



WEBFOOTER EXTRA

July 2019

Columbia River Resort Towns St. Martins Hot Springs



Carson Steam Laundry wagon at Hotel St. Martin in Carson, Washington.

WEBFOOTERS POST CARD CLUB

PO Box 17240

Portland OR 97217-0240



www.thewebfooters.com

Carson, Washington

Columbia River Resort Town

St. Martin's Hot Springs



Carson Hot Springs at Carson, Washington, which is about 60 minutes east of Vancouver, Washington at the edge of Wind River, was discovered in the 1870s by Isadore St. Martin who was born November 6, 1842 at Nisqually, Washington. In his many trips through the Gorge, he spotted the property, consisting of 160 acres, which became the homestead which St. Martin and his wife Margaret worked. They worked out the rights under the Homestead Act, and moved into a cabin on the property around 1874-75.

A woodcutter had lived on the property but did not prove up the claim as a homestead and subsequently left. After the woodcutter left, Isadore and Margaret St. Martin moved onto the property, which was part of a railroad claim. When the railroad gave up the claim, St. Martin and his family had to wait a period of time for the railroad to release the property. When it was released, the St. Martins proved up the claim and when the Homestead Act became effective in 1876, St. Martin had his homestead.



Hotel St. Martin and the Bathhouse at Carson, Washington.

The deeds and the title would take a few years to obtain. The property then became the St. Martin homestead property. The St. Martin family made this their home, clearing land for farming, building barns and other buildings and raising cattle. They brought in other farming equipment to be used in general farming to make their living. The property was covered with timber. They harvested logs for the local mills. Logging was all done with large draft horses and ox teams. They cut piling to sell to boom and dock people such as builders of boat docks at Stevenson, Sprague's Landing (Carson), Collins Landing and the Spokane, Portland and Seattle (S.P. & S.) railroad dock at Home Valley near Wind Mountain.

St. Martin was a top hand with horses and oxen. Horses were his big love. He knew how to train and break horses, oxen and pack animals. His larger horses were used for logging on the homestead property. As a teamster, he hauled freight around The Dalles, Oregon. They cut cord wood to be shipped to The Dalles and other cities along the Columbia River. The shipping of the cord wood was done by wood barges on the Columbia River. The barges sailed upriver by means of the westerly winds on the river in the Gorge. They hewed ties which were sold to the railroads and construction companies including the O.W.R.N. Company and the S.P. & S. railroad. With his pack horses he packed gold from Canyon City and other mines. One of his many jobs was hauling ice from the ice caves north of White Salmon, Washington to The Dalles.

The family lived in two places in the period of 1874 to 1876. St. Martin and his wife and daughters lived on a five acre tract of land in Carson, Washington. The boys lived in the cabin on the homestead until 1876. The house was located on what is called the top of the hill. This house was built by St. Martin and his family.

The main spring comes up in the seams of solid rocks close to the bank of the Wind River. Geologists call these seams faults. These faults cross Wind River at various places. The hot water only runs out on the banks at certain levels of the river. The water level of the hot spring varies with the level of the river.

A log chute upriver from the hot springs led to the discovery while working the logs down river. This was done in the spring season when the stream flooded or there was high water from melting snow and heavy rains. The discovery of the hot mineral spring in 1880 was the beginning of the famous St. Martin Hot Springs business. The hot mineral water was found to affect many cures. People were relieved of all kinds of afflictions.

St. Martin's wife, Margaret, had a real knowledge of herbs and their curative powers and she made good use of the hot mineral water to help people. Her uncle was the Medicine Man of the Indian tribe and she learned all about the use of herbs from him. News of the healing powers of the mineral springs spread rapidly and people began to arrive in large numbers to bathe in the hot springs. The resort grew from a single tub room at the site of the hot springs on the banks of the Wind River.

