



# THE WEBFOOTER

**Celebrating 44 Years**

"Every subject known to man can be found on a post card" -- Club Motto

**ESTABLISHED 1966**

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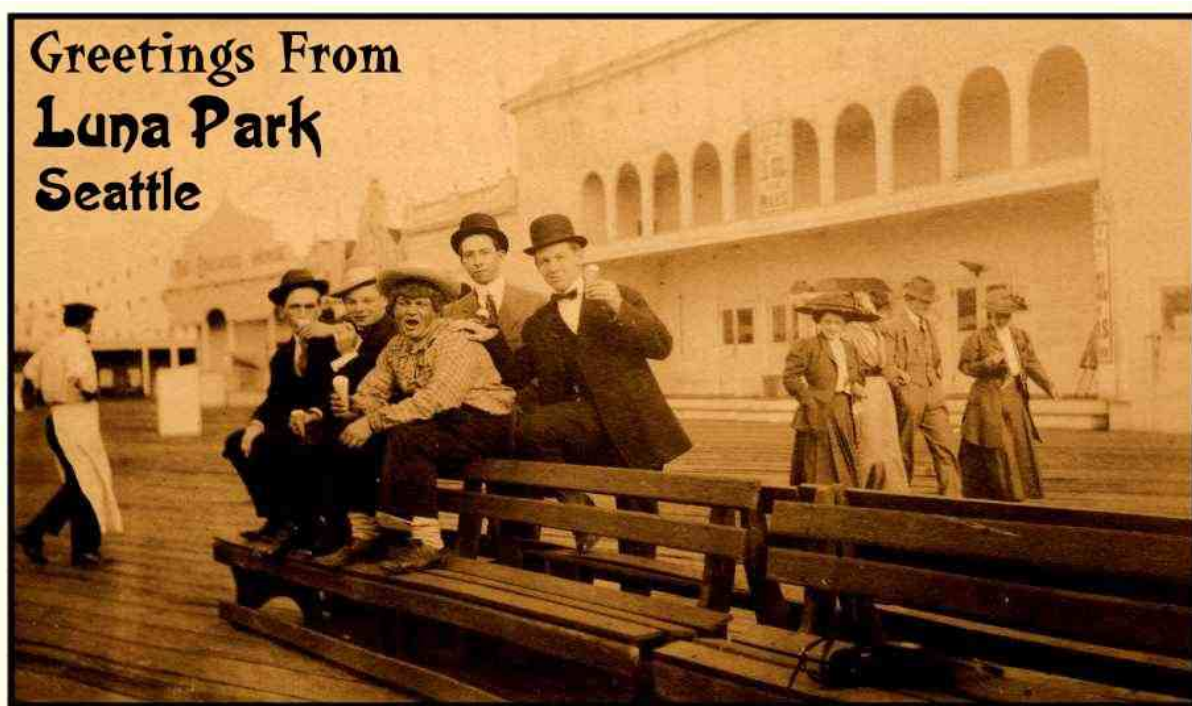
July 2010



## Luna Park Seattle



**The Greatest Amusement Park in the West**



- ◆ See "Luna Park – The Greatest Amusement Park in the West" on Page 3.
- ◆ See Member News on page 2. See Sara Lyon's NPCW postcard on page 9.

**Next Meeting – July 17, 2010**

At Russellville Grange – 12105 NE Prescott Street

10 am to 3:30 pm



Now Located at:

