



The Maine Philatelist

Vol. 36, No. 3

January 2004

Whole No. 134

MPS board realigns, election called

It has been a tough decision, but your president has decided it is time to step down and allow "new blood" to take over the helm of the MPS "ship." At the same time, secretary Bruce Hazelton has announced his resignation (from that position), and board member Ray Gagnon has submitted his resignation. While it may appear that many long-time officers are "jumping ship," that's not the case. It's rather a realignment of positions to allow for a stronger organization.

For your president, the decision to resign after several years of leading the organization was made based on the problem of working too many jobs and living in an area too remote to allow for attending the necessary statewide meetings.

To that end, Max Lynds of Houlton, a current board member, has agreed to step in on a temporary basis to serve as president until elections are held. He is willing to continue in that capacity, and his name appears on the enclosed ballot. At the same time, Vice President James Foote III and Secretary Bruce Hazelton have agreed to switch jobs, if elected, giving new energy to each of those positions.

The biggest problem is a lack of members of the Board of Directors. The organization can have up to eight directors, but at the moment, only Dr. John Engle holds that position beyond the four officers. The good news is that James Violette of Nobleboro has agreed to stand for election. The bad news is that we need six more volunteers, and thus you are encouraged to "write in" your name if you're willing to help. If you nominate another person, please be certain that person is willing to have their name placed in nomination, and will be willing to serve if elected.

Please complete the enclosed election ballot and return to the Editor, Dr. Everett L. Parker, 719 Moosehead Lake Road, Greenville, ME 04441-9727, no later than March 15. Email ballots cannot be accepted; paper ballots must be submitted to be valid. Ballots will be tabulated and those elected will take office on July 1, 2004. Please take part in this election by mailing your ballot today. It should be noted that your editor will be out-of-state from January 18-31 and any correspondence will be answered on return.

Never Hinged by Jim Michielli



"SORRY BOSS, BUT THE NEW MAIL ROOM GUY'S SOME COLLECTOR NUT."

"Mystery cancel" from Portland

It very well may not be a mystery at all, especially to the people at the Portland Post Office, but member Dave Muzzy of Westbrook wonders about this mark, which was found on a letter dated August 5, 2002. The circular datestamp contains the wording: "CLAIMS & INQUIRIES, PORTLAND ME 04101." The CDS is applied in red ink.



Has anyone else seen this cancel on mail? If so, has anyone an explanation for it? What is the "Claims & Inquiries" section of the Portland Post Office and why does it need a special CDS?

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

Website: <http://www.ainop.com/users/max/mps.htm>

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 \$5.00 per fiscal year (ending in June).

Life Membership is also available.

Contact the Secretary for details.

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

OFFICERS

President

Mr. Max Lynds

P.O. Box 761

Houlton, ME 04730

email: Max@pwless.net

Vice President

Mr. Jim Foote III (2004)

P.O. Box 16

Manchester, ME 04351-0016

Secretary

Mr. Bruce Hazelton (2003)

P.O. Box 67A

Cumberland Center, ME 04021

Treasurer

Mr. Rick Stambaugh (2004)

18 Elmwood Ct.

N. Berwick, ME 03906

email - rickstambaugh@xpressamerica.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John E. Engle, M.D. of Waterville

(johnengle@mac.com) (2004)

EDITOR

Dr. Everett L. Parker

719 Moosehead Lake Road

Greenville, ME 04441-9727

email: eparker@midmaine.com

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.

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

It appears the Belfast Stamp Club is no more. Could someone please confirm the status?

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 third Thursday of each month from April through November at the Ellsworth Library, beginning at 6:30 p.m. For information, contact Eric Beal at 827-2686 or Eric.Beal@umit.maine.edu.

KENNEBEC VALLEY STAMP AND COLLECTOR CLUB OF AUGUSTA

The Kennebec Valley Stamp and Collector Club meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Central Maine Power Company headquarters on Edison Drive in Augusta. Meetings are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For additional information, call Shirley MacKay at 622-7978, or contact by email at kildonan@prexar.com.