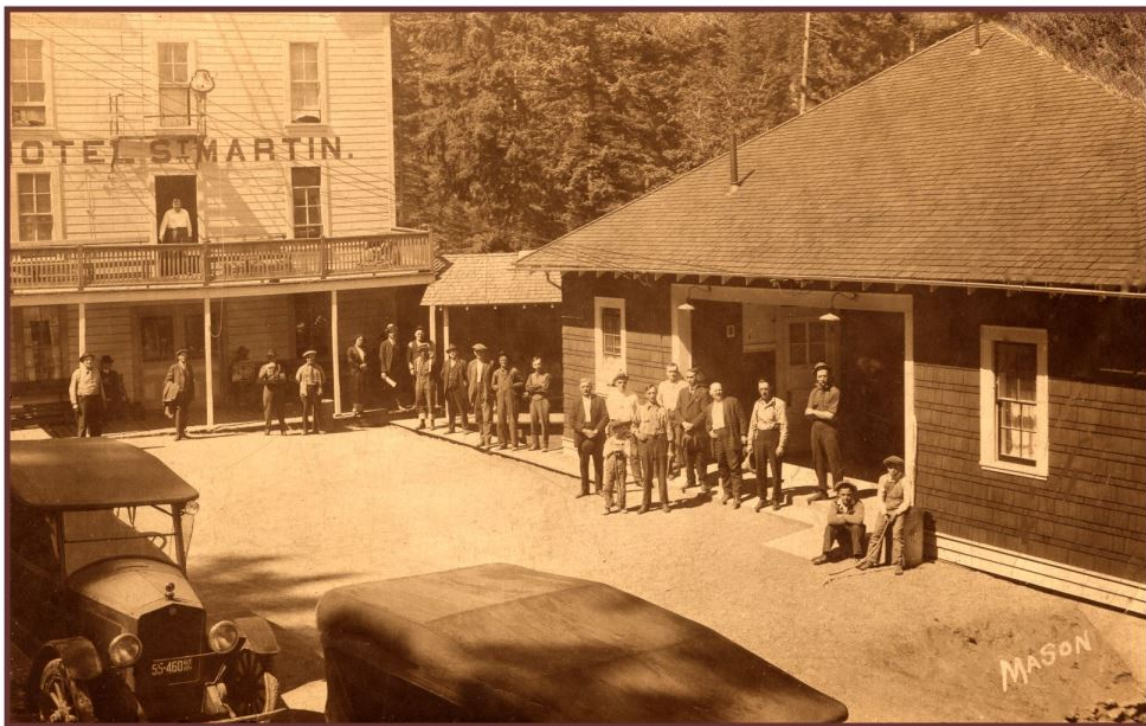
Those early bathers navigated the Columbia by steamboat and journeyed the two miles up the Wind River to the original bathhouses. In the early years, the family home housed the guests, but as the numbers increased, tents were erected to accommodate the travelers. In 1897, St. Martin began construction on the present hotel. The construction of the hotel took over two years and it opened for business in 1900. The hotel has 24 rooms on three stories. A large dining room and a small lobby and office are on the first floor. A kitchen was built on the north end of the hotel. A large brick oven was built in the woodshed outside the kitchen.

A large bathhouse was constructed on the river site prior to 1900. It had a two-story building connected to the lower bath building which was used as a dwelling and waiting room. In 1907, an upper bathhouse was built. Water was pumped up 275 ft. from the hot springs to this bathhouse. In 1908, the railroads took over the supplies and freight, also the passenger service.

