

THE
CLAYTON/DEER PARK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Mortarboard

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The C/DPHS is an association of individuals dedicated to the preservation of the history of our community. To the preservation of the region's oral history, literary history, social history, graphic and pictorial history, and our history as represented by the region's artifacts and structures. To the preservation of this history for future generations. To the art of making this common heritage accessible to the public. And to the act of collaborating with other individuals and organizations sharing similar goals.

***Living Deer Frozen To
Loon Lake Ice***
— 1935 —

by
Wally Lee Parker

On the afternoon of February 10th, 1935, a party of ice skaters discovered a doe, a female deer, stuck to the thick layer of ice covering Loon Lake. The discovery was to be expected, since — as a tidbit of local news in the Thursday, February 14th, 1935, edition of Deer Park's weekly newspaper, the *Union*,

noted — “Almost everyone who could rustle a pair of skates and the transportation were at Loon Lake on Sunday, enjoying the excellent skating.”

The motivation for the above described enthusiasm to get outside was likely a sunny day — that assumed from the shadows

Loon Lake.
Sunday, February 10th, 1935.
(Photo from the Art Stelling collection.)

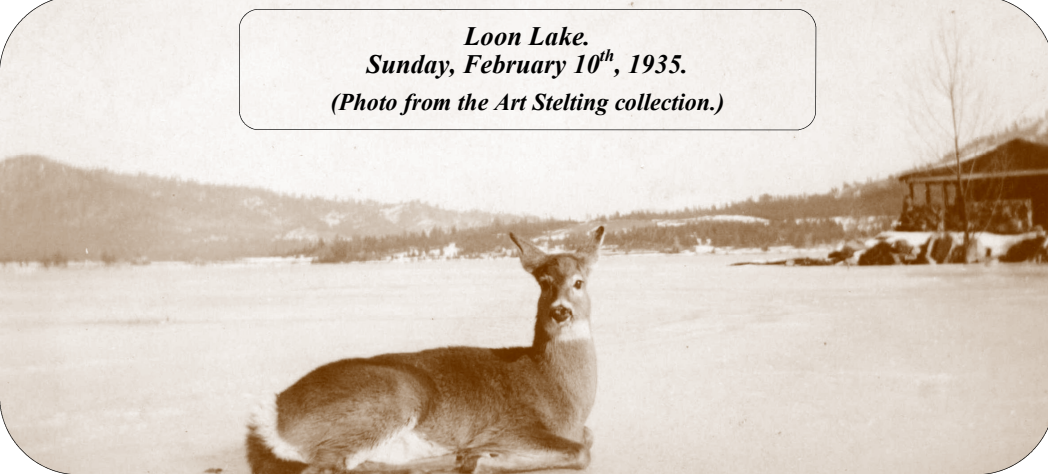


Illustration from “The Telephone Review,” May, 1914.

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.

— the Editor

Free — Take One
The C/DPHS meets at 9 a.m. every second Saturday of the month. Join us at the Clayton Drive-In, Clayton, Washington.
Visit our website at <http://www.cdphs.org>



Above:

Edna Olson and the distressed doe. The photo is looking in an eastwardly direction. The hill rising behind the building appears to be Loon Lake Mountain. The hill rising to the left side of the frame is believed to be the lower reaches of Deer Lake Mountain. The house seems to be sited on Loon Lake Island, a small prominence under 100 feet in diameter located roughly 150 feet from Loon Lake's western shore. Note Edna's ice skates.

Below:

Jim Stelting and Edna Olson attempting to slide the deer toward shore with a board.

(Photos on this page from the Art Stelting collection.)



seen in several of the photos — and a relatively mild temperature, at least from mid-day into the afternoon, as suggested by the day's high and low temperatures recorded at nearby Deer Park.

Another segment of the February 14th newspaper, this dealing with “*News From Our Neighbors*,” reported, “*Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Olson, Virginia Mill, and Bobby Campbell, from Spangle, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Humes from Spokane, visited the Martin Olson and Stelting families on Sunday.*”

Spangle is a small town about 15 miles south of downtown Spokane. In the 1930s, its population was just over two-hundred souls.

Clayton's Olson and Stelting families became related when, on June 22nd, 1922, Ruth Josephine Olson married Earnest James “*Jim*” Stelting. The Mrs. Oliver Olson mentioned above is the Edna Olson seen in the photos accompanying this article. The mentioned Jim Stelting, also seen in one of the photos, was Edna's brother-in-law.

On the front page of the same *Valentine's Day* edition of 1935's *Union* was this. “*While skating on Loon Lake one day last week, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Olson of Spangle, and J. E. Stelting (the J. and E. are transposed in this article) of Clayton, discovered a female deer lying on the ice not far from shore, and on approaching they discovered it was unable to rise. The animal struggled, and as they skated near to it they found it was frozen to the icy surface of the lake. It fought them at first, but soon discovered they were trying to help, and they succeeded in getting the frozen hair free from the ice. The doe tried to get up, but the ice was too slippery and it fell and refused to try further. By means of a board, they succeeded in pushing and skidding it to shore, where it ran into the woods, unharmed. The skaters stated that it had probably been chased out onto the ice by coyotes, and had fallen while hot from running. The result was that it was made a prisoner by the cold until they freed it.*”

Weather records for Deer Park, nine

miles southeast of the lake, and the nearest location with currently available records, indicate a low of 5° Fahrenheit — well below freezing and likely obtained during the pre-dawn hours of February 10th — and a high of 40°, probably achieved that sunny afternoon. At an elevation of around 2,380 feet, Loon Lake's surface is just over two hundred and fifty feet higher than the streets of downtown Deer Park. Altitude considered, it's arguable whether the temperatures at the two locations would have been that different.

