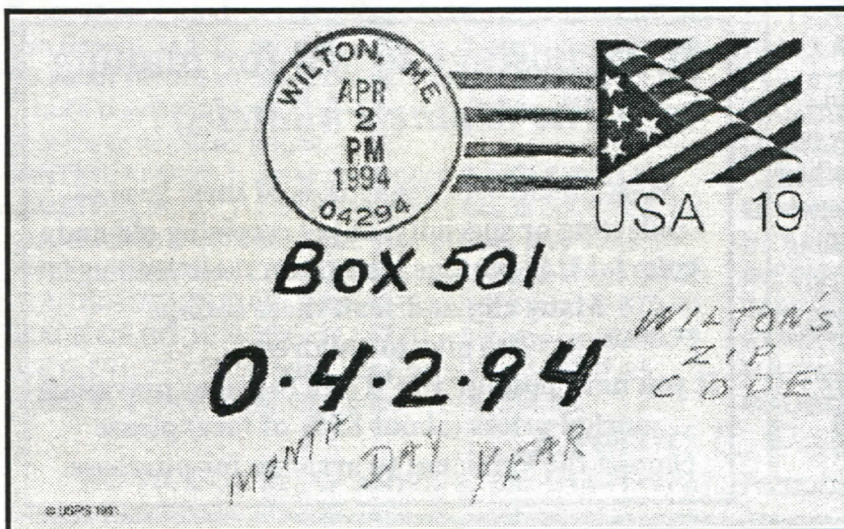
lilac and white).

The central pine cone was printed in at least eight different colors (black, red-brown, green, light blue, purple, brown, gold and red). Finally, the background design is known in at least seven different colors (blue, green, red-brown, purple, light blue, black and brown). Thus, it is possible that there are 448 different color combinations. I very much doubt that all of these were, in fact, produced. But there definitely were a lot of combinations produced. I have 51 different and certainly more must exist. I will be happy to send any interested reader a list of the specific combinations I have.



Maine's "Old Home Week" seal, shown at 150% of original size.

The stamps themselves were perforated 12 (except for at *Continued on page 6*)



Now that's interesting!

Member Harold Karkos of Wilton has an eye for the unusual. Here's a postcard with a Wilton CDS dated April 2, 1994. It just so happened the date numerically matched Wilton's Zip Code. So, he prepared this card. You have to admit it's different and that's what philately is all about! Do you have "unusual" or "different" postal items we could illustrate?

The Maine Philatelist is published quarterly by the Maine Philatelic Society, Inc.

The purpose of the Society, a non-profit Maine corporation, is to promote philately in the Pine Tree State. Membership is open to anyone. Membership applications are available from the Secretary, listed below. Dues are \$5 per year.

A Life Membership is also available.
Contact the Secretary for details.

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HC 76, Box 32
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(207) 695-3163 (Voice and Fax)

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PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

The Maine Philatelist is distributed to members in January, April, July and October of each year. Below is a list of deadlines for each issue and the anticipated mailing date. While deadline for copy (articles) is firm, the anticipated mailing date is just that -- a "best guess" of mailing.

ISSUE COVER DATE	DEADLINE FOR COPY	JOURNAL TO PRINTER	ANTICIPATED MAILING DATE
January	Dec. 15	Dec. 30	Jan. 15
April	March 15	March 30	April 15
July	June 15	June 30	July 15
October	Sept. 15	Sept. 30	Oct. 15

MUDPEX '96 scheduled for May 4 at Fairfield

By David Muzzy

Member, Board of Directors

The Maine Philatelic Society has set Saturday, May 4 as the date for the annual spring stamp auction and dealers' bourse. Since its inception in 1982, MUDPEX has been one of the more popular of stamp collectors' gatherings in Maine.

Approximately 20 stamp dealers from Northeast U.S. and Eastern Canada will be on hand to help collectors fill album spaces. Some dealers are always ready to buy as well as sell and collectors may dispose of their duplicates.

For the first time in several years, there will be an exhibition of stamps at the show. A "MUDPEX CHALLENGE" has been created, wherein the several stamp clubs in the state may compete with each other for the "Mudpex Challenge" cup. This will be a perpetual award, presented annually to a stamp club for the best display as determined by a vote of people attending MUDPEX. Should a stamp club win the award for three consecutive years, it will be retired and the winning club will retain permanent possession of it.

