



POSTVIEW

The Newsletter of the
Vancouver Postcard Club

www.vancouverpostcardclub.ca

Volume 31 No. 1

February 2013

A Photographic Treat

For all who are interested in early Vancouver photos, a treat lies in store at the Satellite Gallery, 560 Seymour St. from Feb. 15 to March 30, Wed. - Sat, 12 - 6 p.m., free admission. Mounted by Presentation House Gallery, you'll have an opportunity to view an exhibition of vintage photos from the The Vancouver Sun and Province archives of over 250,000 old prints. Details of the exhibition, *NEWS!*, can be found at <http://presentationhousegallery.org/satellite>. John Mackie, Vancouver Sun correspondent and complimentary member of the Vancouver Postcard Club, describes the background to the exhibition and includes a selection of some of the best photographs in his article on Feb. 9th in the Sun, accessible via www.vancouversun.com.



Did you see that Canada Post has issued a specially-designed stamp of Joe Seraphim Fortes, in honour of Black History month in Canada? For information about the stamp, see Brian Grant Duff's newsletter #238, at www.allnationsstampandcoin.com. Joe Fortes is pictured in the postcard above from the early 1900's, published by Valentine & Sons, #108,167, on the beach at English Bay.

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Postcard Travel Season

With Toronto under 30 cms of snow as we prepare this issue of *Postview* we can't help mentioning how pretty the snowdrops and crocuses are looking in our front yard this year! We are feeling in a celebratory mood this weekend - after an excellent opening run by the Canucks, the start of the Year of the Snake and, importantly for our club members, the start of a new season of postcard shows. After several dark months hunched in front of computer screens, we at last get an opportunity to stretch, dust off our want lists and start riffling through dealers boxes again. As we know, the "thrill of the hunt" and camaraderie and of a well-organized postcard show are so much more fun than late-night surfing through the eBay listings!

For those of us on the west coast, however, the start of postcard show season also means having to travel long distances. On 22/23 February, for example, one of the world's best postcard shows (with over 150 dealers) is held at Shepton Mallett, south of Bath in south-west England. You can then travel back via the annual Toronto Postcard Annual Show at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre in Toronto from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday 24th February. It's the finest postcard show in Canada (we have to admit), and you'll find extensive material there that rarely shows up in dealers boxes out west. On March 9-10 at the Comfort Hotel in Victoria, you'll find postcards at VIC-TOPICAL, the Victoria Topical Stamp and Postcard Show. For Vancouver collectors who prefer to shop closer to home, the Annual Vancouver Postcard Show, will be held on Sunday 26th May - this year (see page 6) expanded to include stamps and paper ephemera.

Spring 2013 also marks the start of a new presidential term for the Vancouver Postcard Club, with long-time member and collector Tim Woodland taking over from Philip Francis, who continues as Editor of *Postview*. Other changes in your Executive Committee are detailed on Page 3. We wish Tim and our Club members all the best for the postcard travel season and hope to see you at some of the upcoming shows. eBay, Delcampe, Bidstart etc have been a boon for postcard collectors around the world. But there's no substitute for the "real thing" and we thank our B.C. dealers for continuing to make postcards available for the collecting public and for supporting our shows.

eBay Notes

It's been quite a dull period on eBay since our last issue. We take a look most days to see if any interesting material has been listed (make sure to use the "Advanced" search feature to set up your special searches) but we haven't seen much that's excited us. However, there have been a few nice real photos in recent months and we particularly liked the following two images, now added to a Vancouver postcard collection!



The strings and triangle section en plein air - somewhere in Canada. Can someone identify where the children are from? Note the uniforms and distinctive headgear!



This lonesome cowboy was photographed at the Electric Studio, 117 Hastings St. East, Vancouver, around 1909. Unidentified.

It seems that interest in Stanley Park postcards is picking up again after a major Vancouver collector recently retired from active collecting. We couldn't help scratching our heads at the \$133.48 paid by a collector for a Byron Harmon view of an unremarkable group of tree trunks in Stanley Park. We know that Byron Harmon postcards of Vancouver are hard to find but we can think of several superb real photos of Vancouver trees by Philip Timms and other fine photographers at less than half the price. We also saw an unusual Stanley Park view published by Thomson Stationery go for a more reasonable price of \$6.01. There have been some good cards offered on eBay in recent months but you have to sort through a lot of "automatically re-listed" modern cards to find them!

