



POSTVIEW

The Newsletter of the
Vancouver Postcard Club

www.vancouverpostcardclub.ca

Volume 32 No. 4

December 2014

Season's Greetings



The holiday season is almost here and we wish our readers all the best for Christmas, Hanukkah and the New Year! We hope to see as many VPC members as possible at the AGM on Dec. 21st to celebrate another good year for the Vancouver Postcard Club! (Tuck Oilette - Series C7161, Philip Francis Collection).

In this Issue

- Page 1** - Postcards as Social Media
- Page 2** - Club Meetings.
- Page 3** - AGM, 21st Dec. VPC President, 2015. Get well soon, John!
- Page 4** - Biographies of B.C. Photographers - Ernest William Bill, 1877 - 1952, by M. Waddington
- Page 5** - Upcoming events. Christmas Gifts. Nominations Invited!
- Page 6** - Burrard YMCA, 1941 - 1945 - by Fred Hume
- Page 7** - Historic Advertising Postcards of Vancouver - Neil Whaley/Mike Hovecar
- Page 8** - Six Years of *Postview*

Old Postcards as Social Media

In our last issue, we highlighted the important role played by postcards in shaping public attitudes in 1914. A hundred years before Twitter and Instagram, postcards also played a significant role as social media. Inexpensive, and with several postal deliveries a day, postcards performed a similar role to email and Facebook today. We have seen a message on the back of a postcard sent by Millicent inviting Gertrude to come over for supper at 7 o'clock this evening and please will she confirm by return post? In 1914, postcards cost one or two cents and were mailed for a cent.



"In Fairyland" - artist-signed by Maud Goodman, Tuck series 6746, first used in 1905. (Philip Francis Collection)

Postcards sent locally were received a few hours later. No wonder they were such a popular form of communication and why, a hundred years afterwards, many of us get such pleasure from the wide range of subjects, locations and styles represented in early postcards. Most of us are attracted by the image on the front, be it a fine real photo of a Vancouver downtown view or, like the 1908 image of the Granville Street Bridge in our masthead, a hand-colored collotype. An increasing number of collectors, however, seem less interested in the front of the card, but collect mainly for the "backs" and, in particular,

a message that serves as an example of social history - whether in terms of the language used ("ripping" and "swell" where we might see "brilliant" and "awesome" today) - or as a reflection of social attitudes - men towards women or to people of a different race. Some of the comments we've seen on the back of postcards

would get you locked up in Kingston Penitentiary if published today!

Many collectors are beginning to appreciate the contribution that old postcards can make to the study of a number of subjects, for in many

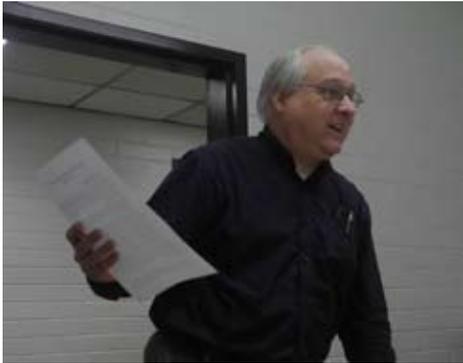
cases they represent eye-witness accounts, images and commentary on events that would otherwise be undocumented - and they therefore act as "windows into the past" in a way that other media fail to capture. It is why visionary archivists, librarians and historians, are taking an increasing interest in postcards and why many of us, particularly if they are well organized, now realize that our collections can provide a valuable source of social history.

How will you share this historical resource with others?

Club Meetings - by Margaret Waddington

September 21st. At the first fall meeting of the club John Davies gave us the benefit of his extensive knowledge of the hotels of the Canadian National Railway and its predecessors.

Among the cards of hotels both built and proposed were views of Chateau Mount Robson (Victoria), The Grand Trunk Pacific hotel in Prince Rupert, Jasper Park Lodge, Macdonald Hotel, (Edmonton), Fort Garry Hotel, (Winnipeg), Prince Edward Hotel (Brandon), Bessborough Hotel, (Saskatoon), Prince Arthur Hotel (Port Arthur), Highland Inn, (Algonquin Park), Chateau Laurier, (Ottawa), King Edward Hotel, Halifax), Nova Scotian Hotel, (Halifax), Lord Beaverbrook Hotel, (Fredericton), Admiral Beatty Hotel, (Saint John), and the Hotel Vancouver.



