

# We Could Use A Helping Hand!



Join the  
Clayton ♦ Deer Park  
Historical Society.

Open Meeting Second Saturday of Each Month — 10:00 AM.  
Deer Park City Hall Complex — 300 Block East 'A' Street — Look for the Sign.

(website) [www.cdphs.org](http://www.cdphs.org)  
(mailing address) Box 293, Clayton, Washington 99110  
(telephone) 509-276-2693

Illustration from "The Richmond Home-Dispatch," November 21, 1919.

Free — Take One

NEW VENUE FOR MEETINGS — EVERYONE'S WELCOME.

Second Saturday of each month, beginning at 10:00 a.m.,  
Deer Park City Hall Complex — 300 Block East 'A' Street — Look for the Sign.

#165

January

2022

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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### The Deer Park Concrete Construction Company

by

Peter Coffin

The Deer Park Concrete Construction Company was incorporated on October 30, 1911 (see document page 2450). The operation was organized and supervised by Chicago area businessman Ludwig J. Birn (see 'New Addition' clipping below), who oversaw a \$2,000 addition to the physical plant located on the far south side of Deer Park, and just west of the Great Northern Railroad tracks (see map,

Image # Two).

The plant was located fairly close to the railroad spur for the Arcadia Orchards Company's apple packing warehouse. This allowed both heavy cement as well as gravel and sand aggregate to be delivered to the plant in railcar quantities.

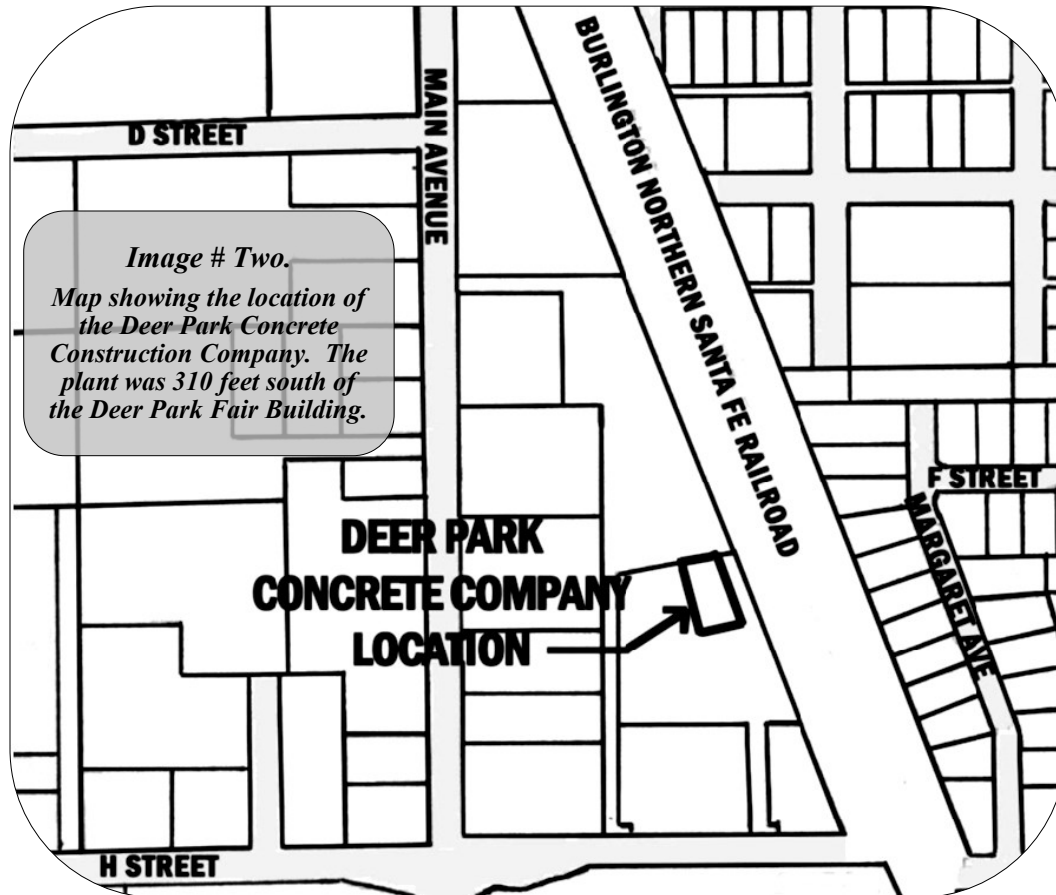
The photograph on page 2448 (Image # Five) shows piles of concrete pipe the Arca-

Image # One.

"New Addition"  
Clipped from the  
March 1, 1912  
edition of the Deer  
Park Union.

#### New Addition

Work is now almost completed on the new addition to the Concrete Co's plant. Over \$2000 is being expended on this building and when it is finished, will be a valuable adjunct to the present factory. There is no use talking this concern is rapidly forging to the front with their air-spaced building blocks. L. J. Birn is one of the most energetic and progressive business men of Deer Park and has already succeeded in making a name for both himself and also his valuable building blocks. Every-thing points to a great building year here in Deer Park this Spring and the Concrete Co is getting ready to handle the big business which will come.



*Image # Two.*  
Map showing the location of the Deer Park Concrete Construction Company. The plant was 310 feet south of the Deer Park Fair Building.

dia Orchards Company ordered to replace the wooden pipes and flumes the company had previously used to distribute water to their orchards. An order of 36-inch diameter pipe would replace the wooden pipe conducting the low line canal's water from the surface flume that ended near the old city hall at First and Railroad Streets, then ran southward under Railroad Street, east under Crawford Street, then south again under Main Avenue to a First Street pumping station east of Main Avenue (see Image # Three, facing page). Serving the low line canal area west of Denison, the capacity of this (reverse) syphon was over 10,000 gallons per day.

According to the Sanborn Fire Insur-

ance Map (see Image # Five), the operation consisted of the molding plant with cement storage inside the building near the railroad tracks. It can be assumed that sand and gravel piles were stored there as well. The south side of the building held a shop. The middle of the building contained a molding room, with a narrow addition westward from the molding room being a steam kiln curing room. The north side of the plant was a storage area. The three detached structures were an office, a lime storage building, and a storage shed.

