



WEBFOOTER EXTRA

MAY 2023

CANNON BEACH TO ECOLA TO CANNON BEACH



Real photo postcard of the Hotel Bill in Cannon Beach circa 1909.

WEBFOOTERS POST CARD CLUB

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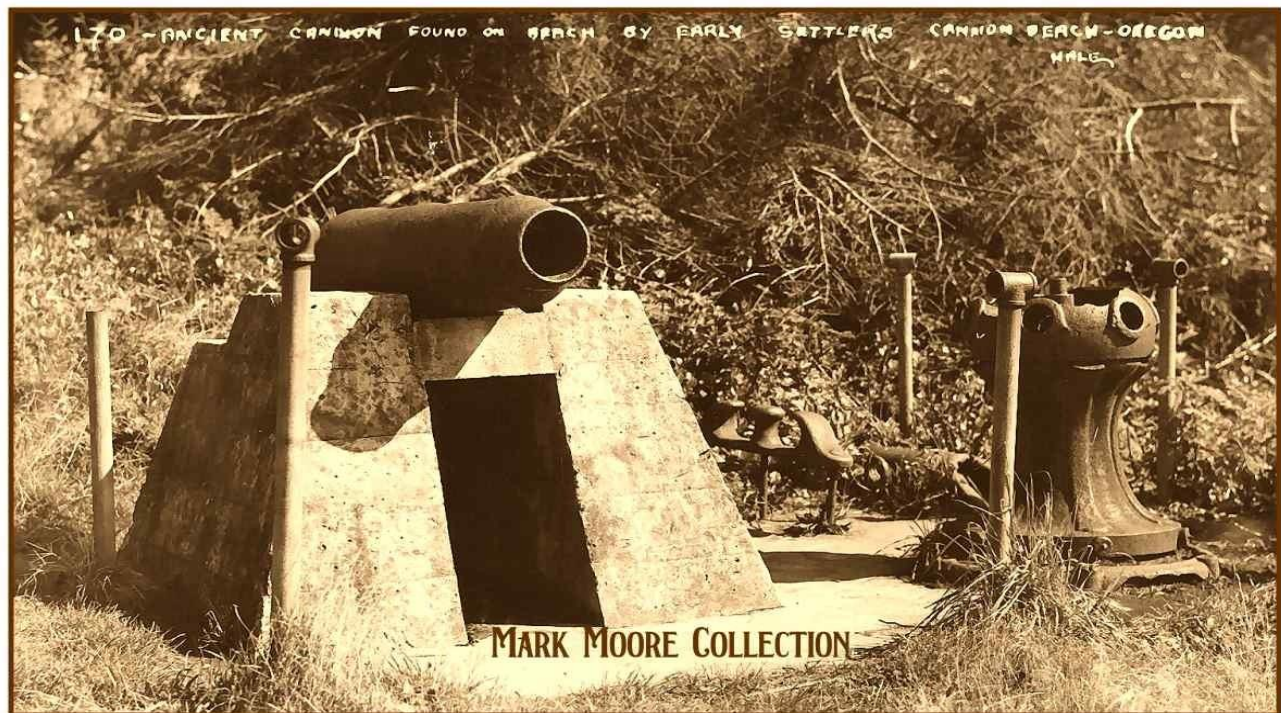
CANNON BEACH TO ECOLA TO CANNON BEACH

BY DONALD R. NELSON

Cannon Beach, Oregon was named for the cannon from the 1846 wreck of the United States Schooner Shark, discovered on the beach in 1898. According to *Cumtux*, the quarterly of the Clatsop County Historical Society from Summer 1989, James and Lydia Austin filed for a homestead near Hug Point close to where he thought the cannon was. He looked unsuccessfully for it for until his death in 1894. It was not found until 1898. James had filed for the name, Cannon Beach, to be the post office name. It operated from 1891-1901. After Austin's death, his wife continued in the position of postmaster. It would be nine years until the community would have another post office at Elk Creek.

It was originally named Ecola, to honor Captain William Clark's 1806 naming of the creek Ekoli, which came from the Chinook word Ehkoli meaning whale. He named it this because of a beached whale found nearby. Pioneers called the tributary, which traversed from the mainland to the Pacific Ocean, Elk Creek. It was changed to Ecola Creek in 1974. The Ecola Post Office opened at the Hotel Bill near the creek in 1910. The community was then known as Elk Creek.

