



# POSTVIEW

The Newsletter of the  
Vancouver Postcard Club

www.vancouverpostcardclub.ca

Volume 30 No. 3

September 2012

## Postcards & Genealogy

In the last issue we noted the contribution that old postcards can make to historical research, through the images on their fronts and the messages on their backs. Postcards are now increasingly valued in special collections, archives and other public institutions. Postcards also offer a mine of information for genealogists - those interested in the



*The Armstrong Children. Photographed at Elite Studio, 1177 Granville St., Vancouver, BC.*

studying of family history. Postcards sometimes contain the only surviving photographic records of family members from earlier generations, and the context in which they were living. On page 5, we are pleased to include a shortened version of an article prepared by M. Diane Rogers, originally published in The British Columbia Genealogist, September 2011 and we thank the BCGS for its inclusion in *Postview*.

Diane is a member of the VPC Executive Committee and a Past President of the British Columbia Genealogical Society.

## An Endangered Species

For 36 years, the BIPEX/Picture Postcard Show, in London, England has been the highlight of the year for postcard collectors around the world. Recently it has been held in August in Lawrence Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, the newer of the Royal Horticultural Halls, just a stone's throw from Westminster Cathedral. With its high, vaulted ceilings and art deco interior, it has been a wonderful setting for England's premier picture postcard show. Many overseas collectors, your Editor included, would schedule an annual visit to London to coincide with BIPEX, to meet over 70 dealers and renew friendships with other collectors. We've sometimes seen Canadian postcards at BIPEX that have never found their way into dealers' boxes back home.

In 2012, for the first time, there is no BIPEX to look forward to. It's not that Lawrence Hall was required for hosting an Olympic event or another celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. No, unfortunately, cancellation is due to the relentlessly rising costs of London rental facilities, accommodation and travel, etc, and - the biggest culprit of all - the impact of the internet. According to the organizers, there just wasn't the support from British dealers to justify holding the event in 2012. There are many other less costly locations, with shorter travel times and easier access, and many dealers do in fact regularly attend other major shows at York, Birmingham or (another favourite) Shepton Mallett, near Bath, in February.

There is no escaping the effect of the internet on postcard collecting. It is of course cheaper, and in many cases more profitable, for dealers to sell their postcards on eBay or Delcampe and we've now noticed an unfortunate tendency for a few dealers to hold back their best cards for sale on the internet, where they can sell to a worldwide audience (and also with less risk of theft). Regrettably, they just bring along old stock to the shows. For collectors also, the internet offers tremendous benefits in opening up a global market for postcards and providing a time- and cost-saving alternative to long-distance travel.

We suspect that BIPEX's cancellation this year marks the beginning of the end for large, urban postcard shows and the declining number of dealers, and collectors, attending Canadian postcard shows in recent years means that we too are not immune from these trends. The good news for BC postcard collectors, however, is that the Executive Committee of the Vancouver Postcard Club has decided to hold another Postcard Show in May 2013. As they say, "The Show Must Go On!"

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# 2012 Membership Survey - by Philip Francis, Club President

One of the first actions by your new Club Executive Committee earlier this year was to conduct a membership survey. Thanks to a generous donation, the costs of the survey were covered by Tim Woodland, who also assisted in the compilation of survey results. A questionnaire was mailed to members in February and 55 completed surveys were returned. Thanks to all who participated in the survey and provided many useful suggestions. Here are some of the main findings (numbers are % of respondents):

## **Communications**

Club members enjoy the newsletter and generally like the new format of the website. 64% want to continue receiving a printed copy of the newsletter by mail while 56% would also be willing to receive a copy by email only (although several commented "if necessary").

Many of you (55%) said you would be willing to write a short article for the newsletter on a favourite postcard in your collection and a further 23 members said they would be happy to write about their personal collecting interests. Watch for some interesting content in upcoming issues of *Postview!*

Over 75% of respondents had visited the new club website and several of you made useful suggestions for how the website might be further improved. These included, for example, a password-protected area for members to exchange information on items for sale and wanted, email notification when a new announcement is posted to the website, additional links to other postcard websites and the development of an online database of BC postcard publishers and lists of numbered cards. Diane Rogers, Membership Secretary, has kindly agreed to take over the responsibility for website design and management and will be studying all of these suggestions, and others, and will come forward with some website improvements in the months ahead. Stay tuned!

