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For those believing tradition still has a place in the modern world.
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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.

THE
**CLAYTON/DEER PARK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
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*The Early Days of
Deer Park's Settlers Association*

*The Creation of
Deer Park's Tourist Park*

*Libby Studio's Panoramic Photo of
June 19th, 1924*

by
Wally Lee Parker

The full width of the 1924 Settlers' Day panorama is shown below. The outlined portions indicate the areas segmented for enlargement on the following pages.





The image seen here has been enlarged approximately 50% over the original.

In the original photo the faces above, on average, measured a little less than 1/4 inch on the diagonal — which in part explains the low resolution of this enlargement.

... a vigorous sense of community ...

At this point all we have is the photo — a horizontal swath of which is reproduced on this and the following pages. We know the date the photo was taken. We can guess as to the general area in which the photo was taken. We know that the photographer was Spokane's Charles Libby — or someone working for his studio. And we know that the gathering at which the photo was taken was hosted by the North Spokane & South Stevens County Settlers Association. All this can be deduced from the photo itself.

What we don't know is what distinguishes the group seen in the photo from the much larger crowd attending the picnic that day. Nor can we currently tack any names to these haunting images. Which is to say that the lack of further documentation — beyond it being a group photo taken during a Settlers' Day picnic — leaves us largely in the dark.

All we can do is hope something may someday surface to change that.

That said, what we can do — using just the sources on hand — is outline the early history of Settlers' Day to reveal the vigorous sense of community that brought this vintage and still existent event into being.

... assessing the photograph ...

The annual gathering called Settlers' Day has been a tradition in the Deer Park area longer than most anyone can recall from personal experience. That fact was brought into clarity in early August of this year when the family of Lawrence Zimmerer donated a well-worn panoramic photo to the C/DPHS. Beginning on the left lower edge, the photo is inscribed "North Spokane — South Stevens County Settlers Assn. Picnic — Deer Park, Wash. 6-19-24." A quick search revealed that June 19th, 1924, was in fact the third annual

Settlers' Day picnic — the first such event being held on September 16th, 1922, at a small roadside park on Wild Rose Prairie.

As for the photo itself, historical society member Roxanne Camp presented it to the society on behalf of the Zimmerer family. When received, it was protected in a glazed frame. It was obvious that the photo had suffered extensive handling by an unknown number of hands before being covered. Still, it's remarkably well preserved considering its 91 years.

Depicting an estimated 215 souls, the photo measures 7¼ by 33¼ inches. The image clarity, due to the distance between camera and individual faces, is not as good as one might hope — though it might be possible to identify a few of the figures if other historic photos of them exist. It also appears that at one time the photo had been folded to a length of about 4½ inches — probably to fit it into an envelope of some kind. That left eight vertical

creases on the image. And along some of these creases parts of the surface have flaked away — losing portions of a few faces.

A small, irregularly torn piece of the left side of the photo was folded under to fit the image into the frame. In the process of unfolding for image scanning, one person that had previously been covered was revealed. The far right side of the photograph appears to have been trimmed to fit the frame, though it seems unlikely any individuals were lost in that process.

... the first old settlers picnic ...

The first tangible inklings of Old Settlers' Day can be traced back to a item appearing in the October 6th, 1921, issue of the *Deer Park Union*. In a column headlined "Losh to Lease Park to Wild Rose Community," the text stated, "R. M. Losh, who is a pioneer of the Wild Rose district, and has one of



The area of photo immediately above this portion shows the original entrance sign to the park. The upper segment is reproduced on page 1175.

the best farms in that section just south of Wild Rose school, has tentatively agreed to donate or lease several acres of grove on the highway to the people of that community for picnic and camping purposes, providing the residents will clear it of brush. The grove is nicely situated and well adapted to the purpose ...

“Wild Rose people are elated over the generosity of Mr. Losh’s offer and will probably have a ‘clean-up day’ as soon as the potato crops in that prosperous section are in the pit.”

Apparently Mr. Losh’s stipulation regarding the brush was met, since a small inclusion in the following year’s June 8th edition of the *Union* stated, “Mrs. H. J. Walter reports that the heating stove and range which was put in the Wild Rose tourist park for the use of tourists has been stolen. The theft presumably occurred near Decoration Day.”

