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.

The Deer Park Hotel
by
Peter Coffin

The imposing three story brick building on the southeast corner of Main Avenue and Crawford Street in Deer Park was built by Louis Olsen, Sr. and finished in 1908. Mr. Olsen (also Olson) was born in 1857 in Sweden and after working in the Swedish forests,
serving in the Swedish Army and farming in Norway, he and his family migrated to the United States in 1883 (see “Further Reading” sidebar below). By 1888 he and his family were living in Spokane and he had filed for a homestead tract about three miles northwest of Deer Park.

Mr. Olsen was a good businessman, cutting and selling cord wood from his homestead to heat homes in Spokane. This became such a large business that the Great Northern Railroad built a spur from the Spokane to Colville main line to his property to load this wood. In 1906, as one of his business ventures, he had purchased a butcher shop on the southeast corner of Main Avenue and Crawford Street and added a grocery and hardware line to the shop (see “Image #One,” page 2065). Apparently, the butcher shop included a large portion of the block south and east of the business. Prior to the start of building the hotel the Olsen Mercantile Building was moved to the south on this block and rotated to face west where it now stands with the front of

Further Reading:

“Louis Olson — Businessman/Builder,” by Peter Coffin.
the old building occupied by the Odynski accounting firm. Records of when the hotel construction began have not been found but a picture of the completed hotel taken by Arcadia Orchards Employee Gordon Daggett shows a 1908 date sign on the roof.

Records documenting dates of building the hotel are not available but a photograph of the building from the south shows that the building was under construction. The name of the hotel in newspaper records are confusing, sometimes it is the "Olson Hotel" and other times it is the Arcadia Inn.

By 1912 the hotel apparently needed to be remodeled and Spokane Architect Carl Jablonsky had been hired to update it (see Note #1). Sometime between the photograph displayed on page 2067 (Image #Three) was taken in 1913, the building containing the Arcadia Inn restaurant was added to the south side of the hotel.

After the 1911 move of the Arcadia Orchard Company office to Deer Park, the mercantile business was operated by an Olsen-Robinson partnership and now occupied the northeast ground floor portion of the hotel building. In 1913 the Arcadia Orchards Company purchased the stock of this partnership and the Arcadia Inn restaurant (see Note #2). By 1915 the mercantile business space was divided into the Arcadia Store department in the western half of the northern ground floor of the hotel building and the east half was remodeled into a motion picture auditorium (see "Further Reading" sidebar below).

Ownership of the hotel changed upon Louis Olsen Sr.’s death in the fall of 1928 and ownership of the hotel should have passed to his wife Hannah. In 1937 it was reported that "Maude" Olsen sold the hotel to Earl D. Mix (see Note #4). There is no record of a Maude Olsen in the family, so it must be assumed that the newspaper article reported the wrong name. This article indicated that the 47-room hotel housed the Family Theatre and Confectionary, the Associated Oil Company, the Pacific Telephone Company and the Vanity Barber and Beauty Shoppe. On the second-floor was dentist Dr. Paul Downing’s office.

In 1945 Mr. Mix built a one-story addition to the east side of the hotel building (see Note #5). It housed his electrical equip-
ment store and was connected to the theatre and confectionary. In 1946 Mr. Mix sold the Deer Park Hotel Building to three men, Gordon W. Evans, Norman Evans, and Daniel Logsdon for reportedly about $35,000 (see Note #6). This was one of the largest real estate transactions in Deer Park property to this date. Mix retained a lease on the confectionary, the theatre, and the apartments to Montana businessman Harold St. John (see Note #11). Shortly thereafter St. John must have sold to a Mr. Meyer who in mid-1955 sold the hotel to Mr. Murphy. About this time Mr. and Mrs. Al Patrick purchased Floyd’s store business on the first floor of the hotel (see Note #12).

