

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.

*Clayton School
Approaching Centennial:
Next Year Will Mark
100th Anniversary of the Historic Building*
by
Wally Lee Parker

The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society took the lead in organizing this year's largely successful Clayton Brickyard Day celebration. At a recent meeting of the society — while summarizing the lessons learned during that coordinating effort — society president Bill Sebright pointed out that next year's event will mark a very special milestone — the 100th anniversary of the opening of Clayton's historic school. He then suggested that the old school should be the centerpiece of next year's event — simply because it seems the fitting thing to do.

The fact is the C/DPHS owes its existence to the old school. Our original organization, the Clayton Historical Society, came together in late 2002 as part of the community's effort to save the old school after the local school district announced its intention to sell

the building as surplus property. That community wide effort was instrumental in bringing about the refurbishing and modernization of the structure, and its return to life as an active public institution serving the region's educational needs.

After the decision to reactivate the old school was made, the Clayton Historical Society went in search of new goals. For the last decade its primary mission has been to collect and archive local history. The instrument for doing so has been the society's various publications. The society's success in that regard is recorded in almost 1,200 pages of print — those pages bound into 24 print-on-demand booklets. To enhance the usefulness of this archive, a name and place index is currently being compiled by the Northeast Washington Genealogical Society. More on that in

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>

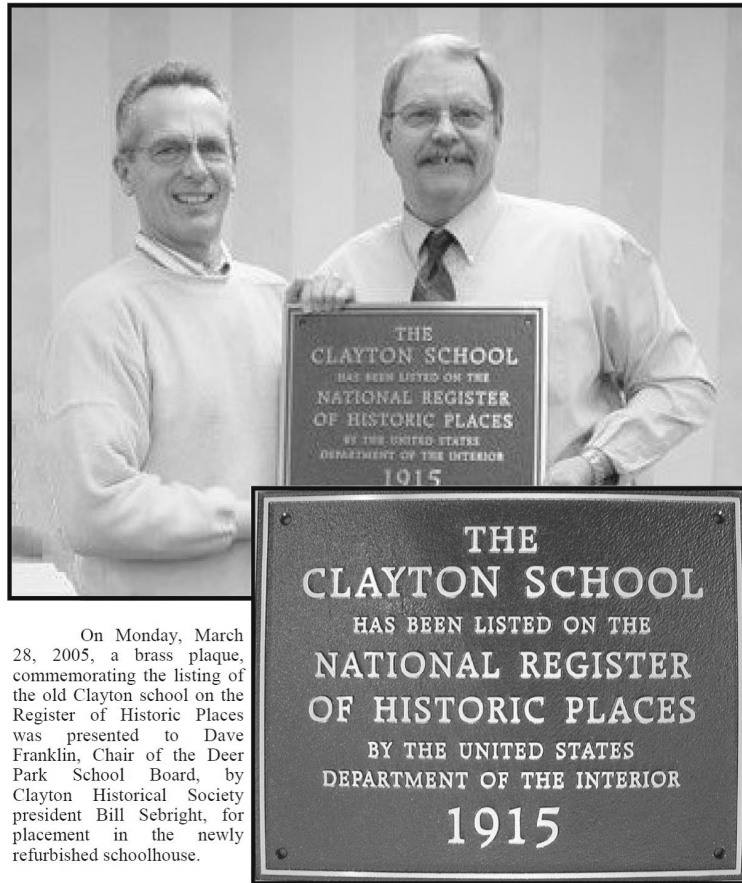
A print copy of this issue is or soon will be available in booklet format.

Ask about "Collected Newsletters: Volume Twenty."

Society contact information can be found on page 968.

Clayton Historical Society
Collected Reports — Volume One

Plaque Presentation
To
The Deer Park School Board



On Monday, March 28, 2005, a brass plaque, commemorating the listing of the old Clayton school on the Register of Historic Places was presented to Dave Franklin, Chair of the Deer Park School Board, by Clayton Historical Society president Bill Sebright, for placement in the newly refurbished schoolhouse.

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Above: A facsimile of the lead article from the society's first booklet, "Reports to the Clayton Historical Society — Volume One." This booklet was first published in 2005, and, like all of the society's other publications, has not been out of print since.

a future issue.

