



# The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

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**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, June 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

**Auction!**

Bring your extras—and your wallet—to buy and sell stamps  
at bargain prices from fellow members.  
(Note—as this meeting is an auction, the regular monthly  
silent auction will be suspended until next month.)

## **CONGRATULATIONS !**

Susan Willman won the 50/50 Drawing of \$24.00. Not enough to get you to the Bahamas, but she probably will enjoy a trip to the farmer's market!

The Rev. Harold Hand's name was pulled for the attendance drawing, but was not present. We miss all our members when they are not at the meetings. Next month's drawing will be for \$15.00.

## **Tie A String Around Your Finger!**

**Our next stamp show will be on:**

**Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**We will be needing a full compliment  
of workers from kitchen managers  
to front desk sign-up.**

**Please mark this event down  
on your calendar now and be sure  
to at least visit the show.**

## *Where Is It Now? – “The Jersey Maneater”*

by Stan Raugh

We have all heard of programs like, “Where Are They Now?”

But as a collector, I often wonder, where is it now?

So, from now on, I will share a few of the missing “it’s” that I think would make a fantastic theme for a U.S. or foreign stamp series.

This issue we will start with the Jersey Maneater.

From July 1, to July 12, 1916, there were multiple shark attacks along the coast of New Jersey and 16 miles up the Matawan Creek.

The summer that year was oppressively hot and combined with a polio outbreak in New York City people flocked to the Jersey shore.

An unusually high number of sharks were reported by fisherman and some believe that increased chances of human/shark contact.

One of the largest concentrations of Great White sharks is off Long Island, NY, and it is believed they winter in the Carolinas, passing New Jersey spring and fall. Some speculate that the great heat pushed even Caribbean sharks north that summer.

In 1916, virtually no top drawer ichthyologist believed sharks would attack people and all kind of explanations for the incidents would continue, including sea turtles and German sabotage

Four swimmers were killed, including a child in the creek and the man who searched for his body. Another boy in the creek was attacked but survived.

The creek attacks were the last and the

shark broke through an underwater chain fence to escape back into the ocean.

You can imagine, just as in the movie *Jaws*, which was inspired by the attacks, fishermen combed the Jersey shore, taking all kinds of sharks.

Oddly enough, a taxidermist and former lion tamer came over from New York City to check things out after the attacks began.

One morning, he took out a dangerously small boat to catch fish to pan fry for breakfast. Instead, he almost became breakfast when he hooked a Great White Shark. To save himself and his boat, he bludgeoned the shark to death with a broken oar.

The stomach contents of the fish included human remains. The shark was reported to be between six and seven-and-a-half feet long.

Skeptics doubted if this was the fish. It was thought that this fish feasted on seconds or was only involved in part of the attacks, as Great Whites don’t swim upstream. Bull Sharks do. To this day, experts disagree.

Anyway, the taxidermist mounted the shark and the Jersey Maneater was displayed in the window of a New York shop.

But where is it now? There are whispers that the shark was poorly curated, became spoiled and only the jaw was spared. Rumors are that the jaw hung in a New York fish market for some years. Another report was that it was sent to China.

It is my dream that someday in some attic somewhere that jaw is hidden. But probably it was tossed into the Hudson River or the teeth removed and sold for an Asian potion of some sort. Perhaps a publicized stamp would bring it to light.