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July 13, 2010

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Atlantic City Time Capsule Revealed

“Good citizens” were investing in the future of Atlantic City

ATLANTIC CITY – The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority today revealed the contents of a long hidden time capsule found behind the cornerstone of the former Post Office.

The time capsule was buried on April 4, 1936 during the construction of the United States Post Office at the corner of Pacific Avenue and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. (then known as Illinois Avenue) in Atlantic City.

The time capsule contained several letters from city officials, the U.S. Postmaster James Farley, the architect, and from New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Joseph B. Perskie, grandfather of Steven P. Perskie, recently retired Superior Court Judge and former State Senator.

Of special note was a photograph of John Harrold, one of the original letter carriers in 1882 when free delivery was established in Atlantic City. The photo was taken in 1887 and was placed in the time capsule by Michael A. Devine, Postmaster from 1896-1901.



“Theodore Roosevelt once said: ‘A man would not be a good citizen if he did not know of Atlantic City,’” commented CRDA Chairman James B. Kehoe.

“Roosevelt was right about Atlantic City. As good citizens, we must remember that in 1936, our city and our nation was in the depths of the Great Depression. The good citizens of the day were building; they were investing in the future of Atlantic City even during some dark days,” explained Kehoe.

“Since 1936, Atlantic City has had its share of ups and downs. Even today, we find ourselves in economic difficulties. Our job at CRDA is to take the long view of history and to reinvest and reinvent in Atlantic City,” Kehoe said.

CRDA will be placing the contents of the time capsule in the custodial care of the Atlantic City Free Public Library. The Library has agreed to display some of the items in an exhibit at the library. The Library will also make all the items available online via a special website devoted to the time capsule. In the meantime, scans of some of the items, photos and videos of the time capsule opening will be displayed on the CRDA website www.njcrda.com.

“Our goal is to encourage the public to view and study the time capsule contents. We learn from our history, and from this time capsule we learn the importance of the community working together to achieve common goals,” said Thomas D. Carver, Esq., CRDA Executive Director.

Contents of the time capsule also included:

- 14 letters including Harry Bacharach, President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities; and, United Senator Senator A. Harry Moore. Moore also served three terms as Governor of New Jersey.
- Souvenir Program of the Semi-Centennial Celebration of 1904
- Architect Howard A. Stout's listing of deeds dating from 1874. One entry in 1909 included Enoch L. Johnson, Sheriff of Atlantic County. "Nucky" Johnson's colorful career was examined in the book, *Boardwalk Empire*, written by Nelson C. Johnson, and will be dramatized in the upcoming HBO series of the same name.
- Atlantic City Evening Union newspaper and the Atlantic City Press newspaper, both dated April 4, 1936 and both selling for "two cents".

About the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) www.njcrda.com

The only agency of its kind nationwide – the CRDA has used Atlantic City casino reinvestments as a catalyst for meaningful, positive improvement in the lives of New Jersey residents statewide. In doing so, the CRDA has dramatically changed Atlantic City's residential, commercial, cultural, and social landscape, while financially supporting quality-of-life improvement efforts throughout New Jersey. In the 25 years of its existence, the CRDA has invested over \$1.8 billion in 400 projects statewide.

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