



The Maine Philatelist

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January 2000

Whole No. 118

Purchasing precanceled postage prevents pocket pucker

By Rick Stambaugh
Treasurer

As a Maine postal history collector, you reach the point where you have most 0-5 covers and now need those non-obtainable 8, 9 and 10s. (I'm referring to the rarity values of *The Post Offices of Maine, A Rarity Guide*.) This situation poses two problems: it's difficult to find new material for your collection, and paying for eight to tens causes pocketbook pucker from the vacuum created by the outrush of dollars. Don't despair. There is hope. Consider Maine precanceled postal stationery and/or stamps.

Postal history collectors are interested in where, when and how the mail moved. Each precancel is a piece of postal history. At a minimum, precanceled stamps identify the town and era of use (*Figure 1*). Some dated precancels additionally have the initials of the user and month



Figure 1
Current stamp
issue

and year of use (*Figure 2*). Covers with precanceled stamps may provide further data via backstamps or routing marks. Precanceled postal stationery show the town and period of use. Figure 3 shows a Maine precanceled envelope from Sanford; the Sec. 562 P.L. & R. tells you that it was used between 1932 and 1948.

An analysis of Maine precanceled collecting as postal history in addition to the usual Maine post office canceled cover collecting is surprising. For the purposes of this article, only three types of precancel collecting will be assessed: 1) towns, collecting one stamp from every Maine town that ever used precancels; 2) types, obtaining one of every type pre-C from each town, and 3) stationery, collecting every different precanceled envelope from Maine. For traditional Maine postal history collecting, the goal is assumed to

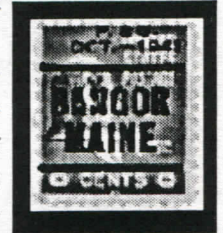


Figure 2
Proctor &
Gamble
October 1941

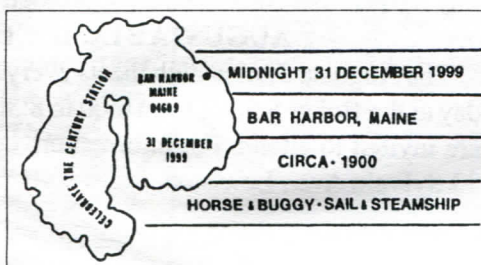
Continued on page 4

Bar Harbor said to have seen first light of new millennium

Whether Lubec or Bar Harbor saw the first light of the new millennium has been the subject of numerous news stories, but members of the Union River Stamp Club say the summit of Cadillac Mountain was the first place in the U.S. where the sunrise occurred on January 1, 2000.

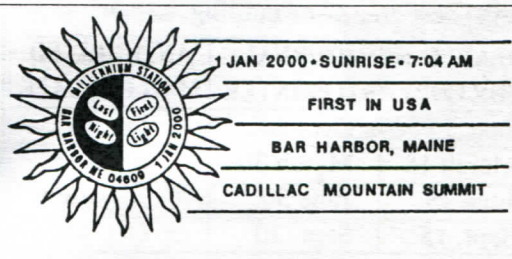
And to celebrate the event, two special cancels were prepared in conjunction with two days of millennium festivities sponsored by the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce and the Bar Harbor Historical Society.

The front side of the message card has a 20¢ Cog Railway stamp and is franked with the map cancel (left) and is dated December 31, 1999. Also on this side of the card is a replica of an original ferry schedule as issued in 1886. The reverse side



has a full card size cachet of an 1887 photo of the horse and buggy, sail and steamship era taken at the Steamboat Wharf in Bar Harbor. The front side of the reply card also has the 20¢ Cog Railway stamp and the "sunburst" cancel below dated January 1, 2000. Also on this side of the card is a facsimile of a "Green Mountain Railway" schedule and the reverse side of the reply card has a cachet showing a Cog Railway engine and passenger car used on Cadillac Mountain.