A postmarked shopping list from settlement of Ogontz

Ogontz was a small, summer post office in Big W Township on the northwest shore of Moosehead Lake. The post office was opened on February 24, 1928 and closed on March 31, 1956. During its years of operation, there were four postmasters.

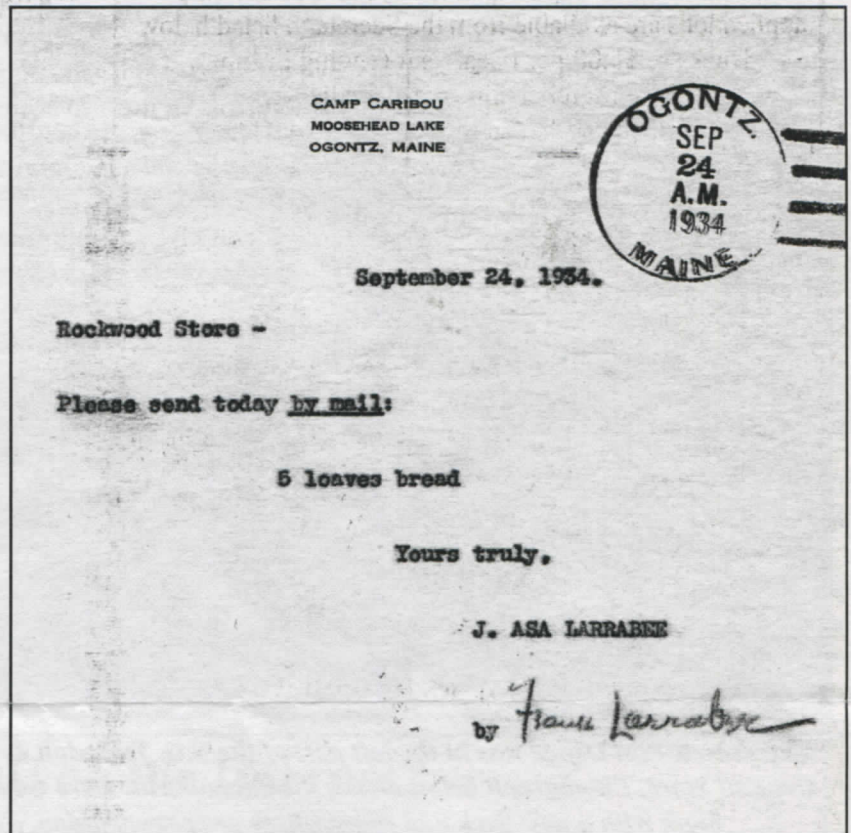
Today, Ogontz is marked on some maps, but no roads lead to it, and in fact, there's only one summer camp at the site, the one in which the original post office was located. During the 1930s and into the 1950s, a daily mailboat ran from the Kineo dock on the mainland at Rockwood (only a stone's throw from the Rockwood Post Office) stopping at other shorefront camps, and finally reaching Ogontz, where a long pier into Moosehead Lake accommodated steamers such as the *Moosehead*. Extant photographs show the vessels tied up at the pier. Camp Caribou at Ogontz was the name of the sporting camp operation during this era.

In accessioning a collection of Ogontz-related material at the Moosehead Historical Museum, where your editor serves as executive director, I came across a slip of paper illustrated at right. It is 152 x 175mm in size and on 20 pound watermarked bond paper.

Frank Larrabee, son of owner J. Asa Larrabee, found that he needed five loaves of bread (perhaps extra guests arrived at the camp, or perhaps he was making bread pudding). And, apparently having no time to make the bread, he quickly typed out a grocery order on the piece of paper, which has a "Camp Caribou/ Moosehead Lake/Ogontz, Maine" letterhead, postmarked it with the Ogontz circular datestamp, and apparently handed it to the mailboat operator.

The first sentence, "Please send today by mail" has "by

mail" underlined, apparently to underscore the urgency of his need for bread. Notice, too, that while the item is postmarked, no postage was applied. It would have been common practice



at the time for the mailboat operator to deliver such notices to the store, wait for the order to be packed up, and then deliver it on the next mail run -- all without a thought for compensation.

Today, of course, is a very different story.