Since that time the hotel building and the businesses in it have changed hands many times. In 1962 Jack Collins was reported to be the hotel building’s owner (see Note #13) and in 1971 Roy and Marjorie Curry were reported as new owners (see Note #14). A search of Spokane County Assessor records listed the following names and corporations as having had some interest in the hotel building since 1984 (see “List” below).

In October 2019 the building was owned by Fred Branch and Siriya Autapat with several businesses operating on the ground floor. The condition of the apartments and hotel rooms of the second and third floors is unknown and apparently not occupied. The metal fire escapes on the outside of the building have apparently rusted off and portions of the parapet on both the hotel and the southern Arcadia Room expansion have fallen off.

——— end ———

List of Those Having Interest in the Deer Park Hotel Since 1984:

            Richard Davis — Eighteen Eighty Building — Harry & Bonnie Goole — Yong Lee —
            Lyle Rasmussen & Sonja Lee — Wallace & Irene Matlock —
            WHM Resources (see Note #15)

Notes:

#6: Deer Park Union, June 18, 1915.  
#7: Deer Park Union, January 28, 1937.  
#8: Deer Park Union, August 16, 1945.  
#9: Deer Park Union, March 6, 1953.
Vintage Olson Barn Collapses

by

The Editorial Group
(scripting by the editor)

In mid-February Bill Sebright alerted those on the society’s mailing list that two weeks earlier a classic barn just north of Deer Park on Short Road had collapsed. He attached several photos — one a ten-year-old snap of the barn still standing, the other a photo of the fallen remains. This set off a spate of emails in reply.

The Mortarboard’s editor wrote, “When we first moved up here in December of 1947, our old barn had a loft for the storage of loose hay. For our first few years the folks pitchforked hay into the loft by hand. By the mid-1950s one end of the building’s lower level had been removed — just as seen in the photo of the still standing barn — and the loft’s planking and supporting joists also removed. I believe both were done to facilitate the stacking of baled hay.

“A few years after those modifications my dad stretched steel cables across the building where the loft’s joists had been — that because it was clear the barn’s structure, without the joists, was spreading. I believe he tightened the cables with cinches similar to those used on logging trucks. That seemed to stabilize things.”

Regarding the Olson barn, Mike Reiter suggested there were probably two major contributors to the barn’s fall. First, at some point a large opening had been cut on the barn’s east side, apparently to allow wagons to back inside while stacking haybales. That may have affected the building’s stability. Secondly, as seen in the photo above, the wooden shakes that once covered the roof had been lost from a large portion — a situation allowing moisture to weaken the interior framing.

Craig Olson, grandson of Albert and Mabel Olson, told Mike that the elder Olsons built the still standing milk barn in 1938, and
April’s issue of the Mortarboard (#144) includes a piece by Pete Coffin titled “An Historical Society Fieldtrip to Big Foot Valley.” As luck would have it, an email concerning the subject of Big Foot Valley was received just after that issue was set to print. Addressed to the society’s chief executive, Bill Sebright, the missive was from Russell Keiper, currently residing in Pensacola, Florida. It reads as follows.

“I have enjoyed looking at all the Big Foot Mountain photos and articles on your website. My mother told me about this site, and I wanted to take a look for myself. Your photo of Jones Road brings back many childhood memories. I remember visiting Mrs. Jenkins’ home as a kid and listening to all of the stories that she and my folks would (share). I remember the phone being a party line and you answered on your amount of rings only.

“My grandparents, Paul and Alice Peak, lived in the house at the end of Jones Road — at the foot of the mountain where there was a locked metal gate. Up the mountain beyond the gate was a narrow unimproved road with several homesteads my grandparents lived on in earlier years. I was born in Spokane in 1960. My mother was Virginia (Keiper) Peak and grew up on Peak’s Peak. I’ve visited the old homesteads several times in the late 1960s and 1970s.”

We want to thank Russell for his kind words regarding the website, as well as the information he supplied. As President Sebright noted, “It’s always good to see that someone in the far corner of our country can feel close to our area through the society’s efforts.”

