

The McClintock Letter

The official quarterly newsletter of the South Jersey Postcard Club - Serving Postcard Collectors Since 1971
John H. McClintock (1925-2009), Founder

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A Message From Fanwood's First Postmistress

I am always looking for NJ post offices and recently I found this one from Fanwood, in Union County.



The Fanwood post office was designed in the unique Richardsonian Romanesque architectural style, named after Henry Hobson Richardson. The building still stands on the southeast corner of Martine and North Avenues.

Since I already have a view of Fanwood Post Office, I normally would have passed on this one; however, I noticed the message on the back and had to have it:



*Kind friends
Already have I donned my
office garb and am at work
stamping mail. Louise goes
at 6-30 tomorrow with
Clarence to the lake.
Love, Carrie Bettman."*

In researching this first Fanwood Post Office, I discovered it was built



around 1897, and served as the post office and library until 1928. Then I found out that the first Fanwood postmaster (mistress) was Carrie Bettman, a former school teacher, better known to all as "Aunt" Carrie. She served not only as postmaster, but was also the borough's first librarian. And, she authored the postcard's message!

The postcard was mailed by "Aunt" Carrie to friends in Ocean Grove. Re-read her message, then look again at

the back of the postcard. She may have been "at work stamping mail," but she seems to have missed stamping this one - no postmark. Well, at least the card was addressed to "Kind friends" on McClintock Street.

Addressed to "Kind friends" on McClintock St., it's almost as if it was destined to be in **The McClintock Letter!!** Based on the stamp, the postcard was most probably mailed around 1909-1911.

[Editor's note: References on Page 2.]

★★★

"The Strangest Cards"

by Bob Duerholz

Recently I purchased two cards found while I was very quickly searching a miscellaneous category.

What caught my eye was an image of a beautiful woman, adorned in ankle length Victorian dress (below, left). The bottom of the card was captioned "Look out for the." For the what? I didn't understand, so I put it back in the box.

I continued looking and a few cards later found a similar one. This one had a beautiful girl dressed in a Victorian bathing suit. This one's caption was "How would you like to be." Be what? I asked myself.

I went back to the first card, looked at it more carefully then noticed on the top edge, up-side down, were the words "Bogie Man." I thought that's strange. Then I took a second, more inspective look at the bathing beauty card. On its top was printed "The Sandman." OK, so what?

It took another second for me to turn the cards so I could read the tops correctly. And, Voilà! What to my surprise, the Sandman jumped out at me. There he was, hiding, up-side down, in the drawing of the sand dune.

Then with another look at the first card, I soon saw the Bogie Man. He too was hiding - in the woman's dress.

I found them funny and interesting; I had to have them. And now, of course, I'm hooked, trying to find more of these hidden monsters.

Turn this page up-side down to enjoy finding the Sandman and Bogie Man.



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President's Corner

What an amazing spring this is. Winter is finally behind us, and now many of us look forward to the earth renewing itself in full living color. The sounds of the birds and all the other noisy wildlife fill our awaiting ears ready to identify all of our returning friends. Some persons write in text and speak in words, but I see in postcard scenes and think in postcard imagery. What craziness this is! But for me, it is pure joy.

This year is especially joyful. Just last week we brought our annual postcard show and exhibit and the celebration of National Post Card Week back to the origins established by John McClintock. (Don't forget, it is never too late to send postcards to those you love and everyone else you know. NPCW is always the first full week in May; it is a simple little celebration and is a fun way to share our hobby. Be sure some children are on your list.)

Our 2011 show was just terrific! We had new displays showing interesting ways to collect these fun little cards. And I congratulate the competition winners. Many thanks to all the hands involved in making this event the highlight of our postcard year. The organizational details are endless, but it is always a pleasure to participate in this show and all our other club activities too. All our members are interesting collectors who have so much to share, and sharing is what our club is all about. So, looking ahead, I will see you all at the show in 2012, with your new collections, your helping hands, and broad smiles.

Lynn

Our Next Issue Will Be In August

Watch for it in your mailbox from August 8th to the 10th.
 E-mail subscribers will receive it on August 7th.

