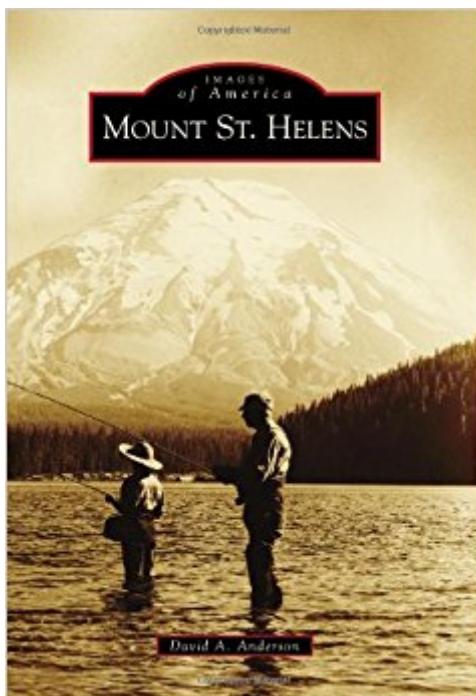


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# Mount St. Helens (Images Of America)



## Synopsis

The story of Mount St. Helens is that of an active volcano and human interaction with it. The mountain is culturally important to the regional native people. Its Cowlitz name, Lawetlatâ™la, means "Person From Whom Smoke Comes." • Early European settlers saw opportunities to make a living from the natural resources, and people fell in love with the forested valleys and slopes of the glacier-clad peak with the blue lake at its foot. Forgotten were the eruptions of the 19th century and the fact that the landscape was a product of frequent violent explosions. A report from the 1970s reminded locals that Mount St. Helens is an active volcano and could erupt again before the end of the 20th century. Only a few people at that time were aware of what the mountain was capable of, and many were surprised at the events that took place in 1980.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

David A. Anderson has been photographing Mount St. Helens for many years and is a volunteer at the Mount St. Helens Institute. With photographs from public and private collections, many previously unpublished, his book illustrates what the Mount St. Helens area was like before, during, and after the eruption of May 18, 1980. These images show the landscape of the mountain as it once was and how the mountain continues to evolve today.

Ninety percent of this book is the Mt. St. Helens of before. Few people other than locals knew of the mountain's beauty, the surrounding lakes and forests and the many recreational areas that

abounded in the mountain's shadow. Multiple generations of Washingtonians, Oregonians and others had enjoyed this extraordinary beauty and recreating on the mountain itself. The enormity of the May 1980 Mt. St. Helens event is exceedingly difficult to comprehend even when visiting the site. You must examine the photographs of the previous appearance of the mountain to even begin to understand what happened. Many of those living around the mountain and even those trained in it's studies who were there and lost their lives did not believe that what occurred was possible. A drive to the Johnston Ridge Observatory, named for one of those who died, helps to understand the power of nature and visually appreciate the destruction and alteration of the landscape around the mountain. Nature's recovery is equally impressive. The Toutle River Sediment Control structure can not even be seen from the main road. The mile to two miles long hike to the facility is revealing and is an ample example of man's sometimes puny efforts to coexist with nature. It simply shows how nearly impossible it is for man to understand the power of nature's events and to try to prepare for them. Today Mt. St. Helens is probably the most studied and monitored active volcano in the world. The next time there will be less disbelief and more pragmatism about what can happen. The pictures and text in this book provide some insight to this ongoing power of our natural world.

Perfect for our library's collection.

Didn't realize it was all photographs of the mountain area before the explosion. I was planning to do some reading. Still, interesting pictures. Just wasn't what I was expecting.

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