By 1915 the Arcadia Orchards Company indicated that they had installed 50,000

— Text Continues on page 2452 —

## BIG CONTRACT AWARDED TO LOCAL FIRM

**The Concrete Construction Co. the Successful Bidders on the New Pipe Line to go Under the City**

Last Monday the Deer Park Concrete Construction Co. was awarded the contract to furnish the cement pipes for building the new syphon which is to be built this summer. This syphon will take the place of the old wooden one now going under Deer Park from the city hall to the corner of A street and the S. F. & N. right of way. This Syphon conveys the water for the low line unit.

The work of tearing out the old pipe and laying the new cement pipe will be done by the regular construction crew of the Arcadia Orchards Co. The main object of building this pipe line of cement is to make it permanent for all time to come and

is in line with the rest of the work the Arcadia Orchards Co. is doing. The best in everything is the cheapest in the long run.

When this new Syphon is built it will have a capacity of 10,000, 000 gallons per day, more than ample for twice the acreage, which it will supply. Over 3,000 acres will thus have an abundance of water, without any danger of the pipe line breaking down at a critical time, as a wooden one might. Thus is one more point gained for the coming orchard owner.

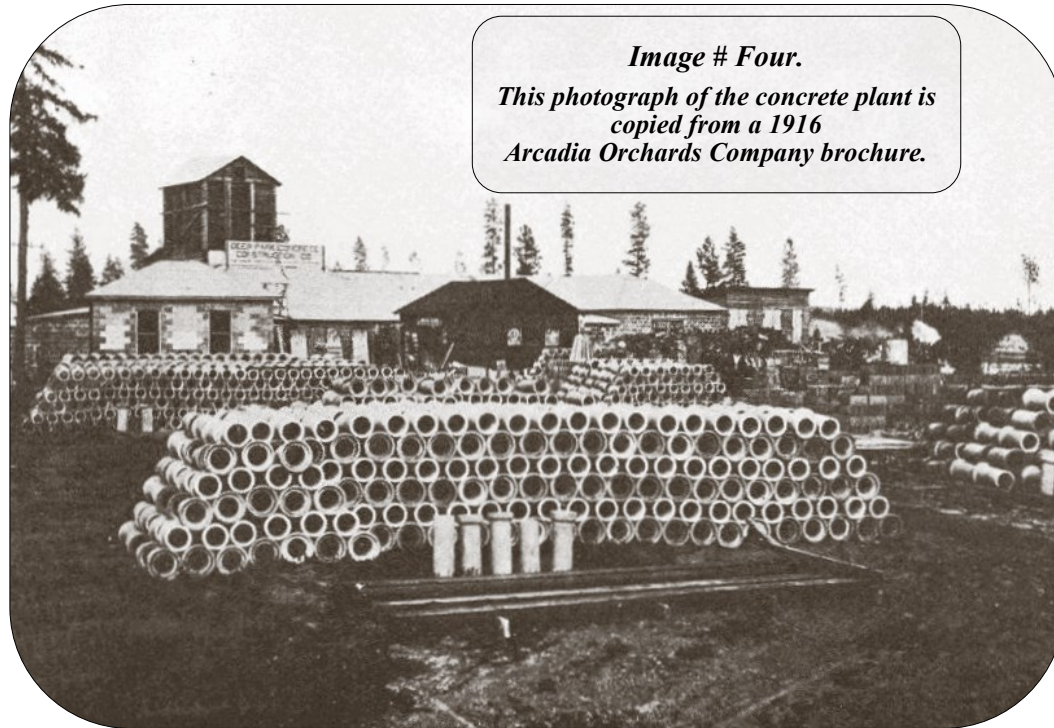
The cement pipe is 36 inches in diameter and wholly constructed of Portland cement and each piece is made under the personal supervision of Mr. L. J. Birn, who has already made a name for himself in the cement world by inventing the new famous Birn Air-Spaced Block.

The entire work of tearing up and laying the new pipe will commence about March 1st and will take about three weeks altogether.

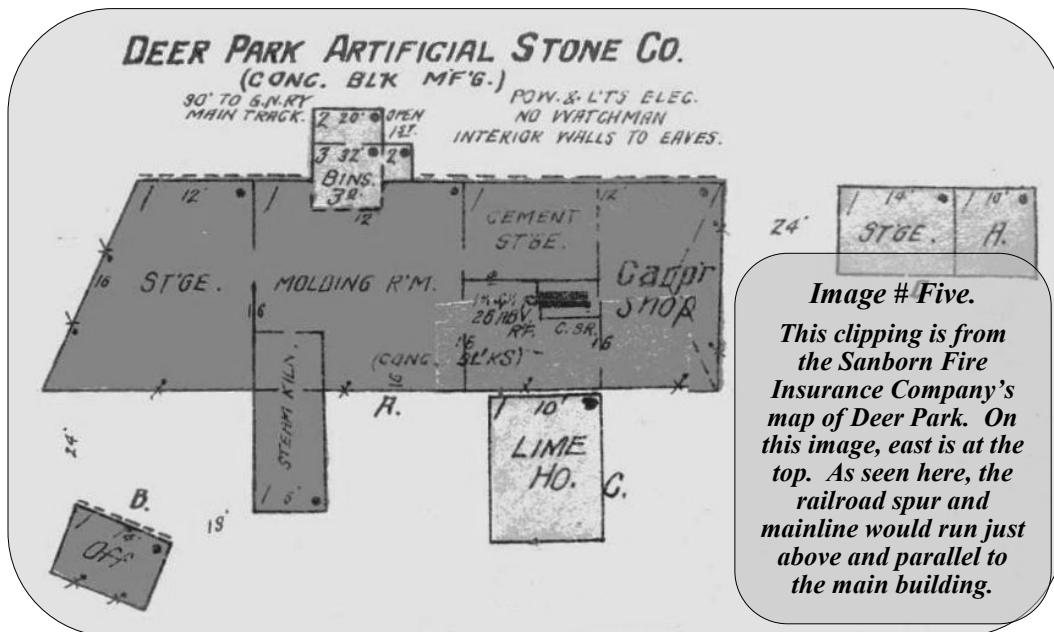
*Image # Three.*

*Clipping from the February 9<sup>th</sup>, 1912 edition of the Deer Park Union.*





