Postcards from Long Pine

(Article begins on page 2 below.)

This article is copyrighted by History Nebraska (formerly the Nebraska State Historical Society). You may download it for your personal use. For permission to re-use materials, or for photo ordering information, see: https://history.nebraska.gov/publications/re-use-nshs-materials

Learn more about Nebraska History (and search articles) here: https://history.nebraska.gov/publications/nebraska-history-magazine

History Nebraska members receive four issues of Nebraska History annually: https://history.nebraska.gov/get-involved/membership

Full Citation: “Postcards from Long Pine,” Nebraska History 92 (2011): 78-81

Article Summary: Picture postcards from Nebraska’s Hidden Paradise—and the brief messages on the back—provide glimpses of recreational travel in the 1910s and ’20s.

Cataloging Information:

Postcards Pictured:

“Boating—Long Pine, Nebraska,” postmarked August 16, 1927, addressed to Frances Froenel, Mt. Angel, Oregon


“Rustic Scenery Amusement Park, Long Pine, Nebraska,” postmarked June 6, 1917, addressed to Mabel Darlington, Madison, Nebraska

“Along the Creek, Long Pine Park,” addressed to Mrs W H Brown, Jordan, Iowa (postmark illegible)
As described elsewhere in this issue, Long Pine, Nebraska, became a tourist destination in 1910 with the founding of Long Pine Amusement Park, later known as Nebraska's Hidden Paradise. Some travelers bought picture postcards to commemorate their visit to the park and vicinity. The Nebraska State Historical Society has a number of these in its collections; others circulate through antique shops and online merchants.

In 1907, the U.S. Postal Service began allowing personal messages on the address side of postcards. This was the beginning of "divided back" postcards, and their brief and sometimes pithy messages can make the back of the card as interesting as the picture side. Taken together, these four cards provide glimpses of recreational travel in the 1910s and '20s.

—David L. Bristow, Editor

Postmarked August 16, 1927, by the Omaha & Chadron R.P.O. (Railway Post Office), this card is addressed to Frances Froenel, Mt. Angel, Oregon:

Dear sister—
Well how did you like your trip. hope you got there O.K. well we are on the way to the Black hills the post card shows the place where we are camping its in Pineridge Nebr. we only made about 200 miles today had two flat tires already and also got caught in the rain but we shure are having a good time. Walter has his accordion with him that makes it nice. will write more later Joe

Postcards from private collection.
Postmarked July 29, 1913, in Norfolk, Nebraska, this card is addressed to Master Clifford W. Said, Emerson, Iowa:

Got the photo of the boys and think it great. Norfolk 7/26
Dear Folks—Well we went to Long Pine & Ainsworth got back this morn at 6th oh so tired—its too hot for anything—The Frontier Day affair was punk but I enjoyed seeing this beautiful cannon and would like to have camped there.
Love from Aunt Susan
Postmarked, June 6, 1917, Long Pine, Nebraska, this card is addressed to Mabel Darlington, Madison, Nebraska:

June 5. Dear Mabel. The boys are all right. They seem to be as well as ever. I ask them if they wanted to go home and they both said no. You ought to see them eat. They don’t fail to eat breakfast now. The Dr. is going to let me send my butter up tomorrow. I hope you are better. Don’t worry about the boys. Mother
Addressed to Mrs. W. H. Brown, Jordan, Iowa (postmark illegible):

Long Pine Neb. 8/25/24
Reached here alright at 1:30 Friday night. It is dreadfully hot here, but not so very dry. Found everything alright. Will write a letter in a few days, hope it is as warm there as it is here. Have been making wild grape juice today. Elena.