



# The Index Wall



December 2011

All New 2011 \$1.00

## Small group to start up new publication with several new features. By Thom Boullioun

You all remember the Index Eagle? Well, a lot of people want to see a publication like that one again, it is fondly referred to and often quoted. People like a publication that they can pick up and hold on to and read. After all, not every one is using the internet to get the news. Well, that paper is gone but several folks have decided to 'revive' it with a new print publication. This is the premiere issue of what we hope to be a long running tradition in the town. What's new? With the new 'print' version you will be able to pick it up at local places and it will also be available online, courtesy of Ed Boress. We might even be able to add what I call *Web Extras: features that have embedded links to other sites. This feature will only be available online.* You will be able to print out a copy for yourself too. Sharing it with others is a good idea and its also neighborly — and besides its fun! By handing it out or taking it to your favorite hang-out i.e., the water cooler, the nearest coffee shops, general stores, gas stations, restaurants and pinning it to community kiosks. Distribution cost is nil. Striving for quality, not quantity **The Index Wall** staff envisions a source of pro-active information for people that live here and its informative for those new and not quite familiar with the area. By printing out a 'real' copy that you can pick up and hold. This will give the folks that live here an opportunity to show you what they know in their own way. Those of us that do live here can see our friends efforts being displayed here. With all stories, articles, poems, artwork i.e., all content and materials and ads to be taken directly from local talent living in the area.



### Two years ago we saw this story, "12-year-old Ballard resident pleads to save Historic Index building." by Thom Boullioun

Originally written by Steve Shay of the Ballard Tribune on May 27, 2009. He wrote: Twelve year-old Waylon Robert, a sixth-grader at St. Alphonsus School in Ballard, nominated the Bush House in Index, Washington, to be on the list of the 2009 Most Endangered Historic Properties. "I think the Bush House should be saved because it's like (the movie) 'Night at the Museum'

Constructed in 1898, the Bush House was initially managed by Clarence Bush and his wife who operated the property as a hotel serving railway passengers venturing over Stevens Pass.

The structure's shingle roof is rotting and could be subject to collapse given the heavy snowfall that commonly occurs in the area. Although the property has been for sale for a few years, and several offers have

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# The Index Wall

An independent, locally owned newspaper  
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Emily Rooney, Etta Hunter, Kem Hunter, Kathy Corson, Sandy Gordon,  
Thom Boullioun, Alex Gibb and Yvonne Lawson

# Front Desk

by T.A. "Thom" Boullioun



Welcome to the premier issue of the Index Wall. We hope you like it and will support it. We need your ideas and suggestions, This is all brand new with a lot of support and enthusiasm from community members of the town of Index and the surrounding areas. We hope that you like this modest effort to get the news out to you.

My friends here at **The Index Wall** want you to tell us what you would like to see here.

I can be reached via email or I will be at my property trying my best, otherwise you can find me visiting and talking everybody's ear off at the Espresso Chalet on Hwy 2 or the Wild Sky River house in Index.

With the premiere issue we have Bob Hubbard (page 3) returning as a 'guest' columnist providing us with his great hiking stories about the area. His story is all new and written especially for this month's issue. Bob Hubbard's stories can also be found at the town's website: [IndexWA.org](http://IndexWA.org) as well as an occasional 'write-in' to other newspapers in the area. Leigh Christianson (page 4) has provided us with the latest good stuff and has revived her column "All About Town." Read her column, it is chock full of information on the area. Kem Hunter (page 2) is offering to provide us with columns. You can see them here and in future issues. I will be doing stories from the Mt Index Riversites community (The South Fork) from time to time. Sabrina Grafton (page 5) will be keeping us up-to-date on the Fire Stations' activities. Emily Rooney and Colin Reed are new to the area. Emily has a wonderful article on mushrooms (page 7) and Colin has recipe ideas of his own (on page 8). Colin will also be doing a column along the lines of The Secret Diner. Colin Reed lives in the area and we appreciate his contributions.

## Thom Boullioun

From the South Fork

## TheIndexWall@gmail.com

Cover Photo Credit  
Upper Town Wall Photo by Leigh Christianson

## Editor's note by Sabrina Grafton

**WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE INDEX WALL!** We welcome submissions, letters and suggestions. The deadline for written work is the first day of the month, every month. Submitted items will be published on a space available basis, although submissions may be retained for publication the following month. Please include a name and contact information with your writing, anonymous work will not be published. Our goal for this publication is to provide current news about the Index community. We hope to publish notes from the various groups and meetings that occur in Town, so if you regularly attend a meeting and would be willing to provide notes please contact us at [theindexwall@gmail.com](mailto:theindexwall@gmail.com) or simply submit your notes by the first of the month. All submissions may be posted to: [theindexwall@gmail.com](mailto:theindexwall@gmail.com).



