

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
CLAYTON/DEER PARK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Mortarboard

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C/DPHS Field Trip: Big Foot Valley & Beyond

by
Bill Sebright

It was a rainy Monday morning in May. Bob Clouse, Pete Coffin, and I met at the Classic Café in Deer Park for breakfast. The day was planned out between bites — though those plans weren't always followed. And after Bob had finished flirting with the waitress, the cars were left at Pete's house and everyone piled into my four wheel drive Toyota Highlander. My Toyota's name is Pearl.

The first part of the day was spent visiting with Lon Hansen on Monroe Road. Lon is a retired Border Patrol Agent and a member of the Deer Park

float construction group. He has scanned many Deer Park Elementary class pictures and was glad to make the Society a CD of them.

The rest of our morning elapsed while we toured the area north of Deer Park. The site of the Lost Springs School — east of the intersection of Sherman and Mason Roads — was found and photographed. Pictures were taken of the old Algot Nilsson dairy farm on the northeast corner of Mason and Grove Road — that's where my wife, Anni Nilsson, grew up. And we photographed the second Forreston School at the northeast corner of Bridges and

Viewed from the north side — the Walter Carmean family's long abandoned Big Foot Valley home has been crushed by the last two winters of heavy snow.



Photo by Pete Coffin.

Free — Take One

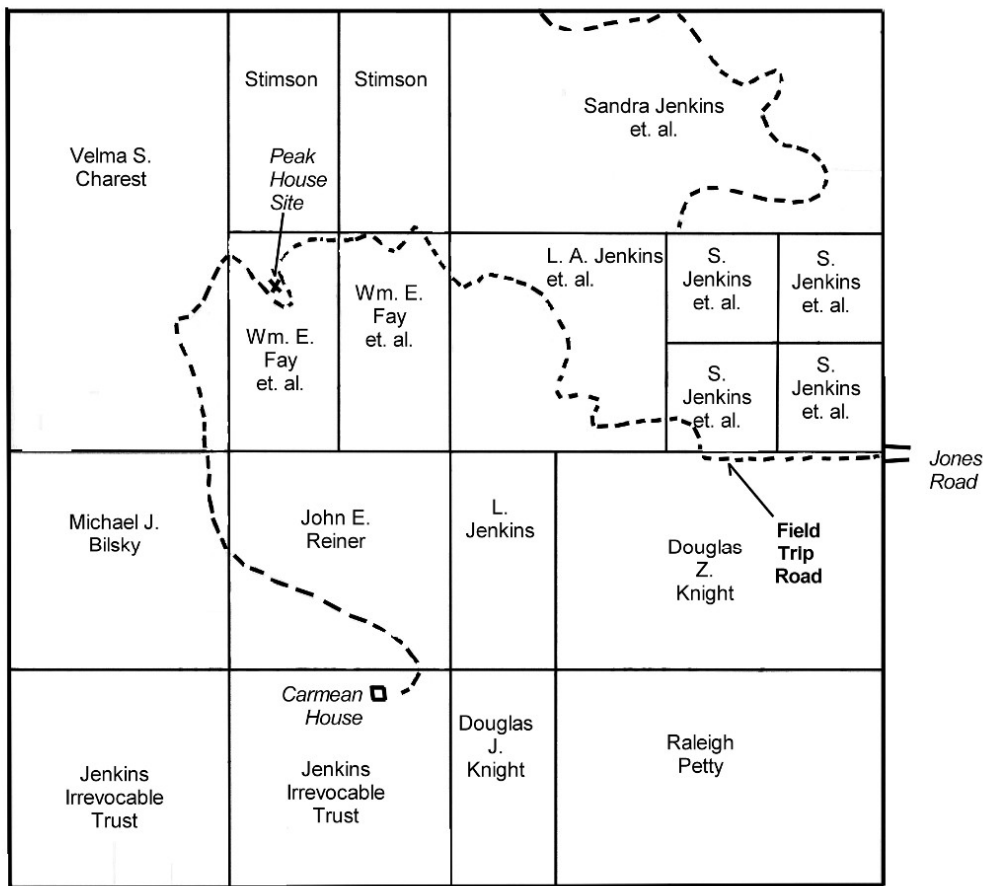
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Spotted Roads. The old school building has been converted to a residence, and at one time the Shall-better family owned it.