Structures were built, sometimes, by reusing dismantled or reclaimed lumber. In the case of the Hotel Bill at Cannon Beach, an oceangoing raft of logs fell apart which littered the beach with timber. The Hotel Bill was erected in 1904 from those vagabond trees, accidentally released into the sea.



Real photo postcard of the namesake ancient cannon that was discovered on the beach in 1898.



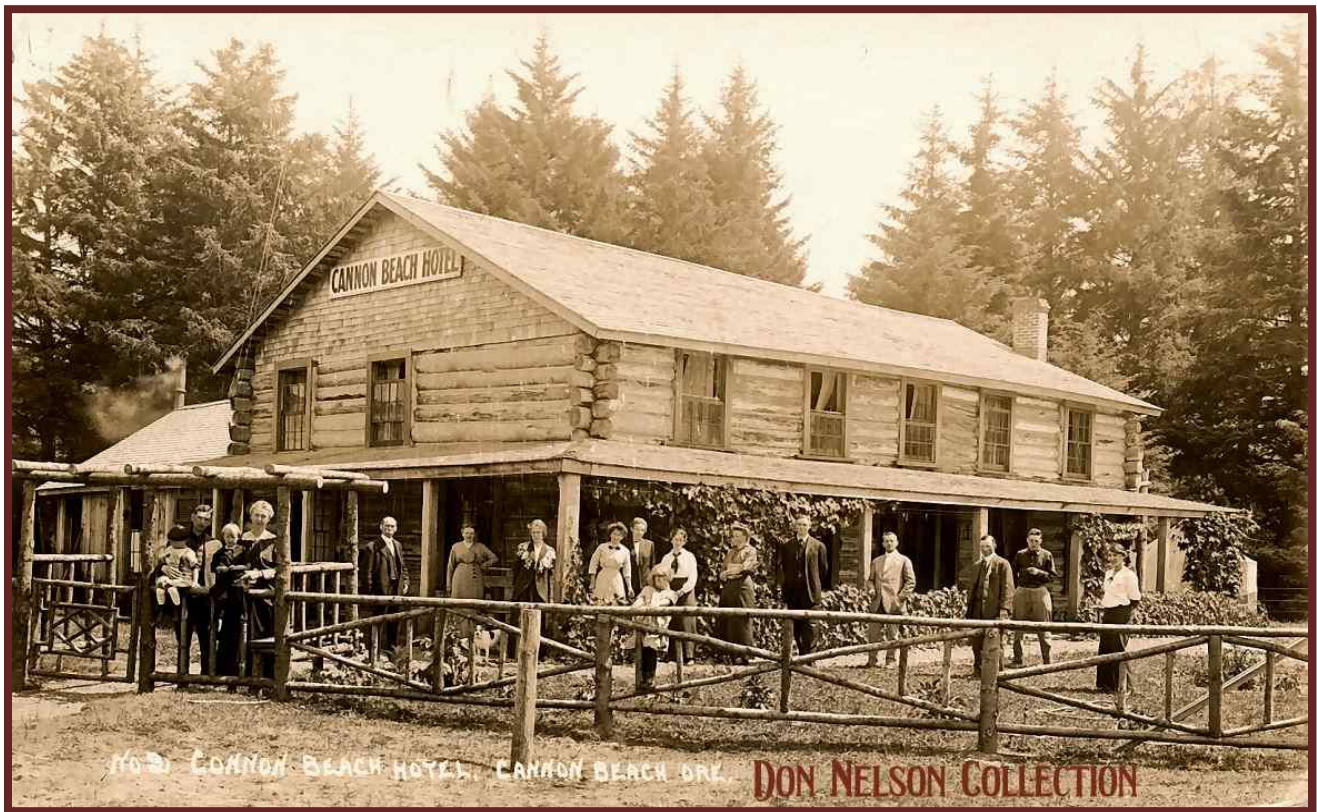
Real photo postcard showing the interior of the Hotel Bill, circa 1908.



