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Welcome to September, MCPA Members and friends. With the introductory rain, hail (!) and associated thunderstorms it seems nature wants to remind us fall is just around the corner.

Our August work party had a great turnout and we accomplished a lot, including trail brushing (including the Glacier Falls trail), vegetation management (brushing) around the townsite cabins, and progress on our revitalization of Forest Service Resort cabin #4 (this is located just uphill from the burned lodge site). We righted the front wall of the cabin, added some structural bracing, and raised and stabilized the left wall. We then completed the roofing framing repairs and have the (first half) of the roof ready for shingle installation at our next work party.

September 21 is the date for the next work party – lets hope for good weather so we can make more progress on this roof repair. We will only have this September event and an October work party to complete the job before winter....and the October party is of course weather dependent. With a few extra volunteers to help on the ground, we should make good progress on having the roof ready for winter. For anyone wanting to join us – standard protocol, meet at Barlow Pass with intent to head down towards the new gate & road by 9:00. Feel free to meet directly at the new gate if you please...we'll certainly find you there. Also, if you stop at Barlow to check in, no need to park, just stop by at the gate and let us know you're there. We will all make one entrance at the new gate just after 9:00, and we will plan to work in the townsite until about 3:00. We should all plan on this single exit time as we'll likely only have 1 gate key, making multiple exits/trips impractical.

Note that members, friends, family, co-workers and neighbors are encouraged to come join us. We can provide transportation in on the road if needed, and volunteers can pick the type of work they'd like to do. Do be sure to plan for the weather (both forecasted and unexpected) and bring your own lunches and hydration.

In Forest Service news, the Darrington Ranger District's new ranger Greta Smith has arrived as of August 19, taking over for now-retired Peter Forbes. We understand Greta was most recently employed by USFS in the Rogue River National Forest in Oregon. We look forward to working with Greta soon and in the future to educate her on MCPA's background, interests and abilities.

As a final Note, David Hartze put the final touches on the new MCPA bulletin board on the old county road, located just before the clay slide. This new permanent location provides us ample room for signage and brochures, and is a welcome sight for visitors walking the old railroad grade. Thanks David for all the effort put into this project.

Hope to see you Saturday September 21!

Mike Kahler
MCPA President
allpinball@yahoo.com





HARD

AT



WORK



*A big "Thank You" to all
who volunteered.*

*Pictures featuring Mike Kahler, Cary
Thielen and Debbie Fagan.*



HISTORICAL ESSAY – PART ONE

In the last issues I featured Everett *Herald* staff writer Allan May's account of the Rosman family's experiences enduring the December 1980 major flood. Its massive damage to the four mile Snohomish County road from Barlow Pass to Monte Cristo was on a breathtaking scale, causing officials to evaluate repair costs and decide not to make the attempt. Nevertheless Jerod ("Jerry") and Eileen Rosman with their children returned to their home at the resort lodge, determined once again to make a go of their concession business. Two years and a month later that proved to be a questionable decision.

A few weeks later Jerry wrote about what happened this time, telling their story in the pages of *The Snohomish County Tribune* starting on March 3, 1982. It was their lead, entitled "Challenge at Monte Cristo and illustrated with one of Jerry's sketches.

The editor noted "The following article is by Jerod Rosman, now living in the Machias area following the family's evacuation from their Monte Cristo home late in January. Rosman is a freelance writer, formerly worked for weekly newspapers in upstate New York. and published and edited a weekly in British Columbia. He is also an illustrator. Rosman's wife, Eileen, is an employee at the Cabbage Patch [Snohomish restaurant]."

"If we can't get out of here today, it may be a week before we can make it!"

My wife, Eileen, was speculating on the effect of a heavy snowfall as she looked out of the lodge windows. A deep snowpack, eight-plus feet of snow in the front yard, and rising temperatures were causing concern. I wasn't as pessimistic, but I should have trusted her intuition. She was right – we had troubles.

Our family home is in Monte Cristo, an 1890s gold mining town 36 miles east into the Cascades from Granite Falls. We're the only year around residents, and our nearest neighbor has to travel 14 miles to borrow a cup of sugar.

Monte is famous for its awesome weather, avalanches, and floods. In the six years we've lived there, we've seen and lived through some wild and woolly times, but nothing like we experienced the weekend of January 21-22 1982.

Nine hours on Friday, January 20 were typical of the challenging times we faced that weekend.

More than a foot of new snow had fallen overnight when we decided to break a snowmobile trail out to Deer Creek where we park our cars. It was a bumpy 12 miles over earlier landslides, broken bridges, and washouts. I was to take my wife and son-in-law, Jim Kyes, out to their cars. Then, with a good trail, I could bring out our three children – Heather, 2; Jeremy, 4; and David, 14 – if conditions got any worse.

We started out Friday after lunch in a heavy snowstorm. Eileen drove the snowmobile with me as passenger. Jim rode the runners of a loaded freight sled behind the snowmobile. The first two miles went quickly. It was all downhill, and snow conditions were good. As we dropped in altitude, conditions began to change."

(To be continued onto the back side of this page.)

