

Board Members

President/Webmaster.....Mike Kahler
Vice President.....Craig O'Brien
Treasurer.....David Hartze
Newsletter Editor.....Ruth Danielson
Corresponding SecretaryKathy Pierson
AdvisorDoug Hammond
AdvisorKal Klass



Welcome to August MCPA members!

Our July work party was a huge success. We had an impressive turnout and accomplished a lot. Our main project of painting the resort cabins went as planned; the 3 railyard cabins are now bathed in a fresh barn-red coat of paint. Most members believe the last time these cabins were painted was as early as the 1980's – so they were well in need of this maintenance work; the fresh paint and siding repairs will go a long ways towards preserving these structures. See our website www.mcpc.us for photos of the results. Thanks to everyone who helped with this project, we would not have made such incredible progress without everyone's help. Notwithstanding, thanks also to everybody who tended to other activities such as road and trail work, brushing, guiding visitors and working on our interpretive site plans.

At our August work party (August 18) we'll plan to complete the painting details such as painting the white trim work and finishing a few upper walls. However, the largest job will be replacing the roof on Cabin #3, which is in dire need of repair. We will need help packing in supplies, removing the old shingles, making structural repairs, installing new shingles, and cleaning up the debris. If you have construction or roofing experience or equipment, or can help out with any of the other associated activities, please plan to join us. Check the website for the most recent information.

Also, given our recent assignment of new members to our Board of Directors, we thought we would include a photo of the past and present board members. You can also visit our website for a full-size version of this photo.



As pictured, from left to right: Craig O'Brien – Vice President, David Hartze – Treasurer, David Cameron – Education Committee, Mike Kahler – President, Bill Rawlins – Prior Treasurer, Louise Lindgren - Education Committee, Kal Klass – Advisor, Doug Hammond – Advisor, Ruth Danielson – Newsletter Editor
Not pictured: Kathy Pierson, Corresponding Secretary

We hope to see everyone at the August Work Party. Note the cabin re-roofing project will be weather dependent; as long as the near term forecast looks promising, we will plan for a full day's work on this project.

Enjoy the Summer Weather!

Mike Kahler, MCPA President
allpinball@yahoo.com



Photo courtesy of the Everett Museum of History

Winters at Monte Cristo were a challenge to families as well as mining operations. This well-dressed woman and her children are standing on upper Dumas Street, probably near the doorway of the Monte Cristo Hotel, with proprietor Peter Halstad's Cliff House Hotel in the background. The steep Comet mine aerial tramway clearing down Wilmans Peak to its bunker is visible, while the United Companies' concentrator is out of the picture down the steep slope to the left.

HISTORICAL ESSAY

As we once again are trying to work through the complexities of how to reach and enjoy the beauty and heritage of Monte Cristo, here is the story of the last family to live in the lodge. Jerod "Jerry" and Eileen Rosman were concessionaires for the Monte Cristo Resort Corporation. They lived in the 1917 Boston-American Mining Company cookhouse, which had been turned into living quarters upstairs. The main floor housed a small restaurant in back, with an entry way museum/business room in front. Jim and Del Thompson owned the Sauk Lode mining claim at the entrance to the town, now belonging to the Tune family. This is how they described what happened during the disastrous 1980 flood. Their story was told to Everett *Herald* reporter Allan May in April 1981. This is part one.

David Cameron cameronlindgren2@gmail.com

Monte Cristo – The ravages of nature and the nation's tightening economy have dealt major blows to two families struggling to eke out a life deep in Snohomish County's backwoods.

But the families of Jerry and Eileen Rosman and Jim and Del Thompson are more determined than ever to stay in their homes.

On the day after Christmas the Sauk River, in one of its wild rampages, destroyed the road to the ghost town that's isolated amidst the snowy peaks of the Cascade Mountains. The destruction of the road threatens to make it impossible for the families to stay in their homes.

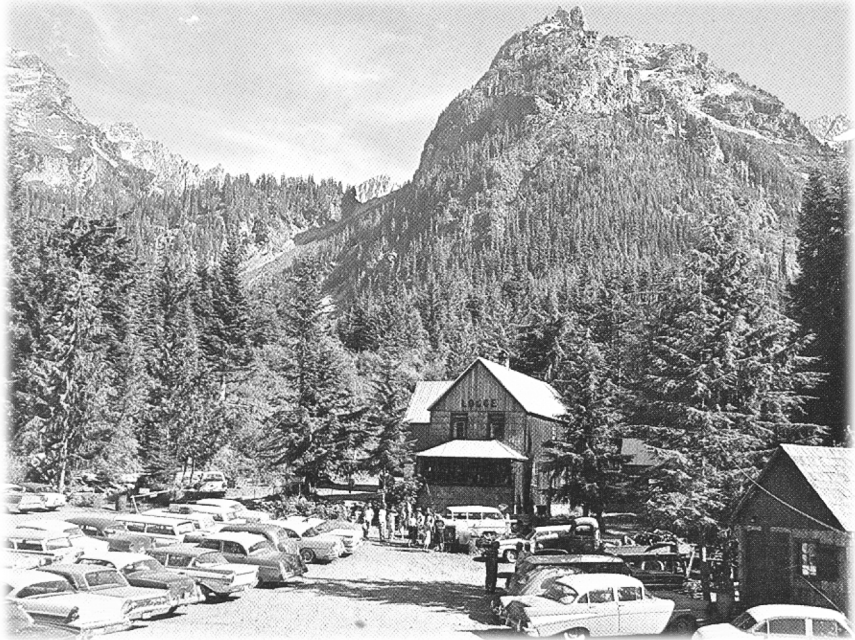
The Rosmans – Jerry, Eileen, and their children David, 13; Jeremy, 3, and Heather, 2 – live in a large, old building that once was the dormitory of one of the mines that operated in Monte Cristo until the 1920s. They have lived there several years.

The Thompsons – Jim and Del and their children Michelle, 11; Mike, 9, and Chris, 8 – are staying in a cabin adjacent to the Rosmans' home while they build a log house nearby as their permanent home. They have lived in Monte Cristo since last August.

Their lives in the ghost town have been much like that of the people who lived in Monte Cristo when it was a lusty, roaring mining town at the turn of the century. They heat their homes with wood stoves. They get their water from the streams that run nearby. Their light comes from a 70-year-old generator that Jerry found on the townsite. When it breaks down the families use lanterns and flashlights, sometimes for weeks until Jerry and Jim can get it fixed. Their food and supplies must be brought in from Granite Falls, 30 miles away.

The Rosman family moved to the ghost town two years ago after earlier establishing a small resort and summer business. They quickly learned to use their ingenuity and muscle to survive the loneliness, the primitive conditions, the howling snowstorms and the subzero cold of the mountains in the winter. This year they were joined by the Thompson family.

During the early part of the winter the weather was mild and the snow minimal. The two families thought they might have an easy time of it. But on the day after Christmas warm rains brought down floods that caused extensive damage throughout the Eastern sections of Snohomish County, including Monte Cristo.



D. Cameron & L. Lindgren personal collection

The former Boston American Cookhouse turned into the Monte Cristo Resort Lodge, shown in this post card from its heyday in the late 1950's. Those who know vehicles can probably narrow the date of this photo.



Monte Cristo Preservation Assoc.
PO Box 471
Everett, WA 98206-0471
www.mcpa.us

Next Work Party...
Sat. August 18th 9:00am
Meet at the Barlow Pass Gate

«FirstName» «LastName»

«Address1»

«City», «State» «PostalCode»