

Free — Take One

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 SHORT BOARDING HOUSE A DEER PARK LANDMARK

By: Judy (Haden) Sherry

I have many wonderful memories of growing up in the historic house known as the Short Boarding House. The house was built in 1889 east of the Spokane Falls and Northern Railroad's tracks in the block between 3rd and 4th streets by William Hopkins Short.

William Hopkins Short was in many ways one of the founders of the town of Deer Park, Washington. Coming to Washington from New York in the late 1880s, William and his brother-in-law, George Crawford, had been operating a portable sawmill for sometime before the summer of 1891. For the first few months of sawmill operations, it was run only as the supply of logs on the site lasted. At this time, the family men of the six to eight regular mill employees lived on their nearby homesteads and took their lunch at the first Short Boarding House. The other regular mill employees who did not have nearby lands and families lived in the Boarding House. The Boarding House built prior to 1889 is shown in Figure 1.

Mrs. Sara R. ("Bama") Short, William Hopkins Short's mother ran the boarding house charging the borders \$3.50 per week for meals (Short, 1971, p. 5).



Figure 1: The first Short Boarding House in the background. Many employees of the mill and the Short family are pictured. (Photograph from the Lawrence Zimmerer Collection)

William Hodges Short's (William Hopkins Short's son) manuscript describing the founding of the Deer Park Open Door Congregational Church contains the following
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paragraph describing the new Boarding House that was built in 1889 (Short, 1971, p. 16-19).

"The new Boarding House was noteworthy for several reasons. It was a large three story building that provided office rooms for the company, living quarters for my father and Bama, and several bedrooms for employees. It also contained a large kitchen, dining room, sitting room with a beautiful fireplace, and a library! Whoever heard of a library in a sawmill camp! The entire south wall of the library contained glassed-in bookcases that were built over enclosed game and magazine cupboards. Checkers, chess and crongooule (sic) were popular; card playing was prohibited. Running cold water was provided to the kitchen and a first floor 'wash room' from a 300 gallon galvanized tank placed over the store room. The tank was filled from well water by means of a force pump just outside the kitchen door. There were kerosene lamps in all rooms. A furnace that burned four foot wood, a fireplace and two stoves provided hot air heat. Detached were an ice house and a woodshed that was portioned to provide toilets. No lumber camp had such an elaborate facility as the new Boarding House. Probably more than any other of the new buildings, it gave a sophistication to the community. There were write-ups in the Spokesman Review, the lumber trade journal and the Congregational Church publication. The Boarding House, as it

was known for many years, was the show place of northern Spokane County. It provided what was later known as 'fringe benefits' to employees and townspeople alike."

The maintenance of the Boarding house was the responsibility of "Bama" Short and in addition she set the "...tone and behavior..." for those staying in it (Short, 1971, p. 19). In about 1904 the rooming and boarding of employees was phased out (Short, 1971, p. 35). Even though there was a hotel in Deer Park in 1904, the Boarding House served as a company guest house and as a rooming house for "...two or three of the old timers..." who wished to stay at the Boarding House for a few weeks. Two of the west end rooms were used for offices of the Standard Lumber Company, but the rest of the house became the Short family residence.



Figure 2: The Short Boarding house from the northwest. No date is given on the picture nor are any of the people identified but the women's clothing suggests it may have been taken near 1900. The tennis court net is seen in the far right portion of the photograph. This shows that the second story front porch had not been added. (Photograph courtesy of the Deer Park Congregational Church collection)

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William Hopkins Short describes the area around the Boarding House as follows (Short, 1971, p. 35-36).

"The grounds surrounding the Boarding House were equally spacious. About three acres of land around the house was fenced, all of which was lawn except for the northeast quarter of the plot and the tennis court in the northwest portion. The northeast section contained an ice house, woodshed and chicken house, as well as chicken yard and garden. Three foot wide wooden sidewalks were built from the back steps to the woodshed. Near the walk were currant and gooseberry bushes that provided fruit for jelly and pies. A huge bush with yellow blossoms attracted the humming birds to the back yard. On the south side of the woodshed were (sic) huge rhubarb plants. Hop vines covered the east and a portion of the south side of the front porch that provided shade for the porch swing. Around the perimeter of the yard were planted several dozen hardwood trees--elms, oaks, maples and ash--that my father had shipped in from New York state--species that he had in their yard in Governorneur when a boy. (Even though given tender loving (sic) care, many of these trees did not survive the Inland Empire climate.)"