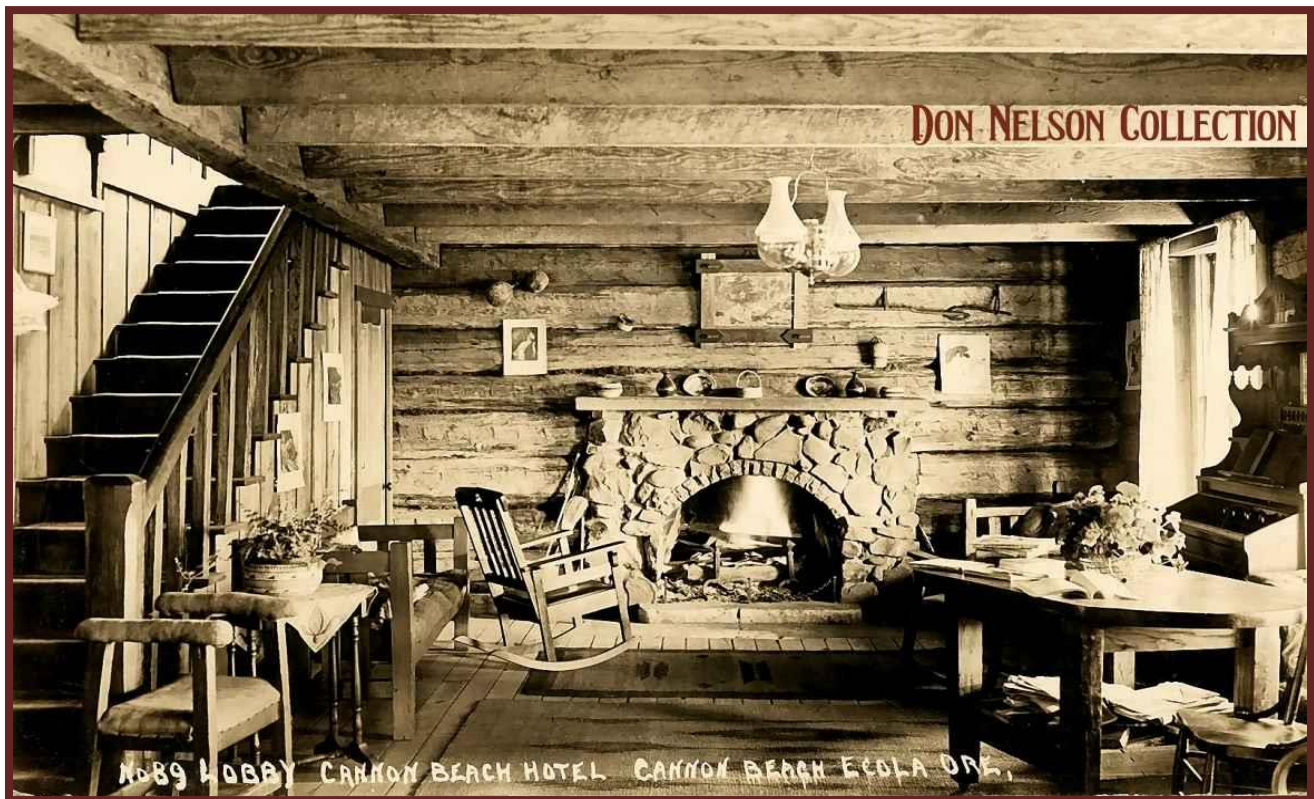
COVER PHOTO

A sign for the rustic hostelry, which designated its name, was in all capital letters at one end of the completed structure in this circa 1908 photo postcard. Also, a metal chimney extends through the roof. The interior view above, from the same time period, shows the front desk to the left, a stairway to second story rooms, a stove in the center, and a metal stovepipe. A table and a pump organ are to the right. On November 25, 1910 the Ecola Post Office was established in the hotel.

A message on a September 25, 1910 postcard of the hotel's interior, mailed from Seaside, stated "This is a fine place to spend a vacation." An advertisement from that year by L. E. Bill, the proprietor of The New Hotel Bill stated "Write me, we will meet you with team at the train in Seaside." The advertisement also mentioned that it was the only loghouse hotel on the south beach. Perhaps the name change was because of improvements to the building and furnishings.



Patton real photo postcard of the Hotel Bill which became the Cannon Beach Hotel, circa 1912.

