

Board Members

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Corresponding SecretaryLouise Lindgren
Advisor.....Doug Hammond
Advisor.....David Hartzel
Webmaster.....Mike Kahler



Hello MCPA members,

What a nice summer we've had and it's provided great weather for our work parties this year. At the last one in August, we accomplished a lot. We had new work party vests courtesy of David Hartzel for the designing and ordering of those. So many tourists took notice of those and many were thanking volunteers on their way to Monte for the work we were doing. It included a lot more brushing and posting of our new signs, made and designed by David and Louise Cameron. Our volunteers posted these new interpretive signs by many landmarks in and above the lower Town site area. We have marked the area on either side of the clay slide for hikers to find the easiest route and a lot of brushing was also done on the road past Twin Bridges.

Sample signs to identify landmarks

United Companies Concentrator



Cliff House
↓

The Riddle House

Built in 1919 by James Kyes,
It was destroyed by fire in 1944.



For our second to last work party of the year on September 17, we plan to continue brushing around the Forest Service cabins and up Dumas. We have a few more new signs to post and best of all; we will be starting to prepare the MCPA lots by doing some light brushing to enable us to flag all the boundaries. The memorial bench some of you may have seen above the Kyes cabin is on that property. It has been surveyed and we would like to start designing the new structures which will support new interpretive material the following year. The Forest Service is also fabricating their own new interpretive signs which will be finished by summer of next year. These signs will be placed by the concentrator, the Comet Mine bunker, the Pride and Mystery terminals, the Assay shack, the Repository, and a new introductory sign will also be placed somewhere close to or in the Town site. Possibly several more signs may be made by them if they have any funding left over from the cleanup.

We would also like to start removing some milled wood that washed into Glacier Creek by the concentrator last winter and stack it by the concentrator if we get enough strong hands to help us. We are also organizing our own Town site host program during our work parties, whereby there is always one MCPA member who stays in the Town site to go around talking with all the sightseers. Brochures are always stocked in boxes mounted on the bulletin boards. These boards are by the clay slide and in the Town site.

For all future work parties, we are meeting by the new gate where the new Forest Service road begins. Meet at 9 am and bring the usual items for working outdoors, including rain gear, food and water. Although we carry an emergency kit with us, it is also wise to bring your own as we are always quite spread out.

As many of you have noticed, the main campground close to the Town site has been taken out during the cleanup. We are continuing to lobby the Forest Service to put it back together (return the fire rings and picnic tables). They are following through with a NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) study this winter to decide what they can maintain there. The current vault outhouse has been pumped out but remains closed to the public and they have installed, instead, 2 back country toilets in the woods close to the camp ground. We feel this is a poor decision, given the hundreds of hikers that have been observed to use the area in a single weekend. Back country toilets are not designed for such heavy use. Unfortunately, their decisions are often dictated by cost and what they can afford to maintain on a much reduced budget. But please send them your feedback so they can accumulate more data for the NEPA study.

Quo. **CENTENNIAL TRAIL**
HISTORY WALK
SEPTEMBER 10TH 11 AM -3 PM

Walk your way thru local history

Whitehorse **trailhead**

Haller Park 1100 West Ave, Arlington

Thank you to David Cameron and Louise Lindgren for representing the MCPA at the annual Centennial Trails Event. It was Sept. 10 and was located in several places along the trail. Our exhibits were at the start of the Whitehorse Trail, ¼ mi north of Arlington, past Twin Rivers Park, where David and Louise had their exhibit and interpretive material to show hikers.

Please send in your membership for this year if you have not already done so. All information and forms are on our website, www.mcpa.us. Remember, your old key may still fit the lock on the gate at Barlow Pass if you plan to go in that way and park by the MCPA picnic table.

Our next board meeting is September 27 at 3rd Place Books, in Lake Forest Park.

We will be making plans for the last work party of the year and for the Winter Social in February. Hope to see you all on September 17 at the work party!

Cheers,
Kal Klass, MCPA President.

Historical Essay

Finding stories with a Monte Cristo connection is a rarity, but my wife Louise Lindgren discovered one while doing research for her column in the *Senior Focus* newspaper, published by Snohomish County Senior Services. It is a short piece written for children and appeared in the periodical *Farm, Field, and Fireside* dated 27 February 1897. She was following up leads about Mabel H. Monsey, who in the 1890s and shortly after wrote a number of articles, stories, and columns for newspapers and magazines from her home in Hartford, which at the time was a townsite just north of Lake Stevens and a short distance from the Everett & Monte Cristo Railway depot. Mabel and her husband, a former sea captain, had come west from Ohio first to Snohomish and then in 1890 took up a land claim on 40 acres in the virgin timber then covering the region. In addition to having given birth to eleven children, she was well educated and financially better off than most settlers. She and her husband cleared land, created a large orchard, raised poultry, and sought the company of other progressive farmers. To supplement their income and her desire to write, she submitted material to outlets in the Midwest and East as well as locally, such as the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.

Here then is her story "Held Prisoners by a Landslide" from the Our Young Folks section and found in the files of the University of Illinois Library.

"Mama, I am getting tired of this place, can't we move somewhere else?"

"Why don't you like it here, my son?"

"There's too much snow to suit me. Just look! Here it is the last of May, and snow two or three feet deep! Why, if we was in Snohomish or Seattle, we would soon be eating strawberries."

"I admit, my son, this is not the most desirable place to live in, but papa has to go where he can find work, and we could find much worse places than this."

"I'd like to know where."

"In Alaska, for instance; or in Greenland, where there is not only more snow than here, but where we would be so far from friends we could seldom hear from them, and where all luxuries would be almost impossible to get unless we had a fortune. Here, though up so high that we have snow most of the year, we are nevertheless only about fifty miles from our former home and only a few hours' ride from Seattle, and our Monte Christo (sic) scenery is simply grand. I would like to see my son contented, no matter where he is. Now run and chop some wood for mama. I want dinner exactly on time, and it will soon be 12."

Mr. Hunter had moved his family to Monte Christo the summer of '94, he having obtained work in the mines at that place. At the time our story opens it was the spring of '95. Mr. Hunter worked with a pick, digging out silver ore by the light of a lamp. He was sometimes on the day and sometimes on the night shift; not the pleasantest work in the world but considered very healthy employment.

"Nellie, set the table nicely; and Mina, place the chairs around the table," said mama.

In a short time all was in readiness, and the little girls running down street to meet papa.

After they were all seated at dinner, and grace had been said, Mr. Hunter said: "Wife, I have just received a letter from

Seattle which is of importance, and either you or I will have to go down at once, and I guess you will have to go, for I do not want to leave my work."

"Oh, Mama, can we go?" all the children asked in a chorus.

"Yes, dears if you will promise to be very good children."

"Oh, yes, we will be the best of children, wont we, girls?"

"Paul will be good, I am sure," said mama, "and I am sure if you children were not so easy to tease Paul would not torment you so. You should learn to take his little jokes in good part."

"Us girls will be good if you don't tease us all the time."

"When shall we leave, mama?"

"Wednesday morning, bright and early; and Paul, you will have to help Nellie do the dishes while I get together such articles as we wish to take with us."

"Oh, mama, I just hate to do dishes! It ain't boys' work. Let the girls do them."

"Paul, how many times have I told you not to complain when I give you work to do? Go right to work now and let us see how quickly you can get done."



Photo: Lake Stevens Historical Society

Mabel Monsey in 1889, age 32

(To be continued)
David A. Cameron

MEMBERSHIP FORM - June 2016-May 2017

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

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!



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

**Work Party Sept. 17
9am at the New FS Gate**

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