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 Five)
(conclusion)

by
Wally Lee Parker

By 1943, the tenor of the Deer Park Union’s war related articles had clearly changed. Though anxiety for the community’s young men and women in harm’s way continued, worry about Japanese airstrikes, chemical attacks, and the possibility of invasion had faded, being replaced by a deep commitment to the all-consuming war effort.

The Union’s January 7th issue announced that, at the request of the Office of Defense Transportation, the school bus routes were being shortened to save fuel — with Clayton and Deer Park’s students to walk the difference.

In the same issue it was reported that “The local Red Cross unit will honor the men and women in the service from this area by hanging a service flag and by putting their names on an honor roll which will be hung in the post office.” It’s unclear exactly what form Deer Park’s service flag would have taken, but it’s generally understood that these were large banners — a white field surrounded by a red border. Across the white field blue stars can be affixed, each one representing a service member. For those killed in action, the blue would be replaced with a gold star.

To complete this project, Mrs. Sara Green-

All Past Issues of the Mortarboard Can Be Viewed on Our Website:
http://www.cdphs.org/mortarboard-newsletters.html
been on the street on route to piece had been found in violation of a test blackout by "presumably should have been out." The author's "beef" arose from the fact that notice of this impending test had been given to the Spokane newspapers and radio stations, but not the Union.

Among other things, the editor said, "Whether the Spokane County Defense Council believes it or not, there are people in the county who read the Union and other weekly papers in preference to some Spokane papers. And some of our farmers are too busy producing food for victory to listen to the radio all day, even though they may be fortunate enough to own one."

As for the Red Cross's already purchased service flag, "The present banner had room for only about 100 stars, but it appears now that space for nearly 200 stars will be needed."

The present banner had been issued by the Treasury Department. During the war, when working wages hovered around a dollar an hour, the chance of getting enough money to buy a twenty-five-dollar wartime savings bond — issued at $18.75 — was small. But over time working people could change them for war bonds. As noted in the newspaper's April 22 edition of the Union, "Nearly a thousand dollars' worth of war stamps have been sold at the Park post office, or his family must now be receiving their mail that way."

The Union added, "We shall be glad to have our readers advise us of any additions or corrections."

Among the things the newspaper explained was, "When the new point rationing system on processed fruits and vegetables goes into effect, each member of the family is entitled to have five cans on hand" — thusly assuring everyone that "five cans is not hording."

Another article, this very detailed, announced that "Anyone who uses kerosene, stove oil or diesel oil for any purpose … must register." The "any purpose" was emphasized by explaining that, "Oil for the farmer's smudge pots, fuel oil for circulating heaters and furnaces, kerosene for lighting and cooking in war workers' trailers, kerosene for a brakeman's lantern, they're all part of fuel oil rationing."

In its first issue for March, the Union, under the headline "Many Serve from This Area," published "a list of men — and women — now serving in the armed forces." One hundred and one names were on the list, plus one additional — Gladys Bell Stout of the United States Coast Guard Women's Reserve. The word "area" was clarified; "To be eligible for the list, a man — or woman — must have received his mail through the Derby Post park office, or his family must now be receiving their mail that way."

The Union added, "We shall be glad to have our readers advise us of any additions or corrections."

Among the recruitment plans put forward, "the possible use of Axis prisoners of war on a volunteer basis. Prisoners doing farm work would receive regular wages in addition to their military stipends. Prospects for putting this scheme into early operation are dimmer."

The Union finished out March with the following rant from, presumably, its new editor, G. A. Miles — Mr. Miles having taken over the paper's helm in December of the prior year. The author of the front page, bold-type piece had been found in violation of a test blackout by "being on the street on route to work, and by having a light burning when it presumably should have been out."

The usual "beef" arose from the fact that notice of this impending test had been given to the Spokane newspapers and radio stations, but not the Union.

Among other things, the editor said, "Whether the Spokane County Defense Council believes it or not, there are people in the county who read the Union and other weekly papers in preference to some Spokane papers. And some of our farmers are too busy producing food for victory to listen to the radio all day, even though they may be fortunate enough to own one."

As for the Red Cross's already purchased service flag, "The present banner had room for only about 100 stars, but it appears now that space for nearly 200 stars will be needed." So, another fundraising effort was begun to buy a larger banner.

