

# Looking Forward or Looking Back?



Illustration from the Colville Examiner, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1907.

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CLAYTON/DEER PARK  
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## Mortarboard

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The C/DPHS is an association of individuals dedicated to the preservation of the history of our community. To the preservation of the region's oral history, literary history, social history, graphic and pictorial history, and our history as represented by the region's artifacts and structures. To the preservation of this history for future generations. To the art of making this common heritage accessible to the public. And to the act of collaborating with other individuals and organizations sharing similar goals.

### The Clayton News-Letter!

— or —

### How a Society Member Obtained the Classic Clayton Newspaper's Entire Run for Our Image Archive.

by

Wally Lee Parker

... obtaining the files ...

We recently located a webpage produced by the Washington State Library system that suggested images of Clayton's second newspaper, the *Clayton News-Letter*, had been preserved on microfilm in the library's collection. Prior to this, we'd assumed all copies of this publication had been lost. In mid-June, I sent an email describing the State Library's webpage to the *Mortarboard's* editorial group. Society member Ken Westby, who resides in Vancouver, Washington, followed up, and a day later sent the editorial group this note.

"The newspaper appears to be part of the State Library's collection, and is listed in the library catalog as 'available.' The resource is on microfilm. Whether it's viewable online or must be viewed onsite at a microfilm viewer is not clear."

Regarding the *News-Letter's* place in Clayton's history, we are aware of an earlier

### Clayton Livery Stables

U. G. JONES, Proprietor.



Good Driving Teams Always Ready.

"Never Sleep" Is Our Motto.

TRY US AND BE CONVINCED.

Ad from the Clayton News-Letter,  
October 3, 1912.



Photo courtesy of Ken Westby.

**Ken Westby Downloading Images of the Clayton News-Letter to a USB Memory Stick at the Library in Vancouver, Washington.**

*As Ken reported, “The 35mm film reader is on my left, and one of the newspaper’s images is on the monitor screen.”*

newspaper titled the *Clayton Critic*. As far as we know, only one issue of this publication still exists — that held as a memento by descendants of Clayton’s Wind family. Before her passing in the spring of 2012, Clayton’s Vera (Wind) Spaulding permitted Peter Coffin, vice-president of the C/DPHS, to create a digital copy of this publication — the *Clayton Critic*’s April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1910 issue. Another Clayton newspaper, the *Moose Bulletin*, was published from 1929 to 1932. Peter Coffin has obtained (and in fact was instrumental in producing) a set of digital images of that paper as well.

Pursuing the *Clayton News-Letter* lead, Ken sent this inquiry using the “Ask a Librarian” function on the Washington State Library’s website. “Searching your online catalog, I find that a newspaper of possible interest to our historical society is listed as available, but is on microfilm. It was published weekly for about a year in 1912 and ‘13. What are our options for viewing and printing pages from this resource.”

The library replied, “Your options depend on where you are located. If you are able to visit the Washington State Library in Olympia, you’re welcome to make an appoint-

ment to come in and view the microfilm in question. Our microfilm readers have printing capabilities and several of our microfilm readers can also create digital images of the film (that can be saved as PDFs, JPEGs, TIFFs, etc.).

“If you are not able to come to the library, you can request an interlibrary loan of the film through your local library. Make sure the local library has a working microfilm reader/printer.”

As Ken considered this, I dredged the following mention from a vintage regional newspaper, the *Colville Examiner* — a limited number of years of which are available for viewing on the Library of Congress’s *Chronicling America* website. The July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1912, edition of the *Examiner* reported, “Clayton now has a newspaper, F. M. Corbell having issued the first number last Thursday. Its name is the *News-Letter*.”

Meanwhile, Ken was enmeshed in the kind of tangle that sometimes occurs when a library attempts to retrieve seldom accessed materials. Namely, the Vancouver library was uncertain as to the microfilm’s actual location — the library at Olympia, or the Washington State University library at Pullman. The issue was quickly settled when Kathleen Roland, head of the Interlibrary Loan unit at Olympia intervened.

Kathleen wrote Ken to say, “We do have the reel of microfilm that is described in the catalog entry you provided. I went through the reel to determine its contents earlier today. It contains issues from July 18, 1912, through August 29, 1913. However, the following issues were not microfilmed and are missing from the reel: July 25, 1912; August 29, 1912; September 19, 1912; December 5, 1912.”

Apparently, the confusion over which library possessed the film arose from the fact that WSU has its own copy. Vancouver’s

online search apparently traced a link to that copy first.

The librarian in Olympia continued, “Since you live in Vancouver, it seems like inter-library loan might be the best option for you.”

Ken verified that the Vancouver library’s viewing machine could save digital copies to a memory stick, and put in a request for the film.

On July 8<sup>th</sup>, having received notice that the microfilm had arrived at the local library, Ken wrote, “This afternoon I went to the library. A librarian showed me how to use the viewer and how to save images to a thumb drive. It got easier with a little practice, and in about two hours I was able to get 13 issues saved as PDF files. Tomorrow I shall return and continue. All the issues thus far contain 4 pages. The format is very similar to the old *Deer Park Unions*.”

After a day’s work downloading the rest of the issues, Ken burned the collected files to DVDs, and mailed a number of copies to Pete Coffin for distribution to various researchers, and inclusion in the archive.

**... two entangled newspapers ...**

It turns out that Clayton’s *News-Letter* and the newspaper serving the resort community just five and a half miles to the northwest, the *Loon Lake Times*, shared a common history, at least in the latter part of their short lives. It’s a complicated tale, with a moderately large cast of characters.

Our current understanding of the story begins with a one sentence announcement in the December 29<sup>th</sup>, 1910, edition of the *Newport Miner*. “Stevens County has a new newspaper, the *Loon Lake Times*.”

That declaration seems a bit late, since, by our reckoning, the first issue of the *Times* should have been published on Novem-

**Google edition of the *Loon Lake Times*.**

<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=FqkprvusZAMC>

ber 11<sup>th</sup>, of that year.

Some confusion might arise in the fact that there's a modern incarnation of the *Loon Lake Times* — one that's only been in publication since 1986. This new rendition is separated from the original by a gap of over 70 years. And other than the name, there's apparently no connection between the two.

We've yet to find any trace of who the founding editor and/or owner of the vintage version of the *Loon Lake Times* was. It should be as easy as looking on the masthead of any of the earlier issues — the problem being in finding an earlier issue to look at.

To clarify the term "masthead," among American publishers it usually refers to a segment within a periodical in which the title, ownership, editorial staff, advertising and subscription rates and the like are listed. The publication's title, usually displayed in large, stylized print at the very top of a newspaper's first page, is generally, in American usage, referred to as the "nameplate."

