**A Growing Archive.**

As assured in our mission statement, the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society is “dedicated to the preservation of the history of our community,” and specifically “to the art of making this common heritage accessible to the public.” Our publications, both print and online, are currently the primary manifestation of that part of our mission. All prior editions of our newsletter — the Mortarboard — are available online without charge. All prior editions of the Mortarboard are also available as bound editions in a print-on-demand format for a small donation — said donation intended to cover our print cost. We also have four volumes of earlier archival material in a print-only set titled “The Reports.” For further information on our print titles, contact anyone in the “Society Contacts” box found on the last numbered page of this issue.

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**Free — Take One**

Visit our website at http://www.cdphs.org

The C/DPHS meets at 9 a.m. every second Saturday of the month. Join us at the Clayton Drive-In, Clayton, Washington.

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**A Ride-Alone With Leno**

by Edward Kingrey

It was around 1948 and I was “living the life” on my Grandpa and Grandma Walter’s and Clara King’s Dairy Farm. One day I happened to be riding my horse up the road in front of the Clarence Nord Farm — that being just across Beaver Creek from the King Farm. I saw Leno Prestini on his horse coming down the road past Clayton’s Grade School. We met up shortly and he stopped to talk to me. He said, “Let’s go for a little ride.” I was thrilled and felt honored that he would ask me.

Off we went, turning west toward Bigfoot Valley. We crossed Williams Valley Road and soon we reached the foothills, headed into the woods and up a mountainside. Eventually we came to a barb-wire fence, and I thought, “We’ll probably be heading back soon.” Much to my surprise, Leno got off his horse, fished in a saddle bag, and came out with a pair of wire cutters. Leno cut a pathway through the fence, got back on his horse, and we continued up the mountain.

After a long and sometimes treacherous climb up the mountain, we reached the crest and stopped. As we looked back over the...
fascinating landscape below, Leno suddenly took off his Stetson, waved it in the air, and let out a blood curdling “Yahooooo!” I thought I was really back in the Old West. It took the better part of the day, as we wandered through the west hills toward Loon Lake. Soon the lake came into view. We ended up riding clear around the north end of the lake and followed Highway 395 back to Clayton.

I arrived back home around milking time and received a good scolding from Grandpa King, who had been wondering where I was all day. But it was worth it. I would have this memory of a ride-along with an icon of Clayton, Leno Prestini, for the rest of my life.

Leno Prestini — circa 1950s. (Photo from the C/DPHS collection.)

— end —

Mica Brick Plant Field Trip
by Peter Coffin

On September 13, 2013, Bill and John Sebright, Larry Bowen and I drove to Mica, Washington, to tour the Mutual Materials brick making facility there. Prior to his retirement Larry had been employed in the plant and graciously offered to lead a tour of the operation for historical society members.

The site contains both a modern brick manufacturing plant and relics of past brick making operations. At the start of our tour, we visited some of the remaining beehive brick baking kilns (figures 1 & 2), along with some smoke stacks. Still around the bases of these kilns were the natural gas lines that delivered the gas to bake the bricks.

The raw clay material for brick manufacture at Mica is dug north of the plant site in a field just south of a large hill that used to be the site of a sanitary landfill. Rather than load the raw clay material into a dump truck, an earth mover is used to scoop up the clay and transport it to storage bins in a building on the east side of the plant (figures 3 & 4). Various locations in the “pit” are mined for clay of different colors. The clay mined in the Mica area is not the same as that once mined in the pits in the Clayton, Washington, area. The Clayton clays are smooth textured, very fine-grained clays which had fossil leaves deposited in them. The Clayton clays were deposited on the quiet bottom of a lake. Mica’s clays are quite coarse with much sand sized grains of quartz and feldspars weathered in them as a result of intense weathering of a granitic source rock. When picked up the material seems to be an unlikely brick.
Bill Sebright at the entrance to one of the better preserved kilns.

The Design of Mica’s “Beehive” Kilns:

As regards Mica’s eight standing circular periodic downdraft kilns, the National Register’s application states, “While no two kilns are exactly alike in their dimensions, their general construction is the same.” The smaller kilns are described as “about 28 feet in diameter.” The approximate size of the larger kilns isn’t stated, though satellite views suggest it’s unlikely any exceed the above noted diameter by a great degree. These “one story circular structures with domed roofs are constructed entirely of brick,” the most visible exception being the metal expansion band intended to preserve the kiln’s structural integrity as the kiln expands during “the firing process.” The kiln walls stand approximately ten feet tall, with the interior dome height — measured from the center of the kiln — averaging about sixteen feet. The base of the kiln walls average three and a half feet thick, tapering to about two and a half feet at the top. The National Register’s application indicates that the kiln domes are laid of “one course of brick.” Of note is the fact that the outer surface of each dome was original sealed with a plaster made from “sand, cement, and lime” — this coating having largely eroded away on those kilns since abandoned. All the original kilns had from “eight to twelve” fireboxes spaced around the circumference, then extending through the base of the walls to allow the entrance of combustion gases. Originally stoked with wood or coal, when the kilns were converted to burn natural gas (the pipeline arriving in the area in 1956), the fireboxes were bricked shut — as seen in the photo above.