## FARMHOUSE ANTIQUES

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See Janice on Tuesdays

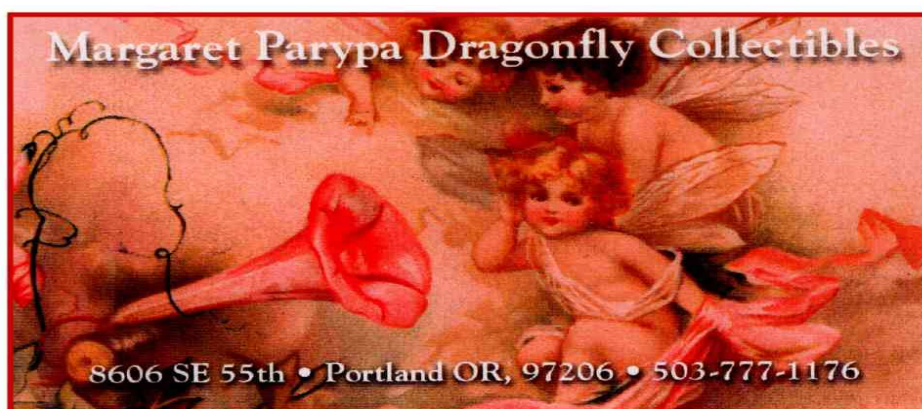
8028 SE 13th Avenue

Portland OR 97202

503-232-6757

**Also in Farmhouse Antiques in Sellwood**

**8028 SE 13th Avenue**



(paid advertisements)

## Member News

It is with much sadness that we report the passing of longtime Webfooter Mary Patterson, No. 989, on June 18, 2010. Mary loved her postcards, trade cards and Victorian scrap and so did we. Mary was one of a handful of full-time postcard dealers in the Northwest. She regularly traveled to the east coast, to the New York shows and to England to shop for her loyal customers. Mary was always willing to share her enthusiasm for and knowledge about postcards and ephemera. She will be missed greatly.

# "The Greatest Amusement Park in the West ..."



## Luna Park Seattle



by Mark Moore



Luna Park is shown here at low tide where it was built on the tide flats along Duwamish Head, not far from where Seattle's first settlers landed in 1851 at Alki Point. The streetcar tracks are on the pier to the left and the Seattle Municipal Railway would drop off passengers at the Luna Park spire entrance. Pilings were driven deep into the tide flats to allow the park to be built out over the water, like most amusement parks, which were very popular early in the 20th Century.

Amusement parks came into being in 1895 when Sea Lion Park opened at Coney Island in New York. Bringing pleasure to the masses, amusement parks represented a taste of the future. This new phenomenon came to every major city when many Americans still used horses and buggies to travel from the farm to the city.

People could live out the thrills of their fantasies by experiencing the laws of gravity and mechanical simulations. While telephones were still rare in most homes and electricity was fairly scarce in rural America, a lot of new inventions were about to be born. Nearly every big town had at least one amusement park. Electric companies built the trolley systems that transported the masses to the trolley parks that were built at the end of the line.

In Portland, The Oaks opened in 1905 and Seattle decided to build Luna Park in West Seattle, west of Alki Point. Luna Park opened in Seattle in 1907 and it operated until 1913.





The Entrance to Luna Park in Seattle was framed by two towering spires.

Construction of Luna Park began in 1906 under the direction of Charles I.D. Looff, who was famous for his intricate carvings of wooden horses and other animals used on Carousels he created at Coney Island, in San Francisco and in Europe. He carved and installed the first Carousel at Coney Island.