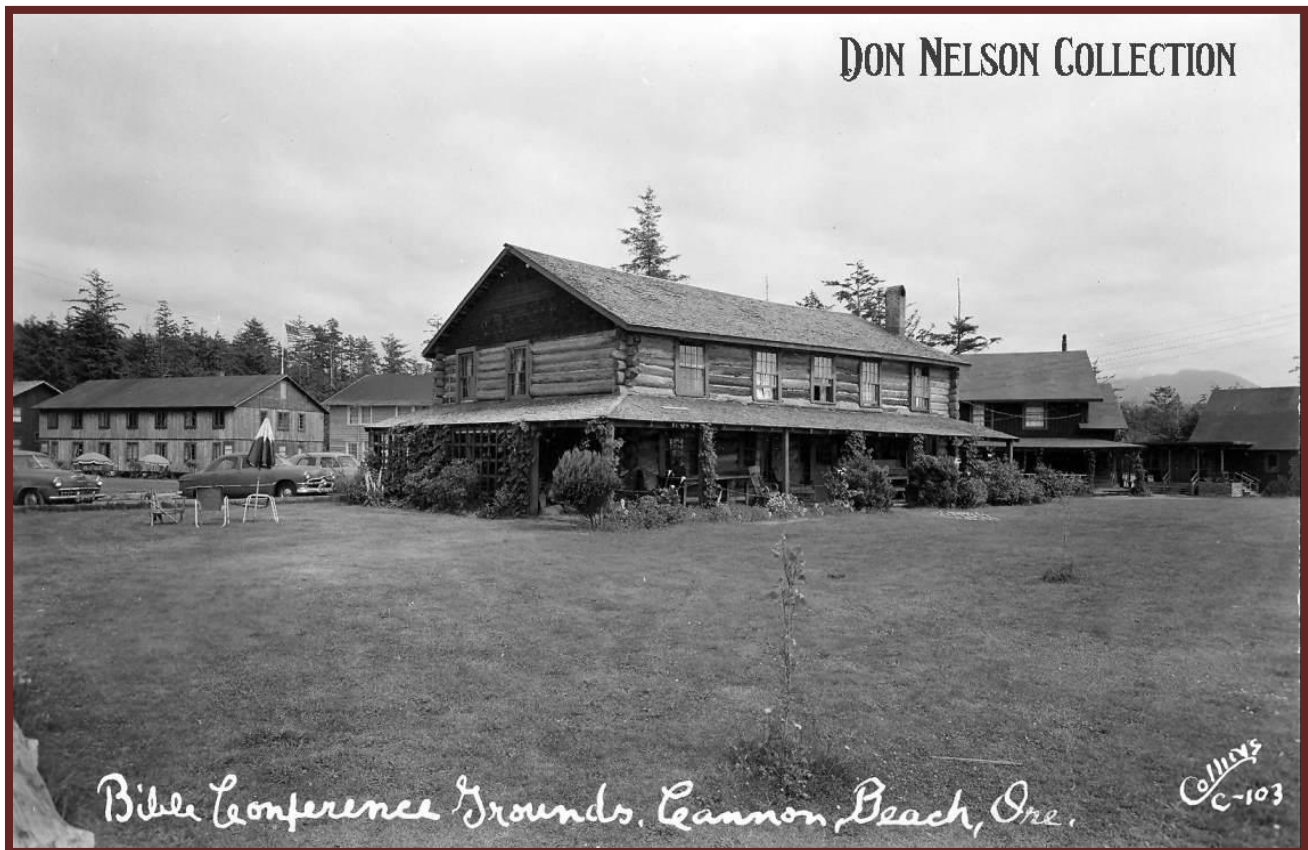


Patton real photo postcard of the interior of the Cannon Beach Hotel showing the stone fireplace, circa 1915.

The Hotel Bill was sold in 1912 to H.R. Hughes and was renamed the Cannon Beach Hotel. By that time, a brick fireplace chimney had replaced the former metal one. An interior view from the same time period shows that a stone fireplace replaced the woodstove. The lobby had been redecorated. The pump organ had been moved next to the wall. The table was moved to the side, most likely to get a good view of the fireplace for the photo. In 1922, because of confusion with the name of the Eola, Oregon Post Office, the Ecola Post Office and community were then renamed Cannon Beach.

The hotel proprietors, from the 1920s into 1940s, included D.A. Osburn and D. G. Frisbie. Beginning around 1942, the Cannon Beach and Warren hotels were occupied by the Army and then the Coast Guard because of fears of enemy attack during World War II.

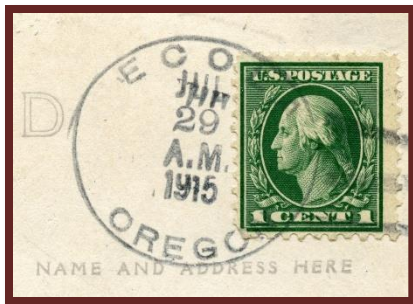
By 1944, the hotel was vacant when Mr. and Mrs. D.G. Frisbie sold the property and hotel to Evangelist Reverend Archie and his wife Evangeline McNeill. In 1945, as the McNeills envisioned, they opened their Bible Conference Grounds which over the years has expanded with additional structures around the log building and additional property. It is known today as the Cannon Beach Conference Center. Apparently, the old hotel was torn down in 1974 according to Cannon Beach Conference Center records.