**Image # Four.**  
*This photograph of the concrete plant is copied from a 1916 Arcadia Orchards Company brochure.*



**Image # Five.**  
*This clipping is from the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company's map of Deer Park. On this image, east is at the top. As seen here, the railroad spur and mainline would run just above and parallel to the main building.*



**Image # Six.**  
*This photo, from the early spring of 2014, shows city employee Brad Wainwright standing in a trench being excavated along Main Avenue between Crawford and A Street. The objective — to replace the Arcadia Orchards Company's century-old 36-inch concrete syphon with modern PVC pipe.*

*Photo by Mike Reiter — circa mid-April, 2014.*

**Further Reading:**

“100 Year Old Arcadia Orchards Artifact Uncovered,” by Wally Lee Parker.  
Mortarboard #75, July, 2014 — page 909 — Collected Newsletters, Vol. 19.  
[http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard\\_issue\\_75\\_singlepage.pdf](http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard_issue_75_singlepage.pdf)



Form No. 34 10-10-2000

(DOMESTIC)

Article No. 31079 Certificate No. 20939

**United States of America**  
**State of Washington**  
OFFICE OF THE  
**Secretary of State**

I, I. M. HOWELL, Secretary of State of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**  
OF THE  
*"Deer Park Concrete Construction Company"*

a Domestic Corporation, of *Deer Park*, Washington, were, on the *30th* day of *October*, A. D. 191*1*, at *3:07* o'clock *P*. M., filed for record in this office and now remain on file herein, being duly recorded in Book *96*, at page *93*, Domestic Corporations.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed hereto the Seal of the State of Washington.

Done at the Capitol, at Olympia, this *2nd* day of *November*, A. D. 191*1*.

By *Gustafson*  
Assistant Secretary of State

**Image # Seven.**  
Articles of Incorporation,  
Deer Park Concrete Construction Company.

Deer Park Artificial Stone Co.  
DEER PARK, WASHINGTON

*Stock of F. A. Reed and E. N. Robinson to be delivered when D. P. C. Co. stock held by them is delivered properly endorsed.*

**Image # Eight.**  
Reads, "Stock of F. A. Reed and E. N. Robinson to be delivered when D. P. C. Co. stock held by them is delivered properly endorsed"

### A Cache of Vintage Corporate Documents Donated to the Society:

In late February of 2021, Don Gustafson informed Society member Mike Reiter that Erick's Realty had found a small box containing a vintage envelope inside of which were the original Articles of Incorporation for the Deer Park Concrete Construction Company and a stock certificate for the same. Also inside this box were a clutch of stock certificates for the Deer Park Artificial Stone Company. A selection of images drawn from this unique historic cache are printed above and on the following several pages.

**All 164 prior issues of the  
Mortarboard**  
are available  
as free PDFs on the Society's website.  
<http://www.cdphs.org/mortarboard-newsletters.html>



INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON.

**Deer Park Concrete Construction Co.**  
FULLY PAID  
CAPITAL STOCK \$25,000.00  
NON-ASSESSABLE

*I certify that* *F. A. Reed* *is the owner of* *19* *Shares of the Capital Stock of* *Deer Park Concrete Construction Co.*

*Transferrable only on the back of the Corporation by the holder hereon in person or by Attorney upon surrender of this Certificate properly endorsed*

*In Witness Whereof* *the said Corporation has caused this Certificate to be signed by its President and Secretary and the seal of the Corporation to be hereunto set in presence of two or more of its officers and the seal of the Corporation*

*at Deer Park, Washington* *the 19th day of January* *1913*

*F. A. Reed* *Secretary*  
*M. Robinson* *PRESIDENT*

**Image # Nine.**

This certificate indicates that nineteen shares of Deer Park Concrete Construction Company stock were issued to Frederick E. Parks, secretary of the company, on January 1st, 1913. Mr. Parks bought nineteen shares — which would seem to suggest he was investing \$1,900 in the company.





Image # Ten.

The above certificate records that ten shares of Deer Park Artificial Stone Company stock were issued to Frederick Addison Reed on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1914 — indicating the gentleman was investing \$1,000 in the company. The company's secretary is listed as Frederick E. Parks, then of Deer Park, and the president as Michael Binzen, then of Gary, Indiana.

— Text Continued from page 2446 —

feet of underground concrete pipe east by the Deer Park Concrete Construction Company (see note #1, facing page). They planned to increase this number yearly by replacing the recently installed galvanized iron pipe.

The Deer Park Concrete Construction Company also cast a "Birn Air-Spaced Block" for building construction (see note #1, facing page). These blocks were used to build homes and business buildings in the Deer Park area.

In 1912, O. F. Kelly awarded the company a contract to build a one-story addition north of the two-story Kelly block on Main Avenue (see note #2, facing page). It was to be occupied by the post office and Charles Luft's meat market.

In 1914 at a shareholder meeting the Deer Park Concrete Construction Company sold all its assets and liabilities to the Deer Park Artificial Stone Company (see note #3, facing page). At this time F. E. Parks was secretary and treasurer of the new company. A