The three photos pictured here are from the C/DPHS's Art Stelting photo collection. The photographer is unknown, though assumed to be a family member. Jim Stelting, pictured on the facing page, is Art Stelting's father.

Regarding the location on the roughly two mile long by one mile wide lake where the photos may have been snapped, society member and *Mortarboard* contributor Charles Stewart wrote, “*The photos were taken next to the island on the west side of the lake, directly across the lake from our family home on Sunnyside Beach. On a solo skate in the late 1950s or early '60s, I found a dead deer frozen on the ice near there — but farther from shore.*”

The roughly circular island Chuck refers to is identified on Google's satellite map as “*Loon Lake Island.*” Using Google's on-screen distance function, the prominence appears to vary between 80 and 100 feet in diameter, depending on the direction of the measurement. It also appears to be about 150 feet off the lake's western shoreline, and about 800 feet south by southwest of “*Silver Point.*”

Chuck elaborated, “*In my recollection, the island is almost entirely occupied by the stone house (seen in the photographs) — which, except in winter, always appeared occupied when we lived there. Between the island and the shore is a shallow channel with a sand bottom just deep enough for a powerboat to navigate dead slow without digging the prop into the sand.*”

Chuck has identified the hill seen

rising behind the stone house as Loon Lake Mountain, which would be to the east by northeast when viewed from the island. The peak to the left of the image — best seen in the photo on page 1405 — is believed to be Deer Lake Mountain, which would be to the north by northeast when viewed from the island.

All this suggests that the photos were taken in the channel between Loon Lake Island and the lake's nearby western shore.

Both wild and domestic animals often have problems that prove fatal on the icy surfaces of lakes and rivers — as Chuck Stewart's recollection of a dead deer frozen to the ice in roughly the same location a quarter of a century later tends to demonstrate. Considering that an animal finding itself in a state of distress was not all that unusual during harsh winter weather, it would appear that there's little here other than a local story of passing interest. But this didn't stay a local story. It was sent across the country by a national wire-service, and we have evidence that at least one out-of-state newspaper picked the story up.

The photo reproduced to the left appeared in the March 1st, 1935, edition of the California's *Stanford Daily* — a student operated newspaper published at Stanford University. Under the headline "Exhausted Doe Freezes To Ice," the *Stanford Daily's* text spun a slightly different take than the *Deer Park Union's* version. The university newspaper reported, "Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Olson of Spangle, Wash., saw a full-grown deer resting



Photo from the March 1st, 1935, edition of the Stanford Daily, Stanford, California.

on the ice of Loon Lake, and when they approached her she did not move, but struggled when they attempted to pet her. They discovered the deer was frozen fast. It was believed she had exhausted herself trying to gain solid footing, and then fell. The Olsons freed the animal. The doe ran away as they reached shore with her."

— end —



WANTED!

The society would like a selection of vintage telephone books for the archive. If you have any of these classic books you might be willing to donate — specifically those prior to 1975 containing the local exchange — please contact any of the numbers or email addresses found on the last page of this issue.

*Illustration from
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture,
Bulletin PA-88, May, 1950*

A Hole in the Bottom of Deer Lake

*As Told by Ivy Shaw, Marshall Bussard,
and Others*

by
Peter Coffin

There has been a story circulating about a hole in the bottom of Deer Lake that had been draining that lake into Loon Lake. As Clifford Meyer had lived in the area since the middle 1940s, I asked him whom I could call for more information about the event. Cliff recommended that I call Ms. Ivy Shaw and ask her about the hole in the bottom of Deer Lake. On Friday November 4, 2011, I called her and the following is an attempt to write up what she remembered.

Andy Anderson, who owned Anderson's Resort on West Bay, was trying to make the West Bay deeper by dredging the bottom. After some of the hardpan on the bottom of the bay had been dredged up, a whirlpool developed, and it was obvious that the lake was being emptied into a very permeable gravel aquifer below the hardpan. The water draining through the lake bottom was gushing out in the bottom of the old Arcadia Orchards irrigation ditch that connected Deer Lake and Loon Lake in the 1910-1920 period.

To begin with, dirt was dumped onto the whirlpool, but that didn't seal the leak. Then hay and straw were hauled in and dumped into the dredged area. After that clay (and possibly concrete) was hauled in and dumped into the area. That finally sealed the leak.

The worry was that Deer Lake was draining away through the subsurface aquifer

and then by the surface ditch into Loon Lake, thereby raising the water level of that lake.

