



# The Maine Philatelist

Vol. 38, No. 4

April 2006

Whole No. 143

## The Orono Match Company

By Eric Beal  
Of Old Town

The Orono Match Company was started in the 1850s in Orono, Maine by Anson Allen. He may have had help by his brother James, as James was listed in the Orono census book as a matchmaker. Anson was from Vermont and had moved to Orono to start his business on Spring Street near the Stillwater River. The matches he made were six inches long and as thick as a lead pencil. The wood was made out of pine with a sulphur tip. I'm not sure if all the matches were that size as the Orono Historical Society still has some today.

Along with operating a match factory comes the danger of fires. In 1859 Anson writes that the front part of his shop caught

fire the previous winter and he had worked on rebuilding it and getting back into business soon.

It had taken a half hour for the firemen and engine to extinguish the blaze, which was pretty good in those days. The fire cost him around a \$150.00 loss. That summer, he was back in business and business was fair. He writes that "bad air and loss by fire are the chief difficulties in my business." In 1860 he had bought a planer for the wood in his shop but gave up on using it because he could do the work faster by hand. He had the best year so far. Every spring when the mills are waiting for the thaw and the ice is still in the rivers, he would go to Boston to get his supplies for the year; it would take him about a week.

*Continued on page 5*

*Hunting those small Maine post offices*

## Bassville and Nelson featured in small post offices

By Bruce Corey  
Of Westbrook

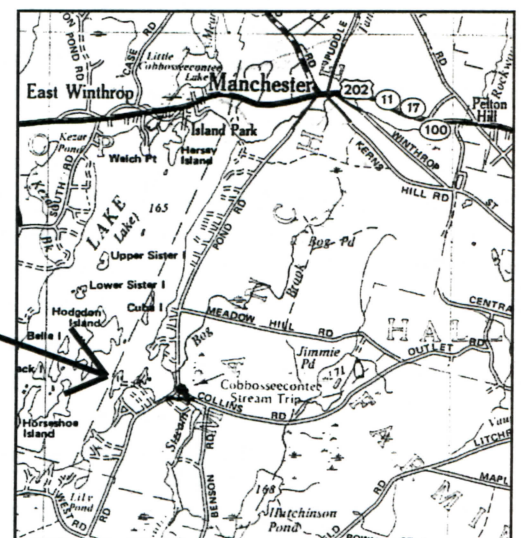
This is another segment of a continuing series of articles on the history of small Maine post offices and the communities or summer camps that each served. These villages or sporting camps have all but disappeared from today's maps; postmarks may or may not exist.

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**BASSVILLE (MANCHESTER)**  
(Kennebec County)

**22 Sept. 1886 - 5 November 1887; SR/9**

A summer community had its beginnings in the 1870s on the east side of Cobbosseecontee Lake (Abenaki for "plenty of sturgeons"), at outlet bridge (over Cobbosseecontee Stream) where Collins Road met the Pond-Neck Road. The largest of three hotels was Lake House with 30 rooms, run by Joseph Emery from 1877 to 1917. The other hotels were Lake View

*Continued on page 3*



*Location of Bassville (Manchester) in  
Kennebec County.*



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Website: <http://www.maxlynds.com/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.

Articles for publication should be sent to the  
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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.*

#### 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.

#### 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](mailto:Eric.Beal@umit.maine.edu).

#### KENNEBEC VALLEY STAMP AND COLLECTOR CLUB

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@ghi.net](mailto:kildonan@ghi.net).

#### Classified

**WANTED: SWAP OR TRADE:** U.S., Israel, Bahamas for Washington & Franklin 1910-1933, mint, NH & OG, Scott #379-577. List your wants, send me a card! Dick Carvel, 126 Stroudwater Rd., Portland, ME 04102 (telephone 775-0915) (4-06)



House and Lakeview Inn (later Yale Cottage). Every year, The Outlet was well advertised for its bass fishing tournaments. Black bass were the big draw and many people attended Bass Days.

Anne M. Perry started the BASSVILLE seasonal post office on September 22, 1886 in either her home or the Lake House. During the seasonal tournaments, this truly was "Bassville." The post office closed on November 5, 1887 and Bassville markings are rated SR/9.

