

*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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## ELECTRIC POWER FOR EVERYONE

Peter Coffin

### EARLY RURAL ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION

Early electricity distribution in the Deer Park area was confined to the town and rural areas not close to the power lines were not served. Until 1928 the Mount Spokane Power Company provided electricity to Deer Park that was generated at its Milan, Washington hydroelectric plant<sup>1</sup>. In that year the Public Utilities Corporation Consolidated Company purchased the Mount Spokane Power Company<sup>2</sup>. In turn the Public Utilities Consolidated Company was reorganized as part of the Citizens Utilities Company in 1935<sup>3</sup>.

The Citizens Utilities Company and Washington Water Power Company did not provide electric service to rural areas. This was a nationwide problem and during the early 1930s small co-operative power organizations began to build rural power distribution systems. This problem would be solved by the United States Government.

### RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM

The federal government tried to get commercial electricity producing companies to help get power to the rural areas. These companies refused arguing that "...rural people didn't want or need power"<sup>4</sup>. Some municipal companies refused to help because state laws barred them from serving rural areas.

Rural electrification began with President Roosevelt's May 11, 1935 executive order forming a Rural Electrification Administration (REA). This order was done under authority of the depression era Emergency Relief Appropriation Act passed by Congress in 1935 that gave the REA statutory authority to issue loans to construct electrical distribution systems in rural areas.

Free — Take One

NEW VENUE FOR MEETINGS — EVERYONE'S WELCOME.

Second Saturday of each month, beginning at 10:00 a.m.,

Deer Park City Hall Complex — 300 Block East 'A' Street — Look for the Sign.

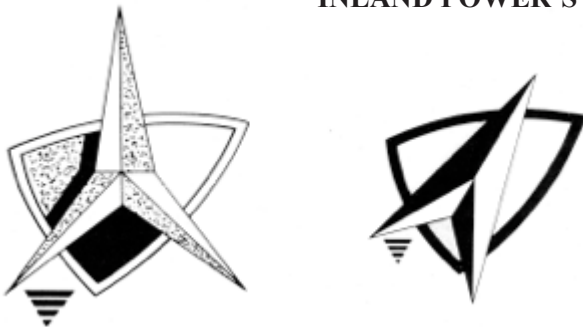
## WASHINGTON PUBLIC UTILITIES

Prior to 1934 the state of Washington had Public Utility statutes that governed public service organizations. Taking advantage of this the Inland Empire Electrification Incorporated was formed as a cooperative company in 1937. This cooperative became the Inland Power and Light Company of today. In 1939 the Washington State Supreme Court in the case of Inland Empire Electrification Incorporated versus the United States Department of Public Service ruled that it was not the same as an investor-owned company and did not need the state's regulation<sup>5</sup>.

In eastern Washington several groups were formed to take advantage of the REA's loaning ability. One of these was the Inland Empire Rural Electrification, Inc. a cooperative group that had been formed in March of 1937. They requested a loan of \$455,000 to build about 463 miles of line to serve 1530 members<sup>6</sup>. They had approached Washington Water Power to supply power for their system but were refused. They then applied for a \$90,000 grant to build a power plant at Rosalia, Washington. After realizing that Inland Power and Light planned to build a generating plant Washington Water Power agreed to supply power for five years with the qualification that if the Bonneville Power Administration agreed to supply power by year four of the contract it would terminate<sup>7</sup>.

As a cooperative Inland Power and Light signed up farmers with a \$5 application fee. In some areas the farmers helped with the construction of the distribution lines.

### INLAND POWER'S SYMBOL



The symbol used by the Inland Power and Light Company was adopted in 1968 as the result of an internal company competition which was won by lineman Donald Thams.<sup>8</sup>

Figure 1: Inland Power and Light symbols. At left is the Inland symbol before it was redesigned<sup>8</sup>.

Both symbols contain the “Y-Delta” that is indicative of an electrical transformer connection with the small striped triangle representing an electrical ground. Mercedes-Benz objected to the first symbol because they felt it was too similar to its automobile star. The symbol was changed to appease the automobile company and is no longer in use.

