



THE WEBFOOTER

**SINCE 1966 ~ THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
WEBFOOTERS POST CARD CLUB IN PORTLAND, OREGON**

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

www.thewebfooters.com

Volume 42

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September 2008

A tribute to Edouard Pecourt



Edouard Pecourt and Jocelyn Howells celebrating his 83rd birthday on March 15, 2008.

➡ See page 4 for a tribute to Edouard Pecourt

➡ See page 6 for Maggie Parypa's

Hometown History of Baltimore, Maryland

Next Meeting – September 20, 2008

At Russellville Grange – 12105 NE Prescott Street

10:00 am to 4:00 pm – Card sales to begin at 10:30



President's Corner

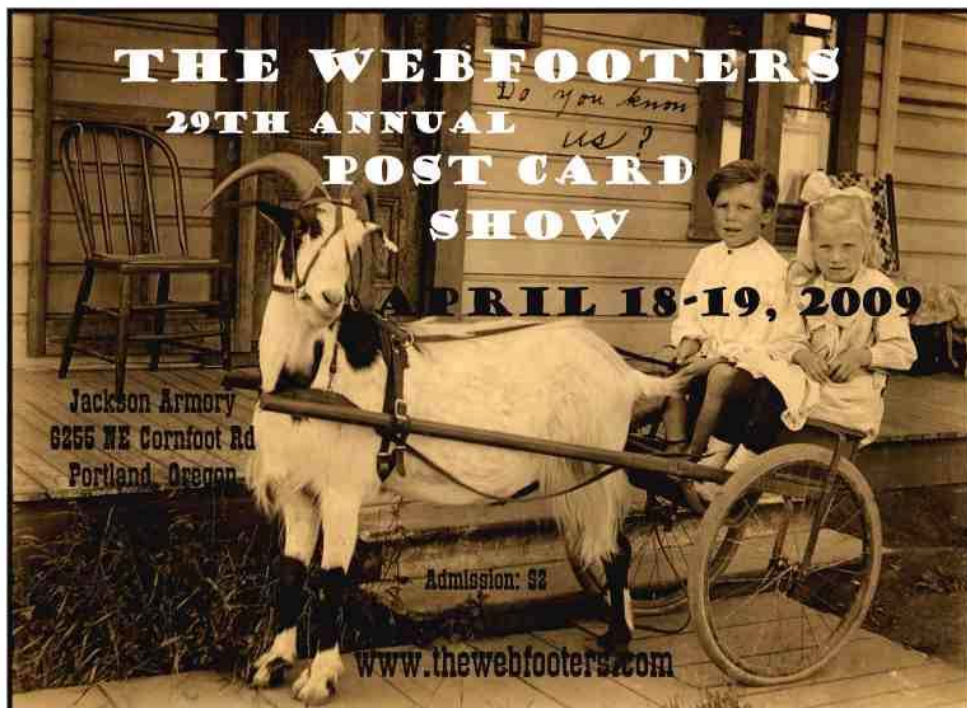
Changes are on the horizon for postcard collecting. In October, eBay will stop allowing people to purchase items by check or money order. All purchases must be made using a debit or credit card through PayPal, which is owned by eBay. Dealers pick up the tab for its costs. One of eBay's largest postcard dealers, and a former Webfooter, Steve Nies, will be moving to Delcampe.com and other less expensive sites where he has over 83,000 postcards listed. Many other dealers have quit selling or moved to other sites as well.

Many dealers have found that eBay's ever changing policies, higher costs and lower profit margins make it difficult to sell successfully on eBay. After the Postal Service increased postage this last time, many dealers have tried to make up for lower profit margins by charging as much as \$4 to mail a post card that sells for \$5. Speaking as a former eBay seller, I found that each item takes about an hour to list, sell and ship. For that hour of my time, I made about a dollar on a \$5-\$10 sale. If I had accepted PayPal payments, I would have had to pay that dollar to PayPal.