As the public face of the C/DPHS, it seems only reasonable that our literary/print activities should have an important role to play in the upcoming centennial. As always, how significant a role that will be depends on the community's willingness to help.

If you'd like to participate in archiving the old school's history, you'll need to share your stories with us. That sharing can be in the form of written or spoken (recorded) words, or in the form of mementoes you've kept hidden away for years and years. As regards the last, all sorts of odds and ends would be useful. A scrap of schoolwork from the 1930s or '40s or '50s, a note sent home by a teacher, a report card. We don't need the objects themselves, just a good quality image will do. But if you do have a small sliver of memory to accompany said images — just a few paragraphs or even a few lines of additional explanation can often speak volumes.

Telling these stories now, while you still can, is one way of reminding the future that you were here. Perhaps a shocking thought, but historical societies do tend to take a long and somewhat dispassionate view of such things. The fact is, within our society's print archives are numerous bits of living history told by voices no longer with us. We hope to reprint a few snippets of those rich fragments in the next several months — just to remind everyone how important such things can be to family, friends, and the community at large.

Often recounted in everyday voices, most of the history we record tells of common lives passing through ordinary days — ordinary days that can only be fully appreciated when looking back.

If you do have something to share, reach us via the "contact list" on page 968.

— end —

*Minutes of the
Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society
— September 13, 2014 —*

In attendance: Sue Rehms, Wally Parker, Pat Parker, Betty Burdette, Don Reiter, Mary Jo Reiter, Marilyn Reilly, Mark Wagner, Bill Sebright, Marie Morrill, Don Ball, and Bob Gibson

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. He reported: 1) Mike Reiter brought in a large envelope that was mailed to the Deer Park City Hall from Vicki Bergstrom in Rockford, WA. It contained a 1945 DPHS Stag year book, Commencement Program, graduation announcement, and 1995 Fifty year reunion book. 2) Robert Fischbach donated a large terra cotta pot that his parents, Ted and Mae, got from the Clayton Terra Cotta factory many years ago. Robert thinks it is about 100 years old. It

weighs at least 150 pounds and was on display at the Clayton Fair. 3) Gordon Grove agrees with Bill that Alice Justice Enright is in the unknown DPHS group picture we got from Marilyn Strong Taylor. Pete found that according to Social Security records, Alice was born in 1906. That would mean that Alice would possibly have been in the class of 1924. Bill will look at the graduation pictures in the council room at City Hall for other possible people. 4) Monday morning (Sept 15) The Heritage Network (THN) is meeting at the Loon Lake School for their monthly meeting, 9:30 AM. Next month — October 20th — the THN meeting will be at the Clayton School.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported: That the ending balance for the main

checking account as of Aug 30th was \$5,376.82. Checks written were to Deer Park Printing \$23.44, Prettyman's Septic \$150.00, and Clayton Day shirts for \$195.44. Deposits were \$646.00, \$45.00, and \$110.00. The web hosting account stands at \$1,072.32, and a withdrawal of \$10.95. The memorial fund is at \$2,080.00. The Brickyard Day fund is at \$874.17.

Society Secretary Grace Hubal reported by email: 1) She sent out thank you notes for Fay Reilly's memorials and to David Luhr for his family's generous donation. 2) She is stepping down as secretary because of other commitments. Contact Grace or Bill if you are interested in being Secretary.

Society Vice President Pete Coffin reported by email that he would miss the meeting today and is going to Diamond Lake to digitize Archie Hulseizer's historic pictures of the Little Spokane River Valley.

Print editor Wally Parker reported: 1) 90 copies of the September's *Mortarboard* #77 have been printed for free distribution. Said issue contains Pete Coffin's essay on pioneering Deer Park businessman Peter J. Kelly. It also has an extended "Letters" segment containing recollections of Mrs. Pember's 7th grade Pembraianians; dispiriting events of 1957 detailed within a discussion of artificial satellites and Mr. Smith's milk bottle; a photo essay of the Deer Park Air Show; a

