

The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society is a group of individuals dedicated to the preservation of the history of the area just north of Spokane, Washington. The Society collects oral, literary, and pictorial history to publish and otherwise make accessible to the public.

The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society meets on the second Saturday of each month at 9 AM. We gather at the Clayton Drive-In, located just off Highway 395 on Railroad Ave.

THE

CLAYTON/DEER PARK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mortarboard

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THE LOST BELL

By Peter Coffin

Free — Take One

During my eight years of grade school at which is today the Deer Park School District Administration Building, the beginning of the school day was signaled by the ringing of the school's bell at about 8:30 AM. The bell hung in a tower over the western main entrance to the then Deer Park Elementary School and could be heard ringing in the morning across most of Deer Park.

From the fall of 1965 to the spring of 2004 my education



Figure 1: The Deer Park School Administration Building bell tower from the southwest on March 20, 2011. The tower is empty! (P. Coffin Photograph)

and profession kept me away from Deer Park. Returns during vacation times to visit relatives, I paid little attention to the grade school building. About two years ago during walks to the post office I noticed that the Administration Building's bell tower was empty. Had the bell been thrown out or sold for scrap? Where had it gone?

Pictures taken in 1922 of the newly completed Deer Park Elementary School' clearly show the bell

(Continued on page 518)



Figure 2: The Deer Park Grammar School bell tower in about 1908. The wheel portion of the bell ringing mechanism is just barely visible behind the fence at the top of the ladder. (Photograph courtesy of the Northwest Room, Spokane Public Library, Gordon Daggett Collection)

tower. The previous second elementary grade school building photo just barely show parts of the bell ringing mechanism in the tower.

As this building was built in the early 1900s prior to the publication of the Deer Park Union newspaper no information about where the bell in the tower came from or where it had been purchased. Nothing is available to indicate if the bell in this tower was a part of the first Deer Park Schoolhouse that was located just north of the Lauer Funeral Home on north Main Avenue. The available picture of this house is not complete nor does it show a bell tower or a bell on the lot. This building still exists today standing on east Second Street (Garrett, Et al).

Asking members of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society last fall about where the bell went some were not even aware that there had been a bell in the tower. Mrs. Grace Hubal said she thought that the bell was now in the tower at the last completed Deer Park Elementary School on east D Street. She sent me a picture of the school and the bell tower to confirm that.

A visit to the new elementary school, and a conversation with the school secretaries, on March 21, 2011, confirmed that the bell in their tower was indeed the old elementary school bell. They said that the bell had been refurbished with a new clapper and repainted after being taken out of the north Main Avenue building before being hung in the new elementary school. For several years they said the bell had been rung about 8:45 AM to signal the start of the school day. However, in the

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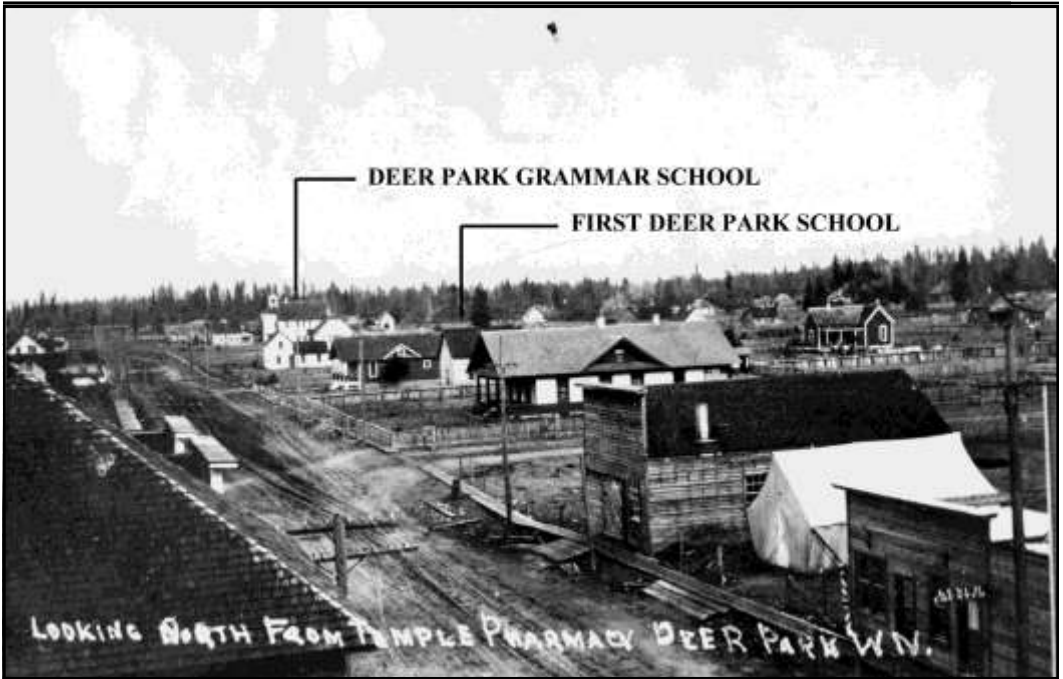


