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Illustrations from “The Saturday Evening Post,” April 3rd 1939.

A History of 
The Deer Park Fair  
—— 1931 through 1946  ——  
(Part Three)  
by  
Wally Lee Parker

As I remember the Deer Park fairs in the 1950s, they always seemed to host a carnival — one of those traveling ones that set up for a few days, then moved on.  Along with those carnivals would come more than a few strangers little concerned for the reputations they left behind, since they never intended coming back.

My folks understood this kind of uprooted life.  They had drifted away from Oklahoma in 1933 — part of the thousands fleeing the dustbowl in search of work on the farms and orchards of New Mexico, Arizona, California and Oregon.  Working at those places, they’d often stay in migrant camps.  Most of the souls in those camps were the nicest, most giving people you’d ever find — or so my mom would say.  But scattered among them would be a fair number of cold, bitter hearts — the dangerous kind.  As a result, the folks always cautioned us to be extra careful when surrounded by itinerants.  By time you’d figured what they were about, those intent on doing mischief would have already done so.

For example, after these early Deer Park carnivals had pulled up and headed to the next town, there’d always be the stories about local guys — and not always the younger ones — freshly paid and flashing their money to impress the girls.  And somewhere along the line a young woman they’d never seen before would sidle up to them and cling.  Black hair.  Liquid eyes.  Flocking dress.  A bit exotic.  And from booth to booth and game to game...
she’d be whispering in his ear “Win me this!” “Win me that!” till most of his money had evaporated. Then she would too — though some versions would add that after she’d gone the fellow would reach for his wallet and find his pocket neatly sliced from top to bottom; his billfold gone.

Hearing this kind of thing, my dad, in what was left of his Okie brogue, would sum it up plainly. “Let some strange woman crawl all over him like that, damn fool deserved what he got!” That being a sentiment most hearing persons would agree with.

Were those stories true or — just a cautionary legend to be drawn up anytime the carnival came to town? I’m not sure it really matters. But the newspaper started hosting traveling carnivals as part of its fair, these kinds of stories had already become a small-town tradition. And towards the middle of the twentieth century, Deer Park was certainly typical of most any small town.

… 1940 …

The March 21st, 1940 issue of the Deer Park Union announced, “The tenth annual Deer Park 4-H and Community Fair will be held Friday and Saturday, September 13 and 14, and will be held on Saturday, September 14 and 15.” A month later the newspaper reported, “Leaders who will be responsible for the various departments at the annual — event this September were selected at the Association’s meeting last Thursday night.” What followed were 23 names, each taking charge of a different and widely varied area of concern such as live-stock, flowers, school exhibits, floor space, entertainment, and publicity. These assignments signaled that the newly incorporated association was drawing from prior experience in laying the foundation for the upcoming event.

The August 29th Union reported “Ten -gallon hats go on sale … in a wide selection priced from 25ȼ to $1.25. Celebration boosters may be outfitted with the proper thing in headwear at the Deer Park Five and Dime.” The paper went on to note that “all indications point to the largest group of exhib- its to date” for the fair proper. Adding that “Most departments have been added, and prizes in some classes have been increased.” That said, it was clear the rodeo had become the stronger draw on the basis of enter- tainment since “A full racing program for both days (of the rodeo) has been arranged by Shorty Lambert.”

“Port Young is putting the finishing touches on a program with bucking, riding and exhibition roping and bull dogging.” “Negotiations are under way to bring a tribe of Indians here to put on their cere- monies and trick riding program.”

An article in the September 5 Union headlined, “Will Pay Good Prizes for Bucking Contest at Rodeo.” “The third annual Deer Park Rodeo will run on a content basis this year, it was announced this week by rodeo chairman Port Young. In previous years money has been paid to everyone who rode a horse without regard to the type of ride made.”

“Daily prizes will be: Bronc riding, $10; calf roping, $25; bare back riding, $20. To these will be added all entrance fees. One dollar per ride will be paid for steer riding and 50ȼ for calf riding.” “Entrance fees for riders will be $2.50 daily for bronc riding and calf roping, and $1.50 for bare back riding.”

Even for those trying to ignore the war raging in Europe and the Far East, it was never far from mind, or the newspaper’s front page, as this piece published in the Union’s first issue for September reminded.

