

Hello MCPA Members and Friends,



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September is upon us, although the summer weather has yet to start its retreat. We've enjoyed a dry season in the North cascades, although this has included several small fires on the West slopes. One of these was in the Sunrise Mine area off the Mountain Loop Highway, closing that corridor to hikers, but fortunately not posing a major threat to the area. Another

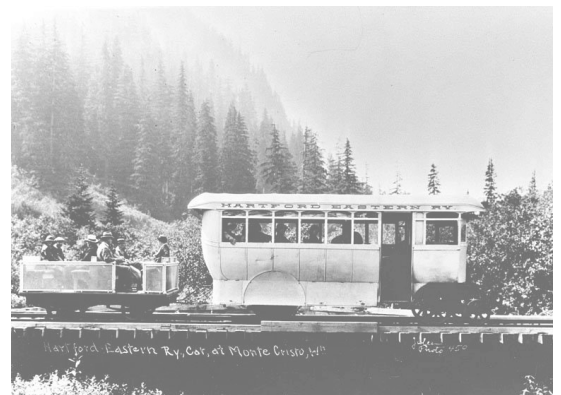
area of interest on the Mountain Loop involves the ongoing Gold Basin Habitat Restoration Project, where nearly 2000 feet of the Stillaguamish river is being redirected into a new man-made channel to reduce the sediment deposited into the river from an ice-age era landslide on the North bank of the river. This construction is now visible from the Mountain Loop Highway as a 2500 foot long log structure is being built along the bank to prevent further migration of the river into the landslide. All of this activity is focused on improving the Salmon habitat. You can learn more by Googling for Gold Basin Habitat Restoration Project.

While our newsletter enjoyed a mid-summer break due to member's time away, our work parties have continued as usual each 3rd Saturday. We have focused much time improving the County Road to the benefit of 100's of hikers per weekend. Monte Cristo remains a popular destination and the improvements we've made to the road and trails do not go unnoticed. Although hiking into the townsite with gear, tools and supplies does cut the amount of time we can actually spend at the townsite, we have still managed to maintain the railyard areas and cabins and accomplish some trail work on the adjoining trails.

An interesting occurrence, and a reminder to our need for ongoing awareness and publicity, a history advocate at the Everett Public Library recently contacted the MCPA with a concern about a "For Sale" post she encountered whereby someone was offering for sale one of the large metal "Monte Cristo Lodge" signs seen at the townsite. The photos in the ad identified the sign as the one at the large rock near the Sauk river footbridge at the townsite. While the concern was that someone may have actually stolen the artifact, we did determine a few days later (at a Saturday work party) that the sign was still intact and in place. The library specialist flagged the for sale listing as "Potentially Stolen" and the MCPA notified the USFS about the incident. The MCPA has offered to better secure these and other artifacts at the townsite, but the USFS has yet to authorize that. Regardless, we were happy to assist in this discovery and the flagging of the for-sale post quickly caused it to be removed from the website where it was offered.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, a wedding was witnessed in the townsite in June. While it was suggested this may have been the first townsite wedding since the mining days, we quickly learned that is not the case. Members David Cameron and Louise Lindgren married in the townsite in 1989. Members Darryl and Patti Jacobsen in 1992. It was mentioned member Kathy Johnson was married atop Silvertip Peak, and Ed and Nancy Molse also enjoyed a Monte Cristo wedding. Given this quickly discovered list, likely there are other couples who have also dedicated their special day to Monte Cristo.

Also in the July newsletter, a copy of an old "Monte Cristo Inn" brochure was pictured, and a challenge to find a common misprint. For those who did not figure it out, the brochure incorrectly listed the "Hartford and Eastern Railroad", which would have been properly named "Hartford Eastern Railway" (no "and" included). The Hartford Eastern served Monte Cristo from 1915 to 1936, and was operated by the Rucker brothers from Everett. The Ruckers also built and operated the Big Four Inn, which opened in 1921 and was destroyed by fire in 1949.



Lastly, it is with saddened hearts we learned of the passing of MCPA supporter Dr. Janice Heiges in August, following a 2 year fight with cancer. Dr. Janice and her husband Dr. Harvey Heiges shared a passionate interest in the Monte Cristo area and history, and a certain attraction to the Monte Cristo Railway, to the point of having scale models of the railway professionally built at their homes. The Heiges' also generously donated their townsite lots # 28 and #29 to the MCPA; these lots are included in our ongoing plans for an interpretive trail and signage to better inform visitors of the area history. Shortly after the Heiges' donation, the Edmonds-South Snohomish County Historical Society also donated their nearby Lot #31 to the MCPA. We once again thank you Drs. Janice and Harvey for your generosity and support, and all our members will certainly keep you in our prayers.

