

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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## In Search Of The Story Behind Clayton's Water Pump & Tower

After attending this year's Clayton Days celebration, John C. Henry, former Clayton resident and 1966 graduate of Deer Park High School, emailed the Society regarding the remains of an old pump sitting in front of the former Phillips 66 station on the south side of Railroad Avenue. Local scuttlebutt says that the abandoned pump was once used to supply water to the town.



Recalling his days of rambling around the Clayton area, John wrote "When I lived at Clayton there was a shed located beside Beaver Creek — some distance south of the old Clayton school. The shed was supposed to have been the old pump house for Clayton's water tower. The remains of the pump at Don and Carl's old station look very similar to the one I saw sitting in that pump house."

John placed the site as just west of Swenson Road, and a few feet south of Bellstar Road, on the small triangle of land formed where Beaver Creek passes first under Bellstar and then turns east under Swenson.

"When I explored the shed, its roof was gone and the walls were partially pulled down." As for what might remain, John reported he stopped by the site on his Clayton Days visit and saw nothing but a few "tile remnants sticking out of the brush."

At one time the first thing people spotted when approaching most any small town was its water tower. Traditionally these were wooden tanks elevated on stilts. Windmills or engine driven pumps would top off the reservoir whenever the water level fell. Keeping the water level high preserved the wooden tank by keeping the wood swollen and the joints tight. It also ensured that, in case of fire, the tank would always be ready to provide the maximum possible amount of pressurized water.

Historically the most probable threats to any closely packed community are fire and disease. Clayton had been decimated by multiple fires during its youth. That threat would doubtless have been a community concern since the founding of the industrial town by Washington Brick and Lime in 1893. A detailed map of the town published in 1932 by the

Free — Take One

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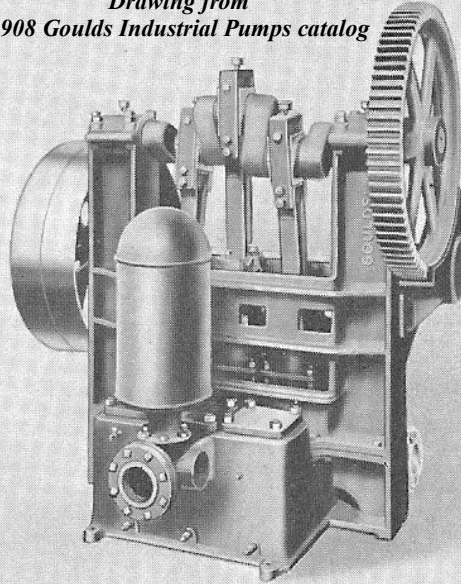
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Sanborn Map Company indicates that a wooden water tower had been constructed by at least that date. But it's likely that a water tower existed much earlier than that. If so, since Clayton was — according to the legend on the map — an “unincorporated town”, it's probable that Washington Brick & Lime would have built the tower primarily as part of its factory firefighting strategy — and to lower the company's insurance premiums. But we're still unsure as to whether the water tower's original intent was to supply water to the town as well as the factory.

Mae Fischbach, the daughter of Charles Huffman and Mattie (Hensley) Huffman, was born in Clayton in 1912, and lived there until she graduated from Clayton High School in 1932. The Huffman household was located one block south of Clayton's business district.

In an interview with the C/DPHS, Mae recalled, “We never had a bathroom in the house while I was living there. We didn't even have water coming into the house. We had a well on the prop-

*Drawing from  
1908 Goulds Industrial Pumps catalog*



*Photo by John C. Henry*

erty. We used a hand pump to fill a bucket, and then we carried the water into the house.”

“For hot water we had a reservoir on the side of the woodstove that we kept full all the time. If we had a fire, we'd have hot water.”

“Since we didn't have inside plumbing, we didn't have an inside bathroom. We had an outhouse. At night we'd use chamber pots — thunder mugs. So there was always the morning task of carrying those out to the outhouse to dump.”

If the pump and tower did exist prior to 1932, it's apparent not all — and perhaps none — of the town's residences were tapped into the supply.

According to the 1932 map, the tower was located at the far west end of Washington Brick and Lime's factory, and approximately fifty feet north of the railroad tracks that parallel the north side of Railroad Avenue. It's described as a “25,000 gallon wood water tank elevated 40 feet above ground.”

