



WEBFOOTER EXTRA

March 2020

Tillamook County Resort Towns

Manhattan Beach, Oregon

by Steve King



The Pacific Railway & Navigation Co. railroad stopped in front of the Crescent Hotel, location of the original Manhattan Beach post office. The small building to the left is the railroad flag depot. Photo courtesy of Don Best.

WEBFOOTERS POST CARD CLUB

PO Box 17240

Portland OR 97217-0240



www.thewebfooters.com



Aerial view of Manhattan Beach from a post card dated August 19, 1921. The Crescent Hotel is visible in the upper left. Photo courtesy of the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum.

Manhattan Beach, Oregon is the northernmost of the five communities that have had post offices on the seven miles of ocean beach between Tillamook and Nehalem bays. This beach was originally known as Garibaldi Beach, but has since become known as Rockaway Beach. The five communities with post offices, from south to north, are Bar View, Twin Rocks, Rockaway Beach, Lake Lytle and Manhattan Beach. Only the Rockaway Beach post office still operates.

Manhattan Beach was an unincorporated community, originating from several homesteads that were developed upon the arrival of the Pacific Railway & Navigation Co. (PR&N) railroad, which was completed in 1911. The original developers called the subdivision Manhattan.

The Manhattan subdivision lay between the middle of what is now NW 18th & 19th avenues and 24th Avenue, situated between Crescent Lake and the ocean beach. In 1910, the PR&N Co. built a small depot to be used as a flag station at 19th Avenue. In 1912 the Crescent Hotel was built adjacent to the depot. Grace Huston and her daughter took charge of the hotel in 1914.



The Crescent Hotel also housed a grocery store and the post office. Photo courtesy of Don Best.

On September 3, 1914, Grace I. Huston was appointed postmaster of the new Manhattan Beach post office. Located in the Crescent Hotel, the office opened for business on September 5, 1914. Manhattan Beach became a popular destination once the railroad made it accessible. The PR&N offered a round trip from Portland to the Tillamook beaches for \$3.00.

Grace Huston was the Manhattan Beach postmaster in the Crescent Hotel for over 20 years. When she became ill, her daughter Doris performed the postal duties. Following Mrs. Huston's death in July 1935, the hotel was sold. Mrs. Doris M. Pickett was appointed postmaster effective July 27, 1935. Mrs. Pickett moved the post office across the highway (now U.S. 101) to her home and business, the Bungalow Grocery. Eight years later Mrs. Ada B. Gillam was appointed postmaster, effective July 1, 1943. She served 32 years. At some point a one-room post office was built across the highway on the footprint of the Crescent Hotel, which had been demolished. The post office went through several re-designations, but remained at this site until it closed.



Real photo postcard view of Crescent Lake in Manhattan Beach, Oregon.



Patton real photo postcard of the Manhattan Beach Hotel in Manhattan Beach, Oregon.



HOTEL MANHATTAN - MANHATTAN BEACH, OREGON

Real photo postcard of the Hotel Manhattan in Manhattan Beach, Oregon.



Second location of the Manhattan Beach post office located in the Bungalow Grocery. Photo courtesy of the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum.



The third and final location of the Manhattan Beach post office, located on the footprint of the Crescent Hotel. Photo courtesy of Bill Beith.



Early view of the beach at Manhattan, Oregon. Photo courtesy of Mark Moore.

Manhattan Beach post office was discontinued as a 4th Class office on March 15, 1954, the same date as the Bar View and Twin Rocks post offices were closed. And like Bar View and Twin Rocks, the next day it reopened as a Rural Station of Rockaway, with no interruption of postal service. Manhattan Beach Rural Station was redesignated a Community Post Office (CPO) on July 1, 1972. The office was permanently closed on July 1, 1975, with all mail going to Rockaway. A residence now occupies the location of the last Manhattan Beach post office site.

Manhattan Beach voted to annex to the city of Rockaway Beach in 1974. With a blend of permanent and vacation homes, Manhattan Beach now looks like the rest of Rockaway Beach. Most of the housing is on the ocean side of U.S. 101, with plenty of beach access, including The Oregon State Parks' Manhattan Beach Wayside.

Editor: This article was adapted from an article written by Steve King for the *The Oregon Country*, which is published four times a year by the Pacific Northwest Postal History Society. This is the final installment in the Tillamook County Resort Towns series. Thank you Steve!!



THE TWO MIKES FROM SEATTLE
are interested in purchasing POSTCARD COLLECTIONS,
any size, any location.

Also buying ephemera, maps, photographs and posters

Call: Mike Fairley 206-499-7413 fairlookantiques@gmail.com

Mike Maslan 206-587-0187 oldphoto4u@aol.com

(paid advertising)