Are You Trying to Remember "The Good Old Days?"

Join the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society — and we'll commiserate together.

Illustration from the May 1st, 1921, edition of Motor West.

Join the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society, 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 C/DPHS meets at 9 a.m. every second Saturday of the month. Join us at the Clayton Drive-In, Clayton, Washington.

Free — Take One

Myelitis is an inflammation of the myelin, the insulating material around certain nerve cells and is considered necessary for the human nervous system to function properly. A major element of myelitis is the demyelination process, which may result in paralysis of the central nervous system. Central nervous system demyelination, which may result in paralysis or death, is recognized in less than 1% of polio infections. The poliovirus is a virus that can infect the body via the mouth and is not transmitted through airborne contact. The virus is not generally regarded as an airborne virus.

There are different degrees of severity that can result from a poliovirus infection. The virus typically interacts with the central nervous system, causing inflammation of nerve cells. Symptoms sometimes appear after recovery from an initial acute infection. The virus may result from various causes, resulting in temporary or permanent loss of function. The poliovirus does not survive well in air and is not generally regarded as an airborne virus.

Polioviruses enter via the mouth and gather in the intestinal tract, where they can multiply and infect the host. These viruses may also spread to other individuals via oral-fecal contact over a period of several weeks through inanimate objects such as "monkeys long and short". Individuals with leg braces or "polio" are generally not cared for in bed. Therefore, individuals with leg braces or "polio" may also spread the virus to other individuals, and the individual may develop paralysis from an infection of the poliovirus. Polioviruses can also be spread through the handling of food. The poliovirus does not survive well in air and is not generally regarded as an airborne virus.

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crutches, etc. Perhaps the best-known American affected in this way was former President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Not only was he the only president elected to a fourth term, he was also the first president to serve with a crippling disability. He was diagnosed with polio in 1921 at the age of thirty-nine. He was fiercely determined not to let his paralysis suggest an inability to govern. In most cases, polio caused extreme pain and difficulty in walking and standing that he suffered throughout his presidency. He wanted the American public to view him as a strong and capable leader.

Outbreaks of polio were largely unpublicized prior to the 20th century, but cases of paralysis began to increase throughout the first half of the century. In 1950, the U.S. experienced an outbreak of 58,000 polio cases, up from a typical number of 20,000 a year. Many families were touched in some way by this ravaging disease, against which there was no certain defense. In 1945, bulbar polio, a most extreme form, took the life of my cousin Lewis at the age of six.

There is now known cure for the disease, but a successful vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas Salk in 1952 became available in 1955, and its widespread use greatly reduced and nearly eliminated the occurrence of polio in the US and elsewhere. The “Salk Vaccine”, as it is known, involves the injection of a dead strain of the poliovirus, enabling the body to develop antibodies for the disease without causing infection. In 1961, an oral vaccine developed by Albert Sabin became available. The Sabin vaccine works in a similar way but involves the administration of a live but weakened or “attenuated” form of the poliovirus. Both vaccines are on the World Health Organization’s list of most essential medicines for a safe and effective health system.

The March of Dimes for many years raised funds to help in the development and distribution of a polio vaccine in a concerted effort to wipe out “Infantile Paralysis”, another name for polio, because the disease most notably seemed to afflict the young. At Deer Park, parents rushed to immunize their children against the disease. In April 1955, as soon as the Salk vaccine was available. Through the March of Dimes, vaccinations were offered free for children in a certain age group. This did enough to put two brothers, Bob Roberts and Abe Roberts, who were diagnosed with polio shortly after school had opened in the fall of 1952. Both boys were hospitalized in Spokane. Typical treatment for polio included physical therapy to keep muscles active and halt further decline.

By early February, 1956, Carol had been moved to Children’s Orthopedic Hospital in Seattle, where she continued to receive specialized physical therapy. While there, her breathing capacity had increased from 30% to nearly 80% of normal, but only minimal movement had been restored to her legs. Then in mid-September, nearly one year into the disease that had crippled her, Carol was at Spear’s Hospital in Denver, Colorado, receiving additional specialized therapy that included treatment and partial recovery.