“Deer Park came as close to the Eu- ropean war today as most of its residents want it to when it was found that Lieutenant H. A. Knoertzer (born in Deer Park in 1911) had been transferred to duty in the Philadelphia navy yard on the staff of Squadron Thirty-Nine. Knoertzer was assigned to the squadron which is reconditioning overage World War I destroyers.”

“Although nothing can be stated for sure, it is believed that these boats may be destined for England in completing the United States’ agreement to send them fifty destroyers.” “Knoertzer is the son of Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Knoertzer, and a graduate of the local schools.”

In the next week’s newspaper, an editorial by the publisher, Mr. Karel A. Wegkamp, commented on the relative popu- larity of the rodeo against the fair. “This weekend brings Deer Park the biggest community show of the year, the tenth annual showing of the 4-H fair and the third annual rodeo program. For pure entertain- ment, you need go no further than Deer Park rodeo, and we all know the local show is good. However, we recommend to you the agricul- tural and livestock exhibits in the fair build- ing. These exhibits clearly portray the ad- vances of our farming district in the past year. Our wealth and future depend on our agricul- tural development. Go to the fair, see farming at its best in Deer Park.” That said, bits from another column found on the September 12th’s front page promise the size and excitement of the im- pending rodeo.

“Thirty-five head of bucking stock and sixty-five head of cattle will furnish plenty of thrills for the spectators and plenty of spills for the hundred odd riders who will partici- pate. … Horse racing will be staged both Sat- urday and Sunday with one hundred thirty dollars plus entry fees in prizes. … Grand- stand and bleacher capacity has been ar- ranged for about seventeen hundred people for hundreds more in cars around the arena. … Parking space for several hundred cars is provided inside the grounds, and the show should be almost entirely dust free. Acci- dent and water has laid almost 100% of the dirt.”

The next Thursday, September 19th, under the headline “Hundreds Win Prizes at Deer Park Fair: Nearly Four Hundred Dol- lars is Distributed to Exhibitors,” the Union extensively outlined the prior week’s fair, mentioning the majority of the prizewinners by name.

And then, under a headline that read “Bronc Riders Thrill Local Rodeo Fans,” another frontpage article announced that “Deer Park’s third annual rodeo and racing show was an entertainment success from every an- gle in spite of the fact that the show suffered a financial loss, and the Saturday crowd was below average.” It went on to detail, “On Saturday night the Indian war dance in the rodeo arena drew a big crowd, as did the dance in the fair building.”

Once again, what appears to have been the majority of the winners of various events, this time at the rodeo, were listed by name.

The rodeo was concluded on Sunday, and the next Monday, September 16, 1940, it was announced nationwide that the Selective Training and Service Act — the first peacetime military draft in U.S. history — had been passed by the congress and signed by the pres- ident. The next Thursday, the Union’s editor responded to this editorial:

“Conscription is among us. In other words, compulsory military training, the thing that we Americans have always looked down upon in other countries, is now a part of our own governmental setup.

“An American congress has passed, and an American president has approved the most unamerican piece of legislation ever enacted. The present lawmakers have taken their first long step in the destruction of the Bill of Rights, and the destruction of American liberty.

“Watch carefully, Mr. and Mrs. American, the next step toward totalitarian government will be the muzzling of the press and radio which has already been hinted by certain members of the national assembly.”

On November 7th, 1940, with what was then known as Armistice Day — the day marking the end of the First World War — just days away, the Union’s editor once again voiced the hope that America would stay out...
of the war. "Monday, November 11, this nation pays homage to the heroes of our last war, the World War; the war to save democracy. The reward of our fighting men was scant enough for their services. Pay tribute to their memory, but remember, another war, greater and more horrible than the last, now rages on the battlefields of Europe. Our friends of twenty-five years ago are pleading for assistance. They need our help and they have our sympathy. But let us not forget 1916. No man or group of men can change this nation into a war country. This country will remain at peace as long as the American people want peace. Let us therefore, on this Armistice Day, redevote ourselves to peace. An honorable, indestructible peace in America.

...setting nerves on edge...

In the spring of 1941, May 22nd to be exact, the Deer Park Union reported that the next community fair was scheduled for September 12th and 13th, and the rodeo for the 13th and 14th. It was also noted that the next meeting of the fair association would be held on June 3rd.

