



Dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the Klickitat Trail



Original buildings at the Dry Ice Factory, just north of Klickitat, Washington. Photo circa 1950, provided by Cheryl Steindorf.

TRAIL HISTORY - KLICKITAT MINERAL SPRINGS

By Barbara Robinson, KTC Vice-President

Have you ever wondered about the strange, old stucco building two miles north of the town of Klickitat on State Highway 142, that looks a little like an Italian ruin? Or, have you ever walked the Klickitat Trail across the river from this building and discovered a wide, rocky beach with two old concrete pillars with bubbling water coming out of the top? What are these crazy things, you may have asked? Well, this is their story.

For several miles north of the present town of Klickitat, Washington, naturally carbonated mineral water bubbles to the earth's surface. This is what you now see bubbling out of the top of the mysterious concrete pillars – pure, natural, carbonated mineral water.

The region's pre-settlement inhabitants, members of the Klickitat tribe, knew about and used the bubbly water from these springs for healing and sweat lodge ceremonies. Early pioneer settlers also drank and bathed in the bubbly waters for their health.

In 1890 Mr. Rusk was the first to try to turn a profit from the carbonated mineral springs. He constructed the Mineral Springs Spa up river about five miles from the current stucco building. In 1902 the Maddock family also saw a business opportunity, and built a health and summer resort with a bath house at about the same location as the existing stucco building. Neither business lasted long.

In 1908 Mr. Robertson came to the area from Portland and built a soda (or as some call it, pop) bottling plant where the town of Klickitat is now located. Mr. Robertson's entrepreneurial idea was to add sugar syrups to the naturally carbonated water to create different flavored pops. His bottling plant changed hands several times, and the water was sold in the Northwest under various names, such as "Klickitat Mineral Water", "Klickitat Pop", "Merry Mix", "Whistle" and "Mineral Ale".

In 1928 Warren Langdon bought the business with grand ambitions and built a larger soda bottling plant where the curious stucco building is now located. His success was marked by a contract with Safeway, but alas, the pop did not hold its fizz on the shelf. Then the depression hit, and Mr. Langdon sadly took his own life.

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Who Put the WORK in Work Party?

By Barbara Robinson, KTC Vice-President

Over 800 volunteer hours made 2005 the most productive work year in KTC's history.

KTC work parties are the heart of our mission to support and improve the Klickitat Trail. Each year a great deal of general maintenance, such as pruning blackberries, occurs to keep the trail usable. As well, each year KTC undertakes specific trail improvement projects, some small and some large, to upgrade the trail. For instance, in 2005 we replaced the difficult to open and close barbed wire gates with easier to use steel swing gates.

Our work parties vary from well coordinated, large groups working on auspicious projects, to small, spur-of-the-moment gatherings picking up humble garbage. We have lots of fun, and sometimes, like our epic Swale Canyon trestle cleanup, our work results in a true "bonding experience" (in other words, we did an excellent job and survived to tell about).

I hope you enjoy hearing some of the highlights of the 2005 work party season.



Author drinks from a soda spring. Photo by Lisa Conway

4/16/05

What a productive work party! Jim Denton, Joe Kelsey, Nancy Allen, and Barbara Robinson cleared small, flood-deposited rocks from rocky sections of the trail from Wahkiacus to Suburbia to make walking safer, pruned encroaching vegetation and dug knapweed. The mineral water at the old dry ice plant was running ... and we all stopped for a drink. On the way back, the water had completely stopped running. A good, energetic time (and a little too much chocolate) was had by all.

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WORK continued from Page 1

6/19/05

Andy Kallinan and Les Gardipee of Washington State Parks joined Jim Denton, Dan Lichtenwald, Barbara Robinson, and Joe Kelsey to put in a new gate and wooden bollards at Pitt. The group piled rock walls on both ends of the second gate... to prevent four-wheelers from getting around this gate. We also, pulled a large amount of knapweed in the vicinity of the gate.

7/2/05

Jim Denton and Dan Lichtenwald walked the trail between Pitt and Lyle. They spent one-hour pulling sand burr plants north of the old footbridge, another hour pulling yellow star thistle at several locations farther south ... and a final hour digging knapweed.