The Washington State Library has several years of the original run of the *Loon Lake Times* on microfilm, but only those issued between May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1911, and October 25<sup>th</sup>, 1913. The other source at hand is Google's online newspaper archive, where a series of issues published between June 16<sup>th</sup>, 1911, and May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1913 — less than the span covered by the above microfilm — can be viewed. Since the *Times* appears to have changed hands just prior to the earliest issue archived on microfilm, it's unlikely the masthead in the first several of the microfilm issues will reveal the name of the prior owner and editor.

Just six months after the first issue of the *Loon Lake Times* came off the press, the *Colville Examiner* announced that "Elmer Burrows, recently editor of the *Springdale Reformer*, has purchased the *Loon Lake Times* and will henceforth wield the pen for that growing vicinity." No mention was made of the prior owner.

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1912 — just under a year after Burrows took over — the following appeared on page four of the *Loon Lake*

*Times*. "We are enabled to announce the sale of the *Times* plant and business to H. P. Moody, an experienced newspaper man and practical printer of Chicago, who assumes immediate control, the undersigned saying goodbye and retiring with this issue. ...

"Sincerely yours, Elmer W. Burrows."

A hint as to the reason for Mr. Burrows' departure is found on page five of the following week's newspaper. "Elmer W. Burrows, former editor of the *Times*, will leave Monday for Seattle, where he intends to take a much-needed rest. Mr. Burrows has made many friends in this section, who all wish him abundant success and a speedy and permanent recovery."

That same April 26<sup>th</sup> issue also contained the new owner's editorial introduction to the community.

"In assuming the ownership and management of the *Times*, the undersigned desires to say a few words by way of introduction.

"After a careful investigation covering a period of over two years and extending over a large portion of the Northwest, I became attracted by the many advantages offered by *Loon Lake*, especially its irrigated fruit lands, which, everything considered, in my opinion are far superior to any other point in the Northwest. ...

"To my fellow editors of the great *Inland Empire*; Our latchstring is on the outside. Pull it, walk in and help yourself. ...

"Truly yours, Herbert P. Moody."

... and then Clayton's newspaper appears ...

Two months after Moody's takeover of the *Loon Lake Times*, another newspaper, with the rather plainly stylized nameplate *The Clayton News-Letter*, entered the area's market. In its very first edition, dated Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1912, the new publication's editor, F. M. Corbell, began his personal introduction with the statement, "In assuming the editorial management of the *Clayton News-Letter*, I

realize that I have also assumed a heavy responsibility to not only the town of Clayton and its excellent people, but to the entire country; for what stands for the upbuilding and the general good of one stands equally for the other."

Arguably, the most interesting line in the above quote was "In assuming the editorial management."

Several paragraphs on, Corbell asserts, "The *News-Letter* has come to you to stay, and I am justified in saying that all arrangements have been perfected and in the near future this paper will issue from its own press, but until such time, the exclusive matter contained in its columns will be edited at home, devoted to home interest, and pertaining to the general welfare of our great commonwealth."

This seems to suggest that the *News-Letter* wasn't being printed in Clayton — though as Corbell understood it, at some point it would be. Also, with the phrase "the exclusive matter contained in its columns will be edited at home," Corbell seems to be implying that some percentage of the content would originate elsewhere.

As for where, under the heading "Clayton Notes," the first page of the first issue also noted, "J. W. Dunlap and H. P. Moody of *Loon Lake* spent part of the day here last week. Mr. Moody is the publisher of the *Loon Lake Times*, and has been instrumental in the establishment of the *News-Letter*."

The first nine issues of Clayton's *News-Letter* listed only one name of the paper's masthead, that of the editor, F. M. Corbell. The tenth issue printed, that published on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1912, added H. P. Moody as "publisher." With that it became clear the Mr. Moody of the *Loon Lake Times* was and likely had, since been the proprietor of both papers since the *News-Letter*'s inception.

... editor Corbell's history ...

What little history we have of H. P. Moody comes from the small introductory

autobiography he published when he assumed command of the *Loon Lake Times*. F. M. Corbell apparently didn't feel compelled to introduce himself to the Clayton community with the first edition of the *Clayton News-Letter*, most likely because he'd already been living there for a few years, at least.

While we have found mention of an F. M. Corbell living on a ranch in the Colton area in southeastern Washington State in the late 1880s, the first mention so far located of what was assuredly our Mr. Corbell was in the December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1910, edition of the *Newport Miner*. It appears Mr. Corbell was requesting a small sum from the Stevens County Board of Commissioners as compensation for election related services tendered to the Clayton precinct.

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1911 — eight months before becoming editor of the *Clayton News-Letter* — the following mention appeared in the *Colville Examiner*. "In the matter of the petition of F. M. Corbell and seventy-eight others to incorporate the town of Clayton, the petition was rejected on account of not complying with the statutory requirements." According to the *Examiner*, that dictate was issued at the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of Stevens County's commissioners.

Corbell's continuing activity within the community during his tenure as the *News-Letter*'s editor was suggested when the February 15<sup>th</sup>, 1913, edition of the *Colville Examiner* announced, "Petition to appoint F. M. Corbell justice of the peace, Clayton precinct, granted."

Little else concerning editor Corbell's history has been found to date.

... another change ...

And then this announcement appeared in the April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1913, edition of the *Clayton News-Letter*.

"My retirement from the editorial management of the *News-Letter* with this issue is a matter of deep regret on my part, but other duties imperatively demand my time to such

an extent that I feel unable to give the paper the attention due both to it and its patrons.

“Mr. Moody will assume entire management of the paper hereafter, and while thanking my many friends for their support and loyalty, I ask them to give that support to Mr. Moody, who will leave nothing undone to merit their approval.

“F. M. Corbell.”

... and still more changes ...

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, 1913, the *Colville Examiner* reported, “W. A. Lee has leased the *Loon Lake Times* and *Clayton Critic* from H. L. Moody and will conduct the papers. Mr. Moody is taking a vacation by reading proof on the *Spokesman-Review*.

“Mr. Lee is an old-timer in the business, formerly located at Deer Lodge, Mont., and the *Examiner* editor was pleased to renew his acquaintance this week and to welcome him to the Stevens County fraternity.

The most startling comment in the above article is the statement, “W. A. Lee has leased the *Loon Lake Times* and *Clayton Critic* from H. L. Moody” — specifically the reference to the Clayton paper as the “*Clayton Critic*.” More on this later.

The last edition of the *News-Letter* in our image file is dated August 29<sup>th</sup>, 1913. At that time, the paper’s nameplate was unchanged, and nothing in that issue of the paper suggested either a change of name or a change of publisher was in the offing. The issues of the *Loon Lake Times* reproduced in Google’s online newspaper archive ends with the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1913 edition. If editions much closer to Mr. Lee’s stated takeover exist in other archives, we may eventually gain some insight into demise of both the *Times* and *News-Letter*. As of now, we’ve no idea whether either survived the indicated transition.