The map states that the source for the tank's water was a “small creek located three quarters of mile southwest of plant.” It goes on to state that the water was pumped by an electric powered triplex plunger pump with a 30 gallon per minute capacity, and that the water was delivered to the water tower by a 2 inch pipe

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Returning home to Walla Walla after his Clayton Days visit, John Henry was still puzzled. "The pump at the old Phillips 66 certainly looked like the pump I saw in the old pump house." John wrote, "I stopped and took some pictures of the water pump on my way out of town. Back home, I talk the situations over with an engineer friend of mine. He had a 1908 Goulds' industrial pump catalog — Goulds being the company name cast into the frame of the pump in my photos. And we found something very similar — if not exact — in the catalog"

The description in the catalog stated that pump type "1696" was a single-acting general service triplex plunger pump — just as stated in the legend on the Sanborn Map. The 1908 catalog went on to state that the "1696" could be "built in a comprehensive range of sizes and capacities from 2 to 600 gallons per minute, and pressures up to 1500 pounds per square inch. For general water supply, municipal water works, boiler feeding, hydraulic elevators, mine pumping, and similar services. Further information on request."

At this point we know that this particular type of pump was available at least as early as 1908. But we still have no hard evidence pushing the pump's date at Clayton further back than 1932.

"Based on the catalog date, it's possible that the water system could have been built immediately after the big fire of 1908." Then John goes on to say, "The pump as shown in the catalog was clearly designed to be driven by a wide, flat belt. I'm guessing that the primary drive was an electric motor somewhere in the 30 horsepower range. I would also expect to have found a gasoline engine that could be used in the event of a power failure. Modern plants always have several electric fire water pumps and a diesel powered fire pump for backup."

According to the Sandborn map, water pressure for firefighting could have been supplied by a Fairbanks Morse duplex steam pump located in the brick plant's boiler room. As John explained, "The backup pump would have drawn its water directly from the water tower. The steam powered pump would have been used to maintain pressure in the brick plant's water system if a number of fire hydrants were simultaneously in use." Apparently the expectation was that such a pressure drop was likely if the water tower's gravity feed system was overdrawn.

"I'm very curious about how the level in

the water tank was maintained," John continued. "I remember there was a float on the inside connected to a pointer on the outside of the tank that could be seen from quite a distance. Modern pumps are controlled by level switches that tell when the water level in the tank is low. This turns the pump on. Then, another switch at the upper limit closes when the tank is full and turns the pump off."

"All this would imply that there were control wires strung between the water tank and the pump house — or that the power for the pump was switched near the water tank then run to the pump house on overhead poles."

Long time Washington Brick and Lime employee Eddie Olson recalls, "The main switch for the water tower's pump was located in the brick plant's boiler room. But that only sent electrical power out to the tower. The pump itself was regulated by a float device inside the tank — basically a gallon jug attached to the end of a lever. Sometimes the motor wouldn't shut off when the tank was full. Tending the boilers and kilns at night, if I went out there and found the water tank running over — which happened quite a bit — it was my job to fix it."

"I'd have to climb up the ladder to the walkway around the base of the tank. The ladder, the walkway, everything would be sopping. And if it was winter, everything would be iced over. Once on the walkway, I'd crawl up a ladder on the side of the tank itself, lean in through the access at the top, and work with that float and lever until the motor shut down. That was about the worse job I ever had."

"Another one of my jobs was collecting a water sample to send to Colville. They wanted to check the water quality once a month. So just a few days before we were supposed to collect the sample, I'd go give the tank an extra shot of chlorine — just to make sure we would pass."

The system for activating the pump was somewhat different during the relatively short time that Deer Park's Lewis "Shorty" Daugherty worked at the factory. Shorty said, "When I worked graveyard, one of my jobs was to make sure the water tower was full. They had a big scale on the outside that indicated the water level. If it was low, I'd flip a switch in the boiler room and the pump would fill the reservoir."

"The water was piped from the creek a ways down Swenson Road — down past the Nord's

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farm. The water right around Clayton wasn't any good because everyone had outhouses."

"Another job I had was blowing the plant's whistle. At six o'clock in the morning I'd blast on it for one full minute – to wake the town up. At midnight on New Year's Eve I'd blow it. Any other time I blew it, it meant there was a fire either at the plant or somewhere in town."