John Davies presenting to the Club meeting in September. Photo by Don Steele.

October 19th. In the absence of Stan Stewardson, who was down with the flu, his wife Heather presented Stan's talk on White Rock postcards.

"My attachment to White Rock began the year I was born. From 1938 to 1956 I spent every July and August in White Rock. I learned to swim there, fish off the pier and fell in love. At least 3 times during that period – and while I was in University - I spent two summers as the only lifeguard at the end of the pier.

Every year we walked the railroad tracks to Blaine, twice to Crescent Beach and once all the way to Birch Bay. We swam competitively for WRASA – White Rock Amateur Swimming Association.

White Rock is a tourist town. It features four tourist attractions: the beach, the White Rock, the pier and the railroad. Most of my postcard collection centers around these features.

Just before I show the postcards let me give you a little background.

The Legend of the White Rock.

[Here Heather read the legend as written by Bernie Charles, Chief Semiahmoo Tribe.]



Heather Stewardson presenting to the Club meeting in October, with Stan under the weather with the flu. Photo by Don Steele.

The White Rock pier. Officially opened Nov. 14, 1914, next month it will be 100 years old. It is 1616 feet from shore – well over a quarter of a mile long. It was built with federal funds to provide a deep water wharf facility – but from the start it served as a tourist facility for pleasure boats, as a promenade and for fishing and swimming. It is the main focus of White Rock summer tourist activities.

The White Rock Railway opened in 1908 as the Canadian government port of entry for customs and immigration. The original station was located at the foot of Oxford Street to the west but moved to its present location in 1913.

The city of White Rock, for years a part of Surrey, was incorporated as a city on April 15, 1957."

Heather then passed around Stan's White Rock cards which were grouped in the following categories: Early Postcards, Beach Views, the Pier, the Railroad, the Village, the Hillside, People, the Peace Arch and Miscellaneous.

Club Meetings in 2015

The VPC Executive has received several requests to move the regular monthly club meeting date from the 3rd Sunday of the month (which often clashes with the Retro Design & Antiques Fair at the Croatian Cultural Centre) to a different Sunday. The Executive is exploring with Hastings Community Centre whether, from January 11, 2015, the meetings can be held on the second Sunday of the month and will let you know as soon as possible. We are also looking at the possibility of holding periodic meetings on a weekday evening to offer an alternative meeting opportunity for those away or unable to attend at weekends.

November 18. Club member Neil Whaley showed a fascinating collection of Vancouver advertising cards. One featured Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, "The Black Daffydill", who worked the Orpheum circuit in 1919-20. Two showing the "W.G. Malkin Co. Ltd. Sales Force, 1908-09" were sent by W.J. Malkin and Charles Woodward.

Included were a pull-out (The Crown Liquor Store, 6 Hastings St.), a theatre card (The Cohens and Kellys at the Capitol Theatre, May 1925), a clothing store (Murray Goldman, 164 West Hastings), store interiors (Nickelodeon, 1913 Hastings St.), price list cards, calendar cards, and a shot of the Imperial Rink, Vancouver B.C., T.G. Koller, Mgr, (1908). Neil also brought a few modern cards: two views of the private and semiprivate rooms at VGH's Centennial Pavilion, and a set of 6 featuring interior shots of Grant Mann Lithographers Ltd.

For a fuller description of Neil's presentation please see Mike Hocevar's article on page 7.



The postcard Neil is holding is from Pacific Food Products and has a little real working barometer. There is a date of 1930 printed on the skirt of the barometer. Photo by Mike Hocevar.

Toronto Postcard Show

We have a better hockey team out here but we have to admit that our friends in Toronto have a bigger and stronger postcard show - more dealers, more variety and a wonderful location at the Japanese Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Court (Don Mills Rd. & Wynford Drive). This year's show is on **Sunday Feb. 22, 2015, 10-5** and we look forward to seeing you there!

VPC President, 2015

The Club has been fortunate in 2014 to be led by Tim Woodward as President and we are most grateful. After two year's in the role, Tim will be stepping down at the upcoming AGM. He has been a highly capable and effective ambassador for our hobby and we are delighted to know that Tim has agreed to stay on the Executive as Club Treasurer in 2015.



