

# EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY



UNIT 28

Bulletin

October 1973

## REGULAR MEETING POSTPONED:

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO SUNDAY, NOV. 4th at Rizzo's Restaurant. The following program has been planned:

10:00 AM Trading Session

1:30 PM Short Business Meeting, followed by a 15 to 30 minute exhibition of Early Albany Postal History Items by Ken de Lisle

## REPORT ON PICNIC MEETING, SEPTEMBER 23, 1973:

The first meeting of the season was held at Lee DeGraff's camp, on beautiful Sacandaga Reservoir close to the Batchellerville Bridge. It was an exceptionally beautiful day which brought a turn-out of 15 members and 8 guests.

As usual, a nice lot of material was displayed for selling and trading. It was the kind of affair where people come early and stay late. Our thanks to Grace and Lee DeGraff for their buffet lunch and warm welcome at this annual event.

## MINUTES OF MEETING SEPTEMBER 23, 1973:

Meeting called to order by President Bernadt at 3:00 P.M. Fifteen members signed in attendance.

Minutes of the meetings of May 6 and June 24 were approved as published in the Bulletin.

The meeting discussion got underway with the reading of a letter from member David Wasserman, who questioned why a meeting could not be scheduled for the members living down-state, particularly those in the New York City area. It was brought out that prior trials at a New York meeting met with little success.

It was pointed out that the attendance at Rochester, in June, was limited to those in the Rochester area plus two from the Capital District even though the Rochester meeting was scheduled at a major stamp show. The only real success we have had in attracting members has been to meetings central to the Upstate area, somewhere between Albany and Syracuse.

The matter was referred to the Board of Directors for discussion at their next meeting.

The meeting was informed of the recent action of the Postal History Society, Inc., providing for the establishment of "Associate Member" to be granted state or regional postal history societies under certain specified conditions. After a short discussion it was moved by William Seifert, seconded by Ralph Reynolds, that the Secretary-Treasurer make application to said Postal History Society for such associate membership. Passed by unanimous vote.

Member Moore brought to the floor a proposal that winter meetings be alternated between Albany and Utica or Syracuse because of the difficulties of travel. This was referred to the Directors.

President Bernadt stated that the Publication Committee had not yet presented any firm proposals for the next issue of the Journal. He expects they will meet sometime this Fall.

It was asked if any action had been taken on beginning a question and answer service, which Member Bob Harris had been appointed to steer. The President stated this was a matter to be worked out between the Bulletin Editor and Bob Harris. President Bernadt also announced he would shortly take action on a Publicity unit.

Prior to adjournment, the next meeting was set for Sunday, October 21 at Rizzo's. A meeting of the board of Directors was announced, to be a breakfast meeting at 11:00 A.M. at the Inn Towne Motel (Sheraton Inn Towne) Albany, N.Y. on October 14. (Note first item above.)

#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS RECEIVED:

YOKOTA, HIDEO R. 801 Lippert Ave., Fremont, Calif. 94538

References: None Required (APS # 47596)

Interests: "Socked-on-the-nose" machine cancellations on U.S. stamps, especially from NYC, San Francisco and L.A. and their stations and annexes.

We welcome to membership applicants Flynn, Whittlesey, Siegel, Pantz and Estus.

#### WANTED:

Suffolk County Covers, especially Suffolk "County Cancels."

Daniel Knowles, 3720 Blackstone Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10463

#### Thanksgiving Dateline

The dateline (d.l.) often provides the most substantial information to properly year date stampless covers. Even if the year is not given explicitly there at the head of the text of the letter, the d.l. may nonetheless contain the pivotal clue for inference. For example, let's say that the d.l. reads Monday, May 16. A quick check of a perpetual calendar tells us that May 16 was a Monday in, for example, 1825, 1831, 1836, & 1842, and such radical reduction of the possibilities is frequently enough -- in conjunction with other information -- to allow assigning a year date. Of course, one must use such d.l. information gingerly on the assumption that writers then were no less fallible than they are now. For example, I found a letter from NYC datelined "14 Dec. Thanksgiving Day."

Ah, but you know ... Thanksgiving day was not always what it is now, the 4th Thursday in November. Apparently that tradition goes back to Lincoln and 1864, earlier Thanksgiving dates being subject each year to the whims of sundry authorities in various places. In our own state these proclamations date to 1644 or 1645 -- at least in 1645 Thanksgiving was celebrated 6 September. The NYS governor picked up the duty in 1817 and the newspapers of those days report the text of his declarations. I had only to search the papers for these representative dates for the NYS Thanksgiving celebrations: 1840 - 17 Dec: 1841 - 9 Dec: 1842 - 8 Dec: 1843 - 14 Dec (ah, here we are): 1846 - 26 Nov: 1850 - 12 Dec: 1858 - 18 Nov. All Thursdays, by the way, but certainly not always the 4th one of November.

Bob Tales: (ROBERT DALTON HARRIS)