As a final question, John Henry asked, "Does anyone know how the pump came to be

where it is now?" Perhaps one of our readers has the answer to that, as well as to when the tower was dismantled.

The Society would like to thank John for bringing this story forward, for obtaining a PDF of the Sandborn map, and for finding the drawing of the pump in the 1908 Goulds' industrial pump catalog. It adds another layer to Clayton's unique history.

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**Letters to the Society**

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**Please Note:  
All comments, corrections, and criticisms printed  
can and will be edited by the society for clarity, brevity,  
and — if necessary — content.**

The following letter is from Jim Strobeck of Largo, Florida.

*My good friend Ken Westby, who grew up in Deer Park, sent me a PDF of your Mortarboard #6 from September, 2008.*

*Ken and I worked in the same design office for the Bonneville Power Administration for 20 years — until I weakened and bailed out. He told many stories of growing up in Deer Park, and I could relate pretty good as I grew up down in Grant County, in Ephrata, and had relatives in Spokane.*

*I served in the Air Force for 20 years before my BPA time, and Ken knew I was interested in the history surrounding Fairchild Air Force Base and its old missile sites.*

*I really enjoyed reading the Mortarboard, especially your 'Over the Kitchen Table' entry about your recent tour to the old Atlas missile site east of Deer Park. As I read on, I was with you every step of the tour. Great Stuff.*

*We have a daughter who lives near Colbert. When we visit her, we also drive around the area to check out places we might like to settle into in a few years. Two summers ago we found Missile Site Road, and drove down it until we came to the locked gate. My memories are still fresh about that. So I really enjoyed your article.*

*In the Air Force I was in weather as an observer — a cloud peeper. Then I was in the maintenance of weather instruments and equipment. In that capacity I was assigned to several SAGE (Semi-*

*Automatic Ground Environment) blockhouses, and visited many Titan missile silos to calibrate their instruments.*

*I should very much like to order a copy of your 48 page booklet as mentioned in the newsletter, and enclose a check which I hope will be sufficient as a donation and cover the postage. I thank you in advance.*

*By the way, have you visited any of the other Fairchild 567<sup>th</sup> Missile Squadron sites? One wonders what they would look like today, and what use they're being put to — if any. That's collectively a whole bunch of concrete.*

As for the current use of the nine Atlas E bunkers scattered in a wide oval around Fairchild Air Force Base, Dick Mellor, former missileer with Fairchild's 567th Strategic Missile Squadron, sent us the following list.

Site #1 — Deer Park: Owned by Northwest Energetic Services and used for the manufacture of industrial explosives.

Site #2 — Newman Lake: Was used to house recreational vehicles, currently used for storage.

Site #3 — Rockford: Farm machinery storage.

Site #4 — Sprague: Home of Dave McIntyre.

Site #5 — Harrington: Farm machinery storage.

Site #6 — Davenport: Home of Peter Davenport.

Site #7 — Wilbur: Tree seedling grower.

Site #8 — Egypt: Owned by man from Fargo, North Dakota. Currently empty.

Site #9 — Owned by the Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia.

Regarding the SAGE blockhouses that Jim mentioned in his letter, internet sources indicated

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that there were 22 of these four story concrete structures scattered around the county. The closest to us was located at Larson Air Force Base, just a few miles north of Moses Lake. The blockhouses, built by IBM beginning in 1958, were intended to use computers (at the beginning those were the huge, vacuum tube behemoths) to collect, organize, and then distribute data regarding the air defense environment over the United States. It's also suggested that these centers could, when collecting data on enemy aircraft entering U. S. airspace, direct remote controlled surface to air missiles to intercept. All of this was part of NORAD (North American Air Defense Command), and the ADC (Air Defense Command).

Within its command, Larson Air Force Base had nine first generation Titan silo housed missiles arranged in three missile complexes – three missiles per complex. Those complexes were sited near Odessa, Warden, and Quincy. The two-stage Titan rockets housed in those complexes were developed as a backup to the Atlas system — such as the Atlas E rocket that once rested in Deer Park's coffin bunker. Larson's Titans were activated in the autumn of 1962, over a year and a half after Fairchild's Atlas E missile system went into the defense loop, and were decommissioned just a few months after the Atlas systems were shut down. The next generations of Titans, the Titan II, continued on active duty until 1987 — and none of those second generation Titans were ever based in Washington State.