few photos from the Old Settlers Day at Mix Park; and a letter from Bob Gibson describing the organization of a local grange baseball league in the early 1950's. 2) The family of Alvin Luhr has ordered five more issues of the large format version of "Tuffy's War." Those are being assembled at this time. David Luhr made a \$100.00 donation to the Society for all of the "Great work that you do." 3) For some time Print Publications has been considering the construction of a large format anthology containing a selection of the better articles that have appeared in the *Reports* and *Mortarboards* over the last nine years. Other than being a low-volume desktop publication using a commonly available size of paper and an economical spiral binding, little has been finalized. A price of \$15.00 per book is estimated. A picture of the Clayton School (centennial is next year) will probably be on the cover when it goes on sale next year. It will be print on demand. It is suggested that anyone wanting to have input into which articles should appear in this anthology, or wishing to otherwise participate in the creative and/or editorial part of this project, email the editor at bogwen100@msn.com, or call the editor at (509) 467-9433. Being a member of the C/DPHS is not a prerequisite for participating in this project.

Marie Morrill reported that: 1) Mortarboard #76 is on the website. 2) She

Mae Fischbach's flowerpot.



Photos by Bill Sebright.

fixed the July upload which for some reason had not saved the title right and downloaded the Index so she can start figuring out how to update it.

Penny Hutten reported by email that on September 18, 5:45 PM, Kay Lester will speak at the Westerners. Kay has been a teacher, TV Producer, and owned a video production business. She will speak about Mae Arkwright Hutton who came from Ohio to Coeur d'Alene. Her story is one of persistence, courage, and luck. Hutton was a saloon cook, boarding house owner, a partner in the Hercules Mine, a philanthropist, and a prime mover in Eastern Washington's women's suffrage movement, and an active figure in Democratic Party politics. For more information call Penny at 276-5454 or for reservations call 466-2439.

Marilyn brought a *Nostalgia Magazine* for Pete that has an article on Harry Tracy. Other ones she brought have articles on Arcadia Orchards and the Deer Park Missile Site.

Carl Lumberg, one-time Principal of Clayton School, graduated from Valley High School, Class of 1924. He became principal of Clayton School in 1945 and retired 1957. A. R. Hegre took over in 1957, in addition to his job as Deer Park Elementary School Prin-

cipal. Mr. Lumberg will be featured in an upcoming *Mortarboard*.

Florene Moore emailed that the North Spokane Farm Museum is having its annual spaghetti feed Saturday, September 13 at 5:30 to 7 PM. She also reported that Gladys Kumnick passed away at age 104. Last year at the age of 103 she was the oldest living graduate involved in the 100 year reunion for Deer Park High School. She was a member of the class of 1926.

Still pending: The deteriorating condition of the Eagle was discussed. Bill showed a picture of the Eagle before it was moved to Clayton. We are still working with the Eagle repair, Bill and Pete are getting together with Tom Taylor for sealing to prevent moisture from entering the terra cotta. We also will talk to Knight's Construction for ideas as well.

We are still looking for ideas and volunteers for the 100th anniversary of the Clayton School.

Next meeting: Saturday, October 11, 2014, 9 AM at the Clayton Drive-In.

Meeting adjourned at 9:59 AM. The meeting minutes submitted by Mark Wagner, acting Secretary.

