



The Maine Philatelist

Vol. 28, No. 4

April 1996

Whole No. 103

Philatelists to gather for MUDPEX in Fairfield on May 4

By David Muzzy

MPS Board of Directors

MUDPEX '96, the Maine Philatelic Society's annual spring gathering of stamp collectors, will be held May 4. Admission is free and all are invited to attend the event being held in Frye Auditorium on the campus of Kennebec Valley Technical College. KVTC is located at Exit 35 on Interstate 95 in Fairfield. Doors will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Exhibits of postage stamps and postal history will be present for public viewing. A specially designed cachet depicting the renowned Chesuncook Tourist Despatch stamps has been

applied to envelopes. Collectors may have these cancelled with the MUDPEX cancellation device provided by the U.S. Postal Service.

Collectors may participate in the 1,000-lot board auction. Stamp dealers from New England and eastern Canada will be in attendance. Refreshments are available on the premises.

Stamp collectors or any persons interested in stamp collecting may receive information about the Maine Philatelic Society and stamp collecting activities in Maine by contacting the Secretary, Bruce Hazelton, P.O. Box 67A, Cumberland Center, ME 04021.

Maine farmers hated potato stamps

By Gary DiMarco

Did you know that during 1933, when Franklin Roosevelt was president and New Deal legislation was being passed in Congress, Maine's most successful agricultural crop was the target of a federal tax?

When Congress passed the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) was created. This agency was established to help American farmers recover from the economic depression of the 1920s by providing a program to (among other things) control the production of farm goods. One objective was to prevent crop

Continued on page 2

Bus trip to Boxborough no go

Not enough MPS members showed interest in the bus trip to the New England stamp show in Boxborough, Massachusetts to charter a bus. Those who preregistered will have their checks returned (and may already have received them).

The idea of a bus trip was to greatly reduce the amount of driving time for those going to the show. Also included in plans was a stop for supper on the way back from Massachusetts.

At the April 13 MPS board meeting at KVTI in Fairfield, it was decided to try again with a bus trip to the Boston show in the fall. More details about that event will be forthcoming during the summer months.



Old-time photos of post offices sought for Maine Philatelist

Old-time photos of Maine post offices will be published if members will submit post-cards or photos of postal facilities. This card shows the Masardis Post Office shortly after the turn of the century. Masardis has had a number of post offices, the first being established on October 6, 1843. It was closed and reestablished in 1855 and closed in 1967, being changed to the Masardis Rural Branch of the Ashland Post Office the same year. That was later changed to Masardis CPO, which is still operating.

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.

OFFICERS

President

Everett L. Parker
 HC 76, Box 32
 Greenville, ME 04441-9727
 (207) 695-3163 (Voice and Fax)

Vice Presidents

Robert Turmelle 8 Birch Street Waterville, ME 04901	Richard Williams 20 Ridge Road Waterville, ME 04901
---	---

Secretary

Bruce Hazelton
 P.O. Box 67A
 Cumberland Center, ME 04021

Treasurer

Terry Drummond
 P.O. Box 57
 Bingham, ME 04920

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Warren of Cushing (1996)
 E. David Muzzy of Westbrook (1996)
 Ray Gagnon of Lewiston (1996)
 Jim Foote III of Manchester (1996)
 Bob Vear of Waterville (1997)
 Andrew P. Ferretti of Bingham (1997)

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

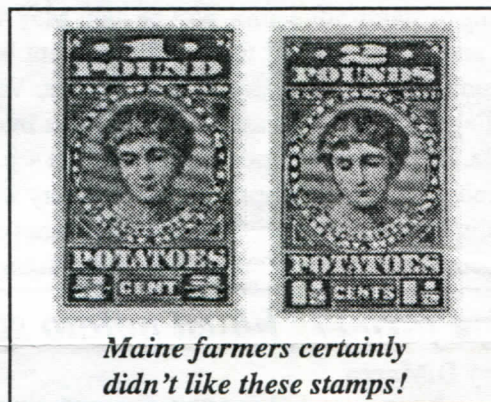
Potato stamps had short life

Continued from page 1

surpluses and increase prices, thereby stabilizing farmers' income. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture was empowered to discourage farmers from raising an overabundance of certain crops by using revenue stamps to collect rather high taxes on these excess farm products.

