

Early Day Mount Shasta Monument Perpetuated In History Through Big Mural

Eighty-five years ago, the United States government decided to determine the magnitude and secure measurements of the vast area comprising northern California.

Because Mt. Shasta towered over all lesser peaks of the region, it was selected as the site for a geodetic signal station. The area was sparsely settled at the foot of the mountain and communication limited, so an unmanned station was decided upon.

The United States Coast Survey officials determined that a reflecting signal device at the summit

would provide a constant signal to connect the long lines of the main triangulation of the Coast and Geodetic Survey. After the months required for construction, the device was set up in 1875 at an elevation of something more than 14,000 feet above sea level.

The monument weighed about 3,500 pounds and was transported in sections and riveted together at the site. It is recorded that the shaft sections were transported by pack animals to an altitude of 11,000 feet and thence to the summit by Indians who used canvas covers for each 25-pound section. The whole pack trip to the summit is said to have required four days from Strawberry Valley.

The conoid was of copper, nickel plated and burnished "until its light could be seen as far away as Mt. St. Helena, 192 miles distant."

The inside of the shaft was filled with small rocks and the conoid top was bolted in place. The monument was set in a hole which was filled with rocks and boulders to weight it down. The work was finally completed in October, 1875.

In about the same month, 1903, the monument disappeared from the summit. Controversy exists over the reason for its dislodgment. Some claim it was struck by lightning and toppled over and others maintain it was blown over by the high winds that prevail about the mountain peak.

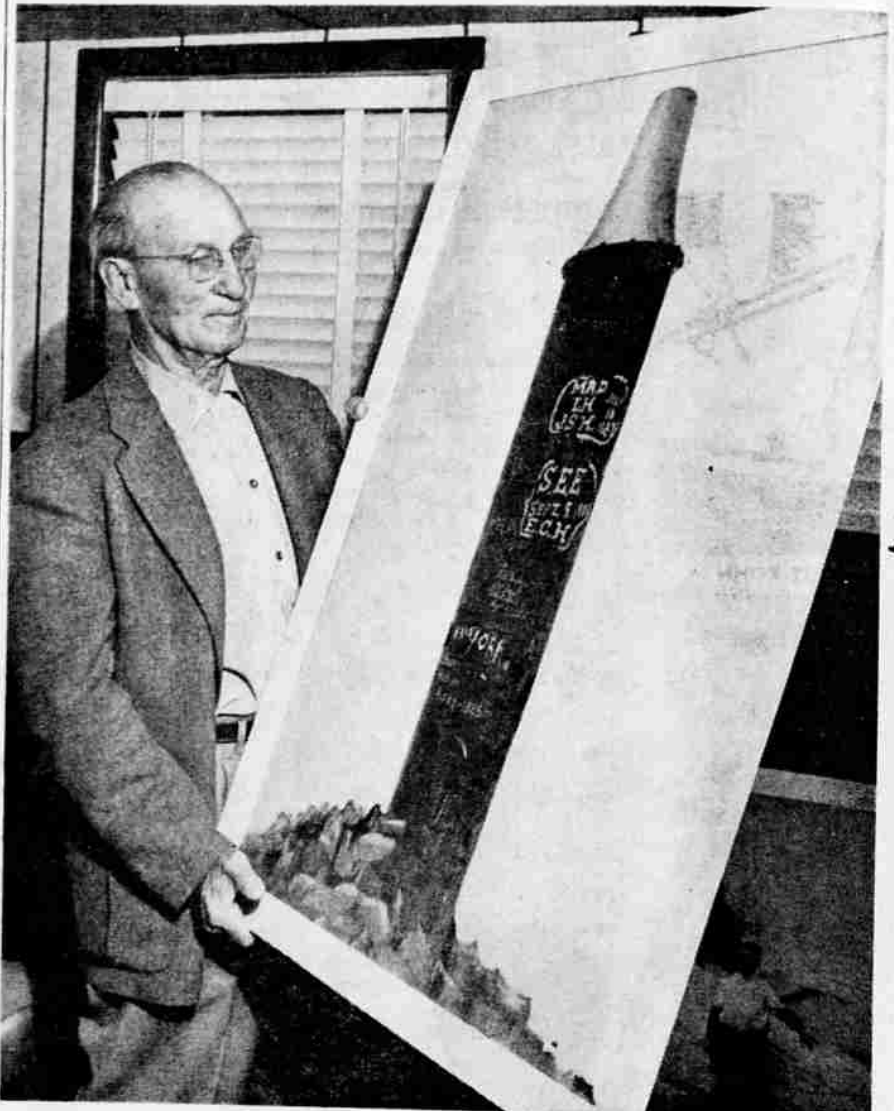
Examination of the monument, after it was found some nine or 10 years later, led the experts to believe it rolled end over end until it came to rest near the south base of the summit pinnacle.