— end —

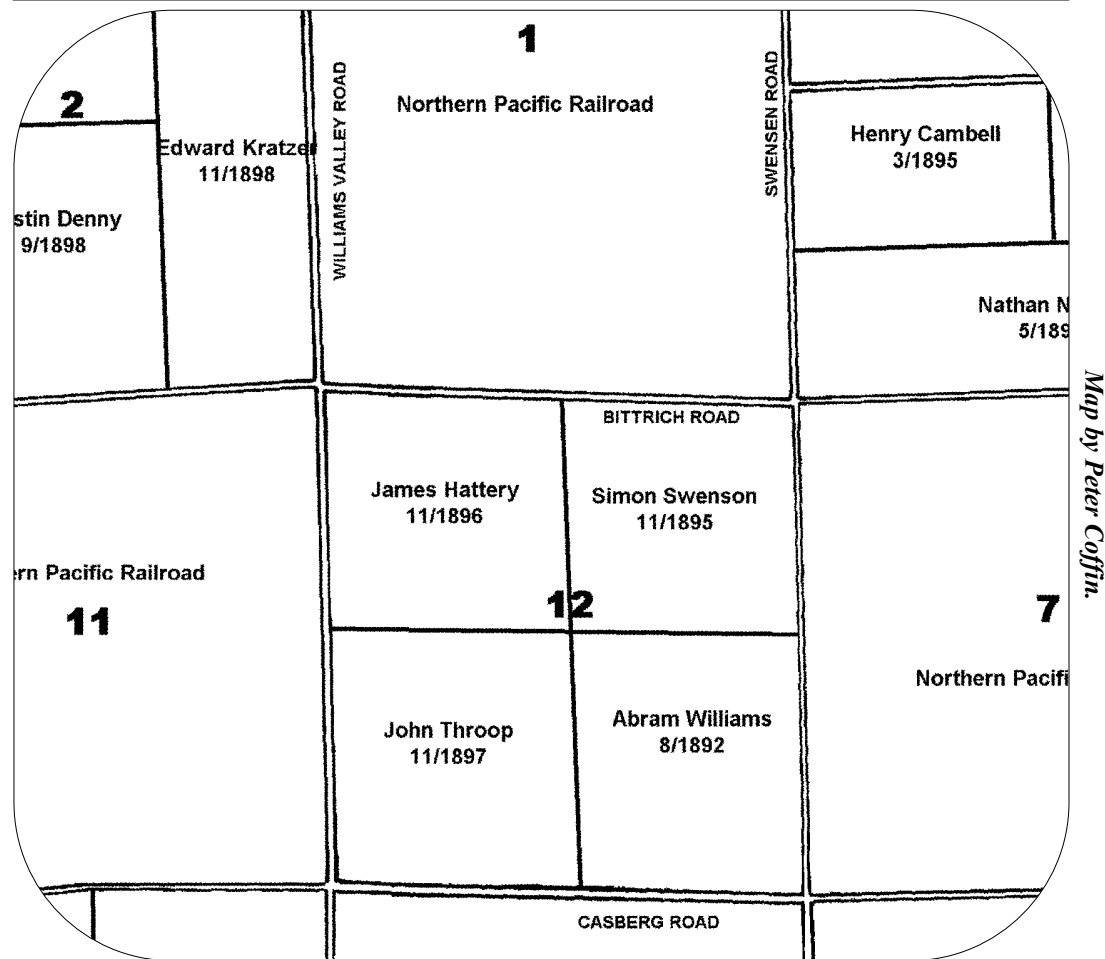
Simon Swenson: Williams Valley Pioneer

by
Peter Coffin

Simon Swenson received the deed for his homestead on November 26, 1895 (NE/4 Section 12, Township 28 North-Range 41 East Willamette Meridian — map on page 958). This quarter section is immediately north of Abram T. Williams homestead and I assume that Swenson Road was named for him as

Swenson Road borders the east side of his homestead.

Simon Swenson was born in November of 1855 in Norway and migrated with his parents to the United States in 1859. The United States Census of 1860 lists him, his parents, and a three year old sister as living in



Map by Peter Coffin.

Martell, Pierce County, Wisconsin. The May 1, 1875 Minnesota Territorial Census lists a Simon Swenson as a resident of Rolling Forks, Pope County, Minnesota. His name is not obviously listed in the 1880 United States Census but Ancestry.com ancestry trees indicate he married a Sarah Larson. In June 1880 the United Census listed Sarah Larson as living with her family in Minneola, Minnesota. It indicates she had been born in 1866. She must have been fourteen years old when she married Simon.

By 1886 the Swenson family was in Washington because the 1900 United States

Census shows their oldest daughter was born there. The 1892 Washington Territorial Census lists the Swenson family as residents of Stevens County along with Abram Williams, the Williams Valley namesake.

Sometime between late 1895 and receiving the title to the Williams Valley homestead and the 1900 United States Census the Swenson family had moved to Almota, Whitman County, Washington. Washington State records list his death on September 7, 1943, in Spokane.