A souvenir cover with a specially designed cachet will be available for sale. Collectors of show covers will not want to miss this latest effort by MPS member Jim Foote. The design will be announced in the next issue of *The Maine Philatelist*.

The most popular activity at MUDPEX '96 will be the board auction. Approximately 1,500 lots are anticipated to be entered. Anyone wishing to enter lots should contact Richard Williams, 20 Ridge Road, Waterville, ME 04901-4121 for auction sheets. Because of the numbering process of lots entered into auction, sheets from previous auctions will not be accepted.

Admission is FREE; collectors and non-collectors alike are most welcome to attend MUDPEX '96. Light refreshments will be available. For further information, contact David Muzzy, 455 Duck Pond Road, Westbrook, ME 04092-2509.

Have postage to sell for mailing *The Maine Philatelist?*

Most philatelists, regardless of their level of collecting or specialty, enjoy receiving old and colorful U.S. postage stamps on their mailings.

Many clip and soak these stamps to give to children.

If you have postage you'd like to sell at prevailing market prices (about 85% of face) please contact the President to arrange for purchase.

Maine Postmarks and Postal History

*Many areas of collecting
in the Pine Tree state*

By Thurlow Pitts

In 1930, at age 11, I started a stamp collection. I was as green as grass about even the basics of the hobby. Example: not knowing how to remove stamps from envelopes by soaking, I carefully trimmed each item, including envelope paper beneath, removing perforations in the process, down to design frame lines! The disabled remnants were firmly pasted down on notebook pages. Fortunately, the most valuable stamp destroyed was a two-cent "Liberty Bell" of 1926.

I soon learned what should be done and put that knowledge into practice. By 1992 I had produced a very representative U.S. collection including most major varieties of postal issues; complete commemoratives, all mint except for a couple of Panama-Pacifc; airmails complete mint; a big accumulation of covers. Also, I quit U.S. collecting forever -- disgusted by the overt commercialism of our hobby by the U.S. Postal Service and many frivolous issues.

What now, if anything? Happily, my later interest in covers suggested delving further into postal history, particularly the rich postal history of Maine. My enthusiasm increased after the widow of a collector friend gave me his original edition of Sterling Dow's *Maine Postal History and Postmarks*. (An expanded edition was produced a few years ago

by Quarterman Publications, Inc. of Lawrence, Massachusetts).

Even Maine is too big a field, I soon decided, choosing my home region of Hancock County for concentration. Some in this field have become even more localized. Arnold Krommenohl, who lives on Mount Desert Island, has been hard at work on a fine showing of postmarks of Island post offices, many long discontinued. Some markings are extremely rare.

In the nearby town of Hancock there was a post office operating under name of "South Hancock." Its original name was "Crabtree's Point." That postmark hardly wore out one pad of ink. It was in use only from March 8 to May 2, 1870. I'll bet there are more \$5 Columbians around than covers with that cancellation! If anyone has one, let me know.

I strongly urge anyone interested to collect postmarks on complete covers. Enclosed letters can only add to interest. Scenic view postcards with rare discontinued post office (DPO) markings, particularly from summer resort centers in early 20th Century Maine, can still be found dirt cheap at many flea markets and yard sales. Check that out.

Continued on page 6

Your Maine connection for collections, lots, accumulations!

I've been a stamp dealer for a quarter century (celebrating my Silver Anniversary in 1995).

During that time, I've sold thousands of collections, job lots, stocks and accumulations.

And I'd like to include YOU in my list of clients!

**MOST OF MY STOCK IS PRICED BETWEEN 25% AND 35% OF CURRENT SCOTT'S RETAIL!
AT PRICES LIKE THESE, YOU CAN'T GO WRONG!**

Here's a sampling from a private collection I'm breaking down. It's all **Great Britain and British Commonwealth PRE-1960!** This is the good stuff with many complete sets and stamps valued up to \$100 and more in many lots. *These stamps are all on blank Scott's Specialized pages. This is only a sample. Call or write for lists, other specials.*

GREAT BRITAIN: A beautiful run of early, mint and used, from #1 on. Includes dues, offices in Morocco, China, Turkish Empire, M.E.D. and many others. A gem of a collection to about 1960. \$10,638.38 retail, your price is only \$3,191. That's only 30% of retail for a beautiful collection on blank Scott's Specialized pages.