## **Membership**

The Club's annual membership dues have been set at \$12/year for several years. All respondents (100%) indicated they would be willing to renew their membership at a new annual rate, for 2013, of \$15. A large proportion of the Club's expenses are concerned with the printing and mailing of a

quarterly newsletter and we also asked whether members would be willing to pay an annual membership of \$20 for a mailed copy of the newsletter as opposed to \$15 for a copy of the newsletter by email only. Over 60% of respondents said they would choose to pay \$20 for a printed and mailed copy of the newsletter, while 38% indicated they would prefer to pay the lower amount to receive a copy of the newsletter in electronic form only.

In light of the survey results, your Club Executive will bring forward recommendations to the AGM in December for a graduated membership fee for 2013.

## **Club Meetings**

Reflecting the widely spread membership of the Club, with less than half of all members now residing in Vancouver, only 16% of respondents said they attended club meetings on a regular basis, with a further 35% saying they occasionally attended - generally when their visits to Vancouver coincided with a club meeting date. However, nearly half of all respondents told us that they have never attended a club meeting (many of them living in Ontario!).

We also asked whether it would be easier for members to attend on a Saturday or weekday evening. 70% of respondents indicated that Saturday or weekend evening meetings would not increase the frequency of attendance. Most cited the distance from Vancouver as the main factor.

Several members suggested that the Club hold occasional meetings in other locations - for example in Victoria or even in Toronto! There does seem to be a strong core of VPCC members in Victoria and the Executive will certainly look into the possibility of holding a future meeting there. We will also look into the possibility of combining a visit to Toronto with a meeting of the Toronto Postcard Club, perhaps to offer some comments on postcard collecting in western Canada.

Several of you commented that the membership could be further broadened by renaming the Club the "BC Postcard Club", to reflect its more diverse membership. The Executive will also give this suggestion some thought and come forward with recommendations to the AGM. We will explore with our friends in Victoria the possibility of holding a Club meeting there,

perhaps featuring a presentation on a Victoria postcard publisher, such as T.N. Hibben or J. Howard A. Chapman.

## **Other Comments**

Several members offered comments - some at length - on how the role of the Vancouver Postcard Club, or services provided, could be further enhanced and we are most grateful. They will be carefully considered by your Executive and any further recommendations will be brought forward to this year's AGM. Some specific suggestions include:

1. Having a Classified Ads section of the newsletter as a way of bringing in some additional revenue.
2. More information and links on the website on other aspects of collecting - including storage, exhibiting, cataloguing etc.
3. Greater advertising through community centres, stamp clubs and antique shows about the Club and its monthly meetings.
4. More emphasis in future newsletters on publishers rather than photographers and, for photographers, more information on the cards they published, numbering etc.
5. Two postcard shows per year, rather than just one. A second might be a "Super Sunday" in the fall when a number of local dealers might be invited to attend an extended monthly meeting.
6. A more central meeting location in Vancouver and, if possible, avoid the lunch hour, a difficult time for out-of-towners.
7. Reflect the geographically diverse membership with greater diversity of postcards, from outside of Vancouver, illustrated in the newsletter and website.
8. Approach weekly newspapers in BC to ask if they would like to run a monthly column on an aspect of postcard collecting.
9. Look for opportunities to exhibit postcards at the PNE.

Thanks to all who participated in the Survey! We received lots of useful suggestions, and some nice comments about how the Club is doing, and these will be most helpful in formulating recommendations for further improvement.

# Club News

By Margaret Waddington

**May 20, 2012.** Following **Don Steele's** outline of arrangements for the upcoming show, club president **Philip Francis** recounted his experiences at the BCHF's conference in Campbell River at which he accepted the award for Best Newsletter on behalf of the VPC.

