

Board Members

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Fall Greetings Everyone !

Our last work party of the year will be October 15. We will be doing more brushing around the old Lodge site and on the MCPA owned town site lots, to clear some of the smaller seedlings and brush. We also need a couple volunteers to help dismantle the MCPA bulletin board by the clay slide. The Forest Service has been working on a new trail that starts prior to our bulletin board which will connect with the Gothic Basin trail. This will bypass the lower trail by the outhouse so that lower area will no longer be used except for hikers going only to Monte Cristo. Remember, we now have very official looking volunteer vests for volunteers to use at the work parties. They have been attracting a lot of positive attention from the public. Thank you to David Hartzel for taking on this project of designing and ordering the vests.

The MCPA Town sites have been staked and flagged. You won't see any along the trail up Dumas but you will see the lines marked going uphill through the trees if you look carefully. We hope to start construction of the new interpretive signs on these lots next year. As mentioned in previous newsletters, there will also be new signs placed by the Forest Service along sites of the cleanup and prior to Town, hopefully finished by early summer next year. Other interpretive new signs designed by David Cameron and Louise Lindgren have received much positive feedback from the public and the Forest Service. So we will probably add to these next year. If you have not had the chance to see these, they are nice laminated narratives with pictures posted in various places of interest around the town, from the lower town sites and on over to the concentrator.

Please note, the vault toilet by the campground prior to Town has been closed. Until a leak can be assessed, it will not be re-opened. The Forest Service has installed two back country toilets uphill from the campground. As most campers are not using these, we are hoping the vault toilet can be repaired and re-opened.

Coming out in January will be a survey which we hope everyone can respond to.

The Forest Service will have to submit our feedback as part of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to assess future management of Monte Cristo. This NEPA assessment will be finished this winter. And without your feedback, they will not know what our vision and interest is in the area. So, very importantly, please respond to this survey when you receive it in January.

We are planning again, for our Winter Social. Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, February 4 at 5:30**. As always, please bring a dish for a good potluck dinner. **Location is the same as previous years; The Barn in Jennings Memorial Park, in Marysville.**

Our program this year will be a very nice slide presentation by Louise Lindgren. She will present a nice program from material she is using for a book which she is writing. It will include stories and pictures from the late Courtney Bell, who lived in one of the Forest Service cabins in the 1980s. A postcard will be mailed to our members with all the pertinent information regarding the social. Anyone from past Town site programs and all Forest Service staff are also invited.

Last but not least, we will be sending out trail park passes to work party volunteers in November or December. Watch for yours in the mail and thank you very much for your long hours of labor! If you were not a member this year, please consider re-joining. These are exciting times for us as we begin a new experience in instituting some new changes and interpretation for Monte Cristo. And since the cleanup has been completed, the area looks better than ever.

Hope to see everyone at the Winter Social, February 4th !

Sincerely,
Kal Klass, MCPA President

Historical Essay

You may recall in the August 2015 essay I wrote of Donald Trump's grandfather Frederick operating a hotel in Monte Cristo from the spring of 1893 to the summer of 1897. It was located on the tiny Triangle placer claim just below and across the tracks from the railway turntable in what was the rowdier part of town. Today that would be roughly between the overgrown roadway used formerly as the start of the Silver Lake Trail and the footbridge across Sunday Creek we constructed a few years ago, just below the old lodge power house.

That information eventually made its way to KING Channel 5 television's Jim Dever, producer and host of their *Evening Magazine* program. He contacted me to see if he and his cameraman Mark (a really nice fellow whose last name I missed) might come up to Monte to film a segment on site for a piece on Trump with a Northwest connection. This we did on a damp late September day, perfect for catching the mood of the place, with mist drifting around the mountains and light rain pattering on the leaves.



Photo: Courtesy Paul Dorpat

Trump's hotel probably was the two-story building to the left of the water tower and behind the railway coach in the lower part of the town.

