



Above drawing from "The Coast" magazine — April, 1907

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————— the Editor —————

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THE
CLAYTON/DEER PARK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mortarboard

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A Woman Worth Remembering: The Christine (Nielsen) (Wind) Cowan Story

by

Susan (Wind) Simpson

Less than three months before Christine Nielsen was born, her father, Niels Christian Hansen, died of "wound fever" (possibly blood poisoning). He was a young man of 37 when he died on February 4, 1863. He left not only his pregnant wife, Johanne Kirstine Olsen, but five young children. Hans and Johanne had lost one baby girl at the age of three months, a common tragedy in those times, but there were three other daughters and two sons living when baby Christine was born on April 22, 1863. The eldest daughter, Karen Marie, was twelve, Maren Stine was nine, Anders Peder was six, Christiane was four, and Jens Kristoffer was only two. Their mother, Johanne, also had a daughter, Else, born out of wedlock prior to her marriage. Else was 22 at the time and did not live with the family. Johanne, now a widow, had six children to feed and care for, and may have been ill besides.

The family lived on the small island of Moen, south of the larger island of Zealand where Copenhagen is located. How Johanne managed with six young children is not

known, but when Christine was seven months old, lung disease claimed her mother's life. Johanne died December 12, 1863. The children stayed with their maternal grandmother for a short time, but poverty and limited living space soon dictated their fate. The Nielsen children were split up and sent to live with relatives, friends or foster families, whoever could find room for an extra child or two. The government provided a small financial stipend to foster parents and that may have been a deciding factor for some families. Luckily the distance between the Nielsen children's new homes was not great, and they were able to see each other occasionally. Most of the foster families allowed the siblings to stay in touch, and all of the villages in Fanefjord attended the same church on Sundays.

Christine's foster parents, Johan Philip Pedersen and his wife Maren Kirstine Hansen, were not related to her, and we don't know how or why they became her new family. Did they need the income? Did they simply want a daughter? Christine's foster home

was in Koxeby, which is now a part of the village of Dame. Johan and Maren had a son, Anders Peder Johansen, who was seven years older than Christine. Their home was happy, and they were a kind, caring family. A few years after Johan's death in 1874, Maren, Anders and Christine emigrated from Denmark to America. They left Copenhagen on May 1, 1879, traveling to Hamburg, Germany, and from there to New York on the ship "Silesia," arriving on May 22. Their destination was recorded as Racine, Wisconsin, so it is possible they knew someone there. As was usual in those days, they probably traveled from New York to Wisconsin by train. It is a comfort to know that 16-year-old Christine had two loving companions on this life-changing voyage to America. From this time forward, we know more about Christine's life.

The Nielsens had been a close family, especially the sisters, and a collection of letters tucked away by Christine for many years attest to that. She left Denmark at 16, and never returned, but distance and years of separation never changed the affection the sisters shared. It is clearly expressed in the 24 letters Christine saved. Christiane, who was four years older than Christine, wrote loving words and heartfelt sentiments to her little sister, sharing photographs, happy memories, and news of their siblings and other family members in Denmark. Two other sisters, Karen Marie and Maren Stine also wrote, as did niece Anna, Christiane's daughter.

Christine was very young when she left Denmark, and as far as we know she had no special training or education, but we know she was not afraid of hard work. Racine had a large Danish community to welcome immigrants, so luckily the language difference would not have been an immediate problem. The US Federal Census for Racine in 1880 lists Christine as a servant in another Danish immigrant household, that of the Hansen family who kept a saloon. Her foster brother, who may have been called "James Johnsen" in 1880, also lived and worked for the Hansens. What happened to the foster mother, Maren

Kirstine, is not clear. Since "Hansen" was her family name, the Racine family may have been related to her in some way. In any case no further record of her has been found to date. She may have remarried and moved to another city or state with a new husband.

We assume Christine left her place with the Hansen family to work for (or merely help) William Wind whose wife, Karen, was very ill. The Winds had come to Racine in 1872 from Copenhagen, Denmark, with two young sons, Jens and Niels (called Adam). After a few years, several more children were born to the Winds. A few died very young from disease or general weakness of constitution, but when Christine came into the household William and Karen had four children who needed care. When Karen died on October 25, 1882, Christine was probably already living with the family. She was certainly a part of the household long before her marriage to William on February 4, 1884. Interestingly, their first son, William, was born only eighteen days after the civil marriage ceremony took place in Racine. Christine was 19 years old and her widower groom, William, was 49.