Since the newspaper's first issue for June is missing from the archive, the gist of the above association meeting isn't known. The fact that the June 5th issue is missing is particularly unfortunate since the newspaper's next available issue, that of June 12th, began the serialization of a novel titled "Attack on America" — a serialization that continued into January of 1942. Any explanation as to why the Union's editor committed the next 29 weeks of his newspaper to printing the entirety of this novel probably appeared in June's missing issue. Nowadays this story is usually classified within a sub-genus of science-fiction called future history. But in the spring of 1941, after months of radio broadcast and newspaper articles describing the apparent invincibility of the German and Japanese war machines, the title doubtless resonated with local readers.

"Attack on America"
An advertisement for General Ared White's serialized novel clipped from the June 19th 1941 issue of the Deer Park Union.

Perhaps the scariest aspect of the novel was the name of the author. This well-known and highly respected commander of Oregon's National Guard, Major General Ared White, had long voiced concern for America's pitiful state of military preparedness. Describing a pack of foreign nations, Germany among them, attacking across the Mexican border appears to have been an attempt to cast his concerns into a form more digestible for the general public.
ments with the various carnivals invited to set up midway over the years.

The remainder of the article outlined the “hundreds of cash prizes and thousands of ribbons ... awarded to exhibitors and contestants.”

... a year of fundraising and indebtedness ...

In the latter part of February, 1941, the Union announced that, “A double block of land southwest of the Pentecostal Church will be purchased from the county as a public playground if the present plans of the play-ground committee are carried out.

“The group, with about twenty-five interested persons present at the high school Monday evening and decided to secure the site and to proceed with the development of a recreation center for children of the district.”

What was being announced was the founding of what is now known as Deer Park’s James G. Swinyard Park. With the fairgrounds firmly established as an event to be held annually on firmly owned city property with suitable structures for the fair’s needs in place, a significant portion of the community’s attention turned to this new endeavor. That fall, both the fair and playground groups turned to financial issues. Since this placed them in competition for donations, it appears they considered it necessary to cooperate, as denoted by the Union’s October 16th, 1941 headline, which read “Fair and Playground Groups Join to Raise Funds.”

Seeking to pay off indebtedness on the ... field, two blocks south of the (then) City Hall. It was intended to develop this field gradually, buying pieces of equipment only as money was raised and trained personnel prepared. However, we are unexpectedly offered a large W. P. A. project on it. The responsibility of the public as cosponsors of this project will be to provide five hundred dollars’ worth of equipment for grounds. Most of this has already been secured and partly paid for.”

The December 4th Union reported on a fundraising dinner to be held on the 13th, stating that “The proceeds will be used to meet the debt of $400 that the association must pay by December 27.” As a subsequent article would clarify, “The group still owes $900” to the United Hospital Bank and “$400 of the amount falls due on Christmas.”

The association missed the deadline by a few days, making the payment on December 29th, 1941 — one of read, “Fire, police, ... and the health board of the state. But that same statement of commission for home defense will be organized immediately, according to word received from Homer Houston, in charge of the local setup. Houston states that only these three will be started at this time as Deer Park is not in the immediate target area.”

After assuring residents that were not “in the immediate target area,” the article concluded, “Interested persons wishing to volunteer for any home defense work may secure application blanks from the Public Service Station (on North Main Street) or from Homer Houston.”

The same edition also noted that the Deer Park Lumber Company was doing its part. The article explained, “Our local company is now working on its third contract with the box company that supplies the Wright Aer-

... the first Sunday in December, 1941 ...

It was both expected and not. But when it arrived, it was a double block of land from an unexpected direction — at least unexpected to a community’s whose newspaper had just a year before been editorially advocating an isolationist policy — or at least the hope that the rest of the world’s problems would stay offshore. Looking back at what we know of the local community in 1941, it’s possible the first indication that attitudes were changing was an announcement in mid-January that “Walter Winchell, your New York Correspondent, ace key-hole peeper and the boy who knows practically everything, will be a regular contributor to the Deer Park Union starting with this issue.”

In those prewar years, syndicated columnist Winchell was primarily known for his gossipy style of reporting, his vocal dislike of isolationist policy, and his absolute hatred of everything Nazi, including Americans who openly admired Adolf Hitler (of which there were a significant number).

