

THE CARD – Vol. 36, No. 11, Issue 416, November 2025

A Publication of the Lancaster County Postcard Club, Lancaster, PA

Enjoying postcards through education and entertainment.

Next Meeting: November 17, 2025 Farm & Home Center, Buy, Sell & Trade from 2:00 PM, Meeting – 3:30 PM

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<http://www.lcpc-stamps.org/newsletter-archive/the-card/>

OCTOBER MEETING

The October 20 meeting of the Lancaster County Postcard Club was held at the F&HC with 19 people attending. In the absence of Susan Glass, who went home to get her laptop, the meeting was opened by Ruth Frankhouser. Following the reading of the previous month's minutes, the treasurer reported a balance in the Treasury of \$1,959.57.

Door prizes were won by Brian Frankhouser and Cheryl Edwards. The 50/50 of \$6.50 was won by Brian Frankhouser was donated back to the club.

A very interesting program showing cards from Mohnton and Shillington in Berks County was presented by Kerry Mohn.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanne Schopf, Secretary



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November is a time for remembering/honoring our Veterans and celebrating Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Our last meeting for 2025 at the Farm and Home Center is next week. Please bring your ideas for programs next year as well as suggestions for the postcard competitions in 2026. All ideas are welcome.

Susan



NOVEMBER PROGRAM

“Women’s Work in WW1”

Pam Tronsor will be speaking about Women’s Work in World War 1, both at home and at the front. Postcards from America, England, Germany, France, and Japan will illustrate the important work that women did during the war.



OCTOBER POSTCARD COMPETITION

Five (5) members participated in the postcard competition of “Advertising”.

First: Brian Frankhouser – Breneman Brothers

Second: Gisela Withers – Dutch Boy Painter

Second: Anthony Iezzi – Intercourse Pretzel Company

Honorable Mention: Annetta Buettner- Greetings from Germany and Leighton Stover – Brader’s Drive Inn

2025 POSTCARD COMPETITION SUBJECTS

November: Rivers



On Memorial Day in 1932, the new \$70,000 field house at Maple Grove Park was opened to the general public. The idea of a park on this site, west of Lancaster near Route 30, was first dreamed of by Mrs. Ralph Coho in 1915. She developed 15 acres of swampy horse pasture into one of the area's finest recreational centers. Best known for the largest privately owned swimming pool in the world, Maple Grove expanded its facilities during the 1920s, and occupied 50 acres by the time the new field house was completed. This new indoor venue could accommodate 5,000 spectators, and the Cohos were faced with the challenge of "filling the seats". At that time, boxing was extremely popular, and local legend, Leo Houck, could attract the crowds. However, something was needed that would draw attention to the site every day.

The first dance marathon in America is attributed to Alma Cummings of New York, who lasted 27 consecutive hours in 1923. By 1932, the dance marathon circuit evolved into its own little world of exploitative entertainment that tested the limits of human endurance. That's what Lancaster was introduced to during the summer when a small newspaper advertisement provided the following information..."Marathon Dances – With or Without Talent, No Fees - \$2000 Prizes – Call Field House – Maple Grove Park". The contests were sponsored by the local chapter of the American Legion, and the Interstate Championship began on July 27 with 34 couples from all over the country. They started with hourly breaks that lasted 15 minutes, but the time was reduced as the competition wore on. There were regular broadcasts from Maple Grove on WGAL and WKJC radio to promote the bands playing at the event, and to announce when couples dropped out. Finally, on October 7 at 4:30AM, Cliff Major (shown on postcard second from the top on left) collapsed after 1,712 hours, and the winners were declared. However, the dancing continued as a second, less prestigious, marathon called "the Super Dance Marathon of Pa." started in September with 51 couples, and ran simultaneously for a time with the first. The second event lasted until near the end of November until a winner was declared. This was Lancaster's last exposure to "big time" national dance marathons.



Photo #1:

The "Prize Winners" of the Interstate Dance Marathon, who each got a share of the \$2,000 purse, were the last six couples standing. The first-place team was Nick Radonovich from Steelton, Pa., and his partner, Rita Williams, from Brooklyn, NY (shown bottom left on postcard).

