

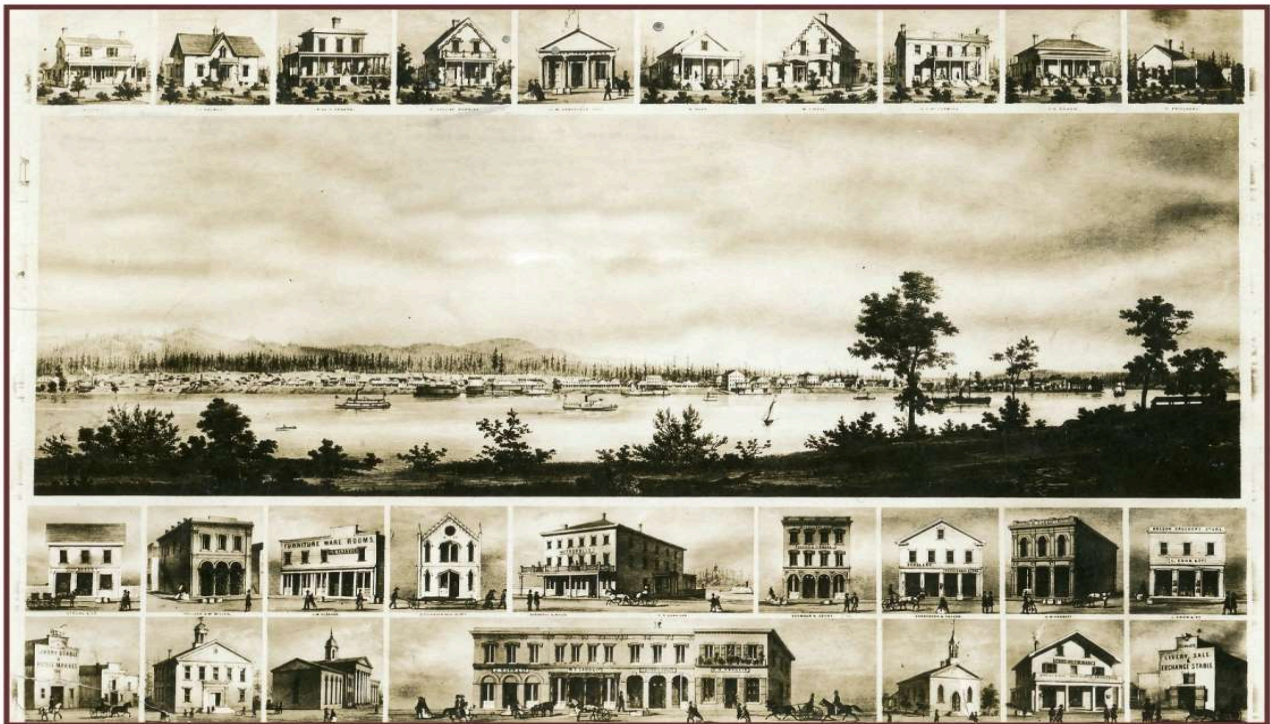


WEBFOOTER EXTRA

MARCH 2023

PORTLAND THROUGH THE YEARS AS SEEN ON REAL PHOTO POSTCARDS

BY DONALD R. NELSON



Real photo postcard from 1912 showing an 1858 map of Portland. Don Nelson Collection.

