

Where Penguin Meets Polar Bear



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He was lucky and reached Bill's brother on the first try. The latter advised him that Bill was living at Carmacks in the Yukon and had no telephone. It took nine months to make telephone contact with him!

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police offered to help. Three of the crew were full-time police officers and the RCMP had their addresses on file for pension purposes.

Patrick G. Hunt of Winnipeg and James B. Diplock of St. Catharine were located in this manner. Pat Hunt was the only man alive who made both trips on the *St. Roch*.

Diplock was on the St. Catharine police force and made a hobby of going around to schools and talking about the ship.

Lloyd Russill, the former radio operator, had moved to Encinitas, Calif., and he was the fifth and last crew member to be found. The cook could not be found and six had died.

Each of the five gave what information he could, including pictures and even the brand names of cigarettes that each man smoked! Russill had a painting of the *St. Roch* in his den and that was of help. All five talked about things that happened during the trip. Henry Larsen wrote a book, *The Big Ship*, and First Mate Ole Andreassen's log was discovered at the museum.

By careful evaluation of all information, Thompson was able to produce a realistic view of the ship's appearance in 1944, and the restoration proceeded to completion. Readers visiting Vancouver are urged to go to the Vancouver Maritime Museum where not only the *St. Roch* but models of famous ships and other maritime memorabilia are on display. Please feel free to mention reading about it in *Stamp Collector*.

First-day cancelations for Canadian stamps are usually postmarked in Ottawa. However, the stamps are available locally on the first day and some collectors take advantage of this by getting covers canceled on the first day at other, more interesting post offices.

Thus 14 maximum cards with the *St. Roch* stamp and a picture of the ship, were canceled at Coppermine, NWT. As reported in the January-February issue of *Ice Cap News*, first-day covers were also serviced in a similar manner at Cambridge Bay, NWT. Both Coppermine and Cambridge Bay were on the *St. Roch's* route many years earlier.

R.J. King of Alliston, Ont. pointed out the *St. Roch's* wintering at Cambridge Bay in 1945-46 at a time when the Canadian Military Exercise "Musk Ox" was taking place, and advised of cards from the RCMP at Cambridge Bay in commemoration of this exercise, postmarked this year at Cambridge Bay.

Thanks to help from readers of this column, new information has become available. It is this wonderful attitude that has placed this column in the forefront of polar postal history news reporting!