You may order this unique souvenir for \$2.00 each plus SASE from Arnold Krommenohl, Union River Stamp Club, 289 Pretty Marsh Rd., Mount Desert, ME 04660. They are



also available at the Bar Harbor chamber of commerce and historical society at the same price.

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.

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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 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Sanford Masonic Hall, Elm Street, 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 Levasseur, 329 Ross Corner Rd., 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.

AUGUSTA STAMP CLUB

The Augusta Stamp Club meets every first and third Tuesday at the Buker School from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Nonmembers are invited to attend. For information, contact Ray Gagnon, 23 Sylvain Ave., Lewiston, ME 04240.

Development of overland postal services on Mt. Desert Island began in 1795

By Arnold Krommenohl

Of Mt. Desert

It was 1795 before the settlers of Mount Desert Island were to have some sort of overland mail service. This came about with the establishment of a post office in Trenton on October 1, 1794. Theodore Jones was the first postmaster.

Ellsworth had not been incorporated until 1800; until then land on the east side of the Union River was known as Trenton and the west side was Surry. The Ellsworth Post Office was created on July 13, 1803, after which the Trenton Post Office was discontinued for several years.

On March 1, 1819 the town of Eden chose Nicholas Thomas Jr., Moses Higgins and Jeremiah Stevens as a committee to join with a committee from Mount Desert and Trenton in petitioning the government to have the mail brought from Ellsworth to Mount Desert at government expense.

The first post offices on the island were established in 1821 at Eden and Mt. Desert. At that time Mt. Desert included all of the island except Eden, and Somesville was the trade center of the island. The Post Office Department appointed John Sommes Jr. postmaster of Mt. Desert on March 12, 1821. The Post Office was located in a small building on the site of one of the stores in the village of Somesville. This also served Southwest Harbor and all of the western side of the island.

The earliest record of any mail service on the island is a contract made the 16th day of October 1820 with Josiah Paine of Portland and Alexander Rice of Kittery to carry the mail, "From Ellsworth by Jordens river schoolhouse in Trenton, and Mount Desert narrows to Mount Desert once a week. To leave Mount Desert Thursday at 5 a.m. and arrive at Ellsworth by 11 a.m.; returning, leave Ellsworth at 1 p.m., and arrive at Mt. Desert at 7 p.m." This contract was made for four years beginning January 21, 1821 and ending December 31, 1824.

Anderson Hopkins was the first mail carrier, The only post office was at Eden. In 1830 the mail began to be carried from Eden to Somesville, Southwest Harbor and Bass Harbor and in 1840 to Bar Harbor, where the post office was named East Eden.

The reminiscences of Eben M. Hamor of Town Hill afford an interesting glimpse of the social conditions on the island in the first half of the nineteenth century. He writes:

"During Andrew Jackson's second administration, from March 3, 1833 to March 3, 1837, Capt. William Thompson, who lived on Thompsons Island, was mail contractor on the route from Ellsworth to Mount Desert. In the spring of 1836 he employed my father to carry the mail from the narrows to Southwest Harbor and back, one trip a week, for \$50 a year. On Friday, the 25th day March 1836, the day before I was 14 years of age, I took the mail bags at the narrows at about 4 p.m. and carried it on horseback to the Eden office; thence home to my fathers in Town Hill. The next morning, it being my fourteenth birthday, I carried the mail to Mount Desert office in Somesville, thence to South West Harbor, arriving there about 11 o'clock. At about 1 o'clock I started on my return trip arriving at the narrows about four."