Headline from the past: "Littleton Post Office Robbed"

By Max Lynds
President

This little tidbit of information is from the *Aroostook Times* in its edition of September 8, 1899:

"Littleton Post Office robbed.

"A mysterious case was reported from Littleton on Wednesday night. The post office was sacked and all the registered mail taken by someone who forced an entrance to the office.

"Mr. Albert Ingraham is also minus a bay mare weighing about 1,050 pounds, a harness, and a wagon and a large amount of clothing.

"Mr. Ingraham has had in his employ a man named Brown who has disappeared in connection with the registered mail and other merchandise.

"The sentiment seems to be that the man, Brown, is the cause of all the trouble and Deputy Sheriff Bates is upon the track of the fugitive, who would have shown more wisdom had he been contented with the horse, etc. and not monkeyed with the U.S. Government."

(EDITOR'S NOTE: To be absolutely correct, the post office was burgled and not robbed: to rob implies a threat of force.)

A continuing history of the Trevett Post Office

By Blanche H. Goodspeed

Of Trevett

The old photograph shown here is of the S.G. Hodgdon & Son General Store. There is a bridge to Barter's Island to the south. The wharf was leased by the Mill Cove Lobster Pound to the right (north). The post office is on the left front of the



The Trevett Post Office was in the left part of the S.G. Hodgdon & Son General Store. Photograph below shows the current Mill Cove Country Store with a new deck and ramp which are very popular during the summer months.

building. It was decided that when it was officially started in the late 1800s, the town would be called Hodgdon, but there was already a Hodgdon Post Office in the Down East area.

An employee of the store by name of Trevett allowed his name to be used. S.G. Hodgdon established and ran the post office, followed by his son, Charles, then by my father, Richard, who ran it for 14 years, followed by my aunt, Dorothy Hodgdon. She was postmaster for 30 years. Upon her retirement, my youngest brother, Stanley, carried on as postmaster and ran the grocery store.

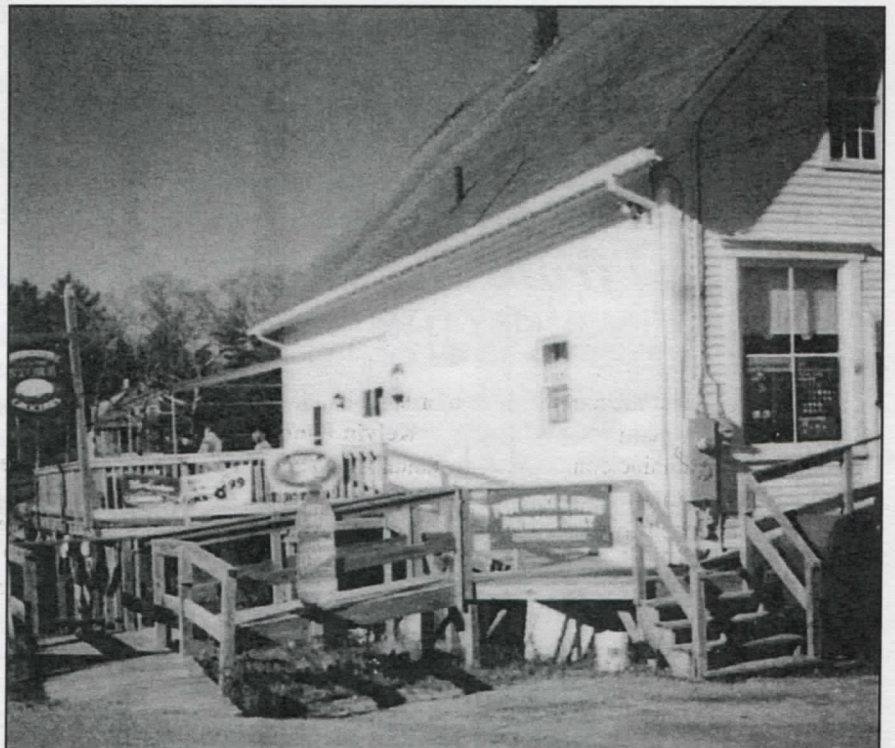
In recent years, Mill Cove Lobster Pound purchased the building and established the country store on the south side of the building, and constructed a ramp for the post office entrance. It is now a convenience store and one can purchase food there to eat in or take out.