Then too, at the beginning of that summer, Union’s front page told the story of General George Ared White’s novel, Attack on America. That doubtless reduced a few previously complacent nerves.

The above seemed symptomatic of a begrudging but growing acceptance that America was eventually going to be forced into the rest of the world’s ever-growing war, regardless of its reluctance.

A very visible indication of how serious things were being taken locally appeared in several articles printed in the November 29th, 1941 Union — one of read, “Fire, police, and the health board of the state. But that same statement of commission for home defense will be organized immediately, according to word received from Homer Houston, in charge of the local setup. Houston states that only these three will be started at this time as Deer Park is not in the immediate target area.”

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The same edition also noted that the Deer Park Lumber Company was doing its part. The article explained, “Our local company is now working on its third contract with the box company that supplies the Wright Aer-

nautical Corporation with crates for airplane engines ... each crate requires about 365 feet of lumber.”

The local newspaper’s December 11th edition made no direct mention of the prior Sunday’s attack on Pearl Harbor, or the following Monday’s declaration of war with Japan. The very day the local newspaper was being distributed throughout the area, the United States was declaring war on Germany and Italy in response to their declarations of war on America. And by that evening, America was fully committed to a two-ocean war with the Axis powers.

Among the things the Union’s front page did include was this, “Volunteers for an observation and listening post in Deer Park are being sought by O. L. Lundale, who has been appointed to organize such a ... on duty twenty-four hours a day during emergencies or trials. Their duty will be to keep a lookout for airplane attacks.

Persons with good hearing and sight are desired, and those wishing to help are urged to contact Lundale or Earl Mix. The work and the membership of the group will be a military secret.”

This edition also included announcements that the city was considering “an ordi-

nance creating a defense council and coordi-

nating home defense efforts,” and that a local Red Cross unit might be formed.

An outline from local civilian defense work appeared on the next week’s edition, stat-

ing that the “auxiliary police, air raid wardens, auxiliary medical unit, auxiliary utilities, engineers’ unit, transportation, supply and evacuation. Persons registering are requested to state a preference.”

It was also announced that “all ama-

teur radio stations have been ruled off the air, and may only broadcast on special permission ... When permission is granted, it will be only for defense purposes.”

The arrival of the war had changed everything. Things once very important to the community seemed to diminish in value —
quite simply meaning the demands of war would require a severe realignment of priorities. Though it’s probable few locals were considering how these changes might affect the next summer’s community fair, they eventually would.

But such things were beyond the chaos of the moment. To put a point on the need to immediately reevaluate everything, on Christmas Day, this appeared in the Union.

“For the first time since the beginning of World War II, a local family has been directly affected by the Japanese attack in the Pacific. Mr. and Mrs. Chester Smith, who live five miles north of Deer Park, received word that their nephew, Seaman Loren Reed Bircher, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank T. Bircher of Kingston, Idaho, was killed in action, presumably in the attack on Hawaii. He had joined the navy on September 2nd.”

——— to be continued ———

Challenge Hill Steam Tractor Collection

by

Peter Coffin & Chuck Lyons

On October 26, 2019, the Inland Empire Steam & Gas Buffs antique machinery club held a tractor viewing tour at Chuck Lyons’ Challenge Hill Farm southwest of Deer Park. Mr. Lyons has assembled an extensive collection of antique steam and petroleum powered tractors and other farm equipment, and graciously allowed me to join the tour. One of his barns contains five giant steam powered tractors from the 1908 to 1913 time period. These tractors, in their day referred to as ‘traction engines’ to differentiate them from non-self-propelled engines, predate the gasoline and diesel-powered tractors with which most of us are familiar. Steam tractors at that time replaced multiple horse teams pulling multiple bottom plows to break uncultivated grass root-matted sod. Additionally, they provided belt power for operating threshing machines, hay balers, small sawmills, and other stationary devices.

The descriptions in the textbox below describe different configurations of steam engines. “Single” indicates that the tractor has

The collection contains these steam powered tractors:

1908 Russell, 20 horsepower, a single-simple, side crank, side mount, straw burner.
1910 Advance, 22 horsepower, a single-simple, side crank, side mount, straw burner.
1911 Rumley, 20 horsepower, a double-simple, center/side crank, rear mount.
1913(?) Nichols & Shepard, 20-70 horsepower, a double-simple, center crank, side mount.
1913 Minneapolis, 22 horsepower, single-simple, side crank, side mount, straw burner.
1913 Case, 60 horsepower, single-simple, side crank, straw burner, (earlier rated 20 hp).