WEBFOOTERS POST CARD CLUB

PO Box 17240

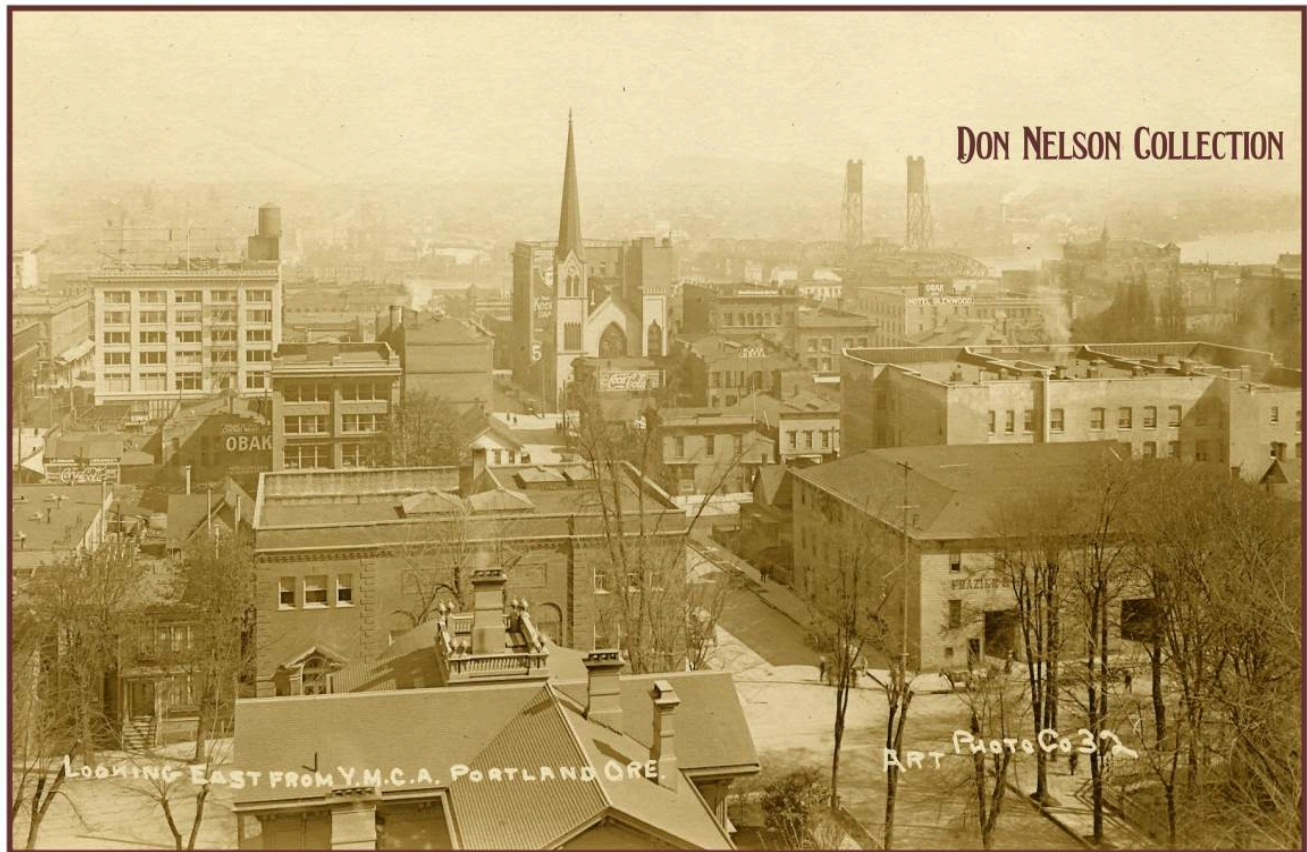
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PORTLAND THROUGH THE YEARS

Portland has been the subject of postcards since the 1890s, many were black & white and many more were color lithographs. To me, the most historic ones are real photo postcards or RPPCs. Many were mass produced by photo companies and others were privately printed as many amateur photographers had their prints made into postcards, making them one of a kind. Sometimes a smaller negative was used, which left space on either side of the card. Rushed printing left images tilted or off-centered. However they are printed, many are useful for enlarged reproductions or as illustrations in publications.



Real photo postcard looking east from Y.M.C.A. circa 1911. Published by Art Photo Co.

This postcard shows a portion of Southwest Portland. Many of the historic structures are still in use. The roof of the Henry W. Corbett residence at SW Fifth & Taylor is shown from the YMCA building. Directly above is the old Museum of Art (aka Portland Art Museum), which later was home to the Portland Chamber of Commerce. The tall spire is from the Taylor Street Methodist Episcopal Church. All of those structures are no longer standing. To the right of the church is the Auditorium Hotel, now known as the Auditorium Building, which today houses offices. The Hawthorne Bridge, which is still in use today, is at the upper right.



Real photo postcard of Portland's Steel Bridge, circa 1914.