We may have found an earlier reference to W. A. Lee. The May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1904, edition of the *Evening Statesman*, a paper published at Walla Walla from 1903 to 1910, recorded, “Mrs. W. A. Lee, wife of W. A. Lee, editor of

the *Connell Statesman*, died at that place May 4. A child was born to them early in the afternoon and a short time afterward Mrs. Lee passed away.”

Likely founded in 1903, scattered editions of this *Connell Statesman* extending into 1904 are preserved on microfilm. Beyond that we yet to find anything else regarding Mr. Lee.

... the Clayton Critic ...

Our search through various databases for a newspaper named *The Clayton Critic* has so far produced just three traces. We have the *Examiner’s* above short clip mentioning W. A. Lee’s leasing of “the *Loon Lake Times* and *Clayton Critic* from H. L. Moody” — which may be a typesetter’s or editorial error considering that the town’s first known newspaper carried the *Critic* nameplate. That said, we have no reason to believe that the *Critic’s* nameplate was still in existence when Mr. Lee took over. The second mention of the *Clayton Critic* so far located is from the June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1910, edition of the *Colville Examiner* — some three years before W. A. Lee’s takeover. In what appears to be an editorial discussion of Stevens County politics, the *Colville* paper states, “And now two more papers have withdrawn their support from the Rev. Ananias E. They are the *Ione Record* and the *Wilson Creek World*. In a few weeks the *Index* and its accompanying sheet, the *Clayton Critic*, will be the only ones left — except the *Index* stockholders.”

It appears Colville had three iterations of newspapers carrying the name *Index*. One of those, the *Stateman-Index*, reportedly was in print beginning in 1897, and continuing (possibly spottily) into 1923 at least. This is likely the *Index* mentioned above. The term “*accompanying sheet*” in reference to the “*Clayton Critic*” seems to suggest the Clayton publication was corporately bound to the Colville paper, and may in fact have been printed at Colville. That said, the masthead in the *Critic’s* single known issue does mention the

editor, but not the publisher. So, the above link can not yet be confirmed.

The last mention of Clayton’s *Critic* so far found is in the 1911 edition of the *Ayer & Son’s Newspaper Annual*, a “*Catalog of American Newspapers*.” That publication notes that the *Critic* was established in 1910. Our 4-page digital copy of the April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1910 edition of the *Critic* is listed as issue #10. Reckoning back from that date, the *Critic’s* inaugural edition should have appeared on Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup> of that same year. As of the release date of 1911’s *Newspaper Annual*, the *Critic* was reported as being edited by Louis J. Bowler. The *Annual* added that Clayton’s paper was released every Thursday on eight 15 by 22-inch pages (30 wide by 22 inches long when unfolded). It’s interesting to note that the one issue of the *Critic* known to exist consists of only four pages, and states in the line below its nameplate that it was published on Thursday, not Friday. Since that issue doesn’t carry page numbers, it’s impossible to determine whether or not an inner fold containing four extra pages has been lost. It’s also possible incorrect information was supplied to *Ayer & Son’s*, or that an error of fact was introduced by the *Newspaper Annual’s* editors or typesetters.

The *Critic’s* editor, Louis Bowler, appears to have been a teacher by profession. According to an item in the August 18<sup>th</sup>, 1910 edition of the *Newport Miner*, his name had been listed in Steven County’s September primary as a Republican candidate for the county’s Superintendent of Public Schools. The paper listed his residence as Clayton. We do know he eventually became the Superintendent of Schools at Ferndale, in northwestern Washington State.

... original sizes ...

When confronted with an actual copy of one of these classic newspapers, the first thing that usually draws attention is the physical dimensions of the pages. As a rule, these vintage newspapers are noticeably wider than

today’s standard newspaper, though changes in the length are less apparent. Since almost all searches through vintage newspapers are done on digital or microfilm copies nowadays, the researcher is often not aware of the original document’s size. Not having access to that data excludes the ability to determine such matters as font size, column widths, pixels-per-inch within photos, and other bits of data that may at some point prove critical to understanding the methods of production used in creating various publications. There’s also the simple fact that not knowing the source’s original dimensions prohibits reproducing images of that source at the original size.

The historic *Loon Lake Times* and *Clayton News-Letter* were both seven column papers, as were that era’s *Spokesman-Review* and *Spokane Chronicle* — meaning the standard was to run seven vertical columns across each page. The *Ayer & Son’s Newspaper Annual* has proven very useful in obtaining the physical dimensions of these papers.

Each of these dimensions describes the width and length of a single page. Unfolded, the width will double.

*Ayer & Son’s* states the early *Loon Lake Times* was 18 inches wide and 24 long, as was the *Clayton News-Letter*. As of 1910 Spokane’s *Chronicle* measured 17 by 24 inches, and the *Review* 17 by 23 inches.

The *Deer Park Union* is listed as being 15 x 22 inches, this from the *Newspaper Annual’s* 1911 edition. The *Newport Miner* and *Colville Examiner* are reported as having the same measurements. All these were 6 column papers.

As noted previously, the *Clayton Critic’s* measurements were listed as 15 x 22 inches. It’s assumed progenitor, Colville’s *Statesman-Index*, measure 16 x 22 as of 1911, according to *Ayer’s*.

... shared content ...

Before the age of electronic communications (radio and television), small-town newspapers tended to carry a wide sampling of

Special thanks to Sue Richart, Stevens County Historical Society, and Tom Costigan, editor, Deer Park Tribune, for data related to the original page sizes of certain vintage newspapers.

state, national, and international news, as well as the expected tidbits of local news and gossip. This is readily apparent when looking at the contents of three different newspapers from the late spring of 1913. At that time the *Loon Lake Times*, *Clayton News-Letter*, and *Deer Park Union* all seemed to be following that same general editorial layout and sharing source of contents in their handling of state, national, and international news, though only the *Times* and *News-Letter* were believed to have been linked in ownership.

In the May 2<sup>nd</sup> *Times* and 3<sup>rd</sup> *News-Letter*, both 4-page papers, the second and third pages were entirely devoted to other than local news, and both were identical in content and layout. With the eight pages of the *Union's* May 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, pages 2 and 3, and 6 and 7 were primarily state, national, and international news. The layout of these interior pages of the *Union*, while carrying many articles that were exact duplicates of those in the *Times* and *News-Letter*, arranged these bits and pieces to best fit the space available on its six-column pages. This suggests that not only were the duplicate stands of news appearing in these segments from a single outside source, but the ink transfer media used to print the columns fitted into the page blocks was from a common outside source as well.