The next stop was lunch at the Clayton Drive In. With bellies full, the crew headed to Big Foot Valley to visit the old Big Foot Valley School site just northeast of the junction of Redman and

Jones Roads. While there we were approached by John Reiner. John owns a twenty acre tract just south of the school's site. He was doubtless wondering what this suspicious looking group was doing.

John turned out to be the father of Clinton Reiner, one of my students when I was teaching fifth grade at Arcadia Elementary in Deer Park. John also



Map by Pete Coffin. See Clayton area map on page 197 for location of Jones Road.

**SECTION 28 T29N R41EWM
2009 LAND OWNERS**

- - - - - Dirt Roads

(1940 land ownership: NW/4 = A.T. Ratke, SW/4 = Paul Peak, SE/4 = Roy Dano,
S/2 NE/4 = W. Carmean, N/2 NE/4 = A. S. Kenhyon)

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proved to be quite knowledgeable regarding the history and geography of the area.

John offered to take the field trip trio on a tour of the valley's northwestern foothills — where he owns another twenty acres. Through a locked gate and over the switchbacks and washouts of a very narrow, steeply climbing dirt road, Pearl's four wheel drive certainly came in handy. It's hard to

imagine negotiating this pathway in winter storms or spring melts. The people who chose to live in these foothills must have been a hearty lot.

The first stop was at the old Paul Peak ranch. Only some boards from the collapsed barn remain as evidence of the lives that family had lived there.

The end of the trip was at an old two story

*The west side of the Carmean's log house. Note the curtains still hanging in the loft windows.
Inside, the remaining furniture has been flattened.*



Photo by Pete Coffin.



Photo by Pete Coffin.

From the site of the Paul Peak house, looking southeast across Big Foot Valley. All that remains of the house are a few foundation timbers. Note several remaining orchard trees to the right.

log house once owned by the Walter Carmean family. Unfortunately, the long abandoned house has caved under the weight of time and winter snow.

Mr. Reiner pointed out a truck parked in the trees alongside the road, saying it was owned by a man who lived in a cabin just up the hill. During winter the gentleman often tows his supplies to his

cabin on a sled — while wearing snowshoes.

The day finished with three happy Society members. We had seen parts of the historic Big Foot Valley normally inaccessible. A special thanks to John Reiner for that.

The Big Foot Valley School

by
Pete Coffin

Big Foot Valley is a relatively isolated valley covering about five square miles approximately four miles southwest of Clayton, Washington in southern Stevens County. The Big Foot Valley School was established in 1903.

The area was being settled in the late 1880's and the first homestead patent was issued in 1894. Carl Worm received patent on the NE/4 Sec.

34-T29N-R41ECM in 1894 and Joseph Falter received patent on the NW/4 Sec. 34-T29N-R41ECM in 1885. These dates indicate that settlers began living in the area in the late 1880s.

According to Alpha Naff's book, the "Last Bell", Stevens County School Superintendent F. Leo Grinstad established Big Foot Valley School District #111 on October 16, 1903, and shortly after this a

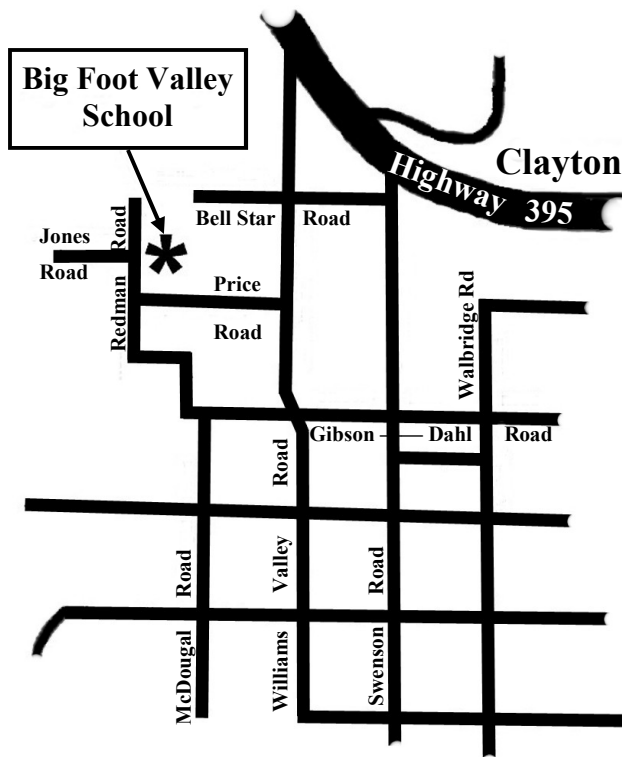
Clayton area map by Pete Coffin.

school house was built. One of the original Board of Directors was Redman Jones. Redman received the patent on his homestead in February of 1905. Other original directors were with A. B. Eastabrook and J. M. Phillips.

