The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society is a group of individuals dedicated to the preservation of the history of the area just north of Spokane, Washington. The Society collects oral, literary, and pictorial history to publish and otherwise make accessible to the public.

The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society meets on the second Saturday of each month at 9 AM. We gather at the Clayton Drive-In, located just off Highway 395 on Railroad Ave.

THE CLAYTON/DEER PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mortarboard

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THE BLUE GROUSE MOUNTAIN TUNGSTEN MINING AREA STEVENS COUNTY, WASHINGTON PETER COFFIN

INTRODUCTION

This tungsten ore deposit was discovered prior to 1910 near the top of Blue Grouse Mountain (Section 16, Township 30 North-Range 42 East WM) about 6 miles northeast of Loon Lake, Washington. Several claims have been made upon it and has been given several names such as, Blue Grouse, Tungsten King, Harrison-Beard, K & K, and the S. L. T. Figure 1 is a map of the general area.

Each of the individual claims and mining contract areas have been intermittently mined since the discovery of

Left Figure 1: Map showing the location of Section 16, Township 30 North-Range 42 East WM which contains all the Blue Grouse Mountain Tungsten mining claims and mines.
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the deposit and will be treated as one mine for the purposes of this paper although several individual shafts and adits have been constructed on individual mining claim/contract areas.

EARLY MINING HISTORY

The first mining activity in this area that I could find was recorded in an article in the June 20, 1913, Deer Park Union newspaper which indicated the owners of the Deer Park Mining Company, B. F. Whetstone and R. W. Smith, had begun operations and a “large” mining effort was contemplated. From 1913 on the Blue Grouse tungsten mining area was intermittently active as were many other local mines since continued operation was dependent on the selling price of the mineral they produced.

WORLD WAR I MINING

In 1918, the Tungsten King, Blue Grouse and Harrison-Beard claims were merged into the Spokane Consolidated Tungsten Company. World War I was continuing in 1918 and there was an added incentive to mine tungsten to be used in hardening steel for the war effort. At this time the Germania tungsten mine west of Springdale owned by the German Krupp Company was seized by the United States Government. At that time it was apparent that a group of Deer Park promoters were involved in selling Consolidated Tungsten stock in the mine across the country. F. E. Parks, an Illinois salesman for the Arcadia Orchards Company was listed as President and General Manager while the President of the Arcadia Orchards Company, E. N. Robinson was listed as Vice-President of this group. Neither of these individuals had been involved in running a mining operation. In addition, O. F. Kelly, President of the First State Bank of Deer Park was named as treasurer and A. L. Ricca was chosen as Secretary. Others listed with their areas of responsibility were W. Earl Greenough-Consulting Engineer, Alec, N. Winston-Attorney for Legal Affairs, Fred Pendall-Mine Superintendent and A. M. Wood-concentrating plant supervisor. Trustees chosen by the stockholders for 1918-1919 were F. E. Parks, E. N. Robinson, O. F. Kelly, A. M. Winston and A. M. Wood.

In August of 1918, the Spokane Consolidated Tungsten Company began to remove ore from its shaft and trenches and was about to begin milling it. In September

Figure 2: The cook shack for the tungsten mining area on Blue Grouse Mountain around 1913. Left to right, John Beard (Deer Park Grocery Store owner), Charles Rivers, Bill Marwick. (Photograph from the Lawrence Zimmerer Collection)
1918 President F. E. Parks reported that about $40,000 to $50,000 of ore had been taken out of the property in about 3 years. It was also reported that the company capitalization was 2,500,000 shares with a par value of $0.25 per share. One million shares were being held by the Spokane Consolidated Tungsten Company treasury as a hedge against share price improvement³.

After the First World War the demand for tungsten slackened and the Mining Congress of the United States was petitioning Congress to help the tungsten mining industry with a protective tariff. A 1919 newspaper article reported that some (“…not measureable…”) hubnerite tungsten ore had been taken from the Spokane Consolidated Tungsten Mining operation⁴.