On a recent break from postcards, Tim Woodward and wife Olga enjoyed a culinary trip to Vietnam. Three Vietnamese cooking schools and a "Fearless Cooking" class were part of the itinerary - they even cooked this meal!



We are pleased to report that M. Diane Rogers, currently Membership Secretary, has agreed to be nominated as President of the Club in 2015. Diane has collected BC postcards on and off since she was young. As Editor of The British Columbia Genealogist for the British Columbia Genealogical Society she has been actively encouraging family historians to collect, preserve, research and share postcards to illuminate and illustrate family history. Her own main interest is in cards showing BC's social history, especially women's history. Her latest project is collecting and documenting postcards of British Columbia's war memorials.

Annual General Meeting

One of the highlights of the year for Vancouver postcard collectors is coming up on December 21st with the Club's Annual General Meeting. Doors open at 11.30 a.m. (Room 9, in the Hastings Community Centre) and the meeting will commence at 12.30 p.m. Following the President's and Treasurer's reports, we will be electing a new Club Executive Committee and then taking the annual photograph. Last year's photo is shown below and as you'll see from their expressions, members are having a very good time. After the photo Tim Mustart will conduct the annual auction of postcards, books and ephemera - all proceeds go to the consignor. So if you've got unwanted postcards, books about postcards or local photographers, and other postcard-related materials (albums, plastic sleeves, back issues of the Postcard Monthly magazine etc.) bring them along for sale in the auction! We'll take a break for some coffee and Christmas cake and an opportunity to meet and greet other postcard enthusiasts. See you there!



Get well soon, John



John and Glenda Cheramy getting set up for last year's Queen's Park Show in Burnaby. Photo by Mike Hocevar.

All members of the postcard collecting community will be concerned to hear that John Cheramy, B.C.'s largest dealer in old postcards and many other collectibles, suffered a small stroke in early November, affecting his speech. Glenda has let us know that John is working with a speech therapist at the hospital and is, so far, restricted to soft foods and thickened liquids until his tongue and throat improve. Glenda writes that "John's spirits are high although it's frustrating to have so much difficulty making people, especially me, understand him. Thanks for the prayers and good thoughts - they can only help!". Get well soon John, we are thinking of you and Glenda and are missing Cheramy's Chatter. We hope to see you back in action before too long.

Biographies of B.C. Photographers

ERNEST WILLIAM BILL, 1877-1952

Compiled by M. Waddington

Ernest William Bill was born July 29, 1877 in Tatlow, Buckinghamshire, England to William James Bill, an engineer, and his wife Annie, formerly May.

He was a gentleman's servant when he married Naomi Letitia Smith July 11, 1900 in St. Peter's Church, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. In 1901 he was a wardrobe dealer working and living at 66 Bridge Street, Maidenhead, Berkshire. 10 years later he was a photographer and his wife a wardrobe dealer.

On April 24th 1911 Bill arrived at Portland, Maine, via Halifax, on the "Megantic" from Liverpool. He stated that he had been a photographer in England, was traveling to Vancouver and was planning to work as a fruit farmer. He returned to London December 6, 1912 on the ship "Ionian" from Montreal.

Arriving back in Portland, Maine on April 3rd, 1913 on the "Dominion" from Liverpool, Ernest, accompanied by his wife and child, reported that he was heading for Nakusp and was intending to work as a photographer. In Nakusp he purchased the Glenbank property of Wilson Rose, lot 137, and by 1921, was working as a teamster.

Ernest died June 27, 1952 in Nakusp and, like his wife Naomi who predeceased him on April 15, 1951, was buried in the Nakusp cemetery. He was survived by a sister in England and his daughter, Mrs. H. Jones of Vancouver.

Many fine pictures of Nakusp events: fairs, farms, hot springs, etc. were taken by Ernie Bill, whom some can remember bobbing under the black sheet in preparation for a shot. When all was ready, he would shout for attention and absolute stillness. He also wrote humorous religious letters to the local paper.

According to the Arrow Lakes Historical Society his photographs were reproduced in postcard format but were never sold commercially. Rather they were given as gifts or supplied as mementos in exchange for a token payment to cover expenses.



"The Great Bear Hunt at Nakusp, B.C. Aug 7, 1913." (Don Steele collection).

The above postcard photo was taken at Abriel's ranch at Glenbank near Nakusp. Bears were plentiful at this time and were shot for meat, skins and to prevent their raids upon the fruit ranches in the area. The group pictured was comprised of people from adjoining farms.