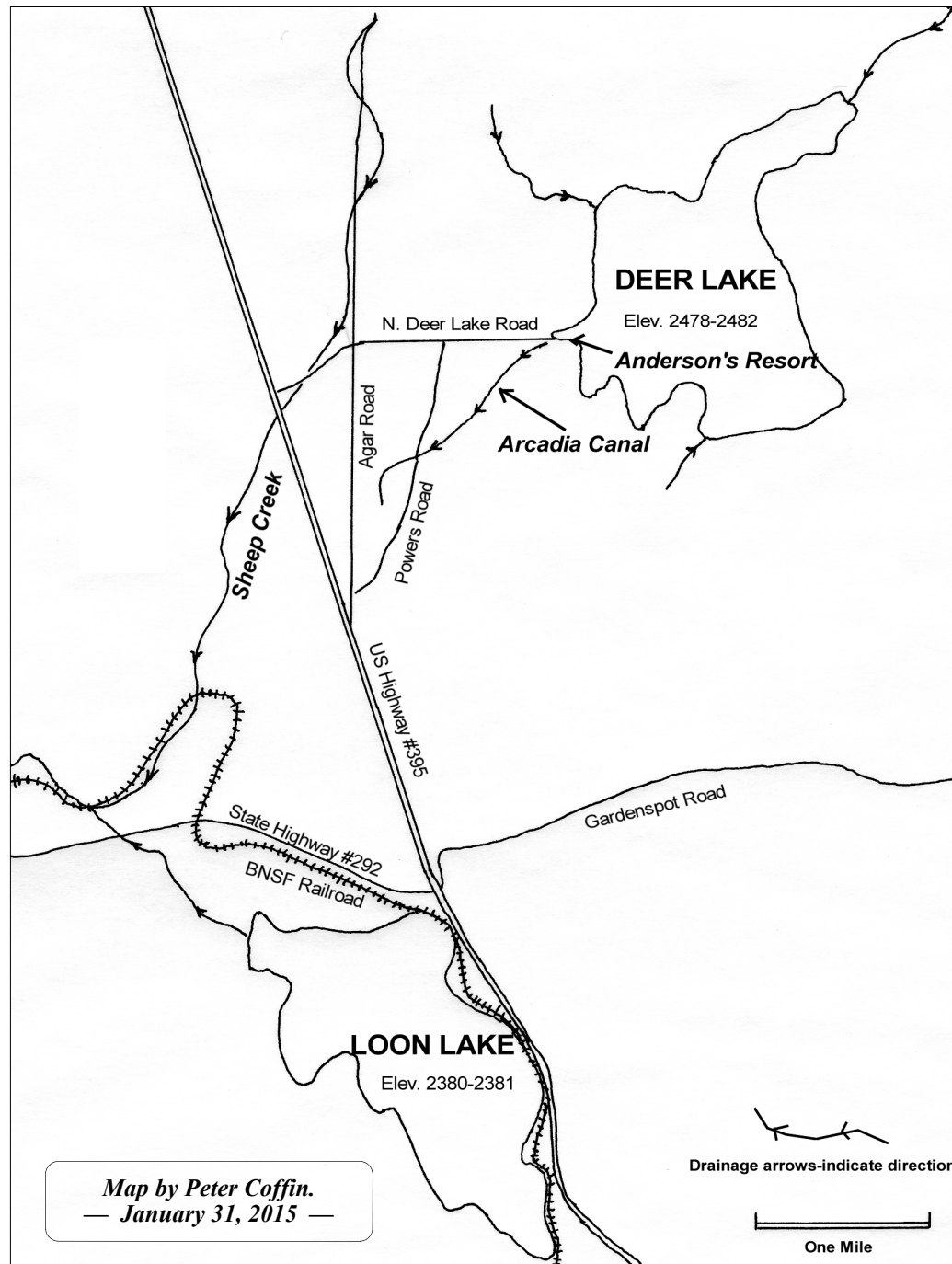
Both Loon Lake and Deer Lake are primarily spring fed, with Deer Lake's average surface elevation of about 2474 feet above sea level, and with Loon Lake's average elevation about 2380 feet. This 100 foot elevation difference would seem to support the idea that one could drain into the other.

The biggest immediate problems with the hole in the lake bottom would be that the level of Deer Lake would drop and many of the beaches and docks would be left high and dry, and that the drain would wash out more and become a bigger and bigger problem over time. A review of contour maps would make the conjecture of one lake draining into the other as somewhat unlikely as the most likely path of the water draining from Deer Lake would be to go into the Sheep Creek drainage about one and one half miles west of Deer Lake's West Bay.

Ms. Shaw was very, very uncertain when this had happened. She thought perhaps in the late 1940s or early 1960s (certainly before the assassination of President John Kennedy), but when, she wasn't exactly certain.

Ms. Shaw indicated that part of this information had come from a cousin. I asked her who the cousin was and she said Marshall

— Text continued on page 1412 —



Above:

Photograph of the site of Anderson's resort across from the Public Access area on Deer Lake's West Bay. The grass and the snow on the beach show how shallow the bay is in this area.

(Peter Coffin Photo, taken January 29, 2015)

Facing Page

Map of the Deer Lake-Loon Lake area.

The hole in Deer Lake's bottom was dredged on West Bay near the arrow head pointing to Anderson's Resort location. The map was traced from a USGS contour map and the Arcadia Canal does not drain directly into Sheep Creek. Grouse Creek is off the map to the north.

— Text continued from page 1409 —

Bussard.