Club News - by Margaret Waddington

Kudos

Congratulations to VPC member John Keenlyside are in order! John won the VANPEX 2012 Grand Award for his exhibit of real photo postcards entitled "Philip Timms: Images of Suburban Vancouver, 1900-1910."

David Mattison, Victoria photohistorian and VPC member, was one of the consultants recommending images for the new "Canadian Photography" postage stamp series coming out over the next 5 years.

Annual General Meeting

The Club's Annual General meeting was held at the Hastings Community Centre on December 16, 2012.

Club President, Philip Francis, gave a report on the Club's progress in 2012 including a mention of the BC Historical Federation's \$250.00 award for the best newsletter. In her financial report Margaret Waddington noted that the Club had a deficit of \$1,469.75 for the year, due to the cost of the membership survey and increased web and newsletter costs. Proceeds from the Annual Postcard Show brought in a profit of \$164.41.

A proposed budget for 2013 was also submitted and approved. As a means of boosting revenue in the coming year it was decided to raise membership fees to \$15 and to retain admission fees at the Annual Show.

A new Executive Committee consisting of Diane Rogers, Philip Francis, Ron Souch, Margaret Waddington and Tim Woodland was elected by acclamation.

Following the annual Club photo Tim Mustart conducted an auction of postcard books and ephemera, followed by Christmas party refreshments arranged by Art Davies.

Club Meetings

There was a full house on January 20, 2013 when Philip Francis gave a Powerpoint presentation on "My ten favourite postcards, so far" As well as a 1904 comic card, "One Mile from Vancouver" he showed some of Philip Timms' work including a shot of unloading hemp in Vancouver harbour, church postcards, and portraits of "Children on the Beach, English, Bay," "John Fitzpatrick and his hair," children dressed up to meet a visiting Japanese admiral, Chapman's "A Tahltan Bride" and boys on the cannon at the Beatty St. Hall. Philip now collects artist-signed cards, unique series cards like Tucks set of 6 'Oilettes' of Ae-



Philip presenting some of his postcards. Photo by Don Steele.

sop's fables and map postcards. He also commented on advice he received as a new collector from Abe Charkow, Chris McGregor, Richard Moulton, Ron Souch and Don Steele, i.e. always collect what you like, choose cards that tell a story, only buy the best, take care of your cards, and organize and document your collection.

As an added treat members were able to purchase items from four boxes of John Cheramy's Vancouver cards. Thanks to John and Glenda for this opportunity.

Upcoming Meetings

The Club meeting on February 17th will be a postcard workshop: please bring your favourite, special or unique cards to share knowledge with other members, and also bring cards for which you have questions about location, photographer, printer/publisher, etc. Also bring your favourite research books, checklists, website links, etc. and any materials which you find useful in developing your knowledge and enjoyment of the hobby. March and future month speakers will be announced at the February meeting. Note the new start time of 11.30 a.m. for postcard trading (see page 8).

Your new Club Executive

As noted, the Club AGM elected an Executive Committee and the Committee has since met to elect its officers. Tim Woodland agreed to act as Club President for the coming year and was warmly congratulated by the other members of the Committee!



Tim Woodland, Club President for 2013

Says Tim - "I look forward to serving as the VPC President in 2013, and thank past Presidents Philip Francis and Don Steele for guiding the Club to its current success. With its format of monthly meetings, annual Postcard Show (expanding this year to include Paper and Stamps), and an award-winning Newsletter you are reading now, it is truly a group we can all be proud of. During the coming year I hope to share that pride, along with the many benefits of club involvement, with as many current and new members as possible. I also hope to further build relationships with other local collector clubs, to which I both serve and belong. I believe there are many benefits and much to be shared and learned amongst our collector communities."