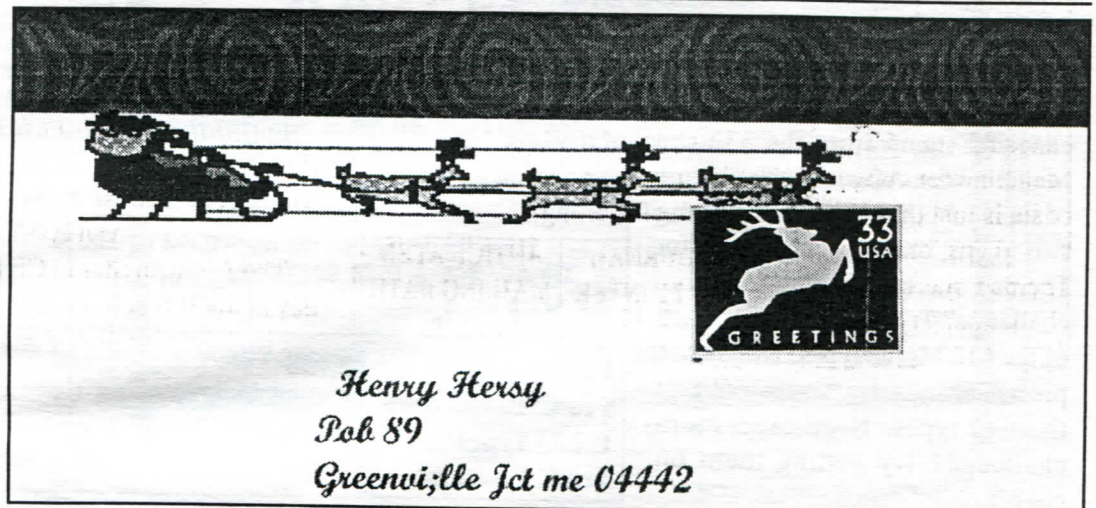
The mode of carrying the mail when the ground was bare was, from the narrows to Mount Desert, sometimes on horseback and sometimes with a horse and wagon, then the remainder of the way on horseback. When there was snow enough, a horse and sleigh could go over the whole route, though the road over Beech Hill to Southwest Harbor was nothing more than a bridle path.

The bridge over the narrows was built in the winter of 1836-7. Capt. William Thompson and John M. Noyes built it on contract and it cost about \$5,000. Thompsons Island was

Continued on page 4

Christmas cachet from postmaster

Santa answered letters from children in the Moosehead region with this special cachet made just for the holiday season. Alice Templeton, officer-in-charge of the Greenville Junction Post Office, assisted Santa by sending letters to children outside the mail stream.



then part of the town of Eden, and annexed to Trenton in June 1847. Captain Thompson kept a variety store and built vessels; he was one of the prominent businessmen in town.

The Eden Post Office was kept by Leonard J. Thomas in his dwelling house, which stood where the John Hodgkins house now stands. The settlement was known as the Thomas district.

"The office in Mr. Thomas's house was the only post office in Eden and consequently people came there from all parts of the town. I well remember frequently seeing Mr. Tobias Roberts from 'Bar Island' as the place was then called, Edward Brewer from Hulls Cove, John McFarland from Salisbury Cove and many others at the office after their mail.

"After I had made 2 or 3 trips, Captain Thompson advised me to ask Squire Thomas to swear me in as a mail carrier, so when I arrived at the office I requested him to administer the oath of mail carrier to me. The office was full of people, many of them strangers, and I a boy who had never heard an oath administered, was required to stand there in the presence of that crowd, hold up my hand, announce my name and repeat after him the oath of allegiance to the United States, and that I would faithfully perform the duties of a mail carrier. I was never so frightened before or since.

"The next place on my route was Town Hill, which re-

ceived the name on account of the town owning a tract of land containing 450 acres extending over the hill from northeast to southwest. The next settler on my route was Dr. Kittredge who lived across the bound of the town of Mount Desert. He moved to Mount Desert from Penobscot in 1799 and was the only practicing physician on the island for many years.

"About one mile farther south was the Mount Desert Post Office, kept by John Somes. The village was then called "Between the Hills," afterwards Somesville and it was the most important business place on the island. The road ran to the west of all the houses in the village except David Richardson's and crossed the brook near the cemetery. A branch mail ran from here to Seal Cove, where Squire William Heath was postmaster.

"There was a trail on the east side of Dennings Pond (as Echo Lake was then called) but the road I traveled led over Beech Hill and across the mountains to the head of Norwood Cove. There were eleven families living on Beech Hill. There was a schoolhouse near the northern part of the settlement.