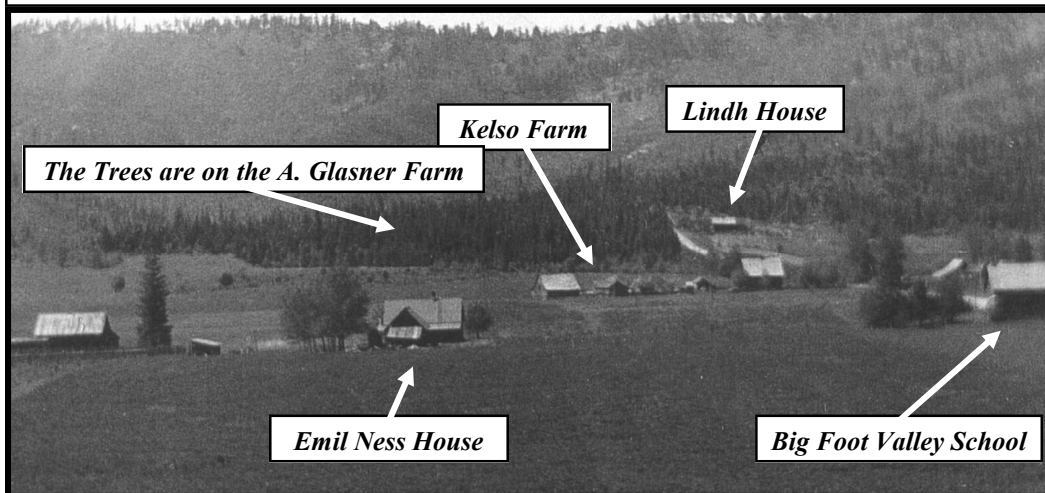
The school was built on the far northeastern corner of the southwestern quarter of Section 27-T29N-R41ECM just east of the intersection of Redman and Jones Roads.

There are no maps indicating whether the customary one acre of land was deeded to the school. A wooden building was erected and school was held from 1903 to 1909 when the Big Foot Valley School District #111 was merged with the Allen's Landing School District #329 to become the Clayton Consolidated School District #159.

United States Census records for 1900 and 1910 provide names of children who probably attended the school. In the 1900



This picture may be the only one existing of the Big Foot Valley School house in its original location. It was taken in the early 1940's by the Emil Ness family who owned the farm then. This photograph was provided by Harry Ness of Spokane.





Left — William A. Davis and the Big Foot Valley mule team school bus. It's believed this photo was taken in front of the school building around 1909.

Below — the author's father, Elden Frank (Jack) Coffin, was born in 1906. Gauging from his apparent age in this photo, it's likely this Sunday school portrait was taken around 1914 — again in front of the old school house. This photograph is from the Coffin family collection.



