

Postcards capture York's architectural past

Scott Butcher has turned his collection into a book

By JOSEPH MALDONADO
For the Daily Record/Sunday News
Sunday, August 14, 2005

Because of a serendipitous turn of events, Scott Butcher of Windsor Township has published his first book. Serendipitous because the pages inside his first release tell a different story than the one he originally intended.

Butcher's book, called "York," was published by Arcadia in Portsmouth, N.H., and uses 200 vintage postcards to tell the story of how the city, and surrounding areas, have changed over the years.

Originally, Butcher, 36, wanted to publish a pictorial book utilizing more traditional photography to focus on York's wide array of architectural styles. And while the postcards do this to some degree, they do not provide as detailed a look as he first envisioned.

"It was an exhaustive process trying to find a publisher to work with on my original idea," he said. "Then I discovered Arcadia and pitched my book to them."

Arcadia is a small publisher of local history with more than 3,000 titles about cities and towns all over North America. Butcher discovered them while shopping at Borders Books & Music in Springettsbury Township.

Despite Arcadia having several different series-type books available for authors to customize their work to, Butcher realized his idea did not fit any of their models.

But, one of Arcadia's lines, "The Postcard History Series," struck his interest on a different level.

About three years ago in the fall, Butcher attended a postcard expo at the York Expo Center. He was amazed at how many postcards had been published with photos of the area at various stages of growth and change.

In addition to buying cards at expos, Butcher also began buying cards online from sites such as the Internet auction house eBay.

[order photo reprint](#)



Kristin Murphy - YDR

Scott Butcher stands on the roof of the parking garage across the street from the former courthouse on East Market Street in York. The courthouse is pictured on several postcards in Butcher's new book, 'York.'

[bigger version & more photos \(2\)](#)



Submitted

This postcard from Scott Butcher's book shows the York County Court House in 1898, when it was flanked by the Security & Title Co. building on the left and the Marshall House, a hotel, on the right.

[bigger version & more photos \(2\)](#)

An avid photographer, Butcher said he appreciates the eye it took to capture York during its adolescence. He regularly photographs and writes about York's buildings of today and sells his work in local art shows.

His love of the area isn't just expressed through his art form. Butcher is a director and member of the executive committee of Main Street York, director of Historic York Inc., and a former director of the York County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"I have always lived in and cared about the county," he said.

Laurie Butcher, a publicity manager from Arcadia, and no relation to Scott Butcher, said in a letter to the York Daily Record that the publisher's postcard series offers reminders of important eras-gone-by in communities across America.

"Postcard photographers traveled the length and breadth of the nation snapping busy street scenes, documenting landmarks and capturing natural landscapes," she wrote.

Scott Butcher knew he had a significant number of postcards that he felt would tell a thorough story of York and pitched this new book to Arcadia this past January.

"They accepted the idea the following week," he said. "Then they gave me five weeks to put the book together."

What sets this book apart, when compared with the many other local history books on the market, is the photo-centric way in which the history is presented. What's also unique is the book's focus on what Butcher considers to be an overlooked period in York, which is the early- to mid-20th century.

There is no single storyline to follow. Under each postcard is a caption highlighting the moment captured in the photo.

"York has many history books available in words," Butcher said. "But in pictures, every façade tells a story."

BOOK SIGNING

Local author Scott Butcher will sign copies of his new book, "York," published by Arcadia in Portsmouth, N.H., from 1 to 4 p.m. Sept. 24 in the York County Heritage Trust Museum Shop, 250 E. Market St., York.

Buy the book

"York" costs \$19.99 and can be purchased at the York County Heritage Trust Museum Shop; Border's Books & Music, 3000 Whiteford Road, Springettsbury Township; Minnich's Pharmacy, 976 S. George St., York; Alley Cats, 37 W. Clark Alley, York; Sue's Bear & Gift Haus, 1950 Carlisle Road, West Manchester Township; Pippi's, 146 W. Philadelphia St., York; Bookland, 2114 S. Queen St., York Township; and Waldenbooks, West Manchester Mall. It is also available online at <http://www.amazon.com>, <http://www.bn.com> and <http://www.arcadiapublishing.com>.

