

When There Really was a Gateway to the Mt. Loop

Most folks have heard the claim that Granite Falls is the "Gateway to the Mountain Loop", but when exactly did that idea begin? Back in 1922, the Granite Falls Ladies' Community Club decided to erect an impressive arch at the west end (entrance) to town, and held a series of fund-raising events to pay for the project.



In the Dec 22, 1922 edition of the Granite Falls Record, it was announced that:

Two members of the Granite Falls Ladies Community Club stand on either side of the arch the club gave to the city.

"Several plans are under consideration for an Entrance Arch at the town limits. The county engineer will be asked for permission for the erection. It has not been decided what the form of construction will be, but bids for both log and granite construction will probably be called for.

Mr. Doener, landscape gardener of the State College, sent a design in logs with the proportions worked out, the main arch to be 16 feet high by 24 feet wide, with side benches or pillars extending over sidewalk 12 feet high by 8 feet wide; making a very attractive entrance."

Then in the Sept 28, 1923 edition, the Record said, "The Entrance Arch at the city limits on the west of town, that the members of the Ladies Community Club are erecting, will be completed this week."

Early the following year, it said the ladies were going to hang a sign from the arch saying "Granite Falls - Gateway to the Monte Cristo Trail".

It wasn't until 1941 that road construction was completed enough to actually drive around "the Loop".