Ron Souch has agreed to continue in the role of Vice President and organizer of the annual postcard show. Margaret Waddington has agreed to continue as Secretary - to be re-named "Membership Secretary". Philip Francis will take over as the club Treasurer and will also continue as Newsletter Editor. Diane Rogers has agreed to become "Website Coordinator".

The Benefits of Membership

One of the priorities of this year's Club Executive is to increase the number of Club members. Membership has stayed pretty stable over the past few years, at 80 - 90 members, and we would like to see this over 100, with perhaps a few younger members too! Membership of the Vancouver Postcard Club is a bargain at \$15 a year and confers many benefits -

1. A colour printed copy of *Postview*, four times a year.
2. Membership details, including collecting interests, included in the Club Roster.
3. Participation in monthly Club meetings, with an informative and entertaining line-up of guest speakers. Also, opportunities to trade postcards with other Club members at these meetings.

Your Executive is looking into the possibility of creating a "Members Only" area of the website for personal classified ads and other announcements, as well as the feasibility of holding Club meetings in other locations beyond Vancouver, including Victoria. We particularly welcome members from other parts of the country and look forward to renewing a number of friendships at the Toronto Postcard Show. If you haven't yet paid your annual dues, please don't delay or you risk losing all of these benefits!

In Praise of Postcard Dealers

We received some pushback from a couple of eBay postcard dealers after comments in the December issue about the poor quality of some packaging. We want to make it clear that such cases are rare exceptions and most of the time online postcard transactions proceed smoothly, with positive feedback by both parties!

There are bound to be occasional tensions between sellers (looking to cover costs and make a decent mark-up) and buyers, wanting to add to their collections at a reasonable price, including any shipping and mailing charges. But the fact is that neither can exist without the other and here in British Columbia we are well served by some outstanding postcard dealers. They provide an essential service in looking out for postcards to meet the specific interests of collectors. They provide a market for others looking to sell (for example from estates) and are prepared to carry the cost of holding large, slow-moving inventories. They travel hundreds of miles each year to shows, and display extraordinary patience in educating new collectors - as well as re-organizing their postcards after they have been completely messed up by collectors visiting their tables!

Of course we still miss Albert Tanner with his encyclopaedic postcard knowledge and his unique "everything at half price" pricing policy. But there are many other places for Vancouver collectors to find old postcards. One of the best is at the All Nations Stamp and



Brian Grant Duff - All Nations Stamp and Coin, Dunbar Coin store at 5630 Dunbar St. at 41st Ave., run by Brian Grant Duff. Brian began collecting stamps at age 7 and now has over 25 years experience buying, selling, and auctioning Canadian and World-wide Stamps, Collections, and Postal History. Brian's store is well worth a visit for any postcard collector - he has around 20 boxes of postcards, with extensive collections from B.C. and other parts of Canada and rest of the world. He also runs a weekly online auction that often contains postcards (check out his website at www.allnationsstampandcoin.com). Says Brian, "We have great respect for postcard collectors and I too am a keen collector of postcards showing coins, bank notes and stamps. I would welcome more local collectors visiting our store. We have lots of material and are motivated to move it along! We are happy to sell your postcard collections on consignment. Come and have a look around the store."

Also worth checking out is Allan "Scotty" Pringle, who has thousands of postcards for sale at The Fort Langley Village Antiques Mall, 23331 Mavis St., Fort Langley, opposite IGA, and at the 21st Century Promotions monthly Antique Shows at Croatian Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver. Other local dealers include Per Jensen, Rein Stamm, Jill Charkow and Ron Souch. Give them a call!

Further afield, you can find hundreds of thousands of postcards at John and Glenda Cheramy (Victoria), Don Kaye and Carl Klenk, to name a few. Let them know what your interests are and you'll be sure to receive their attention. For westcoast collectors, we're well-served by the B.C. dealer community and we're grateful.

BIOGRAPHIES OF B. C. PHOTOGRAPHERS

JAMES ARTHUR JOYNER, 1860 – 1948

Compiled by M. Waddington



Nanaimo Orchestral Society - Photo Joyner, Nanaimo.

John Arthur Joyner was born January 24, 1860 in Rushen, Isle of Man to John Joyner, a coachman, and Anne Roberts.