This repetition would be understandable with the *Times* and *News-Letter*, both likely printed on a press located in *Loon Lake*. But we continue to assume the *Union* was printed on its own press located in *Deer Park*.

We — or at least I — have always visualized these early newspapers as self-contained industries; a printing press, boxes of lead typeface, and a small staff engaged in endless hours of setting type, inking plates, running off a few hundred or thousand copies, breaking the plates down, then repeating the whole process with the next week's news. If that weren't enough, in those early days there were probably frequent delays in the arrival of vital supplies such as paper, ink, and replacement parts for the equipment.

The heavy workload may have pre-

sented the necessity of inventing stories or poaching news from other sources when nothing else was readily available — and there's ample evidence of this. These somewhat lax attitudes toward journalistic accuracy and plagiarism may have elicited an occasional literary criticism, sometimes in the form of a shot or two through the newspaper's front door — there's evidence of this, too.

And while this wistful and doubtless romantic view of small town newspapers may have been true at one time, by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century not only was the technology involved in printing advanced a good measure beyond my romantic assumptions, but it's likely an intricate support industry using the railroad freight system that interlocked these various communities had evolved to service this flock of independent presses. And one application of that technology resulted in the creation of these quite similar pages of state, national, and international news.

That is currently speculation. Hopefully we'll at some point gain a better understanding of how the newspaper business functioned when papers such as the *Deer Park Union*, *Clayton News-Letter*, *Clayton Critic*, *Loon Lake Times*, *Newport Miner*, and *Colville Statesman-Index* were in their prime.

What we do know is that at one time an overwhelming number of small towns had newspapers. Some of these upstarts survived less than a year. Many less than a decade. And a few, like the *Deer Park Union/Tribune*, have continued for over a century. Many are known only from references in other publications — not a single physical example of their output surviving. Some are known from a scattered copy or two — it's quite possible the *Clayton Critic* fits in this category. Some are well represented in various archives. What we do know is that each and every surviving copy represents a unique and priceless insight into the daily life of the community they represent — and as such need to be digitally preserved and made available for research.

———— end ————

## *In Search of The Deer Park Union's First Editor.*

by

*Wally Lee Parker*

The first issue of the *Deer Park Union* our society currently has in its digital archive is dated Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1911. It's also identified as the fifth issue of the sixth year of the paper's publication. The lack of morgue issues of the paper prior to that date may not be coincidental in that such is also the first issue published under the ownership and editorship of J. H. Johnson. As far as we know, other than the possible surfacing of an occasional stray issue, it's probable everything printed before that date, everything back to the paper's inception in the summer of 1906, has been lost to history.

Without its inaugural issue, or some other form of documentation, we can't say for certain when the very first issue of the *Union* appeared on the newsstand. The masthead of the oldest issue in the society's digital collection states "Entered into the post-office at *Deer Park, Wash.*, as 2<sup>nd</sup> class mail-matter, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 1906." While it's tempting to use that date, it's not a certainty.

The expediency of counting weeks back from the volume and issue number stated on the first issue in our digital collection does take us back to June 1906. Further documentation regarding that is found in a short inclusion in the June 15, 1906 issue of the *Leavenworth Echo*, Leavenworth, Washington. The newspaper states, "*F. T. Shepard, who started the Govan Argus some three months ago and afterwards sold it out, has started a new paper, the Deer Park Union, the first number of which we received this week. It is (a) well patronized, well printed paper and deserves to*

*succeed.*"

The above noted *Govan Argus* has been traced to a small, unincorporated town west of Spokane in Lincoln County. Located along the railroad tracks, most of *Govan* has long since disappeared, leaving behind a few abandoned buildings, including the shell of a school house constructed in 1905.

Regarding the founder of the *Argus*, online searches did find the same name in the September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1892 edition of *Ketchum, Idaho's, Ketchum Keystone*. Whether this is the founder of the *Deer Park Union* is uncertain.

The alluded to article states, "*F. T. Sheppard, accompanied by his wife and son, of Hinckley, Minnesota, arrived in Ketchum Wednesday and took the stage for Challis Friday morning. Mr. Sheppard is a practical printer and journalist and is looking around for a good location to settle down and grow with the country.*"

Challis, Idaho, is located some 60 miles north of Ketchum. An entry in the 1894 edition of *N. W. Ayer & Son's Newspaper Annual* — a listing of most of the newspapers active within the United States during the prior year — indicates that Challis, then, according to the 1890 census, a town of 356 souls, was home to the Custer County Graphic, with Frank T. Sheppard serving as editor and publisher.

The *Graphic* appears to have lasted just one year, with the September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1893 edition of the *Ketchum Keystone* reporting, "*F. T. Sheppard and family, of Challis, arrived in*

*Ketchum last Saturday and left on Monday's train. Mr. Sheppard has been running the Challis Graphic, which has stopped, and has shipped the plant to greener pastures."*

At that point, the trail of this particular Frank T. Sheppard grows cold. We can't say whether this was the Sheppard that founded the *Union* or not. We simply don't know where those "greener pastures" were.

With this next newspaper article, we have a very high probability of having a match to the founder of the *Deer Park Union*. The September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1904 edition of the *San Juan Islander* reports, "*The Farmington New Era is the latest addition to the journalistic world. It is edited and owned by Frank Sheppard, until recently of Sandpoint Idaho. His sons, who are practical printers, will assist him in the new venture.*"

The October 21<sup>st</sup>, 1904 edition of the *Colfax Gazette*, notes the following under a listing titled "Conditional Bills of Sale." "*B. M. Price to Frank T. Sheppard, printing outfit, \$200.*"

Six months later, Mr. Sheppard was on the road again, as the March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1905 edition of the *Colfax Gazette* explained. "*Frank T. Sheppard has sold the Farmington New Era to the News Publishing Company, who have changed the name of the paper to the Farmington News.*"

We're assuming a high probability of the above being our editor Sheppard since one of his obituaries list a weekly paper at Farmington, Washington, as one of his posts.

At this point our tracing of the editor's travels move from probable to certain. The 1906 edition of *Ayer & Son's Newspaper Annual*, under the listing for Kettle Falls, records that the *Valley Tribune*, a 4-page, 15 inch by 22 inch page size paper founded in 1905, was edited and published by F. T. Sheppard.