Although the two-stage Titan I rockets were housed in hardened silos much superior to the Atlas E's bunkers, the missile's guidance system was still an inferior system to Deer Park's Atlas E. Its deficiency was that the missile's guidance system still relied on ground telemetry and control during the first eight minutes of its flight, whereas the Atlas E was targeted by an onboard inertial flight-control system directed by an onboard computer. This made the pre-programmed Atlas E and F models totally independent of the ground at the moment of launch. The Atlas system was immune to outside interference through manipulation or disruption of a command link to the ground — a vulnerability that did exist in the Titan I. And the Titan's reliance on ground control meant that the three missiles in each complex could only be launched at 8 minute intervals — which meant that the last missile would be leaving half an hour after the launch order

had been received, and would still be reliant on its ground station for eight minutes after that. When war-gaming the possibilities of nuclear warfare, that's simply much too long to be a viable target.

Both the Atlas system and the Titan I system were superseded by the Titan II, which combined the greater lifting capacity of the Titan's two-stage system with the onboard inertial guidance and computer system of the Atlas E and F models. Added to this was a switch to hypergolic fuel — fuel and oxidizing agents that were stored inside the rocket rather than in external storage tanks. This eliminated the need for pumping fuel into the rockets immediately before launch, and reduced the 15 minute launch preparation time of the older Titan I and Atlas systems to only 60 seconds for the Titan II — though it also made the Titan II rockets much more prone to accidental in-silo explosions.

The older Titan I sites, such as those in eastern Washington, were not compatible with the physically enlarged and much modified Titan II missiles, so the existent Titan sites couldn't be used unless they were totally rebuilt — which basically meant starting from scratch. Those scratches were made further inland — possibly in response to the enemy's growing capabilities regarding submarine based ICBMs launched from positions close to our shoreline.

One of Larson Air Force Base's long deactivated Titan I complexes is currently on the market for three-hundred thousand dollars — should anyone be interested in radiation resistant underground housing. However, considering the current housing climate, it might be possible to pick it up for less.

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Paul J. Erickson sent an email that opened up an online conversation about the history of veterinarians in the local community — and somehow went from there to include snow-sledding, Volkswagen Beetles, and local grocery stores. It began when Paul recalled Dean Snook as having practiced veterinary medicine in the local area from sometime in the 1950s until his retirement in 1988.

Paul said, *"I remember Dean and his partner, Ernie Kettel, had some of the earliest Volkswagen Beetles in the area. In winter they used the Beetles to travel the snowy roads out to the surrounding farms."*

*"Also, on winter weekends in the early*

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'60s they both used their VW Bugs to haul kids and their sleds back up this long snowy country hill. I was one of the kids. A couple of lines of sleds would be tied, one after the other, onto ropes strung from the back bumpers of the Volkswagens. Going back up the hill became as much fun as sliding down."

"I think it was Gaber's or Gardner's Hill — or something like that. Maybe someone can remember for me."

Deer Park's Pete Coffin replied.

"The hill Paul sledded on was known as Garber Hill, and is the half mile stretch of Burroughs Road from west of the Cleveland Road/Burroughs Road intersection to Monroe Road just east of where Dragoon Creek flows under Monroe Road. The hill is southeast of what was Jack and Mary (DePaola) Hopkins' property. It was a very popular sledding hill in the 1950's."

Paul continued with another story about the now identified Garber Hill.

"A bunch of us older kids were sledding at night. It was bitter cold, and there was a bonfire at the bottom of the hill. I think it was Cathy Erickson and Donna Decker riding together on the same sled who went flying off the road into the darkness about half way down. Seconds later they came running back onto the road — as soon as they realized their sled had landed on top of a dead calf lying frozen in the ditch."

"Ahh — the pleasures of Deer Park past."

To this Pete Coffin added, "The Decker girl was the daughter of Ole Decker who ran a butcher shop on Main Street until he died of a heart attack."

Society president Bill Sebright commented, "We had our sledding hills around Clayton — Lewis's, Gibbs', and Boggs' hills. We skated on the brick plant pond, too."

Regarding veterinarian Ernie Kettel, Bill added, "The first time I remember Ernie coming out to our farm west of Clayton, he was driving his light blue 1955 Chevy. We had a bloated cow. We were surprised because he got to our place in less than 10 minutes. When we asked him how he got there so fast, he said he was going between 90 and 100 miles an hour all the way. He sure had a smile on his face when telling us that."