As Marshall and I had gone to high school together, I called him for what additional information he could give me. He gave some information from his memory that came from his father's descriptions.

The dredging was located opposite the public access area on West Bay on the south shore of the bay. Marshall indicated he thought he was 6 or 7 years old at the time of the dredging, and indicated a possible time

frame of 1946 to 1949. Both Cliff Meyer and Milo Robbins independently described events very similar to those of Ms. Shaw and Marshall Bussard.

The time frame of this event is uncertain. Searches of the newspaper archives have yet to find anything about this event. Perhaps it was taken care of by the people involved, and they were hoping that the problem had been solved and no publicity was wanted or needed.

— end —

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

Bits of Chatter, Trivia, & Notices — all strung together.

... washing the eagle ...

On page 1383 of the November issue (#103) we printed the results of Pioneer Waterproofing's first annual inspection of the elastomer skin covering Clayton's terracotta eagle. One of that company's recommendations was a yearly washing with a dilute cleanser and a soft brush. The problem foreseen was how to reach the elevated statue without leaning anything potentially damaging against its relatively fragile skin. As regards such, these thoughts were forwarded by editorial group member Rick Hodges.

"It seems to me you could rent a bucket truck for maybe \$200 for a day, and then a couple of younger, more agile volunteers could tackle the cleaning. Spray on the Simple Green solution with a regular garden tank sprayer, scrub gently with car wash brush on an extension handle, and rinse with plain water from a garden hose. It could all be done in a few hours."

The society would like to thank Rick and the several others that have brought ideas

forward. As of the moment it appears the eventual washing will have to wait until next spring. But we'll see.

... regarding lights for Perrins Field ...

A piece discussing the history of Deer Park's Perrins Field appeared in last month's Letters/Brickbats column. In response we received the two following notes from members of the *Mortarboard's* editorial group.

Mike Reiter wrote, *"I remember going down as a little squirt with my dad and watching as he and the other Jaycees worked on assembling the lights. I'm sure Paul's dad would have been there also. My dad climbed poles when he worked for Bonneville, and I guess that came in handy for the installation."*

Paul Erickson added, *"I remember there was lots of excitement about the beginning of the new lights down on the field, and I knew the Jaycees were involved. I don't recall details, but I feel pretty sure that Bill Cox was active in the group about that time, and proba-*

bly Dean Snook too.

"I remember my dad and Dean dressing up in carnival gear to help run a number of the Jaycee's annual carnivals in the old fairgrounds building. Those carnivals were some of the best fun I ever had as a kid. Terrific!"

Paul reminded us that he had donated a couple of boxes of Jaycee related materials to the society, among those items were membership contact lists and flyers for events — dances and such. He also thought there might be some meeting notes, but can't say for sure.

Finding out what we have in our archives, and then developing a system for organizing, cataloging, preserving, filing, and retrieving this growing mass of documents and artifacts, is just another example of the kinds of jobs waiting for an expanded society membership.

... statistics from our webmaster ...

If you ever want to see society member Marie Morrill's eyes glaze over, refer to her as our webmaster. It's the "master" part that tends to flummox her. She has on occasion implied that the operative part of the word website is web — which most of us less than tech-savvy users view as a construction of sticky threads nearly, if not impossible to unweave, yet incredibly easy to become irretrievably entangled within. As one who has himself suffered hours of stroke-inducing hypertension while enraged at an intractable line of hypertext, I know of whence I speak.

On the other hand, Marie approaches her job with a degree of fatalistic humor that somewhat relieves the rest of the membership from the guilt we feel at having foisted the widely feared job off on her unwary self. (*Don't tell her — this being our little secret.*)

Committed to trudging on, Marie, as part of her November report to the society, printed out a graphic summary of the website's usage statistics for the last year. The statistics break down usage on a month by month base. Since each month presents its

own unique data, we've randomly chosen to extract only the data from January of 2016 for use in this discussion.

Referred to by the website's hosting company as "a fairly accurate representation," the amount of data outflowing from our website in the one selected month was given as 6,230,649 kilobytes. That can be rounded to 6.231 gigabytes. To give some sense of size, the standard, single layer DVD most disk burning computers write to stores about 4.7 gigabytes of data.

Another way of looking at the amount of data sent from our website in January of last year is to consider that the downloadable PDFs of our monthly newsletters have a file size that usually falls somewhere between 4 and 10 megabytes each. If we settled on an average of 7.5 megabytes for each *Mortarboard*, the above noted 6.231 gigabytes would represent around 624 copies of the newsletter. In other words, though *Mortarboard* openings likely represent only a fraction of the items rummaged through on the website, we are in fact sending a respectable amount of data to downstream computer screens each month.

The question then becomes, who's looking?

That's the rub. There are lots of in-human things lurking around the web — and I'm not just talking about the troll like provocateurs who have proven themselves so helpful in lowering the internet's cumulative IQ to that of a rotting stump. Rather I'm talking about "search engine spiders" and other robotic programs that poke around inside webpages. A good portion of these robots serve a useful purpose — they crawl around the web, gathering information as to what and where things are, and then they take that data back to the various indexing systems. This process allows you to type an inquiry about something into your search engine — say the fruit bat population of Belize — and the engine will almost instantly present you with a prioritized list of web pages that "may" be able to answer your question.

