



The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

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Issue: August 2017

**Most Meetings Held the first Tuesday of Every Month at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting Site: Berkshire Commons, 5485 Perkiomen Avenue (Route 422)
Turn North on Lincoln opposite of the Dairy Queen.
Proceed 300 feet, turn left on Washington and look right of center at the stop sign.**

Tuesday, August 1st at 7:00 p.m.

Carsonia Park In Postcards

...presented by Mike Matus

**Join us as we relive the days of yesterday at the glorious
Carsonia Park amusement and entertainment complex!
(See related story on Page 2.)**

Dr. Carlson Chambliss, club member and professor emeritus of astronomy at Kutztown University, received the school's President's Medal this Spring. It is only the fifth award since first given in 2014. Dr. Chambliss created the Chambliss Student Academic Achievement Award and the Chambliss Faculty Award.
Congratulations!!!!

Your editor did not get to the picnic but I trust everyone who did had a good time and enjoyed the food, deserts and auction. Thank you to all who worked to put together the picnic and brought food. The next big project is the bus trip!

Carsonia Park: A Reflection of Reading Area's Past

It is a challenge to remember the past glory of the Reading Area even if you are a native-born senior citizen. If you moved here in the 1960's or so as your editor did, it is even more difficult. But there was a time when Camelot was found in Central Berks County. George Washington believed this area to be the most important resource for The Revolution. The Reading Company was once the largest corporation in the world.

And outside New York, you could argue that the entertainment center of the country was found in downtown Reading, and spread several miles eastward. Carsonia Park was a part of that playground. It offered rides, a ten-plus acre lake and grand Crystal Ballroom, competing with busy vacation hotels, vaudeville stages and rich art venues.



In 1894, John A. Rigg and Robert N. Carson bought the Custard Bottom farm and additional acreage to open an amusement park along their trolley line. People paid to ride the Union Traction Company of Reading trolley and could stop off at Carsonia Park. Tickets to rides cost a nickel but entrance to the park was free. Supposedly an original ticket booth still stands at the corner of Freidensberg and Lewis Roads. The park was named in a Reading Eagle contest by S. Emma Moyer, a city school teacher.

A ten-and-a-quarter acre lake supported boating of all kinds. The boat repair buildings still stand. In 1960 the Reading Scuba Team found an anchor in the lake and it is now on display at the Lower Alsace Township Building. For a quarter, visitors could use the 900,000 gallon sand-bottom pool all day. Woolen swimsuits could be rented!

A beer garden built in 1936 is now part of the Anthony's Trotteria Restaurant at Navella and Byram Streets. The lamp posts in the parking lot once lined the midway and can be seen in many postcards. People of note bought homes in the nearby area. A seasonal homeowner was Lillian Gish, an early Hollywood superstar who bought 104 Midland Avenue. The Crystal Ballroom Dance Palace hosted top dance bands: Benny Goodman, Cab Calloway, Sammy Kay, Guy Lombardo and others. The park ran from 1896 to 1950 but the ballroom lasted to 1968 when it was burned to the ground, allegedly by men earlier denied entrance to the building.



MIKE'S PAGES

RSCC IS NOW ON FACEBOOK

FUTURE MEETINGS: 2017

Reading Stamp Collectors Club

August 1st

**Carsonia Park in Postcards
Presenter: Mike Matus**

September 5th

FALL AUCTION

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

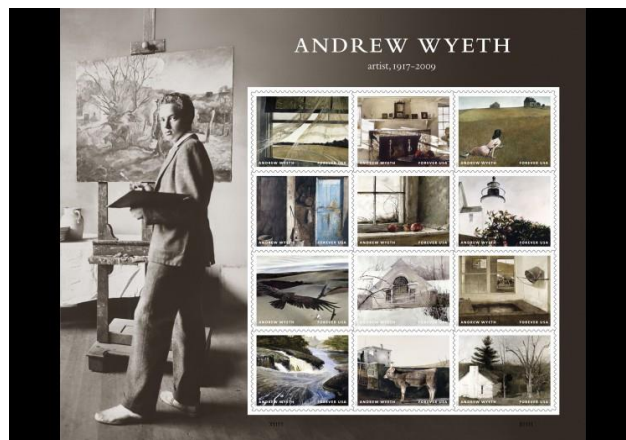
August 9th

Picnic

September 13th

FALL AUCTION

ANDREW WYETH'S 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



**United States Postal Service Dedication of 12 Andrew Wyeth Forever® Stamps
Wednesday, July 12, 2017 : 11 a.m. Brandywine River Museum of Art.**

A number of club members went to this local event. The master of ceremonies was Cecily Tynan of WPVI-TV and Jamie Wyeth (Andrew's Son) was a guest speaker.



Destination: National Postal Museum

Where? **Washington, D.C.**
When? **Thursday September 21, 2017**
Cost: **\$65.00 –**
(includes driver's tip, snacks and prizes)

(Dinner stop is NOT included)

ONLY 50 seats available - Payment Insures a seat

Leaving:

1st Pick Up

7:00 a.m. From Lowe's - 2625 Shillington Rd

Rt 222 to Sinking Spring, Route 724 Exit
Parking rear of lot under the LOWES sign

2nd Pick Up

7:30 a.m. From Woodcrest Villa

2001 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601
Parking in dining room parking lot

Leaving D.C.

6:00 p.m.

A Dinner Stop Will Be Made at Cracker Barrel
13600 Wolfe Road, New Freedom, PA 17349
Shrewsbury exit on Rt. 83 717-235-4040

Call:

Roy K. Baardsen

(610)-927-3435

Checks Payable to:

Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

Send Payments to:

**379 Sioux Ct Sinking
Spring, PA 19608-8913**

Email Reservation:

roykb@comcast.net

OR

**Bring your spouse and a friend. Spend a day in Washington, D.C. for
sightseeing and lunch while we are at the museum**

MONEY IS DUE BY - August 15, 2017