### EAST STEUBEN (STEUBEN)

(Washington County)

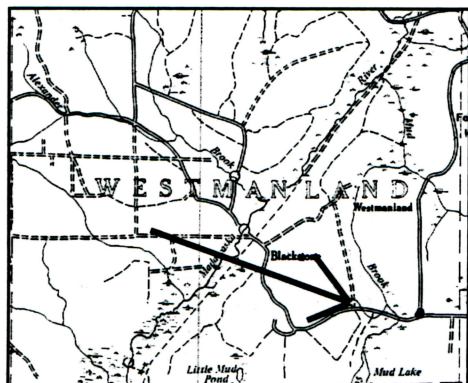
10 Sept. 1887 - 30 April 1902; SR/8

This coastal township on the Washington-Hancock county line was first settled in 1760. It was finally incorporated on February 27, 1795 and named for Friedrich Wilhelm Augustus, Baron von Steuben. Of German ancestry, Baron von Steuben was the Inspector General of the Continental Army. He helped drill Washington's untrained troops through the harsh winter at Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War.

The post road through Steuben had been in operation for 10 years, so on February 14, 1804, Joseph Tounsley was appointed town postmaster. He had to outfit and maintain a post office in his home, according to rules and regulations he received from the Postmaster General.

Little remains of East Steuben today, but it is still shown on some maps two miles east of Steuben on Route 1 and Dyer Bay Road. (The location of East Steuben was shown on the map of Milbridge illustrated on page three of the January 2006 issue of *The Maine Philatelist*.)

Location of Nelson  
in Westmanland  
Plantation.



Miss Jennie Stevens started a home-operated post office on September 10, 1887. Shortly after the turn of the previous century, this office was closed (April 30, 1902), and mail was picked up at Steuben. Markings from this office are rated SR/8.

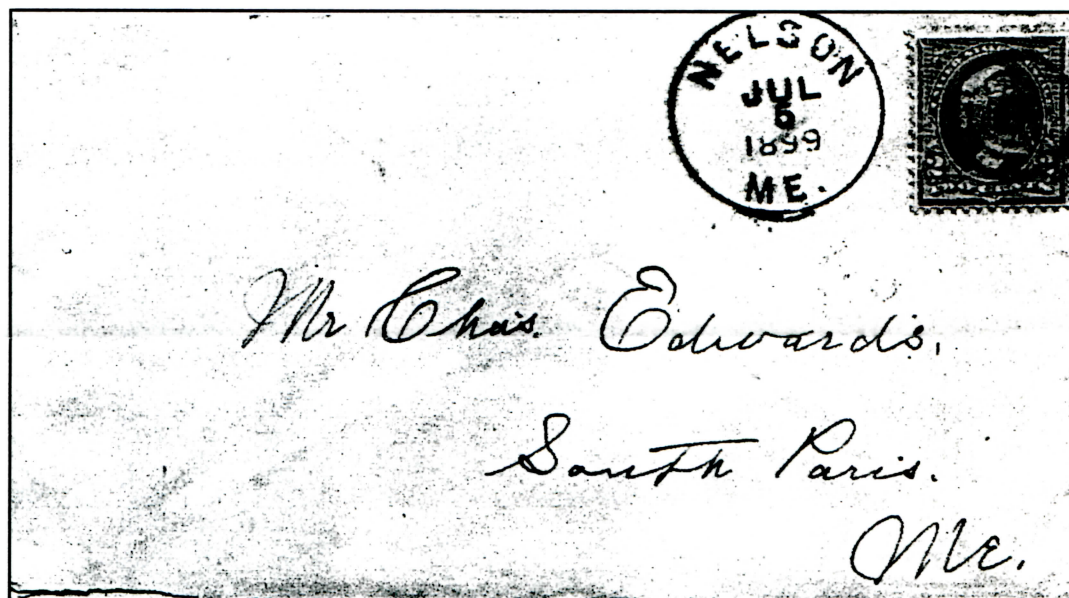
### NELSON (WESTMANLAND PLANTATION)

(Washington County)

21 April 1899 - 31 July 1908; SR/8

Formerly known as T15 R4, this unorganized township was first settled by Swedish villagers from New Sweden and named after a province in old Sweden -- Vastmanlands Lan (100 miles west of Stockholm). The name was changed to "Westmanland" when the plantation was incorporated on June 1, 1892.

New Sweden town records show that Nelson has always been located in Westmanland Plantation. Here at the south-



July 5, 1899 cover from Nelson to South Paris, Maine.

ern part of the plantation where Westmanland Road joins the New Sweden Station Road was the farming community of Nelson.

With the nearest post office over three miles east in New Sweden, Andrew Nelson opened a namesake post office in his farmhouse on April 21, 1899. The Nelson/Nelson combination lasted for nine years, and was closed on July 31, 1908 when the RFD route from New Sweden began mail service to all rural families in Westmanland Plantation. Nelson postmarks are rated SR/8.