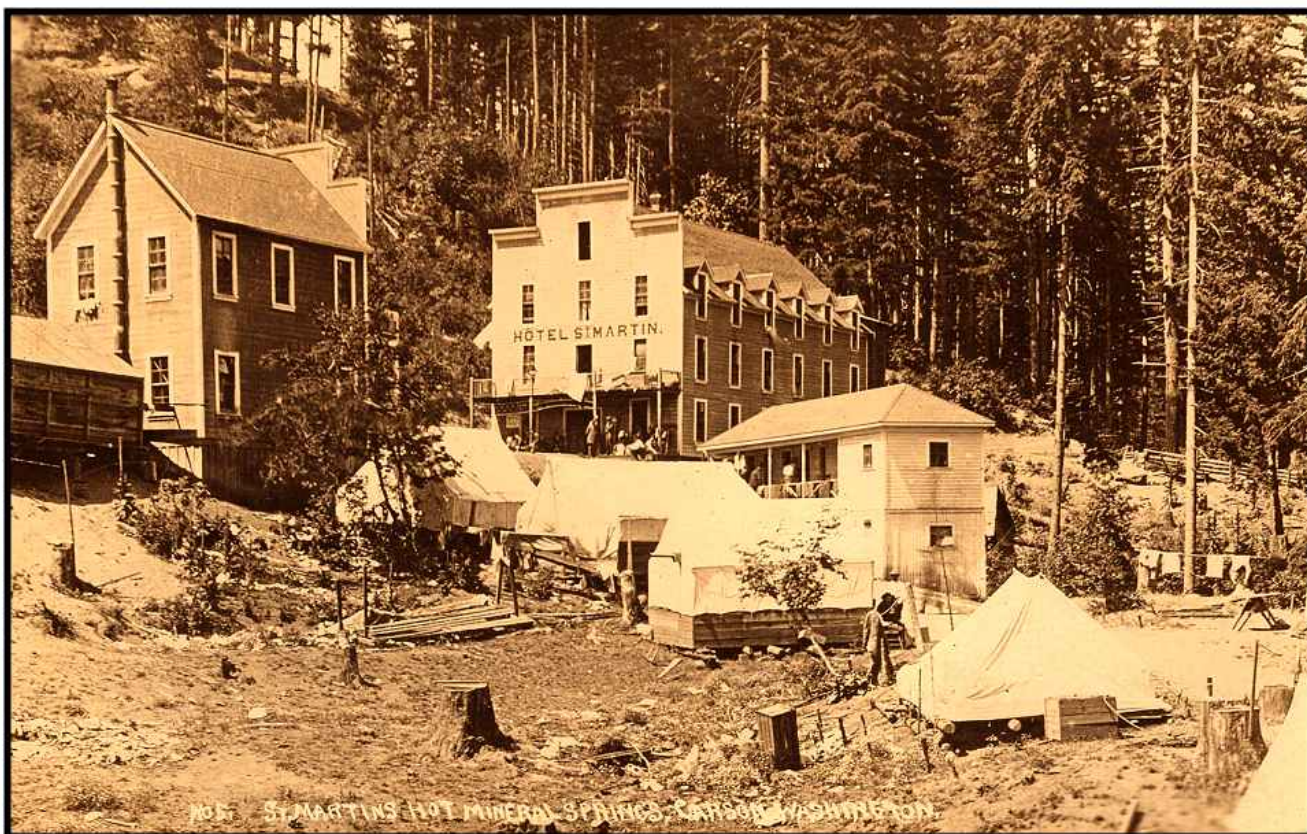
Due to the successful operation of St. Martin Springs, the kitchen had to be enlarged after 1910. Other changes were made through the years. Other things were done to take care of the comforts of the guests before 1920. During that time, coal oil lamps and lanterns were used in the hotel and other buildings. Electric wiring was installed in the early 1920s bringing changes in the kitchen. A walk-in refrigerator, etc., and other refrigerators were installed.



The new Bathhouse at St. Martin Springs which was built in 1907.



Guests flocked to the Hotel St. Martin and Bathhouse.



The original residence on the left became the Store. Tents were added below the Bathhouse.



Cabins were built where tents had been in earlier years.



Ed St. Martin with his train.



Hotel St. Martin as it looked in the mid-1940s.



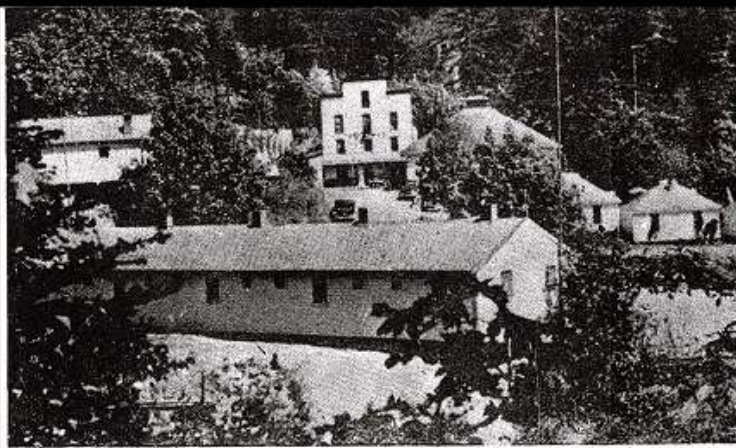
Cabins in the row at St. Martin's Resort in the mid-1940s.

Competition became somewhat fierce between the operators of hot springs resorts at Carson. From the Oregon City Morning Enterprise: "Sinch Shipherd established his rural health resort a short distance up Wind River from the St. Martin's Springs several years ago, much animosity has been shown toward the newcomer by the St. Martins. In a quarrel over the respective merits over the waters of the two places, Isadore St. Martin was stabbed in the barn by a man named Brown, who was a guest at the Shipherd place." From the barn, St. Martin walked up to the Hotel lobby where he died on March 10, 1910. Isadore St. Martin had been arrested for assault in an earlier incident.