— end —

In Search of Carl Lumberg: Clayton Grade School's Principal 1945 — 1957

by
Wally Lee Parker

In general conversation, it seems few people can recall Carl Lumberg with clarity. A long time ago — from the fall of 1945 till the late summer of 1957 — he was the principal of Clayton's grade school. Maybe the fog-giness around him is just an example of time's erosive effect on memory. Or maybe it's that those that do remember him were so young at the time that few recall anything other than a stern, imposing authority figure. That leaves us with little more than bits of old newsprint, a smattering of dates taken from online documents, and a few well-worn stories recalled by the students under his charge — most of whom are now old enough to be retired.

Stringing this all together, what we end up with seems to contain as much mystery as history.

Reportedly the Lumberg family arrived from Michigan and settled near Springdale around ⁽¹⁾1913. The family consisted of Carl's father, Swedish immigrant Gustave A. Lumberg (locally known as Dell), his mother, Nettie, who was born in Ohio, three older brothers — Raymond, William, and Harold — and his younger sister, Katheryn.

The family has five graves at Springdale's cemetery. Dell (1865-1926) and Nettie (1875-1950), Raymond (1894-1961), William (1896-1921), and Carl (1903-1960). Harold, (1898-1955) is buried at the Cashmere Cemetery in Cashmere, Washington — about 10 miles northwest of Wenatchee. Katheryn, the youngest, was born in 1908. She married Al-

bert Falk, a farmer in the Williams Valley area west of Deer Park, and passed away in 1994.

The first local mention of the Lumberg family so far discovered is William's death notice as recorded in the September 17th, 1921 issue of the *Colville Examiner*. The article states ...

"William Lumberg, son of Dell Lumberg, a farmer residing a mile west of Springdale, was found dead in the timber near his home last Saturday by a neighbor. A gunshot wound was found under the left arm, which had evidently caused instant death. A 12-gauge fowling piece which Lumberg had taken shooting with him was found hanging in the lower limbs of a nearby tree. Lumberg had lived around Springdale for the past ten years and had just recently returned from the harvest fields in the Palouse district. He is survived by his parents, two brothers and a smaller sister."

It's possible only two of the other brothers were mentioned in the above article since the 1920 census indicates that Harold was then living in Grand Rapids, Michigan. By the 1930 census he was married and living in Washington, at the small town of Monitor in Chelan County.

The oldest mention of Carl recovered to date was in the August 19th, 1935 issue of the *Spokane Chronicle*. Under the heading *"Betrothal Revealed; Wedding in Autumn,"* the

— Text continues on page 962 —

⁽¹⁾ *The Spokane Chronicle: March 7, 1961, page b3, column 6.*

Group photo:
*Clayton Grade School's
students and faculty
for the year 1945 — '46.
Carl Lumberg standing to the far right.*

Inset, far right:
*Carl Lumberg,
Class of 1924,
Valley High School,
Valley, Washington.*



Text continued from page 959

article, datelined “Springdale,” reads, “Miss Ruth Vallier of Chewelah recently announced her engagement to Carl Lumberg of this place. They will be married this fall and make their home near Clayton, where Mr. Lumberg will teach school.”

Despite the last sentence above, we have yet to find any document confirming that Carl was part of Clayton’s faculty as early as 1935. However, the smattering of material on hand does suggest he taught at several schools in the decade following his marriage to Ruth, and though one of those may have been Clayton, he was not teaching at Clayton immediately prior to assuming the roll of Clayton’s principal in 1945.

It should also be noted that several years prior to the beginning of WWII, Clayton had abandoned its high school as financially unsustainable and entered into an agreement with the Deer Park School District that led to the consolidation of the two school systems. When Lumberg became principal, it was over Clayton’s remaining classes — 1st through 8th grade.

As for the Lumberg family’s activities leading up to that, we do have the 1940 census which indicates that Carl (age 35) his wife Ruth (age 22), and their two children — Nancy (age 3) and Doris (age 2) — were living in Stevens County. A paragraph from the August 5, 1943 issue of the *Deer Park Union*, places them in Spokane when it states, “Nancy and Doris Lumberg, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lumberg of Spokane, are visiting their aunt, Mrs. Albert Falk.” And then the July 26th, 1945 issue of the *Deer Park Union* records that “Carl A. Lumberg, whose home is at Springdale, has been elected to fill the position of principal at the Clayton grade school. Mr. Lumberg has been serving as grade principal at Morton, Wash., the past two years and comes well recommended. He has had 14 years teaching experience.”