What appears to have been missing from any of the newspaper's March issues was the promised first meeting of the 4-H Club and Community Fair Association. Said promise appeared in the July 9th, 1942 edition of the Union — the same issue that proclaimed, "no farm work for 1943! "Thusly will also meet annually in March (for the war's duration) to decide on holding or not holding a fair until a definite action is taken to resume fairs or to discontinue them entirely."

... spring, 1943...

The April 8th, 1943 edition of the Union stated, "Nearly a thousand dollars' worth of war stamps have been sold at the grade school since January 1, it was announced this week. The exact figure is $842.47, and the contest is still on.

Last week the first grade won the flag with sales totaling $20. The total for the school last week was $52.35. War savings stamps, produced in step valuations from ten cents to five dollars, were issued by the Treasury Department. During the war, when working wages hovered around a dollar an hour, the chance of having enough extra money to buy a twenty-five-dollar wartime savings bond — issued at $18.75 was small. But over time working people could purchase enough of these low-cost non-interest-bearing stamps to fill special stamp books, and when the books were filled, exchange them for war bonds.

As noted in the newspaper's April 22nd issue, "A new high of more than 7 billion dollars was reached in war expenditures during March, when the average amount spent each day was $263,400,000. To meet these mounting costs of war, Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau recently disclosed that the 13 billion-dollar 2nd war loan is part of the 70 billion dollars that must be raised during 1943."
"This is a people’s war, so all the people ought to have a part in financing it," said the Secretary as he warned that "ten percent is not enough," the secretary stated. "The percent quote is in reference to the recommended ten percent automatic payroll deduction to buy war bonds.

The Union closed April’s last issue with this comment on the local community’s response. "Patrons of the Deer Park post office have purchased $1,237.50 in war bonds so far in the 2nd quarter loan drive, Postmaster Mark Morgan reported Thursday. Nearly twice as many bonds were purchased between April 16 and 29 as during the first half of the month.

"Local patriotic citizens have purchased $21,806.25 in bonds since January 1st."

As the year wore on, items regarding young people in uniform became ever more present in the local newspaper — sometimes on the front page, sometimes in the gossip columns submitted by the various community correspondents. For example, the following were scattered in the June 10th issue.

Mrs. P. S. Christianson, correspondent for the Big Foot Valley, reported that both "Private Burton Stewart" and "Corporal Fra Davis" are in the service, with this comment on the local community’s response. "Deer Park Home Economics Club The fairly detailed article indicated "… 1945 ...

Deer Park Union reminded Major George R. Greene, son of Mr. the local community that we were still very much at war. [sic?] Island (likely Mindanao Island) in the South Pacific, ed. Major Greene was a 1939 graduate of Deer Park High School where he was an outstanding athlete. He became interested in aviation while a student at ... to the South Pacific where he has served since. Only three weeks ago his parents were notified of his promotion to major besides his parents, Major Greene "

Major Greene’s death adds the sixth "gold star to Deer Park High School’s service flag on May 8th officially ended with the German government's surrender. On May 10th the following appeared in the Union:

"As winter showed signs of giving way to spring, this item from the March 1st, 1945 issue of the Deer Park Union reminded the local community that we were still very much at war. "Major George R. Greene, son of Mr. and Mrs. George S. Greene of Loon Lake, was killed in action on Mindana [sic?] Island (likely Mindanao Island) in the South Pacific, February 17, the War Department has reported.

"Major Greene was a 1939 graduate of Deer Park High School where he was an outstanding athlete and it is in aviation while a student at Washington State College and joined the army air corps in 1941. Upon completion of his training he was sent to the South Pacific where he has served since. Only three weeks ago his parents were notified of his promotion to major. "Besides his parents, Major Greene is survived by two brothers, one of which is in military service, and three sisters.

"Major Greene’s death adds the sixth gold star to Deer Park High School’s service flag.”

On May 8th in the war in Europe officially ended with the German government’s surrender. On May 10th the following appeared in the Union:

"An audience estimated at 300 attended the E-Day (Victory in Europe)
With 1946’s first edition, the Deer Park Union continued reporting a slow trickle contribution from Meadowbrook community correspondent’s Mrs. Lester Roberts and Mrs. Gladys Babb. “This week from the Marines. He was in the 1st Division and, judging by the ribbons, has seen plenty of action. Welcome home Brian.”