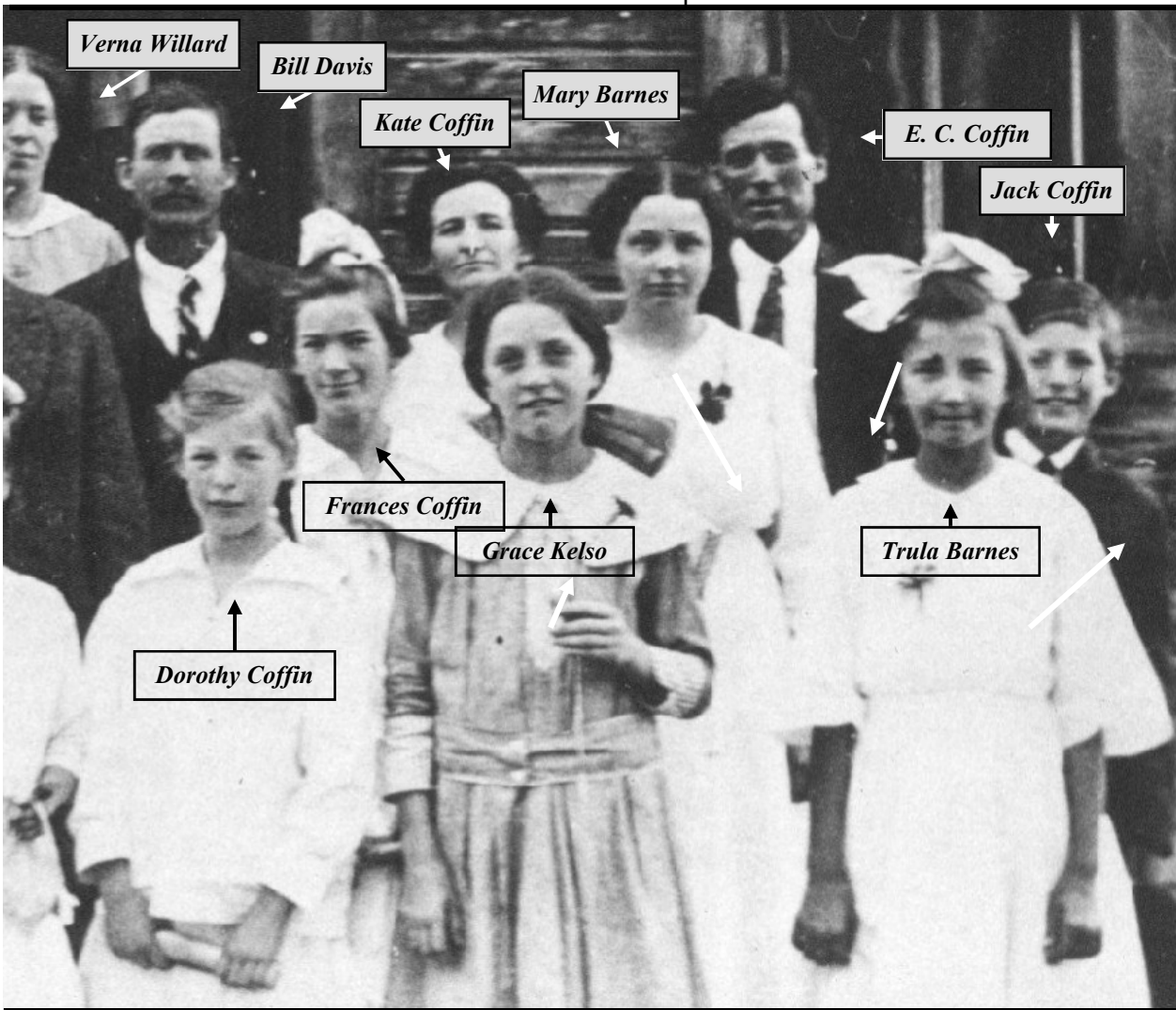
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Census Mathew Falter, Elmer and Marion Hill, and Eriga(?), Olaf and Mary Olson would have been old enough to attend the newly opened school. By 1910 the census list of school age children was longer. This list included William and Alta Enfield, John Wesley, Charles A., Ira, and Ruth Davis, Claris Goulett, and Martin and Amil Gibson. There were most likely more children attending the school in the period between 1903 and 1909, but the census records only lists families living in the area at 1900 and 1910.

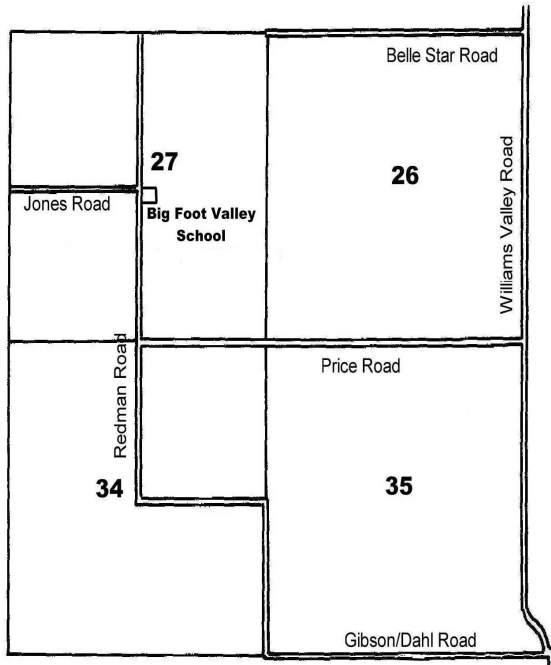
The 'Last Bell' lists four teachers for the Big Foot District — S.O. Huffman, Lillian Eaves, Ida Wertz, and Hattie Jones (wife of homesteader Redman Jones).