"The post office at Southwest Harbor was kept by David Ring in his two story house on Kings Point. The inhabitants of Southwest Harbor were mostly engaged in coasting and

Continued on page 8

Pocket pucker power

Continued from page 1

be obtaining a cover with a cancel from every post office.

When considering a new collecting interest, you want to know how many items are required for completion, and the cost. Cost must be considered in two ways: what's the cost of completion and what percent of the material is affordable.

Table 1 shows a comparison of each type of collecting based on current catalogue values. Clearly the cost of collecting one cover from every Maine post office (or even 95%) is intimidating, especially compared to precancels.

Precancels may be cheap, but they're not easy. In theory, for only \$95.00 you can collect a precanceled stamp from the 335 precancel-using Maine towns. After over five years of such collecting, I'm still missing two towns, one that catalogues for 15¢ and one for \$4.00. Need more challenge? Try getting one of each of the 612 Maine types. No known precancel collector has over 608 of the 612 types. Need even more challenge? Try getting them on cover!

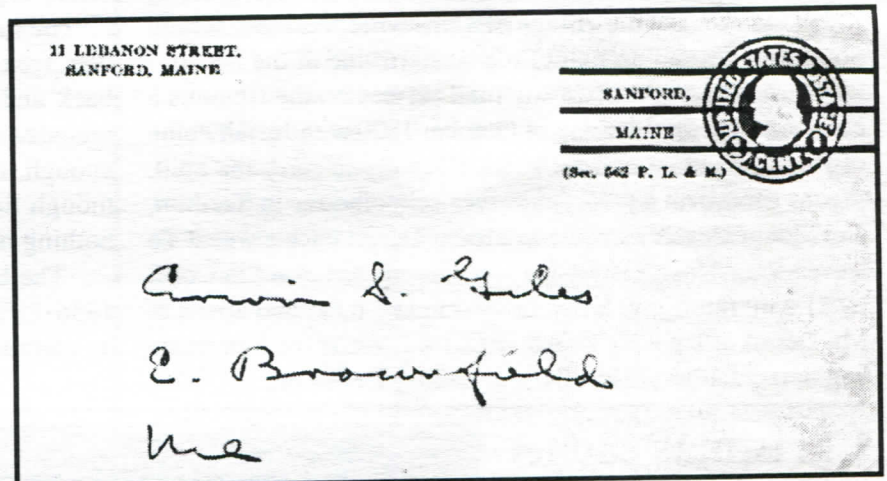


Figure 3
Sanford, Maine to East Brownfield, Maine

Item	No. of items	Cost of 100% of items	Percent of items costing less than \$20	Cost of 95% of items
ME post office	2,738	\$172,988	46%	\$145,588
Pre-C Towns	335	95	100%	48
Pre-C Types	612	3,353	97%	615
Pre-C Envelope	286	935	98%	542

PIONEER POSTCARDS

1881
J. Lyman
Medical Trade Card
Mailed to
Postmasters

by Bruce Nelson

What looks like a typical stock trade card that was stamped and mailed to the "P.M." (Postmaster) of West Berne, Albany County, New York, has an interesting printed message: "P.M. Please tack this up in your Office so everybody may see it." J. Lyman is selling his medicine "Lyman's Specific" at one dollar a box to cure Catarrh or a runny nose (also known as a common cold). It is apparent this stock trade card was sent pointedly to postmasters to help promote this product.

When does a mailed trade card become a true postcard? When there is a stamp box?—Yes! When there are three lines for an address—Yes! But what about when the message itself implies that the card was meant to be mailed? Perhaps this card might be called a transition card, one that is somewhere between a mailed trade card and a true postcard.