9/25/05

Congratulations and a big thanks to the eleven people who showed up for Sunday's Swale Canyon work party. The ambitious crew removed many tons of logs and branches from the supports of two



Volunteers remove tons of flood debris from a Swale Canyon railroad trestle. Pictured here in action are Andy Kallinan, Bev Linde and Donna Enz. Photo by Pam Essley

second trestle was piled 10 feet high! Finally, we had to bike (or walk our bikes) 7 or 8 miles uphill back to Harms Rd. The last of us straggled out of the canyon shortly after 6:00 pm.

**Don't be an arm-chair worker!
Join Jim Denton on a KTC Work Party! Call (541) 354-1604 or email wildthings@gorge.net for more information, or check www.klickitat-trail.org for our event calendar.**

This work party, without a doubt, performed the most difficult project we have ever done. It was a huge success. We finished both trestles and got back to Harms Rd with no life flights required, and only one flat tire at the very end. Wildlife sighted: many deer, three or four rattlesnakes, and a cougar stalking the deer.

10/16/05 and 11/19/05

In a combination of two work parties, a total of 14 hard workers, under Jim Denton's leadership, put in four new gates in upper Swale Canyon near Harms Rd., replacing the old barbed wire farm gates that were difficult to open and close. On three of the gates we built large "rock-jacks", wooden frames filled with big rocks that substitute

for fence posts where the ground is too rocky for digging post holes. Rock-jacks require no digging, but lots of rock moving. In each of the four locations we installed 4 foot man-gates for easy passage by hikers and bikers. In one location, we used a double gate system where a short 4 foot gate was hung off the end of an eight footer. This allows pedestrians the ease of using a small gate, but still allows a large opening for vehicles, as requested by Washington State Parks. KTC members were joined by three energetic rock movers, Kary Schaefer, Leif Hovin, and Tom Simonson, whom Donna and Barbara had met on the trail the day before the November work party.

12/18/05

During the first snow storm of the season, the junker car north of Pitt was finally removed from the trail. It was lifted onto a flatbed trailer, using a winch, a long jack, blocks, assorted other tools, and muscle power. Also removed were two engine blocks, a mattress, a rototiller, and other assorted junk. Kudos to the hearty volunteers who braved the cold and three inches of snow to remove this mess north of Pitt. Thanks as well to Fritz Osborne, ranger at Columbia Hills State Park, for help on this project.



Volunteers remove the junker car north of Pitt that has been an eyesore and obstacle for years. Photo by Bev Linde.

KTC SPRING AND SUMMER EVENTS APRIL - JUNE 2006

The following are KTC scheduled events. Everyone is welcome! Please visit www.klickitat-trail.org for more details, schedule changes, maps and trailhead locations. Pets and smoking are not allowed on KTC sponsored events. Please stay on the trail at all times.

The **Lyle trailhead** is located on the west end of Lyle, WA on SR 14, across from Greg Colt Realty. From Portland, take I-84 East to the Hood River Bridge, cross to Washington and turn east on SR 14, to Lyle. From The Dalles, cross The Dalles bridge and turn west on SR 14 to Lyle

Harms Rd. trailhead is located just off the Lyle-Centerville Hwy. From Lyle, take the Lyle-Centerville Hwy., heading north for approximately 15 miles and left on Harms Rd. Drive north one-half mile and park just north of the bridge.

A note to spring trail users:

Because of the large amount of freeze/thaw this winter there have been, and will continue to be, rocks rolling down the hillsides and onto the trail. Please watch your step, and if possible roll a few rocks aside to improve conditions for fellow hikers and bikers. Thanks!

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

Birding Hike
Beginning at Harms Rd. and walking east towards Warwick
Leader: Stuart Johnston.
First meeting place: 7:00 A.M. at **Lyle trailhead**. Second meeting place: 7:30 A.M. at **Harms Rd. trailhead**.

This is a hike for serious (or would-be serious) birders, led by Stuart Johnston, local bird expert. Expect to stand still looking and listening as much as walking. Bring warm cloths and binoculars. We're hoping to see Long-billed Curlews and hear Vesper Sparrows.

SUNDAY, APRIL, 23

Work Party

The work party will be a one way bike ride through Swale, lopping back vegetation, rolling rocks off the trail, and doing minor trestle clean up.