POST WAR ACTIVITY
The economic recession after the end of the First World War slowed mineral development in general and tungsten mining in particular. Published material in the local papers describing tungsten mining on Blue Grouse Mountain ended. The properties changed hands from 1920 to 1930 as the Spokane Consolidated Tungsten Company name disappeared and several Deer Park businessmen held mining contracts in the Blue Grouse Mountain mining area.

DEPRESSION ERA MINING
In 1930, the price of tungsten rose and interest in the Blue Grouse Mountain tungsten “claim” increased. Evan Morgan, a Loon Lake entrepreneur had taken an option on the claims of O. M. Kimmel, O. L. Lundale, A. M. Wood, George Harrison and Kelly-Robinson. Apparently the Spokane Consolidated Tungsten Company had either sold or relinquished its claims on the mining area during the 1920s. Most of the owners that Morgan had obtained the options from were Deer Park businessmen or previous company officials⁵ (Deer Park Union June 5, 1930, p. 1). It is of interest that according to 1930 and 1931 Deer Park Union newspaper reports, most of the ore taken to that date was “float” or material found on the surface and not from the shafts and tunnels of the mining operation as reported in 1918.

Figure 3: Map showing the original claim and mining contract outlines of the Blue Grouse Mountain tungsten mining district. This map is courtesy of Al Kemp who is the grandson of A. W. Kemp who held a mining contract on the west side of Section 16. There is no date on the map but most likely represents the claim/contract situation in the middle 1940s.
During the 1930s the tungsten mining area on Blue Grouse Mountain was repeatedly reported as beginning operation. On May 26, 1931, a Deer Park Union front page article was headlined “Surface Working at Tungsten Mine”. On August 30, 1931, the headline read “Tungsten Mine May Begin Operations”. On September 24, 1931, the headline was “Tungsten Mine to Begin Operations”. By the summer of 1932 O. M. Kimmel and Lee Kelly, along with Salthiel Kimmel and A. M. Wood\(^6\) (Deer Park Union August 18, 1932, p. 1) were busy hauling ore to a crusher on the south side of Deer Park on the Deer Park Ornamental Stone lot. By the end of summer 1935 Loon Lake blacksmith and contract miner A. W. Kemp had joined the group\(^7\) (September 12, 1935, Deer Park Union p. 1). The Deer Park Union again reported that the mine was just about ready to begin operations in December 1936\(^8\) (December 31, 1936, Deer Park Union), and in February 1937\(^9\) finally stated that work on the “S.L.T.” Tungsten Mine began with a Caterpillar tractor being used to haul equipment to the mine.

MINING CONTRACTS FROM THE LATE 1930S TO THE 1950S
Records that A. W. Kemp’s grandson let

\(^{6}\) Deer Park Union August 18, 1932, p. 1

\(^{7}\) September 12, 1935, Deer Park Union p. 1

\(^{8}\) December 31, 1936, Deer Park Union

\(^{9}\) February 1937

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me copy describe the attempts to mine the Blue Bird Mountain tungsten deposit in contracts with various mining operators. From 1936 to 1954 at least eight contracts were to mine tungsten on Blue Bird Mountain. The following list includes most of these mining contracts.

I. December 1936: The Kimmel Family and A. W. Kemp sold a one fifth interest to J. M. Fitzpatrick for $1.00 and “...other valuable considerations”.  
II. December 1936: The Kimmel Family, A. W. Kemp and J. M. Fitzpatrick conditionally sold their interests to J. R. Foster for a payment of $2000 plus ten percent of the gross ore sales.

III. April 1937: A. W. Kemp subleased his areas to W. H. West of Deer Park with a sales contract containing a $40,000 purchase price to be paid with a down payment of $5000 and the balance to be paid in part from the ore sales.

