

Dubuque's Hotel Canfield

Perhaps not one of the most famous hotels in the country, the Hotel Canfield can still boast of a venerable 116-year history that's still going strong. First, though, let's backtrack somewhat to Dubuque, itself...also not one of our better-known metropolises.

Dubuque is the oldest city in the state of Iowa, with its rolling hills and bluffs sprawling along the west bank of the scenic Mississippi River. The city of Dubuque was founded by Julien Dubuque in the early 1800's and settled by fur traders, lead miners, and pioneers blazing new trails ever westward. Even today, the city is a historic treasure trove of riverboats, cable cars, Victorian mansions, and turn-of-the-century architecture, all popular sights with the city's visitors.

And, at the very hub of this picturesque area is the Hotel Canfield. The hotel was originally constructed in 1890 and operated under the name of the Paris Hotel. Then, it provided services for the flourishing railroad and boat-building communities and both their passengers and workers.

In 1927, the hotel facilities were expanded to over 200 rooms, but, as we see has happened with so many hotels in the past, it was partially destroyed by fire in 1946, leaving only the totally fireproof concrete structured portion as it

exists today *[Just as an aside, go through your older Hotel covers and see just how many advertise themselves 'fireproof'. It was a big problem for hotels in the past. In fact, there's an article about to come out in the new Jan/Feb Lone Star Bulletin about the largest hotel fire in US history].* Today, the Canfield Hotel has 60 rooms.

The hotel also houses the Rainbow Lounge, with its unique 1930's art deco motif. And, don't miss Tuesday through Sunday at the lounge...You'll be missing Karaoke days! Fully automated, over 9,000 selections are on hand. Step into the spotlight and be the 'star of the moment'! *[Special thanks to Mike Avitt, IA, for this]*

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