Program Notes: Glenn Koch has been an ardent collector of San Francisco cards for many years—during most of which time he was living on the East Coast. When he did move out here a few years ago much of his extraordinary collection was published in [the fabulous] San Francisco Golden Age Postcards from Windgate Press.

In his presentation this month Glenn will take us on a postcard tour of The Zone, the amusement area of the Panama Pacific International Exposition, that stretched from Van Ness Avenue to Fillmore Street. We’ll follow Glenn along that route and see what we would have seen at the fair in 1915. “I may cheat a bit,” Glenn admits, “and use a few images that aren’t postcards just so I can show things that have not yet turned up on postcards. To me the Zone is one of the neatest parts of the fair and the part that is the most overlooked. So this is my attempt to raise its status a bit among those who love the PPIE.”

Parking could be difficult so come early and enjoy the museums, and coffee bar or Green’s Restaurant. We usually gather before noon at the picnic tables or in the exhibit area in front of Bldg. B.

Show & Tell: Bring cards of the Zone and collector’s choice, as well. Three item, two minute limit.

COVER CARD

“The Submarines, a wonderful amusement concession on the Zone” of the Panama Pacific International Exposition. This rarely seen card—with its cream colored border and exotic illustration of lighthouse beams, rock sculptures, waterfall and people passing into the gaping maws of fish—is a harbinger of the bizarre postcard images of the linen era fifteen years in the future.
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Newsletter Deadline:10th of each month

MINUTES, May 28, 2005

Thirty-four members and guests signed in. A few did not.

Cards were brought for sale and trade by Ted and Arlene Miles for the Western Railroad Museum, Joseph Jaynes, Bob Bowen and Jim Neider.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Kathryn Ayres.

Announcements: Lew Baer told about the article on Ray Costa in the Vallejo newspaper. Kathryn, on behalf of Ed Herny, told that the club has been invited to put up an exhibit on the 1906 earthquake and fire at the April 2006 WESTPEX philatelic show.

There were several lots in the drawing... and several happy winners.

There was no business to discuss or act on.

Show & Tell: Dan Cudworth told that he does not usually collect artist cards but could not resist a set by Rie Cramer. [Wow!] … Janet Baer showed the NPCW card she designed for herself and Lew. … John Freeman brought a group of post earthquake cartoons by B. K. Leech. They tell more than photos, John said, because they point out nuances, such as a cat and parrot riding on a trunk being dragged up a hill. Real photos of earthquake camps show parrots, too. Other Leech cards show reconstruction, and John has twelve which are all poorly trimmed. Are there others? How many?

—Bruce Diggelman, Recording Secretary.

Program: Malcolm Barker on Earthquake and Fire Postcards

Kathryn Ayres introduced Malcolm Barker, the author of several books on old San Francisco. One book from his “Memoirs” series is a compilation of letters and postcard messages relating to the disaster of April 18, 1906. Malcolm began by showing slides of the Main Post Office at Seventh and Minna Streets which had just opened in August of 1905. As the fire progressed through the city the post office was surrounded by flames, but it was saved by ten postal workers who refused to leave. Soon after 11 AM a window on Stevenson Street burst and flames came in and began burning furniture. Bang! Bang! Other windows gave way. The only weapons the workers had were mail sacks and a pool of rain water in the elevator shaft. They soaked the sacks and quenched the flames. Other buildings may have survived on the outside, but their interiors were gutted. Twenty-seven post offices in the city were destroyed, and the Post-
master announced that mail would be carried free as long as it had an address. Messages could be—and were—written on anything, even a can of tomatoes. We saw a detachable shirt collar that carried the message “Frisco and Hell went into partnership, and Hell came out the winner.” Unstamped mail was accepted for only a few days, and many businesses took advantage of the bargain rate. By April 21 stamps were on sale again.

We saw a postcard of the old city hall with a message on its end: “The city is in almost total darkness.” A real photo of the same scene: “Why should we want to visit Rome?” Another card showed the huge crack in the street at 18th and Howard; a colored view showed people fleeing down Market Street. The cover of Malcolm’s book shows a postcard view looking up Grant Avenue from Market at the gutted Shreve’s building.

Malcolm chose to use postcards to illustrate this book because they have a personal attraction to him. He had no cards when he began the project, but he has been finding some since then. He showed a view card of the city on fire... with no earthquake damage to scare the tourists. Another card was of Francis, the dog that was found hiding in the basement of the St. Francis Hotel. Malcolm found a child’s book on FRANCIS, THE EARTHQUAKE DOG and became fascinated. He read every issue of local papers for all of 1906 and found no reports about Francis to substantiate the story.