### TURKEY (ST. GEORGE)

(Knox County)

12 Sept. 1892 - 21 Dec. 1892; CH: Glenmere

In the Sixteenth Century, foreign traders captured some strange birds in Mexico and transported them to England. At that time, these traders were called "Turks." The large, un-



known birds they had imported were called "turkeys."

A small community on the back road from St. George to Port Clyde had no post office in 1892. Since it was close to Turkey Cove, the new post office, named Turkey, was opened in the postmaster's house on September 12, 1892. Three short months later, the name was changed to Glenmere (on December 21, 1892). At last one "Turkey" marking has been reported.

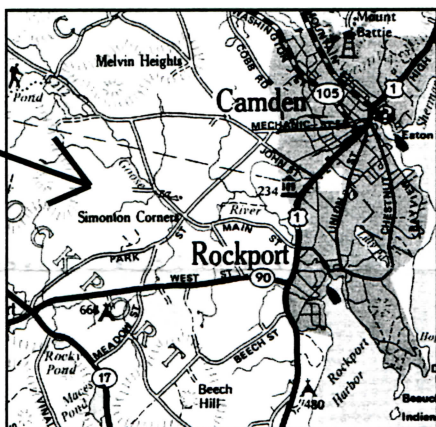
### SIMONTON (ROCKPORT)

Knox County

18 April 1894 - July 31, 1901; SR/9

The town of Rockport and the lime business were both in their infancy when the Rockland Railroad (locally called the Limerock Railroad) was chartered in 1886. This route began on the Rockport wharves, followed the Goose River west, and passed close to Simonton Corner. It ended one-half mile

*Simonton Corner is located on this map near Rockport.*



west at the limestone quarries near Limerock Corner. Seven wooden bridges were needed to cross Goose River and smaller streams; four trestles would be needed to carry this rail line over major roads. These obstacles led the owners to use three-foot, narrow-gauge construction to keep costs on this three-mile railroad to a respectable \$10,000 per mile.

Three round trips were made daily between the quarries and the Rockport lime kilns near the wharves. The staggering amount of raw material kept the kilns operating 24 hours daily. During peak years, many three-masted schooners transported the processed and barreled lime in their holds to waiting markets. Rockport Railroad made its last run 11 years later, in 1896.

Simonton Corner was a rural community 2.5 miles west of Rockport near Goose River, at the junction of Main and Park streets. Being close to Rockport and Camden, there was never a real need for a general store. Some of the men living in Simonton's Corner worked in the limestone quarries, both mining and loading the small, open railroad cars.

Frank Rollins opened the Simonton Post Office in the front room of his house on Wednesday, April 18, 1894. When he retired in 1899, W.F. Farnham moved the office a short dis-

tance to his house.

By 1901, a new RFD route had been surveyed that would operate out of Camden and run down Mechanic and Park streets to Simonton Corner. Postmaster Farnham closed his office on Wednesday, July 31, 1901, the day before the RFD carrier made his first trip by horse and buggy.

Simonton postmarks are scarce and are rated at SR/9.

### POOR'S MILLS (BELFAST)

(Waldo County)

27 July 1868 - 19 July 1880; SR/9

RE: 13 Sept. 1893 - 30 June 1904; SR/8

Poor's Mills was -- and still is -- in West Belfast on the Passagassawakeag River (Abenaki for "place for spearing sturgeon by torchlight"). The Poor family owned and operated numerous mills by waterpower here in the early 19th century.

Even though the post office in Morrill was not that far away, G.G. Patterson opened a post office in his grocery and dry goods store on July 27, 1868. He retired and closed the office on July 19, 1880. Poor's Mills markings from 1868 to 1880 are rated at SR/9.

Thirteen years later, A.S. Jackson reopened the Poor's Mills office in his general store on September 3, 1893. He later sold the store to Robert F. Russ, who served as postmaster until the post office was closed on June 30, 1904. An RFD route from Morrill made its first run the next day. Known Poor's Mills postmarks from 1893 to 1904 are rated SR/8.