Meeting times will be 9:00 at Wahkiakus or 9:45 at Harms Rd.

I would like all people who are planning to participate to contact me ahead of time so I will have a better idea of how many people and bikes will need to be shuttled. My phone number is (541) 254-1604.

Workers need to bring their own personal and bike gear, especially lots of water. Additionally we will need pruning shears, loppers, pruning saws, and I may bring an axe in case we find something big to remove.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

Fisher Hill Bridge to Pitt Wildflower Hike
Moderate: 8 miles, 100-ft. elev. gain, rocky in places.
Leader: Jim Minick.
Meeting place: 10:00 A.M. at **Lyle trailhead**.

This scenic route will be at wildflower bloom peak. Much of the trail follows alongside the Klickitat River. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Expect to finish around 3:30 PM.



SATURDAY, MAY 6

Swale Canyon Hike
13 miles, heavy rail ballast in sections.
Leader: Jim Denton.
Meeting place: 9:00 A.M. at **Lyle trailhead**, alternate meeting time 9:45 A.M. at **Harms Rd trailhead**.

Jim Denton will lead a one-way hike through remote, beautiful Swale Canyon. Flowers should be at peak. The trail is railroad gravel in places, so wear sturdy boots. This hike will involve a car shuttle on gravel roads.

SUNDAY, MAY 21

Work Party -- details to be announced later

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

National Trails Day Hike through Swale Canyon
13 miles, heavy rail ballast in sections.
Leader: Jim Minick.

Meeting place: 9:00 A.M. at **Lyle trailhead**. Those wishing to meet at the upper end of the trail, please be at the Harms Rd. crossing around 10:15 A.M.

This may be your last chance to hike Swale Canyon before it is closed for fire season (around June 15th). We will car shuttle (on gravel roads) so that we can hike one way. Be prepared to hike the full 13 miles. There is no alternative access out of the canyon. Bring a lunch and plenty of water, a hat, sunscreen, and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Finish around 5:30 PM.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

Fisher Hill Bridge to Pitt Hike
8 miles, rocky in places.
Leader: Jim Denton
Meeting place: 8:30 A.M. (early, to beat the heat) at **Lyle trailhead**, alternate meeting time 9:00 A.M. at Pitt.

This scenic river walk will be the last KTC hike for the spring season.

SUNDAY, JUNE 18

Work Party -- details to be announced later

Klickitat Mineral Springs...continued from page 1

In 1931, the property defaulted to a bank, which sent a mid-westerner named Rey Newbern to evaluate the failed business. Mr. Newbern thought the very pure carbon dioxide gas which made the mineral water fizzy showed promise as a new product just coming on the market - dry ice. Mr. Newbern decided to take a chance on a new business, and he leased the property.

In the next four years he spent \$200,000 to construct a dry ice plant. Newbern's Ice Plant included equipment and buildings on both sides of the Klickitat River, and a bridge over the river connecting the operation. He saw his first profit in 1936. During WWII, his dry ice plant continued to do well as carbon dioxide was needed to inflate life boats, pontoons, and lifejackets, to preserve food sent to troops, to fight fires, and in gas tanks so gasoline fumes would not explode. The dry ice business continued successfully until 1957, when a new ammonia fertilizer plant in Kennewick, Washington, started producing carbon dioxide as a byproduct. At this point, the dry ice plant was moved to Kennewick for economic reasons.

At this juncture in history, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife acquired the land and tore down all but one of the Ice Plant buildings. Two women in Klickitat had observed huge numbers of "swallows" using the chimney of the one Ice Plant building as a night roost in spring and summer, and its preservation became a local cause. An interesting note is that the

... "for years the train would stop at Klickitat and let people off so they could take a drink from the spring nearby."

"swallows" that saved the last remaining building in fact turned out to be Vaux's swifts.

This is the old stucco building you see today. The concrete pillars near the Klickitat Trail, south of Wahkiacus, are two of the remaining carbon dioxide wells from the era of making dry ice. The water which sometimes bubbles from one tastes good to me, but I also like Ashland's Lithia Water. South of the pillars you can see the foundations of the dry ice plant's bridge.

