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Calgary STAMPede

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The Calgary Philatelic Society was founded in 1922. It is Chapter 66 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, and Chapter 1360 of the American Philatelic Society. The C.P.S. may be contacted at Box 1478, Stn M, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6.

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HISTORY OF THE CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY: PART 3. INTO THE DEPRESSION by Dale Speirs

The first public stamp exhibition in Calgary was staged by the CPS on October 22, 1927. An exhibition had been proposed in May 1925 to be held on April 23, 1926, but was cancelled when the Post Office refused to provide space. A fund was started at the November 3, 1925, meeting of the CPS to defray the costs of the show. By September 1927, the exhibition had been booked for the King George Lodge (Masons) on Kensington Road about 1/2 block west of 10 Street NW, across from the Plaza Theatre. The King George Lodge has since been overrun by yuppies and is now converted into boutiques. Glass for the show frames was loaned by Pilkington Ltd., frame material donated by Cushings Ltd., and labour supplied by CPS members. The co-chairmen of the show were W.C. Black and H.M. Hartney.

The show was a success, and in appreciation for the work done by the co-chairmen, the Society tendered them a dinner on December 6, 1927, at the Tea Kettle Inn. A photograph had been taken of the show setup, and Black and Hartney each received a framed copy, autographed by those present at the dinner. Hartney's photo is now in the CPS Archives, and show a panorama of the frames. One is immediately struck by the fact that almost all the frames are stamps only; covers are rare in the exhibits. This is the opposite of what one sees today. This dinner was very much enjoyed, and it was agreed that an annual dinner would be held every December on the first Tuesday.

In September 1927, J.M. Moir resigned as Recorder, owing to pressure of work. This position was apparently left unfilled until the next elections in May 1928. At the December 6, 1927, meeting, the first female member was admitted into the CPS, Mrs. R.M. Spence becoming member #59.

At that same meeting, the idea was first raised about donating the Society publications to the Calgary Public Library. This was discussed again over the next few months, one delay being the need to have periodicals bound before the C.P.L. would accept them. The matter is not mentioned again after the middle of 1928, so it is uncertain what the ultimate fate of the books was.

On March 30, 1928, a show was held at the Public Library for juniors. Four prizes were given for exhibits, and twelve prizes for a stamp quiz. Mr. W.J.S. Walker read a paper on the early postal history of the world, which seems to have been well received.

The May 8, 1928, meeting was the seventh Annual Meeting. The new slate of Officers was E.G. Mason (President), G.A. Morrison (Vice-President, Sales Manager), A.B. Harris (Secretary-Treasurer), and W.E. Hives (Recorder). On the Executive Committee were W.C. Black, G.A. Reid, M. Thomas, H. Lewis, and J.S. Horne. In the Secretary's Report, the membership as of May 7, 1928, was 33.

As in previous years, the CPS continued with formal meetings on first Tuesdays and social evenings on third Tuesdays.

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The second Annual Dinner of the CPS was held on December 4, 1928, again at the Tea Kettle Inn. Dr. Mason gave a talk on how he came to take up the hobby, and Selby Walker spoke on the 1927 New York exhibition, which he had attended.

The January 8, 1929, meeting was held at the Public Library. As a result of a long discussion over a letter received from the Canadian Philatelic Society, a vote was carried to appoint the Canadian Philatelist as the official organ of the Calgary P.S. At the February 5 meeting there was some hesitation about this agreement when it was discovered that such an affiliation meant that members not belonging to the Canadian P.S. would have to cough up 50¢ each. The March 5 meeting reaffirmed the original motion. In February 1930, the deal was again questioned, this time from the publisher, who was, no doubt, feeling the effects of the Depression.

The CPS held its fourth auction on the third Tuesday of January 1929 at the residence of W.C. West.

At the April 2 meeting, part of the program was given over to Dr. Mason reading extracts from Mekeels Weekly about the dubious methods used by the Crown Agents in selling stamps. A discussion ensued which led to members comparing that problem with the service received by Calgary collectors from the Canadian Post Office. It was agreed to unanimously that the local Post Office philatelic clerk, Miss Jessie McVeigh, be commended for the excellent work she did.