Cotton and tobacco were among the first farm commodities to be regulated this way; however, the Agricultural Adjustment Act of December 1, 1935 levied a tax of three-quarters of a cent per pound, to be paid by potato farmers who grew more than their official allotment.

The outcry from farmers was instantaneous and loud (can you imagine telling a Maine potato farmer how many pounds of potatoes he would be allowed to grow?) and on January 6,



1936, less than five weeks after the law was passed, the Supreme Court of the United States declared the Act unconstitutional, leaving the U.S. Government holding nearly the entire printing of Potato Tax stamps.

In my opinion, these colorful engraved stamps (all perforated 11) are among the most appealing revenue stamps issued. They all bear the face of the same young woman, and because of the three-quarters of a cent per pound increment, they have interesting values -- from three-quarters of a cent carmine rose and the one and a half cent black brown (see illustrations), to the 93 and three-quarters cents rose lake and the \$1.12 and one-half cent green.

The highest denomination is the \$1.50 yellow brown, large enough to pay the revenue on 200 pounds of excess potatoes! The entire set of thirteen stamps (RI1 through RI13) can be acquired mint, usually for less than \$40.00. They are an excellent low cost way to compliment your "back of the book" collection. If you already have the set, take a few moments to revisit them, and if you have not yet filled this portion of your collection, I would heartily recommend that you put them on your want list -- you won't be disappointed.

Gary DiMarco is a member of the Maine Philatelic Society and a resident of Gardiner

A primer of early Maine philatelic history contains many anecdotes

MPS Vice President Richard Williams authors historical insight into Pine Tree State.

The history of the Province and District of Maine is that of the American continent. Some 500 years before Christopher Columbus left the shores of the Old World, the coast here had been explored by Norsemen who spent two years in this continent only slightly farther to the south, within the sheltering arm of Cape Cod.

The first attempt at colonization was begun August 18, 1607 on the peninsula called Phippsburg. Here was built a fort, storehouse, several cabins and, more significant, the first sea-going vessel to be launched in the New World, the 40 ton *Virginia*.

Many a volume has been written concerning the history of Maine and doubtless the complete story is yet to be told. Only a very sketchy outline will be undertaken here, sufficient to serve as a backdrop of the more detailed postal history.

The provincial years of Maine were principally under French domination which was bitterly contested by the British, or English if you prefer. Eventually about one-sixth of the present state was granted to Sir Ferdinand Gorges. Upon his death the heirs sold this territory to Massachusetts (May 6, 1677) for £1,250 Sterling, closing the provincial period. From then until 1760 there were continual Indian wars

However, two counties, Cumberland and Lincoln, had been organized in addition to the original York County, or Yorkshire. In 1778 the lands of Massachusetts, which included Maine, were divided into three districts, Northern, Middle and Southern, the three counties of Maine receiving the destination of "District of Maine."

The earliest reference yet found in postal records which may be construed as a direct reference to the lands which became the District of Maine is that of the Act of Parliament of George III in 1763 which says, in part, "all letters and packets from New York to the chief offices in Salem and Ipswich, and to the chief office in Piscataway..." (Coolidge's history places earliest regular mail at 1760.)

Piscataway, on Moll's 1729 Post Road map, is located at the approximate site of Kittery. Kittery once comprised, besides its present

“
In 1775 an Act of the Continental Congress provided for the establishment of "a line of posts ... from Falmouth in New England to Savannah, Georgia."

area, all that of Eliot, Berwick, South Berwick and North Berwick and was known as the Plantation of Piscataway. Here, in the village of Kittery in the Plantation of Piscataway, was held the earliest county court in alternate sessions with the village of York. Two deputies from Maine represented the county of Yorkshire at the general court of elections in Boston. Wells, Saco and Cape Porpoise soon came into this arrangement and were required within a year to construct a road wide enough for the passage of carts within town limits and paths for woodsmen and horses between towns.

In 1775 an Act of the Continental Congress provided for the establishment of "a line of posts ... from Falmouth in New England to Savannah, Georgia." Falmouth-town, now Portland, was the principal settlement of "Falmouth in New England" and it was in this same year, in the middle of October, that four British vessels, under Captain Mowett, bombarded and fired the town. They destroyed everything but a few of the poorer buildings deemed unworthy of the effort.