Much has been written about the Bill's daughter "May". Some say that Ernest, a gentleman's gentleman and his wife Letitia, a servant to a Lady in waiting, worked at Buckingham Palace. Ernest's sister, Charlotte Jane ("Lalla") Bill was the nanny in charge of the Royal nurseries, caring for Princess Mary and Princes Edward, Albert, Henry and John. That the Bill's adopted a baby in the palace, named her May, and sailed with her to Canada in 1913. Others maintain that she was a royal child, born out of wedlock and given to Ernest and Letitia to raise in Canada.

Records show that Mary Marguerite ("May") Flynn was born 22 February 1909 at 18 Beaumont Street, London, England to Hilda Alice Earl Flynn, a dressmaker who lived at 30 Old Mill Road, Plumstead, London. Mary Marguerite, age 2, was a visitor in the Bill's home in 1911, and immigrated to Canada with her "parents" in 1913.

On 26 April 1923 May was in Buckingham Palace with her aunt, Ernest's sister Charlotte Jane "Lalla" Bill - nanny to the children of King George V and Queen Mary - the day of the wedding of the Duke of York and Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon (later

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth).

When May was 19 she had a fight with her parents and left for Vancouver where she was said to have worked as a nanny and also looked after an old couple for a spell. She married Hugh Jones, a 39 year old Welsh garage - later service station, then machine shop - proprietor, November 20, 1928 in St. Margaret's Church, Vancouver.

May met her birth mother only once, just before the latter's death October 3, 1963 in Woodland Hills, Los Angeles. She died December 9, 1973 in Vancouver General Hospital, predeceased by her husband Hugh in 1967.

We are indebted to Milton Parent, archivist of the Arrow Lakes Historical Society, Nakusp, for much of the information in this article.

Selected References:

Ancestry.com. 1901 England Census. Orig. data: Census returns of England and Wales, 1901. Kew, Surrey, England: the National Archives of the UK, 1901. Civil parish: Maidenhead, Berkshire; ecclesiastical parish: St. Mary; reg. dist.: Maidenhead; sub-reg. dist.: Bray; ED 4, RG 13; piece: 1158; folio: 95; page: 14; no. of schedule: 88; address: 66 Bridge St.

Ancestry.com. 1911 England Census. Orig. data: Census returns of England and Wales, 1911. Kew, Surrey, England: the National Archives of the UK, 1911. Civil parish: Maidenhead, Berkshire; street address: 66 Bridge St., Maidenhead; reg. & sub.-reg. dist.: Maidenhead; ED 19, RG 14; piece 6657; schedule 181; lines 1-3.

Ancestry.com. 1921 Census of Canada. Orig. data: Library and Archives Canada, 2013. RG 31: Statistics Canada; folder: 15; district 18: Kootenay West; sub-district: Slocan; city, town or village: Slocan electoral district; street or township: Nakusp P.O.; page 9, lines 24-26.

References (continued):

Ancestry.com. Canadian passenger lists, 1865-1935. Orig. data: Passenger lists, 1865-1935. Library and Archives Canada. RG 76-C. Dept. of employment and immigration fonds. mfm publication T-4693, p. 1, line 3 & p. 2, lines 2-3 (arrival April 3, 1913 Ernest, Naomi & Mary Marguerite at Portland, Maine in the "Dominion" from Liverpool) mfm publication T-4740, p. 3, line: 21 (arrival April 22, 1911 Ernest Bill at Halifax on the "Megantic" from Liverpool)

Ancestry.com. UK, incoming passenger lists, 1878-1960. Orig. data: Board of Trade commercial and statistical department and successors: Inwards passenger lists. Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives of the UK, Series BT76, piece: 536, item 108. (arrival Dec. 6, 1912 Ernest W. Bill in London on the "Ionian" from Montreal)

Arrow Lake News, Nakusp, B.C., July 3, 1952, p. 4 (obit Ernest Bill)

B.C. Archives marriage registration 1928-09-338267 (in mfm B13756) (marriage Mary Marguerite Bill & Hugh Jones)

B.C. Archives death registrations: 1951-09-004427 (in mfm B13208) (death Naomi Letitia Bill) 1952-09-000696 (in mfm B13212) (death Ernest Bill) 1973-09-018495 (in mfm B13329) (death Mary Marguerite Jones)