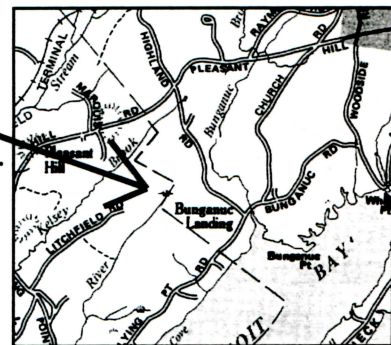
### BUNGANUC (BRUNSWICK)

(Cumberland County)

17 May 1895 - 15 April 1899; SR/8

Bunganuc Brook flows into Maquiot Bay one mile from the Freeport town line in southwest Brunswick. The Abenaki Indians knew this as Bungamunganock Brook ("high bank brook"), but for obvious reasons, early settlers shortened the name. The small settlement off Route 1 at the junction of three roads would become Bunganuc Landing, which is still

*Bunganuc Landing near Freeport-Brunswick town lines.*



found on today's maps. W.B. Woodside opened a grocery store here in 1882 and many of the locals fished for a living, while others built and repaired fishing boats. One of these carpen-

*Continued on page 6*



## Making matches in Orono was a burning issue in the 1800s

*Continued from page 1*

Anson hired on a helper so he could spend more time with the family which he loved and always thought about his mother and father in Vermont. His helper was Henry Powers and he had liked the matchmaking very much. Later on, Anson would make him a partner and change the name from the Orono Match Company to Allen & Powers.

The Orono Match Company was required to have the United States Internal Revenue stamps on their boxes as all the matches were taxed starting in 1862 to help with the Civil War. The tax was one cent per one hundred matches. The tax was repealed on March 3, 1883. Anson Allen's first stamp, according to the Boston Revenue book, was issued in June 1866 and last issued in August 1875 with 210 stamps per sheet and on old paper (6,992,140) and on silk paper (5,360,360). My guess is that when Anson changed the name to Allen & Powers he had a lot of stamps made up and used what he had from 1875 to 1883.

After Anson had died in 1884, his wife, Phebe, retained part of the business until it was phased out when the poisonous sulphur tips were declared illegal for matches.



I also found out that a man named John Chase manufactured matches just for a few years in the 1880s but gave it up. He either made his matches after 1883 (which, if so, he didn't need any tax stamps) or he had used the government issued ones. After looking at a map, I realized he had lived next door to Anson, so maybe he had helped out Henry Powers after Anson had died. But that's just a guess. A lot of information on this company has been lost or never recorded. One hardware store in Orono used to have some of the memorabilia in the store window but that was lost to a fire. If anyone has anymore information on this, please email me at [Eric.Beal@umit.Maine.edu](mailto:Eric.Beal@umit.Maine.edu) or write to me at 398 Center Street, Old Town, Maine 04468. I am sending what I have found to the Orono Historical Society because they don't have anything written on this.

The house was in the Orono bicentennial book in the 1970s, and is listed as the Orono Match Factory. I have found out that on an 1875 map of Orono, the match factory was at the end of Spring Street down by the river. The house was lo-

cated more on Mill Street down by the river on the right side of Spring Street. I had talked to someone who lived next door to this house and he told me that a man bought some of the houses around that area and was going to fix them up. He had bought this house and when he was tearing out the walls there was a lot of fire damage so he decided to tear down the house because it was

not worth all the work and money to repair it. Could the Orono Match Factory have burned more than what happened in 1859 and it was rebuilt just down the river a little bit? Or was this just a house that had caught on fire and was repaired the best way it could have been to get by?

Thanks to Eric Jackson for the issue dates and amount and the Vermont Historical Society for copies of some old letters from Anson to his father in Vermont.



## Finding that "just right" accessory a good thing

By Anne Bochniewicz  
Of Wells

I have been using the Scott Specialty albums for my collection for years, but was dissatisfied with the O-ring style of binder. No matter what heavy material was placed at the back of the album, pages always ended up curling under the O-ring. But I really like the size of the Specialty pages. No office supply store had a D-ring binder that would accommodate the size of the Specialty pages.

While perusing the Archival Quality Materials catalogue from University Products, Inc., I came across a great binder to meet my needs. The "binder" is actually a box called the Infinity Archival Box Binder (trademark). Inside the hinge-cover box are 2.5 inch slanted D-rings. The box easily accommodates my Specialty pages and I don't need slipcases for my albums.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: During my years as a museum executive director, we used a number of products from University Products, and found they were very helpful. You can contact the company toll-free at 1-800-628-1912, or send an email to [custserv@universityproducts.com](mailto:custserv@universityproducts.com)).*



ters was J. Arthur Woodside.

W.B. Woodside opened the Bunganuc Post Office in a back room of his store on May 17, 1895. Laura J. Woodside sorted and postmarked the mail, filled out quarterly postal reports, and clerked in the store. When an RFD route commenced service to the southwest part of Brunswick (including Bunagnuc Landing), Woodside decided to retire. Laura Woodside closed the post office on April 15, 1899. Postmarks from this four-year office are rated at SR/8.