Displayed at North Spokane Farm Museum on Wild Rose Prairie:
1890 Case, 10 horsepower, single-simple, center crank.
Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats — or — Bits of Chatter, Trivia, & Notices — all strung together.

… how did Deer Park get its name …

Once again the question of how Deer Park got its name came up, this time during the “general gossip” segment of the historical society’s November meeting. What this discussion revealed is that there’s more than one version of this story, and regardless of which of these is being told, the teller always seems sure their version is the right one. The general rule among historians is that the closer you get to the original source — or at least the oldest version attributable to the original source — the more credibility any given story has. Perhaps the largest of the caveats associated with this is that you need to be wary of any indication on the part of the original source of an intention to deceive — usually to either protect or besmirch an otherwise good name.

To answer questions about Deer Park’s name, we could look for a truly scholarly source, one such being the April 1918 edition of The Washington Historical Quarterly. For a number of prior issues the Quarterly had been printing a multipart article by Edmond S. Meany titled Origin of Washington Geographic Names — said article later being bundled by the University of Washington Press into a hefty tome stamped with the same name. By its April issue, the Quarterly’s serialized version was into the ‘D’s. And as expected, there was Deer Park.

Professor Meany described Deer Park as “a town in the northern portion of Spokane County.” Well, okay. I think we can all agree with that. And then the Professor says, “The name recalls a good hunting region in early days.” And that’s all.

To me this curiously abbreviated version seems a little thin on research. As evidence for this I’ll submit the fact that the prior edition of the Quarterly, when covering the ‘C’s, doesn’t even mention Deer Park’s neighboring town of Clayton. My first impulse would be to assume that the note regarding Clayton’s existence fell off someone’s desk at a critical point. The Mortarboard’s editor has some sympathy for this kind of literary malfeasance since my desk is very cluttered, and, according to the Mortarboard’s more vocal contributors, it leaks important bit of data all the time. The ire-compelled incoming missives generated by any data so misplaced being one of the reasons the editor’s column
Dear Editor,

I'm going to assume that you folks around the radio program "Your Home Town News," a KHQ radio program sponsored by the First Federal Savings and Loan, were enthusiastic about Inland Empire towns being read and a one dollar prize is given to the writer. Miss Josephine Boggs' letter on Deer Park was one of those selected.

On 'Your Home Town News,' a KHQ radio program sponsored by the First Federal Savings and Loan, the best letter about Inland Empire towns are read and a one dollar prize is given to the writer. Miss Boggs' letter on Deer Park was one of those selected.

I checked 1940's Friday March 22nd Spokesman-Review radio schedule and it does list a program on KHQ at 9 AM titled "Home Town Editor." Since the Spokane Daily Chronicle confirms that name and there's no mention of the schedule, and since the letter Miss Boggs wrote begins "Dear Editor," I'm going to assume that "Home Town Editor" is a more accurate — or at least official — reading of the radio program's name.

To quote the first paragraph of Miss Boggs' letter, "Because deer ran freely through a stand of pine trees, and nestled in the bushes, our town was christened Deer Park by E. J. Roberts, railroad employee when the Spokane Falls and North- ern Railway was built through the country in about 1889."

It turns out, the above-mentioned Mr. E. J. Roberts, though technically a railroad employee, was actually quite a bit more — the December 13th, 1899 edition of the Railroad Gazette notes regarding the Spokane Falls & Northern Railway, "Tracklaying on this road began at Spokane Falls, Wash., June 1, and was suspended at a point nine miles north of Coeur d'Alene, on Dec. 1. The total number of miles laid during the year was 98. ... E. J. Roberts, of Spokane Falls, is Chief Engineer." To say the least, he seems to have had quite a bit of a head start while working with the railroad. It is evident through his ownership of one of those castle-like cottages in the heart of Spokane's Brown's Addition — the kind with square-cut granite blocks for the foundation and a turret rising to the third floor. E. J. lived there until his death in 1949, the castle now being a very popular bed and breakfast.