B.C. directories Vancouver: 1925, 1927-1935, 1937-1973

GRO (U.K.) birth registration March quarter 1909 in St. Marylebone reg. dist., vol. 1a, p. 468, no. 141 (birth Mary Marguerite Flynn)

GRO (U.K.) birth registration Sept. quarter 1877 in Eton reg. dist., vol. 3a, p. 496, no. 14 (birth Ernest William Bill)

McLean, Stuart. Welcome home, pp. 334-344

Vancouver Sun, Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 11, 1973, p. 54 (obit "May Mary" (i.e. Mary Marguerite Jones))

Margaret Waddington adds: If anyone wants more information about Ernest Bill, his sister Charlotte or Mary Marguerite Flynn's mother Hilda, I can provide paper or pdf copies of their timelines.

Editor's Comment:

Congratulations to Margaret Waddington on the preparation of the above article! Very few biographical details were previously known about Ernest William Bill of Nakusp and it required someone with extraordinary research skills, as shown by the above selection of references, to be able to track down the details and then turn them into a highly readable article. We consistently receive positive feedback on Margaret's biographies from our readers - the VPC Executive is currently looking into the possibility of publishing them in booklet form.

Christmas Gifts

Looking for a Christmas gift for yourself or a friend? *Vancouver Confidential*, now in its 2nd edition, contains a chapter by VPCC member Jason Vanderhill which explores prohibition in Canada and the US, cocktails in Yalowntown, and an ambitious American entrepreneur named Daniel Joseph Kennedy. Copies can be obtained at Amazon, Chapters, the Book Warehouse, Costco (Vancouver), MacLeod's, the Paper Hound, Pulp Fiction and select Safeway outlets. List price is \$20.

Other good choices would be Sherril Foster's *A Steady Lens: the True Story of Pioneer Photographer Mary Spencer*, hired by The Vancouver Daily Province to take pictures of Bill Miner and his gang. \$22.95 and Vol. 2 of Michael J. Smith's *Canadian Patriotic and Heraldic Postcard Handbook, 1897-1945: Publishers N to Z and Anonymous Publishers*. \$79.95 from the author, 182 Newgate St., Apt. 3, Goderich, Ontario N7A 1P6.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 28-29: Vancouver Stamp Fair, PNE Holiday Express, Vancouver

Dec. 7: Retro Design & Antiques Fair, Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive at 16th, 10-3

Dec. 21: Vancouver Postcard Club Meeting, AGM, Auction, Club Photo & Christmas Party 11:30-2

2015

Jan. 25: Victoria Stamp & Postcard Fair, Comfort Hotel, Victoria, 9:30-4

Jan. 18: 21st Century Flea Market, Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive at 16th, 10-3

Feb. 7-8: Greater Seattle Postcard, Stamp & Paper Collectibles Show, Kent Commons, 525 - 4th Avenue North, Kent, WA., Sat: 10-6; Sun: 10-4

Feb. 22: Retro Design & Antiques Fair, Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive at 16th, 10-3

Feb. 22: Toronto Postcard Club Show, Japanese Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Court (Don Mills Road & Wynford Drive), 10-5

Nominations Invited!

Close observers may have noticed a remarkable stability in the composition of the VPC Executive Team in recent years! It is a small and hard-working team and all are agreed that we need some "new blood". Would you consider having yourself nominated for an Executive role? Meetings are held three or four times a year at the downtown office of one of the Executive members and each member of the leadership team has specific responsibilities. They are not onerous!

In the absence of other nominations, the following members have agreed to stand for election in 2015:

President - M. Diane Rogers
Vice President & Show Organizer - Ron Souch
Secretary & Archivist - Margaret Waddington
Treasurer - Tim Woodland
Postview Editor - Philip Francis (to mid-2015)

Additional members are required to manage the Club website; help with the organization of the annual Postcard show; and prepare the membership roster.

If you have an interest in any of the above roles, or know of other members who would be well-suited, please inform Tim Woodland of your interest before the AGM. He would like to hear from you!



“Burrard YMCA 1941 – 1945” - by Fred Hume

Even though my collecting interest with respect to postcards centre around historical sport images, a recent Vancouver Postcard Club show put a slight wrinkle into that quest. It was here at the table of the ever-friendly Jill Charkow that a postcard caught my eye. We agreed upon a price.