The Lyle-Goldendale Railroad, built in 1902, took the bottled "Klickitat Pop" to market. That railbed is now the Klickitat Trail. In these early Klickitat County days, there were no roads connecting Klickitat to Lyle or Goldendale, so the railroad was essential to any type of commerce. The train stop at Klickitat was originally known as "Wrights" after the first settler family, but when "Klickitat Pop" became well known about 1909, the railroad took a "Klickitat" sign that had been at river mile 7.2 and put it up at the present town of Klickitat, and took the "Wrights" sign and put it at mile 7.2. That is how the town of Klickitat got its name. The Post Office's name was changed to "Klickitat" in February 1910. The curative properties of the mineral water were widely known, and for years the train would stop at Klickitat and let people off so they could take a drink from the spring nearby.

To visit the remains of the dry ice plant site, take SR 14 to Lyle, Washington. Just east of the Klickitat River, turn north on SR 142. After driving through the town of Klickitat, around 15 miles, look on your right for the old stucco building. You can drive down to it. Back on SR 142, travel another mile, turn right on Horseshoe Bend Road. Cross the bridge and go right on Shilling Rd. In about 100 feet turn right into the trailhead parking lot. Go through the gap in the fence to the right of the gate and follow the Klickitat Trail south along the Klickitat River for a mile to the rocky beach area. Here you can view the remaining mineral spring wells and sample their waters.

Sources:

"So This Is Klickitat", Selma M. Neils, 1967

"Klickitat Mineral Springs", Tal Bratton and Joy Bratton Cook (Klickitat Heritage)

"New Industry Born of Bubbling CO2", H.Gardner Peterson



Building that still stands on the site of the Dry Ice Factory "saved by the 'swallows'..." Photo by Lisa Conway.

Did you see that?



The Klickitat Trail Conservancy is a very small organization trying to fill a big mission...*to preserve and promote the public use of the 31 mile Klickitat Trail as a recreational, cultural, natural, educational and economic asset of Klickitat County.* To this end, we are very interested in your trail comments and observations. Please, tell us what you see while you are enjoying the trail. Tell us what you think about trail condition, use, improvements and other human and animal activity.

Email or write:

**info@klickitat-trail.org or
PO Box 512, Lyle, WA 98635**

LYLE TRAILHEAD PROGRESS

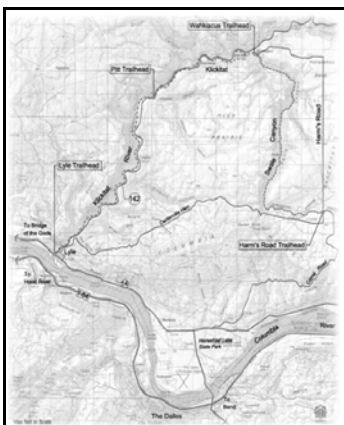
The Klickitat Rail Trail project continues to move ahead. The Lyle trailhead is slated for a facelift. With the last hurdle of a recent legal challenge behind us, we are happy to report major progress in trail development.

Dan Harkenrider, Forest Service Area Manager for the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, reported that his office was able to secure \$450,000 for trailhead improvements to the Lyle trailhead at SR 14 and SR 142. This money comes from the Federal Highways Program which makes funds available for Federal Highway Enhancement. Since SR 142 is considered a Forest Service highway, it qualified for this federal money.

The plans include a paved parking area for up to 20 cars and parking for up to 6 trailers, which would allow access to horse trailers. There will also be a toilet facility, which is in the planning stages. The USDA will work in cooperation with local interests and the Klickitat Trail Conservancy to finalize the design. The tentative date to start construction is sometime in 2007. We will keep you posted.

Looking for a map of the Klickitat Trail ?

Our full-color map includes geologic and topographical features, trail access points, distances between trail access points and trail etiquette.



You can download and print a copy of our map at www.klickitat-trail.org. Go to "Maps" on the left hand toolbar.

If you would like a fancy, printed version of our map, please send a self addressed stamped envelope to KTC, PO Box 512, Lyle, WA 98635 and we will send you one.



Packing for Safety

Please be prepared for your trail adventures!