The schoolhouse was abandoned as a school but remained a community center for some time after the school district consolidation.

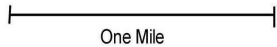
The schoolhouse property, originally on a Northern Pacific Railroad Land Grant section, was owned by several families over the years. In 1933 H. Enfield was listed as the owner of the SE/4 Sec-



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**Big Foot Valley School Location
 NW NW SE Section 27 TWP29N RGE41EWM**



tion 27 T29N-R41EWM. In 1936 Emil Ness purchased the northern 80 acres of the Enfield tract. Ownership maps of 1956 show the land owned by Elton Fromdahl. In the 1960's the Bockemeuhl family owned the land and built a new farmhouse that stands today (April 2009). A 1973 ownership map showed the land to be owned by Nordeen Johnson.

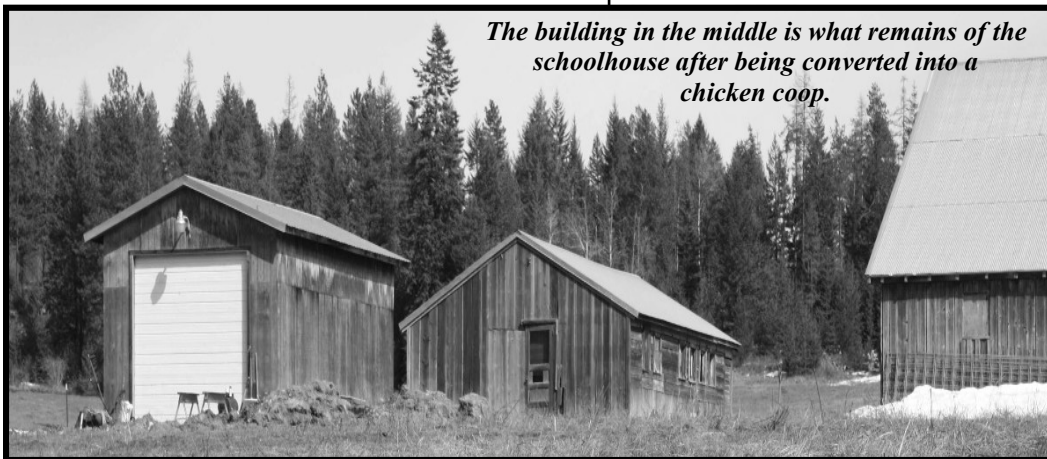
A large part of the old schoolhouse still stands. In the 1940s Emil Ness skidded the building about 100 yards south of its original location by drawing it two or three feet a day with a chain come-along made from an old wood saw. The structure was then converted into a chicken coop.

The Big Foot Valley schoolhouse was lucky. Much finer school buildings in the greater Clayton/Deer Park area no longer exist either as farm buildings or residences. They've been demolished for their lumber, burned down, or otherwise lost to history.

Map by Pete Coffin.

REFERENCE CITED

Naff, Alpha, 1984, *The last bell: the "country schools" of Stevens County: Colville, WA*, Don's Printery, 132 p. (Spokane City Library GEN 979.723 NAFF)



The building in the middle is what remains of the schoolhouse after being converted into a chicken coop.

Photo by Pete Coffin.

Over the Kitchen Table

Thoughts Regarding the Society's Newsletter Crossing the 200 Page Mark

By

Wally Lee Parker — Editor of Print Publications

With this issue of the *Mortarboard* we've printed over two-hundred consecutive pages of newsletters. Because this is something of a benchmark, I think it's time to take a quick look back, and then maybe a speculative look forward.

I conducted my first tape-recorded interview for the Clayton Historical Society in January of 2004. The Society's first published story — a short profile of Harold Klawunder — appeared in the August 4th, 2004, issue of the *Deer Park Tribune*. The Society's venture into self-publication began in 2005 with our first booklet, volume one of the "Reports". In all I believe we've published six stories in the *Tribune* — all of those reprinted in the *Reports*. The *Reports* eventually reached four volumes with a combined one-hundred and ninety six pages. A lot was learned during this foray into hard-copy — one thing being that we needed a faster and more responsive type of publication. We needed a newsletter that could be distributed both as a free printout and as a downloadable internet file on the Society's website. We needed something that could be thrown together and snapped out monthly.

Such a newsletter could act as an advertisement for the Society — as a public relations tool. It could give quicker 'into print' response times for anyone submitting material for publication. And, if designed correctly, it could be bound into booklets with only minimal alteration of its layout and then go on to serve all of the functions the original "Reports" were designed to serve.