Because these machines give the illusion of being intuitive, we sometimes forget they're still just machines. There's not much point in getting mad at them for misunderstanding. Their human programmers are a different matter — meaning with them, there's a point.

The same is true when it comes to explaining to the non-initiated the esoteric workings of websites. Our website's simplified usage graph and separate page of bare-bone definitions leave much to be guessed at. I'm sure those that understand — or at least think they understand — the underlying mechanics of cyberspace will take exception to the following assumptions. If they can put their understandings into a brief and easily understood form of English — something heretofore proven elusive — such would be welcome.

So, this is what the data suggests to your editor.

In February of 2016, the society's website received 2,063 "hits." This only means that 2,063 request or queries were made to the site by the internet's various search engines. It should be clear by now that far from all of these queries had a human at the other end.

Four hundred and forty eight pages were visited in the month. These visits are also referred to as "page views." That would almost seem simple enough. But then the explanatory material begins defining the term "page" as the summoning up of various kinds of files with various kinds of extension names. It then compounds this irresolution by noting that the "definition of a page" tends to vary "by server" — apparently meaning different service providers sometimes interpret commonly used terms as meaning something different.

One thousand, nine hundred, and sixty three files were downloaded from the website. Included would likely be any photos (robotic programs collect quite a few of these — likely in search of explicit images), or PDFs such as the online *Mortarboards* and so

on.

And lastly, the statistics list 165 "visits" — also called "sessions" — for the month of February. This is defined as the number of individually identified internet addresses visiting the site during the month.

What our website wanted to make very clear was that the visits/sessions from any given address, if separated from each other by thirty minutes, would be counted as separate visits. Meaning, if you sign out, then sign back in an hour later, the statistics count your address's second visit as a separate incident.

While the statistics regarding the website appear a confusing muddle to the non-expert, the important thing to draw from them is that our website does get visited by humans — though not nearly as much as we'd like. On the other hand, considering the relatively low cost of the exposure the website provides the society, it's still a pretty good deal.

... the *Mortarboard's* proofers ...

As the little strip of names running vertically outside the margin of the final page of each issue of this magazine should clarify, producing the *Mortarboard* is a collaborative effort. The above referenced line of script begins, "Volunteer proofreaders for this issue." After comes the name of each member of the *Mortarboard's* editorial group able to find the time to read through the preliminary version of that issue with a critical eye, and then offer some suggestions to make it better.

Sixteen people are currently members of the *Mortarboard's* editorial group. Approximately two weeks prior to an upcoming issue's due date, each group-member receives a proofing facsimile of the impending issue. To ease the proofer's task, all the text from the proofing facsimile is copied and pasted into an accompanying Word file. The proofers' job, time and energy permitting, is to go through either or both these formats looking for errors. These can be errors in spelling, punctuation, word usage, comprehensibility, story continuity, the arrangement of print objects — align-

ments and so forth, or any of the multitude of other things that can and do go wrong in any publication. They can make a list or highlight — whichever works best for them — everything that seems to be out of order, and return such to me.

With a fresh eye, their job is to criticize and correct — those being necessary for the creation of a crisper, cleaner, more professional looking publication. Once they've done so, my job is to evaluate then implement their suggestions — the element of judgement inherent in that being the reason the buck always stops with the editor.

Last month's issue closed my third year as the *Mortarboard's* editor — that is to say my third year in this iteration. I had the job once before, back at the beginning. During these last three years I've depended heavily on my proofers. This last issue (#104) was especially troublesome. Once I inserted the corrections suggested by my proofers, I wrote a letter of appreciation to those returning corrections for that month. But in truth, this note is for all the people in my editorial group.

With a typical splash of what the *Mortarboard's* current editor assumes to be humor, the letter began, "So — another about-to-be-printed issue of historical speculation, rumination, and documentation waits in anticipation of the coffee rings, muddy footprints, twisted-wick fire starts, and the dank recycle bins that a certain portion of the *Mortarboard's* paper copies are foreordained to suffer. This may seem a bit harsh. But when leaving the society meeting at which print copies of *Mortarboard* #1 were distributed — way back in May, 2008 — I noticed one of my freshly passed out magazines acting as a member's coffee coaster, with the typical brownish stain slowly wicking outward. What I experienced at that moment was surely the kind of sadness an oyster feels when releasing millions of offspring with full knowledge that only one or two have any real chance of surviving (more than a little poetic latitude regarding an oyster's cognitive capabilities requested here).

"But unlike oysters, the society has a

backup plan — such having been in place from the very beginning. Since the survival potential of any given paper issue of the magazine is so low, we disseminate our brood into alternate oceans. We deposit copies in cyberspace. We embed our little creations in our archival Collected Newsletters, thereby making sure they always remain in print. We constantly update and burn DVDs containing printable masters of every one of our past issues, then distribute said DVDs to select members of the society for safekeeping. What an oyster does by replicating by the millions — a trick they probably learned by observing the weekly cycle of *Collier's Magazine* during its World War II heyday — we accomplish by wiggling into all kinds of historical archives.

"Assuming Western civilization survives (or any civilization for that matter), a hundred years from now some researcher is going to stumble on — let's say — issue #104 of the *Mortarboard*. And here's what he or she isn't going to find.