William, who was the first Supreme President of the Danish Brotherhood in America, appears in a photograph of those attending that organization's convention in January of 1884 in Iowa. This was over a year after Karen's death (and nearly a year after the death of the youngest child) but a month before his marriage to Christine. William's attendance at the convention fairly far from his home tells us someone he trusted was caring for his children and household. That someone was most likely Christine, who at that time would have been 8 months pregnant. Bill was born February 23, 1884.

William and his first wife, Karen, had six children, five boys and one girl. Three sons died in Racine at very young ages, the last one only a few months after his mother's death. When Christine married William, his three living children became her responsibility. Jens was 16 and had come with his parents from Denmark at the age of 4. Nels was

Photo from the Susan Simpson collection.



Christine (Nielsen) (Wind) Cowan
Taken about 1905, the photo above is the earliest known of Christine Cowan. The child on the left is "Mike" (George Jr.) Cowan. The girl on the right is Emma, the first of the Cowan children.

10 and had been born in Racine. Adamine (called Minnie), the only girl, had also been born in Racine, and was only 6. Christine was a mere girl herself, but she became their new mother. She continued the duties she no doubt had been performing ... household manage-

ment and mothering the children, including her own newborn son who came along a couple of weeks after the marriage.

Sometime between Bill's birth and that of his brother, Adam Gotlob (born August 13, 1885), the family moved to Omaha, Ne-

braska. In June of 1885, a state census for Nebraska was taken, and records for the city of Omaha show the family of William Wind among the residents. Another son, Olaf, was born in Omaha on February 26, 1888. The family numbered eight, including Christine's three sons (Bill, Adam & Ole), her three step-children (Jens, Nels and Minnie), her husband, William, and herself. Life must have been full and busy.

Around 1889, Christine's life took another turn. William and his son Nels, then 19, set out for the new state of Washington. There had been a devastating fire in Spokane Falls, and there would be plenty of work for a "house carpenter" like William. There were new railroad routes and land was available. Danes had longed for land, but the lower classes could not own it — so this was a major draw. For whatever reasons, they decided to make Washington their home. Christine and the children joined them, probably traveling by rail. The trip from Omaha to Spokane must have been difficult for a woman with four children to manage. Minnie was eleven, Bill five, Adam three and little Olaf was not yet two ... and Christine may have already been expecting another baby. James (Jens), William's eldest son, was about 21, and had decided to stay in Nebraska to work as a farmer in Lancaster. He eventually homesteaded in Montana where he died in 1952. There is no evidence the family ever saw him again.

The Winds moved into lodgings at 72 Havermale Island, in the middle of the Spokane River. (This island would be the future site of the 1974 World Expo.) It was there William and Christine's fourth son, Frederick Vigo, was born on June 6, 1890 (my grandfather). William worked as a carpenter and had become acquainted with another carpenter, George Cowan, who became his friend and work partner. Together they may have discussed the possibility of a homestead on available parcels about 30 miles north of Spokane. A piece of land was found in a place called Allen's Siding, later renamed Clayton. The Wind family (all eight of them) resided in a

small "shack" in that area when their last son, Alfred Harry, was born in February of 1892. Christine called him her little "Stump" — a Danish term of endearment for the smallest one in the family.

George Cowan, William's bachelor friend, lived nearby, improving the 160-acre parcel he had claimed as intended homestead property. William was ill, suffering from a weakness in his lungs, and when little "Stumpy" was just a month old, William Frederick August Wind, died. It was March 4, 1892. Christine was left with seven children (Nels, Minnie, Bill, Adam, Ole, Fred, and Stump) to care for. She was 28 years old.

William's children by his first marriage to Karen, were orphaned. They had no parents, but they weren't alone. They had Christine. James, 24, was on his own in Nebraska, and although Nels was 19 he was still living at home. Minnie was a girl of 14, and must have been the one who most needed a mother. Christine could never have imagined when she left Denmark that such serious responsibilities would befall her. William was gone, but knowing he was gravely ill, the family has long believed he had an agreement with his friend, George Cowan, to care for the family in the event of his death. George kept his word, taking Christine and the children to his ranch to live in the little home he had built there. That same house would be their home ever after that. When the customary (Danish) year of mourning ended, George married Christine on March 17, 1893. The bride was 29 and the groom 45. William's five little sons with Christine now were George's sons, and they all considered him their father. Perhaps Bill and Ole remembered William, but Fred and Stump certainly did not.