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To send content: such as pictures, story ideas or column ideas like tech advice, stories on hiking, biking climbing or ads, poems, etc. Please send original material/photos by you to us by the 1st of the month to be included in the next months issue. Call Thom at 360-793-7581 or send them to us at: [theindexwall@gmail.com](mailto:theindexwall@gmail.com)

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# “Eco Trip”

by Bob Hubbard © 2011, All Rights Reserved

Photo by Thom Boullioun



I was down at the River house a few weeks back, talking with Sandy Gordon about the good time I'd had on a school field trip I had just come back from. Sandy suggested I write about the trip—for the new Paper that she was starting up in town. She struck a nerve: I'd been toying a little bit lately with the idea of writing again, but didn't know if I had the energy and discipline to write a monthly column. An occasional story, though, could be fun so I said, why not? Chances are lots of readers remember field trips of their own, while other might wonder about what goes on during one.

This trip was for Dr. David Stokes' Ecology class, to immerse them in forest ecology for the day. They were up from the Bothell campus of the University of Washington, and had a 6-hour window to visit local examples of natural and industrial forests. My role was to plan the itinerary so that we could cover everything from young conifer plantations to old-growth forests. I also did some of the lecturing to the class because Dr. Stokes knows that I have a pretty good background in Ecology and Forestry matters.

Field trips can be challenging to plan for. With only a school bus or a van or two you can go nearly anywhere in the forest and find parking close to where you need it, but this was a group of 48 students, the professor, and me, in 22 cars. I took the group to 2 sites on Heybrook Ridge and 2 sites up the Miller river valley. We drove as a convoy from site to site, drawing stares wherever we went. We parked in the roadside pullouts like an invading fleet and streamed like ants out into the roadside forests, up to places where the 50 of us could gather as a group and talk.

Ultimately, it was Dr. Stokes in control, he knows the time constraints, and what subjects and features he wanted to cover, but he would often let me start out the talks, pointing out obvious features of the stand out hand, and talking about their significance in the local ecology. Then Dr. Stokes would add a thing or two, or ten, and we'd entertain questions and move on. We tackled subjects from soil biology to invasive plants, from features that distinguish old growth to log-jams as creators and maintainers of salmon

habitat, from wildfire cycles to plant succession. He allowed me time to go into some detail about soil biology and nutrient recycling, and about spotted owl ecology and how the owl's pretty base was closely tied to old growth features such as diseased trees, downed logs and snags. A list of the things we talked about would read like the index of an ecology textbook. Duh.

Not all of the lessons were cerebral in nature, some used other senses. I had students comparing the structural development of the soil



and litter layers in young industrial forests and old-growth by walking around and paying attention to how deep their footsteps sink. Some things were subtle and added to the experience subliminally, such as the deliciously tangy smell wafting intermittently through the air in the old-growth; a smell caused by last year's broken silver fir boughs as they went through their red slash phase of decomposition on the forest floor.

And, when you are standing in a cathedral-like grove of old-growth, among the bases of giant trees reaching 25 stories or more into the sky, you kind of feel small, even though there is no scientific gauge to measure insignificance.

I think the group's collective eyebrow-meter bounced the highest when we went out

through the brush to a big, bushy-topped Western Redcedar tree. We didn't have a tape to scientifically measure it with so we made a living chain instead and found that it took 14 of us, holding hands, to completely encircle the trunk.

Now, that's a tree.

I'd have to call the day a success: we got to all the places we wanted to, covered all the subjects we set out to, and even kept to our schedule. The biggest problem that cropped up concerned the scarcity of flush toilets in forested ecosystems, and we responded to that challenge by swinging into Index town for a biffy stop in the park. I think everybody in town saw us and wondered what was going on, since we were obviously a herd, and not a random crowd of tourists. (Think about the differences and you're already thinking like an ecologist). Later, after the class had gone home, I wandered over to the Riverhouse and got to talking with Sandy and, well, here we are.