"He or she isn't going to find that at least four of the ten or so times I thought I wrote 'Congregational Church,' what appeared on the page was 'Congressional Church.' The first amendment's admonishment regarding the government's ability to establish religion aside, this isn't what I intended to say. Editorial group member Rick Hodges pointed the error out.

"Some very convoluted paragraphs won't be noticed because group member Betty Deuber suggested they be streamlined.

"Bill Sebright not only caught a few typos, he also — knowing my tendency toward age-induced melancholy — offered some much needed encouragement.

"Lina Swain, meticulous as ever, spun out page after page of very accurate corrections. And yes, I hadn't noticed the difference between 'time elapsed' and 'time-lapse.' And now, at least for a little while after having mended the error, I will. My holiday prayer is that Lina's still among my proofers the next time I don't recall the difference. This is always a worry, since I never

know how much time will need to time-lapse before I totally forget. Or is that simply lapse? Damn, I need my proofers!

“And then there’s Charles Stewart. Chuck pointed out that the detailed history of Reverend Rice found in the gymnasium story should have been a standalone article. And that’s true. The pace of the gymnasium story’s journey to some sort of point could have been quickened by moving the bulk of the reverend’s detailed history to a sidebar or some such, and replacing it with a minimalist sketch sufficient to cover the reverend’s part in the larger story. (I do have a tendency to drift off topic.) But the major rewriting and reformatting necessary to do such a restructuring just a week before deadline would have been overwhelming to the point of missing said deadline.

“The thing is, some things, some errors, some typos, some bad editorial decisions will inevitably make it into print. And since writing, editing, and formatting for publication eventually distills down into what is very much a public performance, some degree of public embarrassment is inevitable.

“That said, the show must go on. I would just like to remind all my proofers that to a very great extent it’s the diligence of the Mortarboard’s crew that keeps the error-related embarrassments to a minimum, thereby making the show at the very least a respectable performance — and every once in a while, a very good one as well.”

The editor would like to remind everyone that membership in the Mortarboard’s editorial group is open to anyone interested in this aspect of the historical society’s work. Membership in the society itself is not required. Only a willingness to look over the early drafts of each month’s issue and voice concerns or forward corrections. To join, send me a note via the email address supplied on the last page of this issue.

Also note that each of the people involved with the C/DPHS in any capacity does so for a reason. Most of those reasons have something to do with their own history in the

region. Reasons aside, what they are doing within the group fits very much within the category of a community service — but only if one considers working to preserve a community’s history a service.

... remembering Pearl Harbor ...

The minutes for the society’s December 10th meeting (posted in this issue) include the following from Bill Sebright. “The (December 7th) Spokesman-Review had an entire section on the 75th Anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Ray Harshman’s name was on the list for this area. His family lived in the Kap Westby house across the parking lot from Clayton School. Ray was Scout Master of the Clayton Boy Scout Troop 108 after Orin McBeth. Does anyone know of others from the Clayton/Deer Park area that were at Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941?”

Regarding the same Spokesman-Review newspaper, society member Mike Reiter noted it included of a story about former Deer Park resident Ray Daves, another survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack who went on to other actions in the Pacific theater. Mike added that some of this gentleman’s history is included in a book titled ‘Radioman.’ Favorably reviewed on Amazon, *Radioman: An Eye-witness Account of Pearl Harbor and World War II in the Pacific* was authored by C. E. Hipperson — original hometown, Coulee City, Washington.

Mike stated, “Ray was a great guy who passed a few years back. He was one of the regular members of Mike Wolfe’s hardware store coffee club, along with others such as John Wagner, Howard Whorle, Mark Jones, Jim Guenther, and Mike Burdette — to name a few. Some really great stories there!”

... vintage phone numbers ...

This email thread began with a request for the telephone number used by old Clayton brick plant (see society minutes, this

issue) around the time of its closing — which, it turns out, the society doesn’t have. The request did bring this comment from editorial group member Gary Ross.

“I have a 1949 wall calendar that my grandmother hung in her Deer Park home. The calendar was a give-away from ‘Fred’s Quality Meats’ (A. F. Bettfreund), Deer Park. The telephone number for his store was ‘425.’ Just three numbers.”

In a second email Gary added, “I came across some old phone numbers for various people and businesses in Deer Park. E. C. Weber Hardware, 625; C. G. ‘Ole’ Decker, City Meat Market, 1391; Floyd’s Store (formerly Mix’s), 71; Doctor Glen E. Snyder, 6-2189 or 6-2140; Ground Observers Post Supervisor John Johnson, 6-6361. And Chief Observer Paul W. Hodges, 6-6738.”

Gary was curious about the different number of digits used at different times.

Society member Mike Reiter responded, “When I was a kid our phone number was 6-6892. If I called Spokane — a long distance call at the time — I had to add the BR (Broadway) prefix, or what amounted to 276-6892.

“I think Clayton was part of the Broadway prefix. So, in the mid to late 1950s the brickyard probably had a BR number.

“A lot of the (local) ads in the old Deer Park Union had neither phone number nor address. I guess they just figured everyone knew where they were.”

That last point — the lack of accompanying addresses — is proving a real problem for historians when it comes to researching locations.

