

Historic photo post cards depict Erie County

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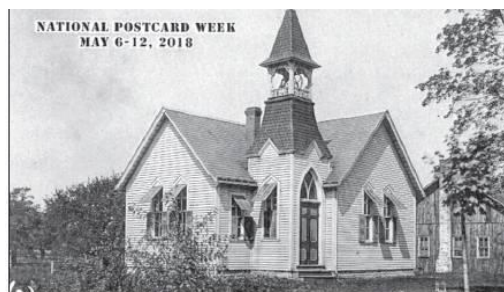
National Postcard Week doesn't start until Sunday but it's already in the picture for members of the Firelands Postcard Club. The local club for picture postcard enthusiasts, or "deltiologists," has marked the occasion by creating four new picture postcards, all based on photos taken by Ernst Niebergall (1876-1954), a native of Germany whose photography depicts many aspects of life years ago in Erie County.

The four postcards — puppies in a basket, a horse-drawn mail delivery wagon, an old church in Castalia and an old railroad train — are being mailed to postcard collectors across the U.S., in return for cards sent in exchange to the club, said Jim Semon Sr., president of the Firelands Postcard Club. "We send our cards and they send cards to us," he said.

The 56-member club printed 750 of each card, for a total of 3,000. The club has printed new postcards for nine years in a row. The choice of Niebergall for this year's cards is connected with the club's new book, "Sandusky's Photographer: The Real Photo Postcards of Ernst Niebergall," which features 246 of Niebergall's historic photographs.

Copies of the book are available by sending \$25 to Firelands Postcard Club, P.O. Box 351, Huron OH 44839.

Or you can show up at one of the group's meetings and buy a copy for \$20. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. May 15 at the Erie County Senior Center in downtown Sandusky. The group always meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Anyone who longs to have copies of the postcards may get them for free by writing to the club at its Huron post office box, noted above, Semon said.



A small church in Castalia.



A Lake Erie & Western Railroad express.
Photos by Ernst Niebergall



Niebergall liked to take pictures of animals and birds.



This horse and wagon delivered mail to area peach farmers.