



Above drawing 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.

Copyright considerations for any materials submitted are stated in the "Editorial and Copyright Policy" dialog box found on page 1148 of this issue. For any clarifications regarding said policy, or any discussions of possible story ideas or the appropriateness of certain types of material and so on, please contact the editor via the email address supplied on the same page.

————— 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>

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.

THE
CLAYTON/DEER PARK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mortarboard

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Edward Nelson Robinson President, Arcadia Orchard Company

by
Peter Coffin

Edward Robinson was one of Deer Park's most influential businessmen from 1910 to 1920. He was born on June 3, 1875, in Henry County, Missouri, into the farming family of George and Cornelia Robinson. Henry County is about 50 miles southwest of Kansas City, Missouri. Census records show that he grew up in a family of five girls and two boys. Details of his life from growing up on the farm in 1880 to his being admitted to the Missouri state bar on July 26, 1899 is missing.

On October 21, 1900, he married Alice Vance, daughter of a Saint Louis lawyer, and started a family. By the time of the 1910 US Census his family was composed of two boys, George and Morton, and two girls, Mary and Margaret, living in Saint Louis, Missouri. Other data indicate he was estranged from his wife by 1910. On the census form, Edward's profession was listed as a "General Practice Lawyer."

His profession and the connections it helped him make in the Saint Louis area must

have helped him become one of the incorporators and a trustee of the Arcadia Orchards Company in February 1909. The articles of incorporation show him as a resident in Saint Louis. However, from 1909 on he was actually living in Spokane and Deer Park. Robinson and O. L. Olsen, another of the Arcadia Orchards Company's trustees, along with Sikko Barghoorn, manager of the Spokane office of the Netherland American Mortgage Company, ran the company. They considered the other trustees and incorporation signers, Floyd Daggett (company founder and too indecisive) and Allan Haynes (salesman and involved in risky business deals) as incompetent and managed to ease them out of the company.

Robinson's family life must have been strained by the distance to Saint Louis, squabbling with his parents, and an attraction to his secretary Ethel Irving. He divorced his wife, Alice, in 1912 and married Ethel Irving in Spokane on December 20, 1912. However the marriage to Irving occurred before Washington State's mandatory 90 day waiting peri-



Edward Robinson's \$5000 house on his orchard tract shortly after construction was finished. The house, today somewhat modified, is located at East 1302 Crawford. (Keith Photograph Collection)

od after a final divorce decree and he was fined \$100 for his haste to re-marry.

In 1913 The Arcadia Orchards Company moved their offices on Sprague in Spokane to Louis Olson's hardware store in Deer Park. At the same time an architect-designed bungalow style home was built on Robinsons' orchard tract on East Crawford at a cost of \$5000. As with houses of many other officers of the Arcadia Orchard Company, I assume that it was built by the company for him.

Robinson's salary at the beginning of his presidency was \$300 per month and was

increased to \$900 per month in 1915. The magnitude of this salary should be compared to the \$3.00 per day a man and his team were paid to work in the orchards at the same time. His wife shopped in expensive Spokane shops and had reportedly spent \$400 in a single day's shopping. He maintained bank accounts in both Spokane and Deer Park and was a member of the exclusive Spokane Club and the Deer Park Masonic Lodge.

As a businessman outside of his Arcadia Orchards Company presidency, he and O. L. Olsen operated a mercantile and the

REFERENCES

1. *Fahey, John, 199?, Selling the Watered West: Arcadia Orchards: Undated Manuscript in the Spokane City Library's Northwest Room, 57 p., 13 p. notes. (This manuscript is the primary source for most of this paper. A massive amount of research was done to document the rise and fall of the Arcadia Orchards Company and its president Edward Robinson)*
2. *Arcadia Collection: Eastern Washington Historical Society MS 102. (A collection of much of the material accumulated by the Arcadia Orchards Company that includes material that belonged to Edward Robinson and was the source for much of Fahey's research.)*

Take Your Choice

The largest, most complete, fascinating and bewildering assortment of new style straw hats ever seen in the vicinity of Deer Park. Styles and shapes to suit all. Healthy, cool, light.

Emphasize Your Individuality

One's personality, looks, dressiness, all are influenced by the hat in use; never more so than when straw hats are worn. Look this large consignment over. particular shape. Secure it before others have had first pick. It is the only way to obtain just the kind you need and are looking for.

