

Board Members

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Hello everyone! We had a great work party to start off the season in June. A bulletin board with notices for the public was re-installed and the road was cleared and brushed to Twin Bridges. The outhouse at Weden was stocked with T.P. and the trail register was supplied for hikers to record hikes to Gothic Basin.

Our Annual meeting on June 7 was timed perfectly for good weather to enjoy the meeting outside. Carol Gladsjo is presently acting District Ranger and was present to answer questions pertaining to progress on the cleanup. Cascade Earth Sciences, the contractor for the new road, plans to finish the new road and two more log stringer bridges on that road this summer. Plans are to close the area the following year to begin the cleanup. So at least for this year, with few exceptions, tourists will be able to access Monte Cristo. Rebeccah Treser, who is completing her thesis on interpretation, gave a summary of some ideas for interpretive signs post cleanup.

Our next work party, on July 19, will concentrate on brushing edges along the road past Twin Bridges. We plan to drive all the tools to Twin Bridges, then carry them to the other side of the river and begin work there. Please bring the usual supplies, including rain gear, snack food and water. The MCPA will provide the usual lunch for everyone. We also want to send someone in to Monte Cristo at each work party to check on vandalism. So if you are able to bike in and help with this, please let me know in advance. We want to make this a part of future work parties since vandalism is becoming an increasing concern.

Please mark your calendars for August 16. We will set aside this date for a social / picnic instead of a work party. Time and location will be announced in the next newsletter.

Remember, members who already have a key can use the same key again this year. Please be sure to display the current MCPA laminated tag (red color this year) from your current membership on the front dash of your vehicle. And also please respect other drivers by parking in the area close to the picnic table. This leaves the most room for other vehicles to access the area for work parties. Remember, you also need to carry your signed and notarized MCPA waiver form in your vehicle at all times inside the gate. Please let us know if you need one; we carry extras with us at all work parties.

Lastly, remember that our membership year began June 1, so if you haven't already please get your dues in now. We appreciate the support as always! And we are looking forward to seeing everyone soon at the next work party.

Cheers Everyone,
Kal Klass, MCPA President

Historical Essay

Continuing from last month's article in the March 12, 1977 *Everett Herald* by Alan May upon the publication of Elof Norman's story of growing up in Monte Cristo *The Coffee Chased Us Up*:

"Then there was the time Elof and some of his friends climbed the steep trail that still goes up to Glacier Basin. They went there to see cheap jewelry to tough miners and earn enough to get a .22 rifle. They also got a lesson in dealing with tough miners and a meal that Elof still remembers with joy 75 years later.

"It was new and exciting and beautiful, and you can't help but feel part of it as you wander through Elof Norman's account. Nor can you escape the apprehension as the ore petered out in the mines and people left for better opportunities. Soon only Elof and Ely were left in the school, and gradually it became obvious that the Normans, too, would have to leave.

"They went to Darrington, then briefly back to their old home in Monte Cristo, as some new work opened up there. Then off to the mill where Gold Basin Campground is now. Elof's mother died there. The children were growing up and the family began to dissolve.

"Elof boarded out in Everett while he went to Everett High School and delivered hats to the town's ladies of the evening. Then he settled in that town, but, still, he went back to visit Monte Cristo occasionally to see the remnants of the town he had loved and to exchange news with the few old timers who stayed on in vain hope of finding a way to get at the wealth hidden in the hard rock of the valley walls. That's where the book

ends.

"Elof tried his hand in the Everett mills, then when prohibition ended, he took over a tavern. 'A couple of owners had gone broke in it and I bought it for a few hundred dollars. I figured I'd give it a try and it worked out pretty well. I made quite a lot of money.'

In the 1950s his wife developed cancer and Elof sold the tavern to devote the last few years to her. After she died in 1965 there was loneliness in Elof's life, and he began to think of the town back in the hills that he and his family had loved when he was young. It was gone now – a ghost town with only a few old buildings left among the ruins and the new forest that was reclaiming the site. Elof's



David A. Cameron

KOMO Channel 4's Steve Pool interviews buddies Joe Cook and Elof Norman at the ruins of the Royal Hotel. Monte Cristo, 1978

memories were among the few remaining relics of the town – and the country – as it was then. He decided to put it on paper so later generations would know something of how it was there and then.

At age 75 Elof enrolled in a writing class taught by Zola Ross. With her help he put it all down. 'I thought it was important to leave what I know about Monte,' he says. 'I wanted other people to know, too.'

Elof says he is not a writer. In a sense, he is right. His syntax sometimes is rough. He occasionally lapses into grammatical slips such as you might expect of a tavern owner who grew up in the backwoods. But perhaps that is part of the charm of this little book. It is a story told in the language of the time and the place. It is not grammatical niceties that make such a story. It is the description and the feeling of the place that comes through the pages.

"Elof communicates in this book the story of the town, the country, and the people. He is not a grammarian but he is a writer and a good one."

MEMBERSHIP FORM - June 2014-May 2015

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Area(s) of Interest/Occupation _____

IF YOU WISH AN OPTIONAL BARLOW PASS GATE KEY:

For new members:

Please download the required "MCPA Waiver/Release" at www.mcpa.us, have it notarized, then mail it to us with your check for \$42 to begin the process.

For renewing members:

For renewing members the present key is still valid, but if you need a new key: check here and include the additional \$18 cost of a key to your membership dues.

\$24.00 - Annual Membership

Mail To: **MCPA**

\$42.00 - Annual Membership + Key

PO Box 471

THANK-YOU!

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

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Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail To: **MCPA**

PO Box 471

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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!



Monte Cristo Preservation Assoc.
PO Box 471
Everett, WA 98206-0471
www.mcpa.us

Work Party - July 19th

«FirstName» «LastName»

«Address 1»

«City», «State» «PostalCode»