



The Maine Philatelist

Vol. 30, No. 2

October 1997

Whole No. 109

Research opportunities in Maine 20th century colored cancels

By Bruce L. Corey
Of Westbrook

Collectors are well aware of the black ink used to cancel our mail, but some may be unaware that other ink colors have been used during the 20th century to mark envelopes. Where and when these various color inks were used is an area wide open for research.

Black and colored inks were used in all Maine post offices. Black was used to cancel all envelopes, postcards and packages. Red (magenta, maroon, pink or red) was used with a double circle date canceller for all C.O.D., M.O.B., parcel post or registered mail. These same "reds," along with blue or purple, were also used with a straight line cancel for Forwarded, Missent, Postage Due, Incorrect Address and others. Lavender ink was used as a replacement for black in some post offices for a few years.

This system worked fine until some of the following situations arose.

1. ECONOMICS:

- a. Used a mix of black and whatever colored ink was on

hand.

- b. Black ink ran out and used colored ink until the black was replaced.

- c. Some of the substances used to dilute black ink caused it to oxidize over time and caused the postmarks on envelopes and postcards to turn to different shades of brown.

2. HOLIDAYS:

- a. Magenta, maroon, pink, red and purple have been seen.

3. MISTAKES:

- a. Postmaster hit the colored ink pad instead of the black.
- b. New postmaster or clerk used colored ink in error.
- c. Postmaster failed to remove colored ink from the canceller after going back to black.

4. CHANGE:

- a. Some postmasters liked colored inks better than black and used them for some years.

The cancels are listed as to Doane (type and number); Four Bar (type); Provisional. The postmark circle is measured from left to right and the killer bars from top to bottom. The date is

Continued on page 5

New Waterville-Winslow bridge topic of special MAIPEX '97 cover

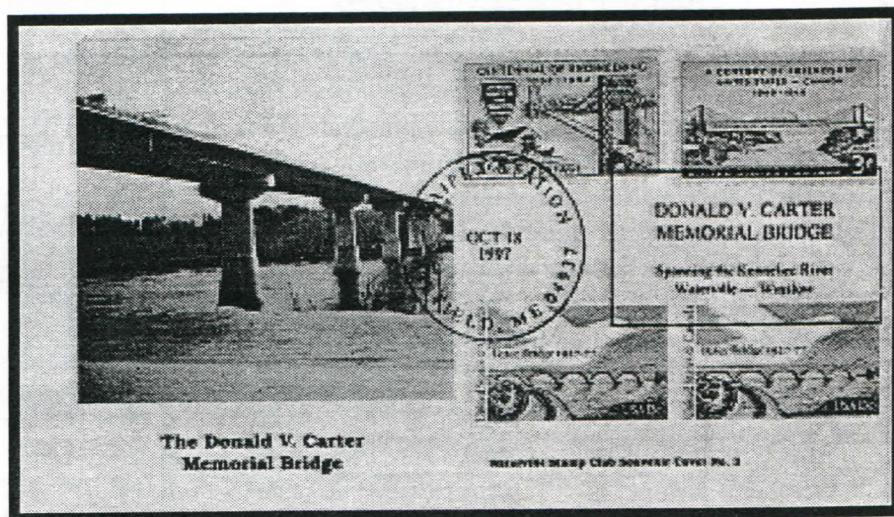
After more than 20 years in the planning and two years in the making, the Donald V. Carter Memorial Bridge opened on Friday, June 6, 1997 linking Waterville and Winslow.

The bridge will be shown on a commemorative cover marking MAIPEX '97, which will be held at the Kennebec Valley Technical College (KVTC) in Fairfield on October 18. The cover is being prepared by the Waterville Stamp Club, and will be on sale during the show, which begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m.

The cover also will be available by mail by sending \$1.00 per cover, plus SASE, to Robert Turmelle, 8 Birch St., Waterville, ME 04901. Checks should be made out to the Waterville Stamp Club.

The 2,200 foot span rises 90 feet above the Kennebec River, affording a breathtaking view

of the surrounding countryside. The bridge was named for Donald V. Carter, a Maine legislator who was killed in a car crash in Vassalboro in 1990.