Of note in the above is the use of the term “tourist park.” With the explosive

growth of automobile ownership and travel in the late teens and early twenties, the idea of providing tourists facilities — restrooms, picnic tables, camping spots — as a way of inviting travelers to stay long enough to utilize area businesses had become quite the rage.

The details on how the Settlers picnic came about were printed in the June 18th, 1936, *Deer Park Union* — on the 15th anniversary of the event. The article explained, “Early in the spring of 1922, the Walter brothers, Jule and Henry, conceived the idea of a picnic of the old timers of the Deer Park district, intended only as a temporary affair, to be held in the Losh grove on Wild Rose Prairie. Out of that plan an organization was born that has grown into permanency far beyond the dream of its originators ...”

Regarding that first picnic, a headline in the September 14th, 1922, issue of the *Union* proclaimed “Big Picnic at Wild Rose Next Saturday,” and then went on, “Arrangements

have been completed and the program prepared for the old settlers picnic in Losh Park, Wild Rose, next Saturday, beginning at 10:30 a. m. The park is easy of access, being on the main Wild Rose or Monroe Road, about a quarter of a mile south of the church ... Preparations have been made for 500 people.”

The above article went on to outline a lengthy itinerary for the event.

As for how well things went, the next week’s headline declared the picnic a “Huge Success.” This September 21st article stated that “A hundred and twenty-five cars were counted in the grove, and it was estimated that 600 people were on hand to eat picnic lunches, partake of free ice cream, coffee, etc.” It noted that the “Pioneer settlers of the Wild Rose, Half Moon, Deer Park, Williams and Colville valleys shook hands with each other, talked and laughed as they perhaps had not laughed in a long time as they recalled incidents of the old days ...” The article also

explained that “they enjoyed themselves so well they voted to make the picnic an annual affair, with a permanent organization behind it.”

As for the follow-through on that vote, on October 19th, 1922, a column in Deer Park’s weekly newspaper proclaimed “Settlers Association Has Large Roster,” and then sub-headlined “Many Residents of This Section Enroll in What Promises to Be a Permanent Organization.” The subsequent article went on to explain that the newly formed “North Spokane—South Stevens County Settlers Association” was deeply engaged in a membership drive — with over 160 names of charter members listed, along with the state or country in which each was born, and the year of their arrival in the “district.”

The above noted North Spokane—South Stevens County Settlers Association retained that name until, in the spring of 1955, the group voted to rechristen themselves the



Tri-County Settlers Association.

... a park for Deer Park ...

After that first Settlers' Day picnic at Losh's grove, the event has always been held in Deer Park's city park. For a perspective on how the city park came into being, we need to look back to 1910; back to a "Farmers Institute" meeting that resulted in what would (arguably) prove to be the most forward thinking organization ever formed in Deer Park — the Commercial Club.

The above noted Farmers Institute — the concept of which is an interesting topic in itself — was a means of disseminating agricultural and business information to farmers through the mechanics of educational conferences — said conferences referred to as institutes. In Washington State such were usually organized on the local level with the assistance of the State Department of Agriculture —

along with regional colleges, universities, commercial interest and the like.

As an article appearing in the March 3rd, 1910, issue of the *Spokane Evening Chronicle* explained, Deer Park's first Farmers Institute was a two day event beginning the day prior to the article's appearance. Dated "Deer Park," the article says, "The first meeting of the Farmers Institute was held here last night. Heavy rains the last few days made roads almost impassable, still, nearly 50 were present, and Mr. Maas gave an address on 'Orchards and Orchardist.'

"Directly following the farmers institute's meeting the hall was taken over by the townsmen to organize a commercial club. W. D. Phillips called the meeting to order, stated the object, and read the subscription list, showing \$216 subscribed to start the movement."

Now and then during the following eleven years the idea of a park was proposed

This ad is from the June 14th, 1923, edition of the Deer Park Union. Although the device being advertised appears ideal for use in stopovers such as Deer Park's Tourist Park, no further data on the "Cozy Auto Bed" can be found — the assumption being it may not have proven commercially popular. It should be noted that the mentioned Public Service Station was for many years a feature in downtown Deer Park.