Upcoming Contest Topics

- May – Working on the house
- June – A card your father would have liked
- July – Sport or game

Editor's Niche

PostcardCollector.com is a relatively new (perhaps two years old) website mastered by Alec Mallard of Michigan. Generally speaking Alec's website was built with the user in mind. It offers discussions, videos, profiles, a calendar and a first-class site-search option.

A recent discussion concerning cards that dealers have sold for very high prices caught my attention. You will find a great story about a real-photo card on Page 3.

Speaking of the Internet, Mickey Smith has found some great sites for postcard collectors. Use them wisely; they could be injurious to your wallet.

Thanks to Doug D'Avino and Bob Duerholz for their articles that lead off this issue on Page 1.

On Pages 5, 6 & 8 you will find articles from contributors as far away as Arkansas. And, don't forget to send your best guess on the Page 7 Mystery Card to your editor.

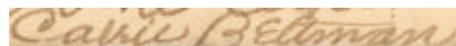
Breakfast & the morning paper ... Just imagine, it's morning, you're one swallow of coffee from starting your day and you have read about all the world's grief, i.e. earthquakes, tsunamis, nuclear explosions, wars in five different places, ever rising gasoline prices, and the never ending antics of New Jersey politicians. At last you turn to the comic pages and you find a cartoon like this one.



Louis targets the stickler market.

I laughed out loud.

I just know the cartoonist had me in mind. "... the stickler market," I'm so glad SJPC has so few members who are "sticklers" and please know that I appreciate the kind words that come my way even when there are misspellings, oops, sorry - misspellings.



References:

1. "Fanwood, Images of America." Fanwood Historical Preservation Commission, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, S.C. © 2004, p. 60-61.
2. Fanwood Fire Company & Borough of Fanwood, a pictorial history, http://www.thejointlibrary.org/archives/books/FanwoodFireCompany/pg_0079.pdf

Remember, this newsletter is available electronically. Send an email to editor@sjpostcard.com with the word SUBSCRIBE in the subject line and your name in the message box.

Join the "GREEN" members of SJPC by saving our club the expense of paper and postage. Thanks.

Prices on eBay Sales of Real Photo Postcards Still Surprise Us

The real photo postcard you see here recently sold on eBay for an amount that surprised even the owner. When I learned of this sale, I emailed her and asked for permission to use her story in our newsletter. Her very kind reply came quickly and I'm going to let you read her story for yourself.



Hi Ray,

Yes, you have my permission to use the image. May I ask if you can kindly send me a copy of the newsletter when it's published? I'd love to see it in print!

I found the postcard this past November of 2010 tucked inside a book at an annual book sale held by the AAUW (American Association of University Women) in Severna Park, Maryland. I was flipping through the book, trying to decide whether to buy it, when I saw the postcard inside. Because the postcard was so interesting, I bought the book for \$8.00 (it was a little higher than most of the books at the sale because it was in the vintage/collectible book area where they place the older books). I bought the book only for the postcard, because the photo postcard was so unusual and I found it appealing.

The book was a signed copy of "Manifest Victory" by J. R. Mosely, a story about the man's spiritual journey. The book was inscribed to "Sister Irene." Irene is most likely the name of the woman in the [picture] showing her quilt embroidered with Bible verses. The postcard was enclosed in an open envelope with Irene's name written on the envelope. She must have inserted her photo postcard in this book long ago and it stayed there until I bought the book.

Within a couple of weeks, the card sold on eBay for \$171.18!

I knew from the start that the image of a quilt would hold some value ... the key to selling old photo postcards for "good" money is to find something in the photo that will appeal to a buyer.

Still, the high amount this brought was a pleasant surprise!

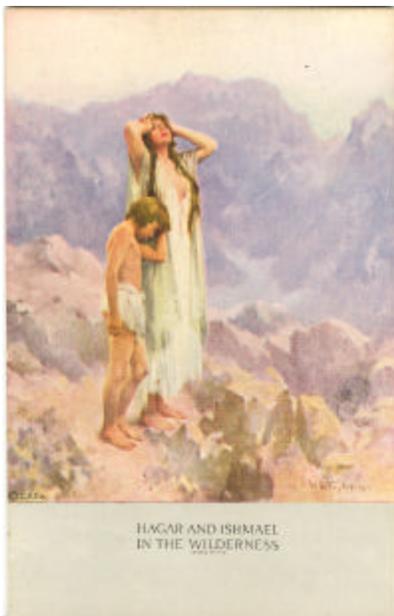
Thanks for your interest in the postcard, Ray. I look forward to seeing the newsletter!