That same spring, not long after the Cowan marriage, Nels enlisted in the US Army. The rest of Nels' life is not clear, but we know he married Elida "Lydia" Johnson in Portland, Oregon. The family tells of a still-born son buried on the hill behind the family ranch, but that is not confirmed. We know Lydia died before Nels since he purchased the

Photo from the Susan Simpson collection.



Christine & George Cowan
This photo was taken in 1921 at Minnie (Wind) Colbert's house in Spokane. It was George and Christine's 25th wedding anniversary.



Photos this page from the Susan Simpson collection.

At the Clayton ranch — around 1928 or '29.

Left to right; Stump (Alfred) Wind, the author's father Fredrick Wind Jr., Toots (Harry) Cowan, Christine Cowan, and Bill Wind. The photo was taken behind the house near the woods.

grave in Zion Hill Cemetery in Clayton where she was buried. What we do not know is how or when she died, or what happened to Nels. His life after his wife's death is a mystery. Only his three US Army enlistments and a few military leave notations are recorded. Nothing else has been found at all, including a death record or burial.

By late summer of 1893, when Christine was expecting her sixth baby, tragedy again struck the Cowan/Wind family. In September, eight-year-old Adam died. No death record has been found, but the family tells of

an accident on the ranch. They buried Adam "in a clearing in the woods." Only a single portrait remains to show what this handsome boy looked like. The following December, a measure of joy returned to the family when Emma Harriet Cowan was born. Minnie, the only girl in the family, must have been especially pleased to welcome a new baby sister. The two girls, although completely unrelated by blood (different mothers and fathers) remained close sisters all their lives, enjoying their status as the only two girls in a house full of boys!



At the Clayton ranch — early 1940's.

**Back row, left to right:
Bert Melander, Frederick Wind (the author's father),
Fred Wind (the author's grandfather), Lena (Lippy) Wind (the author's grandmother),
Emma (Cowan) Melander, "Mike" Cowan, Harry "Toots" Cowan,
Great-Grandma Christine Cowan, and Alfred "Stump" Wind.**

**Front row, left to right:
Reinhart Weishaar, Olga (Westby) Wind, Rose (Grant) Cowan, Frances (Wind) Weishaar,
Ole Wind, and Stanley Weishaar.**

The Cowans and Winds grew up together, living and working on the ranch in Clayton. It was George Cowan who was granted the official land patent in 1898. After Emma's birth, George and Christine had three sons, Frank, Harry and George Jr. called "Mike." On May 23, 1899, Minnie married Harry Colbert and moved into Spokane. That left four Winds (Bill, Ole, Fred and Stump) and four Cowans (Emma, Frank, Toots, and Mike) living at the ranch. George Cowan's tiny three room house — with the addition of a bunkhouse where the older boys slept — was home to them all as it had always been. Even

those who married and had families were welcome whenever a temporary or permanent home was needed. After George Cowan died on March 28, 1923, Christine and her bachelor "boys" managed the ranch property. Bill, Frank, Mike and Stump never married. They lived most of their lives where they had been born, doing chores, and remaining devoted to their loving mother, Christine. This was especially true of her only daughter, Emma Cowan, who married Bert Melander in June of 1912, but always remained close to her mother and brothers in Clayton.

With so many Winds and Cowans, it



August 1946.
Grandma Cowan with
great-granddaughters Karen
and Susan Wind.
The last time the author, Susan (Wind)
Simpson, saw her great-grandmother was
in 1952. By that time Christine
was nearly blind.

would naturally follow that Christine would have had lots of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Sadly, only two Winds, Fred and Ole, had children who grew up to provide any descendants. Two Cowans (Emma and Harry) married, but had no children and there are no Cowan descendants.

Of William & Karen Wind's family; Jens Wind never married or had children. Nels married Lydia Johnson and reportedly

had one stillborn son. Minnie married William "Harry" Colbert, moved to Spokane and raised two daughters, Ellen and Marguerite (neither of whom had children).

Of William & Christine Wind's family; Bill never married, died in Clayton at age 45. Adam died at 8 years old. Ole married Olga Westby, had a son, Alfred (who tragically died at 7 years old), and two daughters, Frances and Vera (Frances married Rein Weishaar and had one son, Stanley, who died

Tri-County Tribune,
April 2, 1954.

CHRISTINA COWAN
CLAYTON, March 30 — Death came quietly early Saturday to Mrs. Christina Cowan, beloved and respected pioneer of this community since 1891.

Mrs. Cowan would have reached her 91st birthday April 22 had fate decreed. Loving hearts and hands did all they could for their mother during her illness.