### SUMMIT (ORNEVILLE)

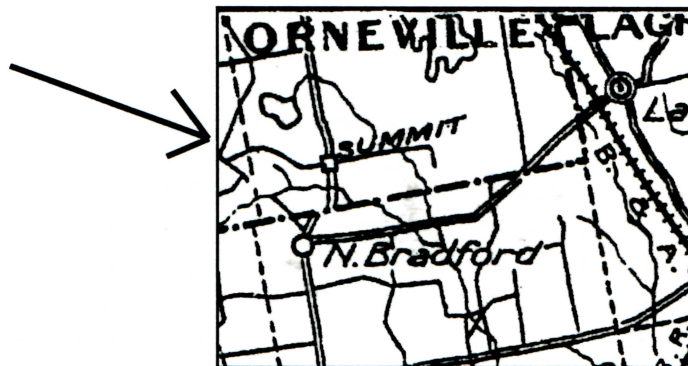
(Piscataquis County)

12 April 1883 - 14 Oct. 1904; SR/7

About one mile north of the Bradford town line, a village called Summit was located on Route 11 at the junction of two unnamed roads. This was one of several post offices in Orneville, and opened on April 12, 1883 in the village grocery store run by M.W. Morgan. Other industrialists in Summit included John Farnham, who built carriages and made picture frames on order. J.S. Morgan was the village shoemaker.

Ida A. Morgan worked in the store and clerked in the post office from time to time. In 1890, she became the Summit

postmaster while M.W. Morgan ran the grocery store and sold pumps. In early 1904, an RFD route south from Milo along Route 11 was surveyed. This post office was closed on October 14, 1904, and the RFD carrier made his first run the next day. Postmarks from Summit are rated SR/7.



*Location of Summit in Orneville.*

## *Maine Cover of the Quarter*

*A postal history feature  
by Rob Washburn  
of Skowhegan*



The above U.S. UX8 postal card is tied by a purple 11/11/1886 West Athens, Maine star cancel. West Athens has a postmark scarcity rating of 7 in *The Post Offices of Maine: A Rarity Guide*.

*(If you have an unusual, scarce or interesting Maine cover 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).*



# Secretary's Report

Dr. George Bostwick  
Secretary

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#664 -- Dr. Preston Keusch, P.O. Box 554, Gracie Station, New York, NY 10028

#665 -- Ms. Lorraine E. Hodgon, P.O. Box 401, Trevett, ME 04571-0401

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Mr. Elwyn J. Doubleday, P.O. Box 119, Alton, NH 03809  
(post office was Alton Bay)

Mr. Mark E. Palmer, 4004 East Ninth St., Cheyenne, WY 82001

## NECROLOGY

Mr. Edward Scolnik of Lewiston

## SECRETARY'S NOTE

Please note: if the date on your mailing label is (6-06), your subscription and membership are now due for renewal. Please send your \$5 renewal fee to me as soon as possible. My address is found on page 2.

## Are YOU on the Internet?

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## Notes from our members....

### P & D markings

The article in an earlier issue of *The Maine Philatelist* (July 2004) about an interesting killer bar cancel asked for information as to "P & D." My answer would be "Postal insensitivity & Destruction." Most of us collect for the beauty and interest of the stamp itself, so why don't they let us see it!

Al Barth  
Paris, Maine

(EDITOR'S NOTE: My apology to Al ... his letter came by email and was "lost" in the MPS file folder, only emerging recently.)

### Collecting cancels

I do miss Maine, and I am into collecting, but not stamps. I collect Maine cancels as well as railroad post office (RPO) cancels, and recently started with RFD cancels. The RFD cancels are very difficult to find down here (in Florida). But more dealers are showing an interest in me! We love getting the newsletter!

Ralph (Wally) Smith  
Leesburg, Florida

## MAIPEX '06

### STAMP SHOW & AUCTION

Stamps & Stamp Supplies  
U.S.P.S. desk  
Giant Board Auction  
Postcards & Covers  
Refreshments & 50/50 Drawing

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Saturday, April 29, 2006

Table Auction closes at 12:30 p.m.  
Oral auction starts at 1 p.m.

Location:  
Kennebec Valley Community College  
Fairfield

Exit 132 on Interstate 95  
Take Route 139 east, entrance is a short distance on the left.

Sponsored by the Waterville Stamp Club

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

TO:



**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**  
If (6-06) appears after your  
name on the mailing label, it's  
time to renew your dues!