My retirement in '07 provided the time necessary to pursue this new format. The declining cost of laser printers with duplex capabilities — the ability to automatically print both sides of a sheet of paper — made it possible to move all the Society's print operations to my home. With the time and technical problems of moving to all desktop fabrication solved, last spring the first issue of the *Mortarboard* appeared in print. And as soon as enough total pages had accumulated, the first booklet-format edition of the "Collected Newsletters" was stapled together on my kitchen table.

As for how I ended up being the Society's

editor — considering that I consistently got "Cs" or worse in English, considering that I can't spell and considering that I only have a rudimentary understanding of the irritating nuisance of punctuation — it's hard to say. But in part it's because I've always been interested in the art of publishing.

Just shy of fifty years ago I happened on a book by Fredric Warburg. This British gentleman had spent his entire life pursuing the executive side of the publishing industry. He had chronicled that experience under the title "*An Occupation for Gentlemen*". I think that title may be a bit more than tongue in cheek — unless consistently drudging out a living under the threat of impending deadlines is the essence of being a gentleman. But what really drew my attention was that Warburg had developed personal friendships with writers such as George Orwell — best know for the brutally depressing novel "1984" — and science fiction icon H. G. Wells — who penned classics such as 'The Time Machine' and 'War of the Worlds'. Here were some of my literary heroes, and here was a publisher who hobnobbed with them on a frequent basis. Hobnobbing with the likes of that seemed to be the best part of the publishing business.

Of course Fredric Warburg was a genius — which tended to make having a choice as to what he wanted to do in life a little easier.

In any event, Warburg's experiences did suggested that writing and publishing created an opportunity to brush up against a large assortment of civilized people — both everyday people with unique insights and talents as well as a large assortment of generally creative but otherwise benign whackos. Or at least usually benign whackos. In other words, all the people worth knowing.

Also, I absolutely love the potential artistic clarity of a printed page — as well as the intellectual sensuality of holding a bound book. Center-stapling, folding, and then flipping through the pages of a newly minted product plainly feels nice. Psychologist probably have a name for that particular predilection — since they have a name for everything else — and doubtless would recommend counseling to

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deal with the same. After four to seven years of weekly sessions I might be cured of this obviously harmless fetish — or not.

Anyway, all the above doesn't explain why I've ended up being editor and publisher of the Society's newsletter. That path began about fifteen years ago when I started gathering my family's history. And that began by transcribing into print an extensive series of tape-recorded interviews with my mother.

In order to gather information from the more distant family members I started a family history newsletter — all of it computer-designed. The pages were replicated on Kinko's copy machines, and assembled newsletters mailed to the widely scattered family. The idea was to get information from far-flung family members by sharing everything I was discovering as I discovered it. That strategy was moderately successful — evidenced by the fact that my family history newsletter went on for about a quarter of a million words.

My central hypothesis for the newsletter was that people were more likely to participate in an ongoing project if they could readily see something come of their contributions. Those who took the time to contribute would likely sour on the project in short order if they didn't see at least a few of their recollections floating in the common pool within a reasonable time.

That was the theory pitched to get the Clayton Historical Society interested in publishing. The results has been — roughly estimated — some two-hundred thousand words currently in print between the *Reports* and collected *Mortarboards*.

My approach to learning the craft of publishing is simple — just do it. Learn as you go. Shake off the accumulated bruises to the ego that a myriad of errors can leave. That's when a genetic propensity toward bullheadedness comes in handy. It has allowed me to stick with this sometimes mortifying on-the-job training through issue after issue.

But it should also be noted that for us less bright bulbs the computer is an irritating though necessary crutch. Spellcheckers are nice. And word processors make changing one word or rearranging whole segments of script incredibly easy up to the moment the ink hits the paper. Anyone who has ever attempted to composed a story on an old-style manual typewriter should know the value of that. And desktop publishing programs have made it easy

to experiment with newsletter layouts onscreen — before anything is committed to the expense of print. Again, anyone who's had the pleasure of pasting up a camera-ready template for photo-offset printing knows how costly as well as embarrassing an error can be.

Almost all the technical stuff has been taken care of by the publishing program — assuming you ever learn the correct buttons to push. After that, all that's left is the creative stuff — the fun stuff (although there's something to be said for the absorbing satisfaction found in precisely clipping and gluing-up a photo-offset page).

