

Board Members

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Greetings and happy summer, MCPA members and friends.

2023 has gotten off to a fast but lively start – here we are already in July.

As a quick recap, the Mountain Loop Highway opened from Deer Creek to Barlow Pass in late May. Big thanks to our volunteers who were out in force the first week the road opened and cleared all the windfalls and obstacles from the Monte Cristo Road and its associated trails. Besides the windfalls, the route into Monte Cristo survived the winter quite well; there were no new washouts or slides, and the log crossing and Twin Bridges area are as passable as ever. The river flow in that area has changed again, with a significant amount of the river flow now going under the log crossing; this is an area of constant change.

As of this writing, the Mountain Loop Highway remains closed between Barlow Pass and Bedal; we can only assume this is due to repairs needed, as all low elevation snow was melted out by May. Similarly, the Mt. Pilchuck Road is closed, as it is undergoing much needed repairs and resurfacing. Re-opening date is TBD; the Mt. Pilchuck Road is closed at the Heather Lake trailhead, and the Mt. Pilchuck Lookout Trail #700 is therefore also closed at this time.

Of other interest, the approach to the Marten Creek bridge on the Mountain Loop Highway just East of Silverton has been compromised due to winter flow, and the road is reduced to one lane there. Much of the road embankment has slid away, leaving the bridge support structure exposed and compromised. Unknown what the County's solution will be here, but it will likely mimic the fortifications put in place at the West end of Blue Bridge about 5-10 years ago, when that approach was endangered due to river erosion.

In related news, one of the large structures at the old Camp Silverton burned down over the winter months; this was one of few buildings remaining after the USFS removed most of the smaller buildings in recent years. It is unfortunate to see this historical camp reduced to nothing.

We held our annual meeting (and Lunch!) on June 10 and our first Work Party on June 17. Thanks to all who attended and helped with the annual meeting – our first in-person Annual Meeting since 2019. Our Board of Directors remains unchanged for 2023. Thanks also to a large group of volunteers who joined us for the June 17 work party; we continued making improvements to the bypass trails near the Log Crossing, and performed brush work along the County Road, and transporting supplies into the townsite.

Our next work party will be July 15 – as always, the 3rd Saturday of the month. We'll be doing further work on the lower portion of the county road, as well as visiting the townsite to make some minor repairs; we also have materials available to install the next set of interpretive signs on the MCPA townsite lot. Anyone interested in joining can meet us at the Barlow Pass gate at 9:00 AM.

Thanks for your volunteer support and hope to see you all soon! We'll certainly plan for a group lunch at a late summer work party (likely September) where we can meet up at the picnic area just ¾ mile past the Barlow Gate (Drivable access).

Mike Kahler
MCPA President

HISTORICAL ESSAY

Elizabeth Kyes' Story Pt. 4

In our last portion of Elizabeth Kyes' account of her family's beginning of the twentieth century living at Monte Cristo we left them at the start of winter in 1902. Their general store was running well, and husband Jim had been appointed postmaster. Plus, at a salary of \$5.00 per month, their son Leo was hired as school janitor. Easing a concern of parents of the school of approximately one dozen students, a teacher then was employed to begin after Christmas, so we did finally have classes begin, as nephew Joe Cook



This undated photograph shows the popularity of the Kyes Mercantile store. Just across the alley to the right is the Monte Cristo Hotel, now site of our MCPA interpretive signage. Photo Credit: Forrest Johanson Coll. via D. Cameron

recalled. Meanwhile back in Everett their house at the foot of Rucker Hill and just across the gully from that city's own spectacular Monte Cristo Hotel had been rented out in anticipation of a lengthy stay at the small mining town.

Continuing in Elizabeth's words:

The weather was fine up until about December. Then the heavy snow came, and by January we had about 10 feet. Snow all around us, and by January the mountains were clothed in their robes of white. But what did we care – were we not all together – happy with our little family and all in good health? Then in January Jim got a letter from the school board that there was no more money to pay the teacher of the school in the Monte Cristo School District. There were about 8 or 9 very unhappy women, and I was one of them, having to move out in the dead of winter. Well, there came another heavy snow storm. The passenger train's engine went off the track, and they had to send for the snow plow to come and clear the rails. An engine and caboose tried to come up from Silverton, and coming up from the switchback [ed.note: where the waste repository now is] it took them two days to get the engine back on the tracks. We all got our children ready and waited three days to get out of there, but finally the engine and caboose reached Monte, and we all piled in. We eventually got down to Silverton, then onto the passenger train, and down to Everett. When we got off in the city it was like spring. The grass was green and the sun shining brightly. The folks in our house moved out, and they were not very kindly either. You could not blame them, for they were supposed to have the house for one year. My father was very glad to have us home, as he had reserved one room to live in while we were gone.

(To be continued.) 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

Work Party this Saturday, July 15th at 9am
Meet at the Barlow Pass Gate

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