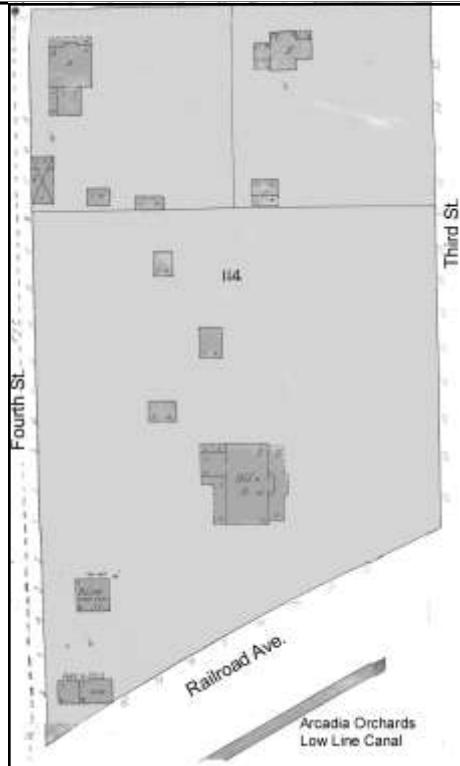


Figure 3: This photo shows the same north facing back of the house as it appeared in the 1950s and 1960s. The rails on the porch had been removed. (*Haden photograph*)

Figure 4: The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the block of Deer Park that contained the Boarding House. It is the large building in the lower center of the block marked "Off".
(Culkin, 1940, p. 2)

The Boarding House was sold in the 1930s by Cora (Chadbourne) Short, William Hopkins Short's widow. It was then divided into apartments, four on the second floor and one plus the family living quarters on the first floor. The two rooms on the main floor that had been the Standard Lumber Mill Company's office became an apartment where my first grade teacher, Mrs. Gene-

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vieve Hessel lived with her parents. She was the last renter to live in the house.

My parents bought the house and property in 1945 for \$1,200. It appeared as it was at that time in Figure 6. The large lot allowed us to have a small farm with cows, rabbits and chickens until the late 1950s. We also planted huge gardens from which we sold strawberries.

It was a wonderful house for children with all the porches, rooms, attic and out buildings. There were four porches, including a full back porch and a side porch that was enclosed for food storage, as was common when

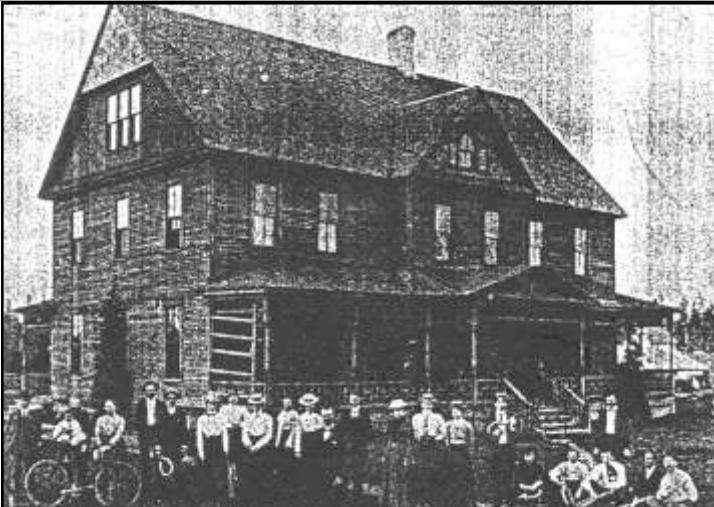


Figure 5: A picture of the front of the house in the early 1900s. Note that there is not second story porch. (Digitized from the Short manuscript, 1971, p. 18)



Figure 6: The Boarding House sometime in the 1945. This is the front of the house. (Photograph from the Lawrence Zimmerer Collection)

the house was built. The front porch was two stories high and ran across the full length of the house. I was surprised recently to see a picture of the house in the early 1900s and see that the second floor front porch was not there when the house was originally built but was added later. I don't know when it was added. My father had removed the second story porch by the 1950s for safety reasons. I do remember jumping off the upstairs porch to impress my sister's older friends and hurting my back. He also removed the beautiful, but rotting, porch post and railings.