**Stan Stewardson** shared memories of Savary Island where he and his family vacationed from the 40s to the 70s. Famous for its sandy beaches, it is now only accessible by boat, water taxi from Lund, or air (Union Steamships used to visit in the early years.). The Royal Savary Hotel which opened in 1928, was both exclusive and popular offering boats and a sandy golf course. It advertised solely in the United States, touting the island as "A South Sea Island in the Gulf of Georgia," a "South Sea Paradise" where there were "no mosquitoes." Stan put in an offer to buy the hotel and 11 waterfront lots in the 1970s but was outbid by \$5,000.



Royal Savary Hotel, Indian Point, Savary Island, B.C. - The Gowen, Sutton Co., Vancouver, B.C. From the collection of Stan Stewardson.

Among the postcards Stan displayed were: "Royal Savary Hotel, Indian Point, Savary Island, B. C.," "On the Wharf, Savary Island, B. C.," "Deer at Indian Point, Savary Island, Royal Savary Hotel", and "Savary's Monarch; The Largest Arbutus Tree on the Continent, Savary Island".

**June 17, 2012** was a Postcard Workshop moderated by **Tim Woodland**. Members were invited to bring a few cards that they had questions about plus one or two favourite reference books, check-lists, articles, etc. for researching postcards. This proved a popular and educational meeting. **Gordon Poppy** showed a 1916 card entitled "Mining Camp in Winter, Alaska." **Art Davies** brought a piece of social history - a North Vancouver card dated July 3, 1913 showing Ida Mae and May, 2 small girls from the Prairies with their handmade dolls. **Tim Woodland** brought a view of the North Shore Mountains entitled "Sleeping Beauty" while **Tim Mustart** showed family photographs. **Diane Rogers** had cards of Mount Baker and yacht racing on the inlet. Also an undivided back of "Douglas Firs, Courtenay, B.C.". **Margaret Waddington's** contribution was a view of a CPR porter standing beside a train which, though sold as a "Field" item, was thought by **Ron Souch** to possibly have been taken at Revelstoke. **Rory Wallace** produced a Chief White Elk card, with the following message on the back: "My Dear Muriel. Received your nice letter yesterday... How do you like this Indian? I saw him in reality at one of the picture houses here. He's very clever, can speak 7 languages & can sing beautifully. He's travelling all over with his wife for the benefit of his own people American Indians. He fought at the front - has got medals & he's also a doctor, has a medal pinned on him by "King George." He is travelling with his own picture production called "Before the White Man Came."



Stan Stewardson, first President of the Vancouver Postcard Club, addressing the club meeting on May 20th, on the postcards of Savary Island, BC.

Photo by Don Steele.



Prize winners for postcard displays at the VPC Postcard Show, May 27th, 2012. First Prize - "Abe Charkow Memorial Award" (\$50) - Don Steele. Second Prize (\$35) - Per Jensen. 3rd Prize (\$15) - Lance Arnett.



The winning display at the 2012 VPC Postcard Show - "Coastal Indian People - about 100 years ago" - by Don Steele

# BIOGRAPHIES OF B. C. PHOTOGRAPHERS

## **FIERHELLER BROS.:**

**FRANK MILTON FIERHELLER, 1883–1947**

**REGINALD CLARE FIERHELLER, 1887–1964**

**Compiled by M. Waddington**



*Jolly Outing Club - Photo by Fierheller Bros.*

Frank and Reginald Fierheller were born January 31, 1883 and May 21, 1887, respectively, in Markham, Ontario to Milton Fierheller, farmer, and Eunice Priscilla Jennings Cook.

By April 6, 1891 the family of 5 brothers and 4 sisters had moved to a farm at Fish Creek, Alberta.

Frank and Reginald's older brother Rolph aka Ralph, Darrell Fierheller is listed as a CPR locomotive fireman at Kamloops from 1897 to 1902.