The May 7 meeting was an election meeting. Once again Mason was elected President. W.C. Black was made Vice-President, A.B. Harris continued as Secretary-Treasurer, H.B. Spencer was made Recorder, and G.A. Morrison returned as Sales Manager. To the Executive Committee were elected H. Lewis, W.F. Ross, S.H. Adams, W.E. Hives, and A. Sorby. The CPS membership stood at 39.

At the November 5 meeting, Dr. Mason tendered his resignation on the grounds of business duties. In giving up the President's position, he still remained an ordinary member. His position was left vacant until the next election.

The meeting of May 6, 1930, installed W.F. Ross as the new President. Harris, Spencer, and Morrison continued as before, and A. Sorby was the new Vice-President. The Executive Committee was made up of W.J.S. Walker, H. Lewis, W.E. Hives, J.A. Ferguson, and H.A. Rose. The Secretary's report did not give exact membership numbers, but it appears to have declined slightly from the previous year.

The effects of the Depression were starting to be felt. At the October 7 meeting, H. Lewis moved that the club's association with the Canadian Philatelist be discontinued. The motion was held over several meetings but passed at the January 6, 1931, meeting.

The Fourth Annual Dinner was held December 2, 1930. Dr. Mason gave a brief account of the Society's history, and a toast to his health was given by the membership.

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A few years prior to 1931, an Edmontonian by the name of W.J.F. Emslie had joined the CPS. He eventually moved to Calgary and set up as a stamp dealer, possibly the first in the city. He was certainly the first to be listed as such in Henderson's Directory, appearing in the 1931 edition under the heading of 'Philatilists' [sic]. The minutes of the January 6, 1931, meeting of the CPS mention an account being paid to Emslie & Co. for supplying stamps given as prizes to the Y.N.C.A. stamp show for juniors.

The CPS was still a chapter of the American Philatelic Society, which was in the process of holding its annual elections. Very controversial elections they must have been, because the CPS was being bombarded by letters from various sides about who and what to vote for. One question on the ballot was the matter of raising membership dues, and the CPS came out against such action.

The tenth Annual Meeting was held May 5, 1931, on which occasion W.F. Ross was re-elected President. Other positions were taken by Alan Sorby (Vice-President), A.B. Harris (Secretary-Treasurer), H.B. Spencer (Recorder), and G.A. Morrison (Sales Manager). The Executive Committee comprised W.C. Black, H. Lewis, J.A. Ferguson, H.A. Rose, and W.J.S. Walker. The Secretary did not give membership figures, but it appears to have remained stagnant; one new member had joined but one old-timer was in ill health and not expected to be seen at meetings.

In late 1931, the question of affiliation to the American P.S. came up again as a result of correspondence from that society. The A.P.S. required that certain officers of the CPS be A.P.S. members. After discussion, it was agreed to drop chapter membership. At the same time, it was decided to make contact with the Canadian P.S. to find out benefits of chapter status with them, but nothing appears to have come of it for the next while.

The fifth Annual Dinner was held on December 8, 1931, again at the Tea Kettle Inn. At this festive occasion, the CPS held its fifth auction, with Morrison presiding as auctioneer.

The CPS continued its routine of a general meeting on first Tuesdays, with a business session followed by a program. Third Tuesdays were social evenings at a member's residence, where stamps were traded/bought/sold and philatelic talk indulged in. The election meeting of May 3, 1932, saw Alan Sorby as the new President. H. Lewis was Vice-President, and Harris, Spencer, and Morrison returned to their previous positions. The Executive Committee was made up of W.F. Ross, H.M. Hartney, W.C. Black, and W.C. West. A Program Committee was set up with Ross, Spencer, and Emslie. Once again, no membership totals were announced, but the membership had gone up by two.

Attendance at the meetings had been declining for the last few years, and in late 1932 reached the point where a special letter was sent out to members appealing for a better turnout. This seems to have worked, for attendance in 1933 was up considerably.

