



Board Members

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Greetings MCPA Members and Friends,

The summer season is now well upon us and visitors have returned to the Mountain Loop corridor as usual. Visitors to the Townsite were plentiful during our June work party, despite damp weather.

To our admiration, the Townsite weathered the winter season with no damage and no signs of vandalism, except for damage to one of the USFS signs documenting the cleanup activity, which we are working to repair. The log crossing at Twin Bridges is reportedly still in place and passable. It was reported the first week of July someone ripped off one of the reinforcement plates off the Barlow Pass gate and cut the lock. While the gate has been temporarily secured, we will make needed repairs at our July 18 work party.

That said, the July 18th work party is scheduled as planned; meet at the Barlow Pass gate for a 9:00AM rendezvous and departure. While we still have the roofing project to complete on Cabin #4, the Forest Service has currently prohibited us from performing that work due to Covid-19 restrictions. Sorry, I do not have an explanation for the logic behind that, other than because USFS personnel are under restrictions surrounding the work they can perform on USFS land, the Forest Service is imposing those same restrictions on us. Last word was this could be relaxed when Snohomish County enters a "Phase 3" reopening. The July 18 work party will hence consist of trail, county road and brush work, plus any work that can be accomplished readying the MCPA interpretive lots for the planned interpretive site.

David Hartzel has been busy refining the design of the Hotel façade we wish to construct at the entrance to the interpretive site, and Kal Klass met on site with a volunteer structural engineer who solidified some of the architectural design aspects we will need to adhere to and committed to working with us to ensure the proper approvals are in place for Snohomish County design requirements. Thank you Kal and David for your continued work on this project.

Craig O'Brien and Darryl Jacobsen have also been hard at work authoring and refining the first of several of the informational signage boards planned for the interpretive site. While working with the distant supplier has proven difficult, Darryl and Craig have persevered and completed the final artwork for the first two signs. We hope to have those signs manufactured and installed this season.

Our efforts to facilitate long term vehicular access to the Monte Cristo area are increasing, given the Forest Service has now cancelled the planned NEPA Study and instead has reported the CERCLA route will be closed to all uses by the end of 2020. We are conversing with several local and regional representatives and advocates to help us realize a better outcome. Stay tuned for further development, and let us know if you want to assist with this effort.

Lastly, we welcome two new members to our board, Darryl Jacobsen and Cary Thielen, both as advisors. Together their knowledge of the Monte Cristo area and eagerness to assist with our projects is much appreciated.

Stay well and hope to see you at the July 18th Work Party.

Mike Kahler- MCPA President

HISTORICAL ESSAY

Here is the second part of Allan May's November 12, 1977 feature article for the *Everett Herald/Western Sun's* weekend "Panorama" magazine, "Jerod Rosman: Wintering at Monte Cristo."

"During the early part of the winter, when the snow is smooth and level, there may be a few such visitors [as back country snow shoers, cross country skiers, or Dan Finney with his dog sled] who will venture that far back into the mountains.

Last year, when drought conditions kept the snow at low levels most of the year, the resort was a shambles at the end of the winter. Rosman, who took over the lease in June, had to repair 14 broken windows, replace the outdoor toilets and perform other repairs.

'We took out an entire pickup load of empty bottles, cans, and other junk,' he said.

Then too, Rosman has several freelance [writing] projects in mind, and being alone will provide a maximum of time and a minimum of distractions while he works on them.

'I'll have plenty to keep me busy,' he said. 'I find that I can write for several days, then I have to do something else for awhile.' Something else will include cutting wood to feed the two stoves in his cabin.

'I have one for cooking and one for heat. I plan to cut enough wood for a week at a time. That will help keep me from getting out of condition or from cabin fever.'

[Note: The next summer Jerry told me that had been a major error. His only experience wintering over had been in the boreal forest of northwestern Canada, where he was surrounded by dead and dry standing timber, not the water soaked snags and fallen logs of the Western Cascade mountains. The next season he made certain to have a woodshed full of dry fuel.]

He also will work on the resort facilities. 'There's a lot of painting and work to do inside. I hope by spring to have a sandwich shop in the lodge. I've been asking visitors what they expected to find here that they didn't find, and many of them say, 'We sure thought there'd be a place to eat.'

What he puts in will depend on the requirements of the county health district. 'Maybe it will have to be just prepackaged sandwiches. I'd sure hate to do that, but maybe that will be all we can get in for now.'

Rosman began operating the resort in June. He had visited the ghost town to research a story, and needing more information, he looked up one of the owners in the Seattle area.

'When I found him, he said as long as you are doing a story why not live there, so we did.'

He and his wife and five children stayed at the resort during the summer then rented a home in Granite Falls when school started. It is 25 miles from Monte Cristo to Verlot, where the school bus stops.

'That meant that we would have to drive 50 miles a day to get the kids in school,' Rosman said. 'It was too much.'

During the fall he has worked out an arrangement where he and other persons trade off staying at the resort to look after the property. Most of the time it is Rosman who stays there with the four dogs he brought down from Canada.

But he has been spending as much time as possible at Granite Falls with his family.

'I'll keep that up as long as the road is passable,' he said. 'My kids who are away from home plan to come for a reunion at Christmas. If it is possible, we will hold it at the resort. After that, I'm pretty sure it will be time to hole up here for the rest of the winter.'

The rest of the winter could be until April or May, depending on the severity of the weather and when the county gets around to clearing the road above Deer Creek, where the snowplows stop during the winter.

Wintering alone won't be a completely new experience for Rosman. He and his family stayed "in the bush" near Cassiar, B.C. last winter. They lived in a miner's cabin while he wrote, learned to placer mine, and helped the people of Cassiar set up a local newspaper.

'Sometimes, we'd be snowed in a week at a time before the snowplows got up to us,' he recalled. On some occasions when he was engrossed in his writing, he would be holed up for several weeks in the snowbound cabin.

(To be continued)

David Cameron

MCPA Membership Form

Year: _____ (membership runs Jan → Dec)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Area(s) of Interest / Skills: _____

Please select only 1 box below:

\$25.00 - Annual Membership (Mail this Form and \$25 to MCPA)

---- or ----

\$50.00 - Annual Membership + Barlow Pass Gate Key *

(* keys from 2010 to now are still valid)

- Download "MCPA Waiver/Release" form at www.mcpc.us (MEMBERSHIP)
- Sign and Notarize the "MCPA Waiver/Release" form
- Mail the Notarized Form, this Form, and \$50 to MCPA
- A gate key will be mailed to the above address

MCPA Donation Form (Non-Profit 501(c)(3) EIN: 911230143)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

MCPA Donation - I wish to donate the following amount:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 Other \$ _____

MCPA Interpretive Center Donation - I wish to donate the following amount:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 Other \$ _____

Monte Cristo Historic Pictures Order Form

Pictures of Monte Cristo up to 100+ years ago. Pictures will be emailed.

Name: _____ Email: _____

\$20.00 – Electronic Pictures of Historic Monte Cristo

Mail Form To: **MCPA**
P.O. Box 471
Everett, WA 98206

email questions to:
hartze4@gmail.com



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

**Work Party ~ Sat. July 18, 9am
Meet at Barlow Pass Gate**

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