This black and white image presented a view familiar to most, the “almost iconic” Vancouver YMCA building at 955 Burrard. What is interesting is that this photo would have been taken during the early 1940s, the war years, the initial years of this building the home of so many memories for now close to 75 years. When I saw Jill’s card its image resonated with me in that for the past 5 plus years I have been a volunteer with the Y at this very building, although you will notice it now looks somewhat different.

This now designated heritage building officially opened over a two day period, February 28th – March 1st, 1941, and according to Paul Dampier’s “Courage and Conviction,” the history of the Vancouver YMCA, when opened it boasted a swimming pool, gymnasium, large social room with fireplace, two handball courts, meeting rooms, lunch counter and on the top two floors (3rd and 4th), 52 dormitory rooms.

The completion of the building was seen as a community triumph with plenty of congratulations. Fundraising for this new location during the previous few years had been quite challenging and on more than one occasion building plans had to be scaled back. But with almost 5,000 citizens subscribing to the drive, construction did proceed under architects McCarter and Nairn along with the help of passionate supporters such as E.W. Keenleyside and Chris Spencer.

This image has significance in that it was with this building the fortunes of the YMCA “advanced unabated . . . the YMCA had finally come of age,” in the words of Dampier. It would be during these initial years the new building found itself playing its part in the war effort which was of critical importance at this time. Here the facilities were made available to enlisted men and their sons at no cost, “. . . a home away from home” for members of the army, navy and air force. And, reports Dampier, along the way it was advised that, “. . . in the event of an air raid the water in the swimming pool might be required as an emergency water supply!” Chlorine and all I suppose.

Some original and innovative programs were introduced through the Y at this time. There was more of a focus on young adult’s social programs with social skills and world knowledge being the new form of exercise. Referred to as So-Ed or Life College, Vancouver is credited with



“Young Men’s Christian Association, Vancouver, B.C.” Photo by Philip Timms, Church-Life Series. c. 1942.

introducing to the Canadian YMCA this new program. Also noteworthy was that it was in this building at this time the Y first opened to both men and women as the organization had been male-oriented to this point.

The war years also prompted another unique program designed specifically for boys of the West End who were separated from their fathers in service. Apparently the West End had “wayward gangs” of youth who required meaningful activity. A large number of these young men attended meetings and activities based in this building during these years, the positive experiences appreciated for decades by many of these same men.

By 1944 Vancouver was seen to be “more YMCA-minded than ever before” as Vancouver’s mayor proclaimed the Y as having brought to the city a means of producing better citizens for a greater city. A highlight this year was the Governor General making an inspection of this building on Burrard during this the Y’s Centennial celebration.

During the YMCA’s earlier years it was able to provide the community with its gymnasium, pool, club rooms and exercise facilities in addition to its “good citizen” programs. But with the growth of Community Centres and the Y being primarily building centered, the post war years, specifically 1944 – 48, saw the Y ready to move into the community.

Today the building on Burrard, now the Robert Lee YMCA, has a different look and perhaps feel but with many of the same goals and objectives. It continues to build strong kids, strong families and strong communities embracing as it did in the past, innovative programs according to community needs. Personally, growing up I had virtually no connection with the Y except for three tours of duty at Camp Elphinstone. Recently however I have become acquainted with this familiar building on Burrard through helping newcomers with English as a Y volunteer. So, at the show when Jill showed me this postcard, I knew it had to become one of my “stories.”

“Historic Advertising Postcards of Vancouver” – A Presentation by Neil Whaley - Report by Mike Hocevar

Vaudeville and other entertainment pursuits in early Vancouver emerged as fun discussion items during Neil Whaley's presentation to the Club Meeting on Nov. 16th. - one of his favorite collecting areas of interest. Dating back to the 1890's, over four dozen advertising postcards from Vancouver shown at the meeting were a delight for recognizing old well known local businesses and learning of others lesser known. Silent movies and live entertainment and more often a combination thereof took place at many Vancouver theatres. The famed Orpheum Theatre on Granville Street is shown on a couple cards. One film advertised was for *The Cohens and Kellys* that was a mid-1920s comedy around a Jewish and an Irish family. One of the actors was famous star Jason Robards' father, Jason Sr.