At the sixth Annual Dinner, held at the Renfrew Club, it was voted to cut membership fees in half, down to \$1 per annum. The meetings were also changed, and were now to be on second and fourth Tuesdays.

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The programs for the first half of 1933 were better attended than was the case in many years. The meetings were held at the Renfrew Club. The election and subsequent meetings moved to the Herald Building. On May 9, 1933, new Officers were elected, being H.V. Lewis (President), G.A. Morrison (Vice-President, Circuit Manager), A.B. Harris (Secretary-Treasurer), and W.C. West (Recorder). The Executive Committee was made of S.B. Chamberlain, G.P. Snowden, F.G. Freeman, and Sid Richardson. The last-named was to be honoured at a 1988 CPS Christmas party, as Richardson joined in 1929 and remained a member continuously for sixty years, as well as serving in many executive positions. Membership was up thirteen on the previous year. Membership continued to increase steadily throughout the year of 1933.

At the September 12, 1933, meeting, a constitutional amendment had been passed to establish the category of Honourary Member. The first candidates for such membership were elected at the November 28 meeting. Honourary Member #1 was Dr. E.G. Mason, for his part in founding the CPS, being its first President, and because of his research work on the 3¢ red Small Queen. Honourary Member #2 was W.C. Black, also a pioneer member, and the man who was responsible for staging the first stamp show in Calgary in October 1927.

Interestingly, the November meeting was the first one at which a membership was denied. H. Poot had applied for membership and was referred to the Executive Committee. He had been the subject of dealer complaints for failing to return approvals.

The seventh Annual Dinner took place at the Renfrew Club on December 12, 1933. An auction at this dinner cleared \$17.10 in gross sales.

The 1934 meetings continued the routine of business and programs. A.B. Harris was elected Honourary Member #3, and presented with an electric clock in appreciation for services rendered; this took place at the February 13 meeting.

At the election meeting of May 8, 1934, Lewis, Morrison, and Harris were returned to their offices, and H.M. Hartney became the new Recorder. Executive Committee members were D.P. Foster, S.B. Chamberlain, H.H. Rogers, Alan Sorby, and W.J.E. Wyllie. Membership was up by six.

The second CPS public stamp show was held October 26 and 27, 1934, on the third floor of the Hudson's Bay store. Total expense of putting on the show was \$35.27.

The eighth Annual Dinner, on December 11 at the Renfrew Club, brought in \$31.60 at the auction. Dr. Mason was the auctioneer.

Although the CPS had actively encouraged junior philatelists, particularly by way of Y.M.C.A. stamp clubs, membership in the Society was restricted to ages 21 and over. This was discussed at a number of meetings, but the decision in early 1935 was that juniors could not join the CPS. They were, however, quite welcome to attend the meetings.

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HISTORY OF THE CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY: PART 4. 1935 to 1944

by Dale Speirs

Meetings during the first half of 1935 followed the normal routine of business and programs. The elections of May 14 made G.A. Morrison President. Dr. H.C. Swartzlander was elected Vice-President, A.B. Harris returned as Secretary-Treasurer, and G.A. Reid made Recorder. The Executive Committee comprised Dr. J. Adams, S.B. Chamberlain, H.V. Lewis, W.F. Ross, and A. Sorby. Membership was up by two.

Meetings continued to be routine, but the October 8 session turned out to be a tragic one for Harris. Just as the business part of the meeting was concluded, the Secretary was called home to the bedside of his daughter Edith, who passed away just before 10 pm.

The ninth Annual Dinner was much the same as previous years, with an auction conducted by Capt. Emslie. The Dinner was held December 10 at the Renfrew Club. At this event, it was agreed to send a letter of appreciation and flowers to Jessie McVeigh, who was the stamp vendor at the Calgary Post Office. Flowers and a get-well message were also sent to Ivan Linton, who had served on the club executive in past years.

An unusual program was held at the February 11, 1936, meeting. H.P. Earle was the speaker; he had been employed by Waterlow & Co. of London, England, as an engraver. He gave an inside account of how stamps were prepared.

