

## Board Members

President..... David Cameron [camlind@richpoor.net](mailto:camlind@richpoor.net)  
Vice Pres. .... Kal Klass [klasstwin@gmail.com](mailto:klasstwin@gmail.com)  
Treasurer..... Bill Rawlins  
Secretary ..... Ruth Danielson  
Corresponding Secretary..... Louise Lindgren  
Advisor ..... Doug Hammond



## Wrapping up 2013

What probably was our most complex year since our formation in 1983 is winding down. Frequent changes in the hazmat situation, new fisheries restrictions on fording the river, and access questions have made us depend primarily on our website and membership email notifications to let you know what was happening. With the onset of winter snow (and so far no flooding damage) our attention turns to the public access restrictions and summer cleanup. We will discuss the situation at our Winter Social on Saturday February 1, maintain our newsletter schedule, and keep posting/notifying as we learn more. Also, be sure we have your up to date email address.

## Access Road Update



At the end of September we were given a tour of the new route from Mowich on the Darrington side below Barlow Pass to its intersection with the existing county road just before the base of Hap's Hill. Seventeen folks in four wheeled drive vehicles responded to the short notice invitation from the Forest Service. We had a chance to work our way over the three miles of incomplete surfacing and bridges and then finish our preparing of the townsite for winter. A second trip was cancelled due to mud conditions following heavy rain.

In early October the contractor construction crew achieved its goal of finishing the first bridge and shut down until the ground dries out enough to resume in the spring. There are two more bridges to build, along with work on road support and surfacing. Then follow widening several spots between the top of Hap's Hill and Monte Cristo on the county road and placing temporary culverts in Glacier Creek at the old Mine to Market Road bridge site to access the United Companies' concentrator area. Work also will be required to prepare the depository site. That

borders the Bonannos' Condor placer claim property before the second hill into town and will destroy the railway switchback.

The new route has some notable drawbacks for users. It adds another mile and approximately 180 feet of elevation gain from Mowich to Hap's, but more important is the route of the middle section. From Mowich to the first bridge the gain is gradual and steady, following previous bulldozing by a member of the old Monte Cristo Resort, Inc. in the 1990s. From the first bridge however part two changes abruptly with totally new construction. Two steep hill rises and drops, sharp winding twists around trees and obstacles, down though swales and drainages, and up again: Interesting! The last section utilizes the early 1960s Forest Service road grade through dense, mostly second growth timber and along wet areas, rather than gradually rising and coming out atop Hap's Hill as previously planned. Comparing the different eras and restrictions in road building makes a lesson in itself. By contrast, traveling from Twin Bridges to Hap's Hill on the railroad/ county road route is far easier, faster, and features fine views of the mountains and river, missing from the inland, timbered bypass.

At this point there still is no known decision on who or what types of transportation will be allowed to use the new road after the cleanup, save for ATVs allowed for those monitoring the effectiveness of the cleanup over coming decades.

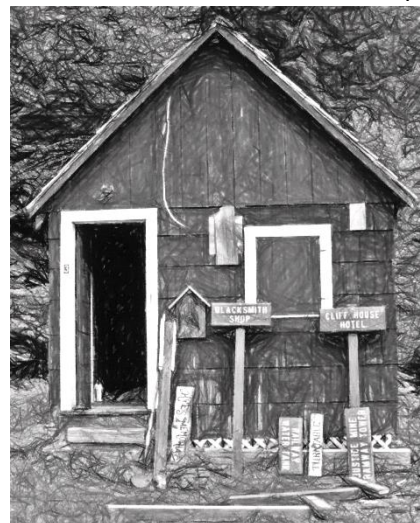
## Plans for the Future

This coming year promises to be complex as well. We expect more changes in cleanup plans and await publication of the cultural resources portion. That consultant's report was due to the Forest Service in October. Starting dates and details of access restrictions and enforcement also are unknown.

On the positive side, we will be receiving benefits from the work of UW graduate student Rebecca Tresor in helping prepare post cleanup interpretive plans. As part of her M.A. requirements in museology she has been studying the history, artifacts, and locations at Monte and will complete her proposal by late spring. At this point there is no Forest Service money allocated for such work, so her contributions will be especially important.

Thanks to our volunteers this fall we have stored all our signage in F.S. Cabin 3 until we can set them back up. A new brochure will be needed once we learn the changes. This fall a volunteer contacted the Forest Service and us about restoring the Kyes Memorial on Dumas Street. That also will await our return.

For the past several years we have been collecting donations toward creation of an interpretive center and are continuing to do so. That is something definitely missing at Monte Cristo since the lodge burned in 1983. We still are very much in the idea and information gathering stages. One concern is that if future access is restricted, our members and volunteer work party participants might have difficulty reaching the town and still have enough time to accomplish needed tasks. Thus an overnight shelter might be helpful. Our organization owns three lots on Dumas Street above the Kyes cabin and close to the concentrator, thanks to donations by Drs. Janice and Harvey Heiges and the Edmonds-South Snohomish County Historical Society, who gave them to us free of charge and restrictions. They total a square 75'x75'. If you have suggestions, insights, or concerns on these or other issues, please let us know.