*. Editors note: I want to thank Bob Hubbard for writing this story for our premiere issue. It is all new. Thanks, Bob.*

## Friends of Heybrook Ridge's Field Trip



Photo by Jonelle Kemmerling

Above are Etta Hunter, Yvonne Lawson, Judy Davis and Jonelle Kemmerling who visited the beautiful new Tulalip Tribes Hibel Cultural Center on November 15, 2011. Friends of Heybrook Ridge has submitted a funding grant proposal for the River Woman Totem Pole to the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund.

# ALL ABOUT town

By Leigh Christianson

Change Dictionary definition:

*A transitive verb (who knew?!)*

1

*a : to make different in some particular : ALTER <never bothered to change the will>*

*b : to make radically different : TRANSFORM <can't change human nature>*

*c : to give a different position, course, or direction to*  
2

*a : to replace with another <let's change the subject>*

*b : to make a shift from one to another : SWITCH*

*<always changes sides in an argument>*

Is change good or is it bad? I guess it all depends. The dinosaurs, watching the glaciers creep forward and the asteroids hit, had no idea of the changes that were about to take place. And those of us sitting at the bottom of the barrel, waiting for another bucket of (#\*&% to be poured on us, would think that a change of circumstances would be pretty welcome at this point. And some of us absolutely freak at the notion of change, such as using regular milk instead of half and half in our morning coffee. And a change of political tides can send even the most grounded of us into a tizzy.

I remember my high school teacher, Mr. Wagner, who, when I and the rest of the class bemoaned the fact that we had to learn history for no other reason than to have him keep his job (and so he could coach the tennis team), he responded, as I am sure other history teachers throughout time have responded, that if we did not learn history we would be doomed to repeat it. Now, being on this earth for a while, (the exact number is irrelevant) I have noticed two things; that history does repeat itself in somewhat regular cycles (think boom and bust), and that the general populace has a short memory span when it comes to history, which most big city politicians count on.

But who cares about the rest of the world; we are concerned about our little slice of heaven located here in the finest, although somewhat wettest and coldest, slice of Washington off of Highway 2.

In one of my recent though infrequent visits to the Index museum, I actually looked at some of the fine photos and leafed through the available books, and talked with the docents who know not only of the past but also of the present of our town. In all of the old photos I saw some of our old buildings, some vacant sites that are now homes to our friends and neighbors, and some that are repurposed from businesses back to residential. All in all there were people trying to live here amongst the river, trees, mountains and our beautiful Index Wall, getting married, raising children and moving on. The mill is gone, the quarry is gone, the hotels are gone and so is the movie theater. The hospital and the pharmacy, and several taverns are gone, but the museum shows the changes the town has been

through over the years. The story goes that, at one point, the general populace of the state of Washington thought that Index had become a ghost town. There were no real businesses to sustain the population. But in truth the local folks just hunkered down and dug in and enjoyed the small town life and the responsibility to govern ourselves without too much county, state or federal interference, only when necessary or to prove a point.

Then things got even worse. The Index Tavern closed, the Bush House closed, the Triangle Campground closed, the Redman's Hall collapsed, the Sportsmen's Club closed along with the shooting range, the North Fork road washed out closing access to the hard-fought Wild Sky Wilderness and our town's backyard, the cable TV company closed, and floods have ravaged the town on more than a few occasions.

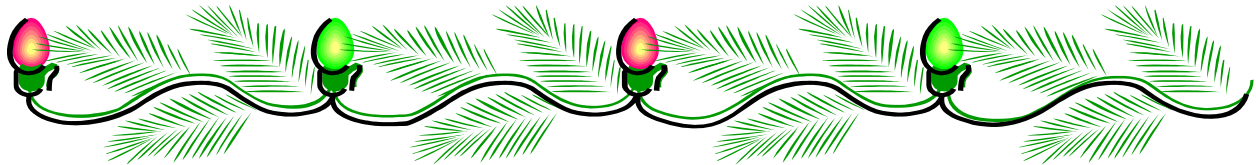


*On January 1st several years ago, the Redman Hall falls in on itself and is now gone. Photo by Thom Boullion*

And then the economic recession hit.