Fortunately for the Roberts boys, the infection was mild and treatment was effective. In the summer of 1954, four-year-old Larry Forsberg was stricken with polio. Throughout 1955, the Deer Park Tribune reported several cases of polio in the area. Just a month before the Salk vaccine was available, the Tribune reported on March 4 that Dan Watkins was taken to Sacred Heart Hospital with suspected polio. The June 10 issue of the Tribune reported that Mrs. Gertrude Blomgren of Elk, WA, was at St. Luke’s Hospital in Spokane, and was suffering extensive paralysis. By mid-August over $1000 was brought forth in community fund-raising efforts to help the Blomgren family. By December she had improved somewhat and was receiving in-home care. The August 26 issue of the Tribune reported that Mary Lou Smith was experiencing symptoms of polio. The September 23 Tribune noted that Shirley Eveson, a schoolgirl from Chattaroy, was at St. Luke’s Hospital under observation for mild polio symptoms. But one month later, Shirley had reportedly returned to school. These cases and others were followed in mid-October by what became Deer Park’s best-known paralytic occurrence of polio, striking the attractive and popular high school freshman Carol Hutchins.

As head of the Virus Research Lab, University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Salk and his team created the first polio vaccine in 1952. After clinical trials that including testing the injectable on himself and his family, the vaccine was released for general use on April 12th, 1955.

Jonas Salk 1914 — 1995

Franklin D. Roosevelt 1882 — 1945

President Roosevelt, a victim of adult onset polio, founded the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis on January 3rd, 1938.

The organization’s common name, the March of Dimes, was coined by actor/comedian Eddie Cantor.

1934 photo courtesy of the F. D. R. Presidential Library.

1988 photo courtesy of the Center for Disease Control.

1988 photo courtesy of the Center for Disease Control.
ed whirlpool baths, spinal traction, and deep muscle massage. Carol’s mother remained by her side as much as possible throughout all of these hospitalizations, lending encouragement and moral support despite what must have often seemed like a hopeless cause. But Carol was a fighter, determined to overcome all odds and regain her life. From Denver, her mother wrote home to the family saying that Carol was able to stand without leg braces and with her back against the wall for as much as 40 minutes one day—old enough to start to bend one knee, and that some strength seemed to be returning to her right arm.

Were it not for the paralysis, Carol would have been starting her sophomore year at Deer Park High. Her mother, herself a schoolteacher, initiated efforts while at Denver for Carol to obtain schooling with the help of a tutor; in fact, not just Carol, but all the children at Spear’s Hospital.

The Hutchins family faced immense medical costs. But the community on several occasions conducted fund-raising efforts to help out. A “Carol Hutchins Polio Fund” was set up at the Tribune offices and families were asked to pledge a dollar per month. It was estimated that five hundred families contributing a dollar a month would cover most of Carol’s medical expenses. One dollar in 1956 would be about $10 today.

Carol wasn’t able to walk at graduation with her beloved Class of ’59, but she received her GED diploma later, and in 1973 graduated from EWU with a Bachelor’s Degree in Education. She had completed her student teaching term at Deer Park High and later returned to college, working toward a Master’s Degree in Counseling. She held a responsible job with the Department of Social and Health Services in Spokane, retiring in 2000 to her home in Deer Park. She was rightfully proud of the independence she had achieved, and, although confined to a wheelchair, was an inspiration to many. In July 1974, sponsored by several civic groups and businesses, Carol was this area’s entry and a runner-up in the “Miss Wheelchair Washington” contest. She was an outspoken advocate for children to receive polio immunizations, and lobbied vigorously for improvements in accessibility for the physically handicapped.

Carol passed away January 10, 2006, at the age of 64. Learn more about Carol in the accompanying article by Sharron Schimke.

The Schimke Family’s Memories of Our Friend, Carol Hutchins.

by Sharron Schimke

The first time I saw Carol Hutchins was in the late 1960s. It was at a Deer Park High School wrestling match in the DPHS gymnasium. Her father, David Hutchins, known as “Scoop”, was pushing Carol into the gym in her wheelchair. Carol was yelling encouragement to all the wrestling team (especially her nephew, Bob Hutchins).

I was told that Carol had been in an iron lung in Colorado and nearly died from polio, which resulted in her being a quadriplegic.