Joyner was working as a draper when he married Harriet Harvey, daughter of John Harvey, marine captain, in St. Catherine's Church in the Parish of Tranmere in the county of Birkenhead & Chester March 4, 1891. By the time of the 1891 census he and Harriet were living in Monton, Lancashire.

Joyner, his wife and his 15 year old son, Henry Arthur, immigrated to Canada, arriving October 12, 1907 in Halifax on the ship "Siberian" from Liverpool, destination Winnipeg. (Both Joyner and his son were described as farm labourers.)

He established himself as a photographer at Victoria Crescent, (later Commercial Street), Nanaimo from 1909 to 1920.

He then moved to Vancouver where he worked for P. Bentley's Dominion Photo Co. in 1921, 1924 & 1925. He was a photographer with Ken G. McKenzie in 1927 & 1928 and with McKenzie's Passport Photograph Studio in 1930.

He retired in 1933 and died at his residence 2973 Eaton Street, Vancouver, March 14, 1948 and was buried in Mountain View Cemetery. He was survived by his wife, Harriet, who died July 30, 1959 in Oakhurst Nursing Home, Vancouver, and his son Henry.

Joyner made some real photo cards of the Nanaimo area circa 1910 to 1920.

His son, Henry Arthur (1892–1979), who worked in his father's Nanaimo studio in 1911, may also have photographed for cards. Henry worked for his father in Vancouver in 1921, then as a photographer with Bentley's Dominion Photo Co from 1926 to 1933 and with the Sun newspaper in 1935 & 1936.

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B. C. Archives death registration
1948-09-003378 (in mfm B13196) (GSU 2032480) (death James)
1954-09-008045 (in mfm B13220) (GSU 2032966) (death Harriet)
B. C. directories: Nanaimo: 1909-1920
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Stovely, near Nanaimo, B.C. - Joyner, Photographer, Nanaimo, B.C.



Post Office, Nanaimo, B.C. - Photo Joyner, Nanaimo.

Thanks to Don Stewart in Victoria for use of the above real photo postcards from his collection and to John and Glenda Cheramy for their assistance with this article.

More on Emigration Postcards

In the December 2012 issue of *Postview* we wrote about a series of postcards issued by the Canadian Department of Emigration in the early 1920's, aimed at encouraging British immigration into Canada. The article prompted some interest in Ontario and we have since had several delightful telephone calls with Wayne Curtis, Honorary Life Member of the Toronto Postcard Club and member of the Vancouver Postcard Club. It seems that Wayne has been collecting these cards for a number of years as part of his extensive collection of Canadian military, patriotic and artist-signed postcards (along with many other interests). Wayne has helped us identify 11 postcard images issued by the Emigration Department through their office at 1, Regent Street, London, S.W.1, including the fine black and white real photo postcard below - "Wheat Harvest in Canada".



WHEAT HARVEST IN CANADA.
Canada is the second greatest wheat producer among the nations of the world.

The 11 postcards identified so far are:

- A Butter Factory in Canada
- A Glimpse of the Buildings of a Canadian University
- A Glimpse of the Great Canadian Rockies
- A Prosperous Farm Home in Western Canada
- An Agricultural School in Western Canada
- An Apple Orchard in Canada
- Beef Cattle in Canada
- Harvesting a Rich Crop of Alfalfa (Lucerne) on a Canadian Stock Farm
- School Building in a Small Canadian Town
- Threshing Grain in Canada
- Wheat Harvest in Canada

It seems a little unlikely that only eleven images were produced and we wonder if anyone can identify any others? Note that this series is not to be confused with the similar B&W real photo postcards issued through the Asst. Superintendent of Emigration, Mr. J. Obed Smith, or those issued by the Agent General for B.C., described in our previous article.