IV. July 1938: The Kimmel Family, A. W. Kemp and J. M. Fitzpatrick conditionally sold their interests to the Tungsten Products Incorporated for $150,000 to be paid over four years out of 10% of ore sales. By October 1940 Tungsten Products had not performed to the terms of the contract and filed suit in the Washington State Supreme Court to allow it to recover their mining equipment and 35 tons of ore.

V. September 1940: The Kimmel Family, A. W. Kemp, the First National Bank of Spokane, and the estate of J. W. Fitzpatrick signed a two year contract with W. H. West (Zono Products) for 20% of the gross ore price. Apparently this contract ended without any extension.

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Figure 6: Ore bunker on Blue Grouse Mountain. Other pictures in the Kemp collection indicate that the mill is at the end of the walkway and at the head of the ore chute into the bunker. (Photograph from the Al Kemp Collection)
VI. August 1945: The Kimmel Family, A. W. Kemp and Anna Kelly signed a conditional sales contract of $40,000 to be paid for out of the sale of ore in paying quantities. This contract was cancelled in August of 1948.

V. March 1949: A. W. Kemp leased his portions of the NW/4 SW/4 and all of the SW/4 NW/4 of Section 16 to the Pacific Mining Company for a 20 year period. Payment was to be 4% net of all ore sold.

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By March 1952 the Pacific Mining contract was in default and the property reverted to A. W. Kemp.

VI. June 1952: An indenture agreement between the Kimmel Family and A. D. Kemp to William M. Quigley, Sr. (Big Q) for 7% of the gross selling price of the ore. This agreement failed by 1954.

VII. August 1954: The Kimmel Family and A. D. Kemp signed a purchase option contract with W. H. West again. Terms were a two year lease with a purchase option price of $100,000 to be paid for by 10% of the gross ore selling price. A new mill was built at a different location than the one mentioned in Figure 6. No mention was made of any ore being sold. No records are available to document when this contract failed.

There is not much information subsequent to 1954 but a Washington state letter dated in March 1965 cancelled the mining contract on Blue Grouse Mountain.

GEOLOGY OF THE BLUE GROUSE MOUNTAIN TUNGSTEN DEPOSIT

The tungsten mineralization of the Blue Grouse Mountain area is located in quartz veins near the surface and parallel to bedding in the Precambrian St. Regis formation of the Belt Supergroup. The St. Regis formation is a sandy argillite in a narrow (only feet wide) zone contact with the Kaniksu batholith along an arcing line across the center of section 16 Township 30 North-Range 42 East (Figures 2 and 5). The mineralized veins range in thickness from a few inches to over five feet (Weaver, 1920, p. 220) and contain the ore minerals huebernite (MnWO₄), pyrite (Fe₂S), molybdenite (MoS₂) and cosalite (Pb₂(Bi, Sb)₂S₅) (Huntting, 1956, p. 523). Huebernite is the primary tungsten ore mineral.

As section 16 is owned by the state of Washington mining contracts have been issued to numerous individuals over the life of the district as shown on Figure 3. The map on Figure 2 shows at least 8 tunnels, shafts, and inclines that have been dug in attempts to outline ore bodies in the argillite. In addition surface excavation work by bulldozer has been done to locate the contact of the granite and the argillite.

CONCLUSION

An undated internal memorandum (to the Defense Mineral Administration) of the United States Geological Survey provided by Mr. Al Kemp discussed an application for an exploration loan requested by the Pacific Mining Company was mining the area from 1949 to 1952. The report recommended that the exploration loan application be denied because of the “lenticular and limited occurrence of the ore bodies” revealed in the mine shafts. The memorandum also indicated that the mining of the past several years had shown that the ore containing fissures were very limited below the argillite contact with the granite. The summary of the field investigation done in September of 1951 recommended that the remaining ore be milled and exploration be abandoned. At that time the estimated total value of shipments from the shaft workings was listed as $11,000 and that had been produced from 4000 tons of ore. The average grade of the ore was given as 0.3% WO₃ in comparison to high-grade ore assays of about 10% WO₃.