Figure 3: Photograph showing the first Deer Park School, north of Dr. Slater's house (present day Lauer Funeral Home). No bell tower is evident on it. The Grammar School is shown in the background. (Photograph from the Lawrence Zimmerer Collection)



Left: Figure 4: Front of Deer Park Elementary with the bell in the tower. (P. Coffin Photograph March 20, 2011)

Right: Figure 5: Deer Park Elementary bell tower from the southwest. Note the slack piece of cable on the upper left of the ringing wheel. (P. Coffin Photograph, March 20, 2011)



(Continued from page 518)

past several years the bell could not be rung as the cable used to ring the bell had become stuck in the plastic conduit pipe that ran from the bell tower to a store room off the office area.

Now that the bell is no longer "lost" in my mind it is sad that it cannot ring in the new school day. The rough arrangement of the conduit and cable through the store room ceiling seems to indicate that a method to ring the bell was an afterthought after the new school was completed. There is a very nice turned wood handle on the end of the cable in the store-room. Perhaps a High School Senior Vocational Project could allow a student to repair the cable/conduit or design a more robust

means of ringing the bell in the future.

REFERENCE:

Garrett, Katherine, Daniel Ellis and Samuel Gregg, 1990?, Historic Resources Inventory: Deer Park,

Washington: Spokane, Washington, Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, 7 p., 3 appendices.

FOOT NOTES:

I. *Deer Park Union* (Deer Park), Sept. 7, 1922 p. 1 and April 13, 1924, p. 2.

A LITTLE HISTORY OF EARLY DAYS

T. E. IRISH

NOTE: On the April 1 and April 15, 1920, front page of the *Deer Park Union* newspaper the following historical description was printed. Mr. Irish was a homesteader in the Williams Valley area. He was born in Illinois in October of 1858, died in 1931 and is buried in the Williams Valley Hillside Cemetery. His homestead tract was the NW/4 Section 24-T28N-R41EWM just southeast of the Williams Valley Hillside Cemetery and southeast of the intersection of Hattery and Owens Roads. Title to his homestead was assigned in November of 1898. The two columns are cop-

ied here just as they were written in April of 1920. *Peter Coffin*

APRIL 15, 1920

Deer Park, Wash. March 28---To the Editor of the Union: In your issue of March 25 you stated that on the 23d of March, 1884, J. D. Walter and myself landed in Deer Park. I would like to correct the statement by saying we landed in Spokane on that date.

(Continued on page 521)

Possibly a little early history of this valley might be of some interest to your readers.

The first settler in this valley was A. T. Williams in 1887. The spring of 1888 brought many settlers in here. From memory I will give the names of some: E. C. Casberg, George Werner, L. A. Fields, T. J. White, W. H. Harvey, J. A. Pruffer, Frank Wagoner, Thomas McDougal, James Hattery, Frank Bittrich, S. Swenson, H. G. Campbell, John Dunn, J. H. Browe, Ed Kratzer, F. S. Irish, Nathan Newell and myself.

They called me the kid at that time and some people say I am a kid yet when I go to some dance.

This country was a wilderness at that time and it took lots of nerve, gall and patience to stay here. There was no town nearer than Spokane, no transportation but cayuse teams and ox teams. The writer's outfit consisted of a saddle "hoss" and three yokes of cattle. Some outfit people would say now, but they were gilt-edged property those days.

We had barn-raisings, and log rolling, and all pulled together to make homes for ourselves. We were a contented bunch, and as our bank accounts were all the same size (\$0.00) there wasn't any envy nor bolshevism among us.

There are only four or five of us left here. Some moved to other states and a great many have gone to that country whose bourne no traveler returns.

I don't know whether the short period of 32 years would make any perceptible differ-

ence in climate or not but the seasons are very different from what they were in the days when the country was first being settled. We had a great deal of snow in winters and much more rain in summer at that time.

Let me say that I have always been a booster of this country. It has a bright future-- I love its valleys, its mountains, its people and its sacred institutions.

