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.

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

In the early 1950s I was just old enough to comprehend that the real world was a much larger and more complex place than previously understood. I began to understand that somewhere far beyond the mountains rising to the west of Williams Valley was an ocean. And that not many years before a war had taken place there — a war splashed in black and white across the screen of our little Crosley television in a weekly program titled Victory at Sea. Then too, there was a book available in the Clayton school library showing colored drawings of World War II era aircraft — the most fascinating being that of a P-40 fighter painted with a deadly looking shark’s mouth.

If it had ever come to mind back then, it probably would have been very difficult for us to understand how different the world we were being raised in was from that of the kids old enough to have fought in World War II. Their world was someplace insular, someplace seemingly protected by that same faraway ocean. Our world had a sky crisscrossed with vapor trails — some of those trails left by aircraft that could fly non-stop across that same ocean in just a few hours to drop nuclear bombs on cities in Russia or China.

In those early years we’d occasionally receive instruction on television and by pamphlets in the mail demonstrating how, in
anticipation of nuclear attack, to set up a fall-out shelter in our basement — a useless bit of data for our family since our farmhouse didn’t have a basement at the time. And on occasion there’d be demonstrations of how students caught at school should huddle under our vintage wooden desks during such an attack.

In his memoir, Nothing’s Sacred, comedian Lewis Black — recalling his own schooltime instructions on how to escape being incinerated by “a fireball from hell” — said even then the absurdity of being told to “hide under kindling and escape him.”

If there was a difference in being raised in the prewar and postwar decades, it could have been that the daily struggles with hunger and want or war’s depression was exchanged for the plenty of the 1950’s—a plenty spiced by a subtle though constant sense of dread; especially since it was clear already with a proper standing ready expected any of the “in case of nuclear attack” protective measures to actually work.

To draw that sense of dread closer to the surface, on occasion we’d pass a roadside shanty of plywood and tarpaper managed by the Cold War’s iteration of the civilian Ground Observer Corps — the idea behind the posterior version being to watch for Russian bombers intent on striking our forces and the Kaiser aluminum facilities near Spokane.

It was the first Sunday in December, 1941, when the door between America’s prior and current world views slammed shut, and that constant sense of just below the surface dread began. Pearl Harbor put to rest the belief that the rest of the world was something apart, and that America was somehow isolated from the concerns of those distant places. After the war the weight of being this new world’s prime target settled in. And in reality, America has never had a truly peaceful night’s sleep since.

changing priorities ...

On the first of January, 1942, the Deer Park Union’s front page carried this message from Arthur B. Langlie, governor, State of Washington.

“Our nation is at war. All citizens of the State of Washington are subject to being called upon for service in the protection and defense of lives, homes and property.

“Our state, because of its strategic location; the large amount of defense activity here; and the presence of armed forces of our nation, has a particularly heavy — yet challenging — responsibility.

“Fortunately, in this state, with the cooperation of the executive, public officials, volunteer citizens, and with assistance and direction from the federal government, civilian defense organizations were already set up to do with emergency conditions such as we face now. The nucleus of civilian protection was developed in the State of Washington for more than six months before Japan struck at our Pacific outposts. Few if any states were as well prepared to face the situation that confronts us today. We must, however, enlarge our civilian protection rapidly, fix responsibilities definitely and all participate in discharging those responsibilities to the end that whatever challenges may be presented to this state in the coming months we, as citizens, will not fail the United States of America in the conflict that confronts our nation.

“The first article to be published was titled, “What To Do In an Air Raid.” It laid out a set of general instructions, including the best way to counter incendiary devices landing on or near combustible structures. Regarding such, it said, “play a spray from a garden hose on the bomb,” but cautioned that “a jet, splash, stream or bucket of water will make it explode.”

The newspaper’s first mention of the Deer Park Fair Association appeared in the January 15th issue, when it was noted that the group had paid $400 toward the debt accumulated in the purchase and refurbishing of the Arcadia warehouse and grounds, with $500 left owing.

