

# THE EDITOR'S PAGE

by Mike Street

## CLARIFICATION - AN INTRIGUING NEWFOUNDLAND AIRMAIL COVER

In his Guest Comment, *The New Professionals and Us*, in the last *TOPICS*, Robert H. Pratt questioned the evidence behind the date critical to the point of *An Intriguing Newfoundland Airmail Cover*, by John M. Walsh, in the May-June 1988 *TOPICS*. Mr. Pratt's comment was, "[The article is] Probably correct, however the receiving date stamp at St. John's is not mentioned, or shown so that its authenticity could be checked."

For the record, it should be pointed out that the pertinent date, June 2, 1932, while not highlighted in any way, was clearly stated in the article. Further, when preparing the article and its accompanying illustration (the front of the cover), I noted the St. John's receiver on the back of the envelope and confirmed that it undoubtedly supported the text. Having made this check for *TOPICS*' readers, there seemed no need to illustrate the backstamp. It did not occur to me that without an illustration, or an explicit statement from me that I had confirmed the date in question,



someone would question the article.

My instinct is to let the veracity of the date in question rest on the above statement and my good reputation. Because, however, there is more to this incident than meets the eye, a matter which I will discuss in the next *TOPICS*, I am illustrating the backstamp here so there can be no doubt about its authenticity.

When getting *The New Professionals and Us* ready for publication the fact that this particular critical comment was undeserved and should have been deleted did not, unfortunately, register with me. As a result, John Walsh has been embarrassed. For this, I extend to him a sincere apology.

## VIRGINIA BEACH REVISITED

While in Virginia Beach for BNAPEX six years ago I passed up several opportunities to have a particular favourite, stuffed crab, because I had been told that there would be lots at the seafood buffet at the closing banquet. Alas, when I got there, the table was bare! Marva and Larry Paige didn't know it, but if I had returned from Virginia Beach this year without having at least one stuffed crab at the BNAPEX dinner, funny things were going to start happening to their copies of *TOPICS*. It does not pay to fool the Editor twice!

Readers will be glad to learn that the 'Wrath of Mike' will not descend upon the only members who have 'BNAPS' on the license plate of the family automobile. There was lots of stuffed crab, and lots of everything else - and it was all terrific. The food was equally good and plentiful at the 'Southern' buffet on the Thursday night. (Having learned my lesson in '82, I made sure I got a piece of pecan pie early.)

The Convention Center was excellent. There have been some good hotels in the eight conventions I have attended - the Winnipeg Westin in 1983 comes to mind - but I have never heard so many people mention how pleased they were with the hotel and its staff as this year.

Attendance at the convention was much better than many expected, especially considering the fact that Norfolk/Virginia Beach is not exactly a bustling hub of airline activity, and it took a bit of effort to get there. More than 170 people signed in for the closing banquet; at least a dozen other members who had visited during the three days were not able to stay the whole time.

As you will read in the report on the Annual General Meeting in the next *TOPICS*, it was not all fun and games. The Society's officers were busy. Besides getting ready for a changing of the guard at the end of the year, many important business and administrative matters were acted upon.