Many changes in the operation and management were made after the death of Isadore St. Martin in 1910. Margaret St. Martin was in full charge. Two of her daughters ran the office and managed the business off and on. After 1911, Mrs. St. Martin bought a 120 acre ranch from an estate at Collins, Washington. She moved onto this place and was semi-retired. However, she was in direct contact with the hotel business. She made contact by telephone and also made numerous trips to the springs. Her permanent retirement came after 1919.

Margaret's daughter, Auerlia Kelly, and Mr. Eli Kelly took over the active management. In 1923, fourteen one-room cabins were built on the ramp for the hotel trade. These cabins are still in use. The store was moved to a newer and larger location in 1930 and the old building was demolished. Margaret died in 1933. After 1933, toilets and washrooms with hot water were added to the 11 cabins on the row. In the 1940s, new foundations for the hotel and cabins 11 through 12 were constructed. A concrete walkway in front of the cabins was built in the same period, with a roof built over the walkway.

St. Martin's heirs continued to operate the hotel until 1974 when Rudy Hegewald, a local resident who was fascinated by the healing powers of the hot springs, managed the facilities and added an 18-hole golf course. He managed the resort for 20 years, until his death in 1994 at the age of 87. The Hotel and Bathhouse are still in operation as are the cabins and they offer a look at life about 100 years ago.



St. Martin Hot Mineral Springs

Under New Management

CARSON, WASHINGTON

Phone 224

P. O. Box Carson 67

ST. MARTIN HOT MINERAL SPRINGS, at Carson, Washington, 52 miles east of Vancouver, Washington—65 miles west of Goldendale, Washington, on Washington Evergreen Northbank highway, U. S. 830, just 15 miles east of Uncle Sam's Bonneville dam.

ST. MARTIN HOT MINERAL SPRINGS was born with the downfall of the Bridge-of-Gods. Emitting from the rocks at a temperature of 130 degrees, Fahrenheit, the hot, mineral waters are a natural force that combats the effects of rheumatism. No chemicals are added and none are taken away.

ST. MARTIN HOT MINERAL SPRINGS remain open the ENTIRE YEAR for: PARALYSIS, ARTHRITIS, INFLAMMATORY, SCIATICA and MUSCULAR RHEUMATISM, NEURITIS, DROPSY, DIABETES, ULCERS, ABSCESES, YELLOW JAUNDICE, LUMBAGO, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, POISON OAK, ECZEMA, SKIN AFFLICTIONS, KIDNEY, BLADDER, LIVER and STOMACH disorders, and is recommended for cleansing the blood stream after dental and surgical operations.

ST. MARTIN HOT MINERAL SPRINGS may be reached by: MOTOR STAGE SERVICE direct to DOORSTEP; SPOKANE, PORTLAND and SEATTLE Railway Systems to Carson, Washington; from OREGON'S COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY,

U. S. 30 cross on the Bridge-of-the-Gods at Cascade Locks, or on the Interstate Bridge at Hood River to Wash. U. S. 830.

ST. MARTIN HOT MINERAL SPRINGS recommends that you ASK YOUR DOCTOR for a diagnosis, then ASK YOUR NEIGHBOR about ST. MARTIN HOT MINERAL SPRINGS.

ST. MARTIN HOT MINERAL SPRINGS was homesteaded in 1876 by Isadore and Margaret St. Martin, and since then has given relief to over TWO HUNDRED THOUAND patients on the Pacific Coast. Relief may be had from three to seven baths for some cases, such as poison oak or some instances of rheumatism, but it has been recommended from the experience of patients that 21 consecutive baths be taken for the best results. All patients are assured of medical advice and supervision by a MEDICAL DOCTOR on call.

ST. MARTIN HOT MINERAL SPRINGS offers hotel room, hotel cabin, housekeeping cabin, trailer-ground and campground accommodations. Write for further information and reservations.

Ask Your
Doctor
Good Food
Chicken Every Sunday

Remember: "The best things
are the least expensive"
Health
Mineral Baths

Ask Your
Neighbor
Restfulness
Spring Filled Mattresses

Ad for St. Martin's Hot Mineral Springs from the 1940s. (Stephen Kenney collection.)