Best, Michele



**W. L. Taylor Postcard Checklist
.. In Progress**

The card you see here is an example of art created by William Ladd Taylor (1854–1926). A checklist of his postcards is in the process of being created for postcard collectors everywhere. Speaking of Taylor, a web site devoted to his biography and art suggests that his is a name to conjure . . . for 30 years, *William Ladd Taylor's paintings and illustrations, featured by the Curtis Publishing Company in their flagship publication, The Ladies' Home Journal, gave shape and form to a wide array of American and literary scenes, as well as extensive Old and New Testament settings.*



From 1895 until his death in 1926, Taylor produced commissions for Curtis's LHMJ, becoming their lead illustrator and a person synonymous with the publication. Through those years *The Journal* featured over eighty works. Curtis also exhibited the originals at their offices in Philadelphia, and they offered Taylor's work in full-size and color reproduction prints. The postcards came by way of the Edward Gross Co., NYC.

Currently no one knows exactly how many of Taylor's paintings were published as postcards, but steps have been taken to contact curators and art historians familiar with him and his work.

Throughout his long career Taylor created hundreds of paintings that can easily be grouped as illustrations for American literature, Longfellow's poetry, New England history, the pioneer west, religious texts, and song books. The example here is one of his religious pictures painted in October 1914 to illustrate "The Story of Hagar and Ishmael in the Wilderness," found in *The Children's Bible* by Charles Foster Kent.

Many more of Taylor's pictures were used in early 20th century reprints of classic American literature and books of poetry by Tennyson and Poe.

We will keep you informed concerning the checklist. If anyone has a particular interest in Taylor, advise your editor that you would like a hard-copy of the list when it is completed. You should make your request by email to ray@rayhahn.com.



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Singer and His Machine – They’re Not Just for Ladies!

By Ray Hahn

Today countless things in life are different than fifty or sixty years ago. Everyone knows this, but while keeping the changing times in mind, I would like you to remember your parents - first your father. If your father was a Chevrolet man, he was loyal to the brand. Throughout his life he had seven, eight, maybe ten of them. There were Chevy men, Ford men and out on the edges of the community there were a few who owned Packards, Hudsons, Studebakers, and Chryslers – these were the men who actually used the church parking lot.

Now think of your mother. She had far fewer choices. She owned a Singer sewing machine because her mother (your grandmother) owned a Singer sewing machine, and so did the lady next door, the lady down the street, and Aunt Helen did too.

In 1834, Walter Hunt built what could have been America’s first sewing machine, but Hunt envisioned his invention causing wide spread unemployment. Realizing what a world of unemployed seamstresses would be like, he lost interest in patenting his work. Twelve years later, Elias Howe had no such qualm when he applied for and received a patent for a “process using thread from two different sources.” Howe’s side-to-side sewing machine worked well but he found neither patronage nor financial support.

As Howe’s machine performed its task, powered by a hand crank, a needle with an eye at the point was pushed through the fabric, thus creating a loop on the other side; a shuttle on a track then slid a second thread through the loop and created a lockstitch. Howe certainly had the concept right, but what he needed was a good lawyer. He soon came under attack from all quarters and for nearly nine years either defended his patent or sued others for patent infringement.



Isaac Singer, c. 1867

At this point, let me drop a name: Isaac Merritt Singer. FYI - Howe won his suit against Singer, and Singer was forced to pay Howe thousands of dollars in royalties, and the story of their sewing machine patent war goes on until Howe died in 1867. After 1867, with his worthy but troublesome adversary out of the picture, Isaac Singer couldn’t be stopped. He had smart lawyers, a cadre of brilliant advertisers, a team of mechanical engineers and a crew of workers who hated him as a person, but were loyal to him for dozens of other reasons.