Per. “As printed,” reports that not enough interested persons attended the last meeting to do any business. He announced that another meeting will be held Friday ... the Legion Hall and emphasized that if the 4-H fair is to be held this year, all those interested must come out and help.

The first 4-H and Community Fair to be held in Spokane County, southeastern Stevens County, and southern Pend Oreille County. As for Spokane and its Interstate Fair ... Inter-state Fair, as an incorporated event, would end its 21 year absence. In mid-June, 1946, it was announced that “the 1st announ-ceede Rodeo will be held at the local fair-grounds Sunday, June 23.”

Deer Park Union didn’t announce that all tire rationing controls will be lifted at midnight, December 31, and therea-fter no rationing certificates will be required to purchase tires since the start of the 7th war loan drive. This total includes only bonds purchased through the local post office.”

Wednesday and Thursday off.” Another article from that edition stat-ed, “News of the Japanese acceptance of the Allied surrender terms arrived in Deer Park shortly after six o’clock Tuesday and was announced by the blowing of the fire siren and the mill whistle. The stores and business houses closed immediately, and the mill shut down.

The beer parlors did a rushing business for a few minutes before the news became official.

“Traffic on the highway was heavier than it has been in several years.” And since wartime tire rationing had made it necessary to wear every last molecule of use from whatever was on the rims, “points reduced on cheese; fish in-creased.” Under the headline “Director Explains Sugar for Canning,” the following, “In order to receive the five pounds of home canning sugar they are entitled to, housewives must endorse their coupons, and they must have their No. 4 rationing book with them at the time of pur- chase.”

And then, on Monday, August 6th, everyone was stunned by the news flooding the airways and consuming the front page of that evening’s Spokane Daily Chronicle. Quite simply the news was that a device — something called an atomic bomb — had been dropped on a Japanese city. And as a result, there was speculation that the war was coming to an end.

On August 9th the Spokane-Review announced that a second atomic bomb had been dropped on Japan to devastating effect. The Shavings from the Mill segment of 1945’s August 16th issue noted, “Tuesday was a day of suspense here at the (sawmill) as everyone waited to hear that the Japs had sur-rendered. The mill shut down as soon as the news was received, and everybody took
stating, “(The) editor wishes to apologize for having to leave out so much of the correspond-ence and news this week. The worst of it is that if we don’t get some competent help things are going to be just as bad next week.”

This lack of help seems to have been an on and off problem for much of the year. The newspaper’s reporting seemed to improve as summer progressed. On August 29th the Union printed a detailed description of the coming fair, among other things stating that, “Final plans for the 4-H and Community Fair to be held in Deer Park Friday and Saturday, September 13 and 14, were made at the meeting of the fair association Tuesday night. This, the 14th annual fair, will be the first held since Pearl Harbor and promises to be one of the biggest and best ever held.”

“The festivities will begin Friday evening, September 12, with a program at the high school gymnasium at 8 o’clock. Mrs. Al Bishop will be in charge.”

The article included “the rules governing the entry, showing and handling of exhibits.”

Despite June’s Rodeo at the fairgrounds, the September 12th Union—published just the day before the fair began—added this attraction. “Local pony races and bull and steer riding will be features of the 4-H and Community Fair being held in Deer Park this weekend. The events are scheduled to start at 2 PM Saturday, September 14, and Sunday, September 15.”

“Features of the affair will include 25 to 30 steer and bull rides; a three-way race; men’s novelty race; boys’ pony race; free for all; men’s keg race; and half and three-quarter mile races.”

“Admission for adults will be 75 cents, and children 30 cents, tax included. Children under six will be admitted free.”

In the next week’s Union, this appeared. “The 4-H and Community Fair held in Deer Park Friday and Saturday of last week was the largest and best ever held here, according to the old-timers who have seen them all. By next week we expect to have a complete report, including a list of the prize winners.”

If ever submitted for publication, the above promised report has yet to be found.

... the tip of the iceberg ...

There are at least two stories here. One is about a community that decided to put on a show—a fair. It made that decision in 1931 just as the 20th century’s worst economic depression began to squeeze in earnest. And from that point, until the beginning of World War II, the event did nothing but grow. In part that growth was due to a lack of competition—Spokane’s Interstate Fair having succumbed to depression economics early on. In part it had to do with the community’s determination to make its own way through a very black period in American history.