I expect to leave it some today to live the closing chapter of my earthly career among the flowers of the sunny south, but there is a touch of sadness in the thought.

You can buy a home anywhere, but you can't buy friendship and old acquaintances. Respectfully Yours,

T. E. IRISH

APRIL 15, 1920

To the editor of the Union: In my former article relating to the early settlement of this section I gave the names of those who located in what is called Williams Valley. However there is another section close to us (once called the Black Swamp), that had some early settlers. I am speaking of the Clayton country, and the Big Foot Valley.

The names of those who settled in that part of the country, so far as memory serves me, are:

Those who came in 1888--William Hutchins, George Cheney, Jess Cheney, Charles Worm, Joseph Falter, Louis Olson, Sr.

(Continued from page 521)

1889--Lt. J. Stephenson, Thomas Burk, Barney Smith, Jacob Gibson, Gottlieb Relstab, Robert Knowles, Chris Boulter.

Of these men but three are alive that I know of, namely, William Hutchins, Jacob Gibson and Louis Olson, Sr.

That swamp country where they settled was the most God-forsaken looking place I ever saw in 1888. It was covered with a dense growth of black pine and tamarack, and if a man got a quarter of a mile away from his cabin he was sure to get lost. I know whereof I speak for I had that experience.

These men so far as I know were in the same shape financially as we were down here, but they were hustlers, and were instrumental in opening up a good country.

Permit me to speak a word of praise for the hospitality of these early settlers. They were princes. they shared their bed and board with all. When night overtook the weary traveler if he found their cabin he was never turned away.

I don't know whether the people who come here now ever give us (the pioneers) any credit for what we did, but in our own minds and hearts we feel that we did something for our country and future posterity.

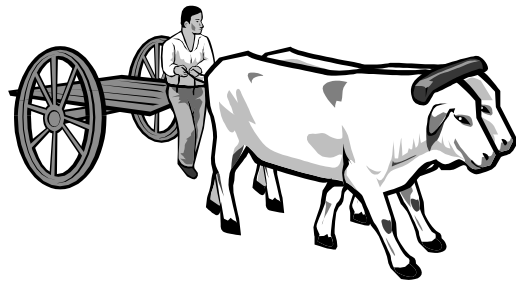
There is another class I wish to speak a word of praise for---the mothers who left civilization and endured the privations and hardships of a pioneer life. Take off your hats to them. They are entitled to every consideration.

In my former article I spoke of the snows in early days. And I want to tell of just one snowy winter. I could tell many more, but this one will do for the present.

In the spring of 1894 a man by the name of Thos. Holland hired J. Hattery and myself to move a saw mill boiler from the Falk place south of Deer Park to Clayton. We started with it on the 28th or 29th day of March, 1894. We had five yoke of cattle to draw it with and we had three men to help us, with a cayuse team to haul the feed and grub. There was three feet of snow on the ground when we started. It took us five days to get through, and it snowed every day on the trip. It took lots of moral suasion and some profanity to get that bull outfit through that snow and over those crooked trails.

As Tom Holland said, we had the devil's own time, but we had some fun, too, and as that was before the days of the prohibitionists, we sometimes found a wet spot. Respectfully, Yours,