- Triangular Bandages (2) - hold compresses or splints in place
- "Ace" Bandage (1) - supports weakened limb joints or holds compresses/splints in place
- Sterile pads 4" X 4" (8) - dress large wounds
- 4" bandage compress (1) - dress large wounds
- Band-aids (6) - treat small wounds
- Roll of adhesive tape - holds compress or splint in place
- Moleskin tape squares (4) - prevent and treat blisters
- Antiseptic soap - clean wounds
- Tube of sunscreen - prevent sunburn
- Tube of lip balm - prevent dry lips
- Insect repellent - keeps insects away
- Aspirin (8) - relieves aches and pains
- Antacid (8) - relieves nausea
- Small scissors - cuts moleskin and tape
- Safety pins (3) - hold compresses or splints in place, open blisters, make arm sling from shirt sleeve

Individualize your kit for personal health concerns such as allergies or prescriptions.

Klickitat Trail Conservancy

P.O. Box 512
Lyle, WA 98635
info@klickitat-trail.org
www.klickitat-trail.org

The Mission of the Klickitat Trail Conservancy is to preserve and promote the public use of the 31 mile Klickitat Trail as a recreational, cultural, natural, educational, and economic asset of Klickitat County.

Members strongly support the purposes, goals, and objectives of the Klickitat Trail Conservancy.

Trail Notes is a bi-annual publication of the Klickitat Trail Conservancy. Submissions are welcome. Articles, photos and comments can be sent to PO Box 512 Lyle, WA 98635 or emailed to info@klickitat-trail.org.

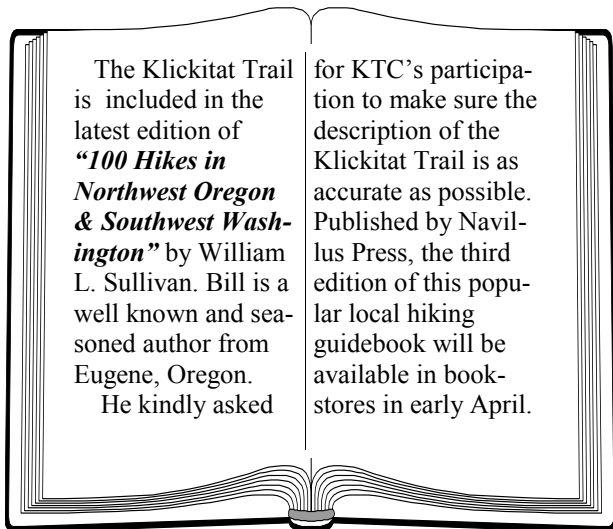
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The Klickitat Trail is included in the latest edition of "100 Hikes in Northwest Oregon & Southwest Washington" by William L. Sullivan. Bill is a well known and seasoned author from Eugene, Oregon.

He kindly asked

for KTC's participation to make sure the description of the Klickitat Trail is as accurate as possible. Published by Navillus Press, the third edition of this popular local hiking guidebook will be available in bookstores in early April.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

As you may recall, this is the time of year when we ask you to renew your annual membership. However, this year we are trying something a little different. Instead of a once a year membership renewal campaign, KTC will encourage members to renew their annual membership with a personalized mailing that is based on the month in which members initially joined KTC. Of course, renewals, contributions, additional support will always be welcome at any time -- no one needs to wait for their personal invitation to renew!

Your membership:

- Enables us to keep you abreast of new trail developments and happenings via our listserv, newsletters, and website.
- Supports our ability to provide portable toilets at several trailheads and install new gates and fences.
- 100% of your annual membership contribution is used to help us continue to preserve and promote public use of the Klickitat Trail.

Without our members and dedicated volunteers, KTC would not be able to fulfill our vision of the trail.

Your continued support keeps our mission alive.

Yes! You can count on my ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP to help preserve and promote the public use of the Klickitat Trail. As a member, I strongly support the purposes, goals, and objectives of the Klickitat Trail Conservancy.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25 (Standard) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ |

Name _____

Mailing address _____

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Email _____

- Add me to the KTC listserv, an email list for sharing timely information about the trail, including hike updates, work party information, fresh news, and events.
- I am interested in volunteering for trail work.
- I am interested in being more involved in the KTC organization in the following areas:

Comments:

Please mail your membership to:
 KTC
 P.O. Box 512
 Lyle, WA 98635

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