The post office is still there, although there have been attempts to close it, but to no avail. Many letters and meetings at the community hall have thus far kept the post office open and operating. There was interest to have Trevett mail go to the Boothbay Post Office, but that post office is not big enough to accommodate the additional business. And the post office in Boothbay is located at a hazardous intersection. Now they are looking for a larger building.

Our present postmasters change now and then, and often it's someone who doesn't know the people and can't give directions to those who are in need of them.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Do you have a favorite post office? Or do you know about a post office that may be closing? Send a photograph of it along with the information for a forthcoming issue of TMP.

(Also, articles with photographs of old post office buildings and the current structure are solicited for forthcoming issues. Keep your fellow members up to date with what's going on in Maine!)



Cumberland circle type precancel of the 1850s

Cumberland, Maine was one of the early users of precancels. It is well known for its two straight line precancels, which appear on the stamps of the 1857 series. One of these, in eighteen point Gothic bold capitals on the one-cent 1857, has been known for many years; and the other, in Roman upper and lower case on the three-cent 1857, was the outstanding discovery of 1933 in the field of precancel classics.

In both of these instances, the stamps were first affixed to cover, and the precanceling was done as part of the printing of the address lines, printed words of address, etc.

A third type also appeared, on a cover which has long been known to collectors, but which had not been recognized as a precancel because of resemblance to an ordinary postmark (shown at right). On the buff envelope franked with a three-cent 1857 stamp, a circular cancellation, together with the directing lines of address, were printed in one operation. As was always the case with these old Cumberland precancels, the month and day, but not the year, form part of the precanceling. Thus, Cumberland is not only a pioneering precanceling office, but also a pioneer on the two features of dating the precancel and precanceling after affixing to cover.

It would be interesting to know whether other copies of this precancel may be resting unrecognized as to their real nature, among the covers in collections of Maine postal his-

tory, of three-cents 1851-57, or elsewhere.

The printed nature of the precancel, which differs very definitely from the town postmark then in use at Cumberland, is not too obvious at first sight. The typeset nature of the mark is, however, easy to discover; and the ink, as well as the character of the impression, at once mark it as a printed job.



The precancel nature of this item is beyond all question. We now need only to know the year of use. No doubt some memo on some unrecognized copy will furnish us that, as well as the name of the user.

(This information is reprinted, in part, from an article by Stephen G. Rich in the August 22, 1942 issue of Stamps magazine [Vol. 40, No. 8]. Photocopies of the entire article may be obtained from your editor for courtesy of a SASE.)

Are YOU on the Internet?

Here is a list of MPS members with e-mail

Albert Aldham
bertaldham@webtv.net
Joe Antizzo
Joeantizzo@aol.com
Louis C. Bakula
grampsusn@aol.com
Robert (Bob) Barker
rebarker@rebarker.com
George Barner
georgebarner@adelphia.net
Al Barth
cfercat@megalink.net
Chuck Brand
shakerdom@hotmail.com
Tom Cieslinski
tomciesl@midmaine.com
Gary Clark
gclark1@tampabay.rr.com
Nancy B. Clark
nbc@Cape.com
David Costain
dcostain@midmaine.com
Roger Curran
rdcnrc@evenlink.com