SATURDAY—A GREAT DAY

See the big window. More straw hats in one display than was ever seen north of Spokane.

15c to \$6.50

All on view Saturday, May 11th.

Olson-Robinson Co

ARE YOU BUILDING!

Whether \$5,000.00 residence or \$5.00 chicken house you will need hardware. Anticipating the summer's building operations we have just increased our stock of builders hardware by a large consignment of everything the builder needs.

Fancy Bronze Metal Lock Sets. Elegant designs and guaranteed first quality. All standard size. An ornament to any front door.

Inside door lock sets of various finishes and styles. Big assortment in padlocks, door knobs and latches.

Transom trimmings and sash fittings. Sash holders and pulleys. Hinges of every description

Butts, straps, Ts, and every other kind, fancy or plain. Look this big stock of high grade hardware over.

A Word to the Ladies

Mrs. Allison, in charge of the dry goods, will be delighted to show you the very latest effects in Dutch collars, straight from New York, of beautiful quality and designs. Must be seen to be appreciated.

Olson-Robinson Co

*Left above: from the Deer Park Union, May 10, 1912.
Right above : from the Deer Park Union, May 17, 1912.
It appears that the above noted Olson-Robinson Company was then owned by the Olsen-Robinson Company — this despite the alternative spelling of "Olsen."
(see clipping on next page)*

OLSEN-ROBINSON STORE CHANGED HANDS

The Arcadia Orchards Company
Acquired the Entire Store
January 1, 1913

On January 1, 1913, the Arcadia Orchards Co. purchased the general stock of merchandise of the Olsen-Robinson Co., and also of the Arcadia Inn. which was owned and operated by the same company. Details of the transfer were made last week.

O. L. Olsen, treasurer of the Arcadia Orchards Co., states that the new owners expect to enlarge several of the departments, especially the hardware and implement lines, and that the standard of the store will at all times be in keeping with the standard that has characterized the development of its great orchard project.

John Olsen has been appointed manager of the new store and his many friends and business acquaintances are now extending him their congratulations.

*The Deer Park Union
January 24, 1913*

Deer Park hotel. Both of these businesses were sold to the Orchards Company. These partners became managers and sellers of orchard tracts, in competition with the Orchard Company, within the Arcadia Orchards Company areas. Robinson was president of the Deer Park Development Company which managed real estate and loans to orchard tract buyers and was associated with F. E. Parks land companies.

In the early teens the Arcadia Orchards Company was not making interest payments on the loans the Netherlands America Mortgage Company had given the company and the Dutch began to worry about the health of the venture. As the finances of the Arcadia Orchards Company deteriorated, Robinson and Olsen twice made plans to try to loosen the Netherlands American Mortgage Company's attempts to control the company. These plans involved issuing bonds to new buyers but both were proved unpractical for a number of reasons including poor bond market conditions. However, World War I delayed implementation of the Dutch takeover of the company. With years of serious frost damage, plus the war's shortage of railroad cars crippling the ability of the company to ship its apple crops, the company continued to decline. In the face of these developments the Dutch organized a new Arcadia Holding Company to take over direct management when Robinson failed. In 1919 the Arcadia Holding Company declared the Arcadia Orchards Company bankrupt and took ownership of all the Orchards Company lands and property.

The national and world economic conditions of 1920 worsened the situation. Due to low prices the 1920 crop could not be sold for the cost of growing. Frost damage in 1920 alone caused Robinson to claim a loss of \$7500. With the economic decline the Arcadia Valley began to see wholesale numbers of tract foreclosures for non-payment and accompanying increasing numbers of sheriff's sale listings were published in the newspapers. By this time Robinson was little more than a caretaker. Apparently seeing the course of events,

he and his wife had been spending time in California, and he had acquired a position as a real estate agent salesman in Los Angeles.

In 1925 he was removed as president of the company leaving his office so abruptly "...he left personal papers and photographs..." After losing his presidency, he and his wife

settled their affairs in Washington and moved to California to sell real estate.

Edward Nelson Robinson died on November 22, 1940, in Los Angeles, California.

— end —

Summer Events — 2015 A Photo Essay

by

The C/DPHS Editorial Group

Photos this page by Pete Coffin.



The historical society's display at Settlers Day. Society vice-president Pete Coffin noted that "the Annual Table (the society's collection of vintage Deer Park High School yearbooks) was very popular" — as can be seen in the photo to the left.