The small town of Morton mentioned in this final clipping is located on the west side

of the state, roughly 25 miles north of Mount St. Helens. And the mention of Springdale in the above article may be referring to the family farm, likely owned by Carl’s brother, Raymond.

One of the mysteries surrounding Carl was an item found in the April 28th, 1947 *Spokane Chronicle*. Datelined “Colville, Wash.,” the item stated, “Suit for divorce has been filed by Carl A. Lumberg against May Estella Lumberg whom he married June 22, 1946, in Spokane.”

A subsequent search indicated that the divorce was finalized on the 19th of December, 1947. What was not discovered in that search was what happened to Carl’s first wife, Ruth.

Also evident from that subsequent search was that after taking the position of Clayton’s principal, Lumberg purchased a home in Clayton, and continued to live there until health issue forced his relocation.

Searches of the archives of the *Deer Park Union* and *Tribune* suggest that Lumberg was an active educator — very involved in the community. But the nature of the school he headed was changing. For the last several years of his 12 year administration, all 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th, and 8th grade students were being bussed to Deer Park, while Deer Park’s 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students were being bussed to Clayton.

As the school district continued juggling classes between Clayton and Deer Park, Carl’s position at the Clayton school was also about to change.

Headlined “Deer Park Schools Open September 3,” an article on the front page of the August 8th, 1957 *Deer Park Tribune* said, “A. R. Hegre will assume additional duties this fall by being principal of both the Deer Park and Clayton elementary schools. The elementary staff will be almost the same as last year with the following teachers at Clayton: Carl Lumberg, sixth grade and head teacher, Eugene Gardner, sixth grade; Roy Hale, fifth grade; Elizabeth Stillman, fifth grade, Ingra McDonald, fourth grade; Wayne

Mackey, fourth and fifth grade.”

But Carl was absent as classes began on September’s first Tuesday. An explanation appeared in the September 5th issue of the *Tribune*, under the headline “Sixth Grade Teacher Stricken.” The local newspaper stated, “Carl Lumberg, sixth grade teacher in the Clayton school, was taken suddenly ill last Saturday and admitted to the Tri-County hospital in Deer Park.

“The stroke-like seizure has caused a partial paralysis of the nerves but doctors are still examining him to determine the exact cause and nature of his illness. He is expected to be incapacitated for some time.

“During his illness Mrs. Franklin Forrester of Deer Park is teaching his sixth grade class.”

Mr. Lumberg never returned to teaching. And then, as Clayton’s Ruth Stelting explained to the community in the January 14th, 1960 issue of the *Tri-County Tribune*, “We were sorry to hear of the sudden death of Carl Lumberg Saturday night about midnight from a stroke. He had been making his home with his brother and sister-in-law at Springdale. While Mr. Lumberg was principal of the Clayton school, he owned his home here which he sold last fall. He is survived by his brother, Ray, of Springdale; sister Mrs. Kathryn Falk, Williams Valley; two daughters, Doris Timman, Germany, and Nancy Grier, Davenport, and four grandchildren.”

Though the family may no longer be represented in the larger community, the family’s connection to the area is preserved in the naming of several miles of rural road west of Springdale. And also on a plaque located at the Springdale City Hall honoring area residents who served in World War II.

The young soldier mentioned on that plaque, Delmer H. Lumberg, never — as far as is currently known — lived in the Springdale area. He’s the son of Carl Lumberg’s older brother, Harold; the one that moved away, then settled in the Wenatchee area in the early 1920s. However, since Delmer did have two uncles and one aunt within a few dozen miles

of Springdale, it’s likely he wasn’t a stranger to the area.

Delmer was born in Wenatchee on the 1st of July, 1923, and died 22 years later — on his birthday.

He joined the Army Air Corp in June of 1942. At this time little else is known about his term of service, other than the fact that he — along with eight other airmen — lost his life when the B-29 bomber he was assigned to was torn apart during a severe thunder storm in the skies over Marshall County in western Kentucky.

The accident occurred very early on the morning of July 1st, 1945 — at 01:05 a.m. by the military’s reckoning. The aircraft’s debris came down about six miles south of the small town of Benton.

