



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**      **DATE: NOVEMBER 5, 2019**  
**FROM: MUSEUM DEPARTMENT**      **WARDS: ALL**  
**SUBJECT: ACCESSION OF EIGHT (8) HISTORIC POSTCARDS INTO MUSEUM OF RIVERSIDE'S PERMANENT COLLECTION**

## **ISSUE:**

Approve the accession of eight (8) historic postcards into the Museum of Riverside's permanent collection.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council approve the accession of eight (8) historic postcards into the Museum of Riverside's permanent collection.

## **BOARD RECOMMENDATION:**

On August 28, 2019, the Metropolitan Museum Board, with six (6) members present, voted unanimously to recommend that City Council approve the accession of eight (8) historic postcards into the Museum of Riverside's permanent collection.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The term "accession" refers to the procedure of formally accepting an object into a museum's permanent collection, after which it is cared for and interpreted according to the highest standards to ensure its sustained preservation and public availability. Museums may hold collections with other designations than "permanent" and for which different standards of care and use may apply.

In accordance with ethical standards governing the management, care, interpretation, and disposition of permanent collection objects, historic structures that are accessioned are not capitalized, and proceeds from their disposition after deaccession may be used only for acquisition and direct care of permanent collections.

Eight (8) historic post cards were mailed to City Hall as an anonymous donation. Scott Watson, the City's Historic Preservation Officer, determined the Museum of Riverside (Museum) to be the appropriate recipient of this donation.

On July 10, 2019, the Museum Collections Committee recommended that the Metropolitan Museum Board accept the postcards as a gift and approve the accession of the postcards into the Museum's permanent collection.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The postcards belonged to Riverside resident Ruby Wallerstedt during her involvement in the U.S. Navy during World War II, most likely as part of the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). She sent at least one of the postcards to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wallerstadt, who lived on Walnut Street in Riverside in 1944. The postcards appear to have been removed from a scrapbook.

Five (5) of the postcards depict the grounds of the U.S. Naval Hospital in Corona (Norco), California. The site of the hospital was originally a popular, lavish resort called the Lake Norconian Club. After losing money during the Depression and then experiencing a short-lived revival in the late 1930s, the resort was purchased by the U.S. Navy and used for a naval hospital during the war.

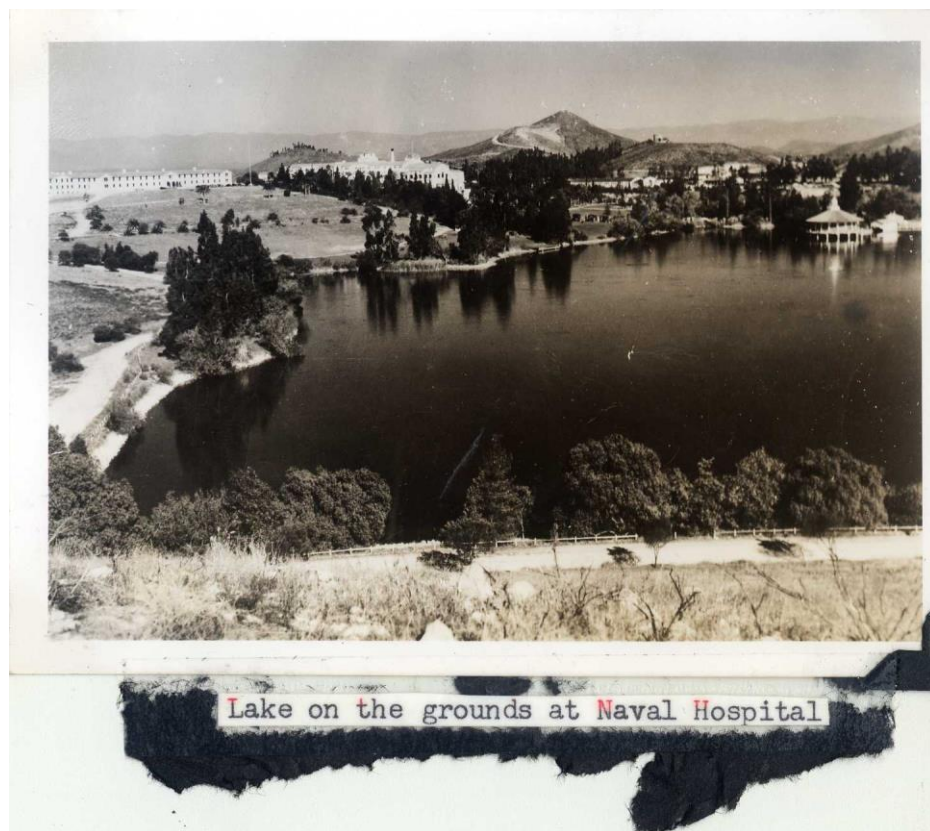
According to a June 26, 1945 article in the *Riverside Daily Press*, Ruby Wallerstedt was stationed at this hospital as an assistant mail clerk. The article also notes that Ms. Wallerstedt had previously served in the naval postal department at Camp Elliot in San Diego, California, which is likely why the remaining three (3) postcards are from San Diego.