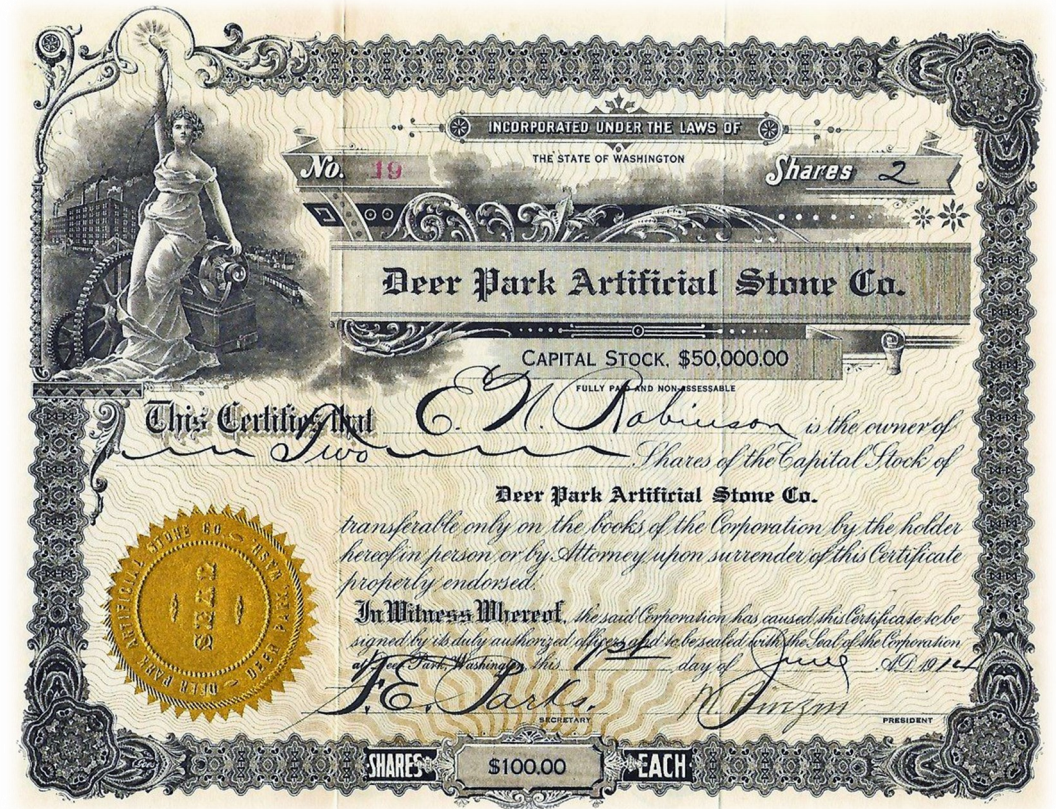


Image # Eleven.

This certificate states that two shares of Deer Park Artificial Stone Company stock were issued to Edward Nelson Robinson on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1914 — indicating the gentleman was investing \$200 in the company. The company's secretary is listed as Frederick E. Parks, then of Deer Park, and the president as Michael Binzen, then of Gary, Indiana.

new drain tile casting machine had been installed that completed a new tile every 20 seconds. According to a newspaper report, concrete products were being "shipped out in carloads" to towns north of Deer Park. O. M.

Kimmel awarded this new company a contract to build a \$3,500 garage at Main Avenue and A Street (see note #4, below). This building still stands and is occupied by Sculley's Automotive Repair.

NOTES:

- Note #1. Deer Park Union, November 5, 1915, "1915 Apple Crop Gathering and Packing."
- Note #2. Deer Park Union, April 12, 1912, "New Concrete Block Business Block."
- Note #3. Deer Park Union, May 15, 1914, "Capital Stock Increased to \$50,000."
- Note #4. Deer Park Union, November 3, 1916, "New \$3,500 Garage."

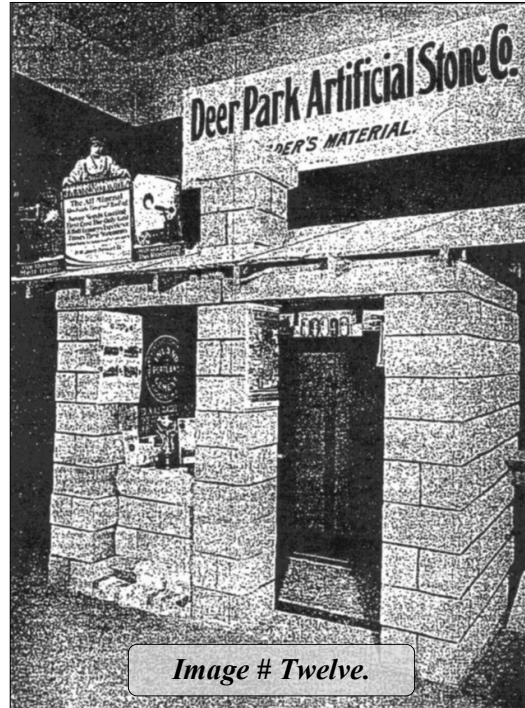


The financial operations of this company are not fully known. The company was a stock ownership company — according to the Deer Park Concrete Construction Company stock certificates recently given to the Society. The company was originally capitalized at \$25,000 with shares valued at \$100.

These share certificates list 1912 and 1913 owners as M. Binzen, Henry Schoeltes, F. F. Parks, Olaf L. Olsen and Ludwig Birn. According to the Arcadia Orchards Company, all of the owners were also orchard tract owners. Interestingly, only one of the owners, local businessman Olaf Olsen, was a Washington native. German-born Michael Binzen had been a bartender in Gary, Indiana. German-born Henry Schoeltes had been a saloon owner in Joliet, Illinois. Fredrick Parks had been a bond and real estate salesman in Joliet. And Denmark native Ludwig Birn was from Cook County, Illinois — his occupation, unlisted (*see note #5 below*). These individuals seemed to be previously associated with Fredrick Parks in the Chicago area of Illinois, and not Deer Park area residents at the time.

The stock certificates given to the Historical Society all seem to indicate they had been turned in to the company. It's not clear how the increased capitalization in 1914 and the sale to the Deer Park Artificial Stone Company was connected to the original owners.

According to Washington State's records of incorporation, the Deer Park Con-



*Image # Twelve.*

*Image # Twelve.*  
*The clipping from the October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1913, edition of the Deer Park Union, shows the Artificial Stone Company's Deer Park Fair exhibit of a cottage built of company produced concrete block and outside sourced asbestos roofing.*

**NOTE:**

*Note #5. Residence & Occupation Data from U. S. Census Listings.*

**Further Reading: F. A. Reed & E. N. Robinson.**

“Frank Addison Reed, Lumberman, Banker, Philanthropist,” by Peter Coffin.  
Mortarboard #71, March, 2014 — page 861 — Collected Newsletters, Vol. 18.  
[http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/issue\\_71\\_singlepage.pdf](http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/issue_71_singlepage.pdf)

“Edward Nelson Robinson, President Arcadia Orchards Company,” by Peter Coffin.  
Mortarboard #90, October, 2015 — page 1149 — Collected Newsletters, Vol. 24.  
[http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard\\_issue\\_90\\_doublepage\\_web.pdf](http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard_issue_90_doublepage_web.pdf)

*Photo by Peter Coffin.*



*Image # Thirteen.*

*The Deer Park Concrete Construction Company was formerly located on the east side of South Main Avenue's 600 block. Today the site is behind the parking lot of the Calvary Chapel Church, as seen here.*

crete Construction Company ceased to exist when it failed to pay the annual fee — that sometime between October 18, 1918 and September 30, 1920. This company's existence was closely associated with the Arcadia Orchards Company. As that company began to fail in 1919, the contracts for concrete irrigation pipe stopped. In addition to this, the recession following the end of World War I must have accelerated the company's failure.

