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Welcome to July, MCPA Members and friends. We hope every had a safe and enjoyable 4th of July break.

Our June work party was a success with great weather and a good turnout of volunteers. David Hartze graciously designed, manufactured and installed an all-weather bulletin board for MCPA use on the old Barlow Pass to Monte Cristo road, just prior to the clay slide. This will allow us to keep signage up year-round and not have to remove and install the board each season.

In addition to some trail work and brush cutting (Debbie Fagan did a fantastic job clearing the turntable area), we also started the job of replacing the roof on Townsite Cabin #4 – this is just uphill of the old lodge site. The current roof was seriously deteriorated, and leaks would certainly result in future structural damage if not replaced.



At the upcoming July 20th work party, we'll continue preparing the structure for the new roof as well as haul in the materials necessary for the project. The materials are not big or heavy, but there are a lot of pieces, so we can certainly use the help of several volunteers that Saturday. Invite your friends and neighbors (and their kids) for a relaxing day of light work and fantastic scenery!

As usual, we will meet up at Barlow Pass for a planned departure into town at 9:00am, so be there a little early so we can all get situated. While the new access road does require a 4-wheel drive vehicle, we certainly have room for anyone who needs a ride in.

You can see pictures of the progress on the cabin and the bulletin board at www.mcpc.us

The Forest Service has updated their calendar of local projects and are currently projecting 2020 as the timeframe to complete the Monte Cristo NEPA study. They are suggesting publishing a scoping letter in January 2020 and with a final decision for the area by November 2020. This project is titled as "Determine the long term access needs to Monte Cristo"; detailed project information is available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53315> The MCPA and the public will have several opportunities to comment on the proposed plan once that initial scoping letter is published.

We hope to see you Saturday July 20.

Mike Kahler
MCPA President
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HISTORICAL ESSAY

Here is part four of Everett *Herald* staff writer Alan May's account of how the Rosman and Thompson families tried to cope with the massive damage of the December 1980 flood. Triggered by what first was nicknamed a "Chinook" or later "Pineapple Express" for its development off the Hawaiian Islands, the huge atmospheric river of warm, wet, subtropical air had poured into Western Washington. Temperatures soared, melting the early snow pack and adding its own huge amounts of rain onto the Olympic and Cascade runoffs.

The surging creeks and rivers again within hours overflowed their banks, tearing away bridges and their approaches, roadways, and homes, while oversaturated soils slid down steep slopes and added to the damage. For those of us who were living here at the time it was one of "the big ones" and the worst the Rosmans had seen. Now for repairs they were at the mercy of Snohomish County government, which owns the four mile road right-of-way from Barlow Pass to the bridge into the townsite and whose public works department was quite familiar with the vulnerability of the Twin Bridges and their approaches. I never asked county engineer Jerry Weed or road supervisor Ron Whaley about the massive new clay slide before the bridges, but it was my impression that damage on the 1980 scale was something completely unexpected.

This is Allan's conclusion:

County Executive [Willis] Tucker says there may be some hope that the county and the Forest Service can work out some kind of arrangement under which the government would rebuild the county road instead of building a new one [for the proposed Python timber sale on the east bank]. But he isn't sure that can be worked out, and, if it could, he isn't sure it could be done in time to help the people of Monte Cristo.

Rosman says he isn't certain what will happen if the road can't be reopened soon, But he is sure of one thing. "We're not going to move out. If we did, I know what would happen. Everything would go." He fears vandals would soon destroy the buildings and other facilities if no one was there to protect them.

But if they don't move out, what will they do?

"I don't know," Rosman said. "I'm just not sure."

This ends Allan's story. The Rosmans would tough it out as concessionaires for the Monte Cristo Resort Corporation, but their time was limited. I will write more about what happened to them in the coming issues. Jerry and Eileen could not predict what Monte's harsh winter environment would bring in the future to the isolated mountain town, but his concern about the fate of the buildings would be exactly correct and lead to the creation of our Monte Cristo Preservation Association.



Photo courtesy of Forrest Johanson

The Boston-American cookhouse/lodge ca. 1925. Owner John Andrews added the shed roof attachment to the left. He is standing in the door with his stepson Russell Fish and wife Estella Fish Andrews below him.

MCPA MEMBERSHIP FORM - www.mcpa.us

CALENDAR YEAR: _____

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IF YOU WISH AN OPTIONAL BARLOW PASS GATE KEY:

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Please download the required "MCPA Waiver/Release" at www.mcpa.us, have it notarized, then mail it to us with your check for \$49 to begin the process.

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For renewing members the present key is still valid, but if you need a new key: check here ☐ and include the additional \$25 cost of a key to your membership dues.

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THANK-YOU!

Everett, WA 98206

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THANK-YOU!

HISTORIC MONTE CRISTO PICTURES ORDER FORM

Pictures from Monte Cristo, up to 100 years ago. Cost: \$20.00. Pictures will be emailed.

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Thank you for your order!



Monte Cristo Preservation Assoc.
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www.mcpa.us

Next Work Party...
Sat. July 20th 9:00am
Meet at the Barlow Pass Gate

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