Mrs. Cowan led a quiet life but will long be remembered by all who knew her.

She is survived by six of nine children—Olaf R. (Wind) Alfred H. Wind and George W. Cowan of Clayton; Fred V. Wind of Glendale Calif. Harry W. Cowan of Coeur d'Alene Idaho one daughter Mrs. E. A. Melander of Oroville five grandchildren and five greatgrandchildrne.

Funeral services were held at the Open Door Congregational church in Deer Park with Rev. Luthre Watness conducting services. Funeral arrangements were in charge of the Lauer funeral home.

Interment was in Riverside Park cemetery Spokane.

Photo from the Susan Simpson collection.

at 17). Vera married Jack Spaulding, and had two daughters and one son (who all married and had children). Fred married Lena Lippy, and had a son, Frederick (whose three daughters all married and had children).

Of Christine and George Cowan's family; Emma married Bert Melander and had one son, Frederick, who died a few days after birth. Frank never married. Harry (Toots) married Rose Grant, but had no children. George (Mike) never married.

Grandma, as everybody called Christine, was well-loved by all who knew her. She cared for her children and grandchildren as they grew up, and as she grew old, they cared for her. When family came from far away, visiting Grandma was the primary reason to go to Clayton. The old ranch was one of the original homesteads in the area, and the Winds and Cowans were town fixtures. Everybody knew them, and everybody loved "Grandma Cowan." Because of Ole's marriage to Olga Westby, the rest of the Westby family were always part of the Wind/Cowan history too.

Christine (Nielsen) (Wind) Cowan

died on March 27, 1954, at the age of 90. She had lived a long and amazing life by any measure. She had been orphaned at seven months, raised by strangers, uprooted from her native land as a teenager, married to two men many years her senior, raised step-children, given birth to nine children of her own, been widowed twice, and happily lived her life in a three-room ranch house in a tiny town most people never heard of. She suffered loss, tragedy and trouble, but was never embittered by it. She was a loyal wife, loving mother and grandmother, beloved great-grandmother, and the true hero of this story.

Her last remaining grandchild, Vera Wind Spaulding, died on April 16, 2012, at the age of 91. But there are great-grandchildren and beyond who will long keep the memory of Grandma Cowan alive. Her life was not easy, but her heart was generous and full of joy. Her memory serves as an example to all who knew her and those who just knew of her. She was definitely a woman worth remembering.

— end —

Regarding Deer Park's Mix Theater

by
Ken Westby

The article about the theater in the Olsen Hotel building at the southeast corner of Main & Crawford that appeared in the February, 2010, issue of the *Mortarboard* (Page 283 — *Mortarboard* #22 / *Collected Newsletters Volume Six*.) brought back some fond memories of happy times as a youngster of the 1940's and 50's. I recall viewing movies at Earl Mix's theater or having ice cream or buying Popsicles at the soda fountain on warm days. As well as that soda fountain in the west end of the area fronting Crawford Street, Earl Mix had placed display racks stocked with candy and various sundries. Those displays

included greeting cards, postcards, and over-the-counter products such as cough drops, lotions, and colognes, but I don't think that his business included a full-service pharmacy. The east end of the Crawford frontage contained an indoor ticket booth alongside the theater entry, and that storefront space also included a sales area for displays of appliances, radios, phonographs, and television sets as mentioned in the *Mortarboard* article.

More history about this establishment can be found in back issues of the *Deer Park Union* newspaper. The Olsen Hotel Building was constructed in 1908. We don't know if

Arcadia Parlors and
Moving Picture Theater

We have come among you to be one of you, to share your triumphs and disappointments and to boost with the rest of you for a "Greater Deer Park."
We have gone to considerable expense to install the most modern equipment for your comfort and entertainment. It is our purpose to conduct the establishment in such a manner that every man, woman and child in our community will feel free to come and enjoy our offerings.

Our doors will open to you on
Saturday Morning, June 26th
with a fresh line of candies, fruits, nuts, cigars, etc., and a complete line of soft drinks, which will be served from our sanitary fountain in the most sanitary manner possible.

Saturday Evening at 7:30
We will open our theatre with a photo-play of unusual merit, presenting a Broadway Star Feature in five parts.
"My Official Wife"
featuring CLARA KIMBALL YOUNG in the role of a beautiful Nihilist, who by clever strategy passes herself as the wife of an American in order to use his passports, which places the American in some critical, yet comical situations. To fully appreciate the clever and beautiful scenic effects, one must see this "Vitagraph Masterpiece." Our program will close with a one reel comedy, ex-cruciatingly funny from start to finish.