Wayne Curtis has also introduced us to a much earlier series of emigration postcards, specially designed to attract British farmers to the Prairie provinces. These are coloured Canadian Postal Cards, typically showing the homes and farms of prominent farmers in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. They are all easily recognizable by their distinctive backs, shown in the next column, advertising 160 Acre Farms in Western Canada - Free, and extolling the benefits of "Good Schools, Splendid Climate, Rich Soil, Splendid Pasturage Land for Cattle and Excellent Dairying". So far, we have identified 31 postcards in this series, the earliest dating from April 1906. Particulars could be obtained from any Canadian Government Agent, the Superintendent of Immigration or Commissioner of Emigration.



Typical Back of "Farms in Western Canada" - Canadian Postal Card



Farm of Mr. J.E. Marples, Deleau, Manitoba, Canada - Canadian Postal Card - posted in England, May 19, 1909

Why Don't You Write?

And now, as they say, for something completely different! In the course of our recent communications with TPC Honorary Member Wayne Curtis, we have been introduced to a more recent series of postcards published by "S.D.C.". Wayne discovered from a different Letterette that S.D.C. stands for Smallwares Distributors Co. of Toronto. There are at least 10 postcards in this series because in the stamp box on the back, each postcard has "W.D.Y.W." (why don't you write?) followed by a number - the highest number so far seen is #10. The images are all "saucy" cartoons, signed by Hy. Moyer. If you have any postcards in the W.D.Y.W. series please let us know and we will be pleased to forward the details to Wayne.



Which just goes to show that you never know what will emerge from your postcard relationships! Wayne has become a good friend and we are looking forward to meeting at the upcoming Toronto Postcard Show.

Cheramy's Chatter

by John & Glenda Cheramy

2013, Jan 18, Friday 7:00AM ferry. We were joined for breakfast by Bjarne Tokerud, a very busy rare book and ephemera dealer. Glenda & I stopped in Richmond but Jim Richardson's store was closed as he was vacationing in Hawaii. Our next stop was at Chantou, where we paid for supplies which had been delivered by a local, helpful friend, Andrew Blanchard who had brought our album pages to Victoria along with his own purchases.

Next came our usual stops up the Valley where we bought some nice cards at a couple of places. Also met an antique dealer in Langley who had a box of Postcards and a couple of tokens for us.

Saturday the 19th – late breakfast at The Pantry on 6th St. in New Westminster. Stopped at Metrotown (no purchases). As we had an appointment with the late Lee Lightfoot's daughter Marianne, we explored the area by daylight so as to make it easier to find at 6PM. Then we headed to a Chinese restaurant on E. Hastings for a light lunch. They very kindly gave us permission to take up a table for four hours while we sleeved the previous day's buys. Finally, we ordered a supper meal and left a very nice tip as a thank you for their patience.

Met Marianne and her brother Charles, looked over 3 boxes of cards and some albums, plus a display board of Atlin, BC postcards with oddities & unusual cards on the back of the board. We left them with an offer and a little advice. Glenda and I enjoyed our hour or so with both Marianne and Charles.

Sunday the 20th – we left Foot's at a little after 6AM to get to Denny's in Richmond by 7AM. Got to Oakridge before 8:00 and had everything onto our tables within an hour. Per Jensen, Rein Stamm and ourselves set up with tables. The room seemed packed from 10 o'clock opening till just before closing time of 4PM. Philip Francis came by and picked up four postcard boxes to bring to the club meeting for sale and returned them just before closing time. Thank you to all who purchased and thank you to Margaret for handling the sales. Also saw Art Davies and Tim Woodland, and Ron Souch a little later.

Wed. the 23rd – It's a small world! This evening we got a phone call from a good friend in Calgary asking me if I could contact the Harrison Bros. in Victoria and acquire some world coins by the pound, so he could bag them for resale in several outlets around Calgary. As I walked in to their store on Oak Bay Ave., Jim told me they had a large bin full of postcards! They haven't had postcards for years as they had deleted the items from their "Buy" ads.

Jim had teamed up with a friend from White Rock to do a buy (mostly bullion silver & gold) in Chilliwack. Well, apparently Jim had, by mistake, placed an earlier version of their buy ad with the newspaper, where postcards were still listed as wanted. As I examined the boxes and 4 albums, I realized they had belonged to the late Michael Paige, a long-time Vancouver Post Card collector, whom we knew very well. I remember he showed us a postcard of himself and his sister sitting on a log as youngsters. Besides his postcards, there were a few envelopes and very large size Xmas cards from Rhody & Jeff LaCroix, long time-collector friends of ours. One greeting card to them was from the Kinars, Pete, Donnann and Todd. Pete Kinar and I drove together, several times to the Los Angeles International Coin shows.

