Trouble Sleeping?
Maybe all those bits of family history rattling around inside your skull are creating your insomnia.

Settle your conscience. Write those stories. Then submit them for publication in the Clayton / Deer Park Historical Society’s newsletter — the Mortarboard.

Illustration from the Saturday Evening Post, November 22, 1913.

A Sawmill In The Woods
by Peter Coffin

When the Deer Park-Clayton area was first settled, many small sawmills were built to cut the virgin timber into boards and timbers for house and barn construction, as well as railroad ties. Steel to construct such mills could be shipped into the area, or a finished mill could be purchased and shipped into the area. Most of these small mills disappeared in the early part of 20th century as larger operations produced high volumes of finished lumber. Some smaller sawmills continued to operate on farms to cut rough lumber for barns and other outbuildings.

During the 1950s, Guy Davis, living...
Above — Image #2:
Guy Davis’s sawmill looking east toward the sawyer’s location left of the saw under the collapsed roof with the log carriage in the foreground.

Right — Image #3:
The sawdust conveyer and part of the set works on the saw carriage.

(Photos these pages by Peter Coffin.)
on the farm his father had homesteaded in Big Foot Valley, found such a sawmill in operable shape and moved it into the woods on his property. Moving the heavy machinery and the task of setting it up for operation must have been difficult for Guy. The mill at present is hidden from view by a thick growth of brush and small trees from a nearby road used to access property to the west of my acreage. At first there was no roof over the mill, but pictures taken of it on September 5, 2010 during a field trip Bill Sebright and I took shows the remains of a roof broken from years of heavy snow.

This mill seemingly functioned well, and my Father had asked Mr. Davis to cut some tamarack (Western Red Larch) lumber to use to build a machinery shed lean-to addition to the barn on the adjacent Michie farm. The Davis mill did not have an edging saw unit, so a square cant needed to be cut to the width of the desired board. The cant was then cut into boards of the needed thickness with repeated passes of the cant through the saw. Neither did the mill have a trimmer saw to cut the lumber to desired lengths. Any lumber this mill produced would be the length of the log and then cut by hand after being loaded onto the carriage. Such mills were filled with physical danger. Large, heavy logs needed to be rolled onto the carriage and getting a body part crushed during loading or adjusting the cant on the carriage was a risk. Once loaded and sawing began there was always a chance of being hit by a knot thrown out by the saw or the saw hitting something metal in the log and blowing metal chunks across the mill area. The sawyer stood relatively close to the unprotected rotating saw which could easily cut off a finger or even an arm. When Mr. Davis was assembling the sawmill my Father and I visited the site. Guy thought I, as a teenager, would be an ideal helper for his operation. As Father had worked in sawmills and was very aware of the dangers, he was emphatic that I would not work in Guy’s mill.

The American Sawmill Machinery Company catalog contains drawings and specifications for many sizes of sawmills and associated lumber milling machines. The basic sawmill in their catalog was code named “Ash” (Image 01) and the Davis mill resembles it. The No. 1 mill was priced at $279 and weighed 2500 pounds. There were two types of saws available from this mill. Guy’s mill appears to have a forty-eight-inch chisel tooth saw with diameters ranging from six inches to seventy-two inches. The additional 1910 price for such a saw was listed as $113. No power sources for the sawmill were listed but the steam engines from 6 to 15 horsepower were recommended.

Where Guy’s sawmill came from is unknown. In the past I am sure many such sawmills were to be found in the area. Bert Mason’s “Memoranda” mentions several mills in the Williams Valley area to which he hauled logs for milling. He mentions one, apparently larger than Guy’s sawmill, where he and his team worked on the cross-haul pulling logs up onto the deck where they could be easily loaded on the saw carriage.

I am sure that today there are many other sawmills, trucks, automobiles and antique farm implements hidden in remote areas of the Valley. They would have to be well hidden to avoid World War II metal collecting and the present-day recycling effort.

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats — or —

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

… the flying Prestini …

How many were aware that Leno Prestini’s older brother was also a pilot? Probably most everyone besides me. Anyway, a snippet from the September 1st, 1931 issue of the Clayton/Moor Bulletin reported, “Our local air pilot, Battista Prestini, took part in the Bonners Ferry air circus program last week by piloting a two-cylinder midget airplane in exhibition flying for the Bigelow-Johnson Co. He also took part in numerous other cross-country barnstorming tours for the same company.”