## RURAL POWER DISTRIBUTION STARTS IN THE DEER PARK AREA

The Inland Empire Rural Electrification Company began building power lines north of Spokane in the Wild Rose Prairie area in the Spring of 1938<sup>9</sup>. By November of 1938 the Deer Park areas REA project survey was nearly completed and construction scheduled to start<sup>10</sup>. At the same time the REA surveyors had finished their survey in Big Foot Valley and several homes there had been wired in anticipation of having electric power<sup>11</sup>.

By 1977 Inland Power and Light had 5000 miles of power lines and 18 substations in the area shown in Figure 2<sup>12</sup>.



Figure 2: Inland Power and Light's service area shown by the cross hatched pattern<sup>12</sup>.

**Clayton ♦ Deer Park Historical Society Newsletter**  
**Issue # 180 — July — 2022**

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Inland Power and Light serves rural portions of the eastern Washington counties of Spokane, Whitman and Garfield, Adams, Asotin, Pend Oreille and Stevens as well as portions of Kootenai, Benewah, and Bonner Idaho Counties. Power for its system was first purchased from the Bonneville Power Administration in 1942 and continues to the present.

The formation of the Rural Electrification Administration and the Inland Empire Rural Electrification, Inc. explains why portions of Deer Park and the surrounding rural area are served by the Inland Power and Light cooperative.

**NOTES:**

1. Coffin, P. E., 2013, Electric power in Deer Park: Mortarboard, Issue 68, p. 761-767.
2. Eastern Power Company Buys Power Company, Deer Park Union Newspaper, August 2, 1929, front page.
3. Power Company Is Reorganized, Deer Park Union Newspaper, December 12, 1935, front page
4. Jones, A. C., 1977, Inland the First Forty Years: Forest Grove, OR, Inland Power and Light Company, 139 p. (page13).
5. Ibid, page 42.
6. Ibid, page 28.
7. Ibid, page 31
8. Ibid, page 44
9. Ibid, page 32.
10. Deer Park Project R.E.A. Project Starts Soon: November 17, 1938 Deer Park Union newspaper front page.
11. Big Foot Valley News: December 8, 1938, Deer Park Union newspaper front page.
12. Jones, 1977, drafted from page 59.



***The  
Eagle  
Has  
Landed!***

*Photo Courtesy of Bill Sebright*

*Minutes of the*  
***Clayton ♦ Deer Park Historical***  
*May 14, 2022*

In attendance: Judy Reiter Whitt, Tom Costigan, Kirk Carlson, Bill Sebright, Dick Purdy, Larry Bowen, Lynn MacDonald, Rory Vinson, Laura Chamberlain, Marilyn Reilly, Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Scott Moore, Tracy Strong, Bill Phipps, Chuck Lyons, Damon Smathers, Rick Osterback, Winnie Moore.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He reported that he: 1) Picked up the Society's items at the Clayton Drive-In. They are on display at our Museum. 2) Received an email from Lorna Breshears. She is Howard Froman's sister and is related to Gary Ross and Winnie Moore. She will be sending some Deer Park Elementary Faculty photos and some Annuals from Howard's Estate. 3) Received an email from Tammy Winkfield looking for information on Williams Valley Hillside Cemetery. The email was forwarded to Damon Smathers. 4) Received an email from Mike Trull, Gary Ross's cousin. Like Gary, the grandson of William Oscar and Edith Lenore Ross. He has many boxes of his mother's which may contain some interesting items. He is still going through the boxes and will send us anything relating to history of the area. 5) Received a call from Dawn Welliever requesting information about her property on Monroe Rd. The email was forwarded to Pete Coffin. Pete gave her a report on the parcel's history.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported by text: 1) The main checking account ended the month at \$16,966.01. Total deposits were \$220. Two checks were written. One to The Heritage Network for dues, \$20. And 1 to Wally Parker for supplies, \$137.87. The web hosting account ended the month at \$86.33. The total charge for web hosting was \$485.96. The large charge is for our hosting renewal every 36 months. The Brickyard Day account is at \$1,355.10. The Eagle fund account, \$7,850.

Society Vice President- No one has stepped forward to become Vice President. Wally had a minor stroke on Thursday, May 12. He came home from Sacred Heart Hospital this morning and is "exhausted." Bill talked to his daughter, Gwen, Friday when he picked up Mortarboards. She said he seems to have no lasting effects. They are working to take care of his brain bleed. His home address is 6904 N. Stevens St., Spokane, WA 99208.

