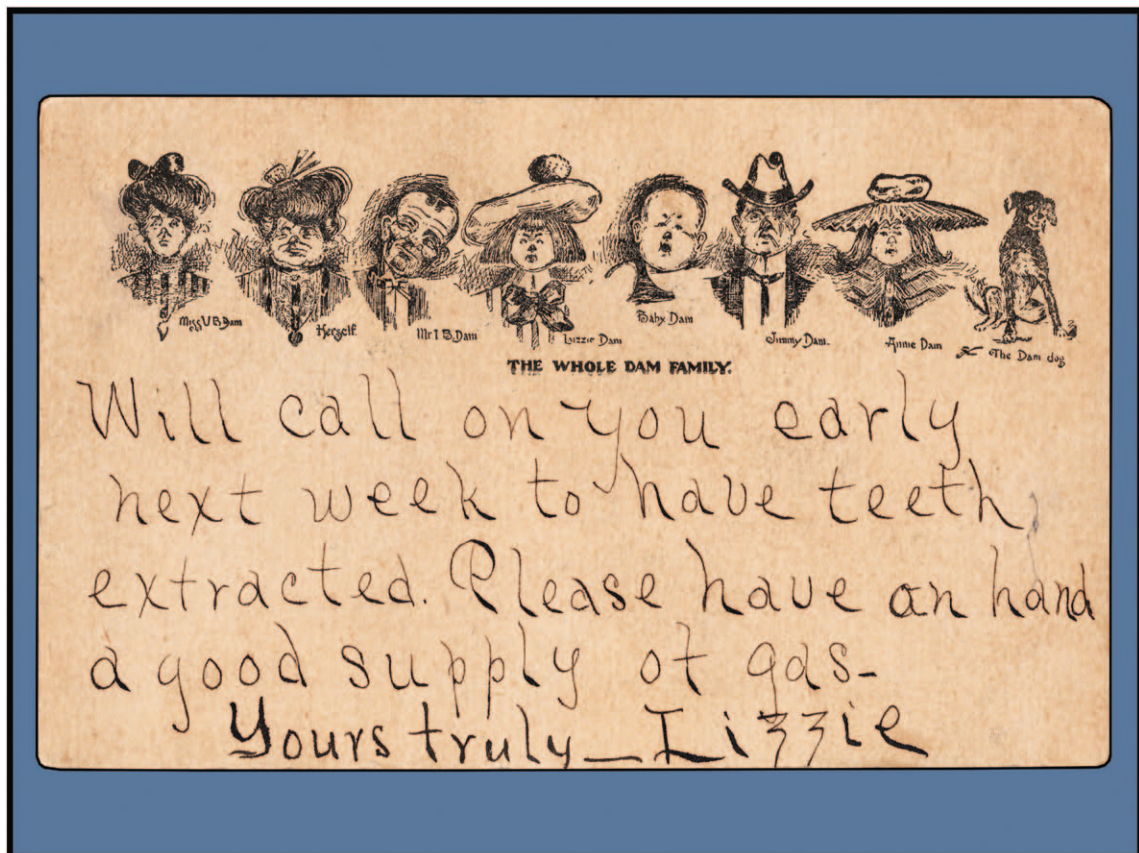


Lizzie's Laughing Gas Request on a Dam Family Postcard



In 1905 the Edison Manufacturing Company released a popular 4-minute movie titled *The Whole Dam Family and the Dam Dog*. Not surprisingly, the Dam Family was then heavily merchandised to Americans, at least until the 1920s. As depicted on this postcard (above) from left to right, "The Whole Dam Family" consisted of the hair-playing "Miss U. B. Dam," the loquacious "Herself," the sneezing "Mr. I. B. Dam," the gum-chewing "Lizzie Dam," the crying "Baby Dam," the cigarette-smoking "Jimmy Dam," the blushing "Annie Dam," and the troublemaking "Dam Dog." Rather than by "Lizzie Dam," this postcard was addressed by a "Lizzie" of unknown surname to a Dr. J. E. Waitt of Boston. For her dental extraction, Lizzie requests that Dr. Waitt "have on hand a good supply of [laughing] gas." This postcard is part of the Wood Library-Museum's Ben Z. Swanson Collection. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.)

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