This slightly askew amateur photo postcard view of the Steel Bridge has nearly every mode of transportation depicted on it, circa 1914. There are streetcars, an automobilist passing the connected streetcars, a delivery person bicyclist, and a pedestrian walking on a wooden sidewalk. An earlier style of light post can also be seen.

Information for postcard 4 on page 4

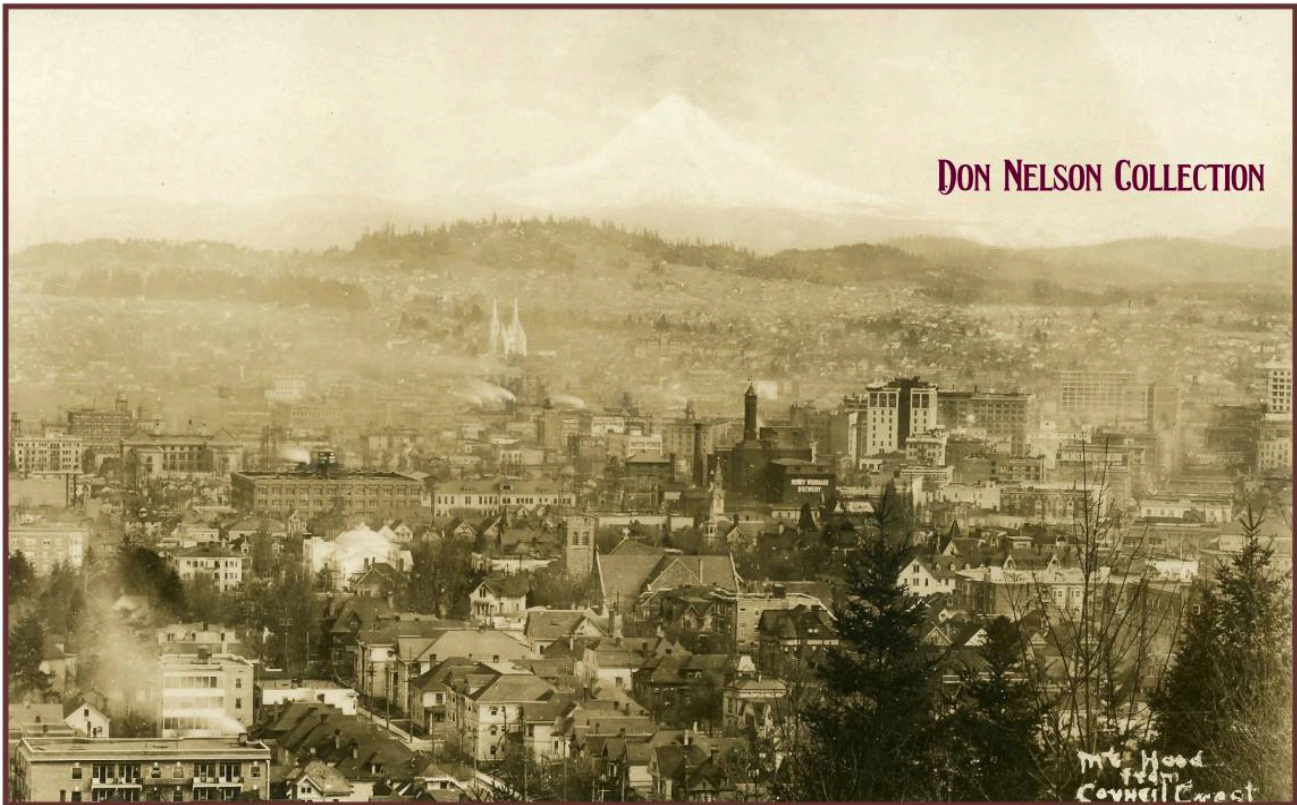
This night scene view, which was mailed to Sweden from Portland in 1907, depicts the storefronts of the Marquam Building. The illuminated sign for the Marquam Grand (Theatre) at the center of the building led to a theatre that was connected to the back of the block. The lamp posts were touched up in the negative to define them better. Correspondence is written around the white edge of this card. At this time only the address could be written on the back of postcards.