As a matter of priorities, with the coming of war the energy previously poured into the fair rapidly turned toward an all-consuming war effort. The traditional Settlers picnic continued throughout the war, doubtless because it was a far less complex organizational challenge than the fair. Sponsored by the Fair Association, the rodeo came into existence during the war. It seemed more of a commercial endeavor, the production of which required less of the community’s otherwise distracted energy.

Once the war had passed, the fair came back.

We’ve only looked at a small piece of the Deer Park Fair’s history—though arguably it could be the most important of that incredibly durable community event. Shortly after the beginning of the new millennium, the fair’s location and name changed. Despite that, we’ve yet to learn how the story that began in 1931 will end.

We’ve also touched on another story—that of a community at war. That’s also a tale worth telling, but once again it will have to wait until another day.

——— end ———
A Brief History of the Reynolds’ Farm

Williams Valley

by

Damon Smathers

Fascinated by local history, I often found myself wondering who originally built the farm I currently live on. According to family recollections, my great-grandfather, Fred O. Reynolds, purchased the farm in 1930. However, it was never known who he bought the property from. This led me to do some more digging into the history of the Reynolds farm.

An online search didn’t turn up anything prior to the 1970s, so I decided to try the Stevens County Recording Office. As it turns out, the Reynolds farm was originally owned by a family enriched deeper in Deer Park history than our own.

In the late 1800s, Northern Pacific Railroad owned numerous plots in the Williams Valley area. There were only a handful of parcels owned by settlers at that time, one such settler being Mr. Thomas McDougal, which is almost certainly why the Reynolds Farm is on a road named “McDougal.”

As I stated above, it is sometimes hard to find information on property history prior to about 1970 in Stevens County. I decided to try the Stevens County Recording Office and after about two weeks they sent me a packet in the mail. Inside I discovered the first owner of the 120-acre parcel was Eva Kelly, the wife of P. J. Kelly, a prominent figure in the establishment of Deer Park. In 1917 the property shows to have been transferred to O. F. Kelly and shortly thereafter O. F. Kelly transferred the property to Harold Kelly. It is assumed but not verified that Harold Kelly built the farm somewhere between 1920 and 1930. Perhaps someone more knowledgeable of the history of the Kelly family would know the relationship of these three people.

For anyone curious or interested in learning more about the history of their property, I encourage them to contact your local Recording Office.

Fred O. Reynolds moved to the Deer Park area in 1930 with his first wife, Daisy (Warehime) Reynolds and daughter Lorraine. They found and purchased the farm in 1930 and would quickly start establishing themselves in the community. Daisy was heavily involved in the Williams Valley Grange and Fred would soon open a freight hauling business specializing in milk hauling. In 1938 Daisy passed away from pneumonia and Fred would later marry his second wife, Laura.
(Erickson) Reynolds. They would have three children, Lexie, Pete, and Ike. Over the next 40 years Fred would venture into owning several different Deer Park businesses, including Deer Park Auto Freight, Fred O. Reynolds Tractor Company — specializing in Allis-Chalmers equipment, as well as full time farming.

Fred retired around the late 1960s and sold the farm to his son-in-law Gary Prewitt and daughter Lexie (Reynolds) Prewitt in 1969. Lexie passed away in 2000 and Gary is still living on the farm today.

The Gargoyles!
Are the “Grotesque” on Spokane’s Lewis & Clark High School from Clayton’s Terracotta Works?

by Wally Lee Parker

While doing some online research, I stumbled across three photos and a short segment of text possibly related to Clayton’s terracotta factory — that in the January 1912 issue of “The Pacific Coast Architect: A Monthly Journal for the Architectural Interest of the Pacific Coast.” In the magazine’s “Trade Notes” segment was the following. “The Washington Brick, Lime and Sewer Pipe Company of Spokane, Washington, furnished the terra cotta on the new Wilcox Building, terra cotta and brick on the Knickerbocker Apartments, and the gargoyles on the new Spokane High School shown in this issue.” The three photos related to this ‘trade note’ are reproduced on page 2038 of this issue of the Mortarboard.