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AUSTRALIA: \$2,117.21 retail, your price is only \$635.10.

BAHAMAS: \$1,078.02 retail, your price is only \$269.50.

BRITISH GUIANA: \$783.63 retail, your price is only \$196.95

BRITISH HONDURAS: \$300.40 retail, your price is \$75.00.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE: \$1,587.01 retail, you pay \$396.75.

CEYLON: \$1,469.05 retail, your price is only \$367.25.

CRETE: \$48.00 retail, your price is only \$14.40.

DOMINICA: \$599.16 retail, your price is only \$179.95.

EGYPT: \$91.91 retail, your price is only \$27.57.

FALKLAND ISLANDS: \$1,250.88 retail, your price is \$437.80.

FIJI: \$789.13 retail, your price is only \$236.75.

GAMBIA: \$275.61 retail, your price is only \$82.65.

GIBRALTAR: \$791.08 retail, your price is only \$276.88.

GILBERT & ELLICE IS.: \$376.41 retail, you pay \$131.75.

GRENADA: \$598.67 retail, your price is only \$149.95.

INDIA & STATES: \$2,450.30 retail, you pay only \$735.00

IRELAND: \$715.53 retail, you pay only \$178.95.

JAMAICA: \$798.29 retail, your price is only \$239.50.

KUWAIT: \$370.46 retail, your price is only \$129.66.

MALTA: \$1,015.25 retail, your price is only \$304.50.

MAURITIUS: \$680.96 retail, your price is only \$204.25.

Everett L. Parker

HC 76, Box 32, Greenville, ME 04441-9727. Telephone (207) 695-3163 (phone and fax)

My Favorite Cover

First day cover of 1981 Maine stamp yields a "find" for collector

By E. David Muzzy
Member, Board of Directors

In April of 1981 the United States Postal Service issued a set of "flag stamps" which are referred to as the "Flag and Anthem Issue." Three different designs showing the United States flag in the top half and an illustration relating to a line from the song "America" in the bottom half were issued in 18-cent value but in different format. The words "for amber waves of grain" appeared on the 100-stamp pane along with an illustration showing wheat being harvested. "For purple mountains majesty" appeared on the booklet pane format, the illustration showing western mountains.

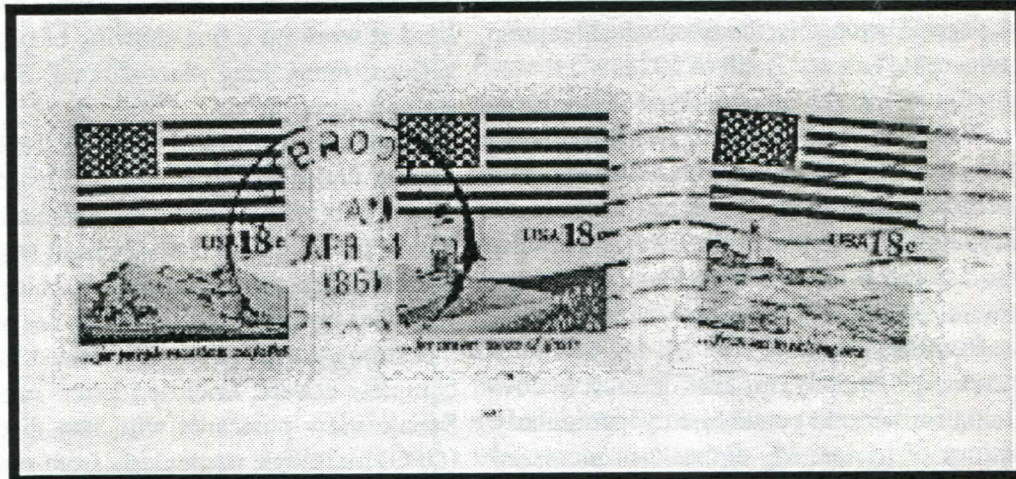
The 18-cent coil stamp bore the words "from sea to shining sea" and the illustration was of Portland Head Light. It is this particular stamp which attracted the interest of all who

live in Maine. Members of The Maine Philatelic Society -- along with several other organizations -- planned First Day Cover designs. A "great event" was headed our way. Everyone looked forward with great anticipation to April 18, the day OUR stamp was to be issued at the Portland Main Post