The conclusion of the War of the Revolution brought an era of unfamiliar peace to Maine and with peace came a moderate prosperity. Among the first considerations was, of course, satisfactory communication with the rest of the young na-

which effectually prevented any degree of development. Only by the most generous interpretation could any settlement be called a permanent one for the history of almost any village or town has been one of sack and rebuilding, devastation and the erection of new homes among the ashes of the old.

Coolidge's *History and Description of New England* gives some conception of the detrimental effects of such constant uncertainty in the statement that "In 1760 the settlement (Kennebunk) was extended considerably. To give the reader some idea of the value of real estate about this time, a two story tenement was rented for one dollar a year, the parties having the privilege of taking as much wood from the land adjoining as was necessary for their consumption during that time; and land on the western side of the river was sold at the rate of an acre of ground for a yard of calico."

Such conditions vividly picture the losses sustained by the earliest settlers. In 1714 a ferry had been established over the Kennebunk River by order of the court, with John Reynolds as ferryman and tolls established "For a man and horse, sixpence; for a single man, two pence." This ferry must have been abandoned, along with the settlements it served until peace was finally established.

There were, in 1760, but thirteen incorporated townships.

Continued on page 4

A primer of early Maine philatelic history

Continued from page 3

tion. In 1788 *Thomas' Almanack* gives the following route as the Post Road connecting the District of Maine internally and with the rest of the country through Massachusetts:

"Post Road, to Newburyport, Portsmouth and Casco Bay. Portsmouth, Old York, Wells, Kennebunk, Arundel, Saco, Pepperelboro, Scarborough, Stroudwater, Falmouth, Falmouth-town, North Casco, North Yarmouth, Brunswick, Main's Ferry, Pownalboro, Pittston, Hallowell, Vassalboro, Winslow, Canaan, Norridge-Walk."

At this time Kennebunk was quite a flourishing settlement although its salt factories were not then working and its ship-building was no more; Saco probably did not actually exist since the west side had been set off as Biddeford in 1718 and the east side had changed its name to Pepperelboro; Arundel (now Kennebunkport) was engaged in lumbering and ship-building; "Falmouth-town" had become Portland by incorporation on July 4, 1786; Pownalborough was in its heyday being much concerned with foreign trade from the close of the Revolution until the shipping embargo of 1807; Pittston, on the contrary, was very backward -- "no governing power existed; and to collect debts or obtain justice was next to impossible." Two years later (1790) General Dearborn became marshal. He erected a whipping post and made a general reform; Hallowell was a place of importance.

It included territory later divided into Augusta, Chelsea, Farmingdale and Manchester. Vassalboro, incorporated in 1771, contained but 10 families on that date and, in 1788, probably was not much larger. Canaan was incorporated on June 18, 1788, having been Wesserunset and Norridge-Walk had been incorporated as Norridgewock some 10 years earlier. This was a small but industrious population which, six years later, "voted to get one barrel of good West India rum and two hundred pounds of maple sugar to be used at the raising of the meeting-house."

While some inaccuracies are evident in the names of the towns along this route, it is nevertheless obviously correct in its geographical course.

Ten years later, *Fleets Register and Almanack* lists eleven post roads in the District of Maine, extending as far east as Schoodic, now Robbinston. Actually, three of the routes may be considered as one extending from Portland to Schoodic. This and other principal routes were traveled once a week while those of secondary importance were covered only once in two weeks.

Abbot's History of Maine indicates that before the Revolution there was not a four-wheeled passenger carriage in the District. Two-wheeled chaises were not introduced into Portland until 1760. They were then not in common use, but were articles of luxury which were brought out only on festive occasions. It was about 1800 when the first four-wheeled car-

riage was seen in Augusta. Men and women alike traveled on horseback.

In 1806 the stage line from Portsmouth was extended to Augusta. The schedule was to leave Augusta early in the morning, breakfast at Brunswick, have dinner at Freeport and arrive at Portland late in the evening. The traveler left Portland early the next morning, had breakfast at Kennebunk, ate dinner at Portsmouth and spent the night at Newburyport. He started at 2 a.m. the next day, had breakfast at Salem and arrived in Boston about noon. This same journey, over the same route, is not but a matter of a few hours.

(This article continues in the next issue of TMP.)

DUES ARE DUE!

Maine Philatelic Society memberships run from July 1 through June 30 of each year. If the date to the right of your name on the mailing label reads (6-96) then it's time to renew. Dues are a mere \$5.00 per year. Renew today by sending a check, made out to the Maine Philatelic Society, to
Bruce Hazelton, P.O. Box 67A,
Cumberland Center, ME 04021.
Don't forget -- do it today!