Not everyone approved of postcards showing the damage from the disaster. The Call dubbed them pernicious advertising. “Hundreds of thousands of photos and postcards were published. Are they damaging the city? Is it necessary to harp on the subject? Why not forget about it? If we want to keep people away this is the way to do it.”

A question was asked if post traumatic stress disorder was a problem in 1906. Apparently it was, but not by such a fancy name. A New York reporter headed west, and at each station he’d meet “refugees” and hear stories of horror. When he got to San Francisco he found it nothing like their tales. People were happy and joyful. The heroes stayed... and the cowards left.

Malcolm has written four books. In the SAN FRANCISCO MEMOIRS series the first covers 1835 to 1851, the second 1852-1899, and the third is all about the earthquake and fire. He likes his book on BUMMER AND LAZARUS the best. He researched San Francisco’s Favorite Dogs in old newspapers and got the truth of the story. Then he designed and typeset the book himself. The stories are great—says Malcolm. He went back to the original sources and found there was no truth to the stories that the dogs belonged to Emperor Norton. He was responsible for having the plaque memorializing the canine pair placed in the Transamerica garden—at doggie level.

—NOTES TAKEN BY LEW BAER

MINUTES, June 25, 2005

Twenty-nine members and guests signed in; a few latecomers brought our attendance to over thirty. Cards were brought for sale or trade by Roman Manevich, Joseph Jaynes, Ed Herny, David Parry, Ken Prag and George and Helen Epperson. Bob Bowen also brought copies of his new book, SAN FRANCISCO’S PRESIDIO.

We were called to order by President Ed Herny. Two guests, John Owen and Carl Saiben, were introduced. There were fourteen lots in the drawing.

Announcements: Wilma Hampton told us that she is now residing at the Matilda Brown Home in Oakland. She thinks it would make a beautiful
postcard. Joseph Jaynes announced that the Santa Cruz postcard show will take place in September; however, Joseph will be out of town in July and August, so he may not be able to issue free passes. Allen Stross informed us that the Berkeley Historical Society has co-sponsored a new postcard book of the Monterey peninsula. The Berkeley postcard book, to which President Ed Herny contributed, is now available in paperback for $25, though the $45 hardcover version is still available.

New business: Ed Herny announced that the Westpex stamp show has invited us to display cards of the 1906 earthquake and fire for the centennial in April. The display space available to us consists of several 4’ x 6’ glass cases. Bob Bowen suggested that we might ask for a booth to promote our club. The April 2006 Westpex show will be held at the airport Marriott.

**Program: EXPANDED SHOW AND TELL**

Our June program truly illustrated the wonderfully diverse collecting interests of our club members. Sue Scott brought three albums of postcards from Vera Cruz showing interiors of hotels, historical costumes and modern art. Vera Cruz cards published by the photographer Hugo Brehme now sell for $100 or more. Sue also brought one small album of cards by the deco-style Scandinavian artist Nerman.

Allen Stross showed a card that he photographed and produced of the Berkeley Explicit Players captioned, “The Naked and Free in Berkeley.” The nude parade is passing in front of Berkeley’s Amoeba Records, which is offering the cards free of charge.

George Epperson shared several cards and other ephemera illustrating the life of his father, Frank Epperson, the inventor of the Popsicle. Frank Epperson also sold other products of his own creation – Vitine shampoo and the Hi-Dri fruit drink. George brought a postcard of his dad’s delivery vehicle, an enormous “streamline” automobile that had a plywood body built over the engine of a 1925 Dodge sedan. George showed the patent for the Popsicle as well as early wrappers that carried its original name of “Epsicle.” George was hoping Lew Baer would be in attendance, for he also brought cards of himself and his wife as children seated in goat carts.

John Freeman brought a real photo of men in bunk beds that had been set up in the 28th Street cable car barn during the car strike of 1907. Consultation with the head of the Western Railway Museum confirmed that the message signed by “Duke” was written by the legendary Duke Ormsby, a 1907 scab that rose through the ranks to a supervisory position for Muni, retiring in 1951. The card was sent to one Fred Ormsby in Liverpool. John also showed a card of “Fightin’ Bob” Evans, admiral of the 1908 Great White Fleet. The back carries an advertisement for the White Palace Hotel, which “boasted” of employing only white help. Another GWF card carried a printed itinerary for the USS Missouri, sent by a crew member on the day it arrived at its final destination. Lastly, in recognition of Bob Bowen’s new publication, John brought some cards showing the military presence at the 1906 refugee camp in the Presidio.