In June of 1952 a mining option was signed with William M. Quigley (Big Q Company) that was reported in the local newspaper but no mining activity was reported. In August of 1954 a second contract was signed with W. H. West and again mining never really began. The low grade of (Continued on page 716)
tungsten mineralization and the limited nature of the ore bodies shut the mining operations down and by March of 1965 the Washington state mining contracts were cancelled. It would seem that the Blue Grouse Mountain tungsten deposit was never profitable.

The Blue Grouse Mountain mining area is nearly inaccessible at this time and at least one of the tunnels has been sealed with an iron door. However, there were many adits and drifts dug to attempt to outline the ore body so the area is very dangerous and people should avoid visiting the area.

FOOTNOTES
1. Deer Park Union April 26, 1918, front page.
2. Deer Park Union August 9, 1918, front page.
3. Deer Park Union September 6, 1919, front page.
5. Deer Park Union June 5, 1930, front page.
6. Deer Park Union August 18, 1932, front page.

REFERENCES


“Well,” as one of his friends said of him, “at least he is the representative of the largest corporation in this country maintaining branch offices in Deer Park.

Hugh B. Walton, Great Northern Agent and familiar figure about town, may not be a “Casey Jones,” but he is certainly Deer Park’s outstanding example of a real railroad man. Entering the business as a young man of 22 he has followed it almost constantly working on every division between Seattle, Washington and Saint Paul, Minnesota.

He was born in Farmington, Michigan August 7, 1871. His people were farmers of English decent and they lived on the “Plank” road between Detroit and Lansing. The road was the counterpart of our present highway about 30 feet wide and made of three inch plank. In 1883 the family moved to North Dakota homesteading northwest of Fargo. Here he received his schooling, graduating from the high school at Carrington. He then entered the first class to attend the North Dakota Agricultural College.

He started on his own as a school teacher, but one year of that was enough, and he gave it up to go to work for the Great Northern Railway as an operator. This was in Campbell, Minnesota in 1893 when he was 22 years old. Several times he has tried to quit the GN to work for other roads, but he always came back for more.

In 1895 Walton came west to Calispel, Montana, and two years later entered the train service as a brakeman from that point. For two years he ran east and west from Calispel to Spokane and from Calispel to Troy. However, by 1899 he was ready to go back to office work and he went east to be agent in Churches Ferry and Bisbee, North Dakota.

In 1900 he became agent at Milan, his first introduction to the immediate territory. Then like many railroaders in his day he took to wandering around the country. Two years on the Pacific Coast for the GN, in 1905 to Canyon City, Colorado, for the Santa Fe, then back to Seattle in the freight office of the G. N., and then to Dean. In 1906 he returned to Canyon City, and on September 6 was married.

Contrary to the old “get married and settle down” adage, the newly wedded couple moved just 17 times in the next twelve months. This meant working as agent at stations all along the line, and he finally wound up as chief clerk of the G. N. office at Vancouver, B. C. Here he got tired of the job one day and quit. The next day he went to work for the Canadian Pacific in the same town. 1911 found him with the N. P. and in 1914 he broke a leg and was out of service for nearly a year. Strange part of the story was that he wasn’t hurt on the railroad, but by falling from a ladder trying to get into his own house after being locked out. The ladder broke as he was climbing in a window, so the break was on him, not the road.

For a short time in 1914 and 1915 he worked at the Spokane office of the Milwaukee and then went back to the GN as cashier at Marcus and later at Northport. Finally, on February 22, 1917, he became depot agent at Deer Park, bought himself a home, and really settled down to a normal man’s life.

Walton says that there were great times here then. The Arcadia was in its heyday, and the road averaged three cars of miscellaneous freight every two days, besides carload stuff. There were about

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15 dray men with horses and wagons all making a living by hauling.

