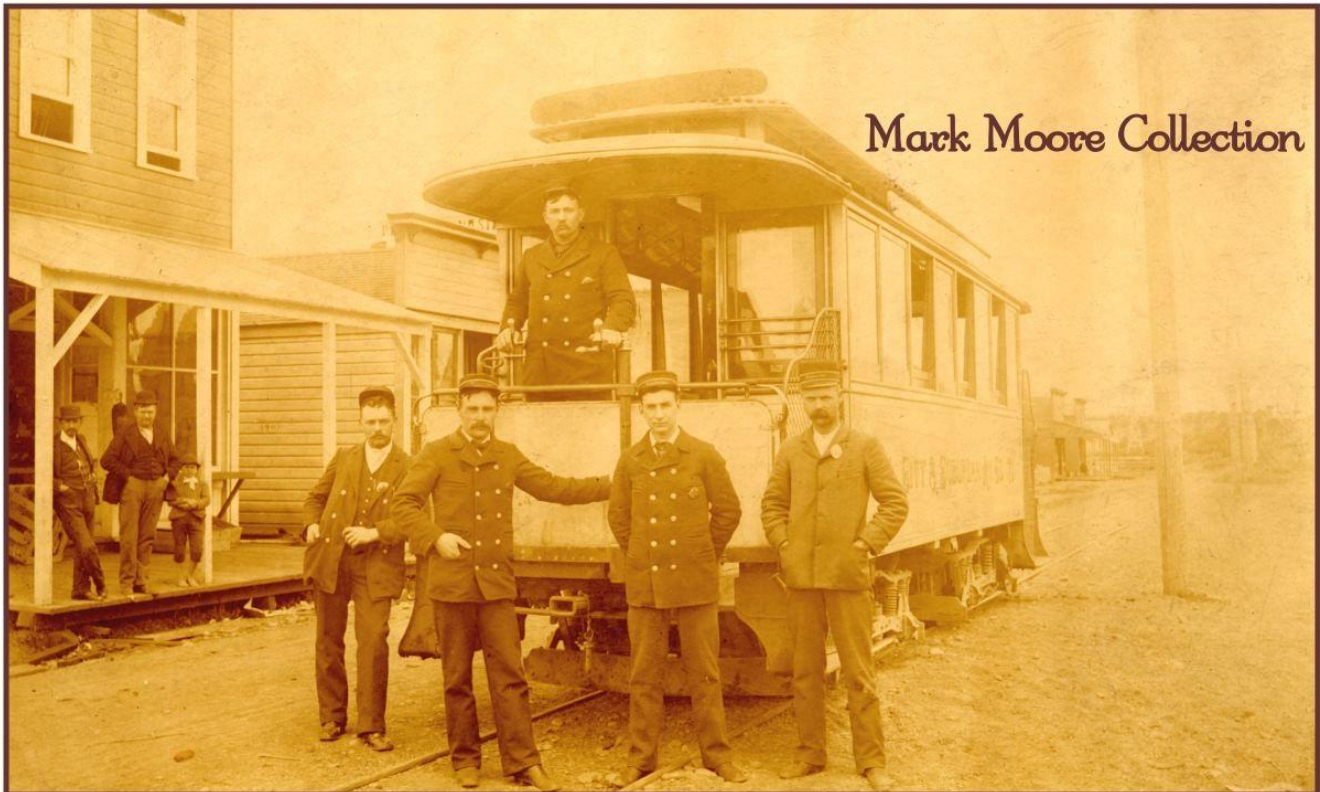




# WEBFOOTER EXTRA

APRIL 2023

## PORTLAND'S MOUNT TABOR VILLAGE



Portland's Mount Tabor Village showing a City & Suburban Car from a cabinet card circa 1896.