At the time of the 1901 census their father was working at North Bend, B. C. while their mother, Fred, Reginald, 3 sisters and 1 brother lived in Kamloops.

Subsequently, ca 1903, the family moved again, this time to 604 Hamilton Street, Vancouver, then in 1907 to 818 Richards Street.

According to the directories, Frank was working as an apprentice painter in 1905 and 1906, while Reginald secured a position as a clerk at Bailey Bros. in 1906.

Reginald worked as a shipper for Bailey Bros. from 1907 to 1909, then as their travelling salesman from 1910 to 1911. Meanwhile Frank was an electrician for Cope & Son in 1908 and 1909, finally becoming a photographer in 1911.

In 1912 both brothers worked as photographers, operating out of the family home at 818 Richards.

In 1914 they founded Fierheller Bros. (Regd. C. & F. Fierheller) at 818 Richards. According to the directories the firm continued till 1917 with Frank alone carrying the torch in 1918. [Reginald joined the 3rd Section 68th Overseas Depot Field Battery, 4th Divisional Ammunition Column, on March 29, 1916.]

Thereafter Frank is listed as living at 818 Richards in 1919, as an electrician in 1920, and as decorator in 1926.

He died March 21 1947 in Vancouver at which time he was reported

to be a painter who last worked in 1938. He was buried at Mountain View cemetery, Vancouver.

Reginald studied dentistry at North Pacific College, Portland, Oregon in 1929, opening a dental practice at 708 – 718 Granville Street, Vancouver the following year and retiring in 1958.

He died March 5, 1964 in Vancouver survived by his wife, Charlotte, 2 daughters, Mrs. J. Ross (Isobel) MacLean, Vancouver and Mrs. John T. (Renie) Fowle, Nakusp, B.C., 7 grandchildren, 2 brothers, Murray and Rolph, and 2 sisters, Miss A.M. Fierheller and Mrs. H. Pickering, and was cremated at Garden Chapel, Ocean View, Burnaby, B. C.

Fierheller Bros. produced real photo cards of several areas of B. C. including Vancouver, North Vancouver and Squamish, then called Newport. Many of their cards were high quality photos of various organizations or clubs.

## **References:**

Archives of Ontario, Toronto, Registrations of Births and Stillbirths, 1869-1913, MS 929, reel 63, no. 19, 040329 (birth Frank)

B. C. Archives death registrations:

1947-09-003215 (in mfm B13193) (death Frank)

1964-09-003918 (in mfm B13265) (death Reginald)

B. C. directories:

Kamloops: 1897-1902

Vancouver: 1903-1963

British Columbia historical picture postcards; a guide to the publishers / compiled by Ron Souch

Library and Archives Canada RG 31, Statistics Canada

1891 Census Territories, district 197: Alberta, sub-district 5: Fish Creek, p. 3, lines 1-10

1901 Census B. C., district 5: Yale & Cariboo, sub-district L-5: Yale West, town of North Bend, p. 3 (in mfm T-6431), line 18

1901 Census B. C., district 5: Yale & Cariboo, sub-district K-2: Yale north, Kamloops city, p. 10 (in mfm T-6431), lines 19-25

Library and Archives Canada RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 3077-16, file: "Fierheller, Reginald Clair," Regimental #331728

Mattison, David. Camera workers: the British Columbia, Alaska & Yukon photographic directory, 1858-1950

<http://members.shaw.ca/bchistorian/cw1858-1950.html>

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Vancouver Province, Saturday, Mar. 7, 1964, p. 27: "Deaths...Fierheller" (death Reginald)



*Stagecoach on the Cariboo Highway - Photo by Fierheller Bros.*

# Postcards and Genealogy

By M. Diane Rogers

Originally published in The British Columbia Genealogist, September 2011, Volume 40 #3, pages 104-108

Postcard collecting is a great hobby all by itself, but for genealogists, postcards may contain gold! Usually genealogists and family historians collect and preserve postcards for two main reasons.