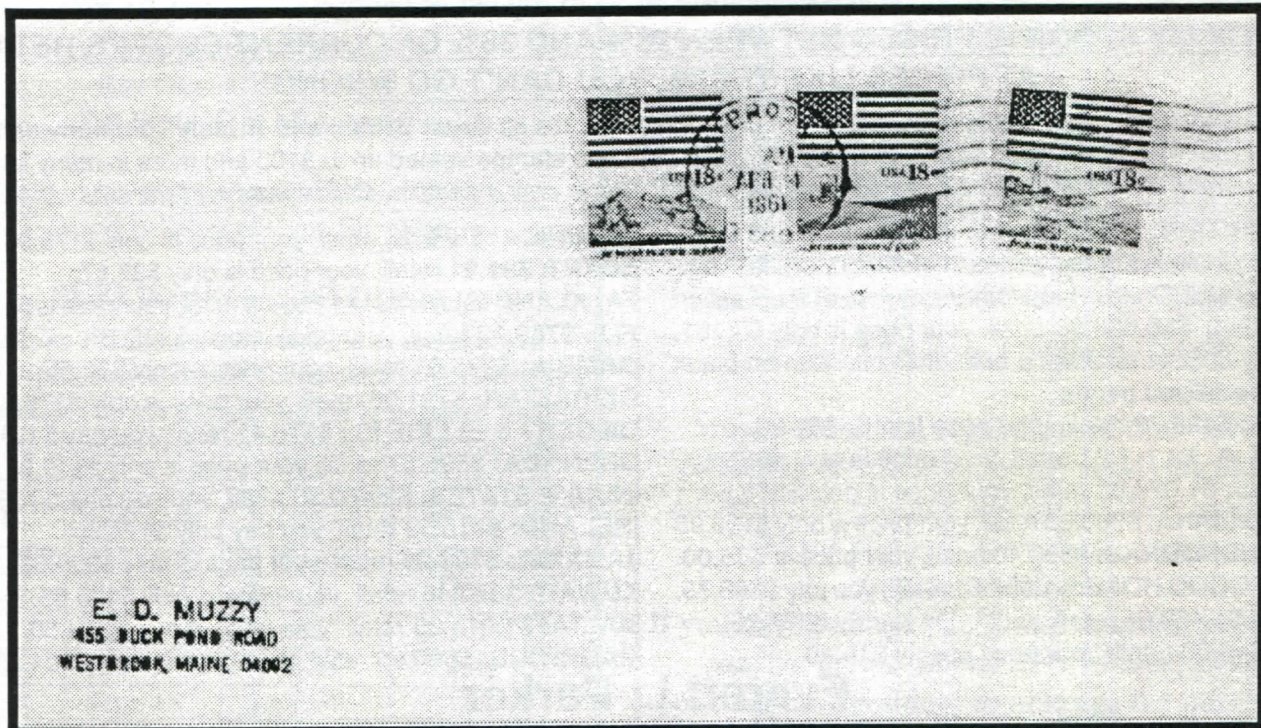
Office on Forest Avenue. Formal "First Day" ceremonies were to be held at the Holiday Inn, attended by politicians, stamp collectors, and anyone else who could garner an invitation to the event.

I decided to follow another plan. I prepared a number of covers addressed to myself. Early in the day of April 18, I purchased the new stamps, affixed them to the envelopes and set out to visit post office facilities in the

Continued on page 6



The stamps and postmark are graphically cropped and enlarged to 150%.
Look at the year in the CDS.



Take a close look at Dave Muzzy's 1981 "special" first day cover.

Hall of Fame: only known covers from Maine towns

By Bruce Hazelton
Secretary

There are early Maine covers so rare that only one example of each is known. That doesn't mean others don't exist; that's part of the thrill of the "hunt" for elusive items. But the covers shown in this and subsequent features are the only ones known from the time period shown.

BLACKS

Established 1 April 1833. Changed to North Searsport on 6 January 1846 and closed 31 October 1902. In Waldo County. James Black was the first postmaster and received an annual compensation of \$4.27 for the first year.

