

Board Members

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Happy Summer MCPA Members!

Welcome to September, it surely arrived in a hurry. Our summer work parties have accomplished a lot so far, including maintenance and improvements on the lower (first) mile of the Monte Cristo Road. Much work has been done to improve the numerous bypass trails that maintain an access route where the county road is compromised. This is especially helpful for persons with bicycles, as many areas were previously quite narrow. Our first sign has also been installed at our interpretive site, just above the rail yard/cabins in the townsite. Thanks to all who worked on designing the content, packing the materials in to town, and installing the sign. We should have 2 additional signs delivered in September, with hopes of also having them installed this year.

Our next work party is planned for September 17th (3rd Saturday, 9:00AM). We have good list of jobs to tackle on the lower mile. We are also planning a group lunch at noon at the MCPA picnic table (this is about 1/4 mile in from the Barlow Pass Gate). Several volunteers spent significant time preparing this area for us, given it has not seen much use over the past 2 years (Thanks, COVID). MCPA will be providing salmon burgers with all the fixings and drinks; feel free to bring a side dish or snack to share. Please RSVP to allpinball@yahoo.com if you plan to attend, so we can bring enough burgers for everyone.

Tourism in the townsite has been constant, with easily 50+ persons seen hiking to the townsite on a given Saturday. The roadway beyond Twin Bridges has remained largely unchanged, with the exception of a recurring washout at Sylvan Creek (just beyond Hap's Hill) which incurred significant damage over the winter. The road is still passable on bike and foot but would likely be a challenge for a typical 4-wheel drive vehicle. Hikers have also been flocking to other trails along the Mountain Loop highway, especially Lake 22, where the parking lots routinely spill out on to the highway, resulting easily in 200 cars



Washout at Sylvan Creek, Monte Cristo Road (past Hap's Hill)

parked there on a Saturday. Certainly, anyone looking for a leisurely weekend hike would benefit from the extra drive to Barlow Pass, met with a less crowded trail and some historical significance thrown in for good measure.

Take care and hope to see you September 17th!

Mike Kahler
MCPA President

HISTORICAL ESSAY

Elizabeth Kyes' Story Pt. 3

In our last episode we left Elizabeth Kyes in Monte Cristo with her young son Leo, baby Velma, father Uriah, and husband James. He was manager of the Monte Cristo Mercantile Company on Dumas Street while his family remained at home in Everett. Elizabeth had just made her first hike up the steep trail into Glacier Basin with another lady from town and been welcomed by a friendly woman who lived in the valley with her husband, shift boss at the Pride of the Mountains mine. The story resumes. We went around and looked at the glacier and saw the old Pride of the Woods mine cabins up on the side of Wilmans Peak, which was their first camp.

When we got back to Monte, we were two tired women. My poor legs were about all in, and it seemed I couldn't take another step.

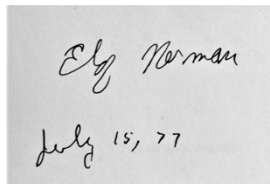
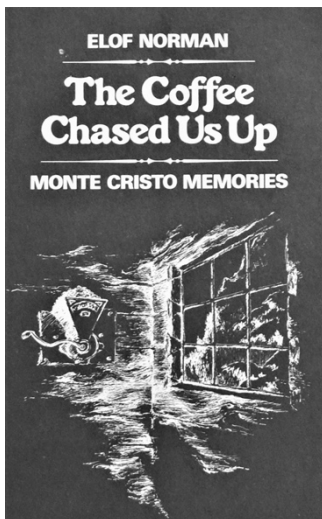
I would like to tell you about the store. It was a general store with about everything to sell. There was a drug department. Pills of all kinds and patent medicines that were sure to cure all your ills. Groceries of all kinds, mostly canned goods. Pound cans of meat sold for 20 cents per pound, fresh vegetables in season, eggs by the crate. There were also miners' supplies, heavy shoes, heavy sox, overalls, Bandana handkerchiefs, heavy shirts, underwear, lamps and kerosene. There was a post office in the back of the building and a big round stove in the middle of the building. Jim was appointed Post Master in 1902 and held the office a good many years.

The living quarters up stairs over the store were very comfortable. There was a kitchen in the back and two rooms in the front part and a large space in between the kitchen and front rooms. We had a large ping pong table, and we all became quite good players. The summer sped by, and the children were both much improved. We would take long walks every day, viewing all the wonderful mountains and rushing, roaring creeks and picking huckleberries. I canned them and made jelly. Alan made jelly out of the salmon berries.

The mines were all running full blast, about 500 men working seven days a week. The Royal Hotel was completed and was quite an imposing building. There was at that time in the town of Monte Cristo a meat market, a barber shop, about four saloons, a good depot with agent, and many good dwelling houses. The store that we were in was the largest of all, and it was a general store.

That winter there were enough children for a school, so a teacher was engaged. We had decided to spend the winter in the mountains, so we closed the house in Everett and arranged to live in Monte Cristo for some time. Leo was hired to be janitor for the school for the sum of \$5.00 per month. The school had about 12 children. Well, the winter came on. The weather was fine up until about December, and then the heavy snow came, and by January we had about ten feet of snow. Snow all around us, and the mountains were clothed in their winter robes of white. But what did we care – were we not all together—happy with our little family and all in good health. But all good things come to an end.

(To be continued) David A. Cameron



Elof Norman, who wrote *The Coffee Chased Us Up* about his Danish immigrant boyhood in Monte Cristo, likely would have sat in one of these schoolhouse desks in the building on lot 136 in the upper townsite. Photo credit: Louise Lindgren and David A. Cameron

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.mcpc.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 is Sat. Sept 17th at 9am
Meet at the Barlow Pass Gate
Come join us for Salmon Burgers around noon at the
picnic table. ☺

«FirstName» «LastName»

«Attn»

«Address1»

«City», «State» «PostalCode»