Second Show will start at 8:45 **Admission 10 Cents**
Come and look us over
"BROADVIEW" Ice Cream at our Fountain

The New Arcadia Theater's First Movie.

The above advertisement appeared in the June 25th, 1915, edition of the Deer Park Union. "My Official Wife," proved extremely popular among moviegoers. First released in July, 1914, the movie continued in general distribution into the early 1920s. Among Hollywood's 'lost movies,' only two scenes from the film are currently known to exist — together adding up to only 44 seconds of action. As for the movie's most luminous star, see the facing page.

Photo clipped from the 1917 edition of Mary Brooks Picken's instruction book, "The Secrets of Distinctive Dress."

the theater space was intended for, or used as, a theater in 1908. The first mention of it being introduced as a motion picture and/or stage theater is found in 1915, when the June 25th issue of the *Union* announced that the "Arcadia Theater" was to open the following day under the management of William A. Pease.

NEW ARCADIA THEATER
TO OPEN ON SATURDAY, JUNE 26
— NEW PROPRIETOR W. A. PEASE
MAKES HIS BOW TO THE PUBLIC

Wm. A. Pease, formerly of Lewiston, Ida, has completed arrangements to open his new photo-play house and parlors Saturday. He has spared no expense in fitting up his parlors where all kinds of candies, cigars, ice cream, etc. will be offered, and is making his new theater a place worthwhile patronizing. He has made arrangements to present as the opening attraction the five-reel play of unusual merit, entitled 'My Official Wife', featuring Clara Kimball Young in the role of a beautiful nihilist. A one-reel comedy will close the show.

Two performances will be given on Saturday evening, one at 7:30 and the other at 8:45. The price of admission is put down to 10 cents for all.

In the parlors the main feature will be the sanitary fountain, where all kinds of up-to-date soft drinks will be served.

Read their advertisement on the last page of this issue, also watch this paper for future announcements regarding coming attractions in their going-to-be popular photo-play house.

Full-size ads — such as the one reproduced on the facing page — appeared in almost every issue of the paper thereafter, but these ended on November 22nd, 1918, thanks to a world-wide post-war disaster. The Spanish Influenza epidemic had reached the Deer Park area, affecting about 200 individuals, and the city fathers declared a general quarantine



Clara Kimball Young
September 6, 1890 — October 15, 1960

Clara Young's first motion picture premiered in 1909. She went on to appear in approximately 150 more films, almost all silent, and many, such as "My Official Wife," now considered lost to history. After several moderately successful "talkies" during the early 1930s, in 1941 she announced her retirement from motion pictures.

of businesses and places of meeting, effective December 11th, 1918. Presumably the theater was closed as a way of preventing the spread of this contagious disease among moviegoers. By the following summer the epidemic was ended, and on August 22nd, 1919, the

full-size ads resumed for the Arcadia Theater; but it was under the new management of Mr. E. C. Maddux as reported in the August 22nd, 1919 issue.

—————
SOME PICTURES AT
THE ARCADIA THEATER
—————

The line of pictures shown by Manager Maddux of the Arcadia theater are not surpassed by any show house in Spokane, and while the people here have been somewhat slow to respond to the line of stellar attractions offered, every night witnesses an increased attendance, and we predict a prosperous business for Mr. Maddux in the near future.

The new manager has had long experience in the picture business and knows what the people want. He has contracted with the Paramount and Artcraft companies to show their productions, and in addition is showing Burton Holmes' travelogues, Bray pictographs and good comedies. These latter features are educational in intent and are interesting and fascinating as well.

The policy of the management in maintaining admission prices at 10 cents and 20 cents is to be commended, also, as most of the better class playhouses in Spokane and other towns have advanced prices recently.

—————
The name of the Arcadia Theater soon changed to the "Maddux Theater" with ads that began appearing on November 27th, 1919. These continued to appear in most issues of the *Deer Park Union* until March 31st, 1921, when it was announced that the theater would be under the management of Mrs. Agnes Fensler; and in ads thereafter it would be called the "Fensler Theater."