I'm editor of Print Publications because I volunteered for the job. Shortly after I joined the Society in the late autumn of 2003 I suggested the Society begin collecting and self-publishing historical research. I was told to give an example of what I had in mind, and after five years and almost four hundred pages of printed material I'm still at it.

This job consumes an immense amount of time. On Society projects I probably average three to four hours a day, seven days a week. That's not inconsistent with the amount of time committed by the Society's other hardcore volunteers. Look at the size and scope of Bob Clouse's website. Consider all the maps and database research being done by Pete Coffin. Think about the mass of archival documents Sharon Clark and Florene Moore are sifting through. And then of course there's Bill Sebright — our chief executive.

So where does Print Publications go from here? Certainly more of the same. But if I had my way, we'd have more scripts from more writers on more subjects.

Unlike most publications, the *Mortarboard* has the luxury of being able to shrink or expand to fit the available material. The structure of our publication prescribes we print each individual newsletter in blocks of four, eight, twelve, or sixteen pages. Other than being in multiples of four, there's no set page-count we need to fill. And we can always skip a month. Because of this ability, having enough copy for any given issue isn't a real concern — though we'd still like each issue to contain a reasonable serving of type.

Scripts submitted by non-members add diversity to the publication. And while our list of contributors is expanding all the time, there's so much more history that needs to be recorded. The

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more voices heard means the more subjects, time periods, and geographic territory likely to be covered.

When it comes to submitted material, our view of copyright is the same expressed by *Nostalgia Magazine* — basically you're allowing us to use your material in our publications from now on, but you can also continue using that same material as you see fit — including submitting it for publication by others. In other words, you're giving us permission to use, but you're not relinquishing ownership.

Another thing I'd find handy would be a list of "experts" willing to answer questions. For example, I'd like to have a geologist willing to check certain manuscripts for accuracy. That would be immensely helpful for upcoming projects.

I think a good portion of our readers would like to have a better sense of the traditional lifestyle of the First Nations people that once lived in or migrated through this area. We're so focused on the area's old settlers, we forget that there is a long history of even older settlers. We just need someone capable of focusing our eyes on that.

Regarding the natural history of this area — the native plants, animals, and so forth — we've had nothing printed. The raw material for those kinds of stories is all around. All it would take to turn a little curiosity into a good story would be lots of research.

As far as the 'Print Publications' department itself, my expectation is that we're going to keep the *Reports* as part of our line-up, but we're going to change its nature. In the future, booklets published under the *Reports* banner will not be part of a series, rather they'll be stand-alone publications. They'll likely be single topic editions or collections of same-subject materials drawn out of past issues of the *Mortarboards* or independently produced. And they won't be limited to the current forty-eight pages. A revised and expanded edition of "*Standing Watch: the Story of Deer Park's Intercontinental Ballistic Missile*" and a compilation and expansion of the serial published in the *Mortarboard* as

"*Tuffy's War*" are likely to be among the first of these new *Reports*. As for when they're likely to appear, I can't even begin to guess.

I could go on and on with this, but I'd have to add another four page block to my paste-up of this issue. And that brings us to any editor's other nightmare — cost.

Our current estimate is that it cost 18¢ to create each double-sided sheet for our publications — and that's for toner and paper only. The use of the printers is donated. And the time needed to print, staple, and fold is donated.

The three sheets of print that form this twelve page issue of the *Mortarboard* cost approximately 54¢. That means the seventy-five issues of this month's edition cost the Society \$40.50 to produce. But the Society gives away more than seventy-five *Mortarboards* a month. Add complementary and promotional copies of our booklets to that.

The additional expense of printing and coating covers brings the estimated production cost of each booklet to \$2.60 each. Adding this to the cost of the free *Mortarboards* and the Society could easily (and does easily) spend eight hundred dollars a year distributing free print — only a small portion of which is offset by sales of printed materials.

To curb this loss, the Society is adding another dollar to the price of its bound volumes. We expect a drop in sales, but are hoping this will bring Print Publications closer to paying for itself.

Writing and publishing has proven to be something less than an occupation for gentlemen — in my case that occupation is an unpaid experiment in art — yet it has proven to be almost as enjoyable as an evening with George Orwell or H. G. Wells might have been when they were at the top of their game. I do get to interact with some very unique people now and then. And as for my notably grumpy disposition and literary long windedness — both side effects of the editor's chair — you can always write a letter to the editor and complain. I keep a file right beside my desk for such.