Again, Mr. Sheppard didn't stay long. In about March of 1906 he moved to Govan, in Lincoln County, and started the *Govan Argus*. Three month later, in mid-June, the notice appears in the *Leavenworth Echo* that Sheppard "*has started a new paper, the Deer*

*Park Union.*"

It's not known how long Mr. Sheppard stayed at the *Union* — and likely will never be unless certain critical early issues surface. The paper's first listing in *Ayer & Son's Newspaper Annual* appears in the 1908 edition. Likely representing the paper's configuration in 1907, the *Annual* reported that W. D. Phillips was editor and publisher. It states the paper, released every Thursday, contained 8 pages, each page being 15 inches wide by 22 inches long.

As for Mr. Sheppard, the next trace we find of him is in the April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1909 edition of Idaho's *Rathdrum Tribune*. To quote, "*John J. Schick, formerly a newspaper man of Moscow, has purchased the Post Falls Advance from T. F. Sheppard.*"

It almost appears as if Mr. Sheppard's business model was to start small-town newspapers, and then, sell them — assumptively at a profit — and move on.

Regarding the *Union*, and the dizzying turnover in ownership and editorship of the *Union* during its first four years of life, this can best be explained by an article clipped from the August 13<sup>th</sup>, 1910 edition of the *Colville Examiner*.

"*The Deer Park Union is now under the editorship and proprietorship of A. T. Brownlow, formerly of Chewelah, who recently purchased the plant from A. M. Wood. The Union was started four years ago by F. T. Sheppard, who some time later sold out to W. D. Phillips, who later took in A. M. Wood as a partner. Later Mr. Phillips retired, leaving Mr. Wood in control. Two years ago, when Allen Haynes came to take charge of the finances of the Arcadia Irrigation Association, he bought the paper under contract in the name of the Allen-Haynes Company, putting Dwight G. Stratton in charge. Brownlow is a good printer and a capable newspaper man, and Deer Park ought now to have an excellent paper.*"

The next place we find Frank Sheppard's name is an editorial reproduced in the January 23, 1911 edition of the *Tacoma Times*.

The reprint was part of a compilation of statewide editorial responses to the decision of a Seattle judge to jail a group of editors due to their publication of a critical assessment of one of the judge's decisions. The *Tacoma Times* indicates the quoted material had originally appeared in the *Medical Lake Mail* — a Spokane County newspaper the *Tacoma Times* identified Mr. Shepard as publishing.

"*In Seattle lives an ancient judge. His name is Gilliam. He holds that it is a crime to criticize a judge, and especially must newspapers never antagonize his court rulings.*

"*He is ancient in that he recently brought into requisition a law abolished in the United States courts more than a half century ago, in arresting and sentencing the editors of the Seattle Daily Star for criticizing a ruling.*

"*The State of Washington has allowed the ancient law to remain upon the statute books, and which served the purpose of the court. The Star editors had to go on the altar of its unreasonable and ill-timed logic, probably for example and to intimidate the press of the commonwealth.*

"*Anyhow, the editors of the Star were humiliated and condemned for the courage displayed in arraying themselves in opposition to the ruling of the judge, and their offense was committed outside the court room, from their own office home, into which a later law forbids such insolent entrance.*

"*In an Ohio test case not long since the final decision was in favor of the appellant, the gist of the opinion being that there is no constructive contempt, and technical guilt can be only when the act actually obstructs the work of the court.*

"*The Star editors have appealed, and Mr. Gilliam may be searching for another dusty code by which to prevent this act of privilege, if we are to judge by his late attempt to throttle a newspaper in a civil expression of thought.*"

If our F. T. Sheppard was publisher of the *Medical Lake Mail* in January of 1911 — as the *Tacoma Times* states — it's likely

the above defense of the first amendment's guarantee of freedom of the press was his.

In August of 1911 we find Mr. Sheppard founding a new newspaper in White Bird, Idaho. Called the *Sentinel*, it was only under his management for two months before he sold out and moved on.

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1911, this appeared in Grangeville's *Idaho County Free Press*. "*The last and latest issue of Camas Prairie Citizen, this paper having been issued from Reubens this week by Frank Sheppard, formerly of the White Bird paper.*" This is the last trace so far found of editor Sheppard prior to his death.

Though a 75-word obituary appeared on the front page of the November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1921 issue of the *Deer Park Union*, perhaps the most concise yet complexing notice of his death appeared in the December, 1921 issue of *The Washington Newspaper* — a magazine reprinting articles and quotes from other Washington State publications. Note that this, and also every other obituary so far located, reverse the order of Mr. Sheppard's first and middle name.

"*Thayer Frank Sheppard, 65, newspaper editor, died October 29 at his home in Spokane. Born in Carey, Ill., September 3, 1856, Mr. Sheppard, with his family moved to Spokane in 1905. He had been a printer from the time he was fourteen years old. Among the papers he edited in the Inland Empire district were The Deer Park Union, The Kettle Falls Tribune, The Post Falls Advance, and weekly papers in Farmington and Govan. For a time, he maintained a weekly paper in Spokane. Burial was in Spokane.*"

The one thing the *Deer Park Union* added that was different from the other obituaries was this line. "*He is survived by three sons and one daughter.*"

Hopefully the society will gain a better understanding of the *Union's* founder as time goes on. He does appear to be a character worth knowing.

———— end ————

## Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

### Bits of Chatter, Trivia, & Notices — all strung together.

#### ... Clayton's clay still draws interest ...

As a matter of policy, one thing the C/DPHS has always tried to do is answer — or at least acknowledge if unable to answer — any inquiries directed to us by phone, email, or letter. More than once over the years we've fielded questions regarding means of obtaining samples or supplies of some of the better clays from the Clayton district. We recently received such a request from Robin DuPont, a ceramic artist with a rural home/workshop near Nelson, British Columbia.

After forwarding links to certain published materials on the regional clays, I explained to Robin, "Every so often we receive an inquiry regarding access to the former Washington Brick & Lime claypits, usually for the purpose of extracting small amounts of clay for various personal projects. This tends to put the society in the rather difficult position of acting as an intermediate in negotiations for permission with local landowners. While the society tries to be as helpful as possible with matters related to our primary mission of gathering and disseminating local history, we prefer not to become involved in projects that tend to pull our limited resources away from said mission. That said, if any of our members care to follow up on this with you, they will be contacting you directly."

To enable any follow-ups, Robin agreed to the publication of his contact information, allowing anyone knowledgeable in the matter to pursue it with him directly if so inclined.

This is certainly not the first time Canada has shown an interest in Clayton's finer pottery and porcelain grade clays — as

noted in the following article from the December 20<sup>th</sup>, 1912, issue of the *Deer Park Union*.

"Five teams have been engaged to haul clay from the pits north of the city to the new shed built near the old mill (assumedly sawmill) siding, where it is daily loaded into cars and shipped to Medicine Hat, (Alberta) Canada. The Medicine Hat Porcelain Co. are the owners of these pits, and at one time seriously considered locating here, but enough capital and ground could not be secured. The town of Medicine Hat made this firm such a splendid offer that they located there. Three carloads of porcelain clay are shipped weekly from Deer Park to Medicine Hat."

