

Phila-telling Around

MEETINGS, 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
LANCASTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER
Columbia Ave., Lancaster, PA

Mailing address:
L.C.P.S.
19 Circle Rd.
Millersville, PA 17551

Next Meeting - Wed., AUGUST 12, 1998
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL MARILYN SHIRLEY (717) 872-2479

VOL.9, #8 NEWSLETTER FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 1990 AUGUST 1998

STAMP OF APPROVAL!

Greetings! Is it hot enough for ya?*/*#! How many times did you hear that in the last few weeks?

Hot weather and picnics seem to go together somehow. And this is the month for our annual picnic. Come out, relax, try some home cooking, and just socialize and get to know one another better. Rain or shine! We have a very nice pavillion reserved for the club, so don't worry about the weather.

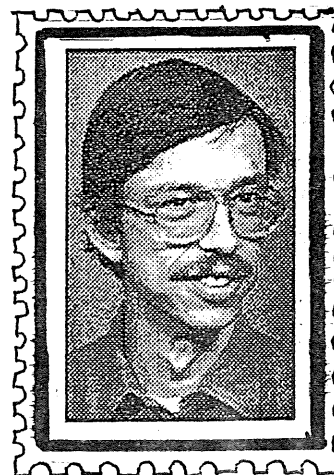
This newsletter is dedicated to RICHARD BOTTE. On behalf of the members, we extend our condolences to LESLEY. A \$35.00 memorial gift was sent to the American Philatelic Society in the name of RICHARD M. BOTTE by the club.

Marilyn Shirley
President



THE AUGUST ISSUE OF

THE LCPS NEWSLETTER IS DEDICATED TO



RICHARD

BOTTE

AUGUST MEETING

The program for this month is our Annual Picnic. We are going to play "BINGO" after the meal. Please bring something to put on the Bingo Table to be used as a Bingo Prize. It need not relate to stamps, it can be anything you wish to contribute. If you can't find anything to bring, that's O.K. -- come anyway! The more the merrier.

Bring a covered dish, please. Hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks will be provided by the club.

Memories of RICHARD BOTTE

When I joined the Lancaster County Philatelic Society in 1989, Richard Botte was regularly in attendance and an active member. Eventually failing health made it difficult, then impossible for him to attend. Richard impressed me as a kind, gentle person, and a dedicated philatelist. His interest and knowledge will be missed.

-- Mark King

Richard Botte was a member of the LCPS as long as I have attended the club meetings. I was always impressed with the knowledge Richard and Lesley seemed to have regarding stamps -- sometimes intimidated. It was only after several months I ventured to ask him some questions. Although they may have been simple, he made me feel they were important questions and patiently gave me the answers I needed.

Richard was kind and fun loving -- I loved his smile! His absence leaves a gaping hole in our club.

-- Marilyn Shirley

MEMORIAL TO RICHARD BOTTE
BY HIS FRIEND, JAMES HARTUNG.

We are here today in the shadow of a great loss. The loss of our friend, RICHARD BOTTE. Richard was a student of life with an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, he was also a teacher and shared of himself with others. What he preached he practiced. What he believed in, he believed with all his heart.

Richard fought hard for every cause he ever enlisted. And the causes which he fought were good and right! Richard was a man of high intellect. But never held himself above others and befriended people from all walks of life. He was a man of great generosity and he touched the lives of many people. I don't think anyone

who had the privilege to know Richard is likely to ever forget him.

Richard was a family man. Family unity was probably the most important thing in Richard's life! The strong family values and unconditional love he learned as a child grew with him over the years and he shared them unselfishly for over twenty-one years with Lesley Ann, the love of his life.

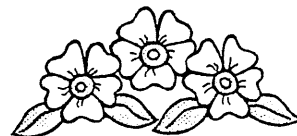
Richard knew from an early age that he had an entire life to live in only half the time. He tried to live each day to the fullest and with the help of his loving wife, his family and his many friends, I think he succeeded!