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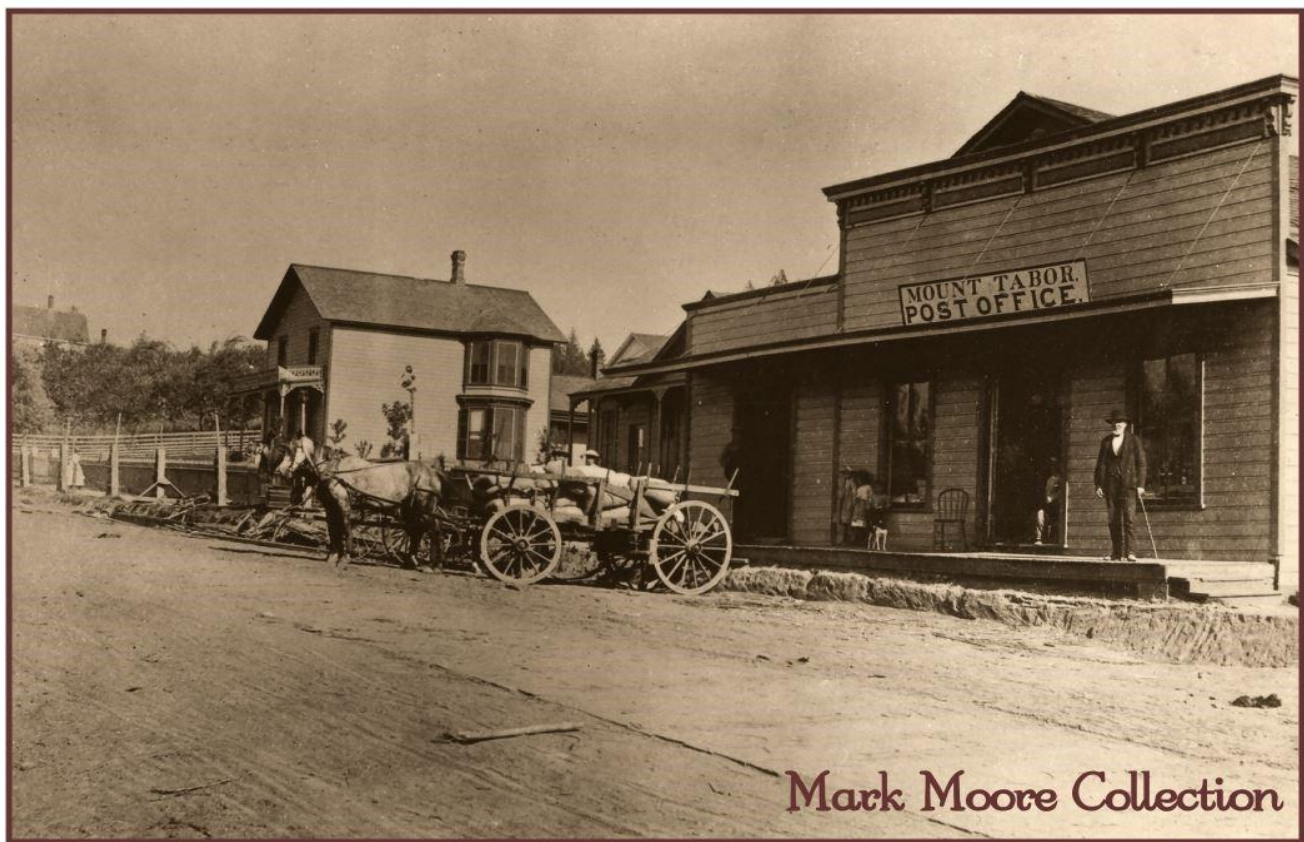


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# PORTLAND'S MOUNT TABOR VILLAGE

Portland's Mount Tabor district had attracted sufficient residents by the late 1870s to establish a post office there on August 1, 1879. Joseph Lewando was appointed the first postmaster. The 1880 census recorded 508 citizens residing in the Mount Tabor Precinct. Growth continued during the 1880s and 1890s and the Mount Tabor Railway began operating a steam rail service along Hawthorne Avenue to East Portland.