Jack Hudson brought a press book for the 1946 movie, The Razor’s Edge. Jack informed us that this was Tyrone Powers’ first movie after having served as a pilot during WWII, and Powers played a WWI pilot in the film. Press books contain im-
ages of the advertising media that is available for a film, and page 30 of this particular press book showed one of the available items as a postcard. Jack showed the card itself, illustrated by Norman Rockwell, with a full portrait of Powers with ghost-like images of the other actors in the background.

Dan Cudworth brought an album with several fascinating images of the entertainment industry, including a press kit card of The Wizard Oz, postmarked prior to the film’s release. One card advertised the initial publication of the book, GONE WITH THE WIND, while another advertised the world premiere of the movie in Atlanta, signed by the mayor, and depicting the battle of Atlanta on the front. Dan also showed an album of absolutely stunning 1930s advertising cards.

David Parry brought an album of cards published by Joseph Kohler, spanning fifty years of production. The cards included mechanicals, hold-to-lights and a rare card of the Titanic. David also showed a 1910 large-letter San Francisco card published by Charles Weidner.

Joseph Jaynes displayed an album of Highway 101 roadside cards, linens to chromes, spanning the 1940s to 1960s. “Take a postcard tour up the coast!”

Kathryn Ayres brought photocopies from accordion-fold postcard folders showing San Francisco floats in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses parade. The floats featured a Golden Gate International Exposition theme in 1938 and 1940, but in 1939, the year that the fair opened, San Francisco chose to go with an 1849 gold rush theme.

Bob Bowen told of his new book, SAN FRANCISCO’S PRESIDIO. The book’s inception was the result of the June 2004 meeting, when editor John Poultney of Arcadia Press was our speaker.

John took a look at Bob’s collection of the Presidio and predicted that it would make a fine publication, as indeed it has. The book, which was just released this week, features 111 postcards in its 193 images.

Ed Herny showed a 1940s real photo card of “The Hermit of Fort Bragg” dressed in caveman-like garb. The caption on the back identified the man as “Henry Shaw, super hermit.”

—NOTES: BRUCE DIGGELMAN AND KATHRYN AYRES

TREASURER’S REPORT
As of July 7, 2005 ........................................... $2,861.60
—DANIEL SAKS, TREASURER/HALL MANAGER

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER
Mark Anderson, San Francisco

THE CLUB BOXES
The boxes of cards for sale by the club will be at the July meeting. There have been recent additions to them generously donated by Lorelei Maison Rockwell and Gaston Dupuis. [Thanksalot! Merci bien!] Gaston’s packet included an unusual three card set of Canadian rackcards published by Walmart. In the tradition of early postcards they are an installment set, shown below in miniature. The club boxes hold plenty of other cards for your delectation priced 10¢ and up.
SHE STARRED in countless films, making her debut at the age of nineteen months. She became America’s youngest millionaire before she was four years old. Yet despite her unprecedented fame, her name evokes little recognition today.

For although Baby Peggy’s onscreen antics made the studios unbelievably wealthy, most of her films were melted down as soon as they were returned from the theatres for the two dollars’ worth of silver nitrate they contained. The only reason a few of her early films survive today is because some theatres – mostly foreign – did not return them.

If it were not for the picture postcards depicting her in these early film roles, we might not be able to appreciate the extent of her popularity or the full range of her talent.

Most of her films were two-reelers that preceded the main attraction. She spoofed the stars in the movie that the audience was about to see, smoking cigarettes and drinking “alcohol,” and giving positively uncanny imitations of the lustful looks of Rudolph Valentino and Pola Negri.

During film shoots, she had been accidentally thrown from a speeding truck, had nearly drowned in the Pacific Ocean, and narrowly escaped being crushed beneath the wheels of a real train. “Years later I found that my experience was about average for a movie child.”

She recalled her disgust at the unprofessional attitude of a girl who screamed bloody murder at the prospect of performing a particular stunt. The girls were to drop from an overhanging tree branch into the back seat of a speeding automobile. If they dropped too late, they ran the risk of severe injury; if they dropped too soon, they would be run over and killed. Her panic-stricken co-star was dismissed, and Peg performed the stunt alone, impeccably, on the first try. They didn’t call her One Take Peggy for nothin’.

On another occasion, she was supposed to escape from a burning movie-set house. The director kept yelling at her to run through the door. But he couldn’t see what she could see. The movie set behind the door was engulfed in very real flames. She escaped instead through the window. Again, it was a take – the director’s shouting could not be heard in the silent film, and the fear on Peggy’s face was convincingly realistic.

She was too young for school, but a pseudo-psychologist examined her on the set, and Peg’s father, Jack Montgomery, beamed at the results. Jack was an uneducated Hollywood cowboy stuntman, and he thought that the test adminis-
trator was saying that his daughter had a high "eye cue." That made perfect sense to him, for Peg unfailingly obeyed the silent signals that he gave her behind the director's back.