The Donald V. Carter Memorial Bridge

Waterville Stamp Club Souvenir Cover No. 3

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.

Articles for publication should be sent to the President/Editor at address below.

OFFICERS

President

Everett L. Parker (1999)
 HC 76, Box 32
 Greenville, ME 04441-9727
 (207) 695-3163 (Voice and Fax)
 email - eparker@moosehead.net

Vice President

Robert Turmelle (1999)
 8 Birch Street
 Waterville, ME 04901

Secretary

Bruce Hazelton (1999)
 P.O. Box 67A
 Cumberland Center, ME 04021

Treasurer

Terry Drummond (1999)
 P.O. Box 57
 Bingham, ME 04920

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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

Maine stamp club meetings



Stamp clubs in Maine are invited to become members of the Maine Philatelic Society. We will publish, free of charge, meeting information and locations.

PORTLAND STAMP CLUB

The club meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Maine Veterans Home, 290 U.S. Route 1, Scarborough. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. and usually ends about 8:30 p.m. Nonmembers are invited to attend.

WATERVILLE STAMP CLUB

The club meets on the first and third Friday from September to May and on the third Friday only during June, July and August. Meetings are from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Kennebec Valley Technical College (KVTC) on Western Avenue in Fairfield (Exit 35 of Interstate 95). For information, call 872-5107. Nonmembers are invited to attend.

BELFAST STAMP CLUB

The club meets on the third Thursday of the month at noon. The location changes each month. For information, call Dick Gerry, president, at 866-3583.

YORK COUNTY STAMP CLUB

The club meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the basement of People's Heritage Bank on Main Street in Sanford. Usual events include raffle, auction, presentations, refreshments, and an occasional visit from a stamp dealer. Dues are \$5 per year. For information, contact Secretary Tracey Lesvaseur, Rt. 1, Box 3206, Shapleigh, ME 04076.

UNION RIVER STAMP CLUB

The Union River Stamp Club meets the first Thursday of each month at the Ellsworth Library, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST STAMP CLUB

The Unitarian-Universalist Stamp Club has members throughout the U.S., and you don't have to be a Universalist to join. For information, send a business size SASE to George Barner, 8 Arlington Street, Kennebunkport, ME 04046-6343. Mr. Barner also edits the club's newsletter.

Turner, Maine: Post offices and main routes around the towns

The first county road through the town of Turner passed along the Upper Street, so called, and probably down by Mr. Barrell's through the woods, by the residence of Dea. Martin Bradford, where Alden Briggs now lives, over Dillingham hill to North Auburn, thence over West Auburn hill and Perkins' Ridge to Minot Corner, known formerly as Broveneur's Corner, through Poland and New Gloucester on to Portland.

The road was extended north from the "Upper Street" as the needs of the settlers required. Inquiry makes it probable that this was the road traveled for many years to and from Portland, and that this was substantially the route by which the first settlers reached the plantation when the road was a path through the woods, and spotted trees served as guide-boards.

The first post office in town was established in 1804, and Ichabod Bonney was appointed postmaster. His death occurring soon after, Gen. Alden Blossom was appointed his successor. For a number of years the people were favored with a weekly mail only, carried on horseback. When the postman approached the office, he sounded a trumpet to notify all hands within hearing that he was near, that they might be prepared



master until about 1848 when Hiram Clark was appointed his successor, and continued in office about ten years, or until his death.

Hira Bradford took charge of the office October 22, 1861,

and retired from it April 22, 1869. Mellen A. Bearce was postmaster from April 23, 1869 to March 31, 1881. William L. Bonney had charge of the office from April 1, 1881 to October 19, 1885. Walter B. Irish became postmaster October 20, 1885. The stage ran from Farmington to Portland through Turner every other day, and on alternate days from Portland to Farmington, until the railroad was built to Auburn when that place became the terminus of the stage route.

The post office at East Turner was established in 1831 and Ezekiel Martin was appointed postmaster. He remained in office 25 years. The mail was brought at first on horseback from Winthrop, probably once a week. At length it was carried from Auburn up the river road. Hooper Conant carried the mail at an early period over this route, if he was not the first to carry it.

