

Wilkes Barre Post Office Kingston Branch

300 South Main Street
Wilkes Barre, PA 18701

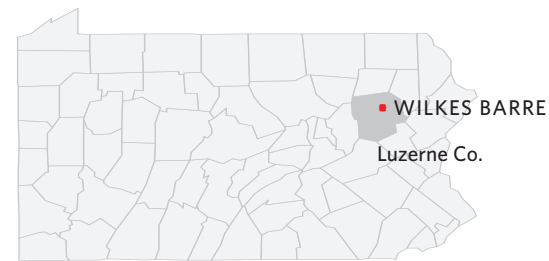
MURAL

Title: *Anthracite Coal*

Artist: George Harding

Date: 1941

Medium: Oil on canvas



All of the post office artworks in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties feature anthracite coal at a major or minor theme. Artist George Harding captures both the miners and the colliery in his beautiful mural *Anthracite Coal*.

The group of miners on the far left holding straps are descending in the mine elevator, while another group gathers nearby. The figure in the center holding a tripod is a surveyor. On the far right a lone figure rides a filled coal car. Wilkes Barre residents say this scene is a composite of two mining operations, the Huber and Prospect Collieries. The Huber breaker is one of the last surviving anthracite breakers in the country and is still visible from Interstate 81, south of Wilkes Barre.

Harding suggests the rigors of coal mining in the grim expressions of the miners faces. The desolation is emphasized by a winter setting featuring snow and icicles.

About the artist: George Harding (1882–1959) studied illustration with Howard Pyle in Wilmington, DE. He



worked for *The Saturday Evening Post* and other major magazines. Harding settled in Pennsylvania and taught illustration at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia.