

MCPA Newsletter September 2010

Board Members

President Kal Klass klasstwin@gmail.com
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Treasurer Bill Rawlins
Secretary Ruth Danielson
Corresponding Secretary. ... Louise Lindgren
Webmaster/Advisor Chuck Miller
Advisor Doug Hammond



✦ **WEB ADDRESS:** <http://www.mcpa.us>

Message From The Board

Hello everyone ! Our work parties have been very productive this year, especially for the two where we could get a permit from the Department of Fish and Wildlife for a river crossing. We have been getting some good brushing done around the townsite and a foot bridge has been constructed over Sunday Creek by the pump house to help keep the public out of high water in the Fall and Spring. MCPA members, please remember: it is prohibited to take ATVs that are not street legal on the County road. AND it is prohibited to cross the river at Twin Bridges without a hydraulic permit from the Department of Fish and Wildlife. We have been fortunate this year to obtain this permit for a specified period of time to enable our volunteers to accomplish much needed work at the Town site and along the road. We also were able to provide much needed firewood at the main camp ground at one of the work parties. I'm sure the wood didn't last long but we bucked up several trees and every little bit helps campers out.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have one final work party left for the year, October 16. Our secretary, Ruth Danielson, has been providing lunch for everyone after our work parties and we sure appreciate it. Great job Ruth ! We would starve without you. Please meet at our usual location by the clay slide for this work party. We will be removing our MCPA bulletin board and storing it for the winter. And more brushing will be done.

David Cameron and Louise Lindgren have been continuing their contact with Cascade Earth Sciences who is involved with the Hazmat cleanup. It has made a great difference so far in the responsibility being taken for many things such as preservation of artifacts, the planned burial site for excavated material, security of the area during cleanup and much, much more. Many thanks go to David and Louise for their efforts.

Our new brochures have been finished, a huge project that our webmaster, Chuck Miller, worked on single handedly. It took a year to complete this new project for which we are very grateful. These new white brochures have been placed in the Town site host cabin, Verlot and Darrington Ranger stations, and will be used at different visitor centers as well. We will continue to update the brochure as the new road is constructed showing its location when that is finished too.

If anyone is interested in attending our next board meeting, you are welcome. It will be on October 11 at 6 pm. Please email me if you are interested.

Cheers Everyone, Kal Klass, MCPA President

Historical Essay

Several of the smaller mining properties at Monte Cristo produced some ore, while others left traces of adits and tailings piles to mark their locations. Up 76 Creek for example was the Sidney, or Peabody. It was known by both names. Located right next to the creek, it will be one of those slated for action by the forthcoming hazmat cleanup. According to information filed with the state, its ores contained values of gold, silver, lead, and zinc, in that order, with some small amounts of copper and pyrite around. Its host rock was andesite, the mineralized vein ranging from a few to eighteen inches in width. A 200' adit was sunk in a fracture zone, while there also were several open cuts and starts of additional adits. Ore was produced in the year 1905, but no further amounts are recorded.

Reaching and identifying these lesser mines takes some work. In the case of the Sidney, Frank Peabody had laid out lines on the map to make a full block of lode claims so that he controlled the entire lower valley of the creek plus the access routes to higher locations. At an elevation of 3,400', a visitor had to do some climbing from the townsite, but it was pretty minimal compared to virtually all the major mines. Ore of course had to be lugged back down to the railroad yards, preferably by mules. A trail up the creek took off above Mercedes Street close to the former crossing of 76 not far from the school house, kept close to the water, then gained elevation past the Lincoln mine. (That section slid out in the 1980 flood and then required scrambling up the hill past the collapsed portal.) Above it the trail was more gradual, often precariously close to the creek below.

Not surprisingly, when the time came to spread Frank's ashes, a large boulder now named Peabody Rock on the patented Remnant claim bordering the townsite and next to the trail became the final resting place both for Frank and then his wife Kittie. The bronze tablet marking it later was removed by sheriff's sergeant John Taylor for safekeeping after vandals had it almost pried loose.

From the Sidney the trail crossed 76 Creek to the western, Prospector Peak side onto the Sheridan and then to a cabin located at the extreme northeastern corner of that claim. In our own MCPA period Chuck Larson of Clearview near Snohomish owned the Sheridan and was a major asset in maintaining the road into town with his rebuilt rusty old Caterpillar bulldozer. We were with him when he died at home of lung cancer, a good friend and a major loss to our group. This claim was passed on to his devoted pal, deputy Duane Sandrin, who oversaw the placing of Chuck's ashes on it.

Following the deaths of the Peabodys, Kate Knowlton inherited his accumulated claims, and in turn bequeathed them to the Red Cross. Several were given to Enid and Ed Nordlund by the court for serving as her executor. These included the Tyee and Gene Elton, both backing up the Lincoln to the east and then down the backbone ridge toward Glacier Creek. The old wagon road running parallel to and above the covered tramway to the concentrator now used for the Glacier Basin trail runs next to them. The third was the Wedge. As its name implies, this was a pie-shaped triangle on the upstream (south) side of the Sidney, its point next to 76 Creek. (To be continued.)

David A. Cameron, Ph.D.