Real photo postcard of the Cannon Beach Hotel which was part of the Bible Conference Center, circa 1950.



Real photo postcard of the 5 P.M. Train Arriving at Seaside, Oregon, circa 1910. An advertisement quoted L.E. Bill, the proprietor of The New Hotel Bill saying “Write me, we will meet you with team at the train in Seaside.”



Uncommon postmark from Ecola, Oregon from July 29, 1915.

RESOURCES:

- Cumtux, Clatsop County Historical Society
- Cannon Beach, A Place by the Sea
- Selah, The Cannon Beach Conference Center’s newsletter
- Oregon Geographic Names
- Cannon Beach Wikipedia
- Cannon Beach Historical Society
- Various newspaper articles



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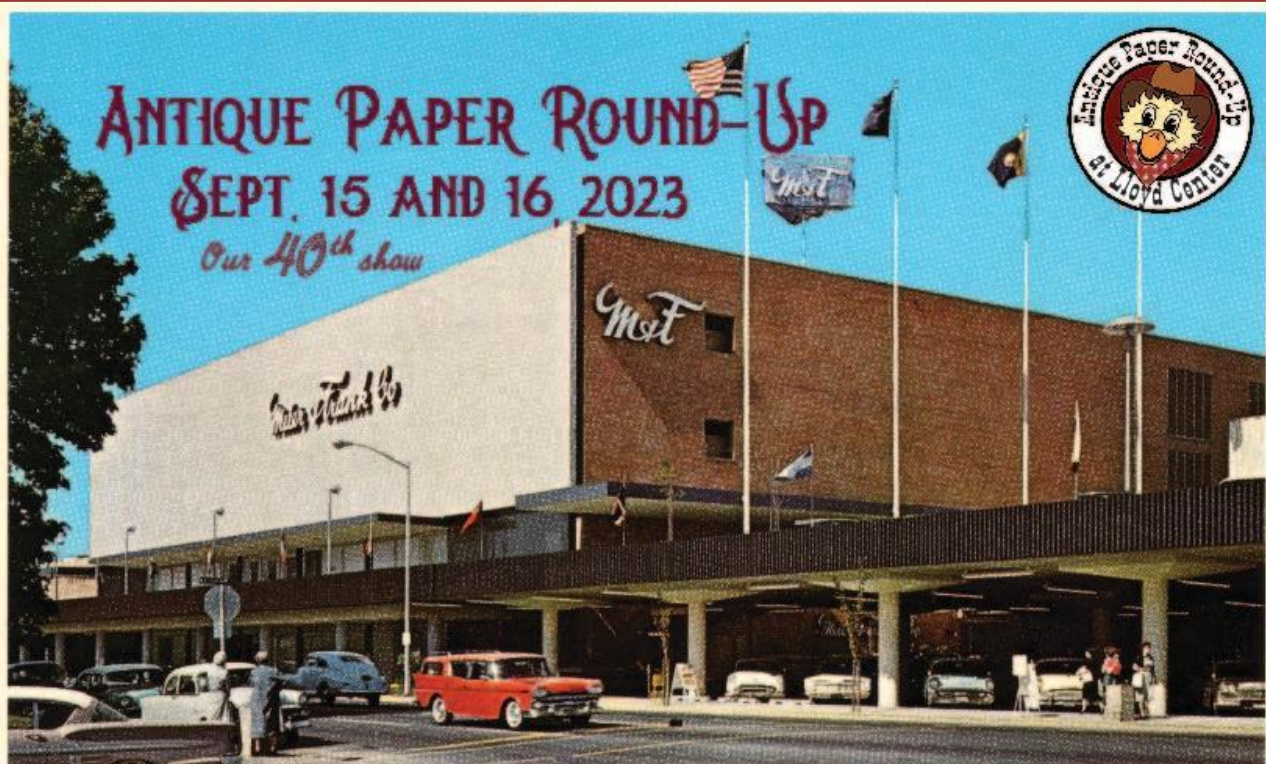
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UPCOMING EVENTS

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>



Lloyd Center, Portland, Oregon