#### Officers for 2014

Our board is the policy making body, with members serving a maximum of two three-year terms before having to step down for a minimum of ten months. Any member is welcome to apply to be on the board, and we encourage you to consider taking on such a role. We always need new faces and ideas to help us in our mission of caring for the heritage of Monte Cristo and its surroundings.

Serving us for this coming year are President: Kal Klass; Vice President: Doug Hammond; Treasurer: Bill Rawlins; Secretary: Ruth Danielson; Corresponding Secretary: Louise Lindgren. Mike Kahler is our webmaster ([www.mc-pa.org](http://www.mc-pa.org)), while David Cameron continues with the newsletter.



#### Winter Social Coming Up Saturday February 1

Please mark the date and join us for our annual winter get-together to meet, greet, and learn more about what is current about our favorite ghost town. We will return to The Barn in Marysville's Jennings Park, 6915 Armar Road, for potluck supper starting at 5:30, followed by a program on the cleanup and photos of Monte "then and now."

Bring along a food item to share, and we'll provide the coffee, tea, soft drinks, and utensils. If you would like to help with setup, please arrive at 5.

More information and a reminder will be coming before then. See you there!

#### A Reminder About Membership

Our membership year starts on June 1 and runs through May 31 to coincide with the snow melt and access to the gate at Barlow Pass. For the past several years we have kept the same lock and key, as we have been able to drive only as far as the clay slide. Parking well inside is a definite plus, the Forest Service this year noting problems with car vandalism by posting a sign at Barlow warning about the amount of crime there.

Dues have remained at \$24 per year since we were formed, while the cost of the specialized county key reflects its cost to make. Currently that is \$18. We consider it a wise investment. Notarized waivers are required by Snohomish County and MCPA. As this is a county road, all normal traffic rules apply.

Our annual membership meeting is held at noon on the first Saturday in June, also a potluck, and is the normal beginning of our field season. We have been holding it at the Verlot Public Service Center and encourage you to come for good food, socializing, and updating on our summer plans. This one is *guaranteed* to be even more interesting.

## Historical Essay

In this last of three parts of *The Coast* magazine article from 1902 the description continues of how the United Companies' concentrator turned crushed ore into concentrates for shipping down to the smelter along the river in north Everett.

"The middlings are passed through another set of rolls and elevated 65 feet, where they are sized on a two-millimeter screen, passed on to an hydraulic classifier and fed on three jigs, called "slime jigs," where they are shaken and washed and the ore concentrated.

The muddy overflow from all the classifiers is run into settling tanks and from them the mud is fed to pass over four large revolving tables across which water is constantly running. The product of this machine is concentrated ore, middlings and tailings. The tailings are run out into the gulch, but the middlings are fed to five vanners [machines or belts to separate ore by shaking], where they are concentrated.

From the jigs, the round tables and the vanners the concentrated ore is taken through launders [shallow grade chutes] to bins, where it lies to await shipment to the smelter. This ore carries gold and silver in the ratio of two to one. Extreme care is constantly exerted to gather all the precious mineral and lose as little as possible in the tailings. The plant is under the management of John P. Christopher, with L. Bilodeau superintendent of the mill. The concentrator is a double plant and has a capacity of 300 tons of ore daily.

### Adieu Monte Cristo

After a hearty dinner and a short walk around the camp the train gives the signal of departure. The deafening roar and noise of the mill grows faint as we go away from it. We turn and take a last look at the mountains around us. Far up the cañon we can see the small black hole – the entrance to the Mystery mine. Then we can see where the tramway crosses the summit of the ridge to reach the other side. We see the buckets moving slowly along that streak of black. We again hear the ceaseless whirr and roar of the concentrator.

Looking down the cañon we see the place where mountain slides have deposited a bank of everlasting snow. We start. The river rushes and whirls on under us as we cross the short trestle. The water splashes and dashes in foam and spray over rocks and stones. We take another last lingering look at the wild, sublime scenery; we inhale a long, lasting breath of the clear, pure mountain air; we are thrilled with another emotion of joy and pleasure that we have been able to see and experience the great glories and grandeur of the place; we wonder at the vast, unlimited, unknown, unreckoned amount of wealth lying buried from sight in these massive mounds marking earth's evolving struggles; we scent the fir and cedar; we see the larch and hemlock; then we muse that we are to pass down the way we came – through the forest, along the cañon, by the river.

