

Wish You Were Here

Before email, Instagram, and Snapchat, postcards were a popular means of communication during summer vacations. Postcards from the Golden Isles reveal scenes from the past and take us to a moment in time when the writer shared a new or pleasurable experience.

A postcard depicting the Steamer Attaquin, dated July 12th, 1907, recalls the days before the Torras Causeway, when visitors had to take a ferry to St. Simons Island, with stops at Gascoigne Bluff and the Village Pier. The message reflects the sentiments of many through the years, "Hello, am having a fine time, only wish you were here. Please send me some money, for I may stay another week or more." Earlier that year, Congress had passed an act allowing the back of a postcard to be divided so that a message could be written on the left side and the address on the right.

In the 1920s, a postcard of the Ocean View House on St. Simons included a description of the accommodations and amenities. Rooms rented for \$3.00 per day or \$20-\$22 per week. The property advertised an artesian well, bathing suits for rent, and the "finest and safest surf bathing." It also provided dining facilities for island visitors. According to the handwritten message on the back of the card, "The Arnolds own and run this place. We ate all our meals except supper here."

In 1957, a visitor to Jekyll Island sent a postcard depicting the original Sidney Lanier Bridge, which opened in June 1956 and shortened the trip from Brunswick. The central section had a vertical lift, requiring traffic to stop even when shrimp boats passed through the span. A toll was charged in both directions, and the writer commented, "The bridge is new. John just figured up that in 26 hours it has cost us \$2.75 in tolls. ...Jekyll is beautiful, remote, and we saw a deer last night. (A live one on the hotel grounds.)"

Between 1907 and 1957, postage for postcards rose from one cent to two. Today, the rate is \$.35.

This month's images are representative of the Coastal Georgia Historical Society's significant collection of local postcards, which spans over a hundred years.



Our monthly images on this page are from the vast archives of the Coastal Georgia Historical Society. The Society's mission includes the "administration, restoration and maintenance of historic facilities and resources ... preserved as a living part of the historical and cultural foundations of our coastal community." Society facilities include the St. Simons Lighthouse and Museum, the A.W. Jones Heritage Center, and the World War II Home Front Museum at the Historic Coast Guard Station. To learn more about the Society, its diverse programs, and the benefits of Society membership, please call 912.638.4666, or visit coastalgeorgiahistory.org.