Her fame in those days was immeasurable. She remembered waving an American flag on a crowded platform while a handsome man gave a speech. That man was FDR on the campaign trail.

When she attended a live performance in New York City, her appearance in a box seat caused such a stir that the headliner, Al Jolson, stopped mid-song to petulantly remind the audience that he was the one that they had paid to see.

There were Baby Peggy dolls, games and storybooks, and her image was used to sell everything from spinach to cough medicine.

Baby Peggy was unaware that the film industry was practically as young as she was. She thought that all adults had acted in movies when they were children in order to support their families. An interviewer asked if she wanted to be an actress when she grew up. "No," Peggy re-
sponded, “I want to be a lady.” When asked if she couldn’t be both, she looked down and fiddled with the corner of her jacket. “I’m afraid … I’m afraid I’m not big enough.”

[Editor’s note: These real photo movie star postcards were all published in Europe.]

1906 – 2006
The response to the request for ideas for a club project recognizing the 100 year anniversary of the ’06 disaster has been underwhelming. Other groups are planning exhibits and events. We should be among them. I’ve suggested an enlarged newsletter edition with up to 72 postcards of the earthquake and fire. This could be expanded even further on www.postcard.org. What are YOUR ideas? The Earthquake Central Alliance has invited us to participate.
—Lew Baer

CLASSIFIED ADS
Free to members as space permits
Frank Lopez is selling his private collection of postcard reference books and books illustrated with postcards. His library contains over 90 items and he will sell individual titles. Please contact him at balidog(at)msn.com for a listing of available items. Prices are negotiable.

POSTCARD CALENDAR
July 28-31, Wednesday-Sunday, San Francisco. American Numismatic Association national convention, Moscone Center West, 747 Howard St. Wed.-Sat. 10am-6:30pm, Sun. 10am-2pm. FREE! Schedule: www.money.org*

Aug. 13, Saturday, San Francisco, Antique Faire, Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave. & Lincoln. 10-6*

Aug. 20-21, Saturday-Sunday, Reno, NV, a new Postcard & Paper Collectibles Show, Convention Center, 4590 S. Virginia Street. Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm*+

Aug. 27-28, Saturday-Sunday, Sacramento, Capitol Postcard & Paper Collectibles Show, 6151 H Street, Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 10am-4pm*+

Sept. 4, Sunday, Healdsburg, Outdoor Antique Show on the square, Free admission! 9am-4pm*

Sept. 23-25, Friday-Sunday, Pasadena, Hal Lutsky’s Vintage Paper Fair, 400 W. Colorado Blvd., Fri. 1-7pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun.10am-4pm*+. SF club members free with coupon.

Bolded entries are events by SFBAPCC members. On the first Sunday of every month several dealers set up at the huge outdoor antique market at the Old Naval Air Station in Alameda.

*Ken Prag will be at these shows. Call 415 586-9386 or kprag(at)planetaria.net to let him know what he can bring for you.

+R&N Postcards will set up with cards and postcard supplies.

Postcards are available for browsing seven days a week at the SF Antique Mall, 701 Bayshore Blvd., where 101 and 280 meet, info 415 656-3530, also at Postcards, Books, Etc. in Cotati; 40 miles north of the Golden Gate. Call to confirm 707 795-6499.
Dear Editor:

As a thirty-five year collector of San Francisco memorabilia I still get excited when I come across something that I have not seen before. I may not be as sophisticated a collector as some of our members, so if this is something boring—ho-hum—you’ve seen dozens of, please turn the page.

I just purchased a small lot of postcards, paper and souvenirs and was delighted with this card when I first saw it. Once I got it home and realized it opened into a menu I liked it even more. Electric malt machines like those of the ’20s and ’30s are visible in the front window, so I assume the card is from that era.

If this card excites you too you might like to print it in the newsletter. I’m just happy to add it to my collection.

Dan Kisinski

P.S. The PPIE meeting was wonderful!

[Editor’s Note: The “Chutes” in this tavern’s name was not related to those of the early 1900s, that have been featured in the newsletter recently, but was the Shoot the Chutes at Playland. The Tavern was on the north side of the building that housed the merry-go-round, the Olde Village and later the penny pitch games. Dan suggests the card is from the 1920-30 era. I believe that it was published after 1933 as three beers are listed on the menu, and Prohibition was not repealed until then. Is the pencilled message visible here? It reads “Worked here, but not very, The owners couldn’t make a ‘Go’ of it.”]
There is something special about linens. Perhaps it stems from the era that they represent. The 1930s and ’40s—Depression, end of Prohibition, head-in-the-sand isolationism, and then the all out war effort. Hard times, effervescence, self centricity, bravado. Those qualities are well represented in many linen advertising postcards. They were the poor person’s correspondence—a free card and a penny for the stamp. But they were jolly, extravagant looking, and their exaggerated images hinted at success and blue skies. There was also something personal about each card.