With the state of the economy and the increased postage costs, there are far fewer buyers on eBay than there were even 2 or 3 years ago. Dealers are realizing less on their sales since there are fewer bidders. Some dealers end up selling an item for less than they paid for it, so the landscape at eBay is drastically different than it was several years ago.

F + W Publishing recently sent notices that they will publish the final issue of *Postcard Collector* in November. It is ceasing publication after 26 years. Ten days later, they have changed their mind and decided that the current issue (Sept.-Oct.) is their last. If you want a refund on your subscription, you must contact them and request it. Locally, *Old Stuff News* is now publishing quarterly instead of every other month.

One of the most important positions on The Webfooters Board is the Membership Chair which will be vacant at the end of this year. We will need to find someone who can step in to fill this important position for The Club in the coming year. Our Membership Chair helps us grow and add new members, and they help to collect dues from existing members. Without someone filling this position, we may not be able to keep the club operating. Who will step forward to fill this important position?





**Northwest Collectibles Presents
The Largest Antique Paper Shows in the Northwest**

**The Greater Portland
Postcard, Stamp & Paper
Collectibles Show**

October 18 and 19, 2008

Kliever Armory

10000 NE 33rd Drive
Portland, OR

**Old Postcards, Photographs, Stereo View Cards, Books,
Stamps, Valentines, Matchbooks, Magazines, Prints,
Maps, Trade Cards, Movie Posters & Much More!**

Early Bird Show Hours:

Saturday: 8 - 10 am
Admission: \$20 (Also good Sunday 10-4)

Regular Show Hours:

Saturday: 10 am - 6 pm
Sunday: 10 am - 4 pm
Admission: \$5 (Good for Saturday & Sunday)

Upcoming Shows:

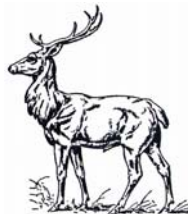
**Portland Oregon
at Kliever Armory
February 28 and March 1, 2009**

**Kent Washington
at Kent Commons
February 21 and 22, 2009**

Call or Write:

Terry Weis
2400 NE Red Sunset Dr Apt 234
Gresham, OR 97030-3187
503-679-4755

Jeremy LeRoque
PO Box 217
Temple City, CA 91780-0217
626-665-9435



www.postcardshows.com

FREE APPRAISALS

(paid advertisement)



A tribute to Edouard Pecourt



Most of us will remember Edouard Pecourt, member number 749, as a quiet and gentle man, always ready with a quick smile. Unfortunately, many of us didn't know that much about him until after he died. Edouard died peacefully on July 27, 2008, at age 83 after battling lymphoma for 1-1/2 years. Edouard Pecourt was born on March 15, 1925 in Paris. For the first seven years, his life was fairly good, until his father was killed. His mother was not able to care for him and he ended up in a rough, very strict school for orphan boys in 1934. He was there in 1940, when the Nazis invaded France and he was forced to go hungry. One winter, he lived only on rutabagas.

In 1942, at age 17, Edouard left school, married his first wife, and began repairing shoes. One of his customers asked him if he wanted to repair fountain pens. By the time Edouard was 18, he had his own fountain pen factory and he would sell his pens at open air flea markets. In 1949, while he was selling fountain pens at an open air market, he met a woman who sold Arabic records. She asked him if he wanted to sell 78 rpm records at the flea markets along with his pens. Edouard soon discovered tango music and it became the center of his life. He even taught himself Argentine Spanish.

About that time, Edouard's first wife left him and his two children, aged 3 and 5. Caring for the two children became too difficult for him and he sent them to live with a friend who was like a brother. Edouard later married an Englishwoman and they divorced a few years later. In 1954, when he was 28 years old, he bought the Paris record shop, La Boite A Disques. It was there he became the contact for Argentine tango musicians in Paris. He became good friends with tango composers and songwriters, and especially the great Astor Piazzolla, whom Edouard met at a recording session in Paris.