As for the letter's author, Miss Josephine Boggs — her full name being Mary Josephine Boggs — she was a 1936 graduate of Deer Park High School.

We find several cryptic mentions of Josephine in the high school's 1936 annual — a very hand-made edition due to the economic depression era. In the "Prophecy" segment we find it forecast that "Josephine Boggs will become a farmer's wife and raise a bunch of little groves."

As I said, cryptic. But then the annual's "Will" segment sheds a little light on the "little groves" comment with the following quip. "Josephine Boggs leaves Wil- lis Grove to the tender care of Mary Mackey."

Considering that Robert Willis Grove was a 1937 graduate of Deer Park High School, are we detecting the suggestion of a triangle of some sort?

If so, all ended well for Josephine. Willis graduated from Deer Park High School the year after Josephine. Just this last summer his service during World War II was featured in a set of Mortarboard articles titled Twenty- Six Missions: The Robert Willis Grove Story. At war's end, Josephine and Willis were married, and, as per the annual's prophecy of a "bunch of little groves" — assuming two could be considered a bunch — thereafter along came Gordon and Leslie Ann.

So, is Josephine's rendition of the origin of Deer Park's name the right one? It's certainly plausible. And quite often that's the best we can hope for.

... when names and numbers are useful ...

Another thing that happened at last November's meeting — this after the meeting had adjourned — was a callout for new items being donated to the society's growing collection of historical artifacts. Pete Coffin, longtime society member and frequent contributor to the Mortar-
Minutes of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society

December 14, 2019

In attendance at the society’s museum, 300 Block East ‘A’ Street, Deer Park: Marilyn Reilly, Bill Sebright, Wally Parker, Pat Parker, Mark Wagner, Mary Jo Reiter, Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Rick Brodrick, Don Hall, Elaine Ball, Linda Sandby Bill Phipps, Mike Reiter, Roberta Reiter, Nancy Fisher, Roxanne Camp, Larry Bowen, Chuck Lyons, Lorraine Nord, Tom Costigan, Rachelle Fletcher, Nancy Tainter, Grove, Florenc Moore, and Michael Wolfe.

President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. He reported: 1) He received pictures of the Arcadia Orchard flame, the Loon Lake level control structure on the northwest side of the lake, and a Loon Lake pontoon boat from Eric Moulton. 2) Bob Wiese sent pictures of an Arcadia identification tag. 3) Bill took a picture of the “Christ on the Cross” that Leno Prestini painted in 1961 and gave to the Priest of the Clayton Catholic Church. 4) Pete inspected the Eagle and wasn’t happy with the results. I forwarded his email to Doug Flewellng, but haven’t heard from Doug, yet. 5) Bill will be doing a demonstration presentation to the Parma School’s 4th grade in February. 6) The Arcadia Orchards will also be the theme for Clayton Brickyard Day.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported the main checking account ended the month at $7,548.33. There were deposits of $10. Checks were written for $105.63 to Wal- lcy Parker for supplies and on to the Tribune for $90.00 for ads. The web hosting account ended the month at $586.98 with a withdrawal of $11.84 for web hosting. The Brickyard Day account is at $1,945.33.

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

Print editor Wally Parker reported: 1) One hundred and twenty copies of the December Mortarboard (#140) have been printed for distribution and a PDF version has been forwarded to the Society’s website for online posting. A printable PDF of issue #140 has been sent to the Loon Lake Library. 2) The current 16-page issue begins with part two of the continuing “A History of the Deer Park Fair: 1931 Through 1946.” Next is a photo essay by Peter Coffin titled “The Big Dig.” After that is a piece by the Mortarboard’s editor titled “In Search of Doctor John Loper Smith’s Gold.” 3) If anyone has items they’d like added to future Letters/Brickbats columns, please write them up in either letter or outline-of-facts format and forward such. Though we refer to the Mortarboard as a newsletter — suggesting timeliness — it often requires “at least” several months before room can be found to include submitted materials in the magazine. Keep that article “This is also a reminder that the editor is an old man trying to juggle hundreds of facts within dozens of subjects. More than a little help is going to be required from you and yours when communicat- ing. Think of your editor as having the verbal retention characteristics of a goldfish and you’ll understand why putting things in writing is critical. 4) Since you’ve already seen the email, having volunteers step forward now to learn the basics of creating editorial content and laying such into the Mortarboard template would be a very wise precaution.