★ ★ ★

The point here is, Singer was so successful as a manufacturer, distributor and merchandiser that he could claim, almost without contradiction, that his machines were used every place sewing needed to be done. Singer’s success did not come by being first in line, but by being in the right place with a user friendly product that enjoyed a reputation of reliability. The “Singer” could be adapted for home use and was easily available through an installment payment plan. Your mother’s “Singer” was probably the first item in her home purchased on time-payments that was neither a mortgage nor a car payment.

★ ★ ★

If I Say _____; what do you say?

Have you ever played the game “I say; you say?” You remember, if I say “postcard;” you say, “picture.”

Okay, let’s try this. If I say, “a team of World War I German army craftsmen;” you would say, “Singer sewing machine users.” Well, probably not, but, if you did, you would be right. Here’s proof.

This real photo postcard* that the sender dated December 1, 1914, shows a Singer sewing machine and a crew of seven men who appear to be specialized leather workers. Their routine would have been repairing boots, shoes, harnesses, saddles, and even munition slings.

★ ★ ★

Once again a postcard serves as a window to the past and proves that even one hundred years ago that, “Singers were not just for ladies.”



Members of the Craftsman’s Guild of the 4th Reserve Battery, circa 1914

* From the collection of Lynn McKelvey

Online Postcard Stores

Submitted by Mickey Smith

The question is, “Where on the Internet have you found good deals on postcards?” The answer seems to be at the sites on the following list. Each has been evaluated and deemed reliable despite some outlandish claims as to the number of cards for sale, i.e., delcampe.com claims to have more than 25 million.

If you find some good deals at any of these sites, let us know.

delcampe.net	25+ million	ecrater.com	50+ thousand
ebay.com	1.7+ million	us.ebid.net	45+ thousand
bidstart.com	1.2+ million	bonanza.com	40+ thousand
webstore.com	200+ thousand	rubylane.com	+/- 8 thousand
playle.com	130+ thousand	tias.com	+/- 5 thousand
atomicmall.com < 1 thousand			

The Great Locomotive Chase of April 1862

The American Civil War is without a doubt the most studied, talked about, disputed, scrutinized, and unforgettable event since the gavel dropped at the Continental Congress when our forefather told King George III that it was all over between us Americans and his British monarchy.

Contrary to some, but obvious to all, the American Civil War was not about slavery – it was about money – and those who had some, the North, and those who had a lot less, the South. The American Civil War affected the entire world, so with such an inventory of stories, you would think that finding Civil War tales would be easy.

Although there are no soldier memoirs written on postcards, there are cards of memorials and cards made for anniversary occasions. One such is this modern card, found at the



Atlanta Cyclorama where the famous depiction of the 1864 Battle of Atlanta is kept. The Cyclorama is also the home of Engine 49 – *The Texas*. It is one of the locomotives used in the chase of Union soldiers who seized a locomotive named *The General* in Kennesaw, Georgia.

Also known as Andrews's Raid, the story goes like this: at dawn on April 12, 1862, the first Union soldiers arrived in north Georgia. Their presence soon led to an exciting locomotive chase – the only one of the Civil War. The adventure lasted just seven hours, involved about two dozen men, and as a military operation, ended in failure.

Just days earlier Northern forces advancing on Huntsville, Alabama, failed to secure the rail station at Chattanooga, Tennessee. A remedy was for Union general Ormsby Mitchel to accept an offer from James J. Andrews, a civilian spy, contraband merchant, and trader between the lines, to lead a raiding party behind Rebel lines to Atlanta, steal a locomotive, and race northward, destroying track, telegraphy lines, and maybe some bridges near Chattanooga. The raid was aimed to knock out the Western and Atlantic Railroad, which supplied Confederate forces at Chattanooga.

On April 7th, Andrews with twenty-two volunteers from three Ohio infantry regiments, and one civilian, all in plain clothes, slipped through the lines to Chattanooga and entrained to Marietta, Georgia.

On the morning of April 12, when Andrews's party boarded the northbound train, they traveled eight miles to Big Shanty (near present-day Kennesaw). The site was chosen for the train jacking because it had no telegraph. While crew and passengers ate breakfast, the raiders uncoupled most of the cars, and by about 6 AM they steamed out of Big Shanty with a locomotive named *General*, a tender, and three empty boxcars.