But somehow we are making it. We are holding it together. There is hope. The school has enough new children to stay open for another year despite huge cuts found all throughout the educational system in the state. The Index General store is hanging on, offering pizzas and Korean barbecue. The old Index Tavern was transformed into the River House and the Outdoor Adventure Company seems to have found their niche with outdoor recreation and again being the social center of our town. There are changes taking place at the Bush House, (just in time, as the ghosts there have gotten lonely). We now have high speed internet access, bringing us to the rest of the world. The Index Arts Festival is popular and there is a totem pole being carved in town. New people are moving into town and taking up the banner of being in charge. The Index Town paper, once known as the Index Miner, then the Index Eagle, then the Index Times and now the Index Town Wall (with a slight nod to Facebook) has been resurrected in the hopes of creating a way to communicate with each other outside of cyberspace. Other changes are taking place, not perhaps as comfortable to some as to others, but as inevitable as

*(Continued on page 6)*



## Index Fire Dept News: December 2011

By Sabrina Grafton

On November 12th the annual Firefighter Appreciation Dinner took place at the home of Pat and Karen Sample. This year the event was catered by Firehouse Dinners, a business out of Monroe run by firefighters. There were many honorees, including Pat Sample who was noted for 25 years of service to the District, Leigh Christianson for 24 years, Ray Krona for 3 years, Norm Johnson, Sam Grafton and John Lashelle for 2 years of service each.



The house at 519 Avenue A, future site of the District's new resident program has been getting a yard work makeover. Ernie and his dedicated crew have been getting the yard cleared while waiting for permits to begin the remodeling process on the house itself. When completed this dwelling will provide housing for the departments resident program, with enough room to house up to four residents. District 28 Firefighters will be doing the bulk of the remodeling to save money. If you have time and skills to offer, see Ernie.

Fire Academy training entered its second month. 5 recruits and 2 volunteers are giving one night a week and all day every Saturday to get intensive firefighting training. In addition to rigorous training in SCBA, ladders, ventilation, forcible entry among other topics, there is a textbook to study and tests to take, both practical and written. At completion of the 5 month training the firefighters are ready to respond with the district, if they pass a State test they can also receive State Firefighter 1 certification. This Fire Academy was paid for through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. Thanks to those dedicated few who give up their time and effort to get this training!

The new prop house is being constructed on the property owned by the school up Index-Galena. This training facility will be used to train volunteers on ventilating buildings, ladder placements and search and rescue.

And finally, interviews for the position of Fire Chief have taken place and the candidates are being considered. Stay tuned for more news next month!

## UP AGAINST THE WALL *by Kem Hunter*

Has life thrown you a curve ball, and do you need help? I am offering to write an advice column for those who are dealing with those pesky, prickly problems that life sends our way. The name of the column, appropriately enough, will be "Up Against the Wall." Here's how it works: If you are seeking advice, simply contact me in person, by mail (PO Box 111, Index 98256) or by phone ([360-793-9911](tel:360-793-9911)). If I believe I can help you out and the situation would be of interest to our readership, I will discuss the problem with you and, after getting your permission, write an article for the "Up Against the Wall" column. To protect your privacy, your name will not be used, and details will be changed as needed to keep you anonymous. I will be a good listener (this alone can often help) and I will draw on my knowledge and many years of experience to help you find solutions.. All inquiries will be kept in confidence, of course.

(ALL ABOUT TOWN, Continued from page 4)

the cycles of time.

I recently discovered the original floor in my 1902 home. I kept thinking of the people that built it and all those who have lived in it all throughout all these years. They had their time in Index, with its remoteness, isolation, groups of pros and cons, and cliques and groups that do this and others that only do that. And they survived. Or didn't.

If we close our eyes, take a deep breath and look at the whole picture, things are good, and getting better. And change is inevitable, despite some signs to the contrary.

As Ghandi said, you must be the change that you wish to see in the world.

As the holiday season approaches, I want to wish everyone a joyous time with friends and family, and as we end this old year and start anew, I wish us all a prosperous and wonderful new year, with positive changes.



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## Index Town Council Meeting: November 7<sup>th</sup> 2011. *by Emily Rooney*

The old Fire Hall was packed Monday the 7<sup>th</sup>. Faces from all over town showed up and stragglers were left to stand as all available seats were filled. This is the beauty of living in a small town. If want to be involved you can attend a meeting and give your input.

The meeting began with roll call, amendments to October's council meeting minutes and an account of town payroll expenses. Following these procedures began the items of business. The first item announced the newly formed "Index Business Alliance". Resident Kem Hunter said the group's first meeting was "spirited". It resulted in the formation of two new committees, one of which has worked to start this "Index Wall" publication. The other is reviewing the current comprehensive plan and town zoning laws. It will specifically work on the economic development section of the comprehensive plan and encourage younger residents to take part in creating a vision for the future of Index. Mr. Hunter volunteered to be a sounding board for any concerns and frustrations individuals may have and to channel them in a positive way towards the council. He will suggest solutions to the problems proposed when announcing them to the council. The Mayor replied with an appreciation of effort on all fronts, he and the council agreed they were "all ears" to any suggestions the alliance may bring forth.