First, if you can identify them as related to family members, they offer a unique window into your family's life – perhaps with amateur photographs, nicknames and signatures, addresses, details of daily life, friends, and special events and interests—and if a card's in a family collection, you know a relative treasured and protected it. You'll know you want to check to see who they were mailed to or sent from, but take the time to look at family postcards as family history documents. A postcard is a composite artifact, combining printing, photography, colouring, handwriting, postmarks, stamps and more. All of these factors can be researched. Businesses and governments sent (and received) postcards too, so don't just look at the pretty ones.

Second, the images and/or messages on cards, even relatively modern ones, can show the backgrounds to your family members' lives – the buildings and landscapes they were familiar with, events they were at (or likely talked about). Images on cards could be historical or places shown just as they are now. You might use these to illustrate your own family history stories or books, especially if you have few family photographs.



*Prince George*, Photo WWW [photographer, William Walker Wrathall]. Unmailed postcard, black and white. On back in pencil, and in ink: *via Prince George from Prince Rupert to Vancouver July 19-21. Stateroom 23 Berth 1+2*. This is from one of my mother's albums—almost all postcards illustrating one of her trips to British Columbia. (Why no year, Ma!) I believe this is from a 1939 vacation Mum took with her Mum.

Think about developing your own postcard collection illustrating the areas you know family lived in. If you're as lucky as I've been, you may find a few family cards at shows or sales (or perhaps in a museum or archives). The BCGS collects unwanted postcards from members and sells these at meetings. Inquire if there are cards from your places of interest.

Always ask relatives and family friends what they have. And check your local archives or museum. Many have significant collections of postcards related to their geographical area.

Many postcards are displayed or offered for sale on-line now. Did you know Ancestry.com has postcards? So does Peel's Prairie

Provinces: <http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/index.html> and, of course, Library and Archives Canada: [www.collectionscanada.ca](http://www.collectionscanada.ca) Or have a look at cards for sale at [Ebay.com](http://Ebay.com) or [Delcampe.com](http://Delcampe.com) At eBay, you can set up free e-mail alerts for cards you are interested in. I've done that for my place names and topics of interest—postcard, Basingbourn, for example.

And when the name is common, I add a qualifier—South Vancouver is better for my purposes than Vancouver and Vancouver band or Vancouver music or musicians is better yet. Set up Google Alerts like this as well.

If relatives do have cards, ask permission to copy them with a camera or scanner. Often family postcard collections are mixed with photographs and memorabilia. Try to copy all the associated items—clues could be anywhere. And look at them with the relatives—and take notes.

Before you copy an image from a website or library or archives, check for terms of use and licensing details. Some public archives now have generous terms, as does the City of Vancouver Archives. Even private sellers may allow you personal use of a digitized image, if you ask politely and agree to credit them and their business.

Before you start, read up about postcard preservation, and about postcards in general. And look for a local postcard club or one in your geographical area of interest. Collectors are very knowledgeable; there are guides and catalogues for particular photographers, publishers and topics to help you decide where and when a postcard or its image was made, and identify and locate postcard photographers and publishers.



*A Young Canuck*. Postcard postmarked 1906, sent from Potter's Hill, Rhode Island, USA to James Walter Scott, Newdale, Manitoba, Canada. (The photo is very blue.) Signed M. W. Message: *P.H. Sept. 22- '06. Received postals. They are very nice. You had a safe journey. Saw an account of the wreck in our paper. Thought of you right off. Aunt Jennie sent us a paper about it also wrote and told us you had arrived safely. All my pictures were quite good. What do you think of this one? M.W.* I think this means Grandpa (pictured here) sent his own amateur postcards to his Rhode Island cousins. Perhaps I'll find them someday. In the meantime, this is the only evidence that he ever visited them. Sadly for me, both these cousins had the initials M.W.—for Martha or Mary Woodman. (Aunt Jenny was Walter's mother, Mary Janet Scott, née Wood, of Nottawa, Ontario.)