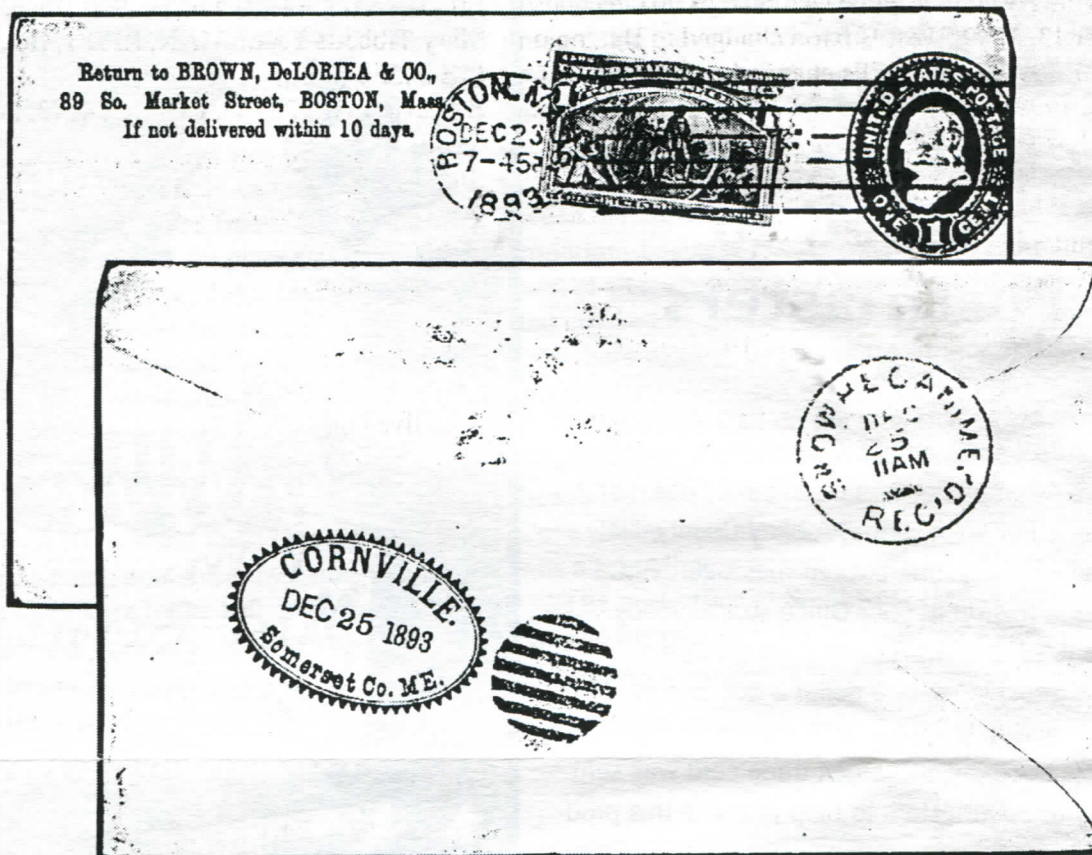
Bruce Nelson has been an avid postcard collector for over 20 years. His collecting interests cover almost all topics. He has a special interest in the origin and evolution of American postcards and has written many articles in this magazine displaying significant examples of Pioneer cards. He also has a strong passion for real photographic cards, especially those of social significance. Write to Bruce at P.O. Box 3565, Portland, ME 04104.

Advertisement for 'Lyman's Specific' medicine. Text includes: 'Death to Diseases of the Head. Purely Vegetable and free from Poison.', 'WHAT IS CATARRH? IT IS LIVING PARASITES', 'In the Nose, invisible to the naked eye, but under the microscope may be readily seen...', 'PRICE \$1.00 A BOX, OR SIX BOXES \$5.00 BY MAIL.', 'Address, J. LYMAN, 32 FORTY-SECOND STREET, SOUTH BROOKLYN, KINGS CO., N. Y.', and 'P. M. Please tack this up in your Office so everybody may see it.'

Image at the top was reproduced at 120%; the image directly above is shown at actual size.