The second item of business was a letter from the South Side of the North Fork of the Skykomish River regarding where the money will come from to fix water lines that may break on that side of the river. It was requested that nothing be finalized during the meeting and a discussion period of 60 days was initiated.

Next up was discussion of changes in the town's current water and garbage collection system. The town's garbage collection contract is up in February at which time it will need to decide whether to renew as a town or make each resident responsible for their own contract. The latter option would allow the town to allocate finances towards the ever increasing water expenses. There will be further discussion on this topic in the future.

The town water official Kim Peterson headed up the next item of business, town water. She announced there have been no big water breaks the past month and that rip rap with fisheries is done. Looking into the future we need to relocate the water main line out of the 100 year flood plain back towards the crescent trail, however the town does not have the funds to do this currently so there was discussion about applying for grant money from HUD while they still have funds available. The Mayor supported this proposal by saying "we should move now before catastrophe strikes" and the main line is washed out.

Resident Blair Corson announced the purchase of the Bush House; he requested town council help to write a petition so as to begin work on the hotel in preparation for heavy winter snows. The mayor replied that he would help Mr. Corson with the petition but that due to the hotel's long period of vacancy there may be a few problems authorizing emergency repair.

Next up were letters from the Fire Department. The department requested permission to use address 519 street front for parking and putting gravel in for driveway. Permission was also requested for the removal of trees. The Mayor stated no permission was necessary but granted it nonetheless.

The "Stone's Throw" Bed & Breakfast submitted a request to reopen its business, permission was granted.

The 2012 Budget was the final item of business. Discussion focused on reducing the budget due to significant loss in revenue much of which is the result of decreased property taxes. By law the town is allowed to increase taxes by 1% each year; for the past 10 years it has decided not to. This pattern could continue, or the town could initiate the 1% increase and raise \$200. Another option would be to increase the full amount from the past 10 years which would bring in \$3,000. Councilmember Karen Sample proposed going for the full increase from the past 10 years. This would be a 10% increase of town tax and would raise each household's tax by \$20. Town Clerk Lisa Stowe added that Index has a very low levy rate at 8.26% when compared to the rest of the county. This is not financially stable. The Council voted and passed the proposal to bring in the full tax increase from the past 10 years creating \$3,000 of revenue for the town.

The Council meeting ended shortly after this with time for public comment and concerns.

# The Forest Pharmacy

by Emily Rooney

Rain, this phenomenon is all too familiar in Index. It causes us to retreat into our homes, burrowing in wait of the sun. We are not alone in our hibernation; many other species withdraw during this cold, dark time, as witnessed in falling leaves and migrating geese. Yet, there is one group of organisms which go against the grain and flourish in this time of decay. We see them scattered about the forest, the savory Chanterelle (*Cantharellus cibarius*), cerebral looking Cauliflower (*Sparassis crispa*) and toxiferous Jack O' Lantern (*Omphalotus olivascens*) are all calling us to experience life during these dark dreary days. As a recent mycology aficionado I have found joy in rain. This fascination has drawn me out of my seclusion and plucked me into a forest full of fungi. A mystic and vigorous enthusiasm arises within as I scan the ground, eyes so focused they hurt. I am not alone in my reverence for mushrooms. Many ancient cultures believed mushrooms were, "magic fare, created by bolts of lightning". In Egypt ordinary citizens were forbidden from eating mushrooms, they were for the palate of pharaohs

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This fall I was able to share a mushroom hunt with friends from my childhood. Here is a recipe my friend Casey made with her bounty of Chanterelles.