(With permission from The British Columbia Genealogist, September, 2011, [www.bcgsc.ca](http://www.bcgsc.ca))

# Cheramy's Chatter

by John & Glenda Cheramy

**May 27th**, Annual Vancouver Post Card Club show at the East Hastings Community Centre. On Friday the 25th, Glenda and I caught the 9AM ferry to Vancouver, with our usual stops in Richmond and at Chantou for supplies. Got some nice cards at an antique shop, and promises of some at another shop. We delivered Bill Foot's order of supplies from Chantou to Bill's store in Langley. After many years of clutter, the store looked much neater than usual. He's moving his stock to a new location one block east on Fraser Hwy.

Barb Foot had clipped and saved for us John Mackie's 2-page article about early Vancouver post cards, Travelling Through Times. Super write-up.

On **Saturday the 26th** we visited a couple of antique stores with no success and then drove to Metrotown to visit with Jim Richardson who had put some items aside for us. While driving in Burnaby, we got a phone call from John Bucci, MJR from Edmonton. He and his ex-partner Gary Hill, were driving to Vancouver for Sunday's show and were stopped in Chilliwack. John had some cards for us to look at, so we drove to one of our regular restaurants, Tom & Jerry's on E. Hastings across from the hotel where John and Gary were booked. Because of a Port Mann Bridge tie-up, they were a little late arriving at the hotel but we finally hooked up around 3 o'clock and managed to go through a few boxes and I bought some nice cards.

**Sunday the 27th**, we got up early and left Foot's home at 6:15AM, getting to Tom & Jerry's restaurant a little before their opening time. I dropped Glenda off and drove the couple of blocks to park at the Community Centre. Talk about timing! Just as I had parked the van, I saw a car driving north and it turned out to be Lance Arnett. He gave me a ride to the restaurant and even bought our breakfasts! Lance teased me with some great cards he'd brought with him, but were not for sale – for show only.

The show was busier for us than I can remember previously. We were still dealing at 4 p.m. closing time! Also setup with tables, were John Bucci, Jill Charkow, Per Jensen, Don Kaye, Carl Klenk, Bill McNulty, Dave Morris, Ron Souch, Rein Stamm, Don Steele, and Klaus & Renee Goedecke.

Visitors were: Art Davies, Lance Arnett, Joyce Beaubien, Jeff Dufour, Philip Francis, Brian Grant Duff & family, Maurice Guibord, Tim Mustart (our food provider!), Gordon Poppy, Harold and Mrs. Steves, Hamish Telford, Marg Waddington (manning [personning?] the entrance desk), Mike Wagner, Larry Williams, Tim Woodland, Peter Zeschuk.

There were several super displays which I have to admit, to my regret, that I couldn't get away from our table to examine – I apologize! (I did, and I voted – Glenda) Should our annual show be a 2-day show? Probably not, but it's tough to cram so much into a short 8 hours!

Most of our summer has been golf every morning except, of course, Tuesday Muffin Break meeting, where we usually see Don Stewart Sr., Lee Dowsley, Gray Scrimgeour, Ron Greene, Ian & Robin Mowat, and occasionally Michael Rice.

# Upcoming Events

**Aug. 19th**, Victoria – Comfort Hotel., coin & stamp bourse.

**Sept. 8 & 9th**, Vancouver for the NSNS coin & stamp show at Oakridge Centre.

**Sept 16** - VPC Monthly meeting - Art Davies will present postcards of Britannia Beach, mines and community. Britannia Beach was a 'company town' 50 kms north of Vancouver. At one time the largest Copper producing mine in the British Empire, it operated until 1974. Beset by landslides and other tragedies throughout its history, it is now a National Historic Site and enjoying the success of the refurbished mining museum.

**Oct. 6 & 7th**, VICPEX Stamp show at the Comfort Hotel, Victoria.

**Oct 21st** – VPC Monthly meeting - Fred Hume will present highlights of his 30+ years of postcard collecting, featuring two sports themes: an eclectic mix of local, national, amateur and professional views in real photo, linen and chrome formats; and a group of sports Art cards – 1970's to present whimsical baseball-related cards.