In time the area occupied by the concrete plant was taken over by the Deer Park Fairgrounds. When I was a boy in the late

1940s the plant area was occupied by a live-stock barn. Now the site of a new construction, that area is behind the present day Calvary Chapel Church's parking lot.

Frederick Parks, the dynamic Arcadia Orchards salesman, and part owner of the concrete company, went on to become a New York real estate executive in 1930. By 1936 he had become President of the South Atlantic Reduction Company of Orlando, Florida. He died in Orlando on September 8, 1940.

— end —

## *Help Wanted!*

*The society has a number of positions, both real and wishful, that we would love to have filled by creative ladies and gentlemen — said positions being that of Vice-President, Secretary, Society Publicist, Director of Fundraising, Curator, Archivist, Facebook page creator/manager, and Subscriptions Coordinator. We're not sure what kind of subscriptions the latter would coordinate, but as history demonstrates, confusion is often the mother of invention. If you'd be interested in any of these unpaid and mentally taxing positions — though one must admit the work you'd be doing is likely critical to the preservation of this region's history — please contact the society.*



## Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

### Bits of Chatter, Trivia, & Notices All Strung Together.

... Emily White's school assignment ...

This note is found in the minutes of last December's meeting of the Historical Society, "Winnie Moore read a genealogy report written and typed by her third-grade great-granddaughter as a school assignment." Winnie's great-granddaughter, eight-year-old Emily White, is a student at West Ridge Elementary School, Post Falls, Idaho. After requesting that Emily's assignment be printed in a future *Mortarboard*, Winnie went on to suggest Deer Park's schools might give assignments of this type to their students in order to stimulate an interest in our local history, then forward the best of those assignments to the society for possible publication.

The society has obtained parental consent from Emily's mother, Holly White, to reprint Emily's work, along with the images seen here.

Under the title "*The Steadman Family*," Emily wrote, "My mom's grandma's family is the Steadman side. Great-grandpa George James grew up in Scotland caring for the king's horses. They gave him the last name of Steedsman. Then they emigrated to Calgary and Edmonton, Canada, and their name changed to Steadman. In Canada they became farmers. Later they moved to Great Falls, Montana, where they were also farmers. They moved into town and owned the Grady Hotel. After the hotel burnt down while my great-great-grandma Huldah was cooking dinner, they loaded their belongings and cattle and moved to Deer Park, Washington, and were farmers again.

"My great-grandma was born in Great Falls, Montana, in 1932. She moved to Deer Park, Washington, in 1936 with her mom



**George James Steadman at 9 months.**

**Born in Lyons, Nebraska,  
December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1887.**

**Died February 19, 1955.**

**At the time of his passing, Mr. Steadman  
was a resident of the community of  
Opportunity, in the Spokane Valley.  
His passing, the result of an automobile  
accident in Pend Oreille County.**

*The line from  
George Steadman to Emily White:*

**George James Steadman  
Esther (Steadman-Monroe) Ross  
Winnie Lee (Monroe) Moore  
Janice (Moore) Hansen  
Holly (Hansen) White  
Emily White**



**Emily White.**

**Emily preparing for show and tell at her  
school in Post Falls, Idaho..**

and sister. She went to live with her Uncle Garfield and his family because her mom worked for and lived with the doctor and his wife and only her sister could go. My great-grandma loved to feed the rabbits when she was little. She was afraid to ride the school bus and would try to walk to school a mile away when she was six years old. When she moved into a house with her mom and sister there were pack rats that carried away her curlers and doll clothes. My great-grandma graduated from Deer Park High School where she met my great-grandpa George Moore.

"Some fun family memories are —

"Uncle Garfield planted a Christmas tree farm on his land.

"Uncle Ray made an airstrip on his land and the propeller fell off the first flight, but he continued to fly and use the airstrip for many years.

"My great-grandma's grandma grew strawberries at her house in the Spokane Valley and sold them to the locals. She later returned to Deer Park after her husband died."

Genealogy at its best is much more than just kinships graphed across a paper surface. At its best, it includes sets of stories that flesh out the names on those charts — giving them substance, giving them life. It's the stories that make those names something more than just stones standing silently in a cemetery. From what we're seeing here, Emily has made a good start at giving her family that something more.

... the Owen & Beyersdorf store — 1910 ...

In late November, Sue Mauro, a member of the pioneer Owen family, forwarded the society another image held in the Owen Museum's collection. In her cover email Sue wrote, "I've tried to photograph it for you without a glare from the glass" — that referring to the fact that the image was still inside its vintage oval frame. Regarding the frame's glazing, Sue noted, "The glass was roughly hand-cut at multiple angles to fit inside," from which she concluded that the photo would most likely "stay in the frame the rest of its life."

The photo had also been trimmed to fit in the frame — or at least the top had. The bottom portion of the image was covered by a





Owen and Beyersdorf Store Wild Rose 1910  
Standing: Fred Beyersdorf, Mr & Mrs Ferdinand Beyersdorf & Guy  
Sitting: Wallace Henry, Unknown, Pat Corbett, Ed Milley,  
Don Beyersdorf, Luther Sheldon, Clarence Maxwell  
and Cress Beyersdorf.

*The above image is from the Owen Museum's Robert T. Owen/Lawrence Owen collection and was submitted for publication by Susan Mauro.*

once white sheet of paper on which a descriptive caption had been typewritten. This paper secured by transparent tape; its transparency having clouded to a dingy yellow some decades ago. Under the heading "*Owen and Beyersdorf Store Wild Rose 1910*," the caption identified all except one of the souls seen in the photo.

Other than members of the Beyersdorf family, possible traces of only three of the remaining names have been found — at least so far. Those are as follows.

We found a marriage certificate for 21-year-old Wallace Henry, indicating he wed 18-year-old Erie Weger on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January, 1912. Both listed their hometown as Deer Park. And then this from the *Spokesman-Review's* September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1912 issue. "*Wallace Henry of Deer Park, Wash., purchased 80*

*acres at a price of \$800 described as the west half on the northwest quarter of section 17, township 27, range 42 ... adjoining Wild Rose Prairie.*" Nothing else regarding Mr. Henry has been located so far.