DON'T SLEEP ON THE GROUND

THE COZY AUTO BED

is as roomy and comfortable as your bed at home, so simple you can fix it in two minutes. The Cozy Auto Bed is based on the idea that you should use what you have rather than load your car up with a lot of unnecessary weight. With the Cozy Auto Bed the cushions you ride on during the day are the cushions you sleep on at night. SEE THIS BED AT—

PUBLIC SERVICE STATION
MADE BY LIBERTY MFG. CO., SPOKANE, WASH.



— most notably in late March of 1917 when the Commercial Club announced that W. H. Short, former owner of Deer Park's Standard Lumber Company, had offered to donate a suitable site "west of the railroad track, near Dragoon creek." As for why the Commercial Club didn't jump on this — on April 6th, just a few weeks after the offer was revealed, the United States declared war on Germany. The community's attention quickly turned to other matters — war bonds, conscription, donations for the Red Cross, humanitarian relief efforts for devastated foreign populations, and a myriad of other war related activities. As the war was drawing to a close in late 1918, the community felt the first touches of the devastating flu pandemic. That lasted well into 1919. And still more time passed before a revival of the Commercial Club's interest in a park — specifically a tourist park, was made evident by a very plainspoken plea appearing in the February 3rd, 1921, issue of the *Union*.

"Deer Park is far behind the procession in the way of an automobile camping site, practically every town in the Inland Empire having long ago made arrangements to care for the automobile tourists passing through. These towns have found it good business to offer inducements entailing some money outlay and labor to the traveler by automobile. Such a person, stopping a few hours or overnight in a town, invariably leaves a few dollars with the local merchants, and the money thus invested in preparing a suitable camping ground is soon returned to the investor with good interest.

"Many auto tourists would prefer camping here, a few miles from Spokane, overnight, giving them an opportunity to freshen up a bit before making their appearance on the city streets, and Deer Park should prepare ground with which to attract the auto tourist rather than repel him as is now the case.

"Every businessman of the town

should be present at the (Commercial Club) meeting tomorrow night. Failure to attend denotes a lack of interest in the welfare of Deer Park."

A physical description of the proposed park was outlined in the *Union's* March 10th issue.

"Authorizing the purchase of a tract of ground selected by a special committee appointed for that purpose, creating an auto tourist parking camp, the Commercial Club at its regular meeting Friday night went on record as favoring the establishment of such a parking ground west of the state highway, adjoining the creek. The committee's report show that the tract could be purchased for a sum around \$400, the land embracing three and a half acres. Some opposition developed amongst the members, but when the matter was put to a vote, those favoring the project won out. Later in the evening a motion prevailed to delegate the raising of funds to the

same committee which had in charge the location of the site."

The four hundred dollars needed for the tourist park was a hefty sum in 1921. But the community faced the challenge as described in the *Union's* April 7th edition.

"At the conclusion of a lengthy discussion concerning methods of financing the acquisition of a tourist parking site, at the regular meeting of the Commercial Club Friday night, F. E. Parks, owner of a fine pedigreed Holstein herd here, arose and, after dwelling on the possibilities of this section as a dairy country, generously offered to donate one of his prize bulls to the Commercial Club, the animal to be sold and the proceeds used for the purpose of buying the site proposed. The bull is a royal Holstein blond, and Mr. Parks stated is worth \$500 in any man's money. The tourist park will cost about \$450.

"As the state legislature passed a law this year giving cities of the fourth class power



Left: A portion of the extreme right edge of the photograph has been torn away and then reattached using transparent tape.

Right: This segment of the photograph — the lower portion of which is reproduced on page 1201 — shows the original sign at the entrance to the tourist park. We currently don't know when the tourist park was officially relabeled the city park — if at all, but we do know that, it was renamed the Earl D. Mix Park in the summer of 1965 — that to honor one of Deer Park's most popular former mayors.



to acquire parks, even though the site be outside the corporate limits, the club decided the city of Deer Park should be the owner of the parking site, though the Commercial Club will look after raising the necessary funds. To clinch the deal the park committee was instructed to use Commercial Club funds to make the initial payment on the land while details of the sale of the Holstein male are being worked out by a committee consisting of R. R. Grove, William Bugenhagen, P. G. Christopher, J. H. Oterdoom, and W. W. Gillies.”

What appeared such an easy thing to do in April, seemed less so in May — as the May 12th edition of the *Union* suggested when it noted that “The committee endeavoring to dispose of a Holstein bull donated by F. E. Parks for the purpose of raising funds for the purchase of a tourist park reported much work done, but little success in unloading the critter. The committee was asked to continue its

labor with a view to raffling the animal.”