**Oct. 27 & 28th**, VIMAC Antique & collectibles show at Parkes Arena, Tillicum Ctr., Victoria.

**Nov 18th** – VPC Monthly meeting - Rein Stamm will present material that deals with local photographers and postcard publishers c. 1900 - 1920. More details closer to meeting date.

## Porritt Postcards on eBay



A sign of the times perhaps - an important collection of early Vancouver Island postcards changed hands on eBay in early July. Offered for sale by a British dealer were 92 real photos relating to the early development of Bamfield, Alberni, from 1908 - 1914. Fifty of the cards were stamped and postmarked (mainly Bamfield, Alberni etc.) with 73 of them by Wright Porritt (42 stamped Porritt, the others on his distinctive card). The lot also included 15 cards by Leonard Frank of Alberni.

The postcards were mainly sent from Percy Covil to his mother in England. Covil married Blanche Porritt whose father was the local photographer Wright Porritt. The Porritt photo postcards documented Covil's domestic and work life as an engineer on boats and car transport as Bamfield developed into a town. They also recorded the changing landscape as the railways arrived in Alberni and the wild countryside was domesticated. A few of the cards were sent by Percy, to his brothers Stuart and Reggie, and to his father. Two or three cards were from Blanche to her Mother-in-Law.

This important piece of early Vancouver Island social history attracted multiple bids and was finally sold for GBP 1,231 (\$2,000). Nice to see these Canadian cards bought by a local collector!

# American Views - "My Brief Professional Golf Career"

By Buzz Kinninmont

Two "chrome" postcards that recently popped out of a very random pile of miscellaneous vintage paper in someone's space at the Pasadena City College monthly flea market sent me spiraling back to (yet another segment of) my misspent youth.

Summer of 1980... my brother and I were helping a Vancouver accounting firm keep an in-receivership Gastown restaurant functioning when we were introduced to a gentleman who had an image problem at one of the links in a small chain of restaurants he owned following a few unfortunate food-poisoning cases that had been traced back to it.

That link was located in Vernon, B.C., a small enough and cozy enough city that by the time the initial victim broke out into a sweat from ingesting the bug, pretty much everyone else in town knew about it. Fortunately the restaurant was on the main highway, so it had been able to survive on the limited business it was able to garner from un-frightened passers-through.

I'd always liked Vernon, so I was happy to go and try to help.

When my brother and I arrived, we got a room right across the highway at the very comfy Blue Stream Motel (which is still there!)



... and we found our workplace to be clean, friendly and pretty much fully-functional with the competent staff that was there.

The kitchen was effectively owned by a trio of quite unlike Ukrainian sisters, one of whom handled any necessary translation. Two nice women shared the bookkeeping, cash-counting & hostessing shifts, and the front end was staffed by one diner-weary veteran waitress along with a number of mostly teenage servers and bussers.

One of those servers is still one of my favourite people ever. She was a very savvy, adult single mother who also worked in her parents' upscale restaurant and who introduced us to some of the better drinking joints in town, where many of the folks knew her... which made it quite a surprise a couple of weeks later when my brother noticed in the payroll records that she was only 17....

After a few weeks, my brother decided he'd be better off back in Vancouver and we talked our friend Donnie into coming up to

take his place by convincing him that it would only be for three weeks. Despite growing up in New Westminster, Donnie had never been to Vernon and when he arrived, the bus dropped him off right downtown at the National Hotel:



When he called from there for us to pick him up he said, "The bus dropped us off somewhere on the edge of town," and some guy who heard him told him that he was actually right downtown. "Oh no... this is going to be a lonnnng three weeks."

Well, our interest in reviving the restaurant quickly waned after a local radio promotion we arranged brought customers streaming in the door and brought a livid phone call from the owner who said that by running the ads we were breaking an agreement that he had with his other operators. We had to stop the ads and the deal we were offering immediately.

Thereafter our daily schedules were more or less:

11:00 A.M. Stumble, hung-over, across the highway to make sure the restaurant had opened and breakfast had been served.