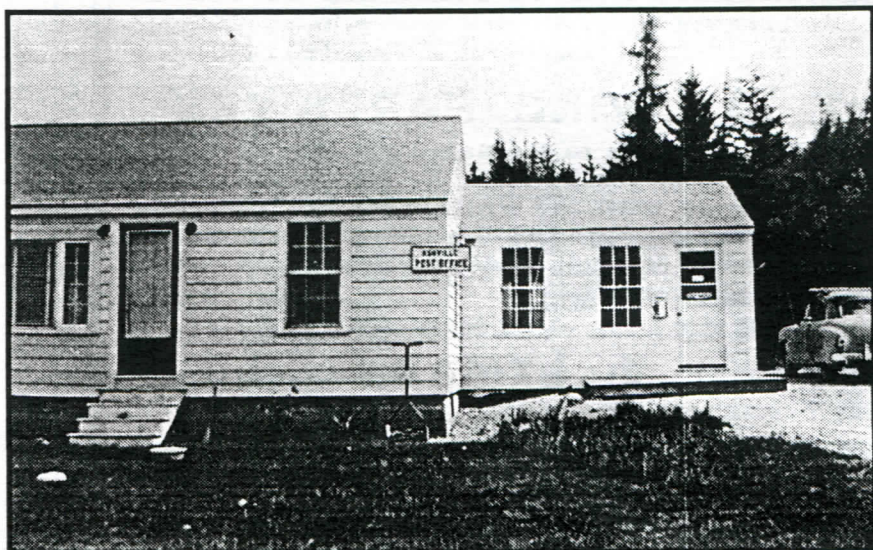
A postal history feature
by Rob Washburn
of Skowhegan

Maine Cover of the Quarter



The above cover features a 1¢ Columbian on U294 with a magenta Dec. 25, 1893 Cornville, Somerset County, Maine saw-toothed oval backstamp. Apparently, a dedicated postal worker was at work on Christmas Day in Cornville in 1893. Cornville no longer has a post office (it was closed on June 20, 1903). If you have a candidate for "Maine Cover of the Quarter," please send a photocopy against a black background to Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976.

Post Offices of Maine A regular feature



This photo shows the post office in Ashville, now a part of Gouldsboro in Hancock County. The post office in Ashville was opened on November 9, 1886 and closed on June 14, 1980 when it was changed to Gouldsboro. 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.

NEWS BRIEFS

Post office changes

The Cardville Post Office name was changed to Greenbush on November 13, 1999. West Buxton changed to Buxton on November 20, 1999. Locke Mills changed to Greenwood on November 6, 1999. No Zip codes were changed. This information came from Postal Bulletin 22011 (November 18, 1999), page 48.

-- From Dan Goodwin

York County Stamp Club has website

The York County Stamp Club joined the World Wide Web recently, and can be reached on the Internet at:

<http://www0.delphi.com/stamps/apschapyork.html>

Check out the page to see what's going on with York County philately!

-- From Tracey Levasseur

Secretary's Report Bruce Hazelton Secretary

NEW MEMBERS

Eric **BEALS**, 437 Center St., Old Town, ME 04468 (6-00)
Mary Tibbetts **FREEMAN**, RFD 1, Box 688, West Bath, ME 04530 (6-00)
F. Barrie **FREEMAN**, P.O. Box 4873, Portland, ME 04412 (6-00)
John E. **SAWYER**, 11282 68th Ave., N., Seminole, FL 33772 (6-00)
George **BANNER**, 33 Wellstone Dr., Portland, ME 04103 (6-00)

This quarterly Secretary's Report will provide current members with names and addresses of new members and address changes of members as well as other pertinent information from the Secretary. Please remember that new membership applications, address changes and dues should be sent to the Secretary at the address listed on page 2.