The B-29 the young men were operating was fairly new; having logged just under 40 hours in the air at the time of its destruction. It’s reasonable to assume that the air-



Sgt. Delmer H. Lumberg

crew was in training for entry into the strategic bombing campaign against Japan, since the war in Europe had already ended. What makes the accident even more tragic is that the bombing missions in the Japanese theater would essentially be over just seven weeks later, which meant it was probable that the B-29's crew would have been exposed to little if any combat risk if actually sent overseas.

Of course, since Delmer had enlisted early in the war, it's quite possible he'd already been in combat on one of the fronts.

As for the details, what is known for certain was provided by the aircraft's one survivor, Corporal Irving A. Elias of Brooklyn, New York. Elias, one of the craft's waist gunners, was moving toward the rear of the bomber when the plane seemed to come apart and he found himself outside the aircraft at 8,000 feet, falling though the dark. He managed to open his chute, and once on the ground he sheltered under a bush until it was light enough to see.

Elias found a farmhouse. The farmer, due to the intensity of the night's storm, was apparently unaware that large parts of the aircraft had fallen nearby.

Reports indicate the fuselage came down in two major pieces, with the rest of the aircrew still inside. Sergeant Lumberg's remains were sent home to be interred at the Cashmere Cemetery in Chelan County, Washington.

The aircraft — serial number 44-86334 — was based at Kirtland Field, New Mexico. It appears an Army Air Force accident report is available should anyone care to investigate the circumstances further.

Of Carl's family, his father and brother William died in the 1920s, his mother in 1950, brother Harold in 1955, Carl in 1960, and the last of the Lumberg boys, Raymond, only survived Carl by six months — passing away in early March, 1961. Katheryn, the

baby of the family, carried on until February of 1994 — surviving the last of her generation of Lumberg's by 32 years.

The picture of Carl Lumberg derived from all these snippets of newsprint and assorted documents is largely somber. All of the Lumberg men that settled in the Springdale area in the early nineteen hundreds died relatively young — the longest living, Raymond, passing away at age 66. Carl was married twice, but the combined total of his married life couldn't have exceeded 12 years — and was, most likely, less. Since we don't know what happened regarding the end of his first marriage, it's difficult to guess what his relationship might have been with his daughters while he was teaching at Clayton. Were they living with him, or elsewhere? All these things are puzzles for which we currently have no answers.

What we do have are a scattering of remembrances. One such recollection, this from a prior C/DPHS article (*see note below*), is reprinted here.

In an interview with the Clayton Historical Society, Neil Cumpton, a Clayton student from the mid 1940's to the early '50's, recalled, "Besides being principal of the school, Lumberg was the 8th grade teacher, and coach for all the school sports.

"I remember his big paddle. He was always gonna whip on us guys for one thing or another.

"One time — I think it was the time they found the dead snake we'd dropped into our 7th grade teacher's desk — Lumberg said to the class, 'whoever put that snake in there had best stand up,' and all the guys stood up.

"Don Fay, Dick Fay, Jack Van Slyke, Larry Lewis, Lyle Holcomb, me, and some others — we all stood up."

Neil's cousin, Arlene Whitney, added, "Right after they planted the snake, school closed for mud vacation — closed for at least

Note: The material quoted above was taken from an article titled "Rambling Around Clayton's Schoolyard." That article can be found in the "Reports to the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society, Volume One," pages 41 to 45.

a week. When we came back, you could smell Inga McDonald's desk from across the room."

Neil continued, "Mr. Lumberg kept saying that he was gonna whip us all for that, though he never got around to it."

The more stories of that kind we

have, the clearer our picture of Carl Lumberg will become. Everyone is invited to contribute.

— end —

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

Bits of Chatter, Trivia & Notices All Strung Together

... Darrell T. Smith ...

In the "Letters" segment of last month's *Mortarboard*, your editor was reminiscing about a science experiment that ended in an less-than-ideal manner (that also being the underlying plot of many a less-than-good science fiction movie). The experiment took place at Deer Park's grade school during the 1957-'58 school year. The protagonist in that anecdote was Mr. Smith, my 7th grade teacher.