A post office was established at North Turner Bridge shortly after that at East Turner, and was supplied in the same manner. At one time, before the railroads were built, it was attempted to establish a stage line and mail route across the country from Paris to Augusta, and for awhile the mail was carried thus. This was about 1841 and later. But stages could not compete with railroads, and when the latter were constructed the stages were compelled to retire.

John W. Webster was appointed postmaster at East Turner in 1856, and continued in the office until 1863, when James D. Gilbert was appointed his successor, and cared for the office until 1874. R. S. Collidge was postmaster two years. In 1876 John W. Webster was appointed again and served until his death in September 1881 when Warren Webster was appointed. This, as well as all the other offices in town, was favored with a daily mail each way.

The post office at North Turner was established at an early day, and Dr. Timothy Howe was appointed postmaster. Lewis A. Farrar had charge of the office for many years, discharg-

Continued on page 6

This article was taken from *A History of Turner, Maine from Its Settlement to 1886* by Rev. W.R. French, DD. The book was printed in Portland, Maine by Hoyt, Fogg & Donham in 1887. Thanks to Richard Williams of Waterville for providing the copy.

for his reception by their presence and attention.

For twenty-five years or more the town had enjoyed no postal facilities, and now a mail was brought once a week into their very midst, and its coming announced by sound of trumpet, moved them not a little. For were they not highly favored? Josiah Smith and William Sawin were mail carriers in those days.

In 1825, a new post office was established at Turner Village and William K. Porter was appointed postmaster. A new county road was made through the town, much easier for travelers than the old one, being over land much nearer level, so that the old road was used but little. The first post office now accommodated only the neighborhood and was discontinued, the post road not leading by it. William K. Porter was postmaster until his death, I think. Then the mail, after a time, was carried in a stagecoach drawn by four horses, and was brought three times a week each way. John Blake was post-

MAIPEX '97

STAMP SHOW & AUCTION

Sponsored by the Waterville Stamp Club

**STAMPS & STAMP SUPPLIES
SHOW COVER & CANCEL
GIANT BOARD AUCTION
POSTCARDS & COVERS
REFRESHMENTS**

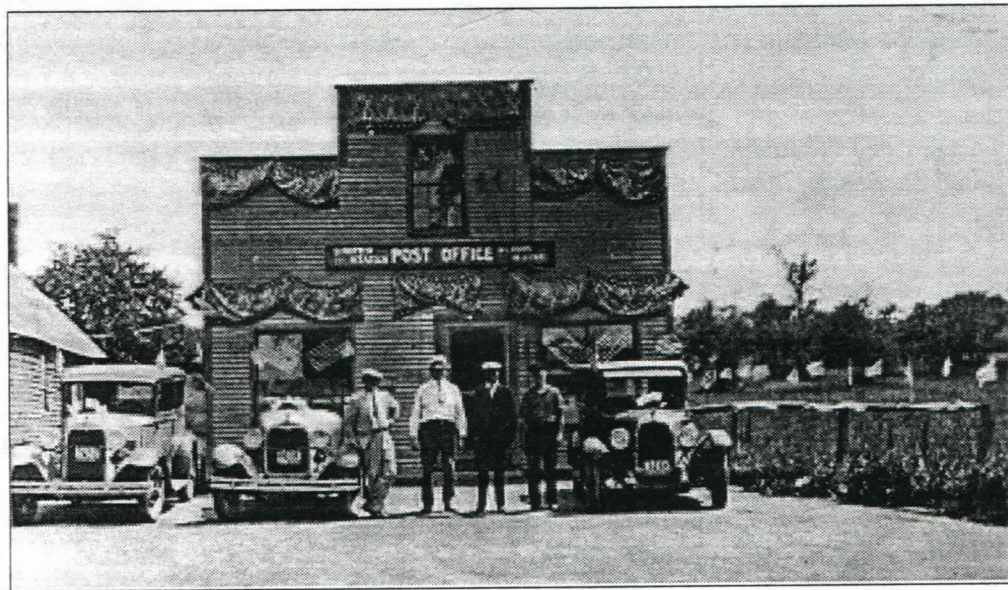
**9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1997**