Pursuit began immediately when three railroad men ran after the locomotive. Two of the three, Anthony Murphy and William Fuller, persisted in their chase for the next seven hours and over eighty-seven miles. First suspecting the train thieves to be Confederate deserters, the pursuers acquired a locomotive at Etowah Station. Aware they were being chased, Andrews's men cut the telegraphy wires and pried up rails, but the chase continued. The thieves tried to burn the bridge at the Oostanaula River, but the pursuers were so close that at Tilton *General* could take on only a little water and wood. At about 1 PM it ran out of steam two miles north of Ringgold, with the Southerners, aboard the *Texas*, fast

upon them. The Confederates rounded up the raiders, Andrews among them, and days later, all were tried as spies and executed in Atlanta.

Though it created a sensation at the time, the Andrews Raid had no military effect. The train thieves were hailed in the North as heroes. The soldier-raiders received the Medal of Honor.

In the postwar years the raiders were remembered in thrilling recollections by several witnesses and the escapade made its way onto film three times: first in a silent film starring Buster Keaton, then *The General* (1927), and Walt Disney's *The Great Locomotive Chase* (1956).



The Chicago – Detroit Bag Company - where the science of Bagology was invented



The Marquette Building: the Chicago plant and office of the Chicago-Detroit Bag Company – a RPPC, circa 1911

The modern shopper doesn't miss getting their purchase from a cashier in a bag until you find yourself in a store that has exhausted its supply of bags or does not provide them.

Product packaging has changed a great deal over the years, but with a little research you would learn that the basic concept of wrapping or bagging a purchase goes back to ancient times. However, in America bags for purchases began to appear only in the middle of the 19th century.

The idea of bag manufacturing came from an Ohioan named George Dana Adams. Adams was born in 1863 and by age 16 he had begun his career. His success as a businessman made it possible for him to organize the Cleveland-Akron Bag Company in 1895, of which he became president and treasurer, and throughout the next three decades he opened the Buffalo Bag Company in Buffalo (NY), The Boston Mills Company in Boston, Ohio, and the Chicago-Detroit Bag Company in Goshen, Indiana, as seen on the postcard above.

Adams's companies were the sole American manufacturers of products such as **Saxolin**, which was used to make paper-lined sanitary cotton flour sacks or open-mesh produce bags; **Pro-Tex**, a material used to waterproof bags made of paper, cotton or burlap; and **Stikgum**, an adhesive tape used for sealing packages wrapped in brown kraft paper.

Do you remember buying tires during times when a tire store or garage sold you tires that came with a paper wrapping? It was Adams's company that made that reinforced "tire" tape that helped keep a tire's shape until it was inflated. Other products included tents, awnings and many canvas specialties.

Alligator Border Postcards

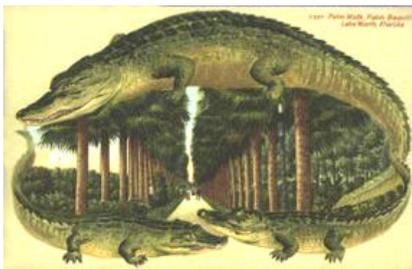
By John S. Adams

From about 1908 to 1915, the Samuel Langsdorf Company of New York City published a series of postcards commonly referred to as alligator borders. This series of postcards is distinctive with three alligators framing each scene. There are 165 different cards in this series, sequentially numbered S 500 through S 664, and most of them are scenes of Florida sights. There are also 29 images with the title *Greetings from the Sunny South* and these images are Black Americana, cotton, or tobacco industry themed.

Langsdorf produced many beautiful series of postcards in the early 20th century, including the well known shell borders, lobster borders, military series, state women series (including the silk dress and puzzle variations), and many holiday postcards, however, today the alligator border cards are the most popular.

The cards vary in price from \$50 to \$600+ in excellent condition. The cards from the St. Augustine area are the most common and lowest priced. St. Augustine was the most popular tourist destination at the time the series was produced, and the cards from there sold very well and must have been produced in great numbers.

All of the Black Americana cards are in the \$150+ range. While the Black Americana cards are always popular and pricey, they are not the rarest cards in the series. The rarest locations are the Tampa, Palatka, and Ormond area cards. There is also a card with a picture of a St. Johns River steamer, the *Crescent*, which is one of the rarest.