Everything, including the Holstein, seemed to have been settled when the *Union*, on September 22nd, 1921, outlined the realized and much expanded purchase.

“Announcement by the tourist park committee that negotiations for a site had been concluded was the feature of an interesting meeting of the Commercial Club Friday night. The land lies west of the Great Northern Railway and south and east of the state highway taking in a parcel of land adjoining the creek, some timber land, and the rest being natural park. The site embraces about nine acres and was bought from W. H. Short for approximately \$100 per acre, \$100 down, the balance to be paid in five years. Money secured from the raffle of a bull donated by F. E. Parks July 4 last is to be used in making the initial payment, the club authorizing Fred Kelly to pay over this sum to Mr. Short.”

The outline also noted, “The land

takes in all of block 10, half of block 2, all of tract 1, and a three-cornered piece on the highway. Three-hundred feet of this area is bound by the creek. This will furnish water for laundry purposes by the campers, and it is proposed to sink a well on the grounds for domestic water supply. Speakers pointed out that the park was not to be restricted to the use of tourists exclusively, as it is plenty large enough to permit its use as a city park also.”

The report also stipulated that “A special committee was named to take up the matter of purchasing the park with the city council Monday night, with a view to having the park under the marshal's supervision, regulating the use thereof, etc.”

Though the purchase seems to have been settled, the work of turning the area into “a real tourist park” didn't begin until the next summer — as July 13th, 1922, edition of the *Deer Park Union* reported.

“First steps in turning the tract of

ground in the northwest part of town acquired last year into a real tourist park will be taken tomorrow night at 6 o'clock, when everyone interested is invited to volunteer their presence and services in cleaning up the premises.

“Tuesday evening the matter was taken up at the regular session of the K. P. (Knights of Pythias) lodge, which resulted in the appointment of a committee comprising Charles R. Farris, F. N. Swenson and W. H. Alleier, who were asked to confer with the American Legion last night and set a date for a general meeting. The legion felt, however, that the way to do things is to do them, so dispensed with the meeting for future date. The boys said they would be on hand at 6 o'clock tomorrow night ready to start things, plans were made to get a couple of teams and wagons, Dr. Slater said he would be there to give them the lines on the site, and the Legion and K. P. committee hereby earnestly invites everyone who possibly can to be on hand and

assist with the clean-up work.”

The above implies that the impetus behind this renewed effort was the Legion and Knights of Pythias, though it's likely that many of their members were also active in the Commercial Club.

The article ended with the following admonishment. “No town that calls itself a real community is without a tourist park these days, and if the people of Deer Park have any pride in the town in which they live, they should see to it that the work of improving the park is not only started, but carried through to completion.”

Though cautioning “*Much Work to Be Done Yet*,” the next week's *Union* enthusiastically reported, “Armed with rakes, shovels, and ax, about 35 men attacked the underbrush at the tourist park in the northwest part of town Friday night, and with their activities raised such a cloud of dust as to almost obscure the sun. Again Monday and Wednesday nights of this week they returned . . .”

At the August meeting of the Commercial Club, plans were laid out to pipe city water to the park. And, the *Union* reported, “The matter of supplying outside toilets was quickly disposed of when Mr. Farris said he would endeavor to secure the lumber and Reverend DeLong volunteered to enlist the services of the Boy Scouts to build them.”

As for the financial situation, “It was learned from the report of Mr. McCutchan that the tract purchase aggregated more than eight acres, at a cost of \$900, \$100 of which has been paid.”

And it appears that nothing else was paid for the next three years — though that failure may have been in part due to the legal limbo — the receivership — in which the remaining assets of W. H. Short's Standard Lumber Company found themselves.

But the intricacies of that limbo didn't seem apparent to Deer Park's newly elected city council as they held their first meeting on June 1st, 1925. As the *Union* reported, one of their first orders of business was “the purchase of the tourist park.” As the newspaper

explained, “It is not generally known, but the city has not heretofore held any title in this property; the negotiation and first payments being made by subscriptions solicited by the Commercial Club. The title has been tied up in the receivership of the Standard Lumber Company until recently when Receiver Herrick found a way to give clear title to the city.” The article further noted “While the purchase price is not published, the city has saved a neat sum by forfeiting the contract made through the Commercial Club negotiations.”