PRECANCELS AND PERFINs ON APPROVAL

- Fast, responsive service
- Low, fair prices
- Friendly help with all questions

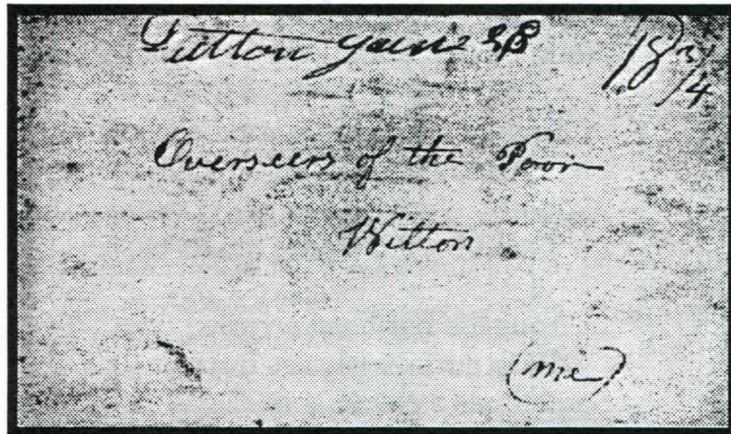
If you are looking for Buros,
Town and Type by State,
general precancels or perfins,
drop me a line.

DICK LAETSCH
108 Ashswamp Road
Scarborough, ME 04074

Early Maine postal history can be very elusive, particularly DPOs

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

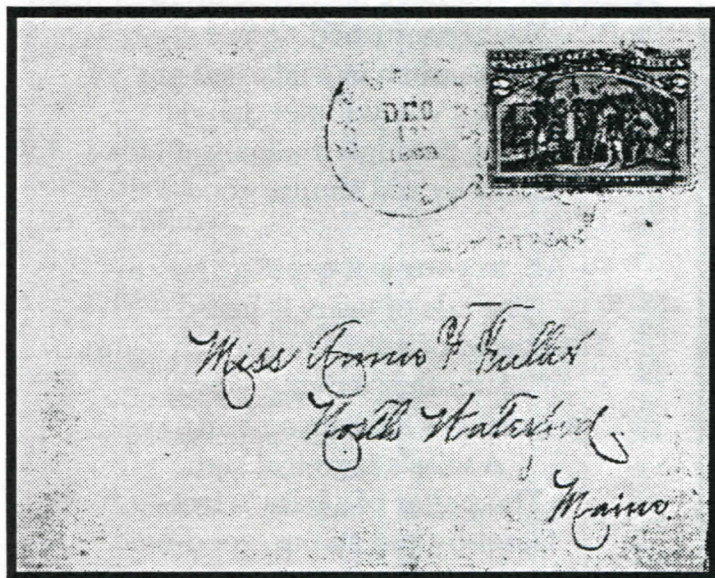


Dutton. Post office established 18 October 1824, discontinued 11 January 1840.

part of the thrill of the "hunt" for elusive items. But the covers shown in this, the second part of our series of rare Maine covers, are the only ones known from the time period shown.

EAST ATHENS

Established 17 June 1889. Discontinued 30 November 1900. In Somerset County.



East Athens. Post office established 17 June 1889, discontinued 30 November 1900.

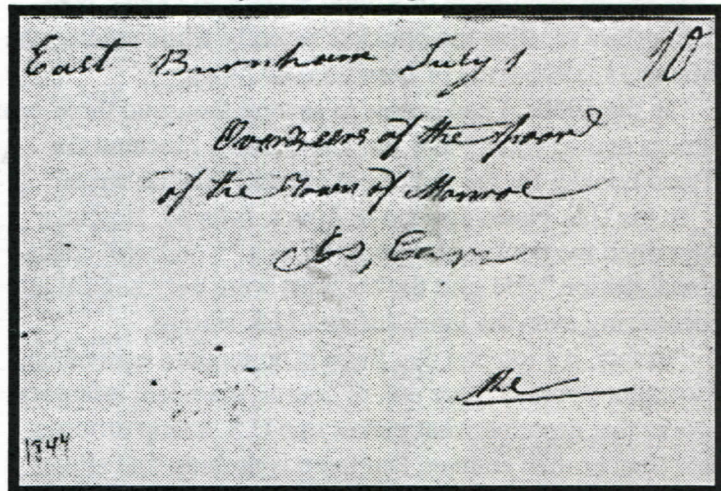
EAST BURNHAM

Established 7 January 1841. Discontinued 19 December 1855. In Waldo County. Formerly Burnham. Established 4 June 1830. Discontinued 7 January 1831. Only one cover known but I do not have an illustration of it. David O. Williams was the first postmaster. Annual compensation was \$6.89

for the first full year.