Card No. S 527 – Lake Worth, Florida

This series of postcards is a “tour” of early Florida. Many of the scenes are related to the investments of Henry Morrison Flagler, the “father” of Florida tourism. Flagler gained his wealth as a partner of John D. Rockefeller in the Standard Oil Company. He traveled to Jacksonville in the winter of 1876 to comfort his sickly wife with the warmer weather. The hotel and transportation options were very limited at that time, and Flagler saw the business potential of attracting wealthy northerners to the

warm winters. In 1885 he built his first hotel in St. Augustine and later developed the Florida East Coast Railway through acquisitions and new construction. This railway was completed to Key West in 1912, making it possible for Flagler to develop many areas along the east coast of Florida.

There are 19 cards in the series that are scenes of Flagler’s properties. There are eight cards of Flagler’s hotels in St. Augustine: the Ponce de Leon, Alcazar, and Cordova.



Card No. S 549 – Ponce de Leon Hotel

Four cards show views of the magnificent Royal Poinciana Hotel in Palm Beach, and there are two views each of the Hotel Ormond in Ormond and the Royal Palm Hotel in Miami. Whitehall, Flagler’s winter estate in Palm Beach, is pictured. (Whitehall now serves as home to The Henry Morrison Flagler Museum.)



Card No. S 555 – Presbyterian Church

Flagler built the Memorial Presbyterian Church in St. Augustine in 1890 as a memorial to his daughter who died from complications of childbirth and Flagler himself was entombed there in 1913.

Another Flagler property is the steamship, *S.S. Miami*. This ship was part of the fleet of Flagler’s Florida East Coast Steamship Company that provided daily service between Miami and Nassau.

In addition to the beauty, quality of printing and embossing, and uniqueness of the series, simple research of the views is very interesting. The Flagler story is important in Florida history and fascinating to anyone familiar with Florida’s tourist sites. The Black Americana cards are unusual, and the images in their time must have

reflected an exotic lifestyle for many northerners. However, nothing in the series is as quirky as *The Museum* in St. Augustine pictured on card S 550. The curious reader should search the Internet for its original namesake: *Vedder Museum & Menagerie* or *Vedder’s Genuine Curiosity Store*.

★ ★ ★

My fascination with this series of postcards is reflected in the picture that decorates my fireplace mantel, a 3 foot by 5 foot enlargement of card S 541 – *On the Oklawaha River*, which pictures a river steambot making its way down a tropical palm-lined river. This is truly a daydreamer’s paradise on canvas.



John Adams lives in Arkansas. He recently published *Alligator Border Postcards – a Tour of Early Florida and the Sunny South*. It is available through John at jsadams59@aol.com.



Wissahicken Drive, Philadelphia



August 31, 1904

Breakfast in Hollywood

Listen to Tom Breneman's *Breakfast in Hollywood*, Monday through Friday Over the American Broadcasting Company

I've had more fun examining this card, found in a 25¢ box of Louise Wile's at a recent club meeting, than some others for which I've paid a hundred times twenty-five cents. Let me explain.

First, I recognized Mischa Auer as an actor, but had no idea what his name was. I googled him and found he is buried in Gloversville, New York, a city I know well, in a cemetery that I have visited on at least two occasions.

Second, I had heard the name Tom Breneman, but had no idea what he looked like. So, I googled him too and found that his name was not Breneman, but Smith. He was a very successful radio personality and had millions of listeners. His program was broadcast on four networks and very recognizable Hollywood personalities, such as W. C. Fields, Jimmy Durante, Andy Devine, and Orson Welles were frequent guests. The completely unscripted program had numerous sponsors, including Kellogg's cereals, Ivory Soap, Planters Peanuts, Aunt Jemima, Minute Man Soups and Alpine Coffee. Breneman died unexpectedly in 1948 at the age of 46, but he is remembered with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Third, *Breakfast in Hollywood* was a radio program that I knew about, for I think I remember hearing a broadcast or two when I was a boy. I think it was broadcast at 11 AM, on WFIL from Philadelphia. Anyone know for sure?