Brickyard Day — August 1st, 2015

Clayton Alumni

*A gathering of former Clayton students
at the old school's north entrance.*

(back row — from left)

*Mike Burdette
Glendale Barnes
John Robinson
Mike Henry
Chet Sebright
Loren Lentz
Bob Forsberg
Charles Gillum
Bucky Colvin*

(middle row — from left)

*Arlene Davis Whitney
LaFern Rasmussen Janson
Allen Barnes
Dale Dyke
Dianne Gibson Allert
Bruce Hodgson
Ed Kingery
Gary Coe
Jack Lewis*

(front row — from left)

*Bill Sebright
Dave Hodgson
Florene Eickmeyer Moore
Diane Weldert Hansen
Mae Huffman Fischbach
Sue Jenkins Rehms
Rosemary Staffenson Murphy
Lonnie Jenkins
Margie Tobeck Malek*

(Photo by Jeff Lilly)



*Above: The Deer Park Congregational Church float. The decorated trailer is being pulled by Dr. Mike and Teri Sardina's Clydesdale Team.
Below: The Clayton Community Fair float.*



Above: Eddie Olson driving his golf cart.

Below: Society Vice-President Pete Coffin driving his 1967 Camaro (his wife Judy riding shotgun). Behind (waving) is Honored Citizen Dorothy Lindh. Marilyn Lindh, also this year's Honored Citizen, could not attend Brickyard Day. Lorraine Zimmerer is riding in her stead.

Brickyard Day Parade: August 1st, 2015



Photos on this page by Bill Sebright.

Clayton Community Fair — August 21st, 22nd, & 23rd, 2015

Photo this page: A young lady continues the long tradition of excellence in animal husbandry as promoted by the Future Farmers of America. Women were granted full voting membership in the FFA beginning in 1969. Nationally almost half of the FFA's current membership is female, and approximately half the state leadership positions nationwide are now held by women.

(Photo by Bill Sebright.)



A Very Short History of the Fair.

The first community fair occurred in Deer Park in 1910. However, the community fair as now constituted traces its history back to the summer of 1931. That year Spokane's International Fair, which for many years had dominated local interest, went into hiatus — and by and large remained that way for some time. This once again opened up an opportunity to stage a local event, and Deer Park's Commercial Club, along with the local 4-H, stepped up to fill the void. This initiated a string of late August events that continued at Deer Park until — after 2005's gathering — the fairground was dismantled for commercial development. At that point the Deer Park Fair Association purchased a new venue near the village of Clayton, and in the summer of 2006 the Deer Park Fair was reinvented as the Clayton Community Fair.



The society's booth at the Clayton Community Fair.

This year the society had a nice spot in the left wing of the "Rabbits & Poultry" barn. Left to right are Betty Burdette, Marilyn Reilly, society president Bill Sebright, and then Carl and Jan Justice.

Of the event Bill said, "Things were a little slow at our booth, just like the rest of the Fair. Clayton School Post Cards, drag race material, Ownership Maps and the new Settlers' picture were the most popular parts of the display" — the alluded to Settlers' Day photograph being a panorama of over two hundred area residents taken in 1924.

Current plans suggest that the Settlers' Day photo, as well as a series of articles outlining the history of the Deer Park/Clayton Community Fair, will be appearing in future issues of the Mortarboard.

(Above photo by Penny Hutten.)

— end —

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

Bits of Chatter, Trivia & Notices All Strung Together

... the society receives an order ...

On the 3rd of September, society president Bill Sebright received by post a nicely laid out purchase order from the Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana. The order was for one copy each of the society's four *Reports to the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society*. Dating from 2005 through 2007, these are the oldest booklets in our print-on-demand archive. The purchase form stipulated that the Allen County library would pay four dollars each for these booklets — as is our standard rate — plus shipping.

We've no idea what could be in these four volumes to draw the library's interest, but dutiful to the fact that someone was willing to buy some of our booklets, Bill wrote the *Mortarboard's* editor to ask for some technical advice — after all, as everyone knows, editors know everything.

To Bill's request I replied that I would be inclined to consider one of those larger hard-cardboard Priority Mail envelopes. I said I have in the past used such to send small bundles of booklets and it seemed to work well. And by using the pre-paid envelope he'd know how much postage to add to the billing invoice before sealing it inside.