I brought along some historical photos so they could imagine Monte 120 years ago. It's exceptionally difficult to identify the exact building in the two usable photos we have, both taken from long distances. There is no visible sign or exact description, but an 1896 railway blueprint shows the direction it faced, and that matches. My original choice was disqualified when the second photo turned up and showed from a different angle that it was too close to the water and probably on the nearby Rattler placer claim. That's the one which extends over the river toward Addison's Ridge and whose eastern half later was donated by the Everett American Legion post to the Forest Service for the campground in 1951. My better one is shown below, two stories high with some open windows and a man sitting on the porch. The approximate distance from the turntable and E&MC coaches also seems to match the blueprint.

We were accompanied by Jim Sekulich, who owns the Anaconda mill site, some three acres between the Rattler and the base of Toad Mountain to the west. Trump also purchased three lots on the back corner of that but apparently never developed them.

Thanks to the MCPA work party brushing crew who cleared the Forest Service cabin area last month and did a great job spiffing up the turntable as well! Forest Service Public Information Officer Tracy O'Toole and Verlot Corridor Manager Erica Keene also came along to answer questions and agreed to climb down and push the turntable a complete revolution, making a great sound of squealing and groaning iron for the cameraman as it rotated its full 64 foot length. (We guys stood by and encouraged them.)

We all enjoyed the day, and it was fun to share some of the stories and setting of Monte with people who appreciated what is there.

The segment probably will air later this month as part of the station's ratings week before the election. If so, when we learn it we will post the date and time on our website, www.mcpc.us

Continuing from last month, here is part two of Mabel Monsey's 1897 children's story "Held Prisoners by a Landslide" from the Our Young Folks section of *Farm, Field, and Fireside*, dated 27 February 1897 and found in the files of the University of Illinois Library. Mrs. Hunter and her children are about to ride the train from Monte down to visit her sister Mary in Hartford.

Wednesday morning came, and daybreak found all the little Hunter people getting ready to start. Soon the good-byes were said, and mama and the children started off right merrily. As they walked down the street they could hardly realize they were so soon to leave behind them all the cold though beautiful snow, and actually be where they could see plenty flowers and grass.

All the way from Monte Christo (sic) to Everett is down grade, most of the way quite steep. The train came down very swiftly, and they passed snowy hillsides and mountains until they found themselves surrounded with grassy meadows. They could even see flowers of various kinds as the train passed along. Mama had just been telling them that

they were now only about twenty miles from where their Aunt Mary lived, when the train suddenly came to a standstill. On inquiring the cause, she learned that a landslide had occurred sometime during the night and they would have to stay there until the track was cleared.

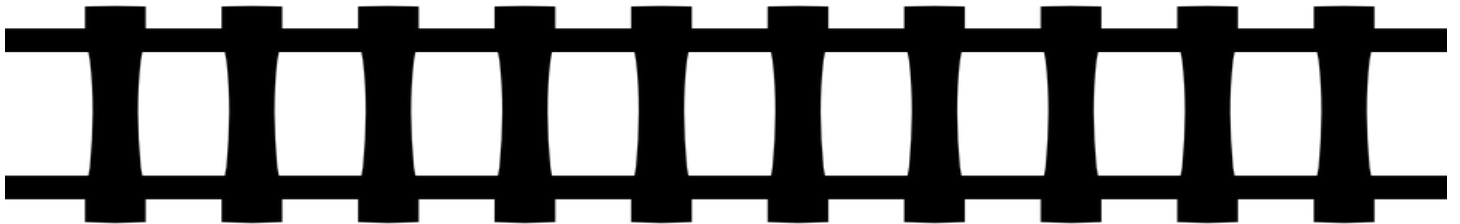
"How long will we have to stay here?" Mrs. Hunter asked somewhat anxiously.

"We cannot tell, madame; it might be two or three days. The slide is a bad one."

When leaving home Mrs. Hunter had put up a light lunch, thinking the children might be hungry. She now wished it had been more, and began to wonder how it would seem to be hungry, really hungry, for once in her life. She had often told her children, when dissatisfied because there was no pie or cake on the table, that they were better off than hundreds of children who did not even have one good meal a day. And now they were in a fair way to know for themselves how it felt.

(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.mcpc.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

**Final Work Party Oct. 15
9am - Meet at the New FS Gate**

«FirstName» «LastName»
«Address 1»
«City», «State» «PostalCode»