But then, in the first week of August, the newspaper headlined “Tangle in Purchase of Tourist Park”. The article that followed indicated that the city had received a letter from “a firm of Spokane attorneys, announcing that they, as representative of the Standard Lumber Company, expected to hold the city to the purchase price for the tourist park set forth in the terms of a contract made with the Deer Park Commercial Club.” The attorneys pointed out that the \$575 the city had paid the “receiver of the Standard Lumber Company was considerably less than that in the former contract.” They contended that the above noted Mr. Herrick did not have the legal authority to make such a sale. They also contended that since the original contract had been made with the Commercial Club, accumulated interest had pushed the agreed on price of \$900 to \$1,200 — that being the total amount now expected.

What it appears to draw down to is that the city needed to come up with another \$625 — the original \$100 paid by the Commercial Club having apparently been swallowed in the receivership limbo — or the agreement to purchase would be considered invalid, at which point the assumed ownership of the park would revert and the property, with any improvements, would be sold to whoever might be willing to pay current market value.

Things lingered along through the rest of the year — or, as was explained in a February 25th, 1926, editorial penned by the *Union's* then editor, George Rice; “As the season approaches when the tourist is abroad in

the land, the status of Deer Park's tourist park is becoming a matter of interest to a considerable number of people. As the situation stood at the beginning of the year, with the former contract rescinded, and the earnest money from the council on a new offer returned by the receiver in whose hands the property is at present, the claim to the park disappeared. When the money was returned the council was informed that nothing could be done until after the new year. Since that time nothing has been done, according to information given the *Union*. If Deer Park wants a tourist park it is up to the people to combine with members of the council in securing this property before it passes into the hands of some private purchaser. The park has been an asset to the city, and it cannot afford to let the property slip beyond its reach.”

With a sigh of relief, the August 12th edition of the *Union* announced, “Deer Park now has a clear title to the Tourist Park purchased from the receiver of the Standard Lumber Company last spring. The title was passed and the amount of \$650 paid by the council for the land, about five acres in extent. Mayor George Walter purchased an adjoining tract to the south, which is available for the city if it should appear that the addition would be advisable. The title to the property is insured by the receiver.”

... the Settlers Picnic comes to Deer Park ...

In the first several months of 1923 — three years before the city received a secure title to the tourist park and one year after the Commercial Club began the process of buying the park — a well-advertised cooperative effort was being undertaken among the communities dotting the Inland Empire Highway — that stretch from Spokane, through Deer Park, Chewelah, Colville and on to the Canadian border — to attract tourists, especially the ongoing surge of automobile tourist. Deer Park's new park fit well with those plans, and a number of improvements were suggested to enhance the park's appeal. It's likely that

those suggested improvements, along with the new park's enlarged acreage when compared to Losh's grove, were what spurred a Settlers Association, in mid-April of 1923, to announce a change of venue. The Association — now boasting 500 members — said they would hold their upcoming second annual picnic at Deer Park. The announcement concluded, “The first picnic held at Losh's grove last summer was a huge success, and Deer Park will have to exert itself in the utmost to maintain the precedent already established.”

The Settlers Association, Deer Park City Council, and representatives of most of the city's businesses began planning in earnest. As reported in the May 3rd *Union*, “President J. D. Walter of the Settlers was confident there would be at least 2,000 people present at the picnic” — that being almost a thousand more than the entire population of Deer Park at that time.

Walter went on suggest that every effort should be made to keep costs down for the picnic's attendees — stating, “We don't want anyone to go away from this picnic feeling that they have been held up in Deer Park.” And, “If we can sell ice cream two cones for a nickel let's do it, and everything else in proportion. We want to get cost out of it, and no more.”

June 21st, the day selected for 1923's picnic, fell on a Thursday — as had the first Settlers' Day. To allow everyone to participate in the daylong event, it was reported that all businesses in Deer Park, including the town's sawmill, would shut down. With one exception, scheduling Settlers' Day to fall on a Thursdays continued until it was permanently changed to Saturday in the summer of 1961. And the month of the celebration, that appears to have changed from June to July in 1942 — the reason for the change being a story best told in an article of its own.