We have found a few pieces of data related to Clarence Maxwell. We have an image of a marriage certificate dated March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1905, which indicates that he and one Dora Weger were wed at Northport, in Stevens County. Next is just a single line from the *Spokesman-Review's* February 9<sup>th</sup>, 1915 edition. Under the dateline "*Wild Rose, Wash.*," the article states, "*T. D. Weger is visiting his daughter, Mrs. Clarence Maxwell.*" At this point there's reason to wonder if Henry Wallace's wife, Erie Weger and Clarence Maxwell's wife, Dora, are related. All we can suggest is that on Erie's certificate her father was

listed as Thomas Weger of Oregon, and the Review states Dora's father's first initial was "T."

But the last trace so far located of Clarence and family is a sad one. According to a death certificate dated March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1918, the infant Viva May Maxwell passed after 20 hours. The document gives the child's father as C. E. Maxwell, and her mother as Dora Weger Maxwell. The death was noted by Wild Rose Prairie's correspondent in the *Deer Park Union's* March 8<sup>th</sup> edition. That article added, "*internment in Wild Rose Cemetery.*" The other Maxwell's listed as buried at Wild Rose are an adult couple — Hilda and John. What their relationship to Viva might be is unknown.

Being based on the possibility of a misspelling, data regarding the name Luther Sheldon is very uncertain. The first of the few scraps of documentation I located was from the July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1913 edition of the *Spokane Chronicle*. "*Mrs. Anna Sheldon, aged 19 years, a bride of a year, died Tuesday night at Sacred Heart Hospital of basilar meningitis, from which she had suffered since May 17, when she was brought to Spokane from Blanchard, Idaho, her home. At her bedside were her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Graham, and her husband, Luther Sheldon.*" Anna is interred at Spokane's Fairmount Memorial Park.

If we go back a year, we find a marriage certificate dated June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1912, that indicates that one Luther Shelton ("ton" rather than "don"), a 24-year-old millwright from Scotia, Washington, wed 18-year-old Anna Graham of Blanchard, Idaho. The ceremony took place in Spokane.

And lastly there's a death certificate. A gentleman by the name of Luther W. Shelton passed away on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1965, in Lewis County, Washington. His usual occupation was listed as millwright. The certificate listed his marital status as widowed.

Was this our Luther Shelton? There are some minor inconsistencies in the documents — minor, but enough to suggest that we

can't be certain the above death certificate belongs to our Luther Shelton. But what we can say is that it's highly likely that the name Sheldon, as spelled beneath the photo on the facing page, is a misprint.

The photo's caption "*Owen and Beyersdorf Store, Wild Rose, 1910*," left us with a new set of questions, the first being, where on Wild Rose Prairie did Beyersdorf's sawmill once stand. Regarding that, society historian Pete Coffin supplied a possible answer in the form of a map reportedly published as a supplement to Deer Park's *Tri-County Tribune*. This supplement, carrying the date July, 1976, was titled "*Prairie Roots*," and was the results of a year-long project by the students and staff of Saint George's School to capture images and stories detailing Wild Rose Prairie's history.

Saint George's is a private kindergarten through high school institution located along the Little Spokane River just prior to the river's entry into the designated Little Spokane River Natural Area northwest of Spokane.

The map in question indicates Beyersdorf's sawmill was located on the southern extreme of Wild Rose Prairie, on the quarter section just west of Spotted Road and south of Ridgeway Road — the determination of said location apparently drawn from student interviews with the community's remaining elders. According to a homesteader's map compiled by our historian, Pete Coffin, that quarter section was patented by one Ephraim Palmer on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1889. The intersection of the two mentioned roads is one mile west of Wild Rose's historic cemetery.

Regarding an identification of Mr. Palmer, we do have one possible candidate, that being a gentleman who passed away on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March, 1898, at the age of 88. This Mr. Palmer is interred at the Orchard Prairie Cemetery, southeast of Mead. It appears that Ephraim arrived in the Washington Territory on or about 1884. As far as we can tell, only two of Ephraim's seven surviving children settled here. His son, Oren, passed away in



1905. A daughter, Felecia Ann (Palmer) Uhlig, died in 1929. Both of these are interred at Orchard Prairie as well. All this makes it very probable that Ephraim's homestead had been transferred into hands outside the family as of 1910, which leaves it open as to whether Beyersdorf's mill owned the property at that time or had merely contracted for the timber and use of the site.

The caption taped beneath the Owen Museum's photo identifies the "store" shown with both the Owen and Beyersdorf families. We're feeling reasonably confident that this store was part of Wild Rose's Beyersdorf sawmill complex, circa 1910 — as evidenced by the fact that the same photo appeared in the September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1957 edition of the *Spokesman-Review's* *Inland Empire Magazine* as part of an article titled "Grahams and Beyersdorfs Logged and Milled the Deep-Wooded Scotia Area." This two-page spread of text and photos was written by "Doris Beyersdorf Schaub, Granddaughter of Pioneer Spokane Lumbermen." In that article, the photo in question was captioned, "Commissary for lumber workers, Wild Rose." We'll consider that an independent confirmation of the store's location.

As for mentioning the Owen and Beyersdorf families both in the typewritten caption on page 2458, that's a bit confusing. We know that as of 1910 there was one or more stores at Denison — that young hamlet being just over five miles to the northeast of Beyersdorf's Wild Rose mill. And that the Owen family was then or soon would be associated with one of those stores. To be certain which, the timeline regarding the Owen store in Denison needs a little more discovery.

Then too, there's a statement in St. George's "Prairie Roots" indicating that the Wild Rose mill was twice lost to fire, the last time during an outbreak of forest fires begin-

ning on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 1910. And 1910 did see a major outbreak of forest fires — reportedly the worst on record for Washington State at that time. Wild Rose, Clayton, Deer Park, and areas north were certainly involved. Those outbreaks began in late July and continued sporadically through August. As to whether the Wild Rose sawmill was one of the victims, and that if it was, its destruction occurred in the latter part of August — there appears to be some reason for reservations.

An article from the August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1910 issue of the *Spokesman-Review* states, "Fire south of Wild Rose Prairie three days ago spread to the Jackson ranch yesterday afternoon and the general alarm was sounded over the 50 telephones of the Wild Rose Telephone Company. Today it reached the ranch of A. J. Johnson, and a general alarm was again turned in to save his grain fields and barn."