Since his arrival he has served both his company and the community well. He has not been out of service over 90 days since his arrival 22 years ago, and he served the town as mayor from 1928 to ’30, and as a member of the school board during the six years from 1926 on.

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Being faced with the necessity of retiring in two more years, he says he plans to continue to make his home here and if things don’t change, his hobby will probably be remodeling the house every time he can’t find something else to do.

This article was published on the front page of the July 6, 1939, Deer Park Union under the column name “Who’s Who In Our District”. The writer of this column is not named.

More About Hugh B. Walton and His Family
Sharon Clark

Hugh Bolton Walton was born August 4, 1872 in Michigan, the son of Luther and Mary E Walton. He married Lena M Hall in Canyon City, Colorado on September 6 1906.

The 1910 census enumerated Hugh with wife Lena and one year old daughter, Jessie, at Wilson Creek, Grant County, Washington. A second daughter was born to them December 10, 1911 in Skagit County. The 1920 census shows Hugh B Walton, wife Lena M., daughters: Jessie A., age 10, and Hazel B., age 8, at home in Deer Park, Washington. Hugh’s occupation is listed as station agent.

Jessie and Hazel Walton graduated from Deer Park High School: Jessie in Class of 1926, Hazel in Class of 1929. They are included in the class photos on our CDPS.org web site.

Hugh Walton died, October 18, 1946 in Spokane, Washington per the Washington State Death Records. His mother was identified there as Elizabeth Norton.

One family tree on Ancestry.com reports Lena Walton and Jessie Walton’s death date as April 11, 1959 but no place of death is listed. I am unable to find it in the State of Washington Death Records.

Clayton/ Deer Park Historical Society Minutes —— January 12, 2013

In attendance:  Mary Jo Reiter, Don Reiter, Mike Reiter, Mark Wagner, Bill Sebright, Sharon Clark, Marilyn Reilly, Betty Burdette, Warren Nord, Lorraine Nord, Bob Gibson, Lynn Fackenthal Wells, Ralph Allen, Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Karen Meyer, Cliff Myer, Allan Fackenthal, Grace Hubal, Roxanne Camp, and Kay Parkin.

Society President, Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. He reported: 1) He arranged for the booth for Winterfest. It will be on the west side of the Civic Center between the kitchen and bathroom. We’ll be able to set up after 7 AM Saturday. There is a $15 fee for the booth this year. 2) Everyone who hasn’t paid dues for 2013, they are now due.

Treasurer, Mark Wagner reported that there is $4,085.31 in the main checking account. Deposits: $312.00. Checks written were $65.17 Grace Hubal flowers and $20.00 for the Heritage Network and a $3.00 check imaging fee. Maintenance Web hosting account had $161.81 in funds with a $10.95 in activity monthly hosting fee. (Since the main checking account is above $3,000 there is no service charge from the bank). Mark checked with (Continued on page 719)
Nancy Berger at Standen Insurance and found that they no longer carry Liberty Mutual. Mark and Pete will check on the insurance bid from Liberty before our insurance runs out in February. Mark submitted our incorporation renewal of $10.00 with the state.

Grace Hubal, Secretary: no report.

Vice President, Pete Coffin reported that he: 1) Heard from Bob Lawrence, KSPS Producer, that the “Northwest Profiles” piece on Arcadia Orchards will be shown on KSPS on Thursday, January 31, 2013, at 7:00 PM. 2) Visited KSPS and got the mini-tape of the Arcadia Orchards movie. He showed Mr. Lawrence the Deer Park Drag Strip history book in hopes of sparking some KSPS interest in area racing/car collecting. 3) Completed four display boards of a size that will fit on our display easels without having “wings” to catch on things. Two are “then and now” photographs of 100 year old Deer Park houses, one contains photographs of 100 year old Deer Park business buildings, and another is a compilation of photographs of Arcadia Orchard irrigation structures and construction photographs. 4) Completed a possible Mortarboard manuscript on the Blue Grass Mountain tungsten mining area. He has sent a copy to Chuck Stewart for his keen critical review and another copy to Al Kemp for his review of the factual content. Mr. Kemp provided much of the material that the manuscript is based upon. 5) Has been composing a smaller display board outlining Deer Park Drag Racing history. 7) He also had the Wild Rose Prairie Homesteaders map blown up.