At this point editorial group member

Ken Westby, whom, along with society vice-president Pete Coffin, authored the *Mortarboard* article “*Telephone Service Comes to Deer Park*,” clarified the issue.

As Ken explained “Prior to September 27, 1951, all the telephones in the Deer Park exchange were connected to a ‘manual’ switchboard. ... Human operators made the requested connections using plug-ended cords and jacks. When there were fewer than 100 telephones in the Deer Park exchange, each phone could have a unique two-digit phone number. When the local system expanded to more than 100 telephones, phone numbers increased to three digits, which could accommodate up to 1,000 numbers. Call requests would be given verbally to the operator — for example, ‘625 please,’ or ‘Weber Hardware, please.’ Operators quickly memorized frequently called numbers.

“In September, 1951, the manual switchboard in Deer Park was replaced with an ‘automatic’ dialing system that allowed callers to dial directly to residences and businesses within the Deer Park Exchange (long-distance calls still required an operator). At that time the Deer Park exchange expanded to four digits, which began with the digit ‘2’ or the digit ‘6,’ allowing for up to 2,000 unique telephone numbers.

“Not long after, a leading ‘6’ was added to the four-digit number as a prefix and later yet the prefix was expanded to BR6 — or, as noted, 276.

“Starting with the large cities, these changes in telephone numbering were taking place across the entire country. Accompanied by significant technological changes in the size and complexity of the nation’s massive

Further Reading:

“*Telephone Service Comes to Deer Park*,” by Ken Westby & Peter Coffin.

Part one, *Mortarboard* #94, February, 2016, page 1217.

(http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard_issue_94_doublepage_web.pdf)

Part two, *Mortarboard* #95, March, 2016, page 1233.

(http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard_issue_95_doublepage_web.pdf)

Find both in *Collected Newsletters, Volume 26*.

telephone infrastructure, all of this was aimed at enabling the nationwide direct-distance calling with little or no operator assistance we enjoy today.

“All of which is to say that the various telephone numbers cited in Gary’s examples may be viewed from a historical perspective, noting that as the telephone grew in popularity over the years, and the subscriber base rapidly expanded, the local numbering system grew along with it — from two digits in the early 1900s, to the current ten.”

To read the complete story, we refer you to the two part article “Telephone Service Comes to Deer Park.” For directions to the article, check the “Further Reading” box at the bottom of the previous page.

... a lack of factual recognition ...

I sometimes think our historical society’s existence is a closely guarded secret. If so, that has never been our intent.

The degree of relative inconspicuousness our group seems to suffer was recently suggested by a comment appearing in the newsletter of another historical society — this group both well established and respected. Referencing our group, their publication stated, “The Springdale and Clayton Societies ... have combined into the Deer Park Historical Society.” Having first joined the Clayton Historical Society in December of 2003 — and

being in attendance when, several years later, the name was changed to the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society — this is news to me.

I debated whether or not to send a corrective email to said publication, but concluded there was no long-term benefit to our group in doing so. If we were more deeply impressed within the region’s awareness, either that publication’s editor would have known the facts, or have felt it wise to check his/her assumptions before printing.

Looking at this from a commercial point of view, a lack of recognition is suggestive of a problem we need to own, not the other group’s newsletter. And this does appear to be an ongoing problem — one that our society’s vice-president, Pete Coffin, brought forward during several recent meetings.

We aren’t receiving enough feedback from the local community to be able to gauge the public’s awareness of the society and its mission, but it does appear to be less than we might hope for after this many years. Pete’s been asking if some form of active advertisement might not increase the society’s name and mission recognition. And the simple answer is, we don’t know.

So, is advertising in commercial media something we should consider and possibly, mindful of cost, experiment with? That’s something we definitely need to think about.

———— Wally Lee Parker ————

Minutes of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society ———— December 10, 2016 ————

In attendance: Bill Sebright, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Marilyn Reilly, Don Ball, Sue Rehms, Mark Wagner, Lorraine Nord, Marie Morrill, Peter Coffin, Judy Coffin, and Elaine Ball.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. He reported that: 1) Patty Shives Wainwright emailed wondering if we had any pictures that showed the telephone number of the Brickyard. Her

son Brad is having John Race paint a Clayton Brickyard picture on the side of a race car. He wanted to include the phone number. Please let Bill know if you know where we could find this phone number. 2) Joseph Birky called and said he has a 1957 map of the Clayton area that he would like to donate to the C/DPHS. Joseph lives on Belstar Road west of Williams Valley Road. He has purchased the land at the southwest corner of Williams Valley and Belstar. 3) The *Spokesman Review* had an entire section on the 75th Anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Ray Harshman’s name was on the list for this area. His family lived in the Kap Westby house across the parking lot from Clayton School. Ray was Scout Master of the Clayton Boy Scout Troop 108 after Orin McBeth. Does anyone know of others from the Clayton/Deer Park area who were at Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941?

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported the main checking account ended the month at \$7,022.08. There were deposits of \$30.00. One check was written to Wally Parker for supplies for \$189.57. The web hosting account ended the month at \$821.49, with a withdrawal of \$10.95 for web hosting.