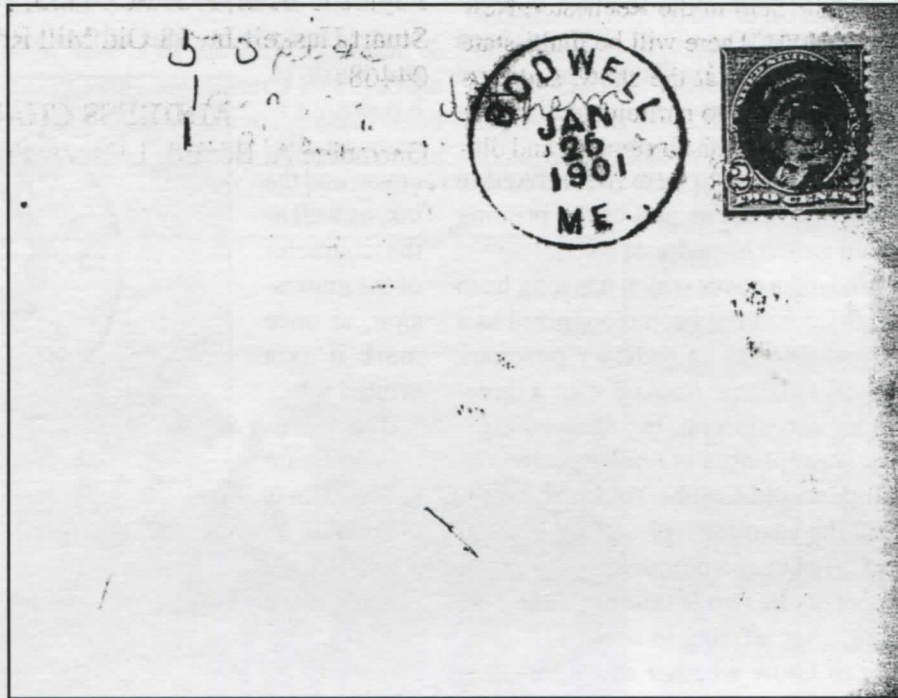
Dr. John Engle
johnengle@mac.com
Jim Forte
jimforte@postalhistory.com
Dan Goodwin
dgoodwi3@maine.rr.com
Robert Gross
bobgrossrc@adelphia.net
Gary W. Hibbard
ghibbar1@maine.rr.com
Terence Hines
TerenceHines@aol.com
Alf Jordan
ajordan1@maine.rr.com
Kelvin Kindahl
kanda@javanet.com
Dick Laetsch
precancel@aol.com
Steve LaForge
stephenlaforge@netscape.net
Rick Lancaster
modcover@gwi.net
James Larsen
larsenj@c2i2.com

Philippe C. Lebel
PCLEBEL@hotmail.com
Rev. Robert Leon
bobleon@tabletoptelephone.com
Max Lynds
Max@pwless.net
Paul R. Maynard
Maynard25@Charter.net
Vince McDermott
vjmcdermott@aol.com
Andrew J. Moran
amoran66@yahoo.com
Ed Muzzy
edmuzzy17@aol.com
Robert W. Olmsted
cal@americanletters.org
Everett L. Parker
eparker@midmaine.com
Phil Peverada
peverada@midcoast.com
Thurlow Pitts
antares23@hypernet.com
Jack Pooler
car99@comcast.net

Steven Pottle
sprpide@aol.com
Gil Roderick
destamps@acadia.net
William W. Sammis
cds13@cornell.edu
John E. Sawhill Jr.
bsawhill@suscom-mainse.net
Art Scarano
a.j.scarano@att.net
Barry Serpell
serpellmaine@aol.com
Roland Simard
manacorp@aol.com
Henry Stevens
hstevens@stamps.win.net
Henry G. Turnbull
AZNPHTGT1@webtv.net
Edwin F. Whitney
edfwhitney@yahoo.com
Richard Williams
richwilljr@adelphia.net
Kennedy L. Wilson
k-mew@midcoast.com

A postal history feature
by Rob Washburn
of Skowhegan

Maine Cover of the Quarter



The above cover has a scarce Bodwell, Maine (1/25/1901) cancel. This post office was only in existence from January 10, 1900 until September 14, 1901, and has a 10 ("no known postmarks") scarcity rating per *The Post Offices of Maine: A Rarity Guide*. Now at least one is known. (Cover courtesy of Joe Antizzo.)