… more about the Slater Building Fire …

In response to the April Mortarboard’s (#144) article about the December 27th, 1983 fire that gutted the 72 year old Slater Building — itself in part the remodeling of an even older building. According to the Deer Park Tribune, the structure’s remaining walls had toppled and the cleanup of rubble was well underway as the weekly newspaper’s January 25th, 1984 edition went to press.

The photo above was taken from Main Street, looking at the building southeast corner. The photo below shows the rear of the building, looking east from Railroad Avenue. Note the remains of the Cellar Door Restaurant sign rising from the collapsed roof.

Further Reading — Classic Barns:
“Krick Barn,” by Patsy Krick Kinyon.


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

… remembering Big Foot …

Deer Park’s Slater Building After the Fire. These photos appear to have been taken within a few weeks of the December 27th, 1983 fire that gutted the 72 year old Slater Building — itself in part the remodeling of an even older building. According to the Deer Park Tribune, the structure’s remaining walls had toppled and the cleanup of rubble was well underway as the weekly newspaper’s January 25th, 1984 edition went to press.

The photo above was taken from Main Street, looking at the building southeast corner. The photo below shows the rear of the building, looking east from Railroad Avenue. Note the remains of the Cellar Door Restaurant sign rising from the collapsed roof.

Photos courtesy of Dan Huffman.

— end —

Clayton Deer Park Historical Society Newsletter
Issue #145 — May — 2020

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[Photos courtesy of Dan Huffman.]

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[Photos courtesy of Dan Huffman.]
Moore sent this “small addendum,” written from the “firefighters’ point of view.”

“I was there as a volunteer from Wild Rose Fire Station. My husband, Bill Moore, was our Station Captain. We were part of Fire District 94.

“I stayed in the frozen street, helping with the pump on our firetruck. It was good that we could connect to the city hydrants. After awhile I noticed there were sheets of ice on the sleeves of my turnout coat, so that when I bent my arms I could hear the ice breaking. It was an insulated coat, so I didn’t feel terribly cold.

“The fire was in the basement restaurant and former bowling alley, which made firefighting very difficult. Fire was spreading into the building above.

“The Captains on the scene had called for ‘mutual aid’ from a truck from Spokane, which had a long extension so that a nozzle could pour water on the fire from above. That was a big help.

“After a while Bill walked upstairs in the second building from the corner to check the adjacent (brick) wall for heat — to see whether the fire had spread to both buildings. He didn’t feel heat there.

“After many hours the fire was considered under control. Firefighters were invited to warm up indoors, and have some food and drink. I think this was in the Congregational Church basement. After spending half the night operating the fire pump, handling hose, and so forth, I was very tired. Other volunteer firefighters who had different jobs during this fire were also tired.”

We hope to publish more about this building’s long history as time goes by. Anyone with either personal or secondhand stories about Ward’s IGA, the bowling alley, or any of the other businesses that occupied space in the Slater Building are asked to share those with the society. The same holds true for all the other classic structures, standing or not, that have now become a part of this region’s history. If at all possible put these memories in writing and submit them via the society’s email or snail-mail address as noted on this issue’s last page.

… in search of Frosty Wolf ...

Gary Ross, a member of the Mortarboard’s Editorial Group, emailed Bill Sebright with this question. “Was there a barkeep working at the J&D Tavern that went by the nickname of Frosty? I have no idea of his given name.”

Pete Coffin fielded this question with, “There was a Frosty Wolf working at the J&D. He lived across the street from my mother on East D Street, just west of the then ‘new’ high school. When I used to give him my Deer Park paper, he moved to Colorado.” Which reminds us, anyone up on the history of tavern society in either Deer Park or Clayton is asked to submit any anecdotes regarding such to the society. Any deemed fit to print will be published.

… money from British Columbia ...