The cards shown here have all of those qualities, although only one is a true-blue linen. They are all advertising cards for downtown hotels that catered to middle class travelers and business people—nothing fancy, but “nice” clientele, and they all show egotistical dreams of glory, towering majestically above their neighbors and Union Square. These postcards were designed to say that “You’re here... at the center of it all... of San Francisco!” The Franciscan and the Crane were dowdy buildings by the 1930s and had little to brag about other than longevity. The Drake Wiltshire, I believe, had been recently built when the card was issued.

The Franciscan card, upper left, is an imitation linen with only slightly textured paper, “Lithographed by Schwabacher-Frey,” an old time San Francisco stationer; the Crane card is a legitimate C.T. Art-Colortone with the fabric finish that makes holding the card a sensual experience; the vertical Drake Wiltshire is also from Curt Teich, but its smooth whiteness seems overly virginal for such tumultuous times. And the “t” inserted in “Wilshire” adds an air of (snubbing LA?) pretentiousness.

As for the personal touch... Growing up in the city I spent many childhood hours chasing pigeons and rolling on the lawns of Union Square while grandparents sat chatting with friends before taking me to the Golden Pheasant.

—LEW BAER
P.S. DAN SAKS REPORTS that at the American Numismatic convention (see calendar) there will be seminars on the PPIE and GGIE. On July 27 at noon, Barbara Gregory will talk on “A Man and His Washing Machine at the 1915 PPIE” and on July 28 at 2 pm, Frank Strazzarino and Michael S. Turrini will talk on “The Magic City: 1939 and 1940 GGIE.” There’ll be a tour of the Old Mint, too.

KATHRYN AYRES suggested printing this message that was forwarded to the club’s web site: “My daughter (age 5 1/2) and I have started a game this summer to collect a postcard from all of the United States and anywhere else we happen to get. It began as the traditional license plate game — then it spun out of control. I don’t know many people outside of VA so getting cards here is a challenge. We are turning this into a learning tool to discover something unique about each state. When we get cards we focus that day around that state. We would be grateful if you could help us by sending us a postcard. Our goal is to have all 50 states by the end of the summer, and we know it requires help from strangers. An added bonus would be if you shared your favorite thing about the state you send. Thanks in advance. Please send postcards to: Claire Beard, 4117 Clintwood Lane, Virginia Beach, VA 23452.”

SUZANNE DUMONT urges us all to see the small exhibit at the Chinese Historical Society of America (965 Clay Street, SF), Trading on Fear: Chinese Images in American Trade Cards, which touches on the darker side of early American advertising. Open afternoons, Tuesday through Sunday, the show will close on July 31. The “double happiness” of Suzanne’s visit was that “the museum is housed in a most unusual, beautiful, and well preserved Julia Morgan building built in 1929-30 as the Chinese YWCA.” While there don’t miss the Chinese in America exhibit.

DARLENE THORNE writes: “After viewing both my English and my Italian ancestors’ names on the Ellis Island Wall of Immigrants, I headed to the book store and found the first copy I’d seen of OAKLAND’S CHINATOWN. When I discovered that it was, indeed, Oakland, California, I bought a copy and read it on the flight home to San Jose. I noticed that club member, Ed Clausen, had supplied some of the earliest images for the book — in postcard form, of course. Seems we are known across the US.”

BOB BOWEN has joined the ranks of published collector-authors with the release by Arcadia of SAN FRANCISCO’S PRESIDIO. In its 128 pages Bob exhibits and comments on almost 200 images of the parklike military base that was here before there was a San Francisco. The Presidio has always been a vital section of the city, and now as part of the GGNRA it is a well preserved and documented historical area. Since its founding in 1776, the Presidio has had a central part in many major events in the city. It was a staging center in the wars against California’s Native Americans and those against Spain and the Philippines. The Presidio served as a vital support and refugee center during and after the events of 1906. Then, in 1915 it was host to a portion of the PPIE. The story of the Presidio and its continuing role in the city’s history, from 1776 to 1994, is shown and told in fascinating detail. Bob will be signing copies at the July meeting.

— LEWIS BAER
SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA POST CARD CLUB
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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CLUB MEETINGS
2005
July 23
August 20
September 24
October 22
November 26