As for creating the invoice, I suggested a causal letter format, though Bill ended up using a more traditional business template designed by Nila Palmer for Brickyard Day. *(After the fact we also discovered all kinds of invoice templates available online.)*

Whether we did everything right is an open question — one that will only be answered when and if we get a check in return.

... see your family in print ...

The above noted request from a Genealogy Center in Indiana should remind us that copies of our newsletters are finding their way into archives around the world. That suggests that materials printed here will survive in both print and electronic media for some time. And that in turn suggests that one of the best ways to preserve recollections of those you care about is in these pages.

In that regard 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 that point it extends back as deep as we can see, can research, or even be curious about.

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certain types of material and so on, please contact the editor via the email address or telephone number supplied on the same page.

... *Leno's totem pole* ...

As noted in the minutes of the society's September meeting (*see below*), society member Sue Rehms brought a rather heavy 5 by 9 inch darkened brass plaque to the gathering. This artifact, bearing the inscription "Carved May, 1961, by Leno Prestini, Clayton, Washington, 1906 — 1963," was donated to the society by Carol (Perkins) Matlock of Airway Heights. As for the plaque's history, we know it once adorned the base of a totem pole carved in large part by Leno. As for the rest of the story ...

An article appearing in the July 5th, 1965 issue of the *Spokane Chronicle* describes the efforts of "Mr. and Mrs. Battista (John) Prestini of West Los Angeles," to establish a museum at Clayton commemorating Leno's life and art. The article also noted that "A totem pole left unfinished (by Leno) at Deer Lake is being finished for erection at the Spokane Interstate Fair."

Toward the end of that same month a

Spokesman-Review column by noted local journalist Dorothy Powers described the task of hoisting the "45-foot totem pole" to a standing position on the west side of the fairground's "sunken gardens."

As for the totem's fate, all we currently know is taken from an April, 1971, *Spokane Chronicle* article describing the damage caused to the fairgrounds by a windstorm that occurred on the 26th of March of that year — a windstorm with gusts as high as 65 miles an hour. The April article said, "County Commissioner W. O. Allen commented that the wind also blew down and shattered the totem pole at the Spokane Interstate Fairgrounds. 'Broke it off right above the lower eagle,' Allen commented."

The donated plaque is likely all that remains of the "shattered" totem pole — though surely at least a few photos survive somewhere. And doubtless a more complete understanding of the brass plaque's history is to be had. In the meantime, the society appreciates Carol Matlock's donation. And the *Mortarboard* will be publishing any further threads of this story as they come to light.

———— *Wally Lee Parker* ————

Minutes of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society ———— September 12, 2015 ————

In attendance: Bob Gibson, Don Reiter, Mary Jo Reiter, Judy Coffin, Pete Coffin, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Marilyn Reilly, Sue Rehms, Ella Jenkins, Lonnie Jenkins, Bill Phipps, Mark Wagner, Ken Westby, Chuck Lyons, Lorraine Nord, Marie Morrill, Betty Burdette, and Marilyn Reilly.

Society Vice President Pete Coffin called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. He reported: 1) Working with Ken Westby on a

large Deer Park area telephone history *Mortarboard* article inspired by the Neecha Treglown inquiry about a Williams Valley Telephone Company stock certificate. 2) Compiled a *Mortarboard* main article Index that includes both monthly issue main articles and the associated *Collected Newsletters*. 3) Digitized the book "Pioneer Days Reviewed; Historical Resources of the Deer Park Area" by Nancy Ann Fisher and Etta Mae Bennett.

4) Digitized William Hodges Short's "From Whence We Came," a history of the Deer Park Congregational Church. 5) Digitized the book "Historic Resources Inventory of Deer Park" after finding several errors about the Olson family houses. The Olson house on east Crawford was not built by Louis Olson Sr. as is assumed and the book indicates. 6) Printed the Blaylock drag racing history scrapbook and bound it in a 3-ring binder.