**TABLE AUCTION CLOSSES AT 1:00 P.M.
ORAL AUCTION STARTS AT 1:30 P.M.**

**LOCATION:
Carter Hall
Kennebec Valley Technical College
Fairfield, Maine
(Exit 35 on Interstate 95, 200 yards east on Route 139)**

Post Offices of Maine

A regular feature

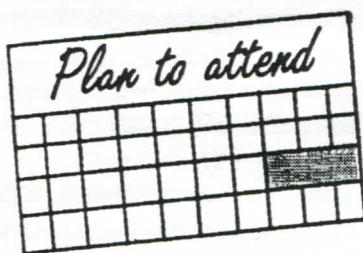


This photo of the Albion Post Office was taken in 1932 and the postcard from which it was reproduced indicates the post office was decorated in observance of the 157th anniversary of the office of Postmaster General, which was created in 1775. There is no indication who the people in the photo are, although one might assume they were postal officials. Thanks to Secretary Bruce Hazelton, who loaned the photo. Do YOU have a photo of an old post office? Send it to the editor with as much information as you know about it.

New England stamp shows of interest...

October 18: MAIPEX '97, Carter Hall, Kennebec Valley Technical College (KVTC), Western Avenue, Fairfield, Maine.

Sponsored by the Waterville Stamp Club, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Silent and oral auction, bourse. Richard Williams, 20 Ridge Road, Waterville, ME 04901. 872-5107.



October 25-26: WALPEX '97, Minuteman Science-Technology High School, 758 Marrett Road (Route 2A), Exit 30B off I-95, Lexington, Massachusetts. Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Bourse. Contact Jim Warner, 25 Riverdale Road, Wellesley, Mass. 02181. (617) 237-1390. Show postmark.

November 1: CHAMPEX '97, Christ the King School, Rt. 7 at Rotary, Burlington, Vermont. Free admission, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Contact Paul G. Abajian, P.O. Box 475, Essex Jct., VT 05453. (405) 749-9553.

November 9: Second Sunday Stamp & Coin Show, Radisson Heritage Hotel, 10 Independence Dr. (Exit 34 off Rt. 495), Chelmsford, Massachusetts. Contact Monty Gibson, (508) 640-0017.

November 9: Riverside Stamp Show, Holiday Inn, Grove Street, Newton, Massachusetts. Contact Stephen Waxer, P.O. Box 190, Newton, MA. 02168 (617) 964-5714.

Colored cancels offer interesting area for further identification

Continued from page 1

listed as EKV or LKV if more than one date is known and the color. Following is a listing for Hebron Station.

HEBRON STATION, Maine. Doane 3/2, 31, 13. 13 NOV 1912 A.M., Brown. 7 MAR 1913 A.M. - 23 APR 1913 A.M., maroon.

HEBRON STATION, Maine. 4 Bar 32, 19 HM 10. 11 JUL 1913 P.M. - 1 OCT 1913 A.M., Lavender/Pink mix. 11 APR 1914 A.M. - 6 DEC 1915 A.M., Violet, Purple, Lavender/Pink mix used. 24 JAN 1916 A.M., Light Blue. 23 NOV 1917 A.M., Light Pink. 2 JUL 1918 P.M., Deep Pink. 18 APR 1919 A.M., Deep Magenta. 22 NOV 1920, P.M., Pink. 23 DEC 1920, A.M., Maroon/Pink mix. 8 APR 1921, P.M., Pink (worn cancel).

HEBRON STATION, Maine. 4 Bar 32, 19 H 8 M. 5 NOV 1921, A.M. - 8 MAR 1922, A.M., Magenta.

HEBRON STATION, Maine. 4 Bar 33, 19. 31 DEC 1936, P.M., Maroon. (L.D.) (New cancel).

Orr's Island has the longest listing of colors and cancels at this time in Maine. I also have a listing of towns and cities from A-Y.

If you have additional information about colored cancels, please contact me at 108 Marilyn Ave., Westbrook, ME 04092. I'm also interested if anyone can come up with a written date in a postcard message from WEST OUTLET, Maine. 4 Bar, 31, 13. 27 APR 8 A.M., - 7 AUG 8 A.M., Blue. 25 JUL 2 P.M., Pink - 25 AUG 2 P.M., Deep Magenta.