The Pacific Coast Architect’s captions for these images simply states “Terra Cotta Gargoyles, New High School, Spokane, Washington” — most likely because the new school’s official name hadn’t yet been announced. Lewis & Clark High School was raised on the site of a previous school — South Central High School — that had been gutted by fire in 1910. The new school was opened to students in the spring of 1912.

The gargoyles are situated on the north side of the building, above the main entrance, within a building-high field of ornately modeled terracotta. While Pacific Coast Architect specifically states that the gargoyles are a product of Washington Brick and Lime, currently we’ve no indication whether any of the other terracotta embellishments on the building were supplied by that company.

As to the specific source of the gargoyles within the company’s several factories, since the vast majority of the company’s architectural terracotta is believed to have been produced at Clayton after the company’s dedi-

Photo Right: Upper Tiers of Lewis & Clark High School’s Terracotta Façade. The three gargoyles are in a horizontal line, positioned above the top windows and below the clock tower.
The Gods of Science, Literature, and the Mechanical Arts.  

A notation found in 2001’s application nominating Spokane’s Lewis & Clark High School to the National Register of Historic Places mentions that in the Autumn of 1911, as the school’s “exterior trim and decorative details were being put into place,” an article in an unnamed “local newspaper” had this to say about the three gargoyles gracing the main entrance’s towering terracotta façade. “The peculiar ornaments are in the style of the ancient gargoyles and project two feet from the walls. They were placed on a level with the roof of the building and will form a portion of the base of the tower. The God of Science holds a globe, Literature a scroll two feet in length, and the God of Mechanical Arts a cog-wheel.”

cated terracotta factory began operation there in 1907, that seems a reasonable guess. Although fixing sculpted images of creatures to the exterior of buildings as embellishments is an ancient practice, Gargoyles — both the term and the artform it describes — are linked to Europe’s Middle Ages and the towering cathedrals then being constructed. Originally downspouts, their hollow mouths directing rainwater out and away from the exposed and erodible grout-lines of the churches’ stonework, they later developed into decorative embellishments, commonly called grotesques, found on all kinds of structures.  

My Random House Dictionary states the word gargoyle comes from Middle English’s “gargouille,” and that from Old French’s “gargouile” — meaning “throat.”

——— end ———


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

… Prestini video on YouTube …

Society member Mike Reiter wrote to say, “Kudos to KSPS Television for cutting us a copy of a 2002 Northwest Profiles story on Leno Prestini. We will have it at our ‘museum’ if anyone wants to watch it there, or you can stream it on YouTube.” A link to the YouTube clip is provided below.

… somewhat older now …

The Clayton Moose Bulletin’s April 2nd 1929 issue includes this short story from Ray Carr, then nine years old. “I have a pony. His name is Dick. He will be four years old next fall. “A man gave him to my mother when he was two weeks old, and we raised him on pans of milk. He is so gentle I can catch him anywhere and ride him without any bridle or halter. “My twin sister and I ride to school.”

Another item in that issue was the artwork shown above, included in a weekly syndication titled “Children’s Corner.” Regarding the Clayton Moose Bulletin, Pete Coffin scanned a DVD copy from a A Link to KSPS Television’s “Northwest Profiles: Leno Prestini.”  

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Pn85qVIljOs

Birds.

The above drawing, by five year old Joy Edwards of Deer Park, is from the April 2nd, 1929 issue of the Clayton Moose Bulletin.
Washington State University microfilm containing the majority of issues printed between January 8, 1929 and May 17, 1932. He did such then creating a test digitization of the film on behalf of WSU’s branch library in Spokane. A copy of Pete’s DVD is in our historical society’s archive and available for research. Some issues between the above dates are fragmentary or missing altogether. That aside, it’s a remarkable historical record.

Digital copies of a second Clayton newspaper — those printed between July of 1912 and the beginning of 1913 — are also available on DVD. Only a few weeks are missing from this run of the Clayton Newsletter. Society member Ken Westby managed to capture the collection from a microfilm in the Washington State Library’s collection. To read an account of Ken’s digital capture, refer to the link provided below.

...historical society T-shirts...

Society member Mike Reiter has put together a small batch of shirts — as seen to the right — for anyone who might want such. Mike says, “Some are spoken for. But there’s a limited number left at $20 each.” Contact the society for further information.

...a collection to kill for...