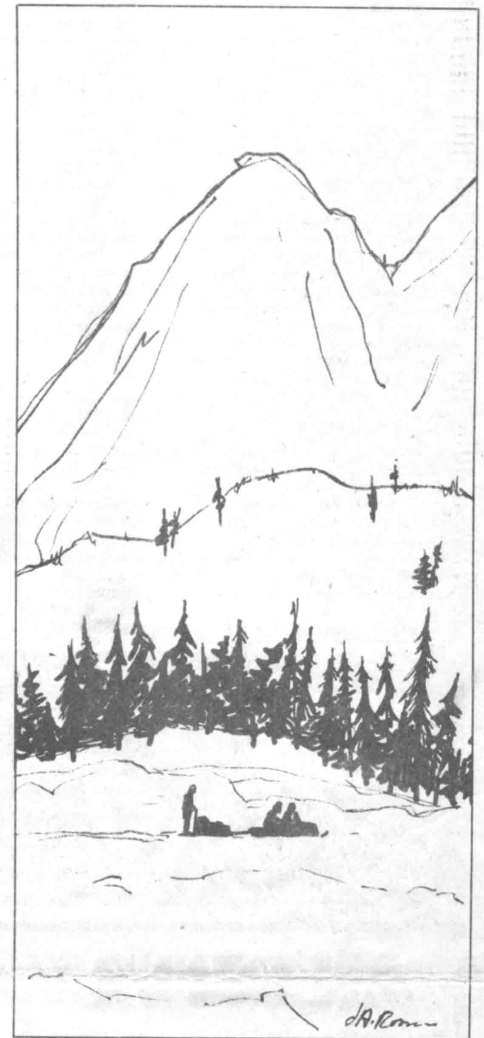


Illustration: Drawing of their snowmobile and freight sled by Jerod Rosman, *The Snohomish County Tribune*, March 3, 1982.

HISTORICAL ESSAY – PART TWO

Continuing from the front side of this page, the Jerod Rosman family decided to break a snowmobile trail out from Monte Cristo to their parked vehicles at Deer Creek a mile above Silverton, the end of the county plowed Mt. Loop Highway. Jerry, Eileen, and their son-in-law Jim Kyes would make the initial run. Then, if conditions worsened, Jerry could bring out their three children ranging in ages from 2 to 14 in a second trip. Here is his ongoing account.

January 20, 1982: “We started out Friday after lunch in a heavy snowstorm. Eileen drove the snowmobile with me as passenger. Jim rode the runners of a loaded freight sled behind the snowmobile. The first two miles went quickly. It was all downhill, and snow conditions were good. As we dropped in altitude, conditions began to change.

“It’s turning to rain!” Eileen yelled back over her shoulder. I could feel the wet slush pelting my face, and water creeping down my collar.

Our first obstacles were small avalanches over the trail. Jim and I grabbed shovels off the freight sled and dug a trail over the small slides. We noticed our boots were sinking deeper into the track, and the surface was turning to slush. The snow turned to hard rain.

The snowmobile started to lose traction in the slush. It would bog down and dig its own hole, unless we could push it to gain a little starting momentum. We were soaked. It was starting to get dark. We were only three and a half miles from home when we decided to turn back and try again the next day. It was 5 p.m. – four hours to fight our way three and a half miles.

The return trip was a nightmare. The trail had been fine most of the way out, but now it was a slush-filled gully. Avalanches were crashing down the 7,000-foot mountains on both sides of us, roaring like landing 747 jetliners. The hills that were easy to come down were serious obstacles now.

We spent two hours getting up one hill. We took the freight sled off, dragged it up by hand, finally abandoning it a mile from the house. We would point uphill, rushing it at full throttle. It would bog down. All hands helped turn it around and we would head back down the trail to try again. The driver then had to horse the snowmobile around, inch by hard inch, and attack the hill again. Twice, Eileen and Jim were thrown off the machine down into a gulley. When we made it to the top we all cheered, flopped down and sipped the last of a thermos of tepid coffee. All of this soaking wet, cold and in hard rain.

Finally, a half mile from home, we pushed Eileen off on the machine to try and make it home. She held the throttle down whipping and sliding and made it to within 500 yards of the house where she slid off into a deep snowbank. She said later, “That was the longest 500 yards I ever walked. My army parka was soaked and must have weighed 35 pounds. My boots sank more than a foot into the snow.”

That left Jim and me to walk home, loaded with valuables from the freight sled. Jim wore snowshoes, but with a heavy pack in slush, had a hard time walking. I post holed, picking one leg up and burying the other in slush. It took us an hour to make the half mile. Our flashlight batteries were dying, so we found our way by flashing the lights on, picking a line to follow, and shutting them off. I can’t recall how many times I stumbled and fell, but it was more than a few.

At 10:30 p.m. we stumbled through the door, packs, snowshoes, and all, water cascading off us like a leak in the basement. We were wet, tired, hungry, sore and frustrated. We had taken nine hours to travel seven miles that normally take 30 minutes.

We sat by the fire that night, drying out, resting, and planning our next move to get out. The avalanches continued to come down the mountains, and we stopped counting at 50.

Our escape plans the next two days didn’t work either, but that’s another story.”

(To be continued in the next issue)

David Cameron

MCPA MEMBERSHIP FORM - www.mcpa.us

CALENDAR YEAR: _____

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____
Phone _____ **Email** _____
Area(s) of Interest/Occupation _____

IF YOU WISH AN OPTIONAL BARLOW PASS GATE KEY:

For new members:

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.

For renewing members:

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.

\$24.00 - Annual Membership

Mail To: MCPA

\$49.00 - Annual Membership + Key

PO Box 471

THANK-YOU!

Everett, WA 98206

MCPA CHARITABLE DONATION FORM

I wish to donate to the MCPA. The amount I wish to donate is:

_____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ \$500 _____ \$1000 _____ Other

MCPA INTERPRETIVE CENTER DONATION FORM

I wish to donate to the MCPA Interpretive Center. The amount I wish to donate is:

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City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

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PO Box 471

Everett, WA 98206

THANK-YOU!

HISTORIC MONTE CRISTO PICTURES ORDER FORM

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

Name _____
EMAIL _____

Mail To: MCPA

PO Box 471

Everett, WA 98206

Thank you for your order!



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

Next Work Party...
Sat. September 21st 9:00am
Meet at the Barlow Pass Gate

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