



# The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

Stan Raugh, Editor  
4217 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Temple, PA 19560-1805  
Tele: 610-921-5822

Issue: April 2013

**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, April 2, at 7:00 p.m.

## Past President's Panel

Calling all former presidents of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club!!!

Uncle Stan, editor of The Overprint wants you—  
to participate in a panel and share the past history of our club.  
We will guide our panel and take questions from the audience.  
This should be a real blast from the past!

\*\*\*\*\*

**It is with sadness** that we report the death of one of our former RSCC presidents, John Zitrick in March.

John preceded my first term as president and mentored me through my term. His strength was the organizational skills he learned from his experience in many community groups and church. Our president's panel will miss John and fellow past leader Walter Creitz.—ed.

*...We cannot do everything at once, but we can do something at once...*

—Calvin Coolidge

**Perhaps the above** saying should be the motto of our past presidents. Busy in their own lives, they found time to serve. And not only presidents, but our other officers, helpers and the many volunteers who made our club successful.

## *Gratefully, Our Meeting Isn't on April Fools' Day*

The origin of April 1 as April Fools' Day is clothed in the mist of time and confused by a prism of many cultures. No explanation is definitive.

Probably the earliest tradition originated in Iran. At least by 536 B.C., Iranians were celebrating a prankster tradition called Sizdah Badar. It is still practiced today on the first or second of April as it always has been.

The Romans celebrated Hilaria on March 25 and the Medieval Feast of Fools was held on December 28, a date on which pranks are still played in Spanish-speaking countries.

In 1392, Chaucer's Canterbury Tales tells of prankery on March 32, or April 1. Some scholars think there is a copying error and the real date was 32 Days after April, or May 2.

There have been many celebrations world-wide on many dates, many the end of December or Spring, particularly early April.

Some pranks have been huge and very deceptive.

On April 1, 1977, a British news source reported that the Swedish spaghetti crop had been huge that year, aided by suppression of the spaghetti weevil. A photo in the newspaper illustrated workers picking long strands off spaghetti trees.

The news service was flooded with requests as to where spaghetti trees could be purchased.

On the treasured day in 1962, Swedish television reported that ordinary black and white TVs could be converted to color by

pulling a nylon stocking over them. The update was presented in detail by a real technician.

In the last quarter of the 1900's, Taco Bell reported it had bought the naming rights to the Liberty Bell, which would now be called the Taco Liberty Bell. A furor of patriotism condemned what many thought was true.

The White House press secretary, when asked, confirmed the report and added that the Lincoln Memorial would now be the Ford Lincoln Mercury Memorial.

Burger King announced a left-handed whopper with condiments rotated 180 degrees and got complaints that no right-handed model was planned.

In 1985, the same era, Sports Illustrated's April issue reported the Mets had signed Sidd Finch, a 168-mile per hour fast ball pitcher with pinpoint accuracy. Sidd had never played baseball, but studied Yoga in the Himalayan Mountains. The fastest recorded pitch in human history to that point was 103 m.p.h.

Perhaps we could develop a list of April 1 news events for the philatelic press. At the moment, however, I am glad our meeting is on April 2.

**The attendance drawing** of \$14.00 was won by Roy Baardsen at the March meeting. Yes, folks, Roy lives right! He later announced he is going on a cruise and I guess he will probably slip off the side off the ship and demonstrate water walking!

Dave Silcox won the attendance drawing of \$15.00. Congratulations, Dave.