On January 24th the Union, under the headline “Schools Receive Raid Instructions,” reported, “Engineers from the Spokane County Defense Committee met with superintendent E. M. Bouchon and emergency instructions for both grade and high schools were outlined.”

Both the grade and high school had two “assigned quarters” for sheltering within each school “where pupils will remain until going forward would be those related directly to the war effort. One was titled “Committee Chiefs for Civilian Defense Named.” Among the names mentioned, it stated Deer Park’s mayor, Carl Mix, had selected here’s how: “While a local baker, to be the chief air raid warden; utilities manager Orval Bosner became auxiliary fire chief; and Roy Morris, city marshal, was to take charge of the auxiliary police. It was also noted that Bosner and Morris were to attend the three-day session of a “chemical warfare school” at the Spokane Armory.

Another article stated, “Because of the great interest in Red Cross work which local women have shown and the large number who registered for various types of Red Cross work yesterday, it has been decided to form a unit here.”

Page three of the January 1st issue began a series of articles drawn from the pages of the “Civilian Protection” handbook produced by the Washington State Civilian Protection Committee. The first article to be published was titled, “What To Do In An Air Raid.” It laid out a set of general instructions, including the best way to counter incendiary devices landing on or near combustible structures. Regarding such, it said, “play a spray from a garden hose on the bomb,” but cautioned that “a jet, splash, stream or bucket of water will make it explode.”
Moving pictures about First Aid and armed home forces were shown. On July 2nd, 1942, Patrolman Talks on Fair Requirements, "this Union State patrolman J. E. Baker will address the members of the Deer Park 4-H Club and Community Fair Association when they meet in the Legion Hall Tuesday evening at eight o'clock, President Karl Herrmann announced today. Baker will explain the recent ruling of the governor regarding fairs, and let the comply with the law in holding the fair."

"The members of the 4-H Club and Community Fair Association when they met in the Legion Hall Tuesday night. State Patrolmen J. E. Baker explained the restrictions and requirements laid down by the army, and the group decided that the risk of going ahead was too.

"At that time the main highway from Spokane to Colville passed through Deer Park as the town's designated Main Street — ... as currently laid east from Main Street across what was until recently the south end of the fairgrounds. The July 9th doubt that an adequate plan for handling the 1200 spectators could be worked out and ranged to have classes during the day, for the convenience of the men who work the night shift at the mill as well as into close."

"Mayor Earl Mix discussed the new highway, and a way would have to be opened up to take the crowd out through the back fields and disperse them chemical warfare will be started in Deer Park. It is.

"Chemical warfare will be started in Deer Park-Denison area. It was also becoming evident that those remaining in the local community would have more to do and less to do it with."

"James A.) Reeder, assistant coordinator of Spokane County, was the main speaker of the evening. He told about the seriousness of the war situation, especially with re-

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receive the necessary approval. As for the Old Settlers’ Picnic, “At least to date, plans for the annual North Spokane and Southern Stevens County Settlers’ Association are going ahead at a rapid pace. Herb Reiter and (George) Bud Schonfeld are planning an elaborate sports program with a lot of cash prizes for the various events; and Mrs. Karel A. Wegkamp is lining up an outstanding program with War Production Board’s Lars Carlson as the principal speaker.

“There is no apparent conflict of the picnic with the army’s plans. The affair, being held at the tourist park (Mix Park), which has adequate outlets away from the highway — and the gathering being considerably smaller than the fair — it is not thought that any difficulty will be encountered from that angle.”

Regarding the fair’s remaining business — the following.

“Plans were made for the Fair Association to meet on September 15 and lay plans for money raising enterprises to meet their ($425.00) note at the bank. The group will also meet annually in March to decide on holding or not holding a fair until a definite action is taken to resume fairs, or to discontinue them entirely.”

… on the home front …

“Minute Men Are Organized” was one of the article headings in the July 16th Union. It reported that, “J. E. Stelting of Clayton was elected commander of the local Minute Men group when an organization meeting was held Tuesday night at the Family Theater. Jim Cannon, Chief Deputy Sheriff of Spokane County, who heads the Minute Men, was in charge of the session.