Information for postcard 5 on page 4

This postcard indicates that this is a view of Mt. Hood from Council Crest, circa 1912. However, the scene is from a Northwest Portland vantage point. Council Crest is in Southwest Portland. To the left and below Mt. Hood is the twin spired St. Francis Catholic Church in SE Portland. Two-thirds of the buildings seen in the lower half of the card are in Northwest Portland. The dark building below and to the right, which has a tower, is from the Henry Weinhard Brewery. The street angling from the lower edge is NW Everett Street. The stone church at lower left center is Trinity Episcopal Church. The white domed building to the left of Trinity Episcopal is the First Church of Christ Scientist.



Real photo postcard showing Sixth Street in Portland, Oregon in 1907.



Real photo postcard showing Mt. Hood and Portland, Oregon from the Northwest Hills, circa 1912.



Real photo postcard view of Portland from a hot air balloon by C.S. Woodruff, circa 1915.

This 1915 view was taken by photographer C.S. Woodruff from a hot air balloon. He also photographed from airplanes as well. The Pioneer Courthouse is at the center. To its left is the Portland Hotel. Below the courthouse is the full block former properties and residences of civic leaders Henry W. Corbett and Henry Failing. There were still small residences sprinkled about downtown business blocks and buildings.



Information for Cover Photo

In the late 1890s, local newspapers in Portland would publish sketches and write-ups of historic structures, some being only 40 or 50 years old. The postcard shown on the cover from 1912 was a partial reproduction of a larger 1858 map depicting buildings in Portland. The card was sent to a saloonkeeper. Written on the “correspondence here” side on the reverse of the postcard was “Portland & Buildings in 1858. Over 100 old-time Portland views 5 x 7 & 8 x 10 on sale and exhibition at Sichels–3d & Washington.” Sig Sichel was a dealer of cigars, tobacco and smokers’ articles.

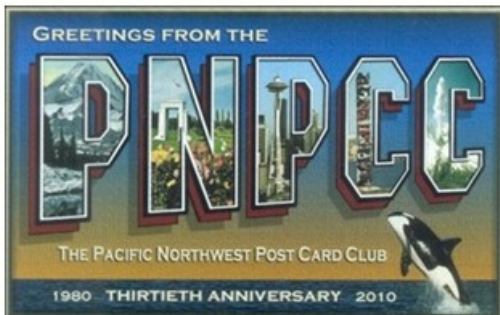


Real photo postcard of Portland from the Weinhard Brewery.

In this real photo postcard, which was photographed from the Henry Weinhard Brewery Building, the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Building can be seen towering over a church building. The church had formerly been home to Immanuel Lutheran Church, which stood on West Burnside between SW 10th & 11th. Opposite the church were houses; one had slab wood stacked outside. (The wood was used to heat the house.) This photo from 1914 shows the continuation of SW Oak Street which had been cut through to Burnside.

Editor's Note:

A word of thanks to Portland Historian and Author, as well as Webfooter No. 489, for his willingness to share the history of some of his most-cherished artifacts. Don is one of our most active, lifelong-members. There are only a few of members with lower numbers. We look forward to more glimpses of *Portland Through the Years* in upcoming issues of *The Webfooter*.



<http://www.pnwpostcard.org>

Stamp, Postcard & Paper 2023 Shows



EVERGREEN
STAMP CLUB

(formerly Boeing Employees Stamp Club)

Kent Commons Recreation Center
525 4th Avenue North
Kent, Washington

Spring Show
April 15–16, 2023
Sat: 10am–5pm
Sun: 10am–4pm

25+ Dealers
Free Admission
Free Parking

Summer Show
July 15–16, 2023
Sat: 10am–5pm
Sun: 10am–4pm



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UPCOMING EVENTS

The Annual Webfooters Auction is scheduled on June 3, 2023 at the Oregon Stamp Society beginning at 3:00 pm. The preview begins at 1:00 pm. Join us for lunch before the Auction.

The Webfooters will also participate in PIPEX at the Monarch Motor Hotel in Clackamas on May 5-7. We'll have an information table and we will need volunteers to help staff it. We are also planning a display and a slide show about the Historic Columbia River Highway.