Besides food and things to drink for those attending the 2nd annual Settlers' Day, plans called for an assortment of family oriented athletic events — including potato races, egg races, sack races, and various bouts of tug-

Jack Coffin's Clayton High School Misbehavior Leads to Work

by

Peter Coffin



Elden "Jack" Coffin in the 1940s.

My Father, Elden Frank "Jack" Coffin, was a classmate of Leno Prestini as both were born in 1906. During his freshman year in high school Dad apparently ran with some rougher students. During the year he and a number of other students trapped the principal's son in a men's toilet stall and would not let him out. As part of the group, Dad was assigned the task of lookout by standing on a trash container and looking out into the hall through the dormer window over the door to warn of approaching adults. To attract attention to his plight the boy began to scream and cry to be let out and his father heard his cries. Apparently the man had a long wrinkled neck and had acquired the nickname "Turkey Neck" among the students. Dad saw him coming and shouted out to the other boys, "Turkey Neck is coming." Of course Dad was caught and was in trouble. His father was called in and told in what he had been involved. My Grandfather apparently had had enough and told Dad, "If you can get in trouble like that in school, you just as well go to work."

This was probably in 1918 and Dad began to work cutting cord wood and loading it on railroad cars at the Clayton siding for sale in the Spokane heating market. This began his life of working at hard labor.

Photo courtesy of Peter Coffin.

— end —

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

Bits of Chatter, Trivia & Notices All Strung Together

... a sad reality ...

A decision is fast approaching regarding the demolition of the old Crawford Street gymnasium/civic center and its replacement with a new fire hall/civic center. This building, constructed in 1923 by volunteer labor using lumber donated by the town's sawmill, has long been the social heart of Deer Park. From stage plays to political rallies, from high school boxing matches to graduation pageants, from community dances to basketball games, it's seen it all. Most such utilization has now gone elsewhere — leaving the building by-and-large obsolete. And despite its long history, the general consensus among those acquainted with the reality of the situation is that the venerable old structure's days are numbered.

The building's impressive history has left the C/DPHS with a decision to make as well. Should we attempt to save the structure, or should we just let it slide quietly into history? And the simple truth is, the cost of saving the relic is lightyears beyond our meager means. Retrofitting the electrical and plumbing, insulating, upgrading the heating system, removing the antiquated asbestos, a general refurbishing of both interior and exterior, along with bringing everything into compliance with modern handicap accessibility standards ... those are the same expensive issues the City of Deer Park is wrestling with.

Society members Mike Reiter and Bill Sebright — as noted in the December minutes (this issue) — took a tour of the Crawford Gym. They reported back, "We both agree that the society made the right decision not to try to save the building."

Having decided such, the next ques-

tion is whether there's anything in the old building worth saving? As regards that, Mike and Bill brought forward the possibility of saving that portion of the gym's floor containing the painted stag head.

In that regard, one possibility might be to carefully lift the individual sticks from the floor, and then store the wood until a worthwhile venue for display has been found. That might be as simple as finding a vacant piece of interior wall large enough to hold the reassembled image. And who knows? A hundred years from now this well-used bit of flooring could be one of the community's most significant historical relics.

That depressing thought aside, what we do know is that once the floor has been destroyed, while it may be possible to create a

The society would be very interested in knowing any facts regarding the stag head on the old Crawford Street gymnasium floor — such as who created the image and when such was painted on the floor.

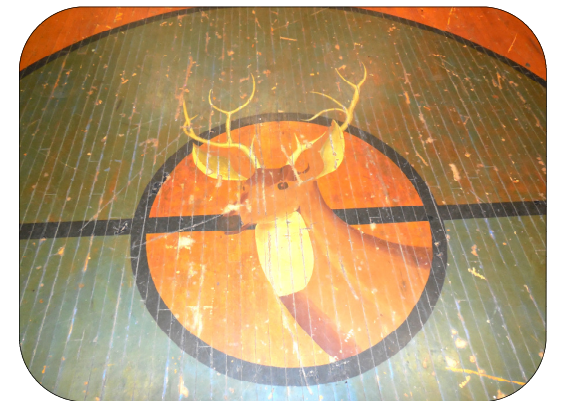


Photo courtesy of Bill Sebright.

likeness, the original will be gone forever

... *an historic windstorm* ...