Real photo postcard from 1913 showing the interior of a penny arcade, tentatively identified as the Wellington theatre-turned-arcade at 106 East Hastings. Various machines are shown, including (in centre, with owl head ornaments) mutoscopes, an early motion picture device. Balcony signs say that customers could get “automobile postals” while they wait – real photo postcards of sitters in a faux automobile carcass at a time when many Vancouverites would never have sat in a car, let alone owned one. (Neil Whaley collection)

Another example issued by the Capitol Theatre from the 1930's was for the appearance of Bill “Bojangles” Robinson from Virginia on the US east coast-- especially renowned for tap dancing. He was the highest paid African-American vaudeville performer of the day and immensely popular everywhere. Though they are black, African-American actors painted their faces for shows but not Bill Robinson. And he ended up in Hollywood in the 1930's; appearing in the first inter-racial dance performance on film, with young Shirley Temple. Though his nickname was Bojangles, he is not the one and same as in the song “Mr. Bojangles” popularized by Kris Kristofferson, Jerry Jeff Walker and others. Robinson died in 1949.

The roller rink called *The Imperial* at Davie & Denman streets from 1907 to the First World War is featured with comical scenes in Neil's cards. He also showed a token from that establishment. Further in the realm of recreation is a shot of a nickelodeon machine at an arcade about 1912 on Hastings Street. These machines for a nickel would allow one to watch a short film for a fixed period of time, some were hand cranked.

The graphics of Neil's cards varied between photography, artwork and cartoon styles. Some were Canada Post Office private pre-printed, such as ones sent to prospective customers for pioneer merchants Charles Woodward, 1892 and another by William H. Malkin, 1896. Both feature these men's original signatures. Another noteworthy early card was from nurseryman M.J. Henry on Westminster Avenue, now Main Street. This one is in colour featuring a luscious apple; these Henry postcards and covers have proven to be in good demand in recent years with attractive prices paid at auctions.

Some of the collection consisted of real photo postcard views of



Real photo 1906 postcard of Vancouver drugstore interior, possibly Le Patourel & McRae's at 792 Granville Street. Boxes of cigars are prominent in the glass case in the lower left. (Neil Whaley collection)

store interiors, like Neil's drug store card. The front has a date hand-penned from apparently a relative with a date of 1906, the back has “McCrae Drugstoe 4th & Trafalger?”. Neil says it is appropriate that they inserted a question mark as that may be slightly in error. He wonders if it isn't from the Le Patourel Drugstore at 792 Granville Street around the same time, with John McCrae and Hebert C. Le Patourel as partners. The Granville Street store also went with the name of Red Raven, and up in Mt. Pleasant they operated the Independent Drug Store too at 7th & Main.

Interesting that Vancouver General Hospital issued cards promoting their services, two examples were shown. Medicare didn't kick in till 1966 perhaps it was a competitive business with rival St. Paul's and St. Joseph's (originally a Chinese hospital) elsewhere in town.

Other cards were more of a generic nature that inserted the names of the Vancouver distributors of their products, such as Pan Pickles from London in the UK, Snow Shoe Maple Syrup from eastern Canada, Lake of the Woods Milling Co. (Five Roses Flour) from the Prairies, and Winnipeg's J.V. Griffin lard & pork products to name some.



1967 change of address card for Yorkshire Trust in Vancouver, with oh-so-up-to-date hairstyles and office equipment. (Neil Whaley collection)

This event was another in our long line of educational and entertaining guest speaker talks that Vancouver Postcard Club has proven to do so well. The advertising in this collection covered many types of businesses and politics. Neil doesn't collect hotel and café postcards generally so none in this subject were presented. Neil has done this before; his previous being a very well-received presentation last year on Vancouver origin Christmas greeting postcards from commercial enterprises. Thanks Neil! --Mike Hocevar

Six Years of *Postview* - by Philip Francis

As some of our readers know, I have taken on additional responsibilities at work and often spend weekends at our cabin on Galiano Island (a new postcard collecting interest!). So, after six years in the role, I have asked to be relieved as Editor of *Postview* in 2015. To allow plenty of time for a new Editor to be found, with a reasonable handover period, I have agreed to produce the first two issues of 2015 and would like to hang up my skates after the annual Vancouver postcard show in May (tentatively scheduled for Sunday 31st May - a week after the first of two Francis family weddings next year!)