As reported in the “Minutes” segment of this issue, one of the items on the agenda for the society’s February 8th meeting came in the form of an email from the office of the Deer Park Tribune. Sent to society member Jeff Lilly on the 29th of January, the message stated the newspaper is moving to a smaller office, and due to space limitations needs to downsize the clutter on hand. As a result, our group was being allowed first chance at boxes of old photos, negatives, film reels, and newspapers. Needless to say, we were stunned.

The office of most any small town newspaper — assuming said paper is of any vintage at all — is likely to have in its background a dusty and potentially forgotten collection of boxes, file cabinets, and assorted piles of newspaper constituting the most complete though unsorted chronology of that community’s history available. Such a backroom is something most any self-respecting but otherwise morally ambivalent historian would be justified in killing to rummage through.

What this all boils down to is the simple fact that the primary benefits of electronic files is that they allow researchers access to historic materials without risking damage to the artifacts and that electronic files, properly set up, can quickly be searched for specific names or phrases. Drawn from microfilms bearing numerous scratches, the society already has images of the papers transferred to optical disc (DVDs). Doubtless we’ll continue to use these for everyday research. But I do believe the society still needs to take any and all original print material offered regardless of the cubic footage involved. Besides the safety in hardcopy redundancy, the social need for storage space is compounded when it comes to vintage broadsheets. While the Tribune’s offer appears to only include those older morgue copies not previously bound into large-format books, the loose stacks of newspaper remaining comprise a number of years dating back as far as 1911. While it’s true scanning books, newspapers, photographs and negatives into digital files can compress entire libraries into something less than the size of a pocketbook, digital media has its own problems — not the least being that electronic files are even more prone to loss than paper files.

While printed pages are susceptible to fire, mildew, bookworms and the like, digital files can fall victim to stray electrical and magnetic pulses, to computer viruses and other forms of data corruption, to mechanical or chemical deterioration of the storage media, and to the obsolescence of the programs intended to read the types of codes used to store the data. Add to that the fact that the sophistication of the devices and programs used to digitize images from newspapers and photos and negatives is constantly improving — meaning every year better and more useable copies can be drawn from the originals. But transferring the original documents to better quality electronic files is only possible as long as those originals continue to exist.

What this all boils down to is the simple fact that the primary benefits of electronic files is that they allow researchers access to historic materials without risking damage to the artifacts and that electronic files, properly set up, can quickly be searched for specific names or phrases. Drawn from microfilms bearing numerous scratches, the society already has images of the Union and Tribune’s earlier newspapers transferred to optical disc (DVDs). Doubtless we’ll continue to use these for everyday research. Besides the safety in hardcopy redundancy, the social need for storage space is compounded when it comes to vintage broadsheets. While the Tribune’s offer appears to only include those older morgue copies not previously bound into large-format books, the loose stacks of newspaper remaining comprise a number of years dating back as far as 1911. While it’s true scanning books, newspapers, photographs and negatives into digital files can compress entire libraries into something less than the size of a pocketbook, digital media has its own problems — not the least being that electronic files are even more prone to loss than paper files.

While printed pages are susceptible to fire, mildew, bookworms and the like, digital files can fall victim to stray electrical and magnetic pulses, to computer viruses and other forms of data corruption, to mechanical or chemical deterioration of the storage media, and to the obsolescence of the programs intended to read the types of codes used to store the data. Add to that the fact that the sophistication of the devices and programs used to digitize images from newspapers and photos and negatives is constantly improving — meaning every year better and more useable copies can be drawn from the originals. But transferring the original documents to better quality electronic files is only possible as long as those originals continue to exist.
images any more than a photograph of a painting can replace the original artwork. And yes, this is a romantic sentiment. But the blending of science and poetry needed to visualize days past makes such feelings nearly inevitable within anyone true to the task.

— Wally Lee Parker

Minutes of the Deer Park Historical Society
February 8, 2020

In attendance at the society’s meeting hall, 300 Block ‘A’ Street, Deer Park: Marilyn Reilly, Bill Sebright, Wally Parker, Pat Parker, Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Rick Brodrick, Mark Bryant, Mike Reiter, Roberta Reiter, Roxanne Camp, Nancy Fisher, Damon Smathers, Jessie Tennant, Rachelle Fletcher, Mary Jo Reiter, Nancy Sanders, Lorraine Nord, Ella Jenkins, Sae Rehms, Dick Purdy, Florene Moore, Lynn Wells, Bill Phipps, Eleanor Ball, Don Ball, Elaine Ball, Gordon Grove, Wey Simpson, Larry Bowen, and Michael Wolfe.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He reported that: 1) Jeff Lilly let Bill know that Nicole Veenhuizen from the Tribune contacted him. The Tribune plans to move to a smaller space and wants the society to take their newspaper and photo archive. More below. 2) Damon Smathers has stepped forward to be our Webmaster. Marie and Bill met to fill Damon in on the ins and outs of the Website. Our thanks to Damon!