Excerpt from June 26, 1945 *Riverside Daily Press* column, "Women in Wartime" referencing Ruby Wallerstedt:

Ruby Wallerstedt, ma.m. 3-c, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed. L. Wallerstedt of 4043 Walnut street, has been transferred to the Corona Naval hospital for duty as an assistant mail clerk. She formerly was stationed at Camp Elliott, San Diego, where she served for over a year in the naval postal department.

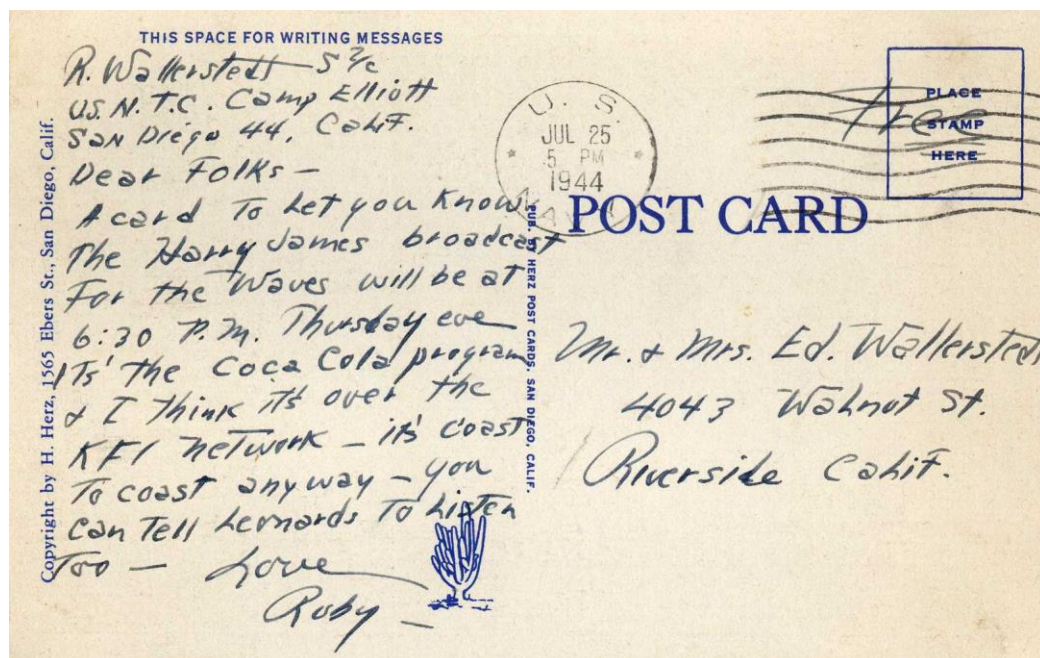
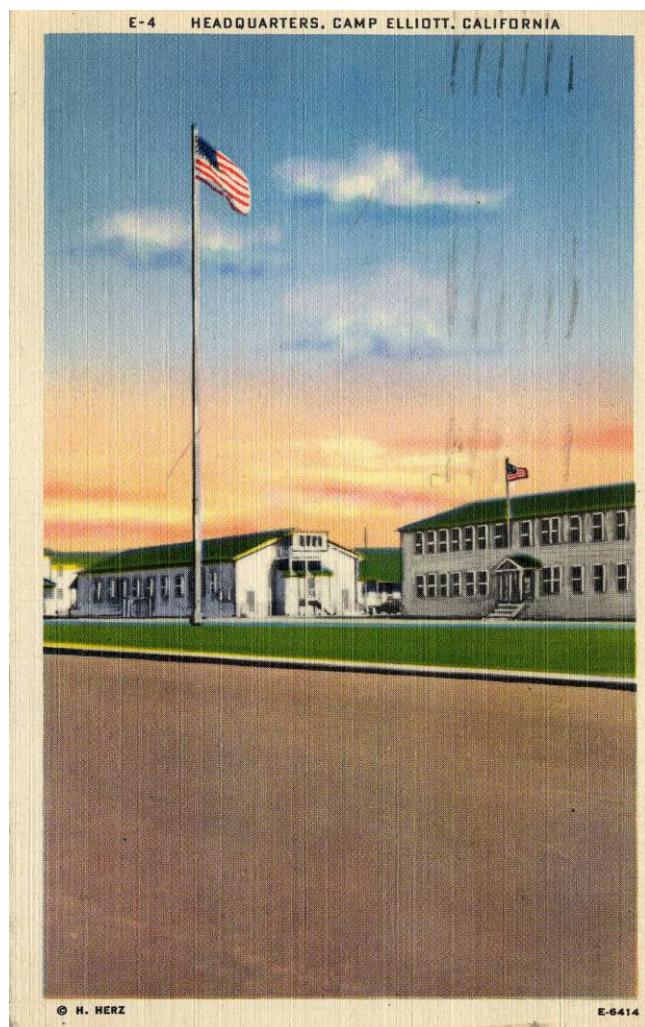
These items fill a gap in the Museum's historic holdings relating to prominent area institutions. They present no burden to the present storage capacities of the Museum. The postcards present a glimpse into local participation in the World War II homefront.