The March 3, 1936, meeting was an open meeting at the Calgary Public Library. No business was transacted; a motion picture film from the Philatelic Branch, Ottawa, was shown. This was the first film shown at a meeting, and showed how stamps were produced. An interesting item in the minutes of the April 14 meeting shows a bill for \$5 from the McDermid Drug Co. "for use of Lantern and Operator to show the film".

May 12 was the fifteenth Annual Meeting. Morrison, Swartzlander, and Harris returned to their positions, and D.P. Foster was made Recorder. The Executive Committee returned Lewis and Adams, adding Foster, Brien Horne, and A.R. James. Membership was up by eight. The circuit books had gradually dwindled down to one, and it appears by this time the circuits were no more, although they would eventually be re-activated in the future.

During 1936, the question came up concerning meeting dates. The CPS meetings on second Tuesdays conflicted with the Calgary Medical Society, which also met on the same evening. Since many of the movers and shakers of the CPS were MDs, this was of some importance. The conflict was discussed at several meetings, but nothing much seems to have been done to actually change the dates.

H.W. Godard, of the Winnipeg Philatelic Society, passed through the city on September 8, 1936, and spoke to the CPS meeting. He mentioned that the W.P.S. met every Thursday, with different activities at each meeting. This society was much larger than the CPS and had a variety of events.

The Annual Dinner in December followed tradition; there was an auction, and the event was held at the Renfrew Club. The auction realized \$54.40.

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In the first part of 1937, programs seem to have gone by the board. The usual pattern of a general meeting was a business session followed by an informal buy/sell/trade session. Social evenings continued as before on fourth Tuesdays.

Dr. Swartzlander was elected President at the May 11, 1937, election meeting. Harris and Foster returned to their jobs, and W.J.E. Wyllie was elected Vice-President. The Executive Committee included J.I. Linton, J. Adams, Brien Horne, F. Snell, and G.A. Morrison. Membership was up by three.

Honourary Member #4 of the CPS was elected at the November 9, 1937, meeting, being Capt. W. Emslie. Miss Muriel M. Purdy, of Stettler, Alberta, became the second woman to join the Society. The Annual Dinner for the following month was discussed, the big question being whether or not women should be invited. Although it is not fair to judge the 1930s by the standards of today, the following extract from the minutes of the meeting is quoted to give the flavour of the times.

"Further discussion as to whether ladies be invited to the Annual Dinner was indulged in and it was agreed that if any member wished to bring his wife or invite a lady collector, that no objection would be raised."

The Annual Dinner was upgraded into a bigger event, with a larger committee to look after it. The event was held at the Renfrew Club on December 10, with guest speakers being the Bishop of Calgary the Very Rev. L.R. Sherman, and J.B. Corley, District Director of Postal Services. The turnout was large, and included a number of guests, although it appears that no women were at the event.

1938 started off with correspondence from N.R. Stewart of the Vancouver Island Philatelic Society explaining that a British Post Office film was available for viewing. "The King's Stamp" had been shown at TIPEX '36 in New York City, and was now travelling from stamp club to stamp club across Canada. The only cost to the CPS would be for shipping.

The Society was interested in the deal, and made tentative arrangements to have the film shown at the Isis Theatre in lieu of the newsreel. While this was going on, H.V. Lewis was busy making arrangement for a lantern-slide lecture for juniors, based on material prepared some time before by W. Black and Harlow Hartney. It was planned to have the junior meeting at the Public Library.

The CPS then was advised from Vancouver Island that the film could not be shown if an admission charge was made. A CPS member had a friend who was a school principal, and it was therefore arranged that the film would be shown at the Technical School on April 26, 1938. The junior meeting, in the meanwhile, had come up against a rental fee for the Public Library room, so it was decided to combine both programs on the evening of the 26th. The film and slide show were held as one.

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The first stamp bourse put on by the Society took place at the Renfrew Club on February 28, 1938. This appears to have been members only, and it is doubtful that any dealers appeared.

The May 10 meeting was the usual election meeting. Brien Horne was elected President, H.C. Hughes voted in as Vice-President, Harris returned again as Secretary-Treasurer, and G.A. Morrison was made Recorder. On the Executive Committee were Ivan Linton, H.C. Swartzlander, H.V. Lewis, J.M. Adams, and A.J. Davis. Membership was up seven.

