

THE  
MORRISON  
COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COPY

August 7, 2002

Roger L. Gierhart  
C T Corporation System  
44 E Mifflin Street  
Madison, WI 53703

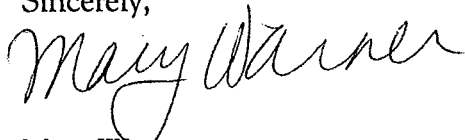
Dear Mr. Gierhart:

In searching the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions' registered corporations list, I discovered that C T Corporation System was listed as the Registered Agent Office of The L. L. Cook Company, Inc. According to this list, The L. L. Cook Company was dissolved in 1980.

We have a photo postcard of the Pine Edge Inn, Little Falls, MN, in our museum collections. The copyright line reads "Copyright 1952, The L. L. Cook Co." I am trying to discover who currently owns the copyright to this postcard. The gentleman who currently owns the Pine Edge Inn would like to duplicate the postcard and have it for sale. In order to do this, we need permission from the copyright holder. Does C T Corporation System now hold this copyright? If so, who may I contact to seek permission to reprint the postcard? If not, could you direct me to whoever does hold the copyright?

I have enclosed a photocopy of the postcard and its back for identification purposes. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Mary Warner  
Museum Manager

THE CHARLES A. WEYERHAEUSER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

2151 Lindbergh Drive South • P.O. Box 239 • Little Falls • Minnesota • 56345-0239

(320) 632-4007

**Morrison County Historical Society**

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**From:** "Suzanne Crowe" <SCrowe@indianahistory.org>  
**To:** <mchs@littlefalls.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 07, 2002 1:15 PM  
**Subject:** Auburn Post Card Manufacturing Company

Mary,

I was forwarded your request concerning the Auburn Post Card Manufacturing Company. According to the book, DeKalb County in Vintage Postcards, by John Martin Smith, in 1910 the Whitten-Dennison Post Card Company moved to Auburn from Maine. The name changed to Auburn Post Card Manufacturing Company in 1913. It later became the Auburn Greeting Card Company in 1929. D.E. Messenger acquired the company in 1933 and changed the name to Messenger Corporation. According to the book, the company is still in operation. I found a phone number for a Messenger Division of Renaissance Publishers (260) 925-1700. I am not sure if this is the same company or if they retained the copyright for Auburn Post Card Company. Hopefully they will have some suggestions.

I hope this information helps in your research. Thank you for contacting the Indiana Historical Society. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Crowe  
Reference Librarian  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 W. Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
(317) 234-0039  
scrowe@indianahistory.org

8/7/02

Checked Internet  
for

- greeting card  
companies
- Auburn Greeting  
Card Company
- D. E. Messenger
- Messenger Corporation
- Renaissance  
Publishers
- Messenger Division  
of Renaissance  
Publishers
- post cards
- DeKalb County,  
Indiana
- Indiana Historical  
Society

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nothing found re:  
Elks postcard &  
copyright

8/8/02

mw

8/8/02

3<sup>10</sup> pm

Mary -

Re your call for  
Roger Gerhardt  
et. Corp.

copyright for postcards

They were an agent until 1980  
they have no records to help  
you. If you got info from  
Wise. Dept. Institutional Records  
call them see if they can  
give you a certified copy  
of principle officers that  
you could contact.  
Only thing she can suggest.

Q

Phone message

8/23/02

Called Messenger  
Division of Renaissance  
Publishers (260-925-  
1700) to see if  
they are the Messenger  
Corp. that bought the  
Ruburn Greeting Card  
Company

8/23/02 - The receptionist  
(Kaylene?) called back  
& said that they are  
the right company  
(they did buy the  
Ruburn PostCard Co.) -  
She will check w/  
someone in marketing  
about copyright on  
the Elles building  
postcard & call  
back.

→  
MW

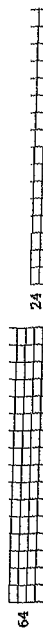
8/23/02 - 2:56 pm

Another call  
back from

Kaylene Leonard  
of Messenger Corp.

she said that  
the photo  
can be used!

Ver 1.11



  
mw

**Morrison County Historical Society**

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**From:** "Morrison County Historical Society" <mchs@littlefalls.net>  
**To:**  
**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2002 2:33 PM  
**Subject:** Postcards  
 Dave -

I have done some research on the two Pine Edge Inn postcards that you would like to reproduce. A search for who owns copyright is leading me to dead ends. I thought I should send you this via email so you have some proof of the search for copyright.

First, the black and white postcard of the Elks Building. It was published by the Auburn Post Card Manufacturing Company of Auburn Indiana. I checked the Indiana Secretary of State's Office website for current business entities. This company does not show up in their files. Next, I emailed the Indiana Historical Society to see if they could give me any leads. Suzanne Crowe, a Reference Librarian there, responded. She said that the company started as the Witten-Dennison Post Card Company and moved from Maine to Auburn in 1910. In 1913, the name of the company changed to the Auburn Post Card Manufacturing Company. In 1929, it became the Auburn Greeting Card Company. In 1933, D. E. Messenger bought the company and changed the name to the Messenger Corporation. Suzanne gave me a phone number for a company that she thought might be related to the Messenger Corporation. I'm following up on this.

I showed this postcard to someone who collects postcards. He thought that it might be old enough to be public domain as far as copyright is concerned--unless, of course, the Messenger Corporation, or someone else, renewed the copyright. I checked the U.S. Copyright Office's website list of copyrighted materials for both postcards and found neither listed. The U.S. Copyright Office could do a search for copyright for a pretty penny (or many pennies) and they won't guarantee the results of their search.

The 1952 Pine Edge Inn postcard is a stickier situation. It definitely falls under copyright as far as age is concerned. The problem is, once again, figuring out who owns the copyright. This postcard was published by The L.L. Cook Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I checked the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions' website for current corporations. The L.L. Cook Company was listed, but was dissolved January 28, 1980. The Registered Agent Office for the company was listed as the CT Corporation System. CT Corporation System's Registered Agent was listed as Roger L. Gierhart. I contacted Mr. Gierhart via letter and his secretary called the museum. We were told that they have no records for this company.

For both postcards, I have checked the following topics via the Google search engine: Greeting card companies, Auburn Greeting Card Company, D.E. Messenger, Messenger Corporation, Messenger Division of Renaissance Publishers, Renaissance Publishers, Post cards, and Dekalb County, Indiana. The search was fruitless.

I have one other avenue to check. My postcard aficionado is going to send me information on a website that is connected to a library or university that has a giant postcard collection that can be searched on-line. When I get that info, I'll see if I can find anything.

**!!!!!!! This just in. . . . !!!!!!!**

I just received a phone call from the Messenger Corporation. They are going to check on the copyright of the Elks Building postcard and get back to me. When I hear back, I'll let you know.

Later.

Mary

**Morrison County Historical Society**

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**From:** "Morrison County Historical Society" <mchs@littlefalls.net>  
**To:**  
**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2002 2:59 PM  
**Subject:** Elks Postcard  
Dave -

Not much later. . .

I just got a call back from the Messenger Corporation. We have permission to reproduce the Elks Building postcard. Success!

Mary  
[mchs@littlefalls.net](mailto:mchs@littlefalls.net)

accession # 75-29-1  
# 76-79-68  
Hotels/motels photo box  
8/27/02