At that time I didn't know Mr. Smith's first name — which is not surprising since the first names of grade school teacher's always seemed something of a state secret in those days. In the month since that issue I've uncovered the rest of Mr. Smith's name — Darrell T. — and hereby correct the record.

It should be noted that internet searches can be iffy things — as anyone who's ever tried them knows. And, when traces of names are discovered, it's too easy to assume that they are in fact traces of whomever or whatever it is you're looking for. Meaning — without outside collaboration, none of the following is certain.

It's possible that our Darrell T. Smith was born on the 11th day of August, 1931. That would have made him 26 years old during the 1957-'58 school year. And it's also possible that he passed away December 17th, 2007. If our Mr. Smith drops me a note in reference to this material, I'd gladly admit,

just as Samuel Clemens alluded, that the rumors of his passing are greatly exaggerated.

There's mention of a Darrell Smith in the June 10th, 1971 *Cheney Free Press*. If the same Smith, he was then teaching at the East Liberty Grade School — the Liberty School District being in the Spangle area.

It's not much of a remembrance for such a likeable teacher, so any further information on this Mr. Smith would be much appreciated.

... history versus nostalgia ...

One of my favorite films, Woody Allen's 2011 award winning *Midnight in Paris*, has at its heart the ever-present tension between people's dissatisfaction with the present and their creative reimagining of the past. It deals with the common desire to escape backward into "the good old days" — which a careful study of history tends to suggest never actually existed. And I was recently reminded of this perplexity by a kidney stone.

I'd fallen behind in pasting together this edition of the *Mortarboard*, and by way of an excuse I wrote the society's president, Bill Sebright, to explain that I'd been distracted by a trip to Holy Family Hospital's emergency room — followed by a quick zip through the hospital's CT scanner and the discovery there-

— Continued on page 968 —



The Clayton Fair — 2014

Photos by Bill Sebright

Approximately fifteen hundred people attended this year's fair. There was the usual assortment of farm animals being judged to determine "best in show" — many having been raised by members of the Future Farmers of America. Loren Lentz was seen using the power-take-off from Cliff Meyer's tractor to make ice cream. A number of people — including Clayton's Anni Sebright — had their artwork on display. The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society dusted off a number of its donated artifacts. Antique farm machinery sat in somewhat rusty rows. And a haystack maze waited for exploration. All this and more was found at this year's late August gathering.



——— *Continued from page 965* ———

by of a bit of calcium oxalate in painful transit — this discovery being quickly followed by a relatively non-invasive but effective intravenous treatment.

Bill emailed in reply, “*My dad had kidney stones. He said it was the worst pain he ever had. He had to sell the farm in Loon Lake to have an operation. That’s why we moved to the white brick house in Clayton. Then, when he recovered, we moved to the farm I still live on today.*”

The difference in outcome — 24 hours of misery followed by a quick resolution, versus a major, life altering intervention — is what 60 some years of medical advancement has made possible. In my case it was a two millimeter stone quickly done away with. In Bill’s dad’s case it was a surgical procedure that would most likely now be unnecessary since sound waves can be used to pulverize kidney stones without even breaking the skin.

And that’s the conclusion Woody Allen’s character, Gil Pender, drew from a dream he had about moving back in time — about moving back in the sense of being phys-

ically relocated into the “golden age” of Parisian arts and letters. As Gil noted, “*and then I went to the dentist and there was no Novocain. Do you see what I’m saying — these people have no antibiotics.*”

That’s the difference between nostalgia and history. Though recollections of an old country doctor making house calls with his little black bag in tow may seem idyllic, there was actually comparatively little that doctor could do against a serious illness. On the other hand, all this modern-day miracle working is frightfully expensive — at least in part due to the overpowering encroachment of monopolistic mega-corporations into the health care system. After all, when the CEO of your regional non-profit health care provider draws a annual salary of six million dollars, you can’t expect to pay the bulk of your hospital bill with ten fat chickens and a nice round ham.

Studying history places today’s problems in perspective, and suggests ways to make the future better. Turning back the clock to actually live in the past ... now that’s something you really need to think about first.

——— *Wally Lee Parker* ———

Volunteer proofreaders for this issue: Patricia Parker, Bill Sebright and Lina Swain.

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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