That said, Doris Schaub's above referenced *Inland Empire Magazine* article gives a difficult to interpret accounting of the region's August fires as it relates to Wild Rose.

That summer's devastating fires blossomed in the Diamond and Sacheen Lake areas during the 4<sup>th</sup> week of August, that according to reports recorded in the *Newport Miner*. As far as documentation is concerned, it appears the primary threat to the Wild Rose mill was that noted in the above quoted edition of the *Spokesman-Review*. A check of the locations of the ranches mentioned in the *Review's* August 2<sup>nd</sup> articles places them several miles south of the Beyersdorf mill.

When Doris reported that "The Beyersdorf mill on Wild Rose had crews fighting the fire day and night," she seems to be implying that such occurred much later in August. But we've yet to find any documentation that the Wild Rose mill was threatened a second time in August. Elsewhere in her article she

states, "From 1907 to 1911 the mill on Wild Rose was a going concern." And finally, these quotes, "The 'Big One' of 1910 was the main reason for the Beyersdorf's move from Wild Rose to Diamond Lake." She then states the reason for the move to Diamond Lake was "to save more timber from the stricken area." In other words, to harvest the standing timber killed by the flames.

The fact is, in her 1957 article, Doris Schaub never actually stated that the Wild Rose sawmill had been lost to 1910's fire. And a careful reading makes it difficult to argue she did.

So much of history remains a mystery. Often the best we can do is chip away little bits of it whenever the opportunity arises — while keeping in mind that new data may require a (potentially argumentative) reevaluation of what we once believed. And that's something we should always be open to.

### ... the Union drops the 'D' bomb ...

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1922, the clipped ad pasted to the right appeared in Deer Park's newspaper. An explanation for printing what at least some professed to consider a profanity followed the very next week. I say explanation since I'm not sure the word apology is the correct descriptive. Though the response was printed sans a byline, we can reasonably assume that it was the then editor of the *Union*, Walter W. Gillies, who penned the frontpage review of the incident, assumedly in hopes of placating anyone regrettably shocked by such workingman's language. Or maybe not.

Under the boldface lead "Dam" and "Damn," Mr. Gillies wrote, "Without in the least intending to be profane, some details must be used in explaining the injustice done one of our advertisers last week. The Deer Park Hardware Company prepared an advertisement for this paper headed, 'A Tinker's Dam,' referring to the gigantic flow of the Columbia River. The printer, supposing, of course, that he knows more than did the writer of the ad, which is a failing with practically all

# A Tinker's Damn

Would not stop the flow of the Columbia River, but our prices should stop the flow of business to our competitors

Latest Model Monarch Range, 18-inch oven .....	\$120.00
Latest Model Steel Howard Range, 18-inch oven .....	65.00
Two-Burner Perfection Oil Stove .....	18.00
Three-Burner Perfection Oil Stove .....	23.00
1 1/2 H. F. Fairbanks Engine, Bosch Magneto .....	75.45
Fuller & Johnson air-cooled Pump Engine, with Jack .....	98.00
White Oak Singletrees, straight grain .....	1.00
White Oak Evener, with singletrees .....	4.00
A-4 Second-hand Washing Machine .....	12.00
\$65.00 Yale Garland Heater, now .....	35.00

USE OUR CARTRIDGES FOR SQUIRRELS—ALL SIZES  
FISHING TACKLE—THE BEST, AND AT THE RIGHT PRICES

## DEER PARK HARDWARE

### A Typographical Misjudgment.

The above ad was clipped from the April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1922 edition of the *Deer Park Union*.

printers, added an 'n' on the 'dam' and put the hardware company in the profane class.

"The writer of the ad, knowing well what he was talking about, was referring to a dam used by tanners, made up of flour and water, to prevent the solder from running when soldering a seam. The printer, never having heard of such a thing and taking it for granted, therefore, that no such existed, obligingly added the letter which turned the advertisement into a profanation.

### Further Reading: The Fire of 1910.

Letters/Brickbats: "... looking toward another smoky August ...," by Wally Lee Parker. Mortarboard #159, July, 2021 — page 2334 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 47.  
[http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter\\_159\\_web\\_.pdf](http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_159_web_.pdf)



*"The Union is sorry it happened and can only deliver a solemn promised not to 'tinker' with any of Mr. McCutchan's phraseology again. If we do, we can only hope we are eternally dammed — or something."*

... whatever happened to Walter B. Clark ...

Datelined "Deer Park, Wash., Dec. 28," this appeared in the January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1909 issue of the *Spokesman-Review*. "Walter, 4-year-old son of S. S. Clark, 13 miles west of here on the Spokane River, fell today with a tin trumpet in his mouth, the mouthpiece of which passed through the soft palate into the muscles of the throat. He was brought here for surgical care, and it is thought that he will recover."

In the 1910 census for Stevens County, Riverside Precinct, we found Simon Clark, a farmer, and his wife Esther. There were two adult children listed, those by Simon's first wife, deceased, and four more, ranging in age from 7 to 2, belonging to both Simon and Es-

ther. Walter was the second oldest of these.

By tracing family links, we can confirm that Walter lived through his ordeal. Furthermore, there was this from the October 18<sup>th</sup>, 1923 *Spokesman-Review*.

*"'Cupid' Herb Bartlett, who has been presiding at the (Spokane) marriage license window all year, issued a marriage license yesterday for a brother and sister to wed a brother and sister. All are of Fairfield, Wash."*

*"The first to appear on the scene were Julius Ottosen, age 24, and Ethel Clark, age 17 years."*

*"Walter B. Clark, age 19, of Fairfield and Rosie Lillian Ottosen, age 16, of Fairfield then edged up to the marriage license window and obtained a license. They admitted they were brothers and sisters of the couple before them."*

Rosie passed in 1972. Walter in 1979. Both are resting side by side at Spokane County's Mount Hope Cemetery.