Since late August of last year, Trudy Bishop, 1950 graduate of Deer Park High School — having just become aware of our group and wanting to join — has been trying to pay her society dues. The problem has been twofold. She lives in Canada, so her banking is done in Canadian funds. Then too, transferring funds across an international border can be tricky.

At first she wondered if she could pay by credit card. But none of us had any idea how that could be done. She then said she’d write us a check but wondered how to adjust such for the exchange rate. We weren’t much help on that either. What we did do was suggest we’d forward her dues — entering them on the rolls anyway. But she wouldn’t have it.

Shortly after, we received a check drawn on Trudy’s Canadian bank. Interestingly enough, we found that the cost of cashing said check at a U. S. bank would consume almost half the exchanged amount. We decided to simply ignore the check, figuring the problem would just go away. Once again, Trudy objected.

Several months ago, we received a bank draft drawn in U. S. funds. My old treasurer, cashed it. It seems Trudy — God bless her determined heart — had, with no help from our useless souls, found a way.

… when old pandemics are new again ...

This rather direct article was extracted from the December 20th, 1918 issue of the Deer Park Union.

“When the second epidemic of the flu let loose in Deer Park, the local branch of the Red Cross, the city council and the school board immediately got together with the result that the high school building was speedily equipped and made into a modern hospital. Since that time the Red Cross, under the direction of Mrs. Renshaw, assisted by the relief committee of the council, Reverend Worthington and Professor Berkey of the school board and a host of others have labored night and day in an effort to keep the disease at a minimum. So far their efforts have been more than successful, and we doubt very much if there is another town in the state that has managed to keep the death rate as low as has Deer Park.

“This has been due in a great measure to the untiring work of perhaps thirty people, who have let everything else go in order to keep the disease from spreading. And to this same band of faithful workers must be entrusted the entire work.

“In direct comparison to these people who have made sacrifices are a certain class who profess to have such a fear of the disease that they have done nothing — and in a very few instances, to criticize. Yet when one of these people are attacked by the malady, they are insistent in their demand for help.

There have been calls for men and women to take care of those who were unable to get into the hospital; for men and women to relieve those who have become worn out with constant watching and nursing, but always there is an excuse. Either too busy or else the fear is in their hearts. Yet the ‘busy’ men can be found loafing on the streets at all hours of the day and part of the night, doing absolutely nothing but smoke and talk.

“Yet the ‘busy’ men can be found loafing on the streets at all hours of the day and part of the night, doing absolutely nothing but smoke and talk. The same ones who are so deadly in fear of catching the disease will stand around in crowds and breathe the air that has passed through nostrils already infected and smile contentedly but pure unadulterated selfishness; a lack of desire to help those who are in trouble, and the Union believes that such men are not fit to work in this crisis. There is no excuse for any able-bodied man or woman, unless very busy at some useful occupation, to shirk what has become a real duty.

Publish the names of those who have done the assistance. To publish the former would take but little space; to publish the list of slackers would take more space than we can afford to give. The Union believes that such people should receive scant courtesy from those who are doing the real work in this crisis. There is no excuse for any able-bodied man or woman, unless very busy at some useful occupation, to shirk what has become a real duty. It is not only selfish but cowardly, and if this paper were to do the right thing it would not only publish the names of those who have done the work, but also those who refuse to render assistance. To publish the former would take but little space; to publish the list of slackers would take much more space than we can afford to give, and besides, we are ashamed to let the outside world know that Deer Park possesses so many who ‘are afraid.’

… do we need a subscriptions coordinator ...

Every now and then the society receives a request asking how someone — usually an older former resident of this area — can receive print copies of the Mortarboard. Were there a barkeep working at the J&D Tavern that went by the nickname of Frosty? I have no idea of his given name.”

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Minutes of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society

April 11, 2020

For the first time in the almost 18-year history of the CD/PHS, we didn’t have a meeting because of the novel coronavirus pandemic. The following reports were sent by email.