—————
PICTURE THEATER IN NEW HANDS
THIS WEEK
—————

Mrs. H. M. Fensler (aka Mrs. A. "Agnes" K. Fensler) today assumes management of the Maddux theater, which she pur-

chased from E. C. Maddux some two weeks ago. In taking over the theater Mrs. Fensler announces that, in future, the programs will be changed four times weekly, on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. This will leave but one dark night in the week — Monday — where, formerly there were two. The new proprietor will assume some of the contracts for pictures entered into by Mr. Maddux, and in addition, will present Goldwyn pictures exclusively on Sunday nights, the latter productions being something out of the ordinary for Deer Park.

Mrs. Fensler, with her three children, is comfortably housed in the residence on B Street and Arcadia Avenue and expresses herself as well pleased with the prospects here.

—————
Finally, on October 22nd, 1925, the *Deer Park Union* announced that the Fensler Theater was to be renamed the "Family Theater," operating under the management of Earl D. Mix.

—————
THEATRE IS GIVEN NEW NAME
—————

The Fensler Theatre, which had carried the name of its owner, Mrs. A. K. Fensler, for the several years during which she conducted it, is advertising its new name of 'The Family Theatre' this week. This is the name given by its new proprietor, Earl D. Mix, and he has signed up a strong lot of picture plays for patrons during the coming months.

Mrs. Agnes Fensler is offering her household goods at public auction at her home tomorrow afternoon, and will leave with her family for California at an early date. She expects to locate in Los Angeles after a visit with her parents in Berkeley. Her departure is being made the motive for a number of social events in her honor.

—————
Until 1927 movies were the "silent" type. Actors' words were presented on-screen with subtitles. On December 30th, 1927, the Liberty Theater in Spokane premiered that city's first movie with sound, "The Jazz Sing-

er." Two and a half years later, on May 2nd, 1930, "talking pictures" came to Deer Park at Earl Mix's Family Theater — as reported in the May 1st, 1930, *Deer Park Union*.

—————
FIRST TALKING PICTURE
ON FRIDAY EVENING
—————

The work of equipping the Family Theatre for sound pictures is being completed this week, and the first showing of talking pictures will be on Friday evening when 'Lord Byron of Broadway' will be the feature. This is a first run picture and is on at the Orpheum in Spokane at the same time it is being shown here. For the present, four nights of talking pictures will be offered, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings being silent drama nights with the Silver Nite attraction. The theatre management has been working on the plan for several weeks past, a new screen and wiring for sound equipment being installed, and Mr. Mix believes that the added expense will be warranted in the added pleasure assured to patrons by the improvement.

—————
Earl Mix continued to operate the Family Theater for about 30 years. Early in 1937, in his twelfth year of theater management, Mr. Mix purchased the Olsen Hotel building in its entirety from the Louis Olsen Sr. heirs. This was reported by the *Deer Park Union* on Jan 26th, 1937."

—————
IMPORTANT CHANGE
IN CITY PROPERTY
— EARL D. MIX CLOSED DEAL
WITH MRS. MAUDE OLSON
FOR PURCHASE OF
OLSON HOTEL PROPERTY
—————

A real estate deal of unusual magnitude took place during the week, in which the Hotel Olson was sold by Mrs. Maude Olson to Earl D. Mix. The consideration was not made public, and only the technicalities of the transfer are to be closed up to make the deal complete. Mrs. Olson expects to reside in Spo-

kane.

The building was built by the late Louis Olson during the days of the Arcadia Orchards project, and is a 47-room brick structure. Beside the portion being used for hotel purposes, it houses the Family Theatre-Confectionery, the Associated Oil Company, the Pacific Telephone Company, and the Vanity Barber and Beauty Shoppe. Dr. Paul Downing has a dental office on the second floor.

Mr. Mix has no present definite plans in connection with the property, having bought it as an investment, and for a permanent home for his theatre.

—————
From the outset in 1915 there is evidence in the movie ads that this theater provided good quality entertainment for the community. It was not the only theater in the developing town, however, nor was it the first. Both the Slater Building (1902), located on the NW Corner of 1st and Main, and the Olsen Office Building (1911), on the SW Corner, were constructed with large assembly halls suitable for dances, movies or stage plays. These were sometimes called "theaters", and the Olsen Office's 2nd floor pavilion in particular had been set up with props and stage lighting for live performances as reported in *Mortarboard* Issue #1, pages 4 and 5. The Kelly Building, diagonally opposite the Olson Hotel at Main & Crawford, also contained a large meeting hall, but there is no record to indicate it was generally used for showing movies. There are ample reports that both the Slater hall and the Olsen Office pavilion were used extensively for meetings and live stage performances, road shows and occasionally, movies. But the theater in the Olsen Hotel was equipped with modern film projection equipment suitable for a theater of that size, and was equipped with theater seats for audience comfort, as well as a fountain and serving area for refreshments.