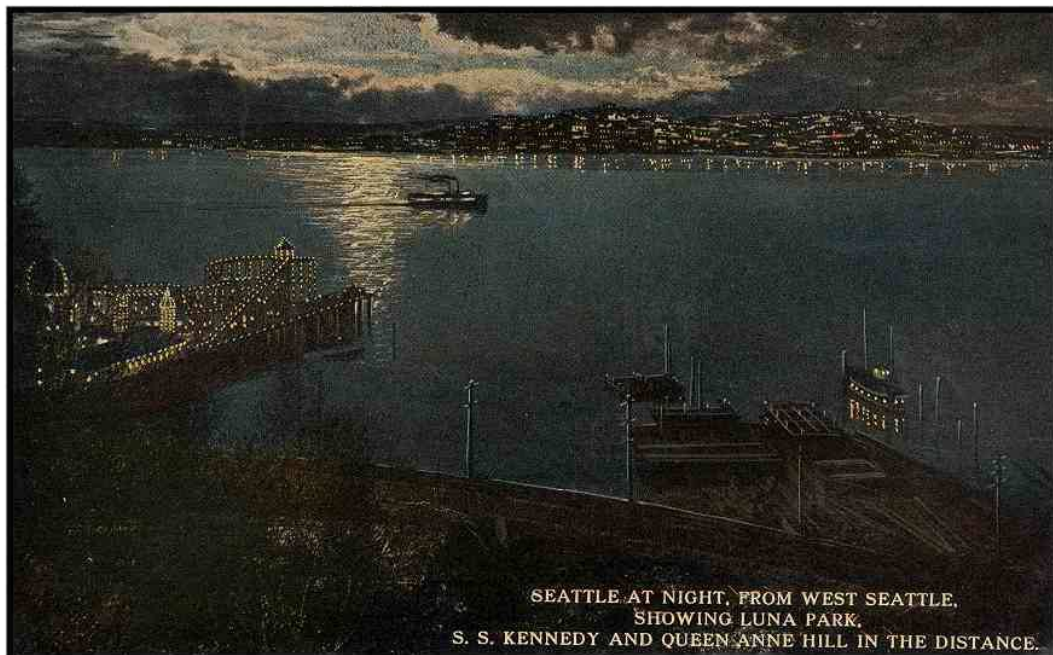
The Looff Carousel was originally built in 1906 for the city of San Francisco, but because of the earthquake and fire, it was sent to Seattle instead. The four-row Looff Carousel formerly at Luna Park Seattle is now operating at Yerba Buena Gardens in San Francisco, California.



After Luna Park in Seattle closed, the Looff Company moved the Carousel to San Francisco in 1914 where it operated at Playland at the Beach. When Playland was demolished in 1972, the carousel was sold and moved to Roswell, New Mexico, where it sat in storage for several years. The carousel was restored in the late 1970s and leased to operators in Long Beach, California where it remained until several years ago. It was sold to the city of San Francisco where it operates today.



Rides and amusements spread out over 12 acres on the pier at Luna Park; there was the Figure 8 Roller Coaster, a Carousel, the Shoot-the-Chutes, the Water Slide, a Giant Whirl, the Joy Wheel, the Cave of Mystery, the Trocadero Theatre, the Dreamland Theatre and other rides common to amusement parks of the day.