Photographs of eight (8) historic postcards for accession into the Museum's



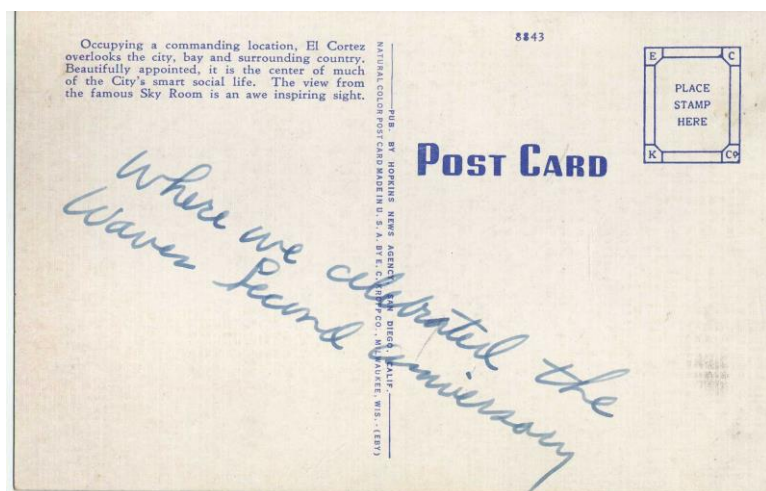
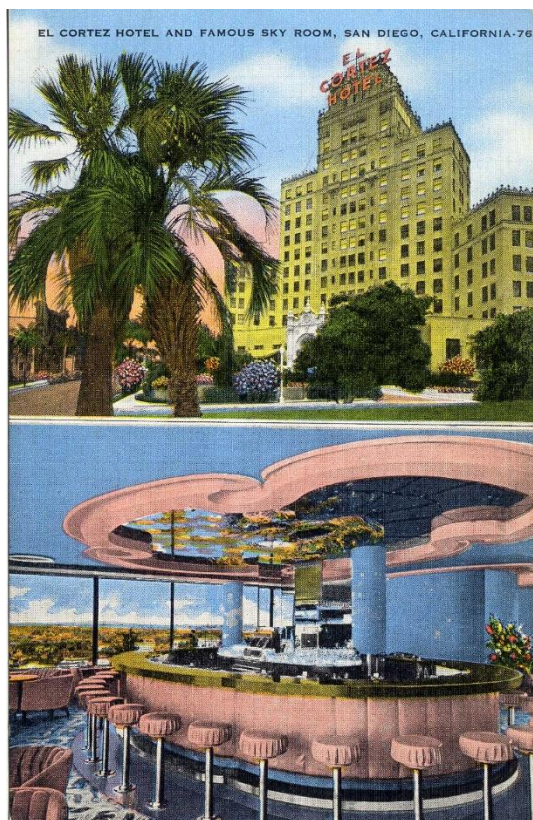












### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Robyn G. Peterson, Ph.D., Museum Director  
Certified as to  
Availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer  
Approved by: Lea Deesing, Assistant City Manager  
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment: Metropolitan Museum Board Draft Minutes 8-28-2019