“Stelting is an ex-serviceman and a member of Guy Enman Post American Legion. He will appoint three captains, one to serve Clayton, and two for the Deer Park area. The purpose of the Minute Men group is to guard the home front.

“Between seventy-five and one hundred men attended the meeting.” As regards the minute men, on July 30th this appeared in the Union. “Ralph Smith, founder of the Minute Men and commander of the group in the Spokane Valley, addressed an interested crowd of one hundred fifty Deer Park and vicinity Minute Men at the high school gym Wednesday evening. Smith spoke stirringly on patriotism and explained the purposes and functions of the Minute Men’s organization.

“Harvey Coe and Fred Reynolds, who had been named captains, appointed a number of corporals and started assigning men to the small units.

“Cards were issued to those who had registered, and it was announced that armbands should be ready for distribution by the old (Deer Park) airport (on the south side of the Deer Park Milan Road) Sunday, August 9, at 2 p.m. All Minute Men and fellows interested in becoming Minute Men are requested to be present. It will not be necessary to bring guns to this meeting.

“On August 23, Valley commander Smith will be present at a 2 o’clock meeting on the same field, and local men will be present with their arms. Smith stressed the importance of bringing guns unloaded to prevent any sort of accident.”

… some good news at year’s end …

With the decade long string of prior fairs broken, this announcement appeared in the September 17th issue of Deer Park’s newspaper.

“At the Tuesday night meeting of the Fair Association plans were made to give a chicken dinner at the Congregational Church basement on October 2. Solicitations will be made for the chickens and L. D. Boyd is in charge of the committees. Proceeds from the dinner will be used to pay on the association’s note which is held by the Hillyard Branch of the Spokane and Eastern Bank.

In the November 19th issue a second dinner was announced. The reason given, the check was found to be sufficient. A total of $158.45 was earned, leaving around ten dollars to the good after all bills were settled and the debt wiped out. One of the happy surprises for the workers was that fact that one of Deer Park’s citizens handed the committee a check to cover the price of all of the turkeys used in the dinner.”

When the association took over the (Arcadia apple packing) building for fair purposes, the members made about $1,000 worth of necessary improvements … and they have been struggling with the debt for several years. It is now reduced to $148, and they are out to clean it up.

And clean they did. As the next week’s Union explained, “When the cash had been counted and all the expenses deducted the check was found to be sufficient. A total of $158.45 was earned, leaving around ten dollars to the good after all bills were settled and the debt wiped out. One of the happy surprises for the workers was that fact that one of Deer Park’s citizens handed the committee a check to cover the price of all of the turkeys used in the dinner.”

— to be continued
Deer Park Union front page article reported that the land containing Stone’s pool hall had been sold to the Hunziker hardware operation (See image #2 above for this article). The September 7, 1917 front page article said that the pool hall had been moved back and rotated to face First Street (See image #3 for first three paragraphs of this article). At that time the building was to be used as a workshop and for storage of farm equipment. Interestingly the Historic Resources Inventory listing says that the building was originally a store but later was a church. The Sanborn fire insurance map (Block #170) shows a building in the approximate location of East 32 First Street that is labeled “Church Rm” (See note #2). This set of maps is not specifically dated so when the building may have been used as a church cannot be set. This might be in error in that the building was used as a storage building by the owners of the Hunziker hardware building well into the 1970s. This building has housed many businesses including an electronic repair shop and a shoe repair shop.

The oldest wooden building in Deer Park whose construction can be reliably dated is the Open Door Congregational Church which was built in 1896.

--- end ---

Clinker Boats on Loon Lake
by Wally Lee Parker

The photo below, found in the Loon Lake Historical Society’s archives, was probably taken between 1901 and 1910. The place was Loon Lake, and the large boat in the background was Evan Morgan’s legendary excursion steam launch “Gwen.” The estimated date is based on postmarks found on postcards originally circulated at that time by Evan Morgan to advertise his resort. This image, or one very like it, is believed to have appeared on one issue of that series.