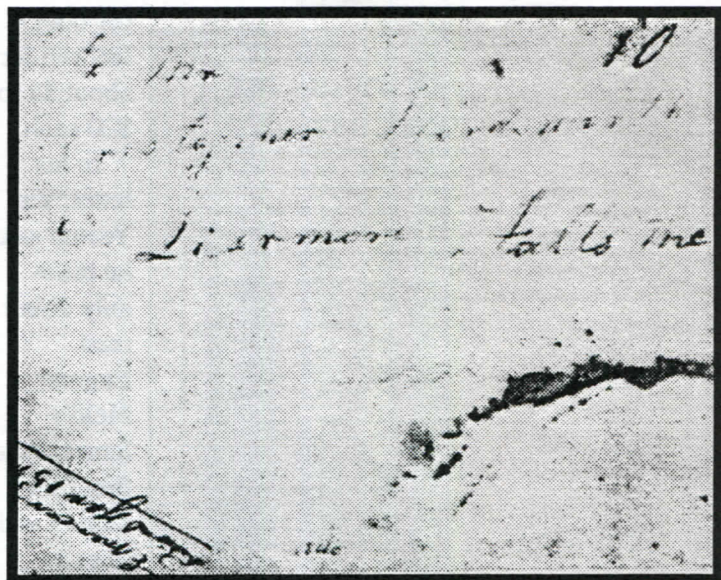
EAST MERCER

Established 27 March 1834. Discontinued 16 April 1840. In Somerset County. Name changed to Smithfield which is



East Burnham. Post office established 7 January 1841, discontinued 19 December 1855.

still operating. First postmaster was Lemuel S. Wood. His compensation was \$2.32 for the first full year.



East Mercer. Post office established 27 March 1834, discontinued 16 April 1840.

Illustrations are shown at 80 percent of original size.

Many philatelists benefited from consulting those old Tasco booklets

If you've been licking hinges for more than a few years, you may remember the Tasco booklets from the 1930s. These tiny booklets provided concise, informative descriptions of U.S. stamps and envelopes and Confederate issues.

Member Vin Yeaton of Roiton Stamps in Dover, New Hampshire recalled the booklets recently while reading the March 11, 1996 issue of *Linn's Stamp News*.

"In the 1960s, I had access to several thousand three-cent greens and so when I saw the *Linn's* story, I located the Tasco booklet for the three cent greens," Yeaton wrote.

In his U.S. Notes column in *Linn's*, John M. Hotchner described the pocket-size booklets as a "wonderful educational device." He said the booklets were very helpful in identifying even the most difficult U.S. stamps.

"In fact, it's too bad that there is no modern equivalent," Hotchner wrote. "There are, of course, excellent reference works that describe what makes one U.S. stamp different and scarcer than another. But there is nothing that allows you to hold in your hand and view with your own eyes properly identified examples."

The Tasco booklets were produced by the Tatham Stamp and Coin Company of Springfield, Massachusetts during the 1930s and 1940s. They still appear in the philatelic literature marketplace today. Currently, it appears as though

the booklets sell for about \$5 to \$20 each.

In his letter, Vin Yeaton said he probably didn't read Eugene Field's lament "the first time around and after a second look I think it might make interesting reading in *The Maine Philatelist*."



The Three-Cent Stamp
By Eugene Field

Good-by, old stamp: it's nasty luck
That ends our friendship so.
When others failed, you gamely stuck.
But now you've got to go.
So here's a flood of honest tears
And here's an honest sigh.
Good-by old friend of many years --
Good-by, old stamp, good-by!

Your life has been a varied one,
With curious phases fraught --
Sometimes a check, sometimes a dun,
Your daily coming brought;
Smiles to a waiting lover's face,
Tears to a mother's eye,
Or joy or pain to every place --
Good-by, old stamp, good-by!