Carol L. Hutchins
1941 — 2006

Seventh grade school photo courtesy of Ken Westby.

Carol and I became good friends attending many sporting events through the years. She was very intelligent, caring and determined to get her GED and graduate from Eastern Washington University. She not only got her GED, but she graduated from EWU with honors.

She worked many years for Department of Health and Social Services, DSHS, counseling and encouraging her clients to rise above their challenges and disabilities. She helped them strive for a better life.

Carol’s goal was to work with the legislature in Olympia to establish better handicapped facilities, parking, bathrooms, stairs, etc. It was a battle, but she was instrumental in making these changes.

Another goal for Carol was to try to find a home she could live in. She wrote to us often that she would love to build a home near the ocean, with stairs, so that she could live close to Bob and Ken Westby.

Carol may have been perceived as handicapped, but she refused to accept this label. She inspired all who knew her.

Our family became her family. Her challenges were many. Imagine having little control over all of your daily needs. Carol was very independent. I remember her mother, Esther Hutchins, devising a spoon she could hang onto to feed herself. She rolled layers of white tape around the handle so Carol could scoop her food with style!

Carol would haltingly walk around her dining room table for exercise wearing her full leg brace. She was determined to keep her muscles strong, until this became too much for her frail body.

Carol loved all sports. And she was a devoted Dodger and Mariners baseball fan. When Carol was in the hospital in Colorado, many Dodgers visited her. They also sent her Christmas cards every year. They inspired her not to give up.

Her caring personality showed through when she presented Rex Schimke with a scrapbook containing news photos and clippings from his long career as a wrestling coach.

Carol was a very upbeat person most of the time. Her friend Leslie Getchell once asked, “How do you stay so cheerful, when you have so many daily challenges?”

Carol answered, “I discovered a long time ago that people are not attracted to people who are not cheerful and happy; so, I made up my mind to be cheerful and happy so people would be attracted to my personality and want to become a part of my life!”

In her later years, Carol again was challenged with Post-Polio Syndrome, which handicapped her even more, and eventually led to her death.

Carol truly was an inspiration to everyone who knew and loved her. God bless you, Carol.
Photo Essay of Clayton’s Brickyard Day August 5, 2017

by
The C/DPHS Editorial Group.

The Brickyard Day Parade.
Units from the Clayton firehouse, Fire District #1, Station #1, lead the traditional parade west along Railroad Avenue. This begins the 34th annual celebration of Clayton’s 1894 founding. Early that spring the Washington Brick Lime & Manufacturing Company opened its brickmaking factory on the north side of the Spokane Falls & Northern Railway’s tracks, and the community’s long history began.

Above.
Ellen Lewis serving hamburgers, Chef Chris Brock in the background.

Left.
Deer Park’s Tri-County Setter’s Day Community Float. This year’s theme, “Magic in the Air.”

All photos on this and facing page courtesy of J. L. Brian.
Honored Citizen Ella Jenkins and family.

Clayton Community Fair float.

Open Door Church float.

Ed Zimmerer’s 1936 Ford.
All photos this & facing page courtesy of J. L. Brian.

Davin Brock’s old International.

Picnic at the Clayton school’s playground.

Making giant bubbles.

Waiting for dusk and the movie at the Grange Hall.
Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats
—or—
Bits of Chatter, Trivia, & Notices — all strung together.

In the summer of 2016, society member Mike Reiter emailed a photo — reproduced to the right — along with a note to the membership. The note read, “This hung in the (Deer Park) post office for years. I came across it while changing out the post office’s water meter and snapped a photo of it.”

The photo is of a framed poster listing past postmasters from the beginning of Deer Park’s history as a postal drop, until the spring of 1991. With a little research, it quickly became evident that there are some inaccuracies in the data.

A few hours after Mike’s photo was distributed, the following was received from Deer Park resident Gordon Grove. “Just for the record, Jacob F. Grove is a mistake. Jacob T. Grove — the T is for Templeton — was my grandfather.”

Also of note was the death date for Mark Durrell, indicated as “deceased while postmaster”. A search revealed his actual date of death as July 1st, 1950. This also brings up the issue of “acting” postmasters, or, as the postal service phrases it, “Officers-In-Charge” — meaning those that fill the gap between one postmaster’s leaving, and the date the postal service officially designates a new postmaster.