BROWNFIELD CENTRE

Established 27 January 1834. Closed 28 November 1836. Private office (postmaster kept entire net

*Illustrations are shown
at 80 percent
of original size.*

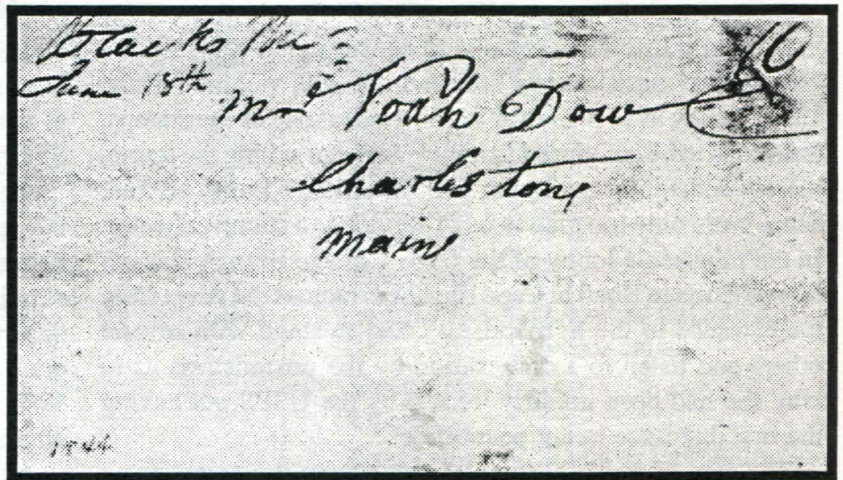
profit). Contracts with government pays everything including transport of mail. In Oxford County. James Steele was the first postmaster. Annual compensation for the first year was \$1.37. His compensation for 1836 was \$2.74. As you can see, it was not profitable which is probably why the post office closed in 23 months.

BUTMAN'S MILLS

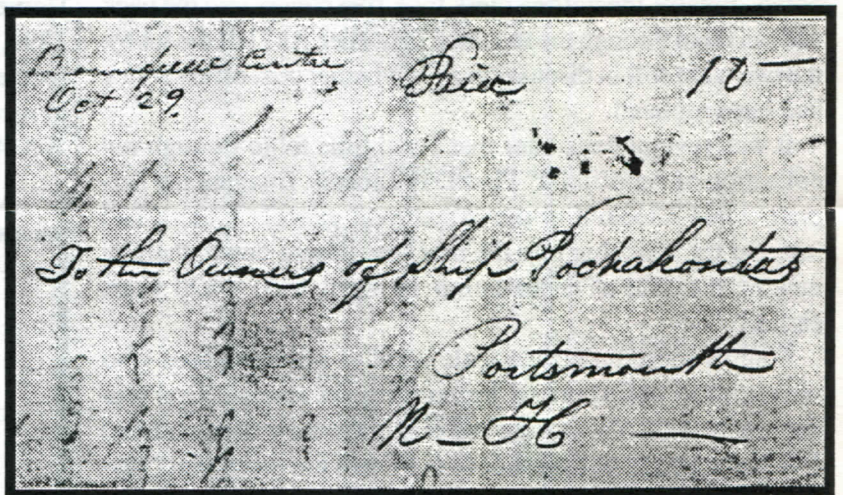
Established 15 June 1852. Discontinued 27 January 1854. Formerly Dixmont Mills (also only known postmark, but I do not have an illustration). Changed to Dixmont Centre which closed 1 September 1856. Reopened 6 February 1857 and closed 31 August 1905. In Penobscot County. The first postmaster was Edmond Chase.

DUTTON

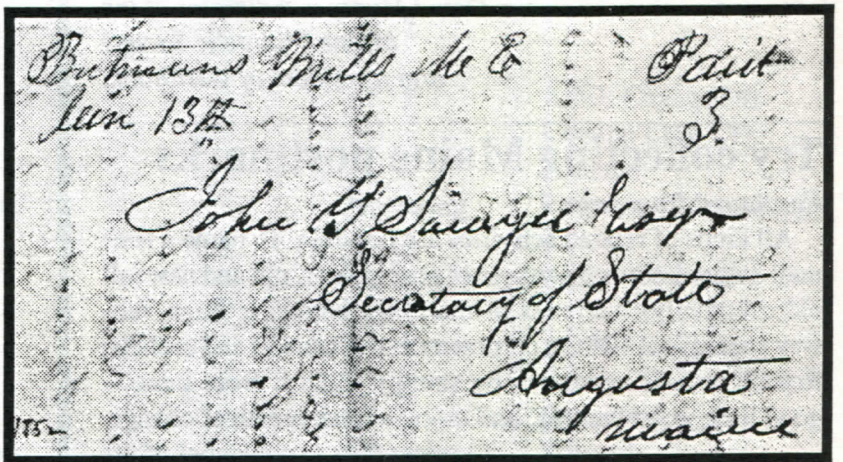
Established 18 October 1824. Discontinued 11 January 1840. Changed to Glenburn which closed 11 October 1900. In Penobscot County. First postmaster was Elisha Biggs. Annual compensation in the first year, \$2.19.



