



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Mattie Keel Riner Postcard Collection

NMAH.AC.0629

NMAH Staff

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Mattie Keel Riner Postcard Collection
<b>Date:</b>	1912-1932
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0629
<b>Creator:</b>	Riner, Ed (Donor) Riner, Novie Ocy, 1890-1964 (Author) Riner, Mattie Keel, 1896-1980 (Collector)
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Boxe (30 items)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated to the Archives Center, December 10, 1997 by Edward Riner, son of Mattie and Novie Riner. The cards remained in the family for years, and the donor used them in school work, losing or destroying some in the process.

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Jennifer Synder, intern, July 1997.

### Preferred Citation

Mattie Keel Riner Postcard Collection, 1912-1932, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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## Biographical / Historical

Novie Ocy Riner was a mail carrier in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. On September 1, 1932, Novie Ocy Riner and his friend Roscoe Hatch set off for the National Association of Letter Carriers' Convention in Portland, Oregon. After the convention, the two men drove down the Pacific Coast, presumably in Hatch's Model A Ford, stopping in San Francisco, then to Los Angeles, San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico. After September 26, 1932, they began the trip home again. On each day of his trip, Novie sent a postcard to Mattie Keel, his future wife, Mattie Keel, who was in Rocky

Mount, North Carolina. Their courtship lasted nearly ten years, having been delayed by the Depression, and illness. They eloped in 1937.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of the surviving postcards sent to Mattie Keel by Mr. Riner on a 1932 trip, plus cards sent to Ms. Keel by earlier suitors, 1912-1915.

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## Arrangement

Collection is divided into two series.

Series 1: Postcards, 1912-1915

Series 2: Postcards, 1932-09 to 1932-10

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

Courtship -- 1910-1940 -- United States  
Depressions -- 1929 -- United States  
Tourist trade -- 1910-1940

### Types of Materials:

Picture postcards -- 1910-1940  
Postcards -- 1900-1950

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Postcards, 1912-1915

*Box 1, Folder 1*

Scope and Contents: This series includes postcards sent to Mattie Keel Riner by various suitors. Most have messages on the reverse side. On the front romantic scenes are portrayed. One postcard is a photograph of Mattie

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## Series 2: Postcards, 1932-09-1932-10

### *Box 1, Folder 2*

Scope and Contents: This series includes postcards sent to Novie Ocy Riner to Mattie Keel Riner during his trip. There are two souvenir viewbooks from Redwood Highway, California and Hollywood, California. All of the postcards have messages on the reverse side and most feature geographic scenes on the front.

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