On the issue of Volkswagens, Pete Coffin submitted, "I believe Paul Berger owned one of the

first Beetles to appear in Deer Park. In the mid 1950s, Paul's job was to visit farms and artificially inseminate cows. He used the back seat of his Beetle to haul a large liquid nitrogen tank filled with plastic tubes of bull semen."

"By 1959 the Beetle was getting well worn, and the paint had faded. Jim Swinyard Sr. owned the automobile repair shop on the corner of Main and Crawford, and he and his father did body work and painting as well as running the shop and wrecker service. The Beetle was spruced up for sale. Jim painted the car a bright orange, cleaned the interior, and replaced the back seat. Jim Swinyard Jr. took me for a ride in the little car. It was a lot of fun, and compared to the big cars of the time, was very agile around corners."

Paul Erickson also commented about the letter from Melinda Reynolds in issue #4 of the Mortarboard. Paul said, "Seeing Melinda's name in the newsletter reminded me of what nice people her parents, Ralph and June Ward, were. Their IGA grocery store was a fixture in Deer Park. Was their store there before Yokes?"

"Ward's grocery store was located on the northwest corner of Main Street and First," Pete Coffin replied. "I think that store was opened sometime after Yokes had moved to their first new building at the corner of Crawford and Arnum. The original Yokes was one or two doors north of the old J & J Tavern, on the west side of Main Street."

"Previous to Yokes, I think a man named Young had a grocery store in the old Western Auto store located in Gordon Grove's building. My father and Young's son were friends, and I remember going down into the basement for something when I was five or six years old."

"After school and on weekends, Abe Roberts (Howard Worhle's son-in-law) and Howard Roberts (Dan Berg's brother-in-law) stocked shelves for Ralph Ward. June Ward, Icel Gollon (spelling?), and Jovetta Wright (spelling?) worked check-out."

Bill Sebright extended the story by pointing out that, "Ed and Lenore Meyers owned the store before Wards. My mom, Iva Sebright, went to work for Ed in June of 1951, and continued on by working for Ralph until she moved on to Citizens Utility. Dorothy Collins also checked for Ralph."

The editor would like to extend his special thanks to Paul Erickson, Pete Coffin, and Bill Se-

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bright for participating in the above spate of emails. It does reinforce a point made by Paul, that all the people recalled in the above messages — especially Dean Snook, and Ralph and June Ward — would

make excellent subjects for stories in future issues of the Mortarboard.

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**Society Minutes — October, 2008**

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On Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, at 09:00 AM, society president Bill Sebright called the historical society's monthly meeting to order.

Members, associates, and guests in attendance included Bill Sebright, Mark Wagner, Patricia Parker, Wally Lee Parker, Rob Higgins, Bob Clouse, Mary Clouse, Marilyn Reilly, Warren Nord, Lorraine Nord, Betty Burdette, Sharon Clark, Bob Gibson, Art Stelting, Marny Burdega, Margie Burdega, Bub Roberts, and Ray Hall.

Treasurer Mark Wagner reported on the society's financial condition, after which Mark went on to point out that this month is the society's sixth birthday.

The inaugural meeting of the Clayton Historical Society was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, 2002. The founding members were Bill Sebright, Bob Peetz, Rob Higgins, Mark Wagner, Gary Whitney, and Don and Loraine Ball. The reason for the creation of the society as a registered non-profit organization was to save the old Clayton school. The intent of the society has been expanding ever since, and its current objectives are listed in the mission statement printed on the first page of every issue of the Mortarboard.

Warren Nord brought photos of the old Clayton Grange Hall being moved to the Nord farm after Warren's dad purchased the building. The move took place on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of December, 1958. The men that helped with the move included Bob Herendeen, Leno Prestini, Tom Scriven, Sol Twidwell, Harry Jose, and, of course, Lyle, Warren, and Clarence Nord.

In response to a request from Clark Satre, Marny and Margret Burdega brought information about the old Kaufman ranch to the meeting. The Satre family had lived on the ranch at one time.

The ranch was located about 4 miles south of the Wild Rose Cemetery in the area of Hazard and Ballard Roads. In summers, during the 1940s, Mike Burdega farmed the property for the Kaufmann family on a crop share basis.