The cancel is in good shape so it must have been a few years after the CDS was replaced, possibly between 1908 and 1914.

Postal history of Turner, Maine

Continued from page 3

ing the duties thereof in a manner satisfactory to all persons and parties. This was on the old route from Farmington to Portland, but for a long while the mail has been carried daily each way between this place and Auburn.

The post office at Turner Center was established February 24, 1873 and Lewis P. Bradford appointed postmaster. The first mail was delivered March 13, 1873.

The post office at Keen's Mills was established in 1873, and William Andrews was appointed postmaster, but on account of pressure of private business he resigned, and Fred Wing was appointed his successor.

At South Turner Charles H. Harrell was appointed postmaster on January 25, 1875; he received his commission February 13th following, and the first mail was received the 15th of March. A stage ran daily from Auburn, by South Turner, Turner Center, East Turner, Keen's Mills, to North Turner Bridge.

The post office at Chase's Mills was established in December 1874 and Solon Chase was appointed postmaster. This office was served by a mail carried from Turner Village to Buckfield, a distance of six miles.

Tornado in Maine?

It's unusual for a tornado to strike in Maine, but while these Augusta postmarks from the 1820s and 1830s are rare, they don't depict a tornado, but rather a "horn of plenty" or cornu-



copia, appropriate for this time of the year when the leaves fall and the holidays approach. From the officers of the Maine Philatelic Society,

Happy Holidays!

Well Established Stamp and Coin Store For Sale

The owner of Maine's oldest stamp and coin store is ready to retire after 50 years. A well established store in the Windham Mall is for sale. Great potential for collectibles, sports cards, hobbies, UPS service, etc.

Very reasonable price, inventory negotiable.

For information, call

(207) 892-9128 or (207) 892-5121

THE CLASSIFIEDS

Classified advertisements are free to members. You may use this space to buy and sell, trade or swap. 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

Father and 13-year-old daughter collecting U.S. postage on a limited budget. Looking to pay face or a little higher for newer issues, mostly Scott numbers 2000-2800. Please contact Robert Vear, P.O. Box 501, Waterville, ME 04903-0501. (4-97)

Wanted: Portland, Greenwood and Albany ad. covers, postal history, postcards. Buy or generous trade for other Maine. Charles Brand, 2031-31st Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116. (4-97)

Wanted: modern (since 1970) U.S. covers. I am especially looking for junk mail transportation coil covers, Express mail, postage dues, insured mail, Certified mail, etc. Contact Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976-0840. (4-97)

Check your collections, accumulations, etc., for Pitcairn Island stamps and covers. I'm looking for 1938 "Radio Established Over Pitcairn" covers with dates other than March 18. Also looking for Newfoundland covers. Everett L. Parker, HC 76, Box 32, Greenville, ME 04441-9727. E-mail to: eparker@moosehead.net. (4-98)

Wanted: Maine hunting and fishing stamps on license. Will pay a minimum of \$10 each for every license I need. Also want Maine (and other New England states) Old Home Week seals. Terence Hines, P.O. Box 629, Chappaqua, NY 10514-0629. (4-98)

Information needed to further research on Maine NARROW GAUGE RPOs. Need RPO, month, day, year, train no. ME 4 BAR COLORED cancels, need P.O. name, month, day, year, time, color. Will respond to all information received. Bruce L. Corey, 108 Marilyn Ave., Westbrook, ME 04092-4624. (3-98)

FOR SALE

Precancel approvals: town and types 15¢, classics, 1922-26 general, bicents, prexies, perfins available. Buro approvals starting at 5¢. Good mixed precancel lots. 2,000-\$25.00; 10,000-\$110.00. Mixed buros, 2,000-\$25.00, 10,000-\$110.00. Dick Laetsch, 108 Ashswamp Road, Scarborough, ME 04074. e-mail: precancel@aol.com (4-97)

For sale: DPO, Macy, ME - Doane 1906 on PPC, Rarity 8, First \$75.00 takes it. Carl A. Burnham, RR1, Box 559, Limington, ME 04046. Telephone 637-2871. (1-98)

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."