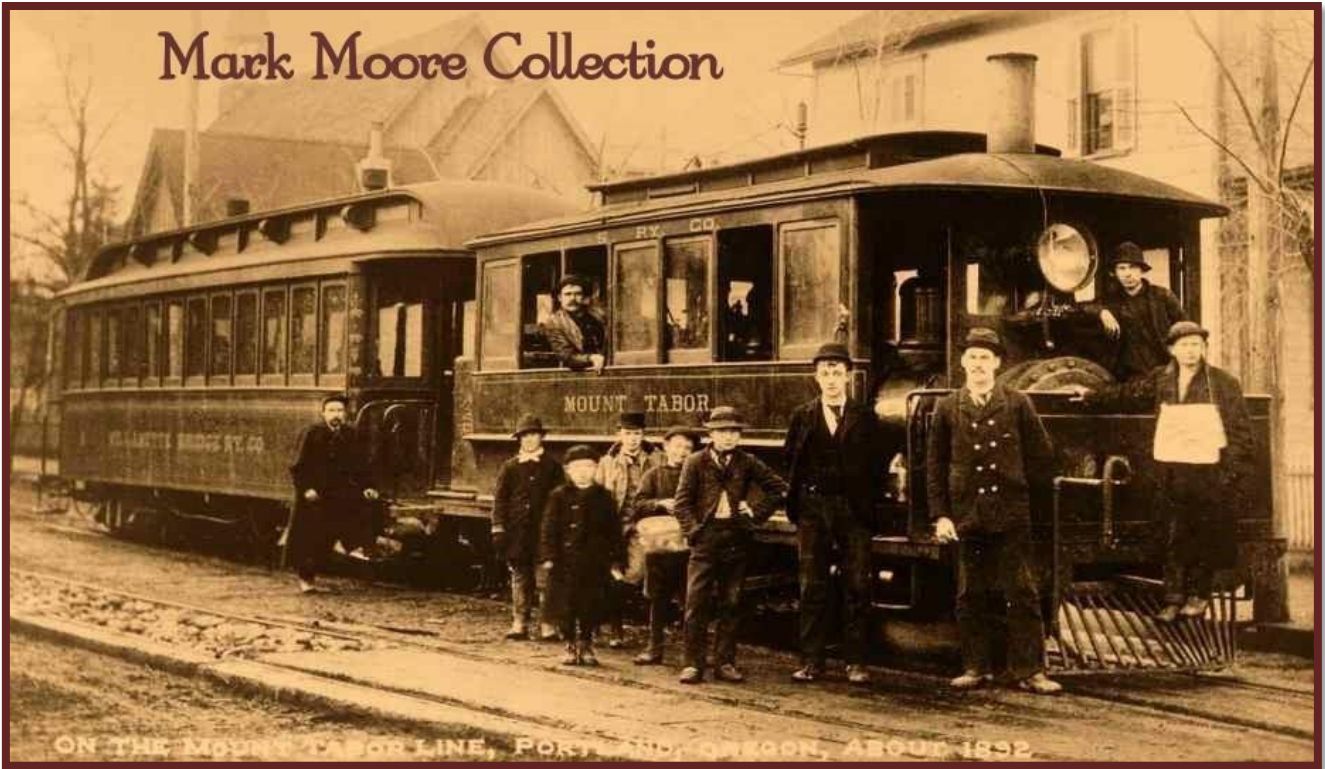
The Mount Tabor Post Office continued to operate as an independent facility until it was converted to a station of Portland on December 31, 1901 and it operated until March 31, 1911. The nearby Montavilla Post Office was established on September 16, 1902 and it was discontinued on May 28, 1966. Another post office was established in the area between 1890 and 1892 at 60th and Stark, the Palestine Post Office. It was discontinued about 1900.



Photograph of the Mount Tabor Post Office circa 1880s.

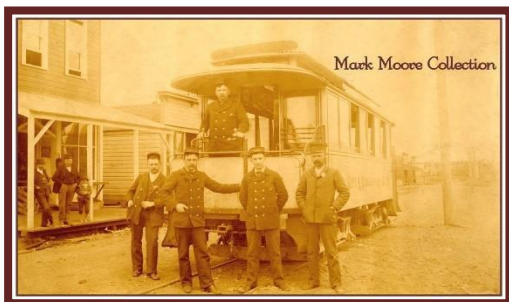
Portland's Mount Tabor Village or Villa was a stopping point for travelers going from Hood River into Portland. The name was shortened to "Montavilla," which originated from the abbreviations used on the streetcar destination signs when streetcars served the area starting in 1892. The name was first abbreviated as "Mt. Ta. Villa," then later as "Monta.Villa." Residents soon adopted the latter name for the neighborhood, written as Montavilla. Streetcar service to Montavilla ended in 1948.

## Mark Moore Collection



Photograph of City and Suburban Railway engine No. 3 and coach No. 5, on the Mount Tabor Line in 1891.

A group of youngsters is posing with the railroad cars and crew at the inner end of the Mount Tabor line on present-day southeast Morrison Street and 6th Avenue in the Buckman neighborhood. The steam engine was covered with a “dummy” cab to make it look more like a streetcar. The engine is identified as “Mount Tabor” which indicates the name of the line. The coach in the rear was still lettered for the defunct Willamette Bridge Railway Company.