Blacks, Maine cover. Post office opened 1 April 1833, changed to North Searsport.



Brownfield Centre. Post office opened 27 January 1834, closed 28 November 1836.



Butman's Mills. Post office established 15 June 1852, discontinued 27 January 1854.

Westbrook cancel on "My Favorite Cover"

Continued from page 4

immediate area in search of "unofficial" first day covers.

Several post offices refused to cancel the envelopes on a "hand back" basis as they believed it was in violation of the USPS policy as to date of sale and general use of the stamps. Some had to be convinced that they were not selling the stamp, merely cancelling mail with a U. S. postage stamp affixed. Some were only too glad to be of service to a stamp collector. In the minuscule lobby of the Cape Cottage Branch post office on Cottage Road in Cape Elizabeth (across the street from the entrance to the lighthouse), I had to stand with several others and listen to a dissertation by the postmistress as to why she had been unfairly treated by the USPS not having the first day issue in her post office.

The gem of my "unofficials" came from the neighboring post office in Westbrook. Two clerks were on duty and one was willing to cancel, the other absolutely against it. A quite heated discussion developed as to the intent of post office policy. Finally, the willing clerk took five covers into the back and ran them through the machine canceller. As I left the lobby, the two were still in discussion as to whether post office policy had been violated.

It was several days later that I had time to go through my collection of "unofficial" First Day cancels. Imagine my surprise when I looked at the Westbrook cancel. A clerk had inserted the year slug into the machine upside down, thereby making the date of cancellation 18 April 1861 - 120 years earlier!

Four of these unique cancels went to acquaintances who were topical collectors of lighthouses on stamps. One was kept by myself. Two of the recipients are now deceased and I've lost touch with the other two. Where are those four "earliest of first day covers?" Will they show up in an auction some day? While not philatelic rarities, are they unique enough to have some value above the standard FDC? Who knows?

Keep an eye on those First Day cover auctions!

*David Muzzy is a director of the
Maine Philatelic Society
and a resident of Westbrook.*

Try collecting Maine postmarks

Continued from page 3

All kinds of related activities are possible. To name a few: mail delivery routes; pictures of post offices, old and new (all old eventually); varieties of markings including flags, railway post offices (RPO); commemorative cancels and cachets; first class rates as shown by stamps. Take it from there -- good luck, good hunting, and enjoy a fresh breath of change.

*Thurlow Pitts is a member of the
Maine Philatelic Society
and a resident of Stonington.*

Collecting Maine related seals is a challenging area for study

Continued from page 1

least three color combinations known imperforate) and bear at the base the inscription of the printer: "CHARLES H. STONE, CAMBRIDGEPORT MASS."

Maine did not issue seals for any later Old Home Weeks in the state. Other states did, however, sometimes in a profusion similar to that of Maine's 1900 seals. For its 1901 celebration, Vermont issued seals on colored paper and with two different design elements that were printed in different colors. There are at least 57 different combinations known. Three 1902 Massachusetts seals are known in 14 different color combinations.

After the first few years of the 20th Century, Old Home Week celebrations declined. Nonetheless, seals continued to be issued by some states and localities well into the 1930s. In addition, lovely advertising covers from state and local Old Home Week associations can be found, starting with the first, 1899, celebration in New Hampshire. I have not, however, seen any such covers from Maine. I would be very interested in reports of same. My address is Box 629, Chappaqua, NY 10514-0629.

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ADDENDA AND ERRATA

The Post Offices of Maine: A Rarity Guide

There are addenda and errata to The Maine Philatelic Society's recent book. Additional updates will be published in forthcoming issues of The Maine Philatelist. Note under "Explanation of Terms," New Hampshire should read 'Maine.'