### The Monte Cristo Railway

As we ride along we are filled with admiration for the enterprise and pluck, coupled with perseverance and determination which planned and built the railroad over which we ride. Engineering skill in surveying and constructing were brought into use to overcome almost insurmountable obstacles, and all successfully. Great care and continual vigilance is the price of the safe and profitable operation of the road. The service is first-class and the trainmen and officers of the line courteous and affable. The general superintendent is J.O. Whitmarsh.

### At the Smelter

In the afternoon we return to Everett, two miles from which is located the smelters of the Puget Sound Reduction company, where the ores which we have been considering are reduced. This plant was established in 1894. It is one of three smelters in this State handling copper ores and one of two handling lead ores. It has a daily capacity of 400 tons of ore and covers an area of twenty acres. It employs 175 men. W.C. Butler is the manager.

Upon its arrival from Monte Cristo or Silverton the ore undergoes a preliminary roasting to eliminate the sulphur. It is crushed and carried through ovens in an increasing heat. Here the arsenic, being a volatile substance, arises in the smoke and fumes and is carried through brick flues where, as the gases strike the cold surface of the sides, the arsenic is precipitated in the form of dust which is gathered up and shipped.

From the roasting ovens the ore is carried to the blast furnace, where in charges of 2,000 pounds it is dumped in and mixed with coke and limestone. When it is thoroughly molten the lead with the gold and silver sinks to the bottom. The first run consists of these metals. This is called "base bullion." The next product run off is a bi-product, called "matt," consisting of iron and sulphur carrying some matt is drawn [?]. This is run out into iron pots and thrown away.

The base bullion goes from the blasting furnace to the blast furnace department of the refinery, where the lead is removed from the gold and silver, and run off into ingots ready for use. The gold and silver in a com-lead, [line missing] gold, silver, and copper. The last run is slag, which is practically an artificial stone, which is left after the posite form is made into "dore bars" and shipped to the parting smelters, where the gold and silver is separated, when the gold is taken to the Seattle assay office and the silver shipped to the Orient.

The matt is treated like crude ore. It is passed through the roasting furnace, the blast furnace, etc. By working up the matt and the bi-product the copper is worked out.

The Everett smelter in one year turns out 50,000 ounces of gold, 1,500,000 ounces of silver, 7,000 tons of lead and from 500 to 600 tons of copper.

### Finale

The day is now done. The scenes, the activities, the beauties, the delights, the enjoyments, the knowledge, the recreation, the study, the emotions, the inspirations, the glories, the grandeur, the sublimity and overwhelming pleasure of it all dwell in our hearts, minds, and souls to sweeten the halls of memory with their essence and to paint pictures for dreams and fancies with their remembrance. Ah, it is a day well spent. It allows man to draw near to the great soul of the Infinite and to touch with emotions the vast spirit of the Creator. Hope has found a harbor in our hearts, and mind has been stimulated by increased action – hope, that we may see like scenes again; action, that we may do so as others have already done.”

David A. Cameron, Ph.D.



The Everett smelter, with its huge mound of slag extending below the ovens and stacks toward the Snohomish River. It also was part of the complex ASARCO hazmat cleanup process. (color postcard, Cameron collection)

**MCPA MEMBERSHIP FORM - June 2013- May 2014**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Area(s) of Interest/Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Please check: ☐ Mail key and Permit ☐ Will Pick up Key and Permit

\$24.00 - Membership

Mail To: MCPA

**\$0.00 - Key for Renewing Members (Use Old Key)**

**PO Box 471**

**\$18.00 - Key for New members only**

**Everett, WA 98206**

**MCPA CHARITABLE DONATION FORM**

I wish to donate to the MCPA. The amount I wish to donate is:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ Other

**MCPA INTERPRETIVE CENTER DONATION FORM**

I wish to donate to the MCPA Interpretive Center. The amount I wish to donate is:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: MCPA

**PO Box 471**

**Everett, WA 98206**

**THANK-YOU!**

**C.D. ORDER FORM**

This is a C.D. with pictures from Monte Cristo, up to 100 years ago.

Cost: \$20.00 -Includes Shipping

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: MCPA

**c/o Kal Klass**

**3815 E Garfield St.**

**Seattle, WA 98112**

**Thank you for your order!**

**T-SHIRT ORDER FORM**

These T-Shirts are colored gray with the MCPA Logo printed in green on the front.

(Price Includes Shipping within US Only.)

Please specify size: \_\_\_\_\_ Medium Short Sleeve (\$15.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ Medium or Large Long Sleeve (\$20.00)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: MCPA

**c/o Kal Klass**

**3815 E Garfield St.**

**Seattle, WA 98112**

**Thank you for your order!**



Monte Cristo Preservation Assoc.  
PO Box 471  
Everett, WA 98206-0471  
<http://www.mc-pa.org>

**Mark Your Calendars:**  
**Winter Social is February 1, 2014 at 5:30pm**

«FirstName» «LastName»

«Address1»

«City», «State» «PostalCode»