Society President Bill Sebright reported that: 1) On March 20 Mark Wagner, Mike Reiter, and Bill met at the old Tribune Office at First and Main. Using Mike’s 1956 John Deere tractor with a rear forkift, they moved an antique paper cutter to Deer Park Printing. Cris Taylor, Rachelle Fletcher, and Mike Brock also helped. Our thanks to Deer Park Printing for storing the (estimated) 800-pound paper cutter. 2) Sarah Jewett emailed the society saying that Rozy’s Hot Shotz is opening a new venue in the old Classic Cafe location. She wanted information on the history of the building. Pete talks more about this in his report. 3) Amy Trueblood Lindh emailed a picture of Conrad Lindh on a large machine. Amy received it from Norma Lindh Burnett’s daughter, Shirley Burnett Dudley, Carl, Norma, and Don were the children of Conrad and Thelma Lindh. 4) He picked up the Mortarboard at Wally and Pat Parker’s home and at the Sulphur Springs, Gardenspot Market, and the Museum. 5) Loraine Nord brought Bill Conc Deer Park High School annuals from 1943 through 1946. Shirley Burnett Dudley sent them to her. All four are in very good condition.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported the main checking account ended the month at $7,746.09. There were deposits of $60. Checks were written for $129 to Wally Parker for supplies and one for $10 for incorporation filing. The web hosting account ended the month at $995.43 with a withdrawal of $11.84 for web hosting. The Brickyard Day account is at $3,345.33. Eric noted the need for more information on the Brickyard Day account.

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 April Mortarboard (#144) have been printed for distribution. A PDF copy has been submitted for uploading to the Society’s website, and a printable PDF has been forwarded to the Loon Lake Library for print copies at the request of their patrons. PDFS of this issue have also been forwarded to The Heritage Network for membership. 2) This issue begins with Trudy Bishop’s “The Deer Park Creamery.” The next featured article is Pete Coffin’s “An Historical Society Field Trip to the Big Foot Valley – 2009.” This is followed by a piece by the Society’s editor titled “Historic Slater Building Burns – December 27th, 1983.” Next are the “Notes from the Office,” this month’s article detailing the Deer Park Tribune’s donation of vintage newspapers and images to our group. 3) Considering current events, the Pandemic of 1918 is likely to become one of the topics of conversation within these pages. For the first time in the almost 18-year history of the CD/PHS, we didn’t have a meeting because of the novel coronavirus pandemic. The following reports were sent by email.

Help Wanted!

The society has a number of positions that need to be filled by creative ladies and gentlemen — those duties being that of Vice-President, Secretary, Publicist, Director of Fundraising, Curator, Archivist, and Subscriptions Coordinator. If you’d be interested in any of these positions, contact the society.
floding of north Deer Park and the building of bulk oil distributorships in Deer Park along the railroad.

Deron Schroeder said, “At the moment I believe everything is called off. I’ll let you know if things change.” There are 39 households that have paid dues this year. Our next meeting is planned for Saturday, May 9, 2020, at 10:00 AM at our new building at Deer Park’s City Hall complex, 300 Block East ‘A’ Street, look for the sign. The Society’s minutes were submitted by President Bill Sebright, acting as Secretary.

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

Pete Coffin reported that he: 1) Supplied Sarah Jewett a personal recollection of the buildings on Deer Park’s south Main Street in the late 1940s and 1950s as well as newspaper clippings to help document the history of the Classic Café Building. 2) Tried to get location information about Linda Sanders property on Bittrich-Antler Road to document its history. The information I was given was inaccurate and an attempt to get proper information failed. 3) Has begun going through digitized Tri-County Tribunes newer than 1980 to provide a listing of historically interesting articles. Paul Erikson provided a listing of the internet sources I am using. 4) Is assembling newspaper material describing

Clayton ◊ Deer Park Historical Society Newsletter

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Damon Smathers, Webmaster — damonsmathers@gmail.com
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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 requester 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 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.