(If you have a candidate for Maine Cover of the Quarter, please send a photocopy of your cover 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 at Abbot, Maine. According to Bruce Hazelton's *The Post Offices of Maine, A Rarity Guide*, this post office was originally established in Piscataquis County on September 3, 1825 (may also be seen spelled "Abbott"). The Abbot Village Post Office (shown here) was established on July 27, 1861, and is still operating in this building (which has been modified). Do YOU have a photo of an old post office? Send it to the editor with as much information as you know about it.*

An invitation to exhibit

The Empire State Postal History Society has issued an invitation to Maine Philatelic Society members to participate in ROPEX 2004, which will be held in the Rochester, New York suburb of Wester, New York. There will be multi-state postal history exhibiting competition at the show, and thus the encouragement of MPS members to participate.

Activities planned include a dinner and a seminar and discussion during the weekend (June 18-20, 2004) to exchange ideas and information on state postal history.

To obtain an Exhibitor Prospectus, or for additional information, contact Alan Parsons, 809 Holley Rd., Elmira, NY 14509-1212, or email him at alatholleyrd@aol.com.

Secretary's Report Bruce Hazelton Secretary

NEW MEMBERS

Phyllis G. Hall, P.O. Box 1153, Windham, ME 04062
Stuart Haskell Jr., 18 Old Mill Rd., Old Town, ME 04468

ADDRESS CHANGES

Germaine A. Berard, 1 Carver St. #135, Waterville, ME 04901-5040
Gary O. Soper, P.O. Box 15461, Portland, ME 04112-5461

NECROLOGY

Harold Karkos, Everett Hall

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. Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976-0840. (4-04)

Wanted: Maine hunting and fishing stamps on license. Will pay a minimum of \$20 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. (4-03)

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. (4-04)

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. (4-04)

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. (4-04)

Wanted: perfins used in Maine, on cover or off (with good town cancels). Special interest in AJS (Auburn) and RB (Bangor) -- users not yet identified. Will buy or trade. Vince McDermott, 22 Beech Dr., Brunswick, ME 04011. (4-04)

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 most 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. (4-03)

Wanted: Maine Express Covers (and others): with labels, hand-stamps, manuscript markings or cornercards. 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. (4-04)

Wanted: Early USN postcards of battleships with ship cancels before 1920 (called classics): BB2 USS *Massachusetts*, BB4 USS *Iowa*, BB5 USS *Kearsage*, BB7 USS *Illinois*, BB8 USS *Alabama*, BB9 USS *Wisconsin*. I have other BB covers and postcards for trade. Also interested in topicals, especially flowers on stamps, and Antarctic stamps. Louis C. Bakula, P.O. Box 150, West Poland, ME 04291-0150. (4-04)

Seeking exhibit quality Andover, Maine material from the period 1 January 1913 through 30 June 1916. Postal cards, postal stationery, covers, parcel wrappers, postage dues, precancels, perfins, booklet panes, multi-denominational covers, i.e., overseas or international uses, postal history, post office forms, postal item relating to Andover, Maine. Single items to large lots. Send photocopy with price. Postage refunded if not purchased. R.M. Arndt, P.O. Box 60292, Midland, TX 79711-0292; email: Texas432@webtv.net (4-04)

FOR SALE

Precancel approvals: town and types 15¢, classics, 1922-26 general, bicents, prexies, perfins available. Buro approvals starting at 10¢ each. Good mixed precancel lots. 2,000-\$35.00; 10,000-\$145.00. Mixed buros, 2,000-\$35.00, 10,000-\$145.00. Dick Laetsch, 108 Ashswamp Road, Scarborough, ME 04074. email: precancel@aol.com; website: www.precanceledstamps.com (4-03)
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. (4-04)

For sale -- helping friend dispose of father's collection. Sheets, blocks, booklets, assorted postage at face. Airmail, singles, blocks half of catalogue value. Mint postal cards, postal reply cards. Please ask by Scott number. Charles Boudreau, 37 Center St., P.O. Box 498, Machias, ME 04654-0498. Telephone 255-3918. (4-04).

A remembrance of Harold Karkos, longtime MPS member

Harold M. Karkos, 92, of Wilton, died October 27, 2003 at the Sandy River Center for Health Care and Rehabilitation in Farmington, where he had been a resident since January. He was born March 26, 1911, in Wilton, a son of Michael and Helen (Abbey) Karkos. He graduated in 1929 from Wilton Academy and in 1933 from Bates College. He attended Middlebury Summer School (BreadLoaf School of English). He taught at Wilton Academy and in 1939 married Elizabeth A. "Betty" Cole.