——— the Editorial Group ———

An earthmover can be seen at the edge of Mica’s “pit” scooping up a load of raw material.

The raw material entering the plant is first dumped into sheltered bins. About half this material is taken from the pit pictured in “figure 3” above, the majority of the rest is dug at the company’s Worley, Idaho, property. Before use, the clay is ground into powder.
A tremendous amount of natural gas is needed to fire the modern plant’s five 200 foot long drying tunnels and single 400 foot long continuous kiln. Temperatures at the tunnel kiln’s midpoint reach 2,100 degrees Fahrenheit, then slowly drop as the carts of brick move toward the exit.

——— the editorial group ———
that's … and some much later telephone chatter …

Last month an anniversary of some importance among the science fiction branch of pop culture came to pass — television’s Star Trek turned 50 years old. I did see the September 8, 1966, premiere. I was still living on the family’s Williams Valley farm, having started school just the month before. That first show, involving a standard cinematic monster, wasn’t that impressive. But way back then having any science fiction on the TV — especially quality sci-fi — was a rarity. And lingering questions as to whether those original Star Trek episodes had any value should have been erased by the ensuing half century of continuing interest and commentary.

Beginning with that first episode, one of the most notable pieces of future technology seen was the communicator — essentially a flip phone (and to measure how far we’ve come, even that classic bit of sci-fi wizardry is now considered passé among technogeeks). As for why the communicator caused such a sensation, in 1966 almost all phones were fairly large rotary dial devices connected to a landline — the exceptions being rarely seen radio-telephones affordable only by the well-to-do, and push-button dial-tone phones then available in just a few of the larger cities. As for how much such things have changed over the last half century, in 2011 a sci-fi movie titled “Super 8” came out. The title alluded to another piece of classic technology — home movies shot on a wide-screen variant of 8 millimeter film. The motion picture was set in the 1970s. Now good-teenagers starring in the feature were confronted on set with era-appropriate rotary phones, they didn’t understand how to work the dial.

Just a few weeks ago, while cruising around the internet, I ran across a site selling working replicas of the original Star Trek

——— end ———
communicator. As near as I can tell — me being techno-impaired — the replica is actually a Bluetooth device that uses voice commands to tie into a high-tech cellphone.

The above working replica is only a toy. But it’s a toy that suggests how far we’ve come from rotary phones and Star Trek’s vision of the future, circa 1966. For example, in the prior paragraph I referenced things like the internet, cellphones, Bluetooth, and voice commands — and in today’s world there’s nothing unreal about any of these things.

As near as I can tell — me being techno-impaired — the replica is actually a Bluetooth device that uses voice commands to tie into a high-tech cellphone. If properly set up, I could talk back to my car, having it dial my phone for me. And all this could be done without me having to touch the phone. In other words, we’ve reached a point where Star Trek’s original vision of the future, at least as far as its flip-top communicator is concerned, seems quaintly old fashioned.

It reminds me of something science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke said. “Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.” The modern cellphone isn’t magic. But it’s definitely getting harder to discern the difference between magic and the technology inside the modern phone.

——— Wally Lee Parker  ———

In attendance: Bill Sebright, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Marilyn Reilly, Lorraine Nord, Sue Rehms, Ella Jenkins, Peter Coffin, Judy Carpenter, Marie Burdette, Marie Morrill, and Magie Wagner.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. He reported that:

1) Jason West contacted Bill asking about the C/DPHS. Jason and Karen bought the Pruber farm at 5175 Swensson Road two years ago. Pete talked to Jason at the Clayton Fair and sent him information on his farm. Jason and Karen have joined the C/DPHS. Ron Butler from Galesburg, Illinois, contacted Bill asking about the Losh family. Bill directed Ron to Dr. Shives Wainwright. Sandy Burdette has a field trip Society members took to Mutual Materials, Mica, Washington, brick making factory in the Little Spokane River, and land ownership and water rights of the J. A. Prufer quarter section (30 T28N R42E) in Williams Valley. 3) Sent Ron Butler photocopies of some pages containing Losh family information from the "Families of Wild Rose Prairie" by Loretta Greiff. 4) After Ken Westby sent the Society a 1917 picture of his Grandfather’s house in the Arcadia Orchard, I spent an hour at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture looking up the location of Andrew Norseth’s Arcadia Orchard tract (30 T28N R42E), which is very near the SE corner of the intersection of Cedar Road and Deer Park-Milan Road. 5) I reviewed the online photograph collections of the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture’s Research Library. In this review I found photographs of the Glen