In their notes, the Loon Lake group refers to the rowboat in the foreground as a “clinker boat.” Emails exchanged between this researchist and the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society’s president, Bill Sebright,
suggested we conduct a search to define what the term clinker boat means, since both of us were at a loss.

As a bit of background, according to a 1915 promotional brochure in the Loon Lake group’s collection, Evan Morgan began building rowboats at Loon Lake around 1897. The brochure states these boats were for “livery purposes” — in this instance meaning they were for rent to the patrons of Morgan’s resort. Among those boats were “a number of clinker-built cedar boats.” The brochure also said these boats could be built for private parties — going on to reprint a few letters of recommendation received from such customers.

The brochure described the planking used in Morgan’s rowboats as cedar. The structural elements — ribs, keel and such — were white oak. Yellow pine was used for the seats and flooring. The fittings were galvanized iron; though, for a little more money, purchasers could have the fittings plated with brass or nickel. The boat was then finished with oil and varnish or three coats of marine paint.

Relevant to the name “clinker boat,” the most telling paragraph in the brochure is the following. “They (the boats) are copper-riveted throughout and no clinch-nails are used. … Many clinch-nail and factory-made boats have made their appearance on Loon Lake since we built our little fleet, but they have been abandoned a long time ago, showing the quality and merit of the workmanship and material used in our boats.”

It appears the terms clinch-nails and clinker boats are in an odd way related — at least that’s the hypothesis put forward in an article titled “Boat Building for Amateurs” that appeared in the May 1895 issue of Carpenter & Building: A Monthly Journal. In the first several paragraphs of the article, the author, L. Campbell, introduced us to a type of boat “in common use among the fishermen on the Great Lakes, which for strength, safety, buoyancy, lightness, ease of management and general all-around purposes cannot be excelled.” According to the author, these boats were “generally known as ‘clinkers,’ a corruption of the word ‘clincher,’ which alludes to the manner in which they are built, the planks or ‘strakes’ being lapped over each other like the clapboards on a house, and nailed through and through, the nails being ‘clined’ on the
inside; hence the name.” There are several major construction difficulties when it comes to stick-building a boat — at least stick-building one you expect to be watertight. When you’re using planks — the aforementioned “strakes” — to cover the framework, sealing the seams between those boards is of extreme importance, as is exactly how snugly the edges of those boards are expected to fit. In his article, Mr. Campbell illustrates the various ways this can be accomplished (see Image #2), then goes on to suggest why, all things considered, the lappstrate clinker boat might be the easiest to construct.

With the clinker style, thinner planks can be used, which makes for a lighter and easier to manage boat. Due to the clappboard style overlaps, less shaping of the planks is needed when bending and twisting them to fit the curvature of the hull. At the same time, the overlap allows enough area between the boards to apply a reliable amount of caulking.

The overlaps add extra rigidity to the entire construct, and permits clinching the planks to each other at points without an underlying rib or bit of framework (as seen in Image #3). Without a more detailed description from individuals with direct knowledge of the construction methods used to create Evan Morgan’s clinker boats or a surviving example of one of his rowboats, we can’t state with absolute certainty how the rowboat in image number one was built. We can’t state with certainty that our understanding of the term clinker boat is the same as Morgan’s. That said, it’s still a good bet.

As for Morgan’s larger boats, the Gwen and Loon, were built, we have one example of such at the bottom of Loon Lake’s Moose Bay. A closer, noninvasive examination of that drowned boat — believed to be the Loon — might reveal quite a lot.

End

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats
— or —
Bits of Chatter, Trivia, & Notices — all strung together.

… an Arcadia Orchards Company tag …

Bill forwarded Robert’s materials to the Mortarboard. In return I sent Bill the following thoughts and guesses.

“Robert’s photos are very good quality — exactly how these kinds of items should be photographed for reproduction in the Mortarboard; that being on a solid white or, if necessary, contrasting colored background. Regarding the intended use of the item, I would speculate that it’s one of a series of like artifacts, each impressed with a unique number. If that were the case, it’s possible the item was intended to be attached to something else via a flexible strap or ribbon. Could it be some kind of inventory tag — attached to pieces of equipment for inventory control? Did the Arcadia use something like this as part of a tamper-seal for freight cars? Was this something employees wore for identification? Right now, it’s a mystery.”