In 1945 he became principal of Strong High School and in 1947 was Sales Promotion Manager at Forster Manufacturing Company. In 1949, he and Betty started a printing business, Wilton Printed Products, Inc. In 1976, they sold the company, and retained the silk screen department which became Wilton Silk Screen, Inc. The latter business was sold in 1989. In his "retirement," Harold was a greeter at the Farmington Wal-Mart.

His interests have been varied. He was president of the Maine Graphic Arts Association, president of the Maine Philatelic Society and was the first president of the Wilton Historical Society. He had been Second Vice-President of the Wilton/Tri-County Chapter of AARP. A member, and at one time president of the Wilton Chamber of Commerce, he served as treasurer for several years until he retired in 1996 to become the chamber's correspondence agent. He served the Town of Wilton for eight years as selectman and for six years as rep-

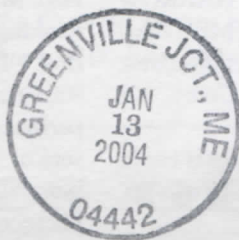
resentative on the school board.

He was Boy Scout Master for many years and was a member of the Wilton Lions Club. He was also a 50-year member of the Wilton Masonic Lodge 156, and had been a member of the Wilson Grange since 1928.

In earlier years, he participated in basketball, highlighted by playing with his five brothers as a team for 14 years. His primary sport, since 1926, was tennis. He and Stanley "Huck" Williams started the Wilton Tennis Association in 1934 with the town's first tournament attended by 110 participants. A varsity player at Bates his first three years, he carried on his favorite sport as tennis coach at WA during his 12 years as teacher. His contribution to tennis in Wilton was recognized in 1988 by the Wilton Tennis Club's presentation of a sign at the Academy Hill School courts in his honor.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Betty Karkos of Wilton; son, Stephen A. Karkos and his wife, Kathleen Foster and their son, Randall Karkos of San Jose, California; brothers, Merton L. Karkos of Temple and Leo M. Karkos and his wife, Beverly of Orlando, Florida; grandson, Michael P. Karkos and his wife, Leslie and their daughter Phoebe of Lincoln, Rhode Island; grandson, Andrew J. Karkos of New Bedford, Massachusetts; granddaughter, Laura K. Markarian and her husband, Michael of Franklin, Massachusetts; daughter-in-law, Paulette Berendes and her husband, Leo Berendes of North Providence, Rhode Island; several nieces, nephews.

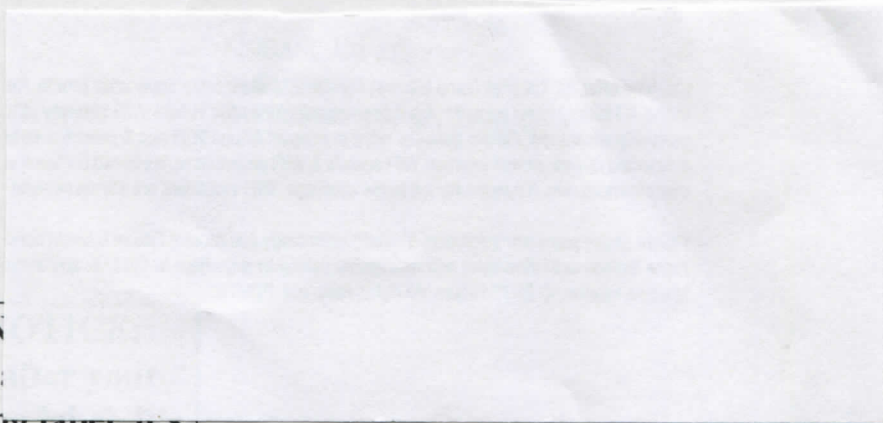
Maine Philatelic Society
719 Moosehead Lake Rd.
Greenville, ME 04441-9727



MAILER'S
POSTMARK
PERMIT
#001



TO:



IMPORTANT NOTICE
If (6-03) appears
name on the mailing label, it's
time to renew your dues!