Print editor Wally Parker reported by email: 1) One hundred copies of the May Mortarboard (#169) have been printed for general distribution. To extend the Society's outreach,

printable PDFs of the same have been forwarded to the Loon Lake Library and The Heritage Network. The online version of #169 has been forwarded to the Society's webmaster for posting to the website. 2) Mortarboards #167, 168, and 169 have been folded into volume fifty of the Collected Newsletters, and ten copies of such are included with this month's printings. 3) Several memory sticks filled with all the materials printed by the society's Department of Print Publications since 2005 have been copied for distribution to the appropriate parties. 4) The Society's departing editor will be available for discussions regarding the technical and editorial aspects of our publishing efforts – said discussion by email, telephone (new number supplied on request), or in person. There are also some critical issues regarding the legal aspects of printing for public consumption that need to be fully appreciated by the new editorial team.

Webmaster Damon Smathers reported: 1) The May 2022 issue of the Mortarboard has been uploaded to the website. 2) This will be the last Mortarboard upload from Print Editor Wally Parker. It is hard to put into words how much he has done for the Society. Fortunately for all of us, as well as future Society members, his work will forever be available to the public. 3) A few ongoing projects include linking all Mortarboard issues within the index as well as potentially uploading Mortarboard issues prior to 2008 (most recent year available online). 4) Also working on further research into H.E. King Mercantile in Clayton, WA. We have photos and a little history dug up so far.

Historian Pete Coffin reported that he: 1) Digitized the Owens Museum's material on April 3 at Sue Mauro's house on Pleasant Prairie. The total number of photographs digitized during these visits exceeds 800. I will give President Sebright a DVD containing this latest collection of Owens material. 2) Ongoing processing of previously digitized Owens Museum photographs and papers. 3) Modified the CDPHS business card master to reflect the new editor and secretary's names and printed a batch. 4) Sue Mauro gave me a copy of a portion of a manuscript titled "Told by the Pioneers" (Reminiscences of Pioneer Life in Washington, Vol. 2, printed in 1938). In it a Joseph Smith Fea of Pend Oreille County writes that he got a contract to erect a saw mill for G. P. Dart. Later he took up a homestead on Half Moon Prairie where he built and operated a general store, secured a post office and named it "Wayside." 5) Digitized a 1920s picture of Main Street, Deer Park showing Hunzicker Hardware (Weber's), Otho Peter's Ford dealership and the First State bank. I have made a print of it to circulate.

The Brickyard Day planning committee met Wednesday. All of the Brickyard Day festivities will be around the Grange this year. Nothing will be at the Clayton School. The Deer Park School District couldn't guarantee a custodian would be available. A local band, the Time Travelers, will provide the music this year. The flyer will be out early in June. Rick Osterback joined the Society today. He brought an ice cream tin, butter fat testing bottles, and a large thermometer from the Deer Park Creamery. His dad, Darrel Osterback, and Charles Garrlott bought the creamery from Al Bishop, Jim and Lena Wolf. They took possession on



**Clayton ♦ Deer Park Historical Society Newsletter**  
**Issue # 180 — July — 2022**

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February 1, 1967. Rick, Larry Bowen, and Dick Purdy had stories about their ice cream, lockers and butter milk.

Mike Reiter reported by email: As most of you know, the Eagle at the Clayton Drive in is having issues with the weather. Even if a cover was built, we don't know if the deterioration will stop. Two problems with covering it at the present site. First, it would take a structure probably 20 feet tall to go over it, making for a big expense. Second, Randy and Taffy have closed the Drive-In and sometime in the future if the property is sold, the new owners may want it gone. I met with Doug Knight of Knight Construction and we surveyed the site with the possibility of moving the statue to the Clayton Fairgrounds where we have poured a 10'x10' concrete pad. Getting the eagle lifted off the stand and set on a truck might be a complicated move. Doug was going to talk to the guy in charge of moving it to the Drive-In if he remembered exactly how it was anchored. Doug fears the possibility of damage by jostling the thing. He suggests a hold harmless clause for him or possibly insuring the move in case of a malfunction. I have no idea what kind of value we would put on it to insure it. I left Doug a message, but he hasn't responded.

