ABOUT THIS OLD CIRCA 1951 BALBOA MAP

This old map was originally produced by Louis W. Briggs Realtor as a promotional poster size map of Balboa, and was given out to Balboa Merchants.

The map was produced between the years 1950 and 1952. This time-line can be established by noting the Post Office on Main Street and the Bamboo Room also on Main Street. The Post Office was built on the site of the old Balboa Hotel in 1950 and the Bamboo Room was demolished in 1952. There are only two copies of the original map known to be in existence. One, the actual hand drawn original, which is owned by Carl McMackin, owner of Molly Brown's Swimwear. This copy is in very poor condition. The other copy was owned by Venoa Morgon, mother of Prison of Socrates singer, Tim Morgon. This copy is in very good condition.

In 1995, Jim Fournier was visiting Venoa Morgon in her home, the Morgon Apartments on Harding Street, when he noticed the framed poster sized map on her wall. Fournier asked if he could borrow the map under the condition that he return it unharmed. The map was in very delicate condition and could be damaged easily. Fournier took the map to the printer who was printing the Balboa Blab for him. The Blab was later given to Gay Kelly and was renamed the Balboa Beacon. Using tremendous care the printer removed the map from its frame and produced a high resolution copy which was given to Fournier. The map was returned to Venoa Morgon unharmed. Fournier then printed hundreds of high resolution letter size copies of the map and handed them out free.

As a result of Fournier's efforts, all copies of this map, including any you may find on the internet were derived from Fournier's original high resolution copy, and this small piece of Balboa history was preserved.

Complements Jim Fournier  www.talesofbalboa.com