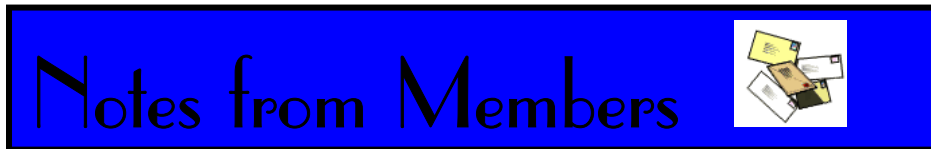
Edouard visited Buenos Aires in 1961 where he was met by all the greatest tango artists, including Piazzolla. Astor Piazzolla and his wife, as well as their children, lived with Edouard for a few months in the 1960s. While he owned the record shop, Edouard bought and sold postcards, as well as all types of memorabilia, sheet music, art and posters, literature, videos and correspondence. He even amassed a collection of over 50,000 antique recordings.



Edouard Pecourt in front of his record shop in 1972.

While he was at an international postcard show in 1981, in New York City, Edouard met Jocelyn Howells, a postcard dealer from Oregon, over a set of French postcards she found in the Ernest Cooper collection that she had purchased years before. Jocelyn moved to France to live with him in the Seine & Marne area. The French Government appointed Edouard an official Expert for antique postcards and phonographs. One of his duties was to establish valuations for opening bids at auctions.

In 1986, at the age of 62, Edouard sold his Paris record store and he moved with his new bride, Jocelyn, to live near Portland. They moved Edouard's collection to America, including 100 antique phonograph record players. Tango music made a comeback about this time and by the 1990s, Portland became a hotspot for all things tango. Edouard, who had visited Argentina several times, became a world-renowned expert in the history of tango recordings and frequently gave talks about his favorite passion. Curiously, he never took up dancing to tango music.



An eNote from Jocelyn. . .

My sincere thanks to all who sent cards or emails, who telephoned or visited in person, who ran errands when I yelled "help", who brought food and/or flowers to the house, who took me to lunch, -- during the last 4 months. There is no question that it made my burden more supportable and helped me through the ordeal.

You are invited to Edouard's tango memorial/celebration of life on Sunday, September 21, from 1-5 pm, with the "formal" part starting at 2. It will be at the Tango Berretin, **6305 SE Foster Road @ Holgate & 63rd**. There is parking on side streets, as well as some on Foster, not right in front, but before and after the Tango Berretin. There is also some parking permitted in the Blockbuster parking lot across the street, at the end closest to the Tango Berretin - but not in front of their store. Don't park in any of the other businesses parking lots around there -- they are tow-happy!

We'll be sharing memories and tributes. There will be exhibits and a concert of live tango music, followed by una carne asada a la parrilla, an Argentine style BBQ + empanadas + potluck, so if you wish, you may bring a side dish.

Joss



Marlene Buckner, member 1738, emailed this note:

I wanted to share my new website that contains my entire postcard collection: www.rosshallpostcards.com. I would like to let other members in the club know about it. For those that watch for cards for me, it is a direct way for them to see which cards I am missing as well as to share my collection for those interested.

Marlene



Al Powers sent us a note to invite us to a:

POST CARD GARAGE SALE – 1535 NE 53rd Ave

October 31 and November 1, 2008 – Hours: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Call Al Powers at 503-282-9097 for information or directions

HOMETOWN HISTORIES

Greetings from **Baltimore, Maryland**

By Maggie Parypa



I spent the first seven years of my childhood living on the Chesapeake, directly across the Bay from Ft. McHenry where Francis Scott Key wrote the Star Spangled Banner. My Grandmother Margaret Mullaney was the daughter of an Irish immigrant fleeing the potato famine in Ireland. She used to joke that we were related to every fireman and policeman in the Canton Neighborhood, close to Camden Yards Baseball Stadium.