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Figure 7: Barbara and Judy at the back of the family car shown in Figure 6 in 1945. (Haden Photograph)

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My father especially loved the old house because he never ran out of rooms to remodel or space for his many ideas. One year he decided that it would be a good idea to raise rabbits in the attic. He covered the floor with tarpaper and furnished it with crates and cages. We soon had many cages full of adult rabbits and the attic became overrun with dozens of baby bunnies that could

squeeze through the bars of the cages. After a year of hauling feed and water up two flights of stairs, and the "pellets" back down, he abandoned that venture. Mom learned to cook a wide variety of rabbit dishes.

On October 19, 1964, the old Boarding House burned. The fire started when an electric space heater in a bedroom caught a curtain on fire. My sister Barbara and her husband and three children were living on the main floor, and my grandparents, Ralph and Ada Speer were living on the second floor. Both families lost nearly everything, however, some furniture and personal items were recovered from the far west end that had originally been the mill offices. The *Spokesman Review* reported that the fire was very difficult to put out because the walls had been packed with sawdust as insulation from the heat of the summer and cold of the winter. The original cast iron wood burning furnace was moved to our garage where it remained in use until 2009. It was moved to a friend's workshop when the garage was torn down. Many of the doors were salvaged and I still have some if anyone would like to have them to restore. The remains of the charred house were bulldozed into the basement and covered with dirt. The old Boarding House now rests in peace under the dirt in my back yard.

Had the Boarding House survived until the 1990s, it surely would have been listed as a building of "...historic and architectural significance..." along with the Olson Hotel (built in 1908), the Kelly Building (built in 1902), the Old Arcadia Warehouse (built in 1917), the Kelly House (built in 1899), and the Leuthold House (built in 1914) (Garrett, et al, 1991?, p. 5).

REFERENCES

- Culkin, G. L. (?), 1940, Fire insurance map of Deer Park, Washington: San Francisco, California, Sanborn Map Company, 5 p.
Garrett, K., Ellis, D., and Gregg, S., 1991 (?), Historic Resources Inventory, Deer Park, Washington: Spokane, WA., Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, 6 p.
Short, W. H., 1971, From whence we came: Manuscript from the Deer Park Congregational Church, 66 p.



Figure 8: The Boarding House after the 1964 fire. (Haden photograph)

Eagle History and Dedications

The terra cotta Eagle was designed by Victor G. Schneider and sculptured, molded, fired and assembled in Clayton's terra cotta factory. Oliver J. Olson assisted Schneider in modeling the eagle and other terra cotta items, used in buildings in Spokane and all over the Northwest.

The eagle was installed on the State Armory in downtown Spokane, then moved to Geiger Field in

1983. The following dedications give us an insight into our Eagle's history.

Eagle Dedication September 11, 1984

Our Eagle. It is a proud symbol of the 161st Infantry. It is a tribute to the men and women who have served with us over the years. Just as importantly, it is an heroic reminder of the spirit



Victor G. Schneider and model of giant terra cotta eagle thought to be taken inside the Washington Brick and Lime Terra Cotta Factory in Clayton, Washington



WB&L Terra Cotta Factory, Clayton

that those men and women embody.

Let's not lose sight of that fact--that it is the men and women that the bird represents who are the celebrities and the heroes, not the eagle itself. But like any truly great symbol, the eagle does have its own unique story. The Armory in downtown Spokane was built in 1912, and in its day was considered a magnificent building. But as the building neared completion, leaders felt that such a building needed a fitting crown.

It took three years for Schneider to sculpt Spokane's own sentinel. He used over three tons of clay in the process. The clay, some of the finest in the entire Northwest, came from our very own Clayton, Washington. The Eagle was so huge that it had to be made in 29 separate pieces. Each piece was, individually molded, coated with terra cotta glaze, and then baked in a kiln until it became cherry red under the intense heat. Then the separate pieces were joined together with mortar

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This vintage CARD COW postcard taken circa 1922 shows the remodeled armory with the eagle perched in its position, top and center.



Getting tethers in place —First time attempt was made to take eagle down, Fall, 1982 Photo Courtesy of Art Ohler

to become a huge single piece. Measuring over 9 feet tall, the Eagle then stood atop the Armory, standing watch over Eastern Washington through two world wars, through the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts, through years of peace and through years of trouble.

The nest for our giant Eagle has changed locations now. We sold the Armory to the City of Spokane, and in April of 1983, we moved the Eagle from the Armory out here to Geiger. And that brings us to today, to this very dedication.