Our first time to L.A. was in 1964. After we got into our motel, I phoned the show organizer, Harvey Rose, enquiring if there were any bourse tables available. He replied, "We just had a cancellation, so you're in!" As coin collectors, Pete Kinar and I had speculated about the scarcity of Canadian 50 cent pieces dated 1931, 1932, 1934 & 1936, all low mintages. Pete decided that he'd try to corner the market by buying all of these dates that he encountered. Well, the first day of the bourse, our table was directly opposite a dealer who had display cases full of Canadian coins. We introduced ourselves to Amon Carter, a Texas oil tycoon, who talked to us as equals! In his display cases were rolls of Canadian halves of the above dates, far more than we could afford! Pete and I decided to concentrate on other coins.

Michael Page had some nice Santa Claus cards, very attractive. We appreciated acquiring these and many other cards after several years of missing Michael at various collectible and postcard shows.

Our next shows are VICTOPICAL, Victoria March 9 & 10th where there should be some nice postcard displays as well as postcards for purchase, and then David Blake and I plan on viewing Ron Leith's auction lots in Vancouver the next week. After that Glenda and I are off to Alberta for the Wildrose Antique show and then back to Oakridge for April 6th & 7th. See you all there!

Upcoming Events

Feb. 16-17: Greater Portland Postcard, Stamp & Paper Collectible Show, Oregon Army National Guard Building, 10000 NE 33rd Ave., Portland, OR, Sat: 10-6, Sun: 10-4

Feb. 17: Retro Design & Antiques Fair, Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive at 16th, 10-3

Feb. 17: - VPC Monthly Meeting - Postcard Workshop

Feb. 24: Toronto Postcard Club Annual Show, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Court, Toronto, ON, 10-5

Mar. 9-10: VICTOPICAL, Comfort Hotel, Victoria, Sat: 10-5:30: Sun: 9:30

Mar. 13: Postcard Craze – illustrated presentation on Postcards, Postal History and Family History by M. Diane Rogers. Refreshments. Edmonds Community Centre, 7282 Kingsway, Burnaby BC.

Mar. 15-17: RICHPEX, (Ron Leith auction 16 & 17) at Holiday Inn Express, 2889 E. Hastings at Renfrew

Mar. 17: 21st Century Flea Market, Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive at 16th, 10-3

Mar 17: VPC Monthly Meeting - TBA

VPC Annual Show - May 26th

Ron Souch writes - The Vancouver Postcard Club will hold its annual show and sale this year on **Sunday, May 26th** at the usual location - Hastings Community Centre, 3096 East Hastings St. in Vancouver. This year, there will be much more than just postcards for sale. In addition to the good selection of other types of postal history and antique paper ephemera that is normally available, we expect to see more stamps for collectors this year. The reason for this is that we have now included stamps in our advertising. Although many collectors have an interest in both postal history and stamps, we have not previously had tables with stamps only due to space limitations. This has changed with the recent retirements or semi-retirements of some of our regular table holders.

We are just getting started in signing up dealers for this year's show, but so far one table for stamps has been committed to, and a couple more should be available for anyone interested. To rent a table, contact Ron Souch at ronsouch@shaw.ca or telephone Ron at 604-731-1481.

POSTCARD FROM LASHBURN - Researched and written by Fred Hume



It can be quite amazing how a relatively simple everyday occurrence can lead to a surprising discovery, an unexpected story, even adventure . . . how an innocuous event can become an experience in serendipity. Such an experience happened in 2000 through the simple exercise of acquiring from a local antique store a postcard for my collection.