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported by email that the main checking account ended the month at $7,214.21. The society’s credit card account was deposited of $445. Checks were written for $30 and $162.12 to Mike Reiter for shelves, and for $250.00 to Liberty Mutual for insurance. The web hosting account ended the month at $11.11 with a withdrawal of $11.84 for web hosting. The Brickyard Day account is at $1,954.33.

Society Vice President: No one has stepped forward to become Vice President. Print editor Wally Parker reported: 1) long past makes such feelings nearly inevitable within anyone true to the task.

One hundred and twenty copies of the February Mortarboard (#142) have been printed for distribution and the online edition has been submitted for uploading. A printable PDF of #142 has been forwarded to the Loon Lake Library. As for editorial content, the February edition includes part four of the editor’s “A History of the Deer Park Fair,” Pete Coffin’s “Is This the Oldest Building in Deer Park,” and the editor’s “Clinker Boats on Loon Lake.” The Letters/Brickbats segment includes a piece about Robert Wiese’s mysterious Arcadia Orchards tag, problems buying a new Ford in Deer Park in 1916 and ’17, a report on a 1909 drowning in the millpond, the GSI Glass Company’s donation of glazing to the society, the story of Jannis Snook’s Prestini painting, and a bit about the Mortarboard’s advancing page-count. 2) Collected Newsletters Volume 41 is now in print. This issue combines Mortarboards number 140, 141 and 142. 3) Additional printings of depleted booklets within our stock-on-hand include 10 copies of the aforementioned Collected Newsletters Volume 41, 5 copies of Collected Newsletters Volume 40, about 180 copies of the Report to the C/DPHS Volume 1. 4) To anyone as confused as the editor when said editor discovered that the page-numbers in January’s print edition were incorrect, a notice is hereby given that whatever remedial actions possible have been taken — among such being a reduction in the editor’s sauce intake. 5) A new Society printer was purchased last month — twice. Since the first printer purchased proved defective, it was returned for a replacement. The replacement is working just fine. An extended warranty was purchased with the original unit, just in case. That appears to have been successfully transferred to the replacement. 6) Jeff Lilly is a reminder to anyone with useful skill we would want to store the actual papers, unless maybe there was one that could be read better than a digitized version. The film they offered is not a film but boxes of microfilmed papers. I’m guessing what Pete used to digitize. They don’t take up that much room and wonder if we might want to keep them as a backup? Though very time consuming, it’s not a terribly complicated endeavor. That said, there are some aspects of working with Microsoft Publisher that are a bit trickier. And while I would prefer to continue working as editor, we need to recognize that circumstance can abruptly limit the choices open to each of us — especially when advancing age is added to the equation. Considering such, a backup plan seems a wise precaution.

Webmaster Damon Smathers reported: 1) He has uploaded the February Mortarboard onto our Web site. 2) Damon and Marie met at the library. Marie showed him what she could about working on the Website. He updated the home page and added a tab at the beginning making it easier to get to the Mortarboards. Pete Coffin reported: 1) I have been diagnosed with first stage pancreatic cancer and have been undergoing chemotherapy treatment. With my chemotherapy I don’t know what means for my time and energy. 2) I delivered digital files of historic pictures to Deer Park Insurance. Nancy Berger sold Stardan Insurance and it has moved to the old WWP/Citizen’s Utilities building. They wanted pictures for their walls. Jeff Lilly reported by email that the Tribune plans to move to a smaller space and have been undergoing chemotherapy treatment. 3) Mike Reiter reported: 1) That he stopped at the Tribune office to survey the situation. There is probably more stuff there than we have room for. There is a rack full of old newspapers going back to 1911, but since even the most useful stuff would want to store the actual papers, unless maybe there was one that could be read better than a digitized version. The film they offered is not a film but boxes of microfilmed papers. I’m guessing what Pete used to digitize. They don’t take up that much room and wonder if we might want to keep them as a backup? Though very time consuming, it’s not a terribly complicated endeavor. That said, there are some aspects of working with Microsoft Publisher that are a bit trickier. And while I would prefer to continue working as editor, we need to recognize that circumstance can abruptly limit the choices open to each of us — especially when advancing age is added to the equation. Considering such, a backup plan seems a wise precaution.