———— Wally Lee Parker ————

## Minutes of the Clayton ♦ Deer Park Historical Society ———— December 11, 2021 ————

In attendance at the Society's Deer Park meeting hall, 300 Block 'A' Street: Marilyn Reilly, Bill Sebright, Tom Costigan, Wally Parker, Dick Purdy, Larry Bowen, Judy Coffin, Pete Coffin, Scott Moore, Mary Jo Reiter, Tracy Strong, Warren Strong, Mike Reiter, Roberta Reiter, Rick Brodrick, Andrea Evans-Davis, Mike Wolfe, and Winnie Moore.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. He reported that: 1) I received a call from Scott Sempri-moznik (Mike Burdega's grandson). He had read about Fisch Island in a *Mortarboard*. He is a firefighter and works with a Jerry Sander.

He says that Jerry's great grandfather built the rock house on the island. Scott said that Jerry's dad, Bill, would have information about the island and house. Jerry's grandmother's married name was Fisch. 2) Rick Ziehnert emailed a picture of his dad, Fritz Ziehnert on the north side of the Hut Tavern Restaurant in 1951-52. The old Seventh Day Adventist Church is in the background. 3) A big thank you goes out to Sue Mauro of the Pend Oreille Historical Society. She has been sending pictures from the Owens Museum collection. Sue is a granddaughter of Robert Owens and great niece of Clarence Owen. Pete Coffin is plan-

ning on getting together with Sue to scan the originals early next year.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported by text: 1) The main checking account ended the month at \$16,383.88. There were deposits of \$36.35. One check was written to Wally Parker for \$120.00 for supplies. The web hosting account ended the month at \$671.11. There was the usual withdrawal of \$12.92 for web hosting. The Brickyard Day account is at \$1,130.10. The Eagle fund account, \$7,450.20. Mark took *Mortarboards* to Gardenspot Health Foods and Odynski's Accounting. He has begun to deliver *Mortarboards* to several of the coffee houses in Deer Park.

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

Print editor Wally Parker reported: 1) 120 copies of the December *Mortarboard* (#164) have been printed for distribution. (At the request of Verna Jean (Yingst) Wagner, another 15 copies have been printed for members of the Lyons family as featured in December's lead article.) Printable PDF files of this issue have been forwarded to the Loon Lake Library and the Heritage Network. And the online version has been sent for uploading to the website. 2) This issue begins with the story of the Lyons family's 1915 journey by horse-drawn wagon from Alberta, Canada, to the State of Washington. Descendants of said family are now well woven into our local his-

tory. Also in this issue is the first installment of "*As Pete Recalls: The Art of Being a Kid.*" This is an assortment of short essays by Society Historian Peter Coffin about growing up in the Deer Park area. More of these stories are on tap. 3) We're working hard on the first issue of next year's *Mortarboard*. As ever, we don't know where we're going, but we're leaving an extensive collection of local history stories in our wake.

Webmaster Damon Smathers reported by email: 1) The December issue of the *Mortarboard* has been uploaded to the website. 2) A new Wild Rose section is in the works as we have had a lot of new photos/stories submitted over the last few months.

Historian Pete Coffin reported: 1) Finished a possible *Mortarboard* article titled Electric Power for Everyone that relates the Rural Electrification Administration to the present-day Inland Power and Light Company. 2) Finished a story about Otho Peters, his Deer Park Ford dealership and his farm which now contains the Deer Park Mall. 3) Rummaging in the truckload of Deer Park historical files in my basement rescued from the second-floor apartments on Main Street, I discovered some O. G. Follevaag legal files describing divorces, land deals, bankruptcies, and other lawsuits in the 1917 to 1920 era. 4) After receiving pictures of the Wild Rose Prairie Beyersdorf sawmill from Sue Mauro of the Owens Museum I dug around in my files and found a 1976



### Your Recollections Wanted!

*Were you in downtown Deer Park,  
midmorning, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1973?*

*Call it a turkey chase, call it a turkey toss. The fact of the matter is that on this specific Saturday a collective of the town's merchants attempted to put on a free giveaway of live turkeys as the centerpiece of a citywide sales promotion. The turkeys would be turned loose, and whomever caught one could keep it. If you were there, we'd like to hear what you think happened next. Overpage is a list of Society contacts, or there is a place you can respond by keyboard on our website's homepage.*



Tribune Supplement “*Prairie Roots, Wild Rose Prairie*” researched and written by St. George’s students. On a map they located the following sawmill sites: Ames, Dunlap, Beyersdorf, Gemmill, Eickmeyer, and Gustaf. We have pictures and a *Mortarboard* (Issue 30, October 2010) that describes the Gemmill mill. I have been ignorant about the large number of sawmills in the Wild Rose Prairie area. Do any society members have pictures of any of these sawmills?

Mike Reiter reported that: 1) He hasn’t heard from Sven Horlacher about the cost of the concrete pad for the Eagle. 2) He also hasn’t heard from Doug Knight.

Mike Wolfe gave an account of an event for Thanksgiving 1973 that he participated in involving tossing live turkeys off the

back of a truck going down the main street of Deer Park. The Retail Trade Association sponsored the function. On the truck were Neal Gabor, Dean Strong, Howard Whorle, Earl Wolfe, and Mike Wolfe. It turned into an ugly event when people fought over the turkeys. One turkey was even pulled apart!

Marilyn Reilly brought a sack from DePaola’s store and a Fish Chevrolet poster from 1970.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 8, 2022, at 10:00 AM at our building.

Next month dues are due, \$20 per household.

Meeting adjourned at 10:59.

— end —

### Society Contacts

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Website — <http://www.cdphs.org>

### Comments Policy

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

### Editorial, Copyright, and Reprint Concerns

Those contributing “original” materials to the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society normally retain copyright to said materials while granting the Mortarboard and the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society durable permission to use said materials in our electronic and print media — including permission to reprint said materials in future Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society publications. Under certain conditions proof of ownership of submitted materials and/or a signed release may be requested. No compensation for materials submitted is offered or implied. All materials submitted are subject to editorial revision. Any material published as an exception to these general understandings will be clearly marked. When requests to reprint materials are received, such will be granted in almost all instances in which the society has the right to extend such permission. In instances where we don’t have that right, we will attempt to place the requester in contact with the owner of the work in question. But 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.

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

From “The Coast” magazine,  
April, 1907



### 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.

— the editor —

### About our Group:

The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society was incorporated as a nonprofit association in the winter of 2002 under the title Clayton Historical Society. Our mission statement is found on the first page (upper left corner) of each issue of our newsletter, the Mortarboard.

Our yearly dues are \$20 dollars per family/household.

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