Society Vice President Pete Coffin reported: 1) A Thursday, December 1st, trip to the Washington Digital Archives in Cheney, was both futile and interesting. Newspaper reports that Spokane County Assessor historic record books had been sent there was only partially correct. Only the assessor field notes had been sent, and only the early field notes from sometime in the 1940s. The facility is being staffed by only one person, Archivist Lee Pierce, and to use the facility one has to make reservations. 2) Sent a set of the digital Deer Park newspapers to Mrs. Sandra Davis with a mention that the Stelting photographic collection contains Throop family photographs. A Stelting girl had married a Throop. 3) Started organizing the Deer Park business, insurance records and the First State Bank records by first washing off the dust of over 100 years. A review of the 1926-1927 insurance receipt records revealed the approximate

location of the Deer Park Ceramic Tile and Brick Manufacturing Company. It is not an exact location, but it must have been located west of the railroad tracks, north of Crawford, and perhaps on the old Short mill site. W. H. Short and L. C. Gimmel were conspicuous in the bank ledgers with many 1,000 plus dollar transactions in columns where 25 to 50 dollar transactions were the norm.

Print editor Wally Parker reported: 1) One hundred and ten copies of the December *Mortarboard* (#104) have been printed for distribution, and the online version submitted for posting. This twenty page edition begins with an article investigating the early days of Deer Park’s recently demolished Crawford Street gymnasium. The edition’s Letters/Brickbats segment discusses the recent relocation of the Perrins Field plaque honoring the playground’s namesake, legendary Deer Park High School teacher M. S. “Sam” Perrins — said move also related to the gym’s demolition. 2) Going forward, the *Mortarboard* hopes to feature an article displaying a set of 1935 photos of a living deer stuck to the ice on Loon Lake. Also under construct is an article built around three recently obtained photos of the Great Clayton Fire of 1908. As regards longer range plans, if all we’re attempting to draw together comes together, the coming year is likely to be an interesting one for our readers.

Webmaster Marie Morrill reported that she has the November and December *Mortarboards* posted online. Also, she attended an American Alliance of Museums webinar on getting started on collections storage. (The term “webinar” is short for “web-based seminar;” a participant interactive presentation, workshop, or lecture conducted over the internet using video conferencing software.) Here are the most relevant points that would apply to us: (a) We need to know what we have. This could start out as a handwritten list in a notebook. It would be helpful to note on this list who donated the items, their current condition and where the items are currently located, i.e., in whose home. (b) Then we

could determine what kind of requirements we have as we decide what kind of storage we need. (c) When it comes time to get a building, we need to consider environment, size of building, what kind of access we want to have to it, not to mention cost.

In January, C/DPHS dues are due.

Penny Hutten reported by email that the Westerners Spokane Corral's meeting will be Dec. 15, 2016, at the Airport Holiday Inn. Contact Pat Holien by Dec. 12, for reservations at 509-951-2090. Stephanie Plowman will give a talk about *The Bing Crosby Collection and other interesting Collections of Gonzaga University*. Stephanie is the archivist for Gonzaga University. She is in charge of the Bing Crosby House, Digital Collections, Gonzaga University History, Japanese Americans in the Inland Empire, and the Manuscript Collection.

Pete contacted Jeff Clark of the Deer Park Magazine about the C/DPHS having an ad in the publication. The costs range from \$400 for a full page ad to \$100 for a 1 and a half inch by 5 inch ad. Do we need to advertise here? Would it be worth \$100? There was considerable discussion, but no motion. It

can be brought up again later.

Mike Reiter was called in early this morning to plow Deer Park streets, so had nothing to report. He does have a paper written by Jeff Allen in the 1980s about the Nike Missile Site he wants to get in the archives.

After the November meeting Mike Reiter, Wally Parker, and Bill Sebright found a couple bubbles on the ochre colored base of the terracotta Eagle. Bill emailed Doug Flewelling at Pioneer Waterproofing. Doug called and emailed Bill. Doug's email read as follows: "Those bubbles were not present during my visit. October was an extremely wet month. My opinion is that the moisture came up through the bottom of the base. I am not concerned with these bubbles. We will address them in the spring. We will remove the coating in these areas and recoat. Again there is nothing to worry about at this time."

Next meeting: Saturday, January 14, 2017, at 9 AM at the Clayton Drive-In.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 AM.

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

— end —

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 —

Volunteer proofreaders for this issue: Betty Deuber, Rick Hodges, Mike Reiter, Bill Sebright, Chuck Stewart, Lina Swain, and Ken Westby.

From "The Coast" magazine,
April, 1907



See Yourself in Print.

The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society's department of Print Publications is always looking for original writings, classic photos, properly aged documents and the like that may be of interest to our readers. These materials should be rooted within, though not limited to, northern Spokane County, southeastern Stevens County, and southern Pend Oreille County. As for types of materials, family or personal remembrances are always considered. Articles of general historical interest — including pieces on natural history, archeology, geology and such — are likely to prove useful. In other words, we are always searching for things that will increase our readers' understanding and appreciation of this region's past. As for historical perspective; to us history begins whenever the past is dusty enough to have become noteworthy — which is always open to interpretation. From there it extends back as deep as we can see, can research, or even speculate upon.

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— the editor —

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

Ask about
"Collected Newsletters: Volume Twenty-Nine."