Webmaster Marie Morrill reported by email: 1) I have uploaded December’s Mortarboard onto our web site. I will not be at the meeting tomorrow. I’ll be playing the piano at a Christmas breakfast.

Pete Coffin reported: 1) With all the old photographs of the Olsen Hotel buildings available I have written a possible manuscript for consideration. 2) Several inquiries about the old building south of the VFW hall the provided the inspiration for writing a small manuscript about it. Again, I will give it to the Mortarboard articles on the Deer Park Community Fair (“A History of the Deer Park Fair: 1931 Through 1946” — issues 139 & 140, November & December 2019). Next is a Mortarboard article on the buildings of the Arcadia Fruit Growers Association. The build- ings in Denison were impressive and are long gone. I will submit the manuscript to the editor. 4) Editor Parker sent me a web address containing many Washington Water Power Company pictures of the building of the Long Lake Dam and the Springdale and Long Lake Railroad (see link below). As my Grandfather Michie was hired to make sure the steam railroad engines were working properly, I have a personal interest in them. Mike Denuty wrote Gary Cooper a letter titled “The Springdale & Long Lake Railroad and the Deer Park Rail- way Company” (Issue 33, January 2011). I have printed several pictures from this collection to pass around.

Mike Reiter reported: 1) He had the glass replaced in three Society pictures, Dwayne Strong’s aerial view of Deer Park, the current 16-page issue of Deer Park Pine, and Art Stelting’s record of Clayton’s World War II men in the service. He is really happy with their work. Matt and GSI have done a job at least two hours a day. A huge thank you goes to GSI for donating the glass and installation, a cost of well over $100! 2) He sent pictures of three
plates from Gordon Grove. They are circa 1914. One is a 1914 calendar plate from the Arcadia Store. Two others showed pictures of the Olson and Kelly buildings. 3) He sent a picture of Lawrence and Mary Zimmerer from Betty Deuber. The picture shows Lawrence and Mary looking over their historical picture collection. 4) Mike brought a Township voucher from his Grandfather, Louis Reiter, for $14.87. Louis was paid for grading work near Short and Oregon Roads. The $14.87 included the use of his team of horses.  

Nancy Fisher brought many great materials, including mill pictures and Clayton pictures. She brought five Deer Park High School Antlers that completed our collection from the 1940s to 1990. There were letters from William Short, Jr. discussing the naming of Deer Park. He maintains that it was the train crews seeing so many deer that brought about the name. She also brought manuscripts of the history of lumber mills in the area. Several of the area’s well-known names were mentioned, including Pete Coffin’s relatives. Florene Moore showed her leather post card collection. She also brought the book “Inland, the First Forty Years. Inland refers to Inland Power and Light. It’s time for dues again — $20 per household.

Chuck Lyons said he would be willing to have a field trip to his “tractor museum” after the May Society meeting. Next meeting Saturday, January 11, 2020, at 10:00 AM at our new building. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Volunteer proofreaders for this issue: Bill Sebright, Chuck Stewart, Lina Swain, and Ken Westby.

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Website — http://www.cdphs.org

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

Editorial, Copyright, and Reprint Concerns
Those contributing “original” materials to the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society normally retain copyright to said materials while granting the Mortarboard and the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society durable permission to use said materials in our 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 may be requested. No compensation for materials submitted is offered or implied. All materials submitted are subject to editorial revision. Any material published as an exception to these general understandings will be clearly marked. When requests to reprint materials are received, such will be granted in almost all instances in which the society has 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 work in question. But as a matter of prudence and professionalism — in all instances where a request to reprint is made it should be made to both the society and the author of the piece, and it should be made in writing (letter or email). The society considers the application of common business conventions when dealing with intellectual properties a simple means of avoiding hurtful misunderstandings.

About our Group:
The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society was incorporated as a nonprofit association in the winter of 2002 under the title Clayton Historical Society. Our mission statement is found on the first page (upper left corner) of each issue of our newsletter, the Mortarboard. Our yearly dues are $20 dollars per family/household.

We are open to any and all that share an interest in the history of our region — said region, in both a geographic and historic sense, not limited to the communities in our group’s name.