Chuck Lyons talked about the field trip to his Challengehill tractor museum. It's located at 5163 S. Wallbridge Road, on the west side just south of the Happy Home Church. June 18 is the date, 10:30 AM. Among the many tractors are 6 steam tractors over 110 years old. Pete Coffin has been there and says you shouldn't miss it.

Laura Chamberlain is hoping to move the time capsule idea forward and get help strategizing and deciding on the particulars by enlisting several members of the Historical Society. Rory Vinson, Bill Sebright and Lynn MacDonald will help in some capacity. Lynn will talk to Mike Reiter also. Laura has received more coins as contributions! Enthusiasm in the community is growing! She will be burying the capsule on October 1 at fire station.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 11, 2022, at 10:00 AM at our building. Meeting adjourned at 11:14.

Minutes submitted by Tracy Strong Society Secretary.

## Field Trip to the Challengeill Tractor Museum Fantastic Tractor Museum!

On Saturday, June 18, 2022, Bill Sebright Shared this report with the Society. by email:

*What a great museum! Everyone enjoyed the hundreds of tractors.  
(Well, I'm not sure about a couple of wives?)*

*An amazing collection of machines! There were even Studebaker trucks!*

*Attached are: a really old Case, a John Deere powered by propane!, and Chuck Lyons showing Kirk Carlson and Damon Smathers a running Allis-Chalmers.*

*On a less important note, I even enjoyed the porta-potty.*

*Bill*



Photos Courtesy of Bill Sebright



*Minutes of the*  
***Clayton ♦ Deer Park Historical***

**June 11, 2022,**

In attendance: Judy Reiter Whitt, Kirk Carlson, Bill Sebright, Dick Purdy, Larry Bowen, Rory Vinson, Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Tracy Strong, Bill Phipps, Chuck Lyons, Mike Reiter, Roberta Reiter, Mike Wolfe, Lorraine Nord, Mary Jo Reiter, Rachelle Fletcher, Roxanne Camp, Virginia Odynski, John Odynski, Gayle Dwyer, Deborah Cummins, Christina Burris, Don Ball, Elaine Ball and Judy Gross.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He reported that he: 1) Pete Coffin sent him an article from The Tribune newspaper about the Earl Jones farm. He sent it to Clarence Griffin and Gale Fleming who live there now. They were certainly happy to get the information. There is more about it in Pete's report. 2) Received an email from Melissa Silvio, President of the Valley Historical Society asking permission to use pictures from our Website of Bigfoot Valley.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported by text: 1) Due to WaFed's computer problems, no bank statements are available. The Brickyard Day account is at \$1,620.10. The Eagle fund account, \$7,850.

Society Vice President- No one has stepped forward to become Vice President. Wally had a minor stroke on Thursday, May 12. He came home from Sacred Heart Hospital May 14. After having bad headaches, he returned to the hospital and the doctors removed the blood clot. Wally was in the hospital and St. Luke's rehab until Wednesday, June 8 when he came home. Friday he said, "I'm weaker than I expected." But he is home and working on getting back to his regular retirement schedule. His home (mailing) address is 6904 N. Stevens St., Spokane, WA 99208.

Rachelle Fletcher will get a Mortarboard distributed when she can get together with Wally and her printing business slows down. Webmaster Damon Smathers reported: 1) That he added the field trip to Chuck Lyon's Tractor Museum to the front page. 2) He re-uploaded Ike Reynolds's image into the "Clayton Bill Sebright" section of the website. He is still having problems with the page.

Historian Pete Coffin reported that he: 1) Digitized the Owens Museum's material on May 30 at Sue Mauro's house on Pleasant Prairie and plan to on June 7th. May digitizing was curtailed with Mrs. Mauro and her family being sick with the flu. I will give President Sebright DVDs containing the latest digitized Owens material. 2) Ongoing processing of previously digitized Owen's Museum

photographs and papers. 3) Sent Susan Simpson and President Sebright a CD containing the 1912-1913 Clayton Newspaper. 4) Sent Bill an article about the Earl Jones farm from the Tribune in 1955. It's 1 in a series. The other farms include, Grafmiller, Layton, Martin, Noble, Henry, Roupe, Milner, Simpson, Finafrock and Greiff.