Print Editor, Sharon Clark: 1) The January 2013 Mortarboard #57 was distributed. The following articles included are Pete’s article on the Eastern Washington Indian Wars, historical interviews with C. E. Burch and Louis Olson Jr., and a thank you tribute to Taffy and Randy Long and the Clayton Drive-In. Sharron found that the Review Building had sculptures of at least 12 head and shoulder statues possibly from the Clayton Terra Cotta Factory. Website Director, Penny Hutten reported: 1) She is looking into the Metrics of the site. 2) Margaret (Bockemuehl) Tiesse from Deer Park has passed away January 4, 2013. Penny last talked with her in December and she was too busy with family, and suggested we do an interview in January. She sounded great, and Penny was looking forward to speaking with her. Here is her obituary: TIESSE, Margaret A. (Bockemuehl) Passed away January 4, 2013 at her home surrounded by her family. She was born November 13, 1918 in Deer Park, WA to Rosa W. Carey and Albert Bockemuehl, pioneer families of Washington State. She was a proud graduate of Deer Park High School and Northwestern Business College. She married George A. Tiesse in 1942. She was office manager for Burroughs (Unisys) Corp. In the late 1960s she joined her husband in operating Main and Post Grocery and starting in 1969 owned The Garland Market in North Spokane. She was a lifetime member of Alpha Iota Sorority, a member of Greater Gonzaga University Guild, Jesuit Auxiliary and a fifty-five year member of Our Lady of Fatima Roman Catholic Church and its Altar Society. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 65 years George, a sister Adaline and a brother Ray. Having a booth at Winterfest was discussed. Pete and Mark have agreed to help set up at the Civic Center. It is Saturday, the 26th of January 2013. Penny, Sharon, and Kay Parkin will “man” the booth. Mike Reiter will get Pete into the Civic Center to look at the area for the display. Bill handed out Winterfest “newspapers” showing schedules and other information. Bob Gibson brought a beautiful handmade quilt to share. It is dated August of 1935 and was put together by the Spring Creek Home Economic Club. The club covered the area north of Deer Park. Club members with embroidered signatures on the quilt are: Christina Reiter, Mrs. L. D. Boyd, Esther Reiter, Bertha Olson, Grace Lowry, Edith (Continued from page 718)
Editorial Policy Regarding Correcting Errors and/or Omissions

Information published here is compiled from many sources, including personal memories. It is often difficult or impossible to verify such recollections through outside documentation. Our editorial policy toward the veracity of personal recollections tends toward the casual — since little harm is normally done by such errors. But our editorial process also invites public review and input regarding the accuracy of the information we publish, and when such review either suggests or reveals errors or items open to dispute our “Letters” department will act as a forum allowing the airing of such disagreements in an effort to ascertain the truth and correct any probable or demonstrated errors. We also believe it’s important that such disagreements be recorded, even if they can’t be settled to the satisfaction of all parties.

We encourage everyone to submit any arguments as to fact to the editor in writing — since the written form reduces the chance of further misunderstandings. As is standard policy, all letters will be edited for spelling, word usage, clarity, and — if necessary — contents. If advisable, the editor will confer directly with the letter writers to insure that everyone’s comments and corrections are submitted in a literate, polite, and compelling manner — as best suits the editorial image of this Society’s publications.

Society Want Ads

WANTED: Information and photos regarding the history of the Brick-yard/Ramble In Tavern

WANTED: Any stories and photos of your family’s history in connection with their occupations and settlement in the Clayton/Deer Park Area

WANTED: Any stories and photos from Williams Valley #452 and Gardenspot Grange78 Contact: Ann Fackenthall, WVG

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