But I cannot help but reflect that the history of the Eagle is similar to the 161st itself. Just as the Eagle was composed of separate pieces, then

molded together, the 161st is made up of countless men and women - individuals that have been joined together to make the 161st. Just as the pieces were joined together with mortar, we too are bound together with our own special brand of mortar -- a sense of duty and commitment to our nation. Just as the Eagle has stood as a sentinel for Eastern Washington, so too has the 161st been there whenever the people of Washington have needed us. A history of pride, of duty of service -- that is what the Eagle represents because of one simple fact - that is what the 161st means to each and every one of us.

Thank you.

Ret. Col. Bill Welch



**Eagle Dedication ceremony— September 1984
1982** Photo Courtesy of Art Ohler



Unveiling of the Plaque—CMS Wm. Mitchell
Photo Courtesy of Art Ohler

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Historic Eagle lands at Geiger Field
By: Sp4 Dennis Ashley

Neil Armstrong said it in 1968 - "The Eagle has landed." Fifteen years later the members of the 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry (M) might say the same thing.

This time around, however, the "Eagle" in question is not a spacecraft, but instead a nine-foot, three-ton sculpture that has been looking for a home. The bird had a home, of course.

For nearly three quarters of a century - from 1912 through 1982 - the Eagle perched proudly atop Spokane's National Guard Armory. But in 1975 the 1st Battalion moved out of the ar-

two perplexing questions to answer. How to move the bird with them, and what to do with the bird once they moved it.

mory and into newer facilities at nearby Geiger Field. While the relocation was certainly welcome, it left the battalion with two perplexing questions to answer: How to move the bird with them, and what to do with the bird once they moved it.

The answer to the first problem was fairly difficult. It took three attempts, two different construction companies, and a huge crane generously donated by Hite Construction Company to get the three-ton figure off the roof. It was so massive it had to be moved in 12 different sections, then reconstructed in a hangar at Geiger Field.

The answer to the second question - what to do with the bird - was somewhat easier to solve. They knew they wanted to use the eagle as a memorial to the members of the 1st Battalion. However, raising the money to build the monument was a bit more complex.

It took nearly a year's worth of hard work by CSM William L. Mitchell and Col. Frederick O. Bourtz, Jr., to raise the necessary \$4,000 through private contributions. But the hard work paid off, and on Sept. 11, 1984 the magnificent Eagle Memorial was dedicated.

However, the most important question remains: Why care so much about the eagle in the first place?

A small part of the answer lies in the history of the bird itself. It took three years for internationally known sculptor Victor Schneider to fashion the huge eagle. Using clay mined in the Inland Empire, it was then fired with a special terra cotta glaze.

But a much more important reason lies in what the eagle represents. For over 70 years the eagle has stood as a sentinel watching over the more than 350,000 citizens of the Inland Empire, symbolizing the 1st Battalion's protection through two world wars, through the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, and during the Mount St. Helen's eruption and the floods in Okanogan County.

And just as the clay was drawn from the Inland Empire to make this special statue, the fighting 1st Battalion was molded by the special people who help make up this region.

Proud. Majestic. Symbolic. Once again, the Eagle has landed - this time in the form of a fitting tribute to the 1st Battalion, 161st infantry (M)

**Dedication by CMS Wm. Mitchell
October 21, 1989**

"In 1978, 1st BN elements moved from the old Armory located at W. 202 Second Avenue to this present location (Geiger Field).

In August of 1982 Col Fred Bourtz, Commander of 1-161 Inf. received permission from the City of Spokane to retrieve the Eagle. As his Command Sergeant Major he gave me the task to remove it and build this memorial.

With help from Hite Crane Service and two different tries, 1SG Art Ohler, MSG Brian McCollum, MSG Jim Soleman, PSG Floyd Bishop and myself finally got it off the building.

The Eagle itself is made of terracotta and was designed by Victor Schneider. It was built at a brick plant at Clayton, Washington. There are 26 different pieces making up the Eagle.

The two flagpoles were once light standards for the City of Spokane and were rebuilt at the Battalion Shop.

*It was in storage for approximately 18 months while we were raising money to build this memorial. We sold apples, sodas, and held raffles.
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The Eagle Memorial at Geiger Field1982
Photo Courtesy of Art Ohler

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Members of this Reunion Association made a sizable contribution along with the Reunion Committee.

Finally with the help of the State Guard funds we had enough money to start and complete the project.

I might add that this was a self-help project, and over 30 different members of the 1-161 made a large contribution.

Wm. Mitchell, CSM Ret.