PAGE	POST OFFICE	TOWN	R	COUNTY	ESTABLISHED	DISCONTINUED	NOTES
1	Allagash		7				
3	Auburn, Sta. No. 1		0			Operating	
ADD:	Auburn Great Falls Sta.	Auburn	0	And.	?	Operating	
ADD:	Augusta Sta. No. 1	Augusta	0	Ken.	?	Operating	
ADD:	Augusta Sta. No. 3	Augusta	0	Ken.	?	Operating	
	Augusta Water St. Sta.		0			Operating	
	Bangor Maine Air Base	Bangor	6	Pen.	15 Sept. 1941	1 April 1948	Changed to Dow Air Force Base
3	Bangor Sta. 1		0		?	Operating	
4	Bangor Sta. 2		0			Operating	
ADD:	Bangor Sta. 3	Bangor	0	Pen.	?	Operating	Same as Fairmount Sta.
	Baring					1966	
	Barker					1934	
5	Bayville CPO						Add: Summer Office
	Beachwood		5				
6	Biddeford Pool		0			Operating	
	Birch Island Rural Sta.		2			1991	
	Brunswick						
8	Bristol (1)		5				
9	Brunswick Maine Navy 10082 Sta.		0			Operating	
	Buck's Harbor		1			29 Sept. 1992	
10	Bustins Island Rur. Sta.						Add: Summer Office
	South Freeport						
	Bustins Island CPO						Add: Summer Office
	South Freeport						
11ADD	Cape Elizabeth Br.	C. Eliz.	0	Cum.	?	Operating	
	Portland						
11	Capitol Island Rur. Sta.		1				Changed to Capitol Is. CPO Boothbay Harbor
	Boothbay Harbor						Formerly Capitol Is. Rur. Sta. Boothbay Har.
ADD:	Capitol Island CPO	Southport	0	Linc.	?	Operating	
	Boothbay Harbor						
12	Center Lebanon				31 Oct. 1826		
13	Clark Island Rur. Sta.		1			?	
	Spruce Head						
14	Clayton Lake		1			?	ADD: Changed to Clayton Lake CPO, Ashland
					?		Formerly Clayton Lake
ADD:	Clayton Lake CPO	T11 R4	0	Aroo.	?	Operating	
	Ashland						
ADD:	Colby Sta. Waterville	Waterville	0	Ken.	?	Operating	(Colby College)
15	Crawford					1955	
16	Cundys Harbor Rur. Sta., Brunswick		1				ADD: Changed to Cundys Harbor CPO, Brunswick
ADD:	Cundys Harbor CPO	Harpwell	0	Cumb.	?	Operating	Formerly Cundys Harbor Rur. Sta. Brunswick
	Brunswick						

President's Message

By Everett L. Parker

I have just a short note this time to let you know that we now have 160 paid-up members. This is a tremendous accomplishment in a short period and I owe thanks to many people, especially YOU! Please encourage others to join MPS. The more folks we have, the more we can accomplish.

I need to hear immediately from folks interested in a bus trip to the April stamp show in Boxborough, Massachusetts. There were about a half dozen who expressed interest after the last newsletter, but we need quite a few more before we can charter a bus. Please send me a note today or give me a call if you're interested. Price will be figured out later.

Thanks also to the many people who have volunteered to help at stamp shows, auctions and other activities as well as writing for *The Maine Philatelist*. Dave Muzzy has contacted most of those who have indicated a willingness to help and will be lining up help for MUDPEX. Please continue to send me articles for publication. I have a tremendous appetite for material! Thanks again!

THE CLASSIFIEDS

Classified advertisements are free to non-dealer members. You may use this space to buy and sell, trade or swap. Dealer members are asked to contact the Editor for advertising details. When sending an advertisement, please mark it for the Classifieds and indicate how many issues you wish it to appear. All ads will appear twice and be removed unless otherwise indicated.

WANTED

Wanted: Maine hunting and fishing stamps properly used on licenses. Also always looking for other New England state revenues. Also looking for Old Home Week seals. I have many from New England to trade. Terence Hines, P.O. Box 629, Chappaqua, NY 10514-0629. (2-96)

Exchange clubs: exchange duplicates at home, your only cost is postage. Please send SASE for details. Write to Suffolk Exchange, 1222 Bent Pine Cove, St. Lucie West, FL 34986 (3-96)

Maine Philatelic Society
HC 76, Box 32
Greenville, ME 04441-9727



TO:

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