Windstorms such as the near-hurricane force event that struck the region on the afternoon of November 17th, 2015, are not exactly unprecedented — though the maximum gust of 71 miles per hour recorded at 3:53 in the afternoon at Spokane International Airport was in fact the strongest non-thunderstorm related gust the airport has on record. Then too, there was the horrendous 137 mile per hour blast recorded that same evening on the upper runs of the Mission Ridge Ski & Board Resort — located on the inland side of the Cascade Mountains just west of Wenatchee.

What does appear distressingly new about this recent storm is its place within the context of a worldwide series of more energetic than usual weather events. This leaves your editor wondering whether our understanding of what we should reasonably expect from the local weather needs to change.

But as noted, strong windstorms are not unprecedented — as the following clipping from the January 4th, 1934, edition of the *Deer Park Union* indicates.

“The heavy windstorm that struck this section recently blew over a large number of trees in the tourist park and otherwise created damage. The work of cleaning out this damage may be good CWA (Civil Works Administration) work in case the local heads run



Society member Mike Reiter took this photo of one of the “several” trees toppled in Deer Park’s city park (the tourist park) by the November 17th, 2015, windstorm.

short of other employment for the men.”

Just over eighty years separate these two trees-toppling-in-the-park events. Had the winds that struck the park in late 1933 or early 1934 (depending on how you interpret the *Union’s* use of the word “recent”) reached velocities similar to those of the most recent storm, one would expect to find much more notice of it in the region’s archives. And this would suggest that if we’re lucky we’ll long be referring to this last storm as “the biggest blow.” That said, it still might be wise to tack the roof down a little better — just in case.

———— *Wally Lee Parker* ————

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

In attendance: Bob Gibson, Lorraine Nord, Mike Reiter, Betty Burdette, Bill Sebright, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Marilyn Reilly, Judy Coffin, Pete Coffin, Mark Wagner, Ella Jenkins, Don Reiter, Mary Jo Reiter,

Sue Rehms, and Marie Morrill.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. He reported: 1) It’s dues time again. Six families have already paid dues. Seven more paid during the

meeting. 2) Mark delivered a \$25 check to the Deer Park Rotary for us to have our name on the community holiday sign by NAPA on Main Street. 3) Mike Reiter took Bill on a tour of the old Crawford Gym. We both agree that the Society made the right decision not to try to save the building. Pictures were passed around.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported: The main checking account ended the month (November 30th) at \$7,101.68. Checks written were to Heritage Network for \$20.00 and one to Wally Parker for \$116.30. There were deposits of \$112.00. The web hosting account had a withdrawal of \$10.95 for web hosting and ended the month at \$895.03.

Society Vice President Pete Coffin reported that he: 1) Submitted three new possible *Mortarboard* articles to Editor Parker. The “*Source of the Low Line Canal*” describes the place that the Low Line Canal began at the Arcadia Reservoir dam. “*Katherine Madden*” is a short biography of my Grandmother who came to Wild Rose Prairie in 1885 and was the source of the Big Foot Valley matrons name-quilt donated to the society by one of my first cousins. The “*Ground Observation Corps*”, co-authored by Ken Westby, describes the early 1950’s effort to defend our country against a nuclear attack. “*Stealing Gas in Big Foot Valley*” is a short story told to me by Lonnie Jenkins shortly before he died describing thievery in that valley. 2) Digitized some Glasbrenner black and white negatives containing some pictures of the Valley sand operation and a spring 1968 Dairy show in Deer Park. 3) Received some pictures that a Congregational Church member had recovered from an abandoned storage unit about 5 years ago and had just found in a drawer. I tried to find out information about the people and places pictured but did not do very well. The pictures ranged in age from about 1900 to the late 1960s but did not present a theme or a hint of family relationships. There were two pictures of the Pines Motel, apparently taken in the 1950s, which I digitized. 4) Emailed *Spokesman-Review* columnist Shawn Vestal

about possibly featuring the Arcadia movie in one of his columns. He had a column covering early Spokane in film that described a Post Falls man’s early movies of Indians in the Spokane area. 5) Took a small field trip to Denison and the intersection of Yukon and US Highway 395 about two weeks ago to where there is a concrete cistern, a circular concrete pad, and a large pile of concrete debris. I assume that the concrete debris is from the Denison Arcadia Orchards packing house and/or the demolition of Denison’s buildings.