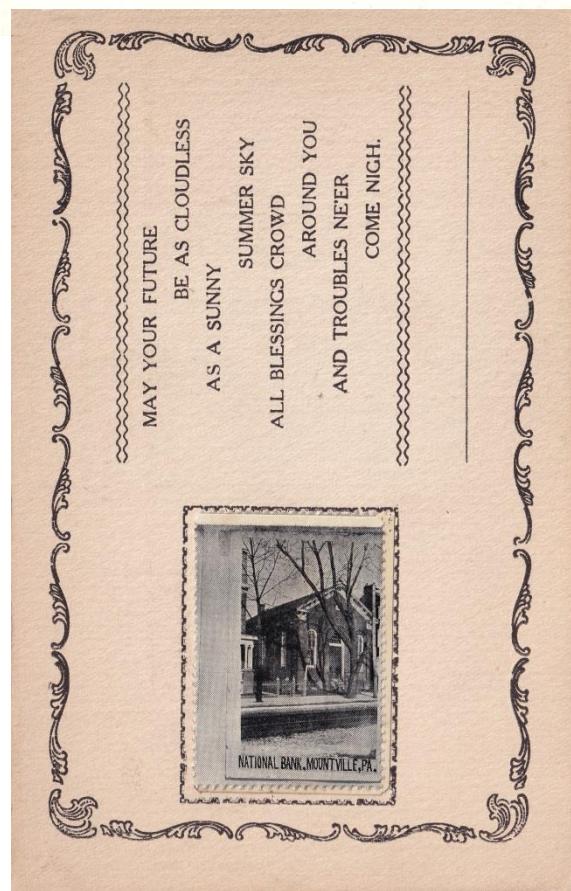


Photo #2:

Darmstaetter's published at least seven of these real photo postcards of the Interstate competition, including one of each couple. This postcard included printing on the front: "Always Remember Lou & Fritz" (shown bottom right of the first postcard). There was also a RPPC published of the "Super Dance Marathon" that showed at least 30 participants posing for the camera.

Photo #3:

Shown is a postcard of the Mountville National Bank. The postcard and stamp were published by the Ess an Ess Photo Company, Inc. More details about this series of postcards are explained in The Card – Volume 7, Number 10 (Oct. 1996). You're probably asking "what could a bank possibly have in common with a dance marathon?" Apparently, the dance marathon at Maple Grove Park attracted some very unscrupulous characters. It was reported that it was controlled indirectly by "an Al Capone syndicate" and was referred to as "the dance marathon mob". Soon after the conclusion of the second event, in early December, the Mountville National Bank was robbed of almost \$7,500. An automobile owned by Park manager, Ralph Coho, was stolen from the Maple Grove parking lot and used in the heist. The Feds joined the investigation to offer fingerprint expertise, but some members of the "mob" were never fingerprinted. That problem was solved in January of 1933, during a dance marathon at the Pirates' Den in York, when police backed a truck (used to haul horses) up to the establishment and cleared out the entire building. Each person was fingerprinted after the Sunday raid, and charged with violating the Blue Laws. Among those arrested was Nick Radonovich, winner of the Interstate Dance Marathon! By the end of January, the first three bank robbers were caught, sentenced to 15-30 years, and hauled off to Eastern Penitentiary. The other three were captured by September.





An actual Photograph of one of our Salesmen wearing an Extra Value Suit. Right out of the cabinet without an altera! on.

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First: Brian Frankhouser
"Breneman Brothers"

INTERCOURSE PRETZEL FACTORY



Official Pretzel Twisters

Second: Anthony Iezzi - "Intercourse Pretzel Company"

FUTURE SHOWS

November 21-22: York International Photo & Postcard

Expo, Pennsylvania Fairgrounds, 334 Carlisle Avenue, York, PA 17404, Friday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm, Saturday 9 am - TBA, Admission \$5

November 28-29: Lancaster Fall Postcard Show, Farm & Home Center, 1381 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA, Friday 10-5, Saturday 10-3, Admission \$2.50.

OCTOBER POSTCARD COMPETITION

**LANCASTER FALL
POST CARD SHOW**

**ALSO THIS YEAR - PAPER,
ADV., & BOOK DEALERS**

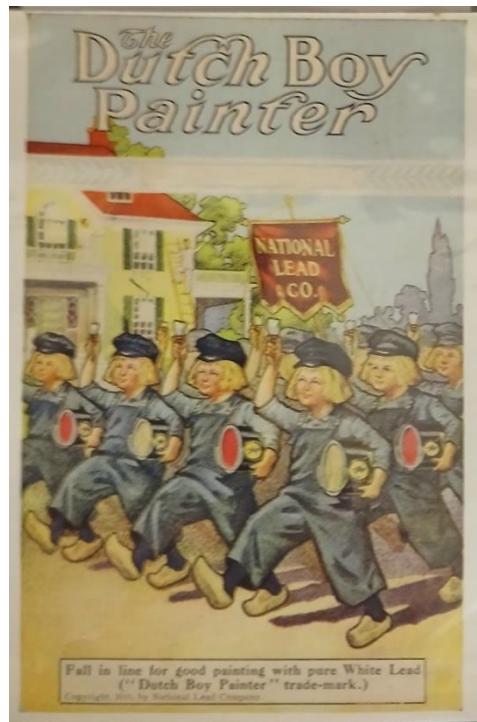
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2025
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2025
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

FARM + HOME CENTER
1383 ARCADIA ROAD, LANCASTER, PA, 17601
(OFF MANHEIM PIKE RTE. 72)

Admission:
\$2.50

For More Information Call:
Dede Schaeffer (717) 392-3955



Second: Gisela Withers
"Dutch Boy Painter"