12:30 P.M. Head off to Spallumcheen Golf Course "just around the corner" for daily 18 holes and a beer or two.

6:00 P.M. Back to the restaurant to ensure it was still functioning.

8:00 P.M. Arise from nap to go to Goon Hong restaurant for yet another Chinese dinner and our next three beers of the evening.

2:00 A.M. Back to the Blue Stream from whichever bar we'd finished up in.

Eventually the owner figured out that he was basically paying us to play golf and decided that we weren't the right people for the job. But by then Donnie's dreaded three weeks in Vernon had become seven, and he left with a terrific tan.

## Picture Postcard Monthly turns 400!

By far the best magazine for postcard collectors worldwide has just celebrated its 400th monthly issue. Published by Reflections of a Bygone Age ([www.postcardcollecting.co.uk](http://www.postcardcollecting.co.uk)) the magazine is a must read for all who love postcards. In a much smaller way, we know how much work goes into producing a postcard publication and we are in awe at the wonderful magazine produced by editors Brian and Mary Lund. Congratulations and here's to 500!

# Reminiscences of Grace Taylor (nee McKibbin),

formerly a teacher at Craft School, Alberta

*Leona Taylor writes from Victoria* - On a recent holiday we stopped at an antique shop in Sandpoint, Idaho. While there I found this postcard of the 1939 royal visit to Canada. It reminded me that in later life my mother wrote memories of her younger days and included were stories and photos of that visit. I have included a photo of the children in the truck which transported them to Edmonton. *Leona's mother writes on January 23, 1993* -



*King George VI and Queen Elizabeth and their RCMP Personal Bodyguard on Royal Tour - "Canadian Art Deeptone" Series, Published by C.L.C., Canada*

The spring of 1939 brought a momentous event for Craft School children. King George VI of Britain and his wife Queen Elizabeth, parents of the present Queen Elizabeth, were touring Canada making personal appearances in all major cities and would be in Edmonton on a given date. Most of the Craft School parents were of British descent and wanted their children to see the King and Queen so a trip to the city was arranged. Many of the children had been no farther from home than the small town of Cherhill, some not even that. Thus, a trip to Edmonton was looked forward to with great eagerness.

The only affordable way of getting them there was by truck and luckily we had a trucker in the district with a large enough vehicle to hold them all. You should have seen the excitement as children big and small climbed into the huge truck box to begin the trip. Two sets of parents went along to help supervise. Luckily the day was clear and sunny for most of the road, loosely called a "highway", had no tar or gravel - just dirt.

There was a chorus of "Ohs" and "Ahs" when the children got out of the truck in Edmonton and saw tall buildings for the first time. Our view of the 'Royals' was not much more than a fleeting glimpse as their car drove by our location. We saw only a profile of the King but the Queen happened to turn our way and we were thrilled by the lovely warm smile she gave us.

When the Big Moment was over food came to mind. Everyone had brought well-stuffed lunch bags and we took the children to Borden Park for a picnic.

The day was wearing on and we must start for home. On the way we stopped at Edmonton Airport where the children had their first close look at planes, another interesting 'first', particularly for the boys.

Each student wrote a report of the visit. Here is one, titled "The Procession Goes On", sadly unsigned.

"The Royal Procession was coming down First Street [Edmonton] towards the Indian encampment. When they reached the encampment, two cowboys rushed out and lassoed the Royal Car. The King leaned over and whispered to the driver for him to stop. As soon as the car stopped the king and queen stepped out without waiting for the mounties to assist them. Their Magesties [sic] talked with the Indians for a while and looked at the Indians beed [sic] work. Then the King and Queen stepped into the Royal Car and the procession went on."



British Columbia Historical Federation Award for Best Newsletter - presented to Vancouver Postcard Club, May 5, 2012 - "For their excellent publication and for bringing forward a stronger recognition and awareness of postcards as historical resources." Photo - Don Steele

## 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](mailto:philipfrancis@shaw.ca). Postcard images to accompany your material are welcomed (please send as a .jpg attachment).