Next, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, commonly known as the March of Dimes was created by President Roosevelt in 1938 as a national organization devoted to helping victims of polio. Those who remember (or have studied) FDR know that he was our only president who suffered from polio and by his efforts and with his generous support of medical research a cure for the disease was discovered by Dr. Jonas Salk, albeit it came ten years after Mr. Roosevelt died.

It has been suggested that because of FDR's death in April 1945 that the fund raising campaign for the March of Dimes that year was the most successful to that time. 18.9 million dollars were raised – this is a published fact, and as hard as it might be to believe most of it was sent to the White House in one way – in the form of dimes, often taped to a piece of paper, through the U.S. Mail. However, other contributions and collections of dimes came from celebrity personalities, such as Eddie Cantor and Tom Breneman.

My postcard commemorates one such collection. The card was published by Kellogg's Company and the caption reads, "Mischa Auer, Tom Breneman and 523,000 *Breakfast in Hollywood* contributors to the March of Dimes."

BTW: The two guys in the picture look pretty relaxed while dumping dimes out of a bank-bag. It appears Breneman isn't exerting any more effort than pouring a cup of coffee, but do you have any idea how heavy 523,000 dimes are? Well, just for fun, I did some fancy arithmetic and learned the answer is an astonishing 46,334½ pounds. Yeah, try mailing that to the White House.

★ ★ ★

This card is part of a 14 card set, published by Kellogg's of Battle Creek. Each card is a *Breakfast in Hollywood* photograph and the cards could be purchased at the studio. If you purchased the complete set, it came in a manila envelope with the Kellogg's logo in the return address space.

A checklist follows:

1. The Breakfast in Hollywood Gang
2. Tom Breneman's restaurant across from Hollywood's Radio City.
3. Tom Breneman with Uncle Corny
4. Tom Breneman with Bob Hope
5. Carmen Miranda and Tom Breneman
6. Mischa Auer, Tom Breneman
7. Tom Breneman with the all-time oldest guest
8. Eddie Cantor and Tom Breneman
9. Tom Breneman and guests (servicemen's party)
10. Frances Scully, Irene Rich, Tom Breneman, Sonja Henie
11. California Arm-Roy Orchid, Make-up kit, Wishing ring (pictures of gifts to studio audience).
12. The Brenemans outside their Encino home
13. Orchids to you
14. The Mad Hatter

**Page 7 Mystery Card**

You can win this 73 year old linen postcard mailed in Miami, Florida, on January 31, 1938, if you can answer one simple question.



This picture of Spanish moss hanging in cypress trees was quite common in the era of this linen card. Air pollution has killed much of the moss these days, but it was once a sure sign that the traveler had reached the sunny south.

Due to its propensity for growing in humid southern locales the plant is often associated with southern Gothic imagery.

One such story takes place in South Carolina where in the mid-1700s a traveler came with his Spanish fiancée to start a plantation near Charleston. The beautiful bride-to-be had long flowing raven colored hair. As they walked the plantation site near the forest, making plans for their future, they were suddenly attacked by the Cherokee Indians who were not happy to share the land with strangers. As a warning to stay away, the Cherokee cut off the long dark hair of the bride-to-be and threw it up into an old live oak tree.

The American colonials had many uses for Spanish moss after it was combed and steamed to remove insects. To win this card: What was the most common colonial era use for Spanish moss? Send your answer to ray@rayhahn.com.

A Series – My Reflections on the Presidents and the Health Crises They Faced ... by William Reynolds

John Fitzgerald Kennedy

The very image of a youthful, energetic John F. Kennedy brings back fond memories of *Camelot* in the White House. Whether he was photographed playing touch football with his family or sailing off the coast of the family compound in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, John Kennedy had the appearance of being in excellent health.



JFK Presidential Portrait
by Aaron Shiker, 1970

Throughout his early life, JFK seemed an unlikely prospect for national and international leadership. He was a frail little boy and almost died at the age of three from scarlet fever. In his formative years, young Kennedy faced many health challenges. In fact, there was a joke within the family that said if a mosquito should bite Jack, the mosquito would surely die. Among the maladies Kennedy faced were diphtheria, hives, an irritable colon, a weak stomach that required a bland diet, and an array of allergies and asthma.