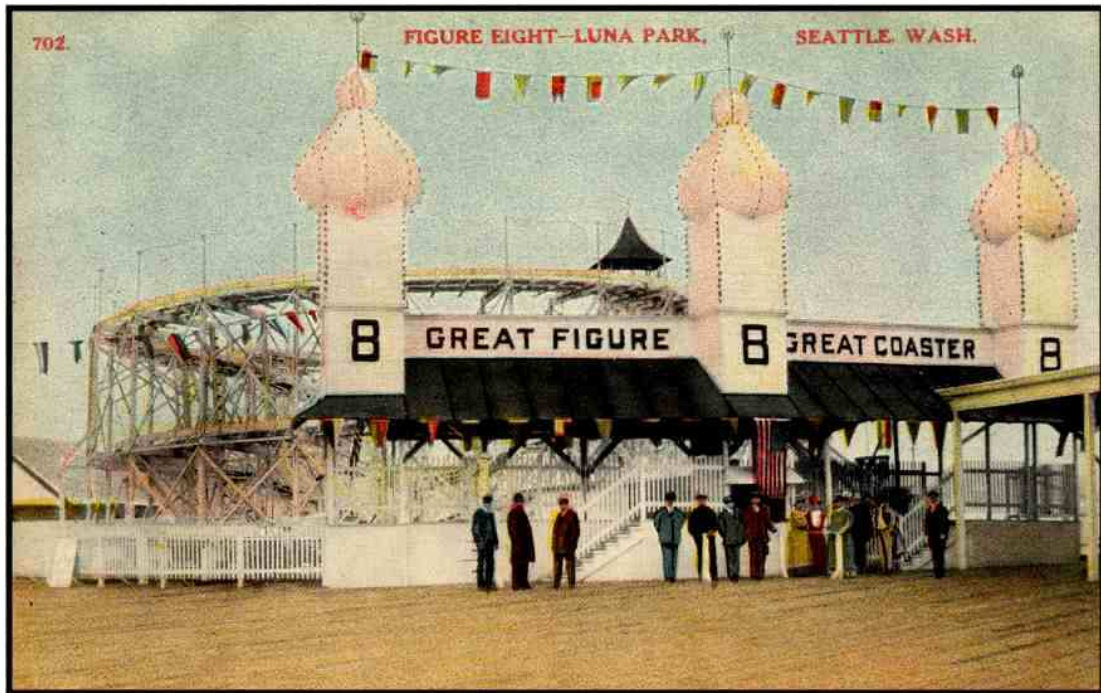


Shining as a glittering jewel, Luna Park lit up the night along the northern tip of West Seattle where it was visible from downtown Seattle across Elliott Bay. A short ferry ride was all it took to reach the magic kingdom known as “the Coney Island of Seattle.”



Luna Park was accessible via the West Seattle ferry, or the Seattle Municipal Railway's Luna Park Line. During evening hours, the park was brilliantly illuminated, with each building and ride outlined in light bulbs. Because of its extravagant lighting scheme, the park could be seen for miles and it was billed as a safe nighttime destination for women and children.

Luna Park hosted daily acts, including Uncle Hiram the Clown and Don Carlo's Trained Monkey and Dog Circus, as well as the "Original Human Ostrich." The park featured a live bear pit, as well as several transitory exhibits such as baby incubators. The park was also host to a variety of concessions and games of chance such as shooting galleries and ball tosses.



The Great Figure Eight Roller Coaster was one of Luna Park's more popular rides.

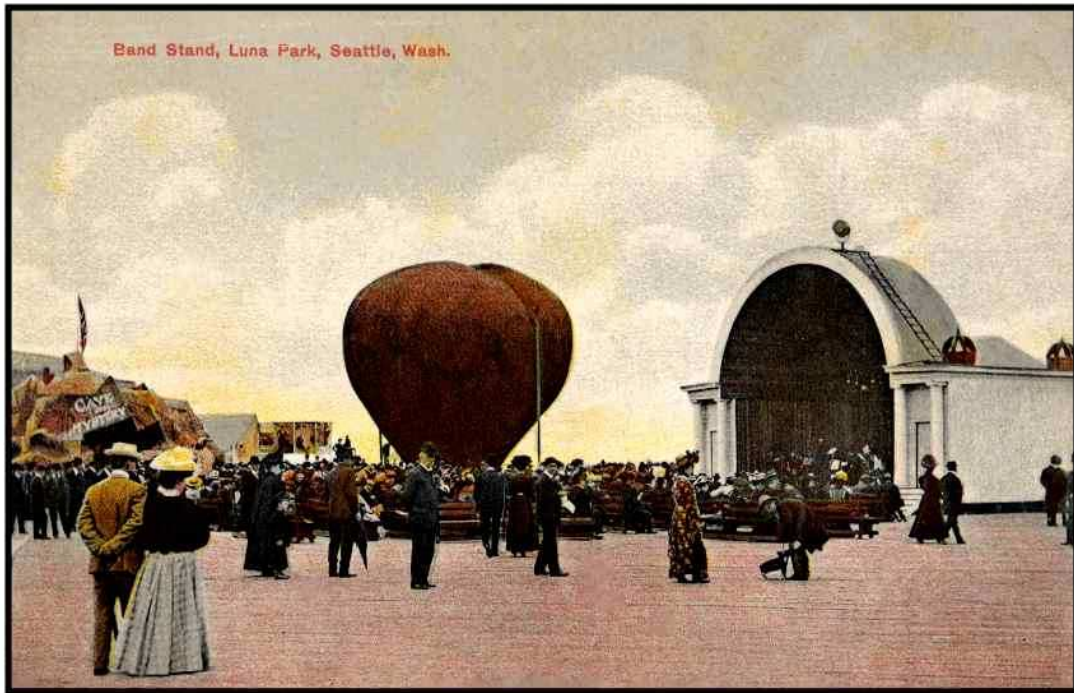


One of the park's most prominent structures was its Natatorium, which housed heated saltwater and freshwater swimming pools.