Society Minutes — June, 2009

The monthly general membership meeting of the C/DPHS was gaveled open by Society president Bill Sebright at 09:03 AM on June 13th. In attendance were Mark Wagner, Alan Berg, Duane

Costa, Bob Clouse, Mary Clouse, Sharon Clark, Marilyn Reilly, Warren Nord, Lorraine Nord, Karen Meyer, Cliff Meyer, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Pete Coffin, Bob Lemley, Bob Gibson, Art Stelting, and

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Ray Hall. The meeting was held in its usual venue at the Clayton Drive In.

Treasurer Mark Wagner reported the current status of the Society's funds. The report was found correct and proper and the details were ordered entered into the official record.

Twenty dollars from the treasury is being sent to the Heritage Network for the C/DPHS's yearly dues to that organization.

It was announced that the Clayton Fairgrounds' summer schedule is as follow — June 20 & 21: Binder Bash International Harvester Show — July 24 & 25: Clayton Rodeo — August 2: Pee Wee Rodeo — August 21-23: Annual Clayton Fair.

Wally Parker, Publications Director, reported that the material from "Standing Watch" posted on the web without permission or accreditation has been removed after the filing of a formal protest to the webmaster of the offending site — that protest accompanied by clear evidence of violation.

In an associated matter, the copyright registration for volume three of the "Reports" has been received after a twenty month delay. To shorten the delay, currently estimated by the copyright office to average eighteen months, Print Publications will investigate using electronic filings going forward.

Print Publications recently received an inquiry from an associate of the "Istituto e Museo di Storia Della Scienza" (Institute and Museum of the History of Science), Florence, Italy, requesting assistance with an ongoing Institute project regarding the cataloging of a worldwide list of images of Galileo Galilei — one such image being the statue sculpted and fired at Clayton's terra cotta works and now displayed on an exterior wall at the University of Washington's Suzzallo Library in Seattle. The Society's data on the subject was forwarded to the associate, along with the names and email addresses for the Society's contacts inside the Special Collections Unit at the Suzzallo Library.

As a final note, Volume 4 of the "Collected Newsletters" is now available.

There was a discussion regarding the cost of publishing the *Mortarboards*, *Collected Newsletters*, and *Reports to the C/DPHS*. All printed materials produced by the Society that are subsequently distributed free as complimentary and promotional items create a negative flow on the Society's funds. It was moved by Duane Costa and seconded by Sharon Clark that the monthly issues of the *Mortar-*

board continue to be free, but that the donation requested for materials published in booklet format be raised to four dollars per issue to more accurately reflect the Society's overall print cost. The motion passed unanimously.

Sharon Clark brought up annual society dues. After some discussion it was decided to put this on the agenda for the July meeting. Duane will have a motion ready for that meeting.

Bob Clouse, Webmaster, reported that there was a record number of visitors to our website in May, and that he expects over 1000 visitors for June.

Bob also reported that Dennis Elkins, grandson of Dorothy and Thornton Steele contacted us by email. He sent several historic pictures for the Website and Archives.

Additionally, the Webmaster stated that Linda Bodie sent Edington and Abbott family pictures for the Website and Archives. One picture is of a group of children in front of a log building. It may be the first Loon Lake School. Karen Meyer thought it may be the original Gardenspot School. More research will be done.

Pete Coffin reports that he has completed scanning the Art Stelting's albums, Deer Park Elementary School pictures from the 1960s, the two large photo albums of Jean and Walt King from Carmen Hill and Marlene Berry, and the Carr family photos from Teresa Broman and Monte Carr.

Warren Nord thanked the Society for getting his two family letters from 1923 translated from Norwegian into English.

Sharon Clark passed around a copy of the map she is working on showing the old school districts in Spokane County. She is looking for a Stevens County map outlining the old school districts there — should anyone know of such.

"Deer Park's oldest cemetery" was discussed. Bob Gibson talked to Dorothy Hoffman, granddaughter of the Mrs. Reidt buried there.

Cliff Meyer talked about the new building that is being put up at the Fairgrounds. They are putting board and batten siding on it. The logs are from Cliff's woods. Lyle Wiltse's portable saw mill is being used to make the boards. The building will be used to house wagons and buggies.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 AM, with the next to begin July 11th at 09:00 Am.

Volunteer proofreaders for this issue include Sharon Clark, Sue Newell, Bill Sobright, Susan Simpson, Charles Stewart, and Lorinda Travis.