Print editor Wally Parker reported: 1) 115 copies of the December *Mortarboard* (#92) have been printed for distribution. The online version has also been submitted for posting. This issue leads with a Pete Coffin essay titled “*The Early Settlement of Loon Lake*.” The Letters/Brickbats segment contains comments submitted by Janice Purdy regarding the Clayton Fair; a holiday remembrance by Ken Westby; new information regarding the WWII incident that killed Clayton’s Orland Luhr; a summation of incidents surrounding the Hollywood movie scenes being filmed at Kettle Falls in 1922; and a set of local character studies, again by Pete Coffin. 2) During last month’s meeting the issue of archiving the society’s collection of historic photos was brought forward. The minutes noted that I’d commented that indexing the photos would be a full time job. I’d like to clarify that somewhat. We currently don’t know how many images the society has in electronic and hardcopy format. We do know that descriptions of these photos, at least those descriptions that have so far been transferred into print, are scattered in a number of places. This suggests that safekeeping this information will require it be collected in a manner that binds it to its associated image, and that all — images and associated data — be entered into one master-file. The above would suggest that the system used needs to be a spreadsheet — or something similar in function to a spreadsheet. Determining the feasibility of this approach would require consultation with someone acquainted with the ad-

vantages and limitations of spreadsheets. Implementation would require chasing down every photo and scrap of data and entering it into the selected computer program. If there's an easier way to construct a system that will allow searchable queries based on collective parameters such as subject, place, time, individuals seen, or any number of other variables, please let me know. As stated, building this database would consume an incredible number of someone's volunteer hours. However, it's clear that our current non-system is already floundering under its own weight.

Webmaster Marie Morrill reported:
1) She has posted this December's *Mortarboard*.

Penny Hutten reported by email about the Westerners speaker: December 17, 2015, Garrin Hertel will be speaking about "*The Nostalgia Magazine and a Memorial to Bing Crosby & Mildred Bailey*." Garrin is the publisher of *Nostalgia Magazine*, and the bandleader of Hot Club of Spokane. He is also a rhythm guitarist, booking agent at Hot Club of Spokane, writer, bandleader, and designer at *Nostalgia Magazine*. His major was history at Gonzaga University. Contact Bill or

Penny if you are interested in going.

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

Mike Reiter reported that: Alexander Pope called and requested a picture of the 1919 class of Deer Park High School. Alexander's Grandmother was a member of that class. There is no picture at the City Hall. Mike found in a Tribune supplement that 5 students in the class of 1919 were also listed in the class of 1920. The flu was so bad in 1919 it's possible the high school was closed part of that year.

Betty Burdette said: The Settlers Picnic fund raiser will be at the Deer Park Eagles, Saturday, March 5. There will be a dinner and silent auction.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 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.

C/DPHS, Box 293, Clayton, WA 99110

Bill Sebright, President — sebrightba@gmail.com — (509) 276-2693

Peter Coffin, Vice-President — pcffn@q.com

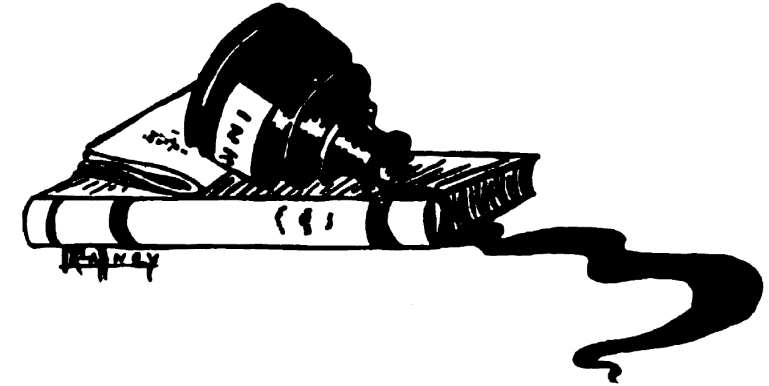
Wally Lee Parker, Editor of Print Publications — bogwen100@msn.com — (509) 467-9433

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———— C/DPHS ————

Volunteer proofreaders for this issue: Peter Coffin, Bill Sebright, Charles Stewart, and Lima Swain.



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 ————

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is or soon will be
available in booklet format.*

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"Collected Newsletters: Volume Twenty-Five."*

*Society contact information can be found
on the facing page*