At night there was Christinsen's Dancing Pavilion, which proved to be a popular place for the young, affluent throngs that were attracted to the growing metropolis of Seattle and its suburbs.

On July 4th, 1908, Luna Park became the site of Seattle's first manned flight. L. Guy Mecklem, Washington's "Wild Scotsman," launched his airship from the park, racing two automobiles a distance of ten miles to the Meadows Racetrack in Georgetown. In the much-heralded event, Mecklem beat the automobiles with two minutes to spare. Mecklem housed his aircraft at Luna Park for a short time afterward, charging visitors ten cents each to view it.



Balloon rides were also popular at Luna Park. You can see the entrance to the Cave of Mystery on the left and the bandstand is on the right.



From the left you can see the Chutes, the Canals of Venice, the Giant Whirl and the bandstand.





Duwamish Head at the mouth of the Duwamish River towers over the Midway at Luna Park in West Seattle. "Duwamish" comes from a Chinook word "duwampsh," meaning "many-colored river," and it was one of the first names proposed for the city that is now Seattle.



View of the midway at Luna Park showing the Trocadero Theatre.

Luna Park was home to the largest and best-stocked bar on Elliott Bay. Shortly after the park opened, the more open-minded town of West Seattle was annexed into Seattle and Luna Park found itself at the center of controversy and the politics of morality. Under the gloom of muckraking and scandal, the jewel of West Seattle began to fade.






In 1913, Luna Park closed, and its rides and amusements were disassembled and removed. No more glittering lights on Elliott Bay, no more strains of calliope music on summer nights. The Natatorium continued to operate, however, changing its name to Luna Pool. In 1931, Luna Pool caught fire and all remains of Luna Park were destroyed in an arsonist's blaze.

Approximately once a decade, the tides of Elliott Bay fall back to their lowest levels. When they do, the tide flats are exposed and the rows of pilings that once supported Luna Park are brought to light. Then the high tides return, and once again Luna Park fades into the past.

See the full color version of this newsletter at [www.thewebfooters.com](http://www.thewebfooters.com)




## National Postcard Week

May 2-8, 2010

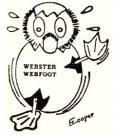
**POSTCARDS PRESERVE MEMORIES!**

**SARA J LYON**  
 7734 Nottingham Ct. SE  
 Olympia, WA 98503

from an Old Family  
Postcard Album



National Post Card Week Postcard submitted by Sara Lyon, Webfooter no. 31.



## Club Officers

President/Editor.....	Mark Moore
Vice President.....	Tony Roberts
Secretary.....	Maggie Parypa
Treasurer.....	Arne Soland
Membership Chairman.....	Krissy Durden
Directors.....	Irene Adams and Phyllis Palmer
Historian.....	Joe Macdonald
Librarian.....	Steve Kuryk



## Calendar

**July 14 – Webfooters Board Meeting at Elmer’s Restaurant (no host)**  
10001 NE Sandy Blvd – 6:30 pm (Board Meetings held every other month)

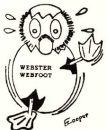
**July 17 – Webfooters Post Card Club Meeting at Russellville Grange**  
12105 NE Prescott St near 122nd & Sandy Blvd – 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

**August 21 – Webfooters Post Card Club Meeting at Russellville Grange**  
12105 NE Prescott St near 122nd & Sandy Blvd – 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

**For the latest news, visit our website:**



[www.thewebfooters.com](http://www.thewebfooters.com)



## WEBFOOTERS POST CARD CLUB

PO Box 17240

Portland OR 97217-0240



**See Page 3 for Mark Moore’s “Luna Park,  
The Greatest Amusement Park in the West.”**