I wasn't able to find any mention of the above noted Medicine Hat Porcelain Company. I did, however, find mention of the Medicine Hat Pottery Company. This company was reportedly in business between 1912 and 1914. In December 1915, the holdings of the failed company were purchased and reincorporated as the Medalta Stoneware Company — a company that continued in one form or another at the same site until finally dissolved in 1954. Eventually the entire intact manufacturing complex was donated to the Province of Alberta, and is now a publicly accessible museum.

Page 45 of the August 2008 issue of *Mortarboard* (#4) contains the following description of a visit by this writer to the Medalta factory. "Our next stop was in southeast Alberta, where we toured Medicine Hat's 'Historic Clay District.' The district includes the remains of a clay working factory with its original terracotta kilns. The local historical group has preserved and is restoring much of the old factory and its equipment — plus they

have collected several thousand examples of terra cotta and stoneware produced by the factory, objects varying from giant sewer pipes to chicken watering devices.

"The original Medicine Hat Pottery Company was founded in 1913 (actually 1912, but due to the late arrival of equipment, the factory didn't go into actual production until 1913) as a corporate extension of the Western Porcelain Manufacturing Company of Spokane. The founder was an American, John A. McIntyre. Since Medicine Hat didn't have any pottery grade clay — only brick grade — the clay for the factory was imported from Washington. Though no mention was made of the actual Washington source for the clay, since the best pottery clay in the Spokane area is from Clayton, it could well have been us.

"The reason for McIntyre's interest in Medicine Hat was that the kilns could be fired by an extremely 'sweet' and therefore exceptionally clean-burning natural gas — available from wells throughout the area. The original company went out of business within a year (two years) — apparently due to the cost of transporting those pottery grade clays from our state. Transportation cost about 10 to 12 dollars a ton — assuming that to be Ca-

nadian dollars, circa 1913. We just need to watch the historical records for any mention of Clayton clay going to Alberta in 1912 or '13. If we see such, we might be able to document a connection between Clayton and the Medicine Hat Pottery Works.

"As soon as I heard of the site's existence, the thing I wanted to see the most were the terracotta kilns. I wanted to see how they baffled the ware to prevent direct contact with the combustion gasses — I wanted to see a muffle kiln. It appears that one of the advantages of using the locally available 'sweet' natural gas was that the traditional muffle kiln wasn't needed — assumedly because the gas wouldn't leave combustion residue on the wares like wood or coal stoked fires would. Since the people on site weren't experts in industrial kilns, they couldn't confirm that for me. So, I still don't have a good idea of how the baffles were put around the wares in the Clayton kilns. But I did get a lot of photos relevant to Clayton — including details of the iron expansion bands used around the circular kilns, and a good look at the perforated, down-draft floors."

Recently we did discover several other links between the Medicine Hat Pottery

#### Further Reading Regarding the Clayton Clays:

"Visiting Museums in British Columbia, Alberta, and Montana," by Wally Lee Parker.

*Mortarboard* #4, August, 2008 — page 45 — *Collected Newsletters, Volume 1.*

[http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter\\_04\\_downsinglesizepageweb.pdf](http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_04_downsinglesizepageweb.pdf)

"Clay Pits of the Clayton Area," by Peter Coffin.

*Mortarboard* #23, March, 2010 — page 289 — *Collected Newsletters, Volume 7.*

[http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter\\_23\\_downsinglesizepageweb.pdf](http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_23_downsinglesizepageweb.pdf)

"Clays and Shales of Washington," (second half), by Sheldon L. Glover.

*State of Washington, Division of Geology, Bulletin #24 (1941).*

(Clayton data begins page 280.)

[http://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/ger\\_b24\\_clay\\_shales\\_wa\\_2.pdf](http://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/ger_b24_clay_shales_wa_2.pdf)

"Publications of the Washington Geological Survey," (as of July, 2017).

Produced by the Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources, this catalog allows online access to a large number of published papers, both historic and contemporary, related to state geology.

[http://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/ger\\_publications\\_list.pdf](http://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/ger_publications_list.pdf)

Company and the Western Porcelain Manufacturing Company — or at least links regarding John A. McIntyre. Located in a 2013 document described as an “*Historic Context Paper*” produced for the City of Medicine Hat is a line that reads “*John A. McIntyre established the (town’s) first pottery, Medicine Hat Pottery Company Limited, in 1912.*”

A second source states that in 1912 the City of Medicine Hat — obviously to sweeten the deal — offered McIntyre free land, reduced utility rates, and tax exemptions to locate his factory in the city. The exact date of this short-lived factory’s closing is not known, but is generally stating as having been sometime in 1914.

As for the fate of the McIntyre’s Western Porcelain Manufacturing Company, the *Fourteenth Biennial Report* of Washington’s Secretary of State indicated the company — as was typical for dissolved corporations — was “*stricken from records since last report, for failure to pay annual license fee,*” due as of September 30, 1914.

As part of his artistic process, the craftsman, Robin DuPont, uses a homebuilt woodfired kiln that, unlike the muffle kilns used by Clayton’s terracotta factory, allows the combustion gases to come in directed contact with the surface of the wares being fired. Robin says this introduces an unpredictability to the appearance of the final work — an unpredictability that would be undesirable in most commercial grade products.

In his emails Robin stated, “*My primary concern is finding a sustainable source of material for my ceramic practice.*” Robin’s email address is [robin@robindupont.com](mailto:robin@robindupont.com), his phone (+1) (250) 226-6964, and his website can be drawn up at <http://robindupont.com/>.

... where the Big Foot Valley got its name ...

When multiple versions of a story exist, it’s often best to go with the earliest written account. In the case of the naming of Steven County’s Big Foot Valley, the most vintage bit of print so far uncovered comes

from the front page of the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1913, *Loon Lake Times*.

That newspaper claims, “*Some fifteen years ago R. E. Jones, his son Urias, and Bob Teeves were discussing the relative sizes of their shoes, and it was discovered that it took a pretty big piece of leather to cover their feet. ‘That’s settles it,’ said Urias, ‘we will name this place Big Foot Valley!’ And that has been its name ever since.*”

So, did Urias Jones, in meditation of his foot, name the valley? Evidence aside, we’re sure the debate will continue.

... and what, exactly, is being left unsaid ...