## Cream of mushroom soup with Quinoa and Kale.

Ingredients:

- butter
- 2 Tbsp. minced shallots
- 1 bunch of kale, chopped.
- 8 ounces mushrooms, chopped
- 1 Cup cooked quinoa
- 3 Cups vegetable broth
- 1/2 Cup milk
- Salt & Pepper
- 1/4 Cup chopped fresh dill

Directions:

1. Melt butter in a medium saucepan.
2. Cook shallots until tender.
3. Add mushrooms, cover and cook for 5 minutes or until tender. Add the kale for the last minute, long enough to wilt.

alone. The Greek and Romans as well considered mushrooms "food of and for the gods". Julius Caesar went so far as to create strict laws stating who could and could not partake in eating them. Chinese folklore considers mushrooms to be a tonic for long life. The Reishi mushroom (*Ganoderma*) is called the 100 year mushroom for its immune boosting and tonifying compounds. The mushroom is so revered in Chinese culture that the god of longevity, Shoulau, is depicted as a mushroom atop a walking stick (D. Onstad, 187). As rich as ancient cultures are in mushroom folklore modern science is with research indicating the health benefits of many mushrooms. The Institute of Pathology and Experimental Cancer Research in Budapest has discovered the polysaccharide lentinan, found in shiitakes to be strongly anticancer as well as an immunostimulant. Thriving on decay mushrooms contain powerful constituents which enable them to break down matter, the same compounds which act as powerful detoxifiers in the human body, neutralizing residues caused by eating processed foods and animal protein. They also are one of the only natural sources of germanium, "which increases oxygen efficiency, counteracts the effects of pollutants, and increases resistance to disease" (D. Onstad, 187) With their numerous health benefits and attributes to prolonged life it is no wonder this mysterious life form was restricted to deities and nobles. Fortunately for those of us in the Sky Valley mushrooms are available to all, and in their most pure and delicious form. All one has to do is wander in the woods after a rain.




## Give the Gift of Opportunity!

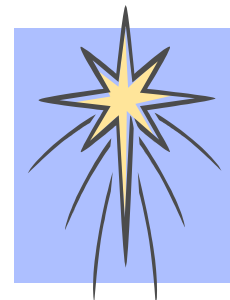
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# Talking Food with Colin

*Deliciously Delightful* by Colin Reed

Hello everybody in Index and all others in the valley that will be a part of or reading the Wall. My name is Colin Reed, it is my goal to bring you great recipes of the times and reviews of food establishments in our region. I have been working in kitchens since I was sixteen, starting at Western Washington University when I was in high school. I moved to Yakima at twenty, working for three years at the #1 ranked Papa Murphy's in the state. Then I had a calling back to the mountains and came to work at Stevens Pass. After one season I made my way to Mt. Hood Oregon and was a Line Chef and Banquet Cook for Timberline Lodge. At summers end I came back to Stevens and started a job as the PM Supervisor of the Cascadian Kitchen. Deciding to stay I took a job at the Mountain View Diner and am currently the full time dinner cook at the Gold Bar Restaurant & Lounge.

As well as working in the industry I make it a focus of mine to enjoy fresh, healthy and fun food at home as well. Eating is the highlight of my day. It is my hope that everyone enjoys the recipes to come and that my reviews can help you chose a place to enjoy a meal with friends and family.

December marks the climax of the holiday season. Fall has ended and winter is starting to come on strong. We have had our turkeys and the ham is to come. So what does the Pacific North West have to offer to get away from these traditional dishes and do something exciting for new years eve? Did someone say Oysters? Oh, that might have been the dog. But never the less lets have a go at some Oyster Stew. The following recipe is going to be a take off the original I have enjoyed with good friends but kicked up a notch.

## Ingredients for Oyster Stew

½ cup butter  
1 cup minced celery  
½ cup minced shallots  
1/2 cup sherry  
1 quart evaporated milk  
12 oz fresh (small) shucked oysters or jarred (not canned)  
1 pinch cayenne pepper  
Salt and ground black pepper to taste  
Serves 4

## Directions

1. Melt butter in stock pot. Add celery and shallots, cook until shallots are tender. Deglaze pot with sherry.
2. Pour milk in stirring consistently and bring it almost to a boil. Add oysters with liquid to the pot. Season with salt, pepper and cayenne. Stir consistently and when oysters begin to curl we are ready to enjoy. Turn off and serve.

My review this month turned out to be very interesting. I grew up liking buffets but I hadn't been to one in a few years. If not longer than that. I was recommended to Chain Buffet Steak and Sushi in Monroe. It turned out to be on par with the buffets I grew up with. It was very clean, my plates got taken away from my table every time I left to get a new one, my tea was good and hot, the soups even turned out to be ok. Although, even with that said I am not happy with imitation crab in supposedly fresh made rolls!!! Taking it for what it is it's not a bad place but if you're looking for authentic cuisine or real sushi I would look elsewhere. I left feeling full but not satisfied, I had my sights set higher.

