

BALBOA



ISLAND LIVING

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history

By **Pete Weitzner** – Co-Producer, “Golden Age of Newport Harbor”

POSTCARDS from the Museum



Lambert, Bozarth Collections Span Over a Century

Musing about her postcard collection takes Sharon Lambert to a good place.

“My father always said good memories get you through tough times, Lambert said. Talking about the museum and the postcards, I feel a sense of accomplishment.”

Lambert is a past president of the Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach. Her latest donation was her extensive postcard collection – a passion of her late husband.

“Bob traveled a lot, sent postcards as you did in those days, Lambert said. When we moved here (1997) the collecting took off.”

The Lamberts’ was one of two significant collections received in 2020, joining Flora Bozarth’s compilation, donated by her son Glenn.

“Starting in the ‘50s, I watched as she avidly collected, Glenn Bozarth said. She organized it like a recipe box. There was The Canal and Marine Avenue...”

Glenn Bozarth’s family was from Boyle Heights, discovered Balboa Island by accident.

“Grandfather bought a lot in 1926 for \$1,000. Went fishing in San Pedro one weekend and had trouble finding parking,” Hobarth said.

“They built a home on Abalone. My family never missed a summer. Used postcards the way we use emails or texts today.”

The postcards also connect Pasadena native Sharon Lambert to her childhood.

“I’d come for Bal Week, dated a guy in high school who worked on the Ferry.”

Before eBay, Bob Lambert spent weekends at trade shows. “He’d sit for hours going through boxes,” Sharon said.

Bob sought older cards, as good condition as possible. Sharon thinks the earliest may be 1905.

No shows or eBay for Flora Bozarth. She’d buy cards at Hershey’s or Richard’s Market.

“Her favorites were more Island than Peninsula, Glenn said. It’s all nostalgia. You see the card. The cars, boats from that time. And you were there.”

Flora didn’t just collect cards.

“Loved to write, Glenn said. My mom wrote for The Balboa Beacon. Her column was ‘Little Island Memories.’”

Flora’s collection ended up at 700–800 postcards. The Lamberts’ around 5,000.



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“Ones from the early 1900s are really cool, Collections Manager Brittany Webb said. Not just photos, there are some paintings, like a snow-covered Pavilion.”

The museum plans to make its postcard collections accessible to the public via its website. For now, visitors can enjoy them on the museum’s video monitors.

Glenn Hobarth knows he found a good home for his mom’s labor of decades of love.

“They even offered to digitize and give me original cards back.”

Visit Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach – join the fun and learn about the Island and Newport Harbor’s rich history. Thursday, 10am to 5pm; Friday–Sunday, 10am to 6pm. Free general admission. We gladly accept cash donations! Become a member.

balboaislandmuseum.org/become-a-member/.

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