Members of the DAR and Zion Lutheran Church installed a small monument to honor Veterans at the Zion Hill Cemetery. It is being dedicated June 18 at 10 AM. All are welcome.

The Brickyard Day planning committee met Wednesday. The flyer is coming together. T-shirts are causing a problem. We can't use the same company we have in the past. We are working on getting another printer.

Gayle Dwyer joined the Society today. She is the granddaughter of Ole Wind and daughter of Vera Wind Spaulding. She brought a 1910 Clayton Critic newspaper and several old pictures sent to her by Minnie Westby Hayworth. Mike Reiter reported: 1) I haven't heard from Doug Knight, so I checked in with the rental folks about a forklift for the eagle. It would be about \$400 if we lifted it down on to the trailer and then used it to get it unloaded at the Fairgrounds. They have to charge for delivery. He kind of hinted that they might load it onto our trailer for free and then we would be on our own to get it off. Taking it out of the dump trailer and setting it on the pad should be the easy part. (Hopefully) 2) I have a crew, a torch to cut the hold down tabs with, and a trailer to haul it. If I can line up something with enough oomph to pick it up out of the trailer and onto the slab we could save the money for the cover. 2) Pete moved and Bill Phipps seconded that Mike be authorized to spend what is necessary to move the Eagle up to \$7800. Motion passed.

The field trip to Challengehill tractor museum is still on for June 18, 10:30 AM. It's located at 5163 S. Wallbridge Road, on the east side just south of the Happy Home Church. It is on the east side of Wallbridge not like it was mistakenly stated in last month's minutes.

Laura Chamberlain reported by email: 1) The printer is awesome! The dog tags are awesome! 2) The time capsule company had a glitch so, at no additional cost, upgraded my order to their most expensive stainless steel model - which is awesome! It should get here next week. When it arrives, you, Mayor, Fire Chief and I need to meet for a photo op at the fire station. 3) I will need electricity to run the printer at Settlers Day Picnic, so may not be able to set up in the Historical Society booth. 4) I thought it would be fun to have the Capsule in the parade. Somehow... if anyone has any ideas there. If so, I was thinking of passing out fliers to parade goers so they would know to look for the time capsule / picture area and know the cost ahead of time. 5) So as not to get lost or sidetracked, the items going into the capsule need to be relevant to today, giving the future a snapshot of life in Deer Park today. Some historic artifacts may be pertinent, but the purpose of the capsule is a glimpse of today, not yesterday. Some 5 or 6 generation families may want to include a page showing the family tree. ( Everything needs to be on special paper with an archive pen.) 6)

*The Art of Foreseeing the Future  
is a Craft Perfected  
by Studying the Past.*



*Join the  
Clayton ♦ Deer Park  
Historical Society.*

*Open Meeting Second Saturday of Each Month — 10:00 AM.  
Deer Park City Hall Complex — 300 Block East 'A' Street — Look for the Sign.*

*(website) [www.cdphs.org](http://www.cdphs.org)  
(mailing address) Box 293, Clayton, Washington 99110  
(telephone) 509-276-2693*

*Illustration from Collier's Magazine, October 21, 1905.*

The essay idea did not go over well. I may end up with only a few. I am not sure how that will play out. It was not an important component of the project, so no worries. 7) I need to collect \$554 from the Historical Society. I will get \$554 from City of Deer Park on the 14th. 8) As soon as school lets out, I am going to concentrate on origami - that is folding no glue / no tape / acid free envelopes and sewing muslin pouches to protect objects from objects. It was moved by Christina Burris and seconded by Rachelle Fletcher to postpone the decision on spending the \$554 until next month's meeting when things are clarified.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 9, 2022, at 10:00 AM at our building.  
Meeting adjourned at 11:00.

Minutes submitted by Tracy Strong Society Secretary.

### **Society Contacts**

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### **Comments Policy**

*We encourage anyone with observations, concerns, corrections, divergent opinions or additional materials relating to the contents of these newsletters to write the society or contact one or more of the individuals listed in the "Society Contacts" box found in each issue. Resultant conversations can remain confidential if so desired.*

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