In a follow-up email Robert added, “It appears to be a non-ferrous material such as copper or brass, but I don’t think it’s aluminum.” As for giving the metal the scratch test, “I’m a bit shy about scraping or other means of testing” — that being the proper way to approach what may be an absolutely unique artifact.

Pete Coffin noted he hadn’t run across any mention of objects of this type in his extensive research into the Arcadia’s history. He surmised that it may have been “an identification tag for a worker.”

Mike Retter mentioned the problem to Gordon Grove and Gordon suggested “The numbers may have identified boxes or bits of apples.”

… trouble getting a new Ford …

The following appeared in the February 18th, 1916 edition of the Deer Park Union.

“About March 2nd, O. A. Peters expects a full carload of Ford autos, which he ordered for spring delivery. The autos will be on display in the Moore building, corner of Main and Crawford. Mr. Peters has leased this building and on or about March 15th he will open up a first-class garage, also a repair shop. An expert has been engaged to take charge of this department.”

In mid-March this appeared in the newspaper. “The various manufacturers of automobiles in this country are well represented in Deer Park this year, so if you want to buy any particular make, why these are the men to see: Chevrolet — Homer Slater; Buick — O. A. Peters; Studebaker — Homer Riney; Ford — O. A. Peters; Overland — Olsen & Staley; Dodge — William Critzer.”

But for those wanting a Ford, things were not going smoothly, as this note signed by O. A. Peters published in the October 13th, 1916 Union suggests.

“Owing to the inability of the Ford Motor Car Company to meet the demand for cars, it may be some disappointment to those who have made deposits with me for Ford cars to be delivered within the next thirty days. I therefore take this method to announce that all those who have made deposits on Ford cars to be delivered in October may either withdraw their deposits or let same stand as a deposit on
cars to be delivered sometime between now and spring. Please notify me to that effect.

As to how many wanted their money back, it’s hard to say. All we do know is that this appeared in the March 2nd edition of 1917’s Deer Park Union.

O. A. Peters, local agent for the Ford auto, received a carload of eight 1917 cars Thursday. They will be handed over to their new owners as fast as possible.

As for the prices being paid, an ad on the back page of that same issue noted the following. The Ford Runabout, $345; the Touring Car, $360; the Coupelet, $505; the Town Car, $595; and the Sedan, $645. Those prices were all f. o. b. (freight on board), Detroit.

… an Arcadia death …

The July 26th, 1909 edition of the Wenatchee Daily World reported the following. “While swimming in the reservoir of the Arcadia Irrigation Company at Deer Park Thursday, Corbett Alberthal, aged 16 years, was drowned. His companions gave the alarm and the body was recovered shortly afterward.”

A quick search revealed one error with the above. Corbett William Adams Alberthal is buried at Deer Park’s Woodland Cemetery, and the dates on his stone read born May 21 1899, died July 22 1909. That would make him ten years old at the time of death.

By reference to the “reservoir of the Arcadia Irrigation Company,” our assumption is that Corbett was another victim of what is commonly referred to as Deer Park’s millpond. Corbett’s parents were Gustav and Nancy Alberthal. The notice of Gustav’s death appeared prominently on the front page of the Deer Park Union’s January 12th, 1939 issue. In part it states, “Mr. Alberthal was born October 19, 1863 in Fredericksburg, Texas of German parentage. He moved to Spokane in 1883 and was married to Nancy Ann Corbett April 13, 1893. Six years later the couple moved to a timbered tract west of Deer Park and made this the family home until just a few years ago when they built the new home just west of the city limits.” The obituary went on to note, “He is survived by his wife Nancy Ann and seven of his nine children.”

Nancy appears to have passed away while on the west side of the state, that on the 19th of October, 1962. Since her name is chiseled beside Gustav’s on one stone, we’re assuming her remains were returned to Deer Park’s Woodland Cemetery to rest beside her husband and in the presence of three of her children.

