

Board Members

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Welcome to Fall 2018, MCPA Members and Friends.

The season has made its appearance obvious, with snowfall already returning to the passes the first week of October. We still have time for the final work party of the year, scheduled for **Saturday October 20**. Barring any unforeseen circumstances or seriously inclement weather, we will meet at the Barlow gate at 9:00 AM and plan to work until the early afternoon. Due to logistics with the access road key and gate, you should plan to attend for the whole duration; additionally, we can arrange for carpooling into the townsite if your vehicle is not adequate for the access road. Check the website a few days before the party for final confirmation of the event. We have a long list of small projects to tend to.

Thanks to all our volunteers who have helped with the townsite and trail work this season. We made wonderful progress on the upkeep of the resort cabins, giving them a fresh appearance and adding many years to their life. Trail maintenance and improvements were also completed, keeping pace with nature's ever persistent attempts to nullify the same.

Thanks also to Craig O'Brien for reviving and managing the Townsite Host Program, which resulted in townsite hosts present on almost all weekends of the season. Surely one of our best MCPA assets is our membership, their collective knowledge of the Townsite history, and their willingness to share, promote and disseminate this information to the hundreds of visitors to the townsite each month.

Looking forward, we have a long list of projects to plan for next year, including work on our interpretive site, replacing the roof on Resort cabin #4, and hopefully giving the powerhouse a much-needed facelift; It now looks severely forlorn against the backdrop of the freshly painted cabins. The structure needs considerable exterior siding and roof repairs; we will work with the Forest Service over the winter to obtain concurrence on our intentions and hopefully get an early start on these projects next season.

We also expect to see progress on the USFS NEPA process relating to the future of Monte Cristo early in 2019; keep an eye on our website over the winter for updates. You can also look at the USFS project page directly at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/mbs/projects> (all projects) or <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53315> (specifically Monte Cristo) . On the USFS main page you can sign up for email updates, so you'll be immediately informed of any new activity.

Our annual Winter Social is scheduled for February 23 at 5:30PM in the Red Barn at Jennings Park in Marysville. In addition to the usual potluck dinner, we are open to suggestions for program content, so if you have any ideas, please contact me at the email address below. Content can be entertaining, informational, historical, or all of the above. If you have any content you'd like to present yourself, that is also more than welcome.

Have a great October and hope to see you at the October 20 work Party!

Mike Kahler – MCPA President
allpinball@yahoo.com



HISTORICAL ESSAY

Continued from last month, here is part three of Allan May's April 1981 *The Herald* article on the experiences of the Rosman and Thompson families during the memorable winter of 1980 when they were living at Monte Cristo. Major flooding began the day after Christmas, causing massive erosion and landslides throughout eastern Snohomish County, including to the county road to Monte Cristo. Allan writes:

Heavy snows traditionally have kept the only road closed during the winter, and at first the Rosmans did what previous owners had done, stayed at Monte Cristo during the summer tourist season and moved out for the winter. But spending the winter in town was expensive and kept the family away from the work that needed to be done at the resort. Two years ago they started staying over through the winter, using snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles for their infrequent trips to town. The children attended classes taught by the adults under the supervision of the Granite Falls School District or through national correspondence schools.

Now just going back and forth for groceries and supplies has become a major chore. "We have to carry everything over that trail. Because of the distance to town we like to do most of our shopping all at once. It can be a major chore to carry a week of groceries over that trail," Eileen said.

But heavy materials are even more of a problem. The propane they use to cook comes in tanks that weigh some 250 pounds. "We have to put them between log rails and pull them across the slide," Rosman said. "It's no easy job, and then we have to put the tank on a sled and tow it home. It can take hours."

That is hours taken away from a schedule that already had been more than full. The situation can only get worse as time goes on and the families need more and more replacements for things they use or wear out.

And to make matters worse, with the road out, the tourists who provided a large part of their income would be unable to drive to the resort. The three-mile hike is sure to reduce their business to just those people able and willing to hike in.

At first, the people at Monte Cristo expected that the county would come out in the spring and repair the road as they have after previous floods. But this time the damage is much more severe. And it is becoming obvious that the county, like other governments throughout the nation, is facing severe budget problems that will force it to cut back many services.

Jerry Rosman has come to accept that quite probably the road to Monte Cristo will be among the things to be cut. "I'm becoming reconciled to that," he said. "It is the kind of thing that is happening all over the country. We are cutting back and it looks like places at the end of the road will be the first to go. That's what Monte Cristo is, at the end of the road."

The only hope lies in the U.S. Forest Service plans to sell timber near Monte Cristo. Jack Davis, ranger of the agency's Monte Cristo District, says the district plans a timber sale nearby and that it will be necessary to build a road as part of the contract. But the sale is not planned until the mid-1980s and, Rosman said, that is too long for the people at Monte Cristo to wait. (To be continued)

David Cameron



Lewis Treen photograph, September 1927. National Archives.

Forester Lee Chartrand at Monte Cristo, September 1927, showing the Royal Hotel, Riddle House, and Boston American Mining Co. cook house (later used as the resort lodge).



Monte Cristo Preservation Assoc.
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Next Work Party...
Sat. Oct 20th at 9am
Meet at the Barlow Pass Gate

«FirstName» «LastName»
«Address1»
«City», «State» «PostalCode»