Sifting through the wares of this downtown establishment, I was attracted to a sepia-toned real photo postcard picturing a turn-of-the-century baseball team – obviously an image from another age. As it happens locating postcards with this subject and of this vintage has become quite the challenge. Upon inspection two visual aspects of this particular photo jumped out. The team's name, "Lashburn," emblazoned across each player's uniform presented a bit of a mystery. The other even more intriguing feature was that two or three players on the team were black and this was definitely in the day when teams were not integrated – black and whites were never on the same team. How could this be? Despite the pricey nature of this piece, I sensed intrigue here, so I bought the card. Before leaving, the dealer and I did a little research into what or where Lashburn was. After some probing we found it to be a small town near North Battleford in west central Saskatchewan. This being a Canadian subject raised the level of interest even further.

Wanting to find out more about Lashburn and its history I was soon in correspondence with the Saskatoon Public Library and in the process became aware of an esoteric piece of Canadian history. Apparently between the years 1905 and 1912 (approximately the time this postcard was issued) an estimated 1,000 black homesteaders seeking freedom, migrated from Oklahoma to settle in two small districts in Alberta and Saskatchewan. This included the area around North Battleford, Maidstone and Lashburn, where some members of these original families continue to reside today.

This intriguing piece of history seemed to explain the integrated nature of the team on the postcard but with the reference to the North Battleford, Lashburn area, a new thought came to mind. I couldn't help but recall back

in the late 1970s when a North Battleford high school football player by the name of Rueben Mayes was literally tearing up the provincial high school football scene. Mayes followed his brilliant high school career with a football scholarship to Washington State where he was one of the best running backs in the Pacific Ten Conference. He then went on to the NFL where he achieved the league's Rookie of the Year honours in 1986 and ultimately a standout career

with New Orleans and Seattle. In retrospect, he could be considered one of, if not the best football player ever to come from Canada. In Saskatchewan, Rueben and the Mayes family are revered to this day.

The obvious question: Could Mayes be a descendant of these same early settlers who established farms and churches in the Lashburn, North Battleford area? For this slice of our history lesson I contacted Dave Shury, Saskatchewan historian. Dave tells us that the Mayes family was not only part of this migration but were prominent members of the community. In approximately 1905 Joseph and Mattie Mayes with their nine children took trains and wagons from Oklahoma to North Battleford then Maidstone, where they worked the land and built the Shiloh Baptist Church.

What a happy coincidence. The "great" Rueben Mayes is connected to this piece of Saskatchewan history. This was confirmed in Mr. Shury's letter to me in which he mentions he is a friend of Rueben's father, Murray Mayes, and that Murray is the grandson of Joseph and Mattie. I then wondered if any of the sons of Joseph and Mattie, some of whom would be adults around the time of this postcard, might be among those pictured on the Lashburn baseball team. If so, this postcard would prove to be a unique link to one of Canada's better known athletic personalities.

Again it was Dave Shury who held the answer. In his letter Dave writes, "I checked with Murray Mayes and he advises that some of Mattie and Joseph's children, including Murray's father George, did play baseball . . . I feel that the chap on the end (in the photo on the postcard) is definitely a Mayes because he looks just like

Murray Mayes." So the identified player on the postcard is either the grandfather or great uncle of our prize football player, Rueben. From a puzzling integrated baseball team on a postcard emanates not only a piece of little-known North American history but the discovery that one of the players pictured is a forefather of a well-known athlete – one of the serendipitous thrills of collecting!

I feel fortunate that this is yet another example of how a little detective work can transform an innocuous postcard into something rather exciting, a personal journey, a postcard possessing life, vitality and meaning.

But here is the rest of the story. It occurred to us that perhaps Rueben Mayes himself might be interested in seeing a copy of this card together with its story. After several calls I found that he was teaching at his alma mater, Washington State University and prepared for him a package: a photocopy of the postcard together with its story, the research undertaken and a letter of introduction.