You bravely toiled, and better men
Will vouch for what I say:
Although you have been licked, 'twas when
Your face turned t'other way
T'was often in a box you got
(As you will not deny)
For going through the mails, I wot --
Good-by, old stamp, good-by!

Ah, in your last expiring breath
The tale of years is heard --
The sound of voices hushed in death,
A mother's dying word,
A maiden's answer, soft and sweet,
A wife's regretful sigh,
The patter of a baby's feet --
Good-by, old stamp, good-by!

What wonder, then, that at this time
When you and I must part,
I would aspire to speak in rhyme
The promptings of my heart?
Go, bide with all those mem'ries dear
That live when others die;
You've nobly served your purpose here --
Good-by, old stamp, good-by!

ADDENDA AND ERRATA (Continued)
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	Air Base Sta.	Bangor	6	Penobscot	* 1 May 1942	** 1 April 1948	Changed to Dow Air Force Base Sta., Bangor
1	Allagash		7				
2	Appleton Rural Br. Union				* 22 Aug. 1960	?	
2	Army Air Base BR						
3	Auburn Sta. No. 1				* 16 July 1934	?	
	Auburn Sta. No. 2				* 29 Oct. 1934	?	
	Auburn Sta. No. 4				* 5 Jan 1932	?	
	Augusta Sta. No. 1				* 8 May 1934	?	
	Augusta Sta. No. 3				* 14 April 1933	?	
3	Ayers (1)					** 3 Sept. 1904	
3	Backriver (one word)						
3	Bald Mountain Rural						Formerly Bald Mountain Summer office
3	ADD Br. Oquossoc	Rangeley	0	Franklin	* 30 June 1966	^{30 Aug 1968} Operating	
3	Bangor Sta. No. 1	Bangor	0	Penobscot	* 15 Feb. 1941	Operating	
4	Bangor Sta. No. 2					Operating	24 Nov. 1970 located in Liggett's, Broadway Shopping Center
4	Barrett					** 28 Feb. 1907	
4	ADD Bath Sta. No. 1	Bath	6	Saga	* 8 May 1934	?	
4	Bayville Rural Sta. Boothbay Harbor	Boothbay Harbor	4	Lincoln			
5	Bayville CPO Boothbay Harbor	Boothbay Harbor					Formerly Bayville Rural Sta. Boothbay Harbor (Summer office)
9	Brown's Mills		11				
10	Byron					15 Aug. 1929	
13	Chelsea						19 Jan 1907 seen(?)
14	Clark's Mill						15 Nov. 1906 Clark's Mill seen
15	DarkHarbor (all one word)						
18	Dover-Foxcroft Merrick Sq. Sta.						Delete, move to page 46 as Merrick Square Sta., Dover-Foxcroft
18	Dow Air Force Base Sta.	Bangor	5		* 8 Feb. 1967	** 28 June 1968	Formerly Air Force Br., Bangor
18	Dunn's Corner		9				
19	East Blue Hill Rur. Br. Surry		1	Hancock			
19	ADD East Blue Hill CPO, Surry		0		?		
20	East Edgecomb		3				
20	ADD Eastern Maine	Hampden	0	Penobscot	18 July 1994	Operating	Processing and Distribution Center
22	East Peru					On second line, 1989	

* = Earliest known use ** = Latest known use

President's Message

By Everett L. Parker

As of the first of April, we had 180 paid members in the Maine Philatelic Society. That's a substantial increase over where we were a year ago and I'm proud of the effort that our directors and members have made to bring about that increase in membership. But, having said that, there is room for growth. There are many stamp collectors in Maine who do not belong to our organization. I would like to see a coordinated effort launched to bring more people into the fold. To do that, we have to offer them something other than a quarterly newsletter and a spring stamp show. I'm working right now with the board of directors to see how we can accomplish that.

In the meantime, it's dues renewal time! As you know, our fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. Check the date to the right of your name on the newsletter mailing label. If it shows (6-96) then you must renew now. Send your \$5 to Bruce Hazelton before you forget it. The best way to keep dues this low is to have everyone renew. I hope you will do it today. And don't forget your free classified ad to the right of this column. Don't you have something to sell or trade?

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:

Kindahl, Mr. Kelvin #54 (6-96)
29 Clark Street
East Hampton, MA 01027-2329

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
If (6-96) or later date does not appear after your name on the mailing label, this is **YOUR LAST ISSUE!**
You must renew today!