…work of reglazing three donated artifacts …

Over the years a group of vintage documents in large frames have been donated to the historical society. Perhaps the most significant is a handcrafted “Honor Roll” naming the young men from “Clayton Washington and Vicinity” who served in World War II. This was donated to the society by the late Art Stelting. Though we currently don’t know which individual or group was responsible for creating the document, during the war years it was Art’s mother, Ruth, who maintained and updated it while it was being displayed in the window of Clayton’s Mercantile store. Among her updates, Ruth added a gold star whenever one of these boys was lost. The honor roll stayed in the window until 1957, when it was hurriedly removed as a devastating fire swept the building. The document’s noticeable water damage occurred at that time.

A more recent addition to the society’s collection is a large aerial photograph of Deer Park believed to date from the early 1990s — this being donated to the society by Dwayne Strong. Unfortunately, the frame’s glazing was broken when received.

An error in the above report is that of a large format aerial photograph, this of Deer Park’s historic sawmill, is currently dated to the early 1950s. It was unglazed when donated — said donation from Gary Coe, nephew of Harvey Coe, the sawmill’s longtime superintendent.

Society member Mike Reiter has been leading the effort to display a portion of the society’s growing collection of artifacts at...
our ‘A’ Street “Museum.” Since all photos and documents should have a protective covering of some sort, Mike and Rick Brodrick took these three artifacts to GSI’s Deer Park store for re-glazing. The company’s owner, Brian Mattausch, donated the cost of glass and labor to the society.

Thanks to one and all at GSI for their contribution in preserving the local area’s history.

… Prestini’s “Autumn” …

In a conversation with the owner of Leno Prestini’s painting “Autumn” — Deer Park’s Jannis Snook — historical society member Mike Reiter obtained the following background on the painting.

As Mike explained it, among his other duties Doctor Merrill Dean Snook of the Deer Park Veterinary Clinic looked after Leno Prestini’s dog — the one seen sharing the artist’s journey in Leno’s cryptic painting, “The Doors of Life.” Sometime in the spring of 1960, Leno and Doctor Snook negotiated the possibility of Leno painting a picture for

Jannis, the doctor’s wife. An agreement reached; it was then a matter of consulting with Jannis regarding the painting’s subject. Mike said, “Jannis stated that she was talking about a serene landscape with the possibility of a lake, stream, pine trees and some of Leno’s famous mountains as a background. During this discussion the three Snook children came tricycling down the hall and through the living room. This made an impression on Leno. As Leno later told the

Snooks, ‘The stream represents the river of life coming down through the middle of an otherwise tranquil setting, just as the children had rolled through the living room.’”

Jannis reported that Leno borrowed the painting for his November, 1960 showing at Gonzaga’s Crosby Library — for that exhibit it is listed as “Autumn Idyll.” Nineteen of Leno’s paintings were shown there, including the above noted “Doors of Life.”

… crossing 2,000 pages …

In May of 2008 the society published the first edition of its monthly newsletter/journal, the Mortarboard. At that time a decision was made to run the page numbers consecutively between issues — in other words, to use a pagination system similar to that classically used by scholarly journals in which each page throughout an annual run of 4, 6, 12 or more issues would carry a unique number. Then, at the beginning of the next yearly volume, the page numbers would once again begin at one. Since these types of periodicals indexed all significant materials from the prior year by subjects, names, and the like at year’s end, the objective of consecutive page numbers was to increase the speed and accuracy of locating items listed within those year-end indexes. Because the monthly page count for the Mortarboard was expected to average between eight and sixteen pages, there seemed little point in breaking the pagination system into yearly volumes. Rather, the magazine’s entire lifespan would be recorded as a single run of pages — the hope being that at some point we’d have the people-power needed to index everything.

In last month’s issue of the Mortarboard the magazine’s page-count crossed 2,000. Through the publication’s one hundred and forty-two continuous issues — the one in hand included — the society has collected a remarkable trove of history; a good portion of which would very likely have otherwise been lost. Our hope is to continue this effort. But to do so will require help of all kinds, and lots
of it.