Society President Bill Sebright reported by email (He is at a family reunion in Oregon.): 1) We received a thank you note from the Inland Northwest Camaro Club thanking us for sponsoring a set of trophies for the Camaro Show. Pete Coffin did this in our name. We also received a thank you note from Artie Stein, who received one of the trophies. 2) Things were a little slow at our Clayton Fair booth, just like the rest of the Fair. Clayton School Post Cards, drag race material, Ownership Maps and the new Settlers picture were the most popular parts of the display. 3) Bill received a request for and sent Reports to the CDPHS 1-4 to the Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported: The main checking account ended the month (Aug 31st) at \$6,579.23. There were deposits of \$1,393. Checks cleared for the month were to Griffin Publishing for \$273.52, Clayton Day for games for \$62.88, Pioneer Waterproofing for eagle restoration for \$12,718.32, Prettyman's Septic for Clayton Day \$170.00, Wally Parker for supplies \$213.98, Web Hosting \$10.95, Wally Parker for supplies \$168.91. The web hosting account had no activity this month and stands at \$928.88. The Brickyard Day fund is \$901.33. The Eagle Restoration fund is at \$4,210.00.

Secretary Grace Hubal reported by email: 1) I wrote one thank you note for Eagle restoration. 2) I won't be able to make it to the meeting on Saturday because I don't have a day nurse. The agency has had great difficulty staffing Jason's case. 3) As for distribution of the *Mortarboards*, ask if any of the members

can drop them off at the following businesses. Mark Wagner volunteered to deliver these *Mortarboards*.

Library — 12
City Hall — 10
Chamber of Commerce — 6
Senior Center — 4
Gardenspot Market — 12
Standen Insurance — 12
Odynski's Accounting — 12
VFW — 3
Tribune — 2

Print editor Wally Parker reported: 1) 125 copies of September's *Mortarboard* (#89) have been printed for distribution, and the online version of this newsletter submitted for posting. The September issue contains Pete Coffin's article on "Louis Olson: Businessman/Builder," and your editor's retrospective on the recent "Clayton Eagle Restoration." 2) Number 23 in the *Collected Newsletters* series has been completed, with an initial print-run of 15 copies. 3) Six copies each of the following back issues of the *Collected Newsletters* have been reprinted; #4, #17, #18, and #21. 4) Our expectations regarding upcoming *Mortarboards* include a survey of businesses that were active in Deer Park in 1956; a photo essay revealing the Society's recently acquired panorama of the 1924 Settlers' Day picnic; and a photo essay recalling this summer's Settlers' Day, Brickyard Day, and Fair. Also on tap is a family history essay about Clayton pioneer Christine Nielsen-Wind-Cowan. This last is an impressive work penned by Susan Simpson, and I'm looking forward to seeing it become part of the society's growing print archive.

Webmaster Marie Morrill reported: She has all the *Mortarboards* posted but did not get a chance to tally monthly visits to the site.

Sue Rehms brought a brass plaque from a totem pole that Clayton's Leno Prestini crafted — a totem that stood at Spokane's fairgrounds from the mid-1960s till the early

1970s. Wally took the plaque for further research.

Sue gave Pete a brochure from the former Mickey Nessly (a Bigfoot Valley girl) who has a business painting very attractive watercolor scenes. The brochure was given to Wally for possible inclusion in a future *Mortarboard*.

Chuck Lyons attended the meeting to find out more about the Arcadia Orchard. The deed to his property mentions the Orchards. He is also interested in the engineering of the orchard. Pete will send him a map of the orchard for reference and other material he expressed an interest in as well as a digital copy of Fahey's draft of "*Selling the Watered West*." Chuck has a collection of old tractors and trucks and said he would entertain a field trip visit.

Betty Burdette said the display at the Clayton Fair was most impressive.

Ken Westby was in attendance (Ken's Dad was Marilyn Reilly's bus driver) and a 1959 graduate of Deer Park High School. He and Pete Coffin have been collaborating on future *Mortarboard* articles includ-

ing one about the telephone coming to Deer Park.

Marilyn said our mayor Robert Whisman was on TV. The show mentioned the new airport business park, some of Deer Park's history, and was featured on the front page of the September 9, 2015 Deer Park Tribune. Because the Society has cooperated with PBS they will give us a copy. Pete Coffin said he would take care of contacting KSPS to get the Society a copy.

Betty Burdett suggested that the group sign the new *Collected Newsletter* volume for Grace Hubal considering the problems she is having with getting reliable nurses. No one had a blank piece of paper, the newsletter was substituted, and everyone wished Grace well and signed the cover. Marilyn said she would take it to Grace.

Next meeting: Saturday, October 10, 2015, at 9 AM at the Clayton Drive-In.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 AM.

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

— end —

Volunteer proofreaders for this issue: Bill Sebright, Charles Stewart, Lina Swain and Ken Westby.

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

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

*Society contact information can be found
on page 1164.*

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 —