And not to forget....MCPA work Party 3rd Saturday of September - 9/18, 9:00AM at the Barlow Pass gate.

Thanks everyone for your continued support and participation, Mike Kahler, MCPA President

HISTORICAL ESSAY

The purpose of a newspaper is to make money. This is done primarily by selling ads, while subscriptions help. First you lay out the ads, then you fill in the empty spaces with stories. These are journalism facts of life explained to me by George Martin, my first publisher. Failure to achieve that purpose explains why none of the papers of early Snohomish County still is in print, including *The Monte Cristo Mountaineer*. It was the creation of James H.S. Bartholomew and lasted two or three years from late 1893 and survived mostly on his “prodigious nerve” and then petered out like a vein of wire gold in a volcanic gulch” according to author William Whitfield in his *History of Snohomish County*. Bartholomew then became a lawyer.

There is but one surviving copy to my knowledge, and that is safely in the files of the Northwest Room of the Everett Public Library, the gift of former *Everett Daily Herald* editor Abe Glassberg. The original *Herald* itself was a weekly and lasted between 1891 and 1897. Fortunately for us that paper carried a regular column carrying the news of Monte and also is at the library. (The present *Herald* began in 1901.)

Up the North Fork Skykomish River and then its major tributary Silver Creek the earliest mining rush to Mineral City never produced a paper, but in 1892 John Scott’s newly platted Galena City at the mouth of that creek saw the 18 month existence of the *Inter-Cascade Miner*, its printing plant carried in and out by pack train from the Great Northern Railway station in Index.

Meanwhile at the northern end of the Monte neighborhood *The Silverton Miner* went through three different versions and ownerships, plagued by economic problems. Here is an excerpt from December 18, 1902.

“Henry Knute Hanson Passes Away

It becomes the sad duty of the *Miner* to chronicle the departure of Mr. Henry Knute Hanson, not from this world of care, but from the mining town of Silverton, the said departure having taken place on Thursday, Dec. 11. The saddest part of the affair is that Mr. Hanson departed without liquidating his bills which aggregate in the neighborhood of \$600. He came to Silverton about nine months ago and was employed at different mines as cook until about the first of August, when he assumed control of the restaurant at the north end of the bridge, and since then he has apparently devoted his time and talents to beating everybody with whom he had any business. The result is that nearly every person in Silverton who had anything to sell is mourning his departure. It appears that about the only thing he owned was a few chairs and an unlimited amount of nerve. The former were taken by the owner of the building as part satisfaction for rent due, and it is supposed that Hanson took the latter with him. He left on Thursday’s train, after stating that he would return the following day – having made arrangements to give a dance on Friday night. Will McDonough, O.L. Lee, and W.E. Bender are the chief mourners.

The restaurant has been reopened and now Mr. Sinclair McLaurin, better known as “Spiker Henneidy,” provides for the wants of the hungry.”

David A. Cameron



Silverton in the Winter, courtesy of the author.

MCPA Membership Form

Membership Year: _____ (membership runs Jan to Dec)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Area(s) of Interest / Skills: _____

Please select only 1 box below:

\$25.00 - Annual Membership (Mail this Form and \$25 to MCPA)

---- or ----

\$50.00 - Annual Membership + A New Barlow Pass Gate Key *
(* keys from 2010 to now are still valid)

- Download "MCPA Waiver/Release" form at www.mcpa.us (MEMBERSHIP)
- Sign and Notarize the "MCPA Waiver/Release" form
- Mail the Notarized Form, this Form, and \$50 to MCPA
- A new gate key will be mailed to the above address

MCPA Donation Form (Non-Profit 501(c)(3) EIN: 911230143)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

MCPA Donation - I wish to donate the following amount:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 Other \$ _____

MCPA Interpretive Center Donation - I wish to donate the following amount:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 Other \$ _____

Monte Cristo Historic Pictures Order Form

Pictures of Monte Cristo up to 100+ years ago. Pictures will be emailed (~24 MB in size).

Name: _____ Email: _____

\$20.00 – Electronic Pictures of Historic Monte Cristo

Mail Form To: **MCPA**
P.O. Box 471
Everett, WA 98206

email questions to:
hartze4@gmail.com



Monte Cristo Preservation Assoc.
PO Box 471
Everett, WA 98206
www.mcpa.us

Next Work Party
Sat. Sept 18th at 9am
Meet at the Barlow Pass Gate

«FirstName» «LastName»
«Address1»
«City», «State» «PostalCode»