In the seventeen years since the society’s January 30, 2003 incorporation a number of things have changed, including the size of the task we’ve undertaken. That just keeps growing. To deal with this we need volunteers willing to donate time, effort, and a large measure of invention and inspiration. And we need them now.

Unrecorded history has a definite shelf life. By that I mean history, in its most accurate and well flavored form, is unlikely to survive beyond those who’ve experienced it firsthand. After that, everything we hear is essentially rumor. Which is to say, in just the few years the society has been in existence the greater part, if not all, of the history of those who have lived through World War II — have passed away. What we’ve captured of their lives through personal interviews and their own written accounts is remarkable. But having those accounts also reminds us of all the other voices now lost forever.

In a few cases those having passed leave enough information in letters, newspaper accounts, and documents for us to puzzle out their story, though the accuracy of any such story carries an element of conjecture in that it’s almost always in part a guess. But every new clue regarding a person, object, or event we find can draw us closer to the truth. Finding those clues, then indexing and preserving them, is a truly herculean task. As for why we should index and preserve — a romantic (which both amateur and professional historians tend to be) would say that not forgetting is something we owe those that are no longer with us. Simply said, it feels like the right thing to do.

Minutes of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society
January 11, 2020

In attendance at the society’s museum, 300 Block East ‘A’ Street, Deer Park: Marilyn Reilly, Bill Sebright, Wally Parker, Pat Parker, Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Rick Brodrick, Jeff Clark, Mark Bryant, Mike Reiter, Roxanne Camp, Chuck Lyons, and Michael Wolfe.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He reported that: 1) He received an order for “Reports to the C/DPHS,” volumes 1 through 4, from Gayle Davis Harper, Deer Park High School class of 1963. She wanted them for her brother Gerry who still lives in Big Foot Valley. 2) Ben from The Depot railroad museum in Ritzville called looking for contact information for Gordon Grove. He understood Gordon could help them restore a national antique cash register. Unfortunately, Gordon couldn’t help them. 3) Melissa Silvio, Valley Historical Society Vice President, sent pictures of a 1908 post card showing the Valley train station. They are writing an article about the station and wanted information about it. Pete Coffin told her that the railroad at that time was called “The Snake” because it was so curvy. That will be part of the article.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported by email: The main checking account ended the month at $7,653.33. There were deposits of $205. Checks were written for $100 to Taffy Long for Eagle maintenance. The web hosting account ended the month at $1030.95 with a withdrawal of $41.01 for web hosting and a deposit of $484.98. 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 January Mortarboard (#141) have been printed for distribution and a PDF version forwarded to the Society’s website for online posting. Also, a printable PDF has been forwarded to the Loon Lake Library for their use. 2) The current 16-page issue begins with part three of “A History of the Deer Park Fair: 1931 Through 1946.” Next is a piece by Peter Coffin and Chuck Lyons titled “Challenge Hill Steam Tractor Collection.”

Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society Newsletter
Issue #142 — February — 2020

Deer Park & Other Locations Carrying Print Copies of the Mortarboard:
City Library, City Hall, Gardengate Market, Standen Insurance, City Library, the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce, the Deer Park Library and the Loon Lake Library.

Objective: Accounting, The Deer Park Chamber of Commerce, the Deer Park Library and the Loon Lake Library.

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Wally Lee Parker
Twelve people reserved t-shirts. He ordered 20, so there are 8 to sell to anyone who wants one or more. They are $20 each.

Marilyn Reilly reported that Tom Costigan is no longer with the Nancy Fisher reported by email that she found the Leuthold house and grounds pictures. She wasn’t able to attend today’s meeting because of weather. It’s dues time again, $20 per household. Does anyone have ideas for the field trip to Chuck Lyons Challenge Hill after the May Society meeting?

Next meeting Saturday, February 8, 2020, at 10:00 AM at our new building. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.

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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 requestor in contact with the owner of the work in question. But 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 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.