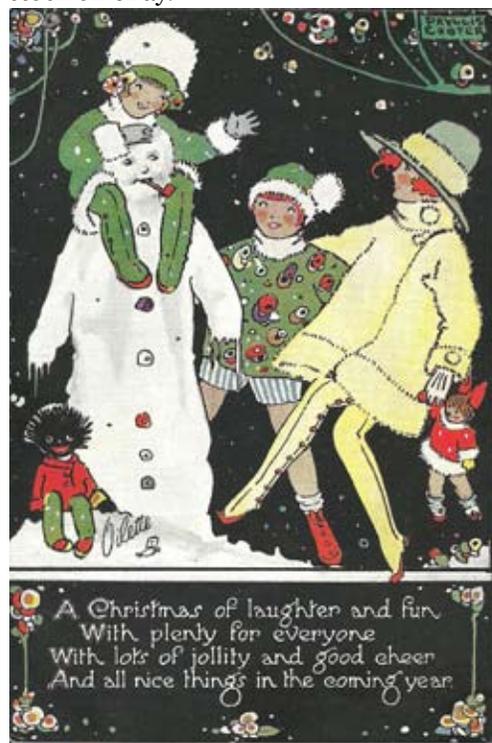
I became Editor of the Vancouver Postcard Club newsletter in January 2009 and the current issue therefore represents the 24th in a much longer series of issues dating back to 1981. Collectively they contain a tremendous amount of accumulated information about postcard collecting, with a particular focus on the postcards of British Columbia. We re-branded and re-named the newsletter in 2011, so this is actually the fourth full year under the name of *Postview*, but the style and focus have remained consistent throughout these 24 issues. In 2011, we also introduced colour printing which significantly enhanced the quality of the publication and contributed, in 2012, to *Postview* and the Vancouver Postcard Club receiving the "Newsletter of the Year" Award from the BC Historical Society. That was a great honour for our little publication!



"Loving Christmas Greetings" - Tuck Christmas Series 89 - our cover postcard from the December 2013 issue (Philip Francis Collection).

There have been many changes in our hobby during the past six years. Most importantly, and sadly, we have lost some key figures from the Vancouver postcard scene. *Postview* has carried tributes to Chris McGregor, Abe Charkow and Albert Tanner. These three men were pillars of our hobby here - freely sharing their encyclopedic knowledge about postcards (publishers, printers, photographers etc.) and Albert had an extraordinary ability to find postcards to satisfy even the most esoteric of collecting interests. It would not be overstating to say that the Vancouver postcard collecting community has never fully recovered from Albert's loss and his unmistakable voice letting us know "everything on sale, everything at half price".

The other major change, as in many walks of life, has been felt in the impact of the internet. Many of us have seen the focus of our collecting interests shift from dealers and postcard shows to eBay, Delcampe and other online auction sites. While this has opened up a whole new market place, on a global scale, for buying and selling postcards there is no question that our hobby has become more impersonal in recent years. It is one reason why we try and make a point of attending the local shows and checking in periodically with the collecting community in Toronto and overseas. The annual trip to Shepton Mallett, in south west England, for the largest postcard show in Europe, has become almost like a pilgrimage. It is always worth the visit. Closer to home, we are delighted to see that the VPC Executive have committed to arranging a postcard show in May 2015. We can't disguise the fact, as with many shows around the world, that there are now fewer dealers and fewer collectors who get out to the shows. Such is the ease of access to a much larger postcard stock on eBay.



"Happy Land Series" - Tuck C 2251 - artist-signed by Phyllis Cooper - cover postcard from the December 2012 issue (Philip Francis Collection).

At a personal level, it's been a privilege to give back to the collecting community through the production of an informative and attractive newsletter with great content - particularly through the research of Margaret Waddington (24 new biographies of B.C. photographers in the past six years!), Fred Hume's postcard "stories" and regular features such as Cheramy's Chatter and the summaries of Club Meetings. But it's time to have a new approach and we are looking forward to reading someone else's editorial perspective. If any member would be willing to take this on I'll be happy to provide some training in Adobe In-Design, the publishing software we have been using, or alternatively see the newsletter revert to a Word format.

Two people to thank would be Jill Charkow, who has been responsible for newsletter distribution since way before we arrived on the scene; and Joyce Hodge, at Bond Repro, who has helped us over many years with the design, printing and now the folding and mailing of *Postview*. Many have contributed to the newsletter over the past six years and we thank them all.