



## Tracing the families behind the historic

# HOTEL ELLIOTT

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For The Astorian

Construction of a new hotel at the corner 12th and Duane streets began in the spring of 1924, starting on the heels of a post-fire downtown rebuild in Astoria. Plans for the building, which was then under the ownership of Charles Niemi, were drawn up with four floors and 51 rooms, though two weeks later, an additional fifth floor would be added for a total of 68 rooms.

On that same day, the Elliott family signed a lease to operate the hotel and its namesake became official.

Jeremiah and Margaret Elliott had married in New Castle, Pennsylvania, in 1885. The couple's first child, Flora, was born the next year, then their son, John, came along six years later.

Meanwhile, Clarence Short was growing up just 100 miles south of New Castle in the tiny town of Dawson, Pennsylvania. Some years later, Short married Flora in Colorado and the two families eventually made their way to Oregon. For a while, Short managed a J.C. Penney in La Grande as Flora raised their son, Harold. Meanwhile, father and son Jeremiah and John Elliott ran the Angela Hotel in Portland – but the opportunity to run Hotel Elliott soon brought the families back together in Astoria.

For decades, the hotel primarily served working class visitors. It kept its unique set of luxuries, however. Advertising itself as “a modern hotel in a modern city” with, of course, its slogan of “wonderful beds,” the concrete building stationed its lobby on the first floor where it remains to this day, now with automatic elevators to take guests up to their desired floors.

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ABOVE: Jeremiah Elliott, left, stands in the Hotel Elliott lobby while Margaret, right, stands behind a counter. This photo was taken during the 1920s. BELOW: A historic view of the block at 12th and Duane streets, where the Hotel Elliott sits.