Charles. (Pictures were passed around.) 5) Spokane’s South Hill home tour, Sunday 1 to 4, will include the Piolett house, which is faced with Clayton tiles. Bill and Wendy Niday have owned the house for 40 years. Wendy has contacted Wally and Bill several times over the years in regards to her home’s Clayton connection. 6) We had a good time at the Clayton Fair. Thanks to all those who helped out at our booth.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported:

- The main checking account ended the month at $7,712.79. Checks were written to Deer Park Printing for $23.78 for signs, one for $600.00 for Clayton Day band, one to the Deer Park Gazette for $150.00 for ads, and one to the Tribune for $67.50 for ads. There were deposits of $1,968.50. The web hosting account had a withdrawal of $10.95 for web hosting, and ended the month at $854.34.
- Society Vice President Pete Coffin reported by email: 1) I plan to give Editor Parker a possible Mortarboard article describing a field trip Society members took to Mutual Materials, Mica, Washington, brick making factory and clay mine. 2) Was busy at the Clayton Fair booth answering questions about the Spokane Falls and Northern Railroad history, the Mount Spokane Power Company’s electric generating station on the Little Spokane River, and land ownership and water rights of the J. A. Prufer quarter section (SW/4 Section 30 T28N R42E) in Williams Valley. 3) Sent Ron Butler photocopies of some pages containing Losh family information from the "Families of Wild Rose Prairie" by Loretta Greiff. 4) After Ken Westby sent the Society a 1917 picture of his Grandfather’s house in the Arcadia Orchard, I spent an hour at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture looking up the location of Andrew Norseth’s Arcadia Orchard tract (30 T28N R42E), which is very near the SE corner of the intersection of Cedar Road and Deer Park-Milan Road. 5) I reviewed the online photograph collections of the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture’s Research Library. In this review I found photographs of the Glen

Tana Dairy where Herbert Mason said he had worked in his “Memoranda”. I had never heard of the place and the pictures showed a large dairy operation. Spokesman Review newspaper articles indicate it was located next to the Spokane Country Club along the Little Spokane River. 6) Herbert Mason also noted that the 1908 Clayton fire was quite a spectacle. He took his family by wagon to see the results of the fire.

Print editor Wally Parker reported: 1) One hundred and ten copies of the September (Print) articles were sent out. It was located next to the Spokane Country Club along the Little Spokane River. 6) Herbert Mason also noted that the 1908 Clayton fire was quite a spectacle. He took his family by wagon to see the results of the fire.

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Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society Newsletter
Issue #102 — October — 2016

Stay-at-home pastime worth considering.

Webmaster Marie Morrill reported that she has uploaded the September Mortarboard. She also did some editing on some of the website’s pages.

Penny Hutten reported that the Westerners Spokane Corral’s meeting will be September 15. Ned Fadelye, a fifth generation Spokanite with homesteader roots in Otis Orchard, will be speaking about Prohibition in Spokane. Contact Penny, or Bill if you are interested in attending.

Wednesday, August 17, was the last Brickyard Day Committee meeting of the year. Our next meeting will be the 2nd Wednesday of February, 2017. For next year’s parade, the reviewing stand will be moved back to the Post Office. The parade’s start will still be at Mason and Railroad. Music by Spare Parts at the Clayton School’s park was a big hit. We are planning to host the band again next year.

Betty Burdette said that on October 8th the Greenhouse is having a dinner and silent auction at the Deer Park Eagles to help with the expenses incurred in hooking the Green House up to city sewer. It was previously on a septic tank. It cost $29,000 to hook up to the sewer system. A car will be one of the items offered as part of the silent auction.

Marilyn Reilly reported that she attended the last city council meeting. The mayor said that the Civic Center building will be torn down as soon as the asbestos is removed. He said that the Society can have one last tour before it is torn down.

The Heritage network meeting is Monday, September 19th, at the Stevens County Historical Society in Colville. Next meeting: Saturday, October 8, 2016, at 9 AM at the Clayton Drive-In. Meeting adjourned at 10:04 AM.

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

All Priory Editions of the Mortarboard Are Available Online:

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 —

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