

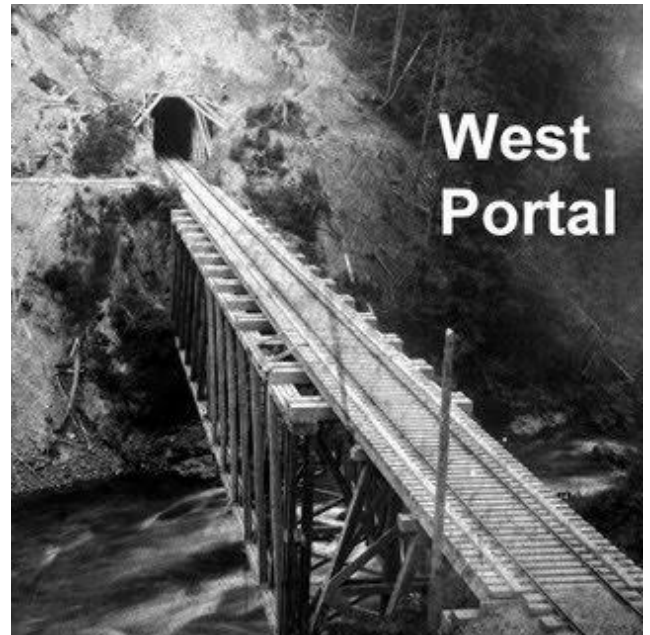
Tunnel No. 1

One of the most popular pictures of the Everett and Monte Cristo Railway is that of their 4-4-0 locomotive paused on the trestle across the Stilliguamish River about 3 1/2 miles east of Granite Falls.

The train is westbound, headed toward Granite Falls, having just emerged from Tunnel #1, the longest tunnel (847 feet) on the E&MC Railway onto one of the longer Howe Truss bridges (150 feet) on the route.

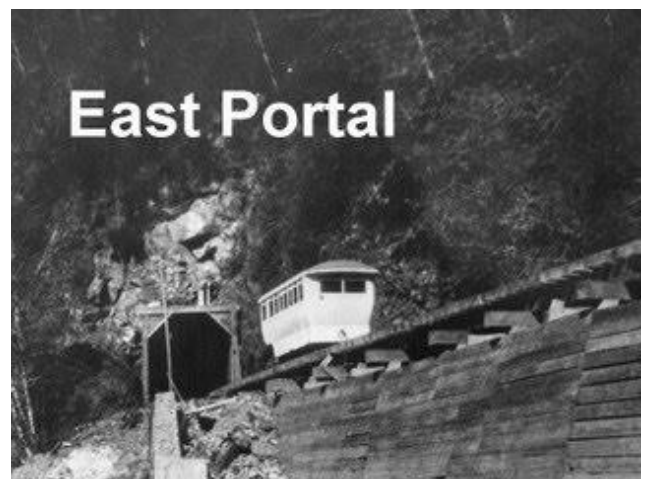
Next we see the West Portal. The West Portal collapsed more than once, and has long been invisible.

However, the East Portal was cut into more stable rock, and is still open today, though partially obscured by landslides. Also surviving today is the concrete retaining wall shown in the picture of Hartford Eastern gas car #22 as it approached the East Portal heading to the resort at Big Four.



Taking a "picnic" on a hand car, this group had its picture taken inside one tunnel - you can see the next tunnel through the portal in the background.

Given its length, the tunnel was quite dark inside (it's even darker now, with one end closed off), and was popularly known as "The Kissing Tunnel" by those passengers inclined to take advantage of the temporary privacy afforded. The group in this picture uses a crew car to take a Sunday ride through the Robe Canyon.



You can hike the Robe Canyon Trail and see remnants of the railroad. If you want to hear more about the railroad, use the QR tag below on your cell phone to hear about it.