PG	POST OFFICE	TOWN	R	COUNTY	ESTABLISHED	DISCONTINUED	NOTES
44	Maplewood		2			1 August 1985	
44	Maranacook					19 Jan. 1942 (not 1892)	
46	Medomak		1			1 July 1996	Changed to Bremen (2)
46	Mercer					18 Jan. 1963	Changed to Mercer Rural Sta., Norridgewock
46	ADD Mercer Rural Sta., Norridgewock	Mercer	2	Somerset	18 Jan. 1963	30 June 1975	Formerly Mercer
46	ADD Merrick Sq. Sta.	Dover-Foxcroft	6	Piscataquis	1940	?	
46	Michaud		9 (first line) 6 (second line)				
46	Milbridge						Mill Bridge 1872
46	Milltown Sta. Calais	Calais	0			Operating	Strike changed to Milltown CPO, Calais
46	Strike Milltown CPO, Calais	Calais					
49	National Soldiers Home Br., Augusta	Chelsea				9 Feb. 1931	Changed to Veterans Administration Home Br., Togus
49	DELETE Naval Base Br., Kittery	Kittery					The Navy Yard comes under New Hampshire
	DELETE Navy Yard, Kittery	Kittery					The Navy Yard comes under New Hampshire
49	ADD Naval Air Station MOU	Brunswick	0	Cumberland	?	Operating	Formerly Navy 10082, also known as MOU No. 1
49	Newagen		1			31 March 1996	Changed to Newagen CPO, West Southport
49	ADD Newagen CPO, West Southport	Southport	0	Lincoln	1 April 1996	Operating	Formerly Newagen
49	New Limerick					Fifth line 26 Oct. 1986	
49	New Limerick CPO, Houlton				26 Oct. 1986		
50	New Portland					March 1984	Changed to New Portland CPO, North New Portland
50	New Portland CPO, North New Portland	New Portland			March 1984		
50	North Alfred		9				
50	North Amity (2)		9			May 1989	Delete "Suspended"
					* EKU means "Earliest Known Use." "Latest Known Use."		LKU means

President's Message

By Everett L. Parker

From my perspective, it's difficult to believe that summer is gone and winter is almost upon us. As I write these words on October 1, snow is flying and I haven't got the wood into the basement yet. So much to do and so little time to do it. That's the story of life.

As I enter the first year of my second term as president of the Maine Philatelic Society, I am quite pleased with where we have come and where we're going. Pleased, but not ecstatic because, like putting the wood in, there's so much to be done. A few issues ago I reported that our membership stood at 180 people, and my mailing list shows we're currently at 238 members. Of course, some of those are folks who have not paid their 1997-98 dues yet (the 1997-98 dues year began last July 1) and some will be dropped for non-renewal.

For our last issue, I sent out quite a few extras to people who attended previous stamp shows but were not MPS members. Thanks to Board Member Jim Foote for providing the mailing labels. From that mailing we secured quite a few new members. My thanks to all who joined at that time, and I hope you will be a long-standing member!

We're working on other projects and will keep you posted.

Are YOU on the Internet?

In order to offer more rapid communications, we will publish e-mail addresses of Maine Philatelic Society members and officers ONLY if they wish to be listed. Please e-mail your address to the president to be included here. If you're not on the Web, look into it -- there are hundreds of sites worldwide to explore!

George Barner = gbarner@cybertours.com

Nancy B. Clark = nbc@Cape.com

David Costain = dcostain@telplus.net

Terry Drummond = bulldog@somtel.com

Dick Laetsch = precancel@aol.com

Max Lynds = max@ainop.com

Dave Muzzy = edmuzzy@ime.net

Robert W. Olmsted = olrob@midcoast.com

Everett L. Parker = eparker@moosehead.net

Jack Pooler = pooler@voyager.net

Richard Warren = dickw@midcoast.com

Edwin F. Whitney = edwhitney@clinic.net

*Anyone interested in designing a home page
for the Maine Philatelic Society?*

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

TO:

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
If (6-97) appears after your
name on the mailing label, this
is **YOUR LAST ISSUE!**
You must renew today!