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

Wanted: modern (since 1970) U.S. covers. I am especially looking for junk mail transportation coil PNC covers, Express mail, postage dues, insured mail, Certified mail, auxiliary markings, etc. Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976-0840. (4-00)

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. (4-00)

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. (4-00)

Wanted to buy: Maine fancy cancels on cover or postal cards, stampless to 1920 only. Let me know what you have. Gil Roderick, 52 Fern St., Bangor, ME 04401. (4-00)

Collector is looking for covers from Houlton Air Force Base Station. If you have same, please contact me. Telephone: 538-9788 (home) or 532-2291 (work). My e-mail is max@ainop.com Max Leigh Lynds, P.O. Box 761, Houlton, ME 04730-0761. (4-00)

Wanted: perfins used in Maine, on cover or off (with good town cancels). Special interest in AJS (Auburn) and SB (Bangor) -- users not yet identified. Will buy or trade. Vince McDermott, 53 Willow Grove Rd., Brunswick, ME 04011-2969. (3-00)

Wanted: affordable U.S. classics. I am looking for U.S. Scott #140 in any affordable condition including space filler grade. Can you help me? Bob Gross, RR4, Box 7295, Gardiner, ME 04345-

9113 (4-00).

We urgently need quantities of used Japanese stamps from the period of 1876 (Old Koban Series) through 1955. Dealer stocks, accumulations, bundle material from this period needed for our specialist customers. Will buy anything and everything (used only) at fair prices or will select only what we must urgently need at near to full Scott retail. Prompt payment always. Forty-five years in the trade! John B. Head, P.O. Box 7, Bethel, ME 04217. (4-00)

Wanted: Maine Express Covers (and others): with labels, hand-stamps, manuscript markings or comercards. Express Company labels and stamps (such as for newspapers, parcels or free franking) off cover also sought. William W. Sammis (Bill), 436 Thomas Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850-9653. (4-00)

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 (4-00)

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. (4-00)

For sale: U.S. Souvenir Pages: 10 notebooks embossed "American Commemorative Collections" with 369 souvenir pages, from 12 January 1983 to 24 April 1992. My cost was \$725.38. Please make me an offer. Richard Carr, 283 Pool St., Biddeford, ME 04005. (4-00)

Mt. Desert postal history

Continued from page 4

fishing. There was no mail route to Bass Harbor, but a man by the name of Parley was employed by the people there to carry their mail. He was an old man and used to carry his mail matter in a canvas bag. I carried the mail eighteen months, one trip a week, and I am sure that there was not a bushel of mail matter in the bag at one time while I carried it.

"It may be of interest to know that there were no envelopes or postage stamps at that time. Letters were written on sheets of paper, then folded in different ways according to the fancy or ingenuity of the writer, then sealed with sealing wax. Postage on letters was 6^{1/4}, 12^{1/2}, 18^{3/4}, and 25 cents according to the distance, and usually paid by the receiver. There were coins or silver pieces of money in circulation, worth 6^{1/4} cents called fourpence half penny, 12^{1/2} cents called ninepence. One fourpence halfpenny and one ninepence were worth 18^{3/4} cents."

The preceding was as it was related by Mr. Eben M. Hamor. Mr. Hamor subsequently became postmaster in Town Hill and served for 25 years.

The President's Message will return in the next issue!

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.

- George Barner = gbarner@cybertours.com
- Al Barth = abarth@bdc.bethel.me.us
- Chuck Brand = shakerdom@hotmail.com
- Tom Cieslinski = singcies@mint.net
- Nancy B. Clark = nbc@Cape.com
- David Costain = dcostain@telplus.net
- Terry Drummond = bulldog@somtel.com
- Jim Forte = jimforte@postal.history.com
- Dan Goodwin = dgoodwin@psouth.net
- Terence Hines = THines@FSmail.Pace.edu
- Kelvin Kindahl = kanda@javanet.com
- Dick Laetsch = precancel@aol.com
- Max Lynds = max@ainop.com
- Paul R. Maynard = prmay13@juno.com
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- Edwin F. Whitney = edwhitney@clinic.net
- Kennedy L. Wilson = k-riew@midcoast.com

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



TO:

(6-00) #549

Kindahl, Mr. Kelvin
29 Clark Street
East Hampton, MA 01027-2329

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
If (6-99) appears after your name on the mailing label, it's time to renew your dues!

01027X2329 03

