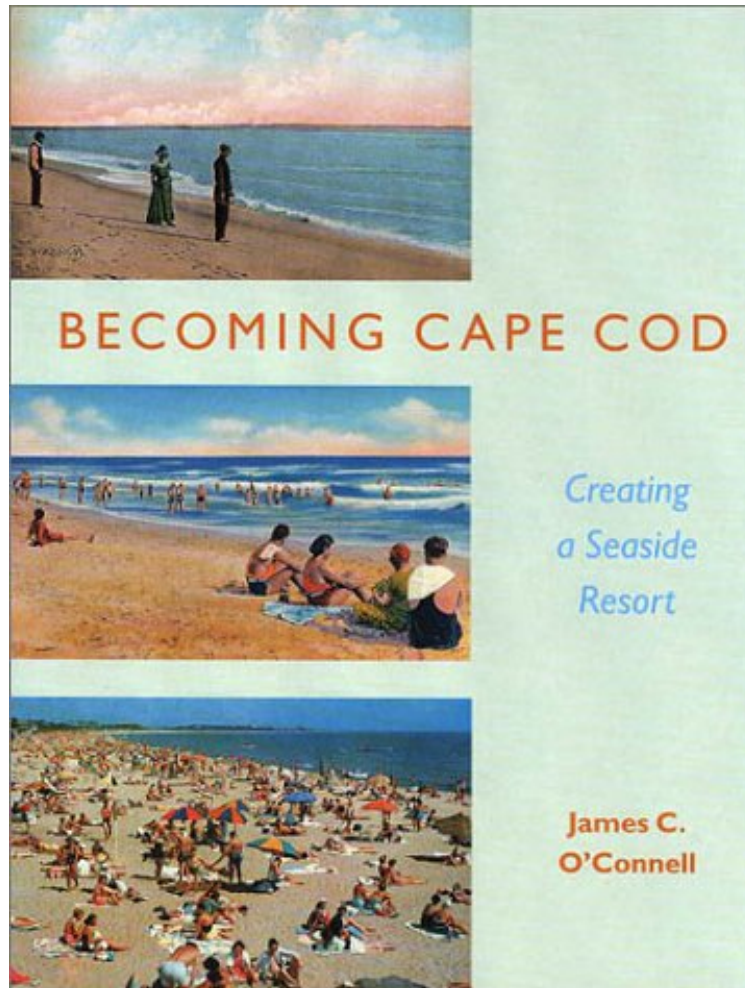


Becoming Cape Cod: Creating a Seaside Resort (Revisiting New England)

James C. O'Connell

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James C. O'Connell : Becoming Cape Cod: Creating a Seaside Resort (Revisiting New England) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Becoming Cape Cod: Creating a Seaside Resort (Revisiting New England):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. You're Gonna Fall In Love With Old Cape Cod By Timothy Kearney Becoming Cape Cod is an indispensable book for anyone who loves this Massachusetts vacation community and wishes to know more about its history. O'Connell's book tells the history of Cape Cod's development as a vacation resort and includes a quite a few details about this magical peninsula. He does a good job blending the historical significance of the Cape and some of the pop culture icons of the area. It is written in a factual manner which sometimes makes reading dry, but O'Connell remedies this with an exquisite collection of post cards used to illustrate

the book. For those familiar with the Cape, the post card illustrations provide a nostalgic trip back to yesteryear. Humorous antique postcards poke fun at the stereotype of typical Cape Codders. Some of the classic post cards show well known tourist favorites now gone such as Thompson's Clam Bar, Story Land and the Band concerts in Chatham with Whit Tileston, legendary band leader front and center (actually the concerts still continue, though Mr. Tileston is deceased). This book will be best appreciated by readers who are familiar with Cape Cod. If it is read while listening to the old Patty Page song, we will certainly believe her words are true and fall in love with Old Cape Cod.

13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. First Cape Cod Resort History By jim o'connell I am the author of *Becoming Cape Cod: The Creation of a Seaside Resort*, which is the first book to tell the history of Cape Cod's development as a vacation mecca. This book traces Cape Cod's resort history from its discovery by Henry David Thoreau before the Civil War to the present day. It is lavishly illustrated with rare historical postcards. *Becoming Cape Cod* has three main sections: 1870-1920, on the early years of the resort; 1920-1950, on the impact of the automobile on creating a tourist region with common marketing, a plethora of attractions, and a strong heritage appeal; 1950-2000, on measures taken to preserve the Cape in the face of overdevelopment. The decisive moment for the Cape's development was the coming of the automobile during the 1920s. For the first time, tourists were able to explore the entire region. As a result a plethora of cottage colonies, restaurants, antique shops, and historical landmarks appeared. After World War II, a boom ensued that continues to the present day. Cape Cod's greatest challenge has been preserving the natural environment, historic buildings, and cultural traditions that have shaped the Cape's sense of place. *Becoming Cape Cod* drew upon my experiences working at the Cape Cod Commission, a regional planning agency, in writing this book. Part social history, part cautionary tale, *Becoming Cape Cod* meditates upon how to preserve authentic places against continuing growth pressures. The Cape Cod Voice has called *Becoming Cape Cod* "an intriguing combination of historical research, overview and statistics, with a fun visual hook." The Cape Codder said the book is "a welcome and important addition to the Cape Cod history library." My other publications include three books and numerous articles on Boston, Western Massachusetts, and urban history.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. History of the Cape's Appeal By Joel P. Coffidis Having spent many summers on the Cape and still a frequent visitor, I am interested in the history of the Cape's tourism. This book is an interesting, concise, easy-to-read history of the Cape's appeal and how tourism has evolved. If you are interested in the Cape's past, present and future, this is a book for you.

Following in the footsteps of Dona Brown's pathbreaking work on New England tourism, James C. O'Connell has written the first comprehensive history of the tourist trade on Cape Cod. Lavishly illustrated from the author's personal collection of rare historical postcards, O'Connell traces the development of tourism as both an idea and a reality. Tourism came relatively late to the Cape, beginning with the establishment of resort communities in Hyannisport and Falmouth. The introduction of the automobile led to the arrival of an increasing number of middle-class tourists, which in turn spawned proliferation of motels, inexpensive hotels, cottage colonies, and campsites. To attract and entertain the new influx of tourists, the area became home to a dizzying array of restaurants, antique shops, golf courses, and historical landmarks. After World War II, a further boom ensued which still continues. Today the Cape is faced with the problems of a growing year-round population, crowds of summer vacationers, and all the associated issues of traffic, congestion, water degradation, and overdevelopment. Part social history, part cautionary tale, *Becoming Cape Cod* is also a thoroughly accessible and enjoyable history of the past 150 years of a unique and celebrated New England locale.

From the Publisher 8 1/2 x 11 trim. 126 illus. (112 color). 4 maps. About the Author JAMES C. O'CONNELL served as Economic Development Officer of the Cape Cod Commission from 1990 until 2001. He has a Ph.D. in Urban History from the University of Chicago and is currently a planner for the Boston Support Office of the National Park Service. He is author of numerous books and articles.