Records indicate that Charlie Proctor

owned the ranch before the Kaufmann family.

The Burdega family thanked the Society for including Mike's life story — as written by his wife Margret — in issue #5 of the Mortarboard.

Regarding the Print Publications department, Wally Parker reports that several members are working up family histories for publication in future issues of the Mortarboard.

Announcements of upcoming events can be posted in the Mortarboard, but the editor requires at least two months of lead time for such announcements. "I usually begin layout for the next issue on the first day of the month before. For example, layout for the October issue begins on the first day of September. After the official release date, it usually takes two weeks for the issue to get into full distribution. The more lead time you can give me, the more likely readers will see your announcement before your announced event is over."

The Society received a question from the Prestini Project committee of the Heritage Society — our group having two members on that committee. During a recent video-cam expedition to the Spokane County Courthouse, it was noted that certain tile edging on the roof of the building had the letters 'LEN' imprinted and fused into their surfaces. The question was raised as to whether this might have any relationship to Leno Prestini. We replied that materials for the courthouse, completed in 1896, were indeed supplied by Washington Brick and Lime. In fact, it's alleged that the awarding of the contract to supply said material was used by W. B. & L. in 1893 to leverage the capital to build the Clayton factory. However, since Leno was born a decade after the courthouse was completed, any connection between the two is highly improbable.

The Society could offer no other explanation for the indicated letters — although any initialing that would mar the finished surface of factory terra cotta seems unusual. Perhaps our readers might have some insight into what these letters mean, and why they would have been placed on the tiles in question.

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Webmaster Bob Clouse reported that the Society's website had 359 unique email addresses signing in one or more times. Though this is a decline over previous months, this is still a substantial number.

Bob pointed out that as of this coming January, the site will have completed two years online.

Considering the severe economic disruptions affecting so many companies (with more likely to come), there was some concern that our website provider might — although there is no current indication of such — suddenly find themselves in jeopardy and unable to continue providing their service. The only electronic backup for the data found on the website was in the possession of the web-service company itself. Just on the remote chance that something might occur that would shut the system down and prevent access to the provider's backup files, Bob made a complete backup of the website by copying the entire contents of each page and converting said contents into 'Word' documents. All the onsite photos are held by a number of Society members on duplicate DVD disks, but a good many of the photo captions were unique to the website. Now all the data — as it appears on the website — is preserved on disk in a commonly accessible format. Periodic copying of the entire site — a straightforward, though time consuming, project — should provide a measure of security regarding this type of online material.

Since the Society is a number of years away from having an actual museum/office, Bob is attempting to create a virtual museum where the various artifacts donated to the Society can be placed on display — along with the history of the objects and information about their donors, if so desired by those donors. Because this project is likely to be logistically and technically complicated, any volunteers who might have artistic or technical skills that could be of use in the construction of this virtual museum are asked to contact the society.

The issue of formal membership was dis-

cussed. The Society does have a formal board of directors and charter members, but the general membership has traditionally been informal. Our policy has been to request an initial twenty dollars to join, and no dues after that. This will continue to be how we will handle membership. As for the present, we will continue as primarily an historical information gathering organization. However, when it becomes necessary to create a permanent fund raising committee, it's likely we'll take a more formal approach to membership, and assign oversight for those formalities to the fund raising committee.

Marny Burdega suggested we put something in the Mortarboard stating that gifts or donations are welcome. We will look into tasteful ways of doing so.

Due to the very relaxed nature of Society meetings, the issue of having separate business and general meetings was brought forward. It was decided, since few of the issues the Society needs to currently address are serious, to continue as we are now doing.

Last month the *Deer Park Tribune's* editor, Tom Costigan, brought in an email that described the location of Deer Park's oldest cemetery as "one mile north of Cleveland Road in a barley field by a lone pine tree." Marilyn Newkirk, in her book, *The Legacy of Yesteryear*, stated that it became the Woodland Cemetery. Marilyn Reilly suggested it could be on the old Jack Hopkins property off of Monroe Road. Bob Gibson said that Mary Jo Reiter and he remember it being on the old C. C. Moore property north of the old mill site and east of Highway 395. Obviously, more research needs to be done. It's hoped that this discussion can continue at the next meeting — with some progress toward a resolution.

Ray Hall noted that Bruce Kratzer's carvings are on display at the Red Barn Farm Museum.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 10:06 AM.

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