… more on Loon Lake’s drowned boat …

For those curious about the identity of the very large drowned boat currently located just offshore at the southern point of Loon Lake’s Moose Bay, you may be interested in some recently recovered data on the subject. Last month’s issue of the Mortarboard contained an article detailing the early history of Clayton’s Moose temple. A fair portion of that history was drawn from the pages of the Deer Park Union. In late August of 1927, the Union began outlining the collaborative intention of both Spokane and Clayton’s Moose lodges to create a “Moose Colony” on the shores of nearby Loon Lake — that in response to Loon Lake resort owner Evan Morgan’s offer to sell 90 lots fronting Corbin Bay (now Moose Bay) on the lake’s west side.

Included in that offer was a sizeable plot of woodland intended for the collective and exclusive use of those lot buyers — said woodland situated immediately behind the proffered lots.
In late May our society’s president, Bill Sebright, found a letter from Alvin Schaut, Plainfield, Wisconsin, in the society’s Clayton mailbox. Mr. Schaut’s message reads in part...

...a QSL card returned and translated...

In May our society’s president, Bill Sebright, found a letter from Alvin Schaut, Plainfield, Wisconsin, in the society’s Clayton mailbox. Mr. Schaut’s message reads in part...

"Enclosed is a postcard of an amateur radio QSL card from "Harvey," Rte. 3, Box 192BB, Deer Park, Washington. A QSL card is a written confirmation of a two-way radio communication between two radio stations... It would be great if you could use the postcard in some way."

The front of the card carried the local stations call letters — K7GXZ — and mailing address, plus an artistic rendition of a log cabin with mountains in the background. The back carried technical information related to the signal’s reception written largely in some type of code.

Unable to read the code, Bill scanned an image of the back of the card into his computer and emailed the picture to society members.

QSL Message.

On the back of the QSL Card is a message printed in a form of shorthand common among "Ham" radio operators.

Translation:

Kenneth Westby’s translation of Mr. Marsh’s QSL message from the facing page.

W9WR: Hi Fred. TNX (Thanks) and QSL (probably refers to the QSL card already mailed from Fred to Harvey). UR (your) 80 MTR (The contact took place on the “80 Meter” amateur radio wavelength) SIG (Signal) RST (readability, strength, tone) 4-5-9 on Nov 18, 1977, at 1907 hours was weak but FB (fine business, "good") copy. I should have given you a 5-5-9 as I was able to copy every character, so PLS (please) show that in your log (logbook records). My XYL ("Wife"). "YL" is the abbreviation for young lady. XYL is "ex-young lady"

"drew up the picture for my cards, referring to the drawing of the cabin on the face of the QSL card (ex (and) is about where we live, Mt. Spokane in the background. Hope we meet AGN (again), 73's (best regards), your radio brother, Harvey, K7GXZ."
of the card contains a handwritten message from the sender, but no address or postage stamp. According to the message, the card was sent more than 40 years ago from ‘Ham’ radio station K7GXZ in Deer Park to station W9WR in Berwyn, Illinois, to confirm a radio contact that took place on Nov. 18, 1977 at 1907 hours — 7:07 pm — Pacific Standard Time. We know the contact was made using Morse code because the signal report was given using the numbers 4-5-9 and 5-5-9 — a numeric way of describing the ‘readability,’ ‘signal strength,’ and ‘tone quality’ of the received Morse signals.

“To save space in the handwritten message, the same sort of abbreviations are used. Here is a translation of the handwritten report and its abbreviations.”

Ken’s breakdown of the shorthand code is found in the sidebar on page 1715.

Ken continued, “I looked up the call signs for K7GXZ and W9WR in the ‘1980 Radio Amateur’s Call Book’ — like a phone directory, but with all the US call signs in use at that time, with licensees’ names and addresses. The sender of this card, K7GXZ, is Harvey E. Marsh, at the same address as noted on the card. The recipient W9WR is Frederick J. Hinds, 3337 Oak Park Ave, Berwyn, IL.

“Washington State Death Records indicate that a Harvey E. Marsh of Spokane County, died on Sep. 23, 2010, at the age of 80. His call sign K7GXZ is not currently active according to FCC records. The call sign W9WR is no longer issued to Frederick Hinds, but to another individual, so perhaps ‘Fred’ has passed also.