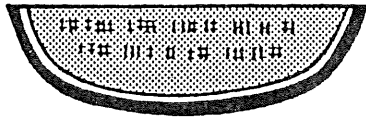
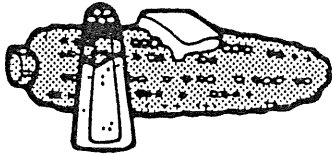
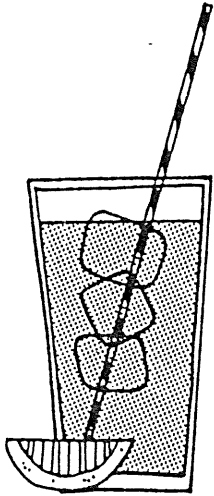
Richard was a man who was never afraid to show his feelings. He told his family and friends and he told them often he loved them, how much he appreciated them and how much he valued their friendship.

Yes, Richard was a student of life but he was also a teacher and he taught by example. We learned from him -- courage, compassion, humility, generosity and friendship. I think there would be no finer tribute no greater honor to show our friend, than to practice the lessons of life and love that he shared with us!

On one of my last conversations with Richard, he told me he was tired, very tired and that perhaps this time he may not be coming home. Today the angels welcome Richard Home, and rest belongs to him.

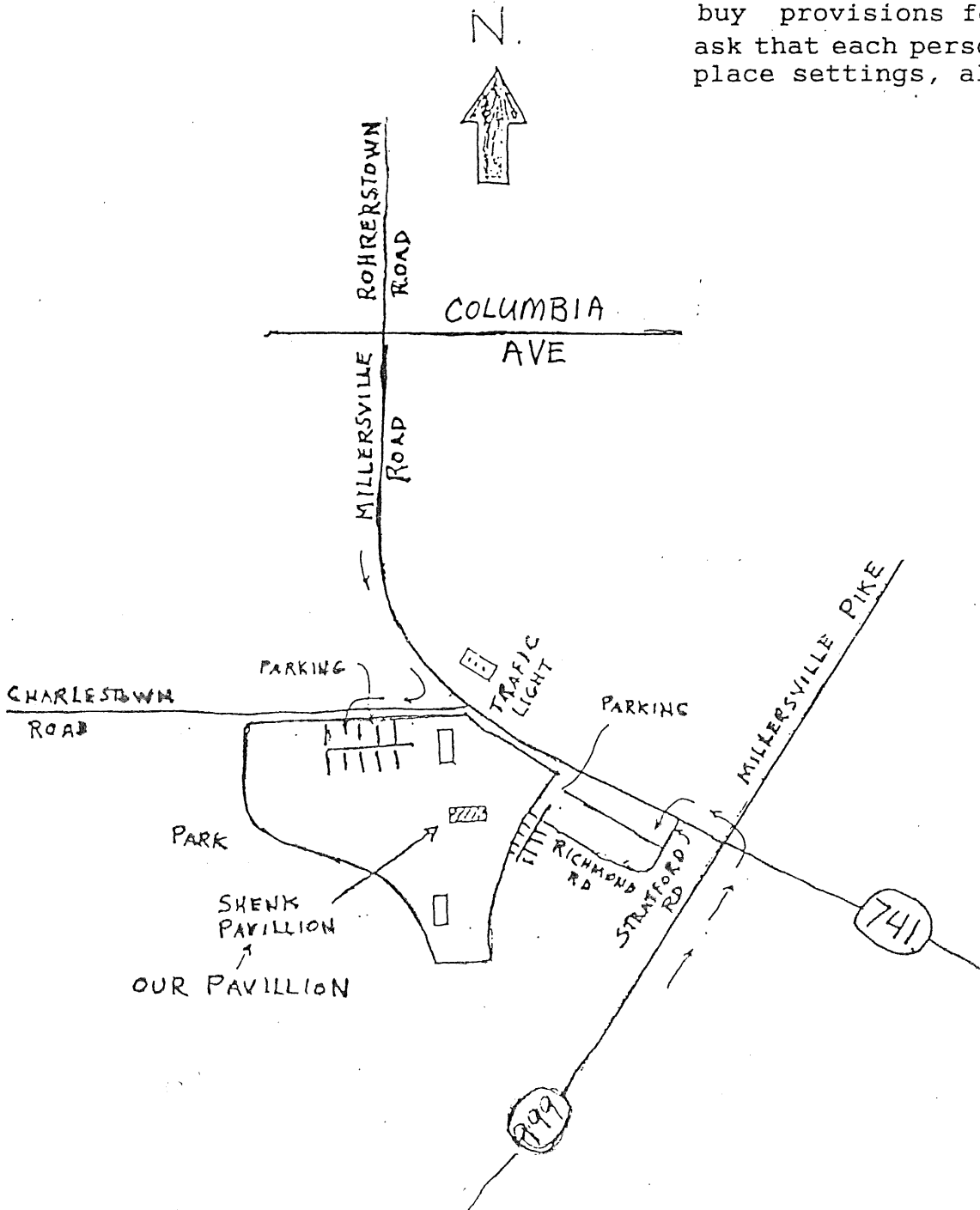
(Note: This beautiful tribute was read at the funeral of Richard Botte June 30, 1998)