Several months ago, the society received an email in which the sender asked to be put in touch with the author of “*Standing Watch: The Story of Deer Park’s Atlas Intercontinental Ballistic Missile, 1961 — 1965.*” Your editor is the writer responsible for that 24,000-word article, first published by the society back in 2006 in *Volume Two* of the *Reports to the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society*. Since the entire text is currently viewable on the society’s website, and the print volume continues to be offered through the society, it’s rare but not unknown for it to still generate a question or comment. And that was my first assumption when the above noted email was forwarded to me — that a fellow writer (likely amateur, possibly professional) was inquiring about his own research into the subject of early ICBMs.

But then, several things in this incoming email seemed odd. One was a ‘boilerplate’ statement of confidentiality attached to the bottom of the page. Such statements are, as intended, at least mildly if not overtly threatening. These boilerplates are most often found on emails sent from corporate or professional organizations. In this case the professional source was clearly a law firm.

The message itself said the sender was interested in the Atlas missile program in general, the activities of Fairchild’s 567<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron in particular, and

would like to be placed in contact with “*Wally Lee Parker,*” author of the “*Standing Watch*” article, regarding the same. What drew me to a halt was an indication in the note that the sender was most interested in some of my sources — meaning, I believe, the missileers I interviewed.

I suppose speculating on why this law firm wants contact information for my prior sources would be a violation of their email’s boilerplate — though a visit to the firm’s website produces a very strong hint as to their objective. And that leaves me with the dilemma of what to do about this inquiry and the legal implications surrounding it. So, I wrote the following, addressed directly to the individual sending the email.

“*The first question I need to ask — is your inquiry related to a personal project, or is your interest in my research related to your work for the above noted law firm?*”

“*I was cautioned by the attachment to your email that the contents were strictly confidential since they might contain ‘information that is privileged, attorney work product, or exempt from disclosure.’ The society and my volunteer work with it is based on the collaborative sharing of information in the pursuit of historical knowledge. Clauses stating things like the above strike me as antithetical to that. Therefore, from this point forward I will not respond to any email containing or implying a caution that would forbid disclosing the nature of the correspondence to the society membership directly or by newsletter. And I will not engage in any communications other than written.*”

“*I would begin by stating that my research for the Standing Watch article was completed some twelve years ago. As new sources have opened, it’s likely some of that data needs revision. It’s also likely that a fair portion of my personal contacts, considering the current age of the typical Atlas missileer, are no longer with us. That considered, if you’d care to email any questions you might have, I’ll pursue those that seem appropriate as free time from the normal course of my re-*

*search and writing permits.*”

In other words, I wanted to know everything about the firm’s inquiry that might be considered “*information that is privileged, attorney work product, or exempt from disclosure,*” along with permission to fully disclose it to everyone.

At this point it appears the individual penning the original inquiry has lost interest. So, I’ll consider the matter closed.

... *Williams Valley Telephone Company* ...

Below is the text of the editor’s reply to an email inquiry regarding a 1929 stock certificate issued by the Williams Valley Telephone Company. Though we had little firm information for the questioner, the early telephone companies are a continuing subject of interest, and the society would very much like to hear from anyone having information regarding these early enterprises. We would also like to copy for our archives any documentation that may further enhance our understanding of this complicated subject.

The society’s reply read; “*Regarding your July 27<sup>th</sup> email to Bill Sebright on behalf of your grandmother, we do have some thoughts on the matter, but none that should be considered authoritative.*”

“*We’re simply unsure regarding any potential capital value in the vintage Williams Valley Telephone Company stock certificate. Several times in the past we’ve been asked about stock certificates for long dissolved regional companies — such as mining companies and oil and natural gas drilling companies. In most cases our layman’s opinion is that any capital value in these kinds of certificates has likely dissolved with the company. With the Williams Valley Telephone Company, the answer would likely depend upon the circumstance of its dissolution. Was it simply allowed to fold, as most of the aforementioned companies did, or was it legally absorbed into the Bell system? And if it was absorbed, was a payout made to the stockholders at that time? These are questions that*



would need to be professionally researched and a legal opinion given, either of which we are not qualified to offer.

“That doesn’t mean the stock certificate doesn’t have some monetary value outside of any capital value it may contain. Certain types of vintage stock certificates are a specialty collector’s item, though pricing seems related to historical significance of the companies, the artistic value of the sometimes quite ornate images printed on the certificates, and the physical condition of the certificates. As for how much value, that, as always with collectables, depends on how much any

given collector is willing to pay.

“Then there’s the memento value to the family. Is it simply worth keeping?”

“We’re only aware of the existence of one other Williams Valley Telephone Company stock certificate, though there may be at least a few more out there.

“All the above said, one of our members is checking with the Washington State Library at Olympia to see if we can determine the date and circumstance of the Williams Valley Telephone Company’s demise. If we find anything more, we’ll forward that information.”

### Rick Brodrick’s Williams Valley Telephone Company Seal.



Area resident Rick Brodrick forwarded these two images to the society with a note stating, “This seal (and seal press) most likely came to me from my grandfather, Glen C. Brodrick, who had a farm on the northeast corner of Staley and Wallbridge Roads.”



When the society becomes aware of the existence of photos or documents of historical significance, we routinely ask for scans, or the privilege of being allowed to collect scans or high definition photos of the artifacts for inclusion in our archives. When it comes to objects such as vintage stock certifi-

cates, such scans are not likely to reduce any monetary value in the objects, since the value to collectors normally resides only in the original, while the historical value of the image added to our archive is likely to be immense.

— Wally Lee Parker —

### Links to Prior Mortarboard Articles about Local Telephone Companies.

**Telephone Service Comes to Deer Park (Part One)** — by Ken Westby & Peter Coffin. **Mortarboard #94, February, 2016, page 1217** — *Collected Newsletters, Volume 26.*  
[http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard\\_issue\\_94\\_doublepage\\_web.pdf](http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard_issue_94_doublepage_web.pdf)

**Telephone Service Comes to Deer Park (Part Two)** — by Ken Westby & Peter Coffin. **Mortarboard #95, March, 2016, page 1230** — *Collected Newsletters, Volume 26.*  
[http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard\\_issue\\_95\\_doublepage\\_web.pdf](http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard_issue_95_doublepage_web.pdf)

## Minutes of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society — August 12, 2017 —

In attendance: Bill Sebright, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Mark Wagner, Sue Rehms, Mike Reiter, Pete Coffin, Denny Deahl, John Simmons, Judy Coffin, Roxanne Camp, Marilyn Reilly, Betty Burdette, Bill Phipps, Chuck Lyons, and Rick Brodrick.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. He reported that: 1) We received two thank you cards from people winning trophies sponsored by Pete and Judy Coffin in the name of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society from a Camaro Club Car Show. 2) Dianne Allert gave Bill some pictures from Margaret Daugherty. They were passed around. 3) Lorraine Nord gave Bill a large envelope of obituaries. Bill got them put in the Society file. The file box was shown to the group. 4) At the Brickyard Day (BYD) display Howard Justice said he had a complete collection of BYD buttons,

hats, and shirts. He gave them to Mark who brought them to the meeting. It's quite a collection. A picture of the first and last button is attached (page 1546).