The society wishes to thank Alvin Schaut for sending us this QSL card. The fact that people with no association with the local area are moved to help our little group is always a very welcome surprise.

We’d also like to note the help of society member Kenneth Westby. Ken is our go-to guy for all things radio and telephone related — as long-time readers of the Mortarboard are likely well aware.

Regarding the gentleman Mr. Marsh sent his QSL card to, a search drew up a few enlightening facts. Frederick J. Hinds was born in Illinois on June 18th, 1901. His interest in radio goes back to the early days of licensed amateur broadcast — he reportedly having attended the first meeting of the Chicago Suburban Radio Association (a still existent Ham radio group) on the 28th of November 1924. As Ken expected, Mr. Hinds has been long gone, having passed away in his hometown of Berwyn on March 29th, 1981 — some three years and four months after hearing the dots and dashes our local Ham was sending into the ether, and responding with a message and QSL card of his own.

…the Brickyard Day committee...

Back in the 1930’s and ’40s, it seemed almost inevitable that one of the dozen or so teenagers in any Andy Hardy movie would suggest, “Hey, gang, let’s put on a show” — and by movie’s end they’d have produced something akin to a major Broadway musical. It seemed simple enough. All it took was a lot of make-believe enthusiasm and the financial backing and artistic skills of the entire Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio.

This is the fifth year the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society has been the coordinating force for Clayton’s annual Brickyard Day celebration — something of a show in itself. The committee that put it together was

Comments Policy

We encourage anyone with observations, concerns, corrections, divergent opinions or additional materials relating to the contents of these newsletters to write the society or contact one of the individuals listed in the “Society Contacts” box found in each issue. Rumatent conversations can remain confidential if so desired.
Minutes of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society

July 14, 2018

In attendance: Marilyn Reilly, Bill Sebright, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Mark Wagner, Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Lorraine Nord, Sue Rehms, Rick Brodrick, Bill Phipps, Don Ball, Shannon Helm, and Joe Reiter.

President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. He reported that: 1) Sara Palmer emailed looking for a clear, current map of Deer Park. Pete Coffin took care of it. 2) Laura Callahan from a television production company based in the UK called TwoFour Broadcast wanted to use some pictures from our website. Wally Parker took the request under advisement. 3) Monday is The Heritage Network meeting in Kettle Falls. 4) Bill was asked by a political candidate if we allowed candidates to speak at our meetings. He told them that we keep our meetings non-political. Those attending today’s meeting heartily agreed.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported the main checking account ended the month at $6,169.51. There were deposits of $235.00. One check was written for $273.77 to Discount Sign Warehouse for shirts and one for $40.00 to Ellen Lewis for grange rental and one to Deer Park printing for $125.96 for signs. The web hosting account ended the month at $530.48 with a withdrawal of $27.94 for web hosting. The Brickyard Day account is at $298.87.

Society Vice President: No one has stepped forward to become Vice President.

Print editor Wally Parker reported: 1) One hundred and seventy copies of the July issue of the Mortarboard are currently printed. 2) 201 count of the May issue of the Mortarboard is sold. 3) I ran across the Crossroads Archive in a recent internet search. It is a digital collection of historical material from Stevens County (and Deer Park!). The Clayton-Deer Park Historical Society is listed as one of the Clayton locations currently carrying print copies of the Mortarboard.

Webmaster Marie Morrill had no report.

Pete Coffin reported: 1) President Sebright asked me to help provide Ann Sharbrough, the chair of the Architectural History and Archaeology organization with material related to the Wild Rose Prairie farm owned by Dan Trolan and Fred Ellsworth. I was able to provide her with Park Union obituaries for both men and recommend Wild Rose Prairie historical reference documents. 2) In looking up Wild Rose historical references, I read Clara McDonald’s obituary and obituaries for both men and recommend Wild Rose Prairie historical reference documents. I read Clara McDonald’s obituary and obituaries for both men and recommend Wild Rose Prairie historical reference documents. I read Clara McDonald’s obituary and obituaries for both men and recommend Wild Rose Prairie historical reference documents.