An effort was made in October to revive the circuit books, but this does not appear to have amounted to anything. The Annual Dinner, with auction, was held December 16, and went to midnight. The proverbial good time was had by all, and the affair was written up in the newspapers.

1939 started off in a slump, with programs missing from the meetings. The February 14 meeting did not come off due to lack of attendance. Maisie Fisher became the third female member of the CPS on May 2, 1938. At that meeting, an application by Mr. J. Gibson was declined, he becoming the second person to fail the membership screening process. Other business of the evening was another stamp bourse.

The election meeting was held for 1939 on May 9. Alan Sorby was made President, and the other officers were unchanged. The Executive Committee was made up of Brien Horne, H.V. Lewis, H.C. Swartzlander, C.E. Hudson, and Ivan Linton. Membership was unchanged from the previous year, and meeting attendance was down considerably.

In an effort to boost turnout at meetings, the business portion was done away with, to be looked after by the executive. Meetings were now all social evenings, for stamp exchanges and conversation.

The Annual Dinner on December 15, 1939, featured a talk by W.J. Selby Walker on forgeries, illustrated by specimens from his collection. The usual auction was held.

The March 12, 1940, meeting minutes show that the circuit books had been revived by Morrison, bringing in \$11.51 for gross sales.

At the May 13, 1940, election meeting, all officers were returned to their previous positions. The only change on the Executive Committee was the replacement of C.E. Hudson by John Learmouth. In his President's Message, Alan Sorby mentioned how the war was interfering with the stamp hobby. The stamps of many countries were unobtainable, mail was censored, foreign exchange controls made it difficult to buy material overseas, and the mails were slowed.

The Annual Dinner and auction for 1940 went ahead on December 6. Several members of the Edmonton Stamp Club wrote to say they would attend, but no Edmonton addresses are listed in the attendance sheet. Visitors were seen, however, from Banff and High River.

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The twentieth Annual Meeting of the CPS was held May 13, 1941. Elected to the executive were H.C. Hughes (President), Sid Richardson (Vice-President), A.B. Harris (Secretary-Treasurer), and G.A. Morrison (Recorder). The Executive Committee comprised of Alan Sorby, Brien Horne, Dr. Swartzlander, G.C. Burns, John Learmonth, and H.V. Lewis. The Annual Dinner was held December 5, with the usual auction. An Albertan reporter covered the event, but the story that appeared the next day was so garbled that Morrison apologized to the Society about it. He had briefed the reporter, but it seems the fellow was on his last day with the newspaper, and left to a new job in eastern Canada on December 6, hence his careless attitude!

Sid Richardson resigned as Vice-President in January 1942, having been transferred by his company to Trail, B.C.. His vacancy was filled by A.B. Harris, the faithful workhorse of the Society, who by now had been on the executive continuously since 1923. As it happened, Richardson was soon back in Calgary, and resumed his previous post. At the May 12 Annual Meeting, the entire slate of Officers was returned as in 1941. The new Executive Committee was made up of H.M. Turtle, H.N. Bennett, J. Learmonth, J.F. Berrington, G.P. Snowden, and Alan Sorby.

Meetings continued monthly as before. One meeting each month was at the Calgary Herald boardroom, where there was a brief business session, followed by informal stamp chat, viewing of collections, etcetera. The other meeting of the month was a social evening at someone's home.

The minutes of the November 10, 1942, meeting discuss the forthcoming Annual Dinner and auction for December 11. In those minutes a mention is made of extending an invitation to the Calgary Stamp Club. The guest list of the Dinner includes visitors from Montreal and High River. From the auction, the sum of \$23.21 was donated to the Kinsmen "Milk For Britain" fund.

The May 11, 1943, Annual Meeting put Sid Richardson into the position of President. Also elected were G.P. Snowden (Vice-President), A.B. Harris (Secretary-Treasurer), and G.A. Morrison (Recorder). The Executive Committee was H.C. Hughes, J.T. Berrington, J. Learmonth, Ed Lynn, Alan Sorby, and Brien Horne.