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported the main checking account ended the month at \$6,352.50. There were deposits of \$338.86. One check was written to Sue Kelsch for \$50.00 for ads, one for \$236.38 to Discount Sign Warehouse for shirts, one for \$76.60 to Wally Parker for a Prestini Plate, one to Discount Sign Warehouse for \$273.77 for shirts, one for \$300.00 to Standen Insurance for Brickyard Day Insurance, and one to Big D Septic for \$20.00 for Brickyard Day. The web hosting account ended the month at \$694.91, with a withdrawal of \$10.95 for web hosting.

Society Vice President Pete Coffin reported that: 1) In response to a request from

a Mrs. Shirly Smith about more information about a James Layeffette Evans, Wild Rose Prairie pioneer, I have been gathering much data and emailing it to her. Her data suggests that an Evans child was the first white person to be born on the Prairie. 2) During Clayton Days Robert Syron's wife asked for a copy of the "Ninetieth Year History 1891-1981 Open Door Congregational Church". Mr. Syron is the managing director of the church. I intend to get him photocopies of this book, and "From Whence We Came," which describes the origins of the church in Deer Park. I intend to digitize both so digital versions could be copied onto disks to be given to any that want a copy. 3) In relation to the interest in the Williams Valley Telephone Company I have been reading through Herbert Mason's "Memoranda" (read diary) to see if the date of sale of the phone company to Bell was recorded. Perhaps this will be of use for the research Ken Westby and Wally Parker have been doing. Unfortunately, there are several hundred pages of his Memoranda I have not digitized

that will have to be done.

Print editor Wally Parker reported: 1) One hundred and forty copies of the August *Mortarboard* (#112) have been printed for distribution, and the online version has been submitted for posting. This 12-page issue features Pete Coffin's discussion of "Lewis Cass Gemmill, Early Wild Rose Prairie Settler," and an article by Ken Westby titled "Historical Research: Searching for Old Newspapers in Washington State." The Letters/Brickbats segment details a request for information about the Lucius Weeks family, residents of the Loon Lake area in the early nineteen-hundreds. 2) Areas of ongoing research within Print Publications includes the history of the vintage newspapers once serving the C/DPHS's area of interest, the history of Loon Lake's steam launch Gwen, information regarding the region's past polio outbreaks, and much more. Seeing the above areas of historical research fully developed — as well as the thousands of other potential subjects to date untouched — will require a

**Thirty-four Years of Clayton Brickyard Days.**

*Images of the very first as well as most recent Clayton Brickyard Day buttons — the 1984 pin donated to the society by Bill Phipps).*



Photo by Bill Sebright.



Photo by Bill Sebright.



Prop photos by Wally Lee Parker.

**Antique Boat Propeller Recovered from Loon Lake in Early 1970s.  
 Speculation as to original owner.**

Area resident Rick Brodrick — pictured above — brought an approximately 15 inch wide brass boat propeller he and a friend found while diving in Loon Lake in the early 1970s to the August meeting. The dive site was several hundred feet from the sunken hull of what is locally assumed to be one of Evan Morgan's large motor launches from the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. While the manufacturer of the prop, the Bryant & Berry Company of Detroit, Michigan, appears to have been in business when Evan Morgan was operating power launches on the lake, we've found no evidence connecting the prop to any of his water craft. We know excursion size propeller driven boats have been operating on Loon Lake since the early 1890s. That said, this does appear to be a vintage propeller, and any further information regarding propellers of this type, or of the company that produced this specific one, would be appreciated.

community wide involvement. Without such involvement, this historical society will simply disappear — as so many of the community's wealth of personal recollections already have.

Webmaster Marie Morrill reported by email that, "I have uploaded both July and August Mortarboards. I was truly in a no-internet area last month. I will not be at the meeting again this Saturday, having another commitment for the whole day out in Otis Orchards. See you in September, I'm pretty sure!"

Mike Reiter, Rick Brodrick, Bill Phipps and Wally Parker all discussed the possible wreck of the Gwen (mentioned in Wally's report). Rick brought a brass propeller found near the wreck on the west side of Loon Lake. See attached pictures (page 1549).

The Settlers Day display went well. Thanks to Mark Wagner and Mike Reiter for setting up and taking down the display. Thanks to Lorraine for helping "man" the booth.

Brickyard Day went well. One concern is that the parade didn't have many entrants. We are looking for ideas to increase the number of entries. Thanks to Lorraine

Nord and Sue Rehms for helping "man" the display. Thanks to Pete and Judy Coffin for helping to set up the display, and to Pete and Buck Armstrong for taking down the displays.

It was stated at the meeting that the Williams Valley Grange closed several months ago and is for sale. Bill checked with Lynn Wells (from the State Grange), who said, "The Williams Valley Grange is NOT closed and is NOT for sale." Lynn also added: Per the State Convention report in the Grange News August/September issue this week, Clayton won 3<sup>rd</sup> place for Community Service, Class 1 for size 30 members, Williams Valley 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Class 3 for 45-65 members, and Excelsior Pomona (South Stevens Co. 7 granges) Class 5 for size, won 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Not all the community involvement takes place at the halls.

Next meeting: Saturday, September 9, 2017, at 9 AM at the Clayton Drive-In.

Meeting adjourned at 9:57 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: Rick Hodges, Chuck Stewart, Bill Sebright, Lina Swain, and Ken Westby.

From "The Coast" magazine,  
April, 1907



### See Yourself in Print.

The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society's department of Print Publications is always looking for original writings, classic photos, properly aged documents and the like that may be of interest to our readers. These materials should be rooted within, though not limited to, northern Spokane County, southeastern Stevens County, and southern Pend Oreille County. As for types of materials, family or personal remembrances are always considered. Articles of general historical interest — including pieces on natural history, archeology, geology and such — are likely to prove useful. In other words, we are always searching for things that will increase our readers' understanding and appreciation of this region's past. As for historical perspective; to us history begins whenever the past is dusty enough to have become noteworthy — which is always open to interpretation. From there it extends back as deep as we can see, can research, or even speculate upon.

Copyright considerations for any materials submitted are stated in the "Editorial and Copyright Policy" dialog box found on page 1,548 of this issue. For any clarifications regarding said policy, or any discussions of possible story ideas or the appropriateness of certain types of material and so on, please contact the editor via the email address supplied on the same page.

— the editor —

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

Ask about  
"Collected Newsletters: Volume Thirty-Two."