There is an article about ospreys and eagles by Gabrielle von Trapp in North Columbia Monthly. There is an article about ospreys and eagles by Gabrielle von Trapp in North Columbia Monthly. There is an article about ospreys and eagles by Gabrielle von Trapp in North Columbia Monthly. There is an article about ospreys and eagles by Gabrielle von Trapp in North Columbia Monthly. There is an article about ospreys and eagles by Gabrielle von Trapp in North Columbia Monthly. There is an article about ospreys and eagles by Gabrielle von Trapp in North Columbia Monthly. There is an article about ospreys and eagles by Gabrielle von Trapp in North Columbia Monthly. There is an article about ospreys and eagles by Gabrielle von Trapp in North Columbia Monthly. There is an article about ospreys and eagles by Gabrielle von Trapp in North Columbia Monthly. There is an article about ospreys and eagles by Gabrielle von Trapp in North Columbia Monthly. There is an article about ospreys and eagles by Gabrielle von Trapp in North Columbia Monthly. There is an article about ospreys and eagles by Gabrielle von Trapp in North Columbia Monthly. There is an article about ospreys and eagles by Gabrielle von Trapp in North Columbia Monthly. There is an article about ospreys and eagles by Gabrielle von Trapp in North Columbia Monthly. There is an article about ospreys and eagles by Gabrielle von Trapp in North Columbia Monthly. There is an article about ospreys and eagles by Gabrielle von Trapp in North Columbia Monthly. There is an article about ospreys and eagles by Gabrielle von Trapp in North Columbia Monthly. There is an article about ospreys and eagles by Gabrielle von Trapp in North Columbia Monthly. There is an article about ospreys and eagles by Gabrielle von Trapp in North Columbia Monthly.
Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society Newsletter
Issue #124 — August — 2018

Current Venue for Society Meetings:
On the Second Saturday of each month, at 9 a.m., the Clayton / Deer Park Historical Society will be meeting in the basement of the Clayton Grange Hall, the south side of Railroad Avenue, Clayton, Washington.
Our meetings are open to any who wish to attend.

Tiles Historian Needs Assistance with Research!
Seattle area resident Ron Endlich is a member of the Tile Heritage Foundation, a nationwide non-profit dedicated to “an awareness and appreciation” of historic ceramic tiles. He is a published author with whom the C/DPHS has worked before.

Ron sent the following request. “I am currently researching WaCo tile and terracotta work made at the Washington Brick, Lime and Sewer Pipe Company (WBLSPCo) located in Clayton. I am seeking examples of decorated tiles, figurines or other terra cotta work designed at the company by Leno Prestini, Cecill Sater, Frank Frey and others to document and photograph as part of my research. Any information would be much appreciated! My contact information is below. Thank you.”
c.endlich@comcast.net — (206) 713-0891

Volunteer proofreaders for this issue: Rick Hodges, Bill Sebright, Lina Swain, and Ken Westby.

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 in 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

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Editorial and Copyright Policy
Those contributing “original” materials to the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society retain copyright to said materials while granting the Mortarboard and the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society durable permission to use said materials in electronic and print media—including permission to reprint said materials in future Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society publications. Under certain conditions proof of ownership of submitted materials and/or a signed release allowing use may be requested. No compensation for materials submitted is offered or implied. All materials submitted are subject to editorial revision for content, language, legal exposures and so forth. Any material published as an exception to these general understandings will be clearly marked as to the nature of the exception.

Permission to Reprint Policy
When requests to reprint C/DPHS materials are received, such will be granted in almost all instances—assuming of course that we have the right to extend such permission. In instances where we don’t have that right, we will attempt to place the requester in contact with the owner of the intellectual property in question. But, as a matter of both prudence and professionalism, in all instances a request to reprint must be made, and must be made in writing (letter or email), before any C/DPHS materials are reprinted.

Jack Nisbet. Jack’s next book, The Dreamer and the Doctor, comes out this fall.
June 13 was the 6th planning meeting for the 35th Brickyard Day. The flyers and T-shirts are out. Both were available at the meeting. Insurance is taken care of. The Fun Run and Parade are shaping up. The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 1.
A thank you card for Taffy and Randy was passed around for all to sign. Pete mailed the card and a $200 check.
Next meeting: Saturday, August 11, 2018, at 9:00 AM at the Clayton Grange Hall.
Meeting adjourned at 9:57 AM.
The Society meeting minutes submitted by Mark Wagner, acting Secretary.
—— end ——

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