Lets have a great turn-out at the picnic, it's always a fun evening with many home cooked dishes to enjoy.

Please call DICK SHAEFER (717) 560-0571, if you plan to attend so he can buy provisions for the group. We ask that each person bring their own place settings, also.



THE TIME OF MY LIFE

by Phil Attelic

What happened to me at my College Class Reunion was better than buying a pane of inverted "Jennys" at the local post office. It was there that I again met my old classmate - "the Genie". We called him by that Arabian name because he was the genius in our class of 1950. Mathematics and calculus were a second language to him. He became affluent in Latin, Greek, French and even Chinese and a few ancient tongues, before I could barely translate Chaucer into modern English. I was happy to see him again because we had been friends of a sort, although he always made me feel inferior.

When he asked me what I was up to lately, I told him that I was doing some research on the "history of sending information from here to there and the evolution of our mail system". "You won't believe it," he said, "but I am the one to help you". He explained "I reread H.G. Wells' The Time Machine and I have built a replica of the invention. I can take you back through time and we can find out how ancient people communicated.

I thought he had gone a bit mad, but he took me to his hotel room where he had arrived for the reunion and there was his Time Machine Clone. It looked like a surrey without a fringe on top. It has two seats and quite a few complicated knobs, buttons, dials and gadgets to turn or push. "I'll give you a quick test" he said. He asked me when I first began collecting stamps. I told him the year and occasion, which was a Christmas Day, and after he pressed a few buttons, I was back in the old family home watching myself at the age of nine unwrapping a Scott Junior Worldwide Album which I found under the Christmas tree. It was grand to see, once again, all of the members of my family who are no longer among the living. We pretended to be distant cousins, because they didn't recognize me by what I had become.

When we returned to the now, the Genie said that we must begin to start our research. He dialed us to a recent year when gold was at its low and to New York City where we bought gold souvenirs of the young Victoria and some reasonable Roman Coins. Then off we went to Brooks Costumers, Inc. who had us fitted with costumes ranging from Biblical to 19th Century. He told the Brooks salesman that we were producing a two-man play on the history of dress.

It took about one minute for the Time Machine to travel back a thousand years and after nine minutes, dressed in Biblical gowns. We arrived at what appeared to be a well-kept vineyard. An old bearded man was pruning grape vines and he appeared to be a bit tipsy. The Genie, who had learned Hebrew and Aramaic, spoke to the old man and learned that his name was Noah. Genie asked him how he communicated with people. Noah said that the only people he wrote to were his sons, Ham, Shem and Japheth. Everyone else had been drowned in a big flood. He kept in touch with his sons by using carrier doves. He offered us a drink of his wine which was vintage 7000 BC and a bit acid to the tongue. It needed aging. I have a flagon of it that he gave me which has now aged 9000 years. I think it may have reached its time or will be an excellent Balsamic vinegar.