More than likely, there were a number of temporary designates acting as postmasters between official postings seen on the local office’s poster — meaning the date any given postmaster takes office is suspect.

To obtain the Post Office’s version of its history, there’s an official website that allows visitors to type in the name and address of any given post office and get a listing of all postmasters that have served there since the beginning of postal service in the United States. To obtain the Post Office’s version of its history, there’s an official website that allows visitors to type in the name and address of any given post office and get a listing of all postmasters that have served there since the beginning of postal service in the United States.

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For the last four years, Clayton’s Brickyard Day committee has produced a tabloid size newspaper for local distribution beginning about a month before the celebration. This year C/DPHS president, Bill Sebright, asked me to write a piece for the paper on the theme of Clayton’s once world-class terracotta works. Following is that article.

“It’s currently believed it was mid-to-late July 1889, when the tracks of the Spokane Falls & Northern Railway first pushed across the upper left-hand Spokane County line into southeastern Stevens County. It’s known that in early August of that year the company’s locomotives could steam along the heavily forested right-of-way from Spokane to a railhead just north of Loon Lake — just seven miles northwest of Clayton. By the mid-October those tracks had reached Colville, leaving seemingly endless economic possibilities in their wake.”

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The terracotta works; a history …
ties from the very beginning. “In 1907 the company constructed a second factory at Clayton, this just to the east of the original brick plant. This new complex was where the terracotta in its multitude of forms—from bathroom and wall tiles, to fireplace hearths and mantels, to ceramic roof tiles and siding, to the intricately sculpted multipart architectural elements used to decorate the interiors and exteriors of buildings both large and small. “By this time Washington Brick & Lime—nowClayton’s brick mill manufacturing and manufac-turing operations scattered throughout the region—had become a major player among Pacific Northwest industries. And it would grow even larger in the next several decades. “In 1915 the community spreading around Clayton’s brick and terracotta factories added a stately brick schoolhouse—now thoroughly refurbished and on Washington State’s historical registry. In 1926 Clayton’s classic terracotta embossed Mossle Hall—now Clayton Grange #456—was constructed. And the town continued to grow until the shock of the Great Depression suggested a reversal of the community’s destiny. “But it wasn’t the lingering economic crash of the late 1920s alone that broke the town’s economy. The loss of the creative talent within the terracotta factory—the draftsmen, sculptors, modelers and muffle-kiln stokers—architectural terracotta was losing its market. Changes in tastes coupled with rising manufacturing and construction cost, eventually drove the more ornate forms of architect-ural terracotta out of style. And in the spring of 1949, Washington Brick & Lime shut down Clayton’s terracotta factory and moved its remaining glazed tile operation to the com-pa-ny’s Dishman factory. “Clayton’s brick plant lingered on until 1937. That was the year the once power-ful Washington Brick & Lime Company dissolved due to its merger with the much larger Gladding McBean Company, and all manufac-turing at Clayton ceased. “On the morning of March 10, 1961, as part of the general demolition of all the buildings still standing on the former Washington Brick & Lime property at Clayton, the old terracotta was set to the torch to clear the interior of its valuable embrookement and floors. After the fire had burned out, the brick walls still standing were topped. “In its time, Clayton produced a treasury of hand-worked architectural terracotta. These three-dimensional tapestries of vitrified clay still adorn buildings throughout the region. While an appreciation of the artistry of these embellishments has developed in recent years, there’s also been a growing concern. Glazed architectural terracotta was originally promoted as the perfect building material: impervious to the ravages of weather, and likely to endure for many hun-dreds of years. But it is abundantly clear that this is simply not true. Most terracotta exposed to rain and the freeze/thaw cycle is showing at least some damage, and much has already crumbled away. Add to this tally the pieces that have succumbed to the wrecking ball against which these artifacts are defenseless—and the future is looking bleak for much of what remains. “If we could ask the men who sculpted these artifacts, if we could talk to the men who fired Clayton’s terracotta kilns to a cher-ry red heat, my suspicion is they would want us to save at least the very best of what re-mains of their long-ago workdays. That would seem a worthwhile request.”

Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society Newsletter
Issue #114 — October — 2017

Clayton’s 34th Brickyard Day is now history. Plans for next year’s celebration, in-cluding the selection of a theme for the at-tendant newspaper writeup, are already under-way. Help is always welcome.

...in search of the Gwen...

On September 2nd, two members of the C/DPHS, Mike Reiter and Rick Brodrick, using a powered air-pumping device, submerged beneath the surface of Loon Lake to gather images and measurements of a sunken hull believed by many to be the remains of Evan Morgan’s legendary steam powered launch, the Gwen. Though still analyzing the results of the effort, our current research indicates that the initial report on the dive—what was learned during the dive, coupled with the re-sults of an extensive search for vintage records and accounts of the historic craft—will, assum-ing all goes well, appear in the November Mortarboard. Stories and assumptions regarding the lake’s popular underwater inhabitant in such artifacts are most certain that not all can be true. The craft bearing the name Gwen began plying Loon Lake’s waters in 1901. It seems to have disap-peared from newspaper and like records before the end of World War I, leaving no clear ac-counting of its fate other than what nowadays appear as an assortment of rumors encap-sulated within often told tales. Of our hope is to lay the little firm docu-mentation so far found alongside these long-established yet conflicting tales of the origin and identity of Loon Lake’s drowned boat, and test each tale against what can be authenti-cated. Clarifying the past is the ultimate pur-pose of our historical society, after all.

Wally Lee Parker

Mortarboard

In attendance: Bill Sebright, Pat Par-ker, Wally Parker, Sue Rehms, Mike Reiter, Roxanne Camp, Marilyn Reilley, Betty Bur-dette, Mary Jo Reiter, Don Ball, Dick Purdy, Ella Jenkins, Marie Merrill, Chuck Lyons, and Rick Brodrick. Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. He reported that: 1) That he met with Ron Endlich at the Clayton Drive-In. We talked about the history of the Clayton Brickyard and decorative tiles that were produced there. Ron collects deco-rative tiles. Society Treasurer Mark Wagner re-reported the main checking account ended the month at $6,181.29. There were deposits of $1,333.00. One check was written to Jody Lentz for $20.18 for Brickyard Day, one for $35.00 to Karen Martino for Brickyard Day, one for $152.56 to Nila Palmer for Brickyard Day, one for $600.00 for the band for Brick-yard Day, one for $278.70 to Discount Sign Warehouse, one for $112.99 to Wally Parker for supplies, one for $266.00 to Deer Park School District for school rental and one for $23.78 to Deer Park Printing for signs. The web hosting account ended the month at $683.96 with a withdrawal of $10.95 for web hosting. The Brickyard Day account is at $1168.48. Society Vice President Pete Coffin had no report and could not attend today’s meeting.

Print editor Wally Parker reported: 1) One hundred and ten copies of the September Mortarboard have been printed for distribu-tion, and the online version has been submit-ted for posting. This 20-page issue begins with an article outlining Ken Westby’s effort to obtain a digital rendition of the Washington State Library’s collection of historic Clayton News-Letter newspapers, along with a discus-
Webmaster Marie Morrill reported that she has uploaded the September Mortarboard.

Mike Reiter and Rick Brodrick talked about their dive to look at and measure the Gwen. Tom Costigan went with them and wrote an article in last week’s Tribune. The article is attached. There was much discussion about the wreck and what boat it is. More will be in Wally’s article in a couple of months. Mike and Rick got phone calls from a gentleman who disagreed with the article. However, we are happy to know that people are reading the article.

Mike also received a phone call asking where the maternity house was that is mentioned in the Carl and Betty Deuber mural. Betty Burdette knew that Ruth Martin, RN, ran a maternity house. Roxanne Camp said she was born in the one on Stevens.

From “The Coast” magazine, April 1907, Mike also received a phone call asking where the maternity house was that is mentioned in the Carl and Betty Deuber mural. Betty Burdette knew that Ruth Martin, RN, ran a maternity house. Roxanne Camp said she was born in the one on Stevens.

Society Contacts
We encourage anyone with observations, concerns, corrections, or divergent opinions regarding the contents of these newsletters to write the society or contact one or more of the individuals listed below. Resultant conversations can remain confidential if so desired.

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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 reminiscences 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 1,564 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 ——