The above dedication speeches and article gives us a feeling for the 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry and how they valued the Eagle and its history. Each person gives us a little different information on the Eagle's story.

But there came a time when through no fault of the National Guard, the Eagle must move again. Here the story is brought up to the present.

Eagle Dedication

August 7, 2010 Clayton, Washington

Rowena Valencia-Gica, an environmental specialist with the Washington National Guard, started the ball rolling to save the Eagle. She shows how she feels about the Eagle in the following statement:

"When I first saw this sculpture standing at Geiger Field, I had no idea that it signifies an important connection between the people of Clayton and the National Guard. For the benefit of those who do not know, this connection actually began way back in the early 1900s, (around 1920s or 1930s) when the State Armory in Spokane was renovated. At that time, a terra cotta eagle sculpture, molded here in Clayton, was placed at the center of the front cornice, perched on top of the State Armory. This sculpture was later transferred to Geiger Field sometime in the 1970s or 1980s when demolition of the building was proposed. It had been sitting there just fine....but recently, a redevelopment of the Spokane International Airport again threatened to have the sculpture demolished. To make the long story short, our office contacted various organizations including the Clayton Deer Park Historical Society to inquire what can be done to preserve this sculpture. Moving quickly was one of the conditions for taking the sculpture, and so,



Rowena Valencia Gica and her family joined Bill Sebright, far left and Grace Huble far right. August 7, 2010. Photo by Bob Clouse

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the society membership acted really fast to ensure that the eagle can be relocated here in Clayton.

"This sculpture has been saved and re-erected here not only to honor the men and women of the National Guard for their service and sacrifices, but more significantly, as a legacy of Clayton's important history—the town's artistic, ro-coco past. This sculpture also symbolizes the power of faith, unity, vision, dedication, and hard work that the people of Clayton and Deer Park, through the Clayton Deer Park Historical Society, has showed—you put your hands together to ensure the restoration of this beautiful masterpiece, a reminder of your forefathers' creativity and dexterity.

"Although the eagle sculpture was a donation from the Washington National Guard, the credit for its restoration and making this function possible goes largely to your historical society, the CDPHS. Because you have worked so hard so that this brilliant work of art takes its place here today, you can be assured that Clayton's legacy will live on for generations to come. This magnificent work will speak of you and your forefathers' skills for



Mr Art Ohler helped move and restore the Eagle to Geiger Field. Here he presents their plaque to C/DPS president, Bill Sebright. He brought to the 2010 Dedication, photos and history printed in this newsletter. Bob Clouse Photo

years to come even as we ceased to speak about it. From all of us at the Washington Military Department and National Guard, we wish your society and everyone in Clayton and Deer Park the very best."

Rowena Valencia-Gica



Lt. Col. Kevin McMahan speaks at the rededication of the terra cotta eagle now back in Clayton. Sharing the stage are Amy Sholz, soloist, Pastor Duane Anderson, Zion Lutheran Church, Bill Sebright, President C/DPHS. JL Brian Photo



Tuffy Luhr and Alan Berg, brothers and grand marshals of the Clayton Day parade are examining plaques and historical items gracing the foreground of the eagle. Pete Coffin Photo

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Photo by Bill Sebright

Prestini Event



Scene from inside the exhibit.

Our Prestini Event was well attended. It seemed that most of our visitors were also visiting the exhibits in Loon Lake and Colville.

Many people came to talk about Leno. There was no end to the stories they told and listened to.

2010 Version of the Clayton Fair



Our booth for the 2010 Clayton Fair is manned by Lorraine and Warren Nord and Boy Scout, Jason Aebsicher.

Clayton/ Deer Park Historical Society Minutes, August 14, 2010

In attendance: Grace Hubal, Pete Coffin, Bill Sebright, Mark Wagner, Sharon Clark, Warren Nord, Lorraine Nord, Marilyn Reilly, Art Stelting, Kay Parkin, Sue Rehms, Duane Costa , Roxanne Camp, Tom Gardner, and Jack Lewis.

Society president, Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:09 AM.

We still haven't received a bill from Knight Construction.

Treasurer, Mark Wagner reported that there is \$3794.72 in checking. There was \$5.00 in deposits. Checks written were \$155.17 to Sharon for Society printing supplies, to Pete for \$617.48 for eagle restoration supplies, and to Bill for \$34.24 for Prestini Display supplies. He wrote a check for \$400 to the Clayton Grange for rental of the upstairs for the Prestini Project. The rent was \$200, so Karen Richards will write us a check for \$200.