At 13, John complained to his mother of blurriness and color blindness in his right eye. The following year, he underwent an appendectomy, had his tonsils and adenoids removed, came down with jaundice, and finally a severe case of pneumonia. He also lost part of his hearing in his left ear.

Kennedy was forced to leave the London School of Economics when he came down with a second bout of jaundice so severe that it required hospitalization. His medical problems followed him home. When he returned to the United States for his enrollment at Harvard, a bad case of the flu prevented him from making the swim team. At age 23, he developed a case of urethritis which recurred with some

frequency throughout the remainder of his life.

His bladder and prostate difficulties were so bad that, on the eve of his marriage in 1953, he feared that he may not be able to have children.

During his World War II stint in the Navy, Kennedy's PT boat was sliced in half by a Japanese destroyer. JFK and ten others clung to the wreckage for some fifteen hours, before drifting to an island and eventually being rescued. As a result of this experience, he aggravated his already crippled back and contracted malaria. Later, a claim was made that the long exposure and the effort to survive had caused lasting damage to his adrenal glands.

Returning to Massachusetts in early 1946, Kennedy embarked on his first political campaign. He entered a crowded primary for nomination to the US House of Representatives. During the campaign's final event, a parade in Charlestown, Kennedy collapsed, but his perseverance and charisma carried the day, and he won the election to Congress.

The following year, while on a trip to London, Congressman Kennedy became so seriously ill with weakness, nausea, vomiting and low blood pressure that he was given the last rites of the Catholic church. The physician examining him diagnosed his condition as Addison's Disease, and told one of Kennedy's friends that he had less than a year to live.

Journalist Arthur Krock, however, remembered being told by Joseph Kennedy, even before his son first ran for Congress in 1946 that Jack had Addison's and was probably dying.

[Great controversy still abounds as to whether President Kennedy suffered from Addison's Disease, and that is a story for another time, but much more commonly known was the fact that] Kennedy suffered with severe back problems. His first back surgery in 1945 was followed by a second in October 1954. Then in February 1955 there was a third operation needed to remove a metal plate that was not functioning as a successful treatment.

For the remainder of his life, he suffered intense pain, complicated by local infections and abscesses that required draining and constant treatment.

By mid-1960, as Democratic Party delegates convened in Los Angeles for the national nominating convention, Kennedy was on the verge of

capturing his long sought prize. But, at the eleventh hour, Kennedy and his campaign team were bombarded with questions concerning a possible affliction of Addison's Disease.

Responding to the attacks, the Kennedy campaign issued a press release that stated: *John F. Kennedy does not now nor has he ever had an ailment described classically as Addison's Disease, which is a tubercular destruction of the adrenal gland. Any statement to the contrary is malicious and false.*"

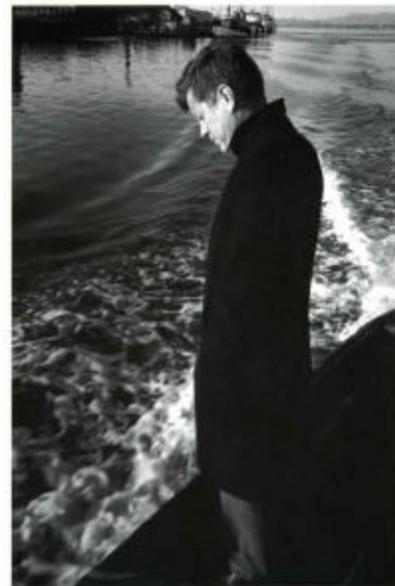
Whispers about the Senator's health died down as he went on to wage a vigorous, cross-country campaign. With every campaign appearance, the candidate displayed an image of youthful vitality.

We know now that Kennedy's Addison's disclaimer was true, proven in part by autopsy photographs taken at Park Lane Hospital in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963.

Today, nearly a half century after the president's assassination, historians and medical specialists are still trying to unravel the medical mysteries of our 35th president.



Presidents on Postcards



[Your editor's favorite Kennedy postcard comes from the campaign trail instead of the White House. The card above is from a photograph taken of Senator Kennedy while campaigning in 1959 at Coos Bay Oregon.]

In our next issue Mr. Reynolds' series concludes as he tells us about the health cares of President Johnson and President Reagan.