## COVER PHOTO

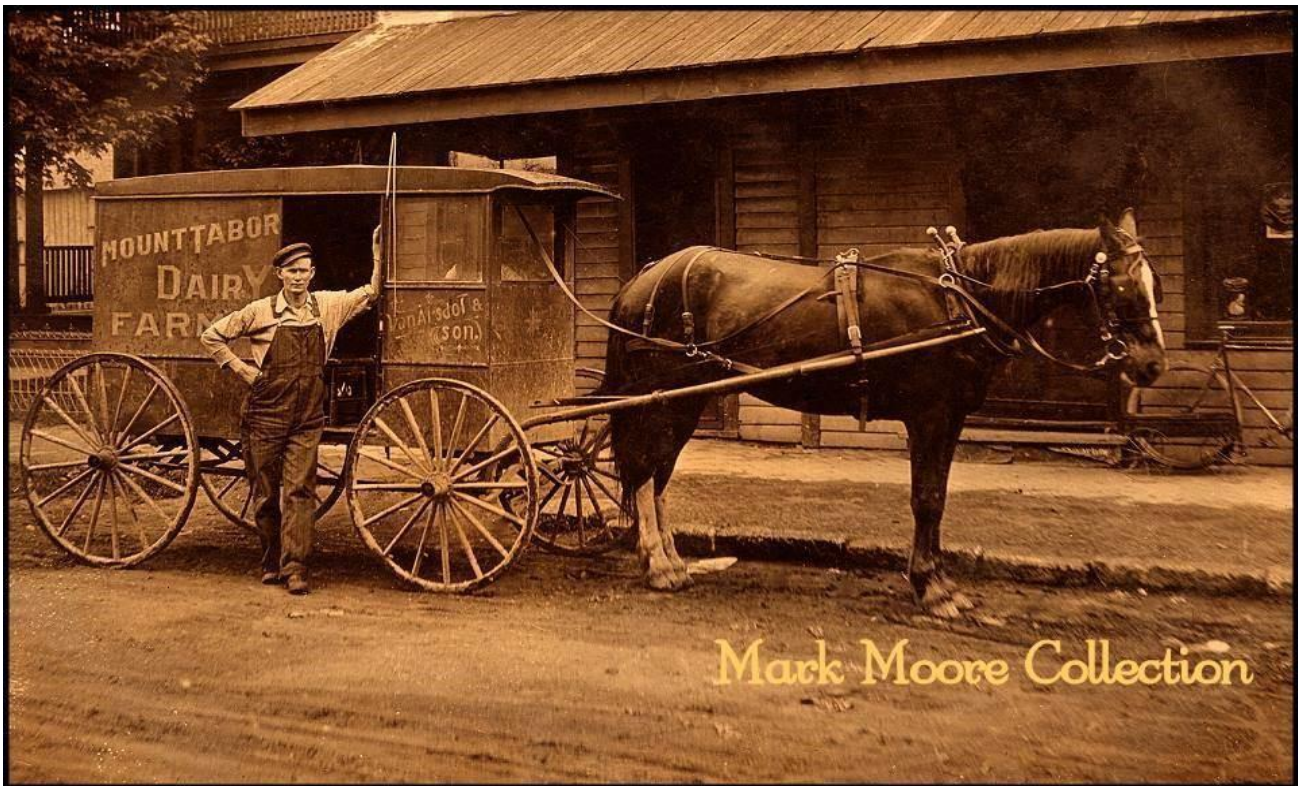
The cabinet card on the front cover shows a City & Suburban Railway streetcar at the end of the Mount Tabor Line at Southeast 69th and Belmont Street. The City & Suburban Railway began converting the Sunnyside and Mount Tabor line to electrical operation in 1892. Electric streetcars first ran to Lone Fir Cemetery and Sunnyside and finally reached Mount Tabor in 1896. City & Suburban Car No. 71 is painted white with gold trim and it awaits passengers at the 69th and Belmont Street station.

In 1892, rural Southeast Portland residents incorporated the Portland, Chicago and Mount Scott Railroad to build a branch steam streetcar line from Southeast Hawthorne to the community of Lents. The Mount Tabor Street Railway steam dummy No. 1 was borrowed for the construction of the Mount Scott line. It is shown on page 4 at Southeast 52nd and Powell Boulevard.



Mark Moore Collection

Photograph of a work crew on the Mount Scott line in 1892 with the Mount Tabor locomotive No. 1 steam dummy.



Mark Moore Collection

Real photo postcard of the Mount Tabor Dairy Farm delivery wagon operated by Van Arsdol & Son, circa 1910. Postally unused.

Photos are extremely rare, but a small amusement park is said to have operated at Mount Tabor in the 1890s. Apparently, there was a small train, a swing ride and a menagerie of animals.



Real photo postcard of the Montavilla Post Office, circa 1909. Photo by J.H.C. Sorensen, R.F.D. 1, Gresham, Oregon. Postally unused.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Thanks to Portland Streetcar Historian and Author Richard Thompson for help identifying the photos used for this article. The three photos of the Mount Tabor cars can be found in his book, *Sunnyside Streetcars*, published by Arcadia Publishing Company. Another source: *Portland Area Postal History* by former Webfooter Richard W. Helbock.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The 2023 Webfooters Annual 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. View the Auction Catalog: <http://www.thewebfooters.com/html/WF-catalog-2023.pdf>



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