Several months passed and I was resigning myself to the likelihood he either didn't receive the material or it didn't mean that much to him. Then one afternoon the phone rang. "Hello Fred? This is Rueben Mayes." You could have knocked me over with a feather. It was as if I were talking to someone I had known for years. He thanked me for sending the material and made no secret of the fact he still yearned for Canada. He explained however he was married to an American woman, had started a family plus held a good position with the university in Pullman Washington. As we discussed this piece of family history, an exciting discovery for me and I'm sure a story of personal interest

to him, I couldn't help but feel we had become kindred spirits. "We'll get together for a coffee next time I'm through Vancouver on my way to Whistler" he announced near the end of the conversation. I was only too happy to oblige. . . . But what made a huge impact on me was that he told

me he intended to frame the postcard and its story and mount it on his office wall. He was doing this so his young sons could see and understand the provenance of their family, the important role Canada played in the evolution of this century-long lineage, a successful blend of Saskatchewan, family and church . . . to remind his sons of their roots and the fact that if it weren't for Canada, the Mayes family including those of Rueben and his accomplished siblings, would not be where they are today.



American Views - "Macao-y Wowie "

By Buzz Kinninmont

Until about 8 or 10 years ago, the fun part of driving from Southern California up to the San Francisco postcard shows and back was shopping at antique stores along the way. Following US 101 in one direction and US 99 in the other, it was usually possible to buy enough postcards, photos and other saleable paper along the way to pay the basic expenses of the trip.

More recently, however, such shopping success has been significantly diminished, with shoppers and sellers being more eBay savvy ("Everyone's a retailer now...") and with the demise of a significant portion of the antique stores along the way.

Last month, we decided that we wouldn't bother leaving home a day early to shop on the way up. And after the show on Sunday night we normally would have driven all the way home, but this time we had dinner with a Bay Area friend and ended up stopping for the night about 1/3 of the way home. And that put us nicely in position to shop our way home on Monday.

The first town we stopped in yielded quite a few nice cards from the two antique malls we visited, though the prices were generally in the range that they'd have been at a postcard show. The second town was barren of postcards but one of its bookstores had some very nice chromolithograph prints that we bought.

And the third and final town we stopped in had recently been the scene of an estate sale at which, we were told, a number of local dealers had bought large numbers of good postcards. Some of them were available in the first mall we went to, and we bought a nice stack of them.

In the second mall, I didn't notice the big pile of them that was there until minutes before closing time, but fortunately the two people running the store were waiting for someone to come and pick something up, so they didn't mind us staying past 5:00. It was in that pile that I recognized the relationship to the cards from the prior mall and thus learned of the estate sale.

Those cards were priced at \$6.00 apiece, and when the proprietors saw me picking out a nice little pile of them, one of them went into another room and brought out a big basket of \$1.00 postcards.



I think the final count that I bought from that \$1.00 basket - now almost an hour after closing time - was 74, and amongst them was a group of seven quite unattractive c.1950 tinted real photos that Emily looked at... without her glasses, so she wasn't able to read the captions... and said, "Why do you want these?"

I said, "Look where they're from." They were from Macao.

Older Macao postcards are generally very scarce and usually sell well on eBay. But one other thing I'd noticed on eBay a couple of times over the previous year or so, was that the Hong Kong equivalents of these gaudy, post-war RPPC's were selling for as much as \$150.00 apiece.



I listed those seven cards individually, and just over a week later they had sold. Three of them went to Macao, three to Hong Kong and one, oddly I thought, to someone with a very Scottish name in Edinburgh.

The results ranged from \$56.15 for one card up to \$102.51. The total - \$536.54. Gas, accommodation, sushi dinner. Nice. Happy hunting everyone!

Club Meetings - 11.30 a.m. start!

Several members have asked for more time to trade postcards at the monthly club meetings at the Hastings Community Centre. So, on an experimental basis, we've decided to start at 11.30 a.m. for those who wish to buy and sell postcards. The program will commence at 12.30 p.m. sharp and, as always, we will be out by 2 p.m. If you want to trade postcards come between 11.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m.

Postview

Postview is the quarterly newsletter of the Vancouver Postcard Club. The views expressed herein are the views of the Editor and contributors where shown and may not reflect the views of the Club as a whole.

We welcome letters and articles from members but reserve the right to edit them in the interests of space. Please send material by email to the Editor, Philip Francis, at philipfrancis@shaw.ca. Postcard images to accompany your material are welcomed (please send as a .jpg attachment).