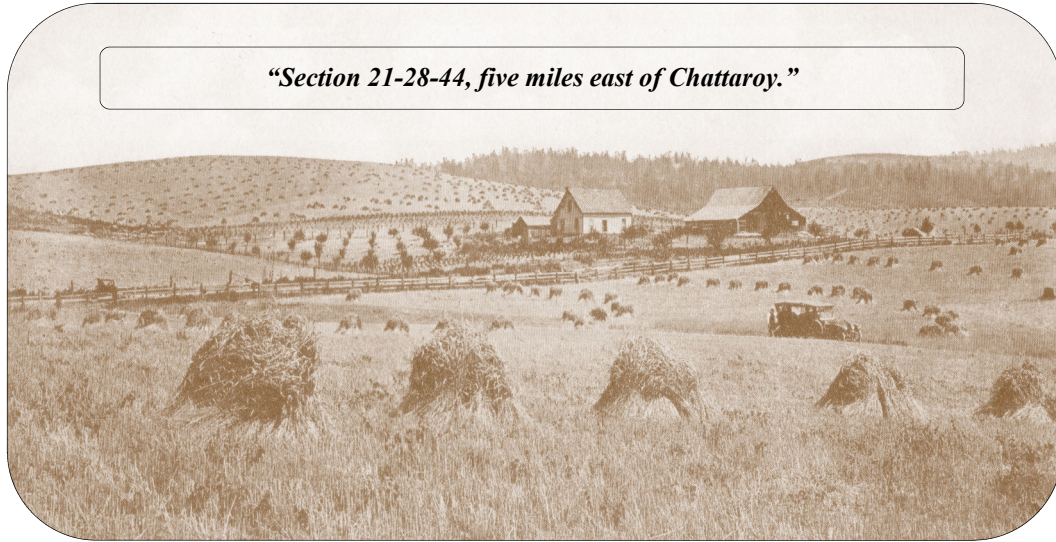
————— end —————

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

Bits of Chatter, Trivia & Notices All Strung Together

“Section 21-28-44, five miles east of Chattaroy.”



... 1919 Postcard ...

The classic postcard above carried the caption, “1919 wheat fields, section 21-28-44, five miles east of Chattaroy, Wash. Compliments of Edward & Bradford Lumber Co.,

Elk, Wash.” If anyone can identify the property — either by the structures or the topography of the land shown, please forward that information to the historical society.

— Wally Lee Parker —

Minutes of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society — October 10, 2015 —

In attendance: Don Ball, Bob Gibson, Roxanne Camp, Mike Reiter, Roberta Reiter, Don Reiter, Mary Jo Reiter, Betty Burdette, Bill Sebright, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Marilyn Reilly, Judy Coffin, Pete Coffin, Mark Wagner, Lynn Wells, and Lorraine Nord. Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. He reported:

1) We are certainly saddened by Lonnie Jenkins’ death. He has been an important part of our Society and the Brickyard Day Committee. Our prayers go out to Ella and family. 2) Lynn Wells checked on the hangar at Felts Field with the Ace of Spades terracotta embellishments. It is still there. Bill was worried that it had been torn down to build the Aviation Museum. 3) Bill now gets the Spokesman-Review on line as well as delivered. If anyone wants a PDF file of an article let him know. 4) We are also very saddened to hear of the death of Shirley Michaels Phipps. Please pray for Bill and family. 5) We received a check from Allen County Public Library for the four Reports to the C/DPHS they had ordered. Lynn Wells stated that they have one of the largest genealogical collections in the U.S. of A. 6) He gave Marilyn Reilly and Deer Park Auto Freight a “thank you note” for the hanging file cabinet and hanging files they gave to the Society. 7) The Heritage Network will meet in Room 105 of the Clayton School, October 19. Bill will represent the C/DPHS. 8) Bill noted that on September 23, 2002, the Deer Park School District School Board announced they were declaring that the old Clayton School would become surplus property. The meeting was held at the Clayton School’s multi-purpose Room. The first meeting of the future Clayton Historical Society was on October 2, 2002, at the Clayton Drive-in.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported: The main checking account ended the month (Sept. 30th) at \$6,945.23. There were deposits of \$766.00. Checks cleared for the month were to the Deer Park Tribune for advertising — \$72.00, The Deer Park Gazette for advertising — \$63.00. The Deer Park School District, \$240.00 for rent. Bill Sebright, \$25.00 for postage and supplies. The web hosting account had a withdrawal of \$10.95 for web hosting and ended the month at \$917.93. The Brickyard Day fund is \$901.33.