We now donned Mongol dress and arrived in China where Human Messengers provided the Postal Service. Their Cancelling Method was a bit more harsh than our modern one. They cancelled the messengers by cutting off their heads. We had no desire to be cancelled, so we went off to 3000 BC Egypt where clay pages pressed with hieroglyphics served as mail for the Third Dynasty and Assyria. As we moved along through time we found that in 1200 BC the Egyptians had produced papyrus made from overlapped reed fiber. We brought back

several examples. I donated mine to the Metropolitan Museum. Genie was more practical, he sold his for a small fortune to the Getty Museum. He changed costumes often and found in 539 BC Persian Emperor Cyrus The Great had established a postal relay service stationing fresh relays of men and horses along the routes of his Empire. 280 years later, dressed in togas, we used our high school Latin to find that the Romans "Cirus Reblicus" used small, two-wheel chariots to carry mail. The Hebrews were still using papyrus and some copper to write their scrolls, but the Chinese had created paper as writing material and when a city was under siege, they used kites to carry away their letters.

Here are some of my notes I made as we travelled on through time.

- 645 Japan starts mounted service between cities.
- 1150 The Guild of Butchers in Germany organize the Metzgen Post, the first of many international trade guild posts of the middle ages.
- 1276 First European paper mills open in Italy
- 1282 European paper makers introduce water marks.
- 1450 Count Roger I of Thorn & Taxis is Knighted by Emperor Frederick III for establishing a postal relay service, linking northern Italy and the Tyrol.
- 1463 Horses in old Parisian District are the first to be numbered to facilitate mail delivery. And Louis XI passes a law permitting use of French State Post for private correspondence.
- 1574 During the Spanish Siege of Leiden, Holland went back to Noah and used carrier pigeons. Later Paris used balloons when it was under siege.

1639 Richard Fairbanks of Boston appointed as Postmaster of the Massachusetts Bay Colony inaugurated the first postal service in America (although Indians sent messages with smoke signals). When we stopped for a while during the time of Louis XVI, wearing powdered wigs and foppish dress, we found small slips of gummed paper imprinted with an inscription, "Postage Paid". These labels are widely acknowledged as the First Postage Stamps.

I was anxious to get to 1840 and buy our first modern adhesives, 1 penny blacks and 2 penny blues. We put on Dickens' togs and with gold sovereign in our pockets beamed off to 1840. Genie managed to contact Sir Roland Hill and invite him to join us at the "Cheshire Cheese Pub", where Samuel Jonson hung out. There we enjoyed a beef pie and a pint of cellar temperature ale and had the pleasure of listening to Sir Roland tell us of the Maltese Cross brass cancelling devices. He graciously signed some mulready envelopes which I purchased for 1 pence and 1 pence. They now have a catalogue values of \$125,000 and \$200,000. The 2 penny blue is listed at \$600,000 in used condition. So I sent five to my great grandfather asking him to will them to his first great grandchild, who would be me. Our gold coins enabled the two of us to buy enough full sheets of 1 penny blacks and 2 penny blues with varieties to make us both millionaires.

You may wonder how I know that the old dates I mentioned were BC. -- It could be calculated by using the Time Dial on the machine which showed how many years we travelled either before or ahead of the present date.

If you are interested, I would be glad to show you the wonderful items I have gathered during my trips through time. But promise not to touch!

BUS TRIP

OCTOBER 17, 1998 - Mark this date on your calendar. This is our trip to Washington, D.C. We have a lot of fun on this trip and you will not want to miss it. The cost is \$20.00. We provide snacks and good fellowship. For those who are interested, we will be visiting the National Stamp Museum. The day is yours to plan and do whatever you wish.

Please complete the reservation form and return to:

Peter Billis
208 E. New Street
Lancaster, PA 17602

Enclosed is my check for _____

There will be _____ people in my party.

Signed: _____

Telephone: _____

--- Clip ---

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