Desultory attempts were made to restore the monument in one form or another and abandoned, chiefly because of the excessive cost of such a project. The conoid was finally removed and is now reposing in the museum at Yreka, county seat of Siskiyou County. Credit for bringing the nose of the monument down is generally given to John E. Richard, who was custodian at the Sierra Club Alpine Lodge, and two companions. It appears he was finally paid \$200 for his efforts and the monument top was given to the Siskiyou County Museum. (It is said, too, that the conoid was taken to a body and fender shop where the dents were removed before it was placed on display).

A local man, Matt Kohn, at one time associated with Ewauna Lumber & Box Company, was raised in the vicinity of Mt. Shasta. As a young man, he recalls many climbs to the summit of the mountain and on one occasion, in 1902, he guided a tourist to the peak to take a picture of the geodetic monument. Now, he has had a muralette made from the old glass plate and has given it and two other old pictures to be hung on the lounge walls of the Mt. Shasta Ski Bowl Lodge at that winter resort.

It was Matt Kohn, too, who is credited with finding the dented and broken shaft about 1912 after it had toppled from the peak. With Larry French he made what is thought to be the first flight over Mt. Shasta, in 1926, and negatives of pictures taken on that flight have been restored and printed again.

Mr. Kohn was sorting old pictures the other day in his home on Eldorado Street and decided that these three should be preserved for the interest of this and coming generations. He arranged the restorations and gave the muralettes to hang in the Mt. Shasta Ski Bowl Lodge on the slope of Mt. Shasta.



GEODETIC MONUMENT pictured here stood on the summit pinnacle of Mt. Shasta from 1875 until early winter in 1903 and, like all markers, carried initials of visitors scratched onto its metal surface. Matt Kohn, 1217 Eldorado, Klamath Falls, guided an Eastern visitor to the scene to make this picture in 1902. The visitor gave him the glass plate as a memento of the trip and the framed muralette which he is shown holding is one of three he has had made by Floyd's Studio for presentation to the Mt. Shasta Ski Bowl Lodge, with explanatory notes concerning the early day activities on the mountain.



AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH of the top of Mt. Shasta made in 1926 by Larry French of Klamath Falls on a trip made in a local plane chartered by him and Matt Kohn. The picture was taken above the 13,500-foot level and is thought to be the first picture of the summit taken from a plane. The negative was restored and this 30x40 - inch muralette was made by Jim Floyd to be given by Matt Kohn to the Mt. Shasta Ski Bowl Lodge along with the other two restorations.

New Ranger Takes Over At Crescent

Leslie P. Yates is being promoted and transferred to the Deschutes National Forest according to an announcement by Ashley A. Poust, supervisor of the Deschutes National Forest. He has been selected to fill the district ranger position at Crescent, Oregon.

Yates is a 1950 graduate of Washington State University where he received his bachelor of science degree in forestry. He worked on the Wallawa-Whitman Forest in Oregon during the summers of 1948 through 1950, as a fire lookout, recreation and timber sales assistant. In late 1950 he received his first regular appointment as forester on the Bankhead Forest in northern Alabama where he was assigned to timber management and fire control work. In 1952 he was transferred to New Albany, Mississippi, to do tree planting and erosion control work on a large flood control project under the joint direction of the forest service and the soil conservation service.

Since 1954 Yates has been working on the Okanogan Forest, with one year at Tenasket, two years at Twisp and the past two years at Okanogan. During the past two years he has served as officer in charge of an important forest-wide timber reinventory project.

Yates served three years with the U. S. Army signal corps with foreign service in the European Theater. He completed his service in 1946 with a sergeant's rating. He is a member of the Society of American Foresters and is presently serving as vice chairman of the Mid-Columbia Chapter. He, and his wife, Phyllis, and young son, Kenneth, will move from Omak to Crescent about January 23.

BIGGEST CLOCK

NEW YORK (UPI)—The world's biggest indoor clock — measuring 15 feet in diameter—will be installed in New York's Grand Central Station.

THE COVER

A postman's lot is not always a happy one, specially in the long, cold winter months in the high country. But the mail goes through anyway despite the discomforts of Old Man Winter. Typical of the winter season life of a mail carrier is this shot of Bob Ross making his rounds on a snowy and cold January day in 1960. The picture was taken by Herald and News photographer Wes Guderian.

CADDIES PICKET BRATTLEBORO, Vt. (UPI)—Nine young caddies picketed the country club here seeking a straight fee of one dollar for each nine holes. They were getting 75 cents for the first nine and 50 cents for the second.

199 KINDS OF ICE CREAM NEW YORK (UPI)—Ice cream now comes in 199 different flavors, according to the people who make Dixie Cups, including confetti, fandangos, peppermint chocolate swirl, apple strudel, cranberry, licorice, mint julep, pumpkin — and vanilla.

HE GIVES, THEY TAKE MONTPELIER, Vt. (UPI)—The State Liquor Control Board suspended the license of Guardino Inc., a wholesale dealer, for offering a free case of soda with the purchase of every case of beer.