Society Vice President Pete Coffin reported that he: 1) Continued working with Ken Westby on a large Deer Park area telephone history *Mortarboard* article. 2) That he

sent a *Mortarboard* main article Index that includes both monthly issue main articles and the associated Collected Newsletters to the CDPHS.org editor Morrell to replace the previous edition. 3) Sent Chuck Lyons a number of things about the Arcadia Orchards that he expressed an interest in during the September meeting. He has a collection of old tractors on his Williams Valley property that might be a future history field trip destination. 4) Purchased the KSPS “Spokane County Spotlight, Deer Park History” DVD broadcast August 21, 2015 as a conversation between Deer Park’s Mayor, Development Director, and a Spokane County Commissioner. Have listened to it and written up a review of what it contained. 5) Provided historical material to inquiries about a Frey family farm near Denison, the Leuthold house on Spring Creek Drive, and two requests for Deer Park Creamery information. Betty Burdette noted that Al Bishop started the Deer Park Creamery in 1916. 6) Received from Arlene Whitney the donation of Harold Klawunder’s 100 year birthday congratulatory materials originally sent to Harold by President George Bush.

Print editor Wally Parker reported: 1) 125 copies of the October *Mortarboard* (#90) have been printed for distribution, and the online version of this newsletter has been submitted for posting. The October issue contains an article by Peter Coffin titled “Edward Nelson Robinson: President, Arcadia Orchard Company,” and a brief photo essay of this summer’s Settlers’ Day, Brickyard Day, and Clayton Fair. 2) He is currently involved in a number of lines of research that will hopefully come into fruition in the next several months.

Webmaster Marie Morrill reported by email: 1) The October newsletter is now on the Website. 2) I checked out the stats for the web page. I am not sure what the numbers mean, so I am sharing the two stats that make sense to me — how representative they really are I don’t know. October’s daily averages; HITS — 2711, VISITS — 176, and September monthly numbers: HITS — 81,346, VISITS — 5,286.

Roxanne Camp brought a 1927 Spokane County Directory for the Society that contains information on residents of small towns in the Deer Park area.

Penny Hutten reported by email about the Westerners speaker: October 15, 2015, Robert A. Clark will speak about "*Ghosts in the Book Stacks: three generations publishing on the West.*" It will focus on publishing western books over the past century. Robert A. Clark is Editor-in-Chief of Washington State University Press. He previously was president of the Arthur H. Clark Company; a Pulitzer Prize-winning publisher of American historical research and reference works. If you are interested contact Penny or Bill. Penny, Roxanne Camp, and Lynn Wells are attending.

Grace Hubal can no longer be Secretary. We need to find someone to replace her. No one stepped forward to take the position. Please contact Bill if you are interested.

The Brickyard Day Committee is looking for a theme for next year's Brickyard Day. This year it was the reunion of the Clayton School. They are trying to draw more people to the School on Brickyard Day.

Mike Reiter reported that: 1) Randy Scott said there was a murder in his house at 704 N. Main sometime between 1910 and 1920. Randy has been trying to find more information on it. Let Bill or Mike know if you have any information concerning this. 2) Mike is wondering about making a plaque (date of construction, etc.,) for each of the historic buildings in Deer Park. 3) In this Wednesday's Tribune there will be information on the proposed replacement of the Civic Center with a new Fire Department headquarters that will also have a Community Center. The City will sell the property to the fire district for \$1. The fire district will pay for demolition and construction with county bonds. New soccer fields will be at the sports complex at the High School. There was some discussion about what the Society should do about this and what should be saved.

Next meeting: Saturday, November 14, 2015, at 9 AM at the Clayton Drive-In.

Meeting adjourned at 10:02 AM.

The Society meeting minutes submitted by Mark Wagner, acting Secretary.

— end —

Volunteer proofreaders for this issue: Peter Coffin, Bill Sebrigh, Lina Swain and Ken Westby.

Society Contacts

We encourage anyone with observations, concerns, corrections, or divergent opinions regarding the contents of these newsletters to write the society or contact one or more of the individuals listed below. Resultant conversations can remain confidential if so desired.

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— C/DPHS —

*A print copy of this issue
is or soon will be
available in booklet format.*

*Ask about
"Collected Newsletters: Volume Twenty-Five."*

*Society contact information can be found
on page 1180.*