A clip board was passed around for members to sign up to cover a shift for the Prestini Project and the Clayton Fair. Pete Coffin helped install a sliding door on the booth at the Fairgrounds, so we won't have to take down displays.

Bill showed a figurine with Cecil Sater's signature on it. Norma Lindh Burnett donated it to

the Society. Norma's Mom, Thelma Lindh found it many years ago along Carr Road. Bob Sater, Cecil's grandson sent the CDPHS a DVD with Leno Prestini paintings, Leno and Sater brothers in Leno's diving gear at Loon Lake. There is also footage of workers at the Brick Plant.

Sharon Clark reported that we printed 220 programs for the eagle ceremony. Most were passed out. Grace and Sharon printed up post cards. We printed up 100 Society brochures. Hopefully, someone going to Loon Lake today can pass them out at the Loon Lake Historical Society. She has a letter that she sent to Richard Slater. He gave her pictures and also the approval for us to print his father's story in our current mortarboard. She mailed him 5 copies of the Mortarboard and distributed it copies to those present. *The Spokesman Review* gave us permission to print the small item from the Feb 2, 1946, Chronicle about Dr. Slater, but they would not give us permission to put it on the Website, unless we paid \$25. We decided not to pay for that, and the web copy of the Mortarboard was altered to eliminate the Chronicle item. They were sent a copy of the Mortarboard as re-
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Photo by Sharon Clark

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quired for their permission. Sharon printed up a total of 85 newsletters and some excerpts of various articles in previous newsletters that we have upstairs near the displays that they belong to...Hell at Dawn, Coming to America and 'Z' Canyon with the appropriate artwork.

Also Lorraine Nord loaned us her uncle, Jim Nolan's book of his military career. Sharon scanned the cover photo and included it on a disk with her own uncles, Roger, Walter and Wesley Tarbert and James Cecil Boyd's World War II photos for inclusion in our web page.

Art Stelting reported he wouldn't be here if it weren't for his parents and Doc Slater.

Pete scanned an interview with Oliver Olson. He was actually the mold maker of the eagle.

Mae Huffman Fischbach was interviewed on the Channel 2 news the other day. She was pretty sharp for a gal of 98.

Duane Costa asked where the POW/MIA flag, which hangs under the American flag in the Eagle display at the CDI came from? Bill explained that Randy and Taffy Long purchased it.

Grace Hubal reported that Taffy and Randy Long said that Lane Mountain Company donated the sand for the historical eagle project. A thank you letter was sent to them.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35.

Respectfully submitted by Grace Hubal, Secretary.

Editorial Policy Regarding Correcting Errors and/or Omissions

Information published here is compiled from many sources, including personal memories. It is often difficult or impossible to verify such recollections through outside documentation. Our editorial policy toward the veracity of personal recollections tends toward the casual — since little harm is normally done by such errors. But our editorial process also invites public review and input regarding the accuracy of the information we publish, and when such review either suggests or reveals errors or items open to dispute our "Letters" department will act as a forum allowing the airing of such disagreements in an effort to ascertain the truth and correct any probable or demonstrated errors. We also believe it's important that such disagreements be recorded, even if they can't be settled to the satisfaction of all parties.

We encourage everyone to submit any arguments as to fact to the editor in writing — since the written form reduces the chance of further misunderstandings. As is standard policy, all letters will be edited for spelling, word usage, clarity, and — if necessary — contents. If advisable, the editor will confer directly with the letter writers to insure that everyone's comments and corrections are submitted in a literate, polite, and compelling manner — as best suits the editorial image of this Society's publications.

Society Want Ads

WANTED: Old family recipes for inclusion in a future Society recipe book. Recipes drawn from any given family's heritage are particularly desired — especially if accompanied by related family stories. Please submit to

Grace Hubal, Society Secretary.

WANTED: Any stories, photos, or examples of traditional methods of quilt making.

WANTED: Information and photos

regarding the history of Trysil/Zion Lutheran Church.

WANTED: Any stories and photos of your family's history in connection with their occupations and settlement in the Clayton/Deer Park Area

Society Contacts

C/DPHS, Box 293, Clayton, WA 99110

Bill Sebright, president — (sebrightba@wildblue.com)

Bob Clouse, webmaster — (ramclouse@q.com)

Sharon Clark, editor — (sharonclark@centurytel.net)

Grace Hubal, secretary —(ghubal@hotmail.com)

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