Webmaster Damon Smathers reported: 1) He has uploaded the February Mortarboard onto our Web site. 2) Damon and Marie met at the library. Marie showed him what she could about working on the Website. He updated the home page and added a tab at the beginning making it easier to get to the Mortarboards. Pete Coffin reported: 1) I have been diagnosed with first stage pancreatic cancer and have been undergoing chemotherapy treatment. With my chemotherapy I don’t know what means for my time and energy. 2) I delivered digital files of historic pictures to Deer Park Insurance. Nancy Berger sold Stardan Insurance and it has moved to the old WWP/Citizen’s Utilities building. They wanted pictures for their walls. Jeff Lilly reported by email that the Tribune plans to move to a smaller space and have been undergoing chemotherapy treatment.

Mike Reiter reported: 1) That he stopped at the Tribune office to survey the situation. There is probably more stuff there than we have room for. There is a rack full of old newspapers going back to 1911, but since even the most useful stuff would want to store the actual papers, unless maybe there was one that could be read better than a digitized version. The film they offered is not a film but boxes of microfilmed papers. I’m guessing what Pete used to digitize. They don’t take up that much room and wonder if we might want to keep them as a backup? Though very time consuming, it’s not a terribly complicated endeavor. That said, there are some aspects of working with Microsoft Publisher that are a bit trickier. And while I would prefer to continue working as editor, we need to recognize that circumstance can abruptly limit the choices open to each of us — especially when advancing age is added to the equation. Considering such, a backup plan seems a wise precaution.

Webmaster Damon Smathers reported: 1) He has uploaded the February Mortarboard onto our Web site. 2) Damon and Marie met at the library. Marie showed him what she could about working on the Website. He updated the home page and added a tab at the beginning making it easier to get to the Mortarboards.

Pete Coffin reported: 1) I have been diagnosed with first stage pancreatic cancer and have been undergoing chemotherapy treatment. With my chemotherapy I don’t know what means for my time and energy. 2) I delivered digital files of historic pictures to Deer Park Insurance. Nancy Berger sold Stardan Insurance and it has moved to the old WWP/Citizen’s Utilities building. They wanted pictures for their walls. Jeff Lilly reported by email that the Tribune plans to move to a smaller space and have been undergoing chemotherapy treatment. Mike Reiter reported: 1) That he stopped at the Tribune office to survey the situation. There is probably more stuff there than we have room for. There is a rack full of old newspapers going back to 1911, but since even the most useful stuff would want to store the actual papers, unless maybe there was one that could be read better than a digitized version. The film they offered is not a film but boxes of microfilmed papers. I’m guessing what Pete used to digitize. They don’t take up that much room and wonder if we might want to keep them as a backup? Though very time consuming, it’s not a terribly complicated endeavor. That said, there are some aspects of working with Microsoft Publisher that are a bit trickier. And while I would prefer to continue working as editor, we need to recognize that circumstance can abruptly limit the choices open to each of us — especially when advancing age is added to the equation. Considering such, a backup plan seems a wise precaution.

Webmaster Damon Smathers reported: 1) He has uploaded the February Mortarboard onto our Web site. 2) Damon and Marie met at the library. Marie showed him what she could about working on the Website. He updated the home page and added a tab at the beginning making it easier to get to the Mortarboards.

Pete Coffin reported: 1) I have been diagnosed with first stage pancreatic cancer and have been undergoing chemotherapy treatment. With my chemotherapy I don’t know what means for my time and energy. 2) I delivered digital files of historic pictures to Deer Park Insurance. Nancy Berger sold Stardan Insurance and it has moved to the old WWP/Citizen’s Utilities building. They wanted pictures for their walls. Jeff Lilly reported by email that the Tribune plans to move to a smaller space and have been undergoing chemotherapy treatment.
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, copyright, and reprint concerns" 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.