With that feeling I decided to check out Monroe Steak & Spirits for some appetizers. I was greeted by the hostess and shown to the bar. This too was very clean with nice décor, and the bartender was pleasant. She recommended a few items to try and I was brought an 11 dollar Anti Pasto platter that had canned Italian veggies and provolone wrapped in prosciutto, martini olives and kalamata olives. When I got home I noticed the prosciutto was turning iridescent and going bad. Along with that came steak brochette. The kabobs weren't very appetizing in their looks and tasted the same. It was over cooked and under seasoned. I'm glad I didn't order the 16oz rib eye for 32.99. I would have been very disappointed.

My evening turned out to be an epic fail and all I can hope is that next month turns out to be much better. So pick up next months issue for more recipes and hopefully better reviews.



Oyster Stew

The Sportsmen's Hall and the Mt Index Café, both excellent representations of the earlier days of the town of Index. The one on the left is still in town and the other one is on the highway leading into the town of Index. Both in a state of 'flux' and are being fixed up and being made ready to open to the public. Photos by Thom Boullioun



# Bush House Country Inn • + Historic Buildings in the area.

• By Thom Boullioun

*(Continued from front page)*

been made, the owner has finally agreed to sell. The hope is that a buyer interested in rehabilitating the Bush House has been found. Many of us are excited about the formal announcement by the Corsons/Beavers, as to the future of the **Bush House Country Inn** (BHCI). It has been over a year since we first heard that someone is interested in buying it.

Well it looks like it IS going to be fixed. The official release of information may occur this month after we go to print, so, this is what Blair Corson, spokesperson for the Bush House County Inn's restoration project said:

"We are getting close to closing this sale and starting to begin the long over due repairs to fix this Historic Building.

"Lawyers are working on the problems of the easement and land vacations issues from the town to make this

happen. We need to rally all supporters to contact Index Town Council to show support for these land vacations and street use permits that will allow a clear title for the sale.

As soon as this is done we will be able to begin repairs."

Mr. Corson went on to say "What we need now are professionals, preferably retired professionals: historic engineers, architects, contractors, and designers who don't need to make a living from remodeling this building. We have a lot of grunt labor ready to do the work, but we need a few good men and women who can help this project get done right the first time. Philanthropist are welcome. Architects are being consulted this week.

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*The **Historic Bush House Country** is at a pivotal point. Once easement is granted by the neighbors or enough vacation of land is granted by the Town to put a new drain field in, then the Bush House can begin its remodel. The New owners vision is to keep it historic while making the needed improvements to make it a viable and much needed business for the town of Index. We are working with a very small budget. If interested and you have internet, go to **our** face book page : **Bush House Country Inn** and 'like' it and you can follow our progress. Also there are lots of photos that you can look at and 'like, comment, post.'*

**CALL FOR PHOTOS!**

IF YOU HAVE ANY INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PICTURES OF THE BUSH HOUSE COUNTRY INN WHEN IT WAS OPEN WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE THEM AND HOPE THAT YOU WOULD 'SHARE' THEM WITH US. WITH THE DIGITAL AGE UPON US IT IS EASY TO 'SCAN' THEM ONSITE (YOUR HOME) I HAVE A HIGH-RES CAMERA (14.1 MP) OR IF YOU WOULD 'LOAN' THEM TO US WE COULD RETURN THEM EASILY WITH NO HARM TO YOUR PHOTOS.

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The old Mt Index Café out on the highway is showing a lot of activity recently.

The Sportsmen Hall in Index has been fixed up and has

already hosted two events. Hopefully, David Heckman will tell us more next month.



*Bush House photo (shown to the left by Russell Griffin. taken on a day where he stood outside waiting for the 'light' to be just right. Well, it looks like he succeeded. Nice photo Russ.*

Lots of things happening in the area. If you know of anything that we

should know please send it on in to us so that we can report to the rest of the community.

## Reiter Road Update by Etta Hunter

Just thought folks might want to know that the construction process has started.

Photo by Thom Boullioun





Dated 1933, this is one of those photos that makes you wish you had a time machine! We'd love to hear from anyone that knows more about this picture. Recognize this bridge? This bridge is Highway 2 and it's crossing the Skykomish River. The location? The confluence of the South Fork and the North Fork 100' from the entrance to the Mt Index Riversites community at Milepost 35.5.



The Index Wall  
Index, WA. 98256