Members of the club were being encourage to mount their duplicates in approval books of their own for circulation at club meetings.

For years and years, the banquet fee for the Annual Dinner had remained constant. For the December 10, 1943, Dinner, the cost had risen by 10% to the sum of \$1.10 per person. The auction realized \$136.50.

In 1944, the CPS received a visit from Stanley Deville of the Philatelic Branch, Ottawa. He spoke at a meeting on March 20, at the home of Harold Lewis.

After twenty years of service, A.B. Harris finally left the post of Secretary-Treasurer, taking the President's position. His place was filled by Sid Richardson, while the other positions were unchanged. For the Executive Committee were H.V. Lewis, Brien Horne, Alan Sorby, Ed Lynn, J. Learmonth, and W.J.E. Wyllie.

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IN MEMORIAM

John Learmonth died July 15, 1989, in his eightieth year. He was member #92 of the CPS, having joined in 1936. He was a director of this society for many years, serving on the Executive Committee in the years 1940 to 1946, and 1950 to 1952. He was Treasurer in 1956 and 1957. On June 12, 1972, the CPS recognized him for his past achievements by making him Life Member #7.

A few days later, on July 20, Harlow M. Hartney died at the age of 99. He was member #14 of the CPS, having joined October 2, 1923, about a year and a half after the society was founded. Being in the first twenty members of the society, he was therefore a Charter Member. Hartney was active in working with youth stamp clubs. He was the CPS Recorder in 1924-25, and 1934, and a director on the Executive Committee in 1927, 1932, 1958, 1961-62. He was Co-Chairman in 1927 of the first public stamp show ever staged in Calgary.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

These ads are free to paid-up CPS members. Mail ads to Editor, Box 6830, Stn D, Calgary, T2P 2E7, or hand them to Dale Speirs at general meetings. Deadline for December bulletin is November 1.

WANTED: Town-dated singles, blocks, and plate blocks of Canada, especially pre-WW2. Telephone Ed Harris at 274-0021.

FOR SALE: QV and KE VII used Great Britain, mint NH U.N. collection, Canadian Jubilee #56 and 57, Churchill commemorative sets, mint British colonials, and Canadian Admirals. Contact Bob Perry at 282-4520.

FOR SALE: 1979 to 1985 Canada souvenir books for face value of stamps. Call Brenda Rosvick at 274-4712 or see me at meetings.

FOR SALE: OLYMPEX 88 show catalogue. Illustrated, with articles on Olympic philately, winter sports philately, and Calgary postal history. Price is \$6 each anywhere in the world, postpaid from the CPS, Box 1478, Stn M, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6.



1989 MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Oct	4		General meeting
	4		Dues are due! If not paid by this meeting, then no bulletin will be mailed to you.
	6 to 8		CALTAPEX 89
	18		Auction
	25		Auction
Nov	1		General meeting
	1		Deadline for December bulletin
	5		Sunday bourse
	15		Auction
	22		Auction
Dec	3		Sunday bourse
	6		Wine and cheese party

MEETINGS and AUCTIONS are at the Kerby Centre, second floor, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW, at 730 pm. Auction lots should be in before 730 pm to allow bidder viewing.

CALTAPEX 89 is at Marlborough Inn. Information from Jon Johnson at 282-9775.

SUNDAY BOURSES are at the American Women's Club, 1010 - 14 Avenue SW, from 10 am to 430 pm. For table bookings, contact Walter Jackson at 242-4128.

ARTICLES and SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS should be mailed to the Editor, Box 6830, Stn D Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7, as far in advance of deadlines as possible.

AUSTRALASIAN STUDY GROUP meets third Wednesdays. Information from Leanna Johnson at 282-9775.

BNAPS CALGARY REGIONAL GROUP meets second Wednesdays. Information from Jim Karr at 287-0897.

IRELAND AND BRITISH EUROPE STUDY GROUP meets every second month. Information from Steve Davis (237-5806) or David Warren (253-7342).

If you were arrested for being an active contributor to the CPS, would the Crown Prosecutor have enough evidence to secure a conviction?