My father worked as a foreman at Standard Oil Company until 1958. He was one of ten children, which provided me with a plethora of cousins to play with. Most of them lived in Highlandtown near Patterson Park, a neighborhood of row houses with white marble steps and screen doors painted with folk art. There were many small corner grocery stores selling penny candy and pretzels to nickel snowballs, which were crushed ice flavored with chocolate, cherry and sky blue coconut etc., topped with marshmallow cream. John Waters made this area famous in his movie "Hairspray." My cousin Nina worked in a beauty parlor and would fix my mother's hair in beehives so stiff a wind storm couldn't mess them up.



We lived in Dundalk, a suburb with homes built close to the end of World War II. There was a lovely weeping willow tree in our backyard that towered over our house so I could find my way home without getting lost. I spent hours swinging and playing under the shelter of this tree. In the summer the fireflies or lightening bugs were magical in the evenings. My three sisters, my brother and I all had glass jars with holes in the lid to capture and then release these interesting insects. This kept us occupied until we heard the ringing of the bells of the Good Humor Ice Cream truck coming up the street.



The ice cream man looked like the Pied Piper with ecstatic children running after him. Our family didn't own a car, so my mother would buy strawberries, corn on the cob and watermelon from "Arabs" selling everything from mops and brooms to seafood off of horse-drawn wagons. In the winter after a healthy snowfall, my father would pull us to the top of our street, which was one of the best sledding hills in the city. He seemed to have as much fun as we did and would keep playing until we all dropped from exhaustion.



Baltimore is a busy seaport. On foggy mornings while waiting for the yellow school bus, a steamship fog horn would blast so loud it felt like it would blow you off your feet. The breezes off the sea would bring with them rich aromas. Cross & Blackwell Food Factory was less than a mile away. If they were cooking Worcestershire sauce, ketchup or clam chowder the whole neighborhood would smell like these products. Fresh steamed crabs with old bay spice, oysters and mussels were in abundance. My father would go crabbing then fill our bathtub with live crabs. Soft shell crabs, crab cakes and my aunt Stella's crab soup were all favorites in our home.



See the full color version of this newsletter at www.thewebfooters.com

When we moved to Texas, we were the only family of the Hess clan to live outside the Baltimore city limits. Every summer we would return for wonderful family reunions at Breezy Point Beach or Gwynn Oak Amusement Park. It was like coming back to the well to refresh our spirits. I was especially close to my loving grandfather who would take me for long walks, telling me stories of his family who came from Germany and worked at Gunther's Beer Brewery. He loved to smoke cigars & listen to Oriole games on the radio.



Brooks & Frank Robinson, Louis Aparicio and Boog Powell were hometown heroes, bringing the city together in the 60s at a time when racial tensions were rising. Renovation of the inner harbor was only a dream at this time. The heart of the city had become depressed and filled with run-down waterfront factories, but this did not cause me to love my hometown any less. As we would drive through the Harbor Tunnel on our way back to Texas, I would be filled with sadness and tears, only to be reassured by my father that we would return next summer.





Club Officers

President/Editor.....Mark Moore
Vice President.....Tony Roberts
Secretary.....Maggie Parypa
Treasurer.....Arne Soland
Membership Chairman.....Steve Bieler
Members-at-Large.....Irene Adams, Brian Hansen and Phyllis Palmer
Historian.....Joe Macdonald
Librarian.....Steve Kuryk



Calendar

September 17 – Webfooters Board Meeting at Elmer’s Restaurant (no host)
10001 NE Sandy Blvd – 6:30 pm (Board Meetings held every other month)

September 20 – Webfooters Post Card Club Meeting at Russellville Grange
12105 NE Prescott St near 122nd & Sandy Blvd – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

October 18 – Webfooters Post Card Club Meeting at Russellville Grange
12105 NE Prescott St near 122nd & Sandy Blvd – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

For the latest news, visit our website:



www.thewebfooters.com



WEBFOOTERS POST CARD CLUB

PO Box 17240
Portland OR 97217-0240