T. E. IRISH

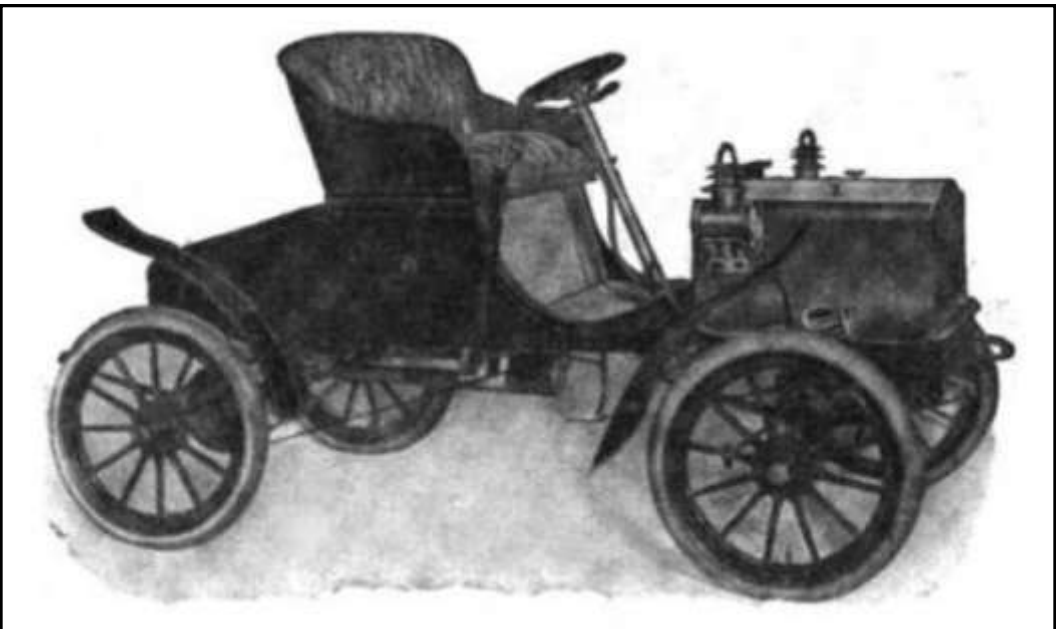


DEER PARK'S FIRST AUTO

(From the front page of the *Deer Park Union* March 30, 1922)

With the season soon at hand when all those in Deer Park who own a car will be dusting it off and getting it ready to use, it may be interesting to look back a few years and inquire who owned the first automobile in Deer Park. Inquiry led the writer to Dr. H. H. Slater, who is reputed to have started the automobile business off in Deer Park 15 years ago. Asked about it, the doctor replied:

"The time when I owned all the automobiles in the north end of Spokane county was in the spring of 1907. It was a one-cylinder "Gale" manufactures at Galesburg, Ill., and was bought of George Bartoo, one of the first dealers in Spokane, for \$600, plus \$75. There were no time payments at that time, as it was considered that the auto might be worth nothing the next day. The machine weighed 800 pounds, there was neither top nor windshield,



1906 Western Gale Model C. The photo is from an advertisement on page 9 in the April 1906 issue of *Cycle and Automobile Trade Journal*. The scan is from the Google Book archive. Title *Automobile trade journal*, Volume 10 Publisher: Chilton Company. This media file is in the public domain in the United States.

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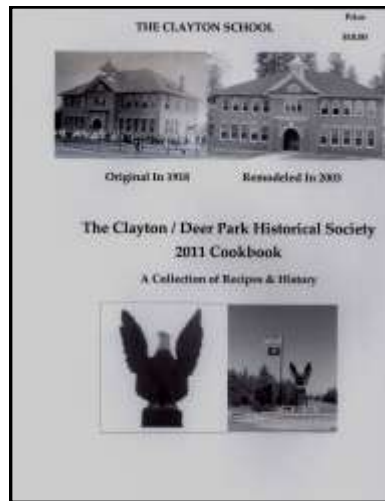
and it had two oil-burning lamps. It had a horizontal engine set longitudinally at the rear, connecting up with a transverse shaft carrying a very heavy fly wheel under the only seat. The gas and water were in a single partitioned reservoir just back of the radiator, and there was no pan under any of the machinery. There was a joint in the body so that the seat and everything back of it could be lifted, exposing the whole internal works without the necessity of getting under the car for adjustments. This was strictly a modern idea."

"The carburetor had a chimney, the upper two inches of which was open, and surrounded by brass wire gauze. When we splashed through water on the road a film was formed on the gauze and the engine would choke down. I attached a canvas under the entire car to protect it from water and to catch parts that might drop off in the grass or mud, this being before the time of spring weather."

"This car had plenty of power and speed and would give a good account of itself with present roads now that an ax to cut off stumps is not a part of the regular equipment. But when I bought the car, the Spokane road was the only one I traveled that I did not need to have an ax with me in case I got marooned on a stump. At that the car had a clearance of 24 inches."

"I sold my first car to Walter Hutchins, but one day it took the river road from Spokane so fast it could not make the turn, so rolled down the bank. The wheels were repaired, however, and it was used for some time after that. George P. Holden liked this

The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society would like to thank the Clayton Drive-In, the Pizza Shoppe, the Salty Dog Eatery, the Gardenspot Floral Shoppe, and Odynski's Accounting for all their hard work and support in selling the 2011 Cookbook. You can pick up a copy at our booth at Winterfest, Settler's Day, the Clayton Brickyard Day and the Clayton Fair in August. If you are interested in purchasing any of our Collected Newsletters, they are available at the above venues, our monthly meetings and Odynski's Accounting in Deer Park, at \$4 each.



car so well that he tried to buy one like it; but there was none in stock, so he bought a Ford with a torpedo body. This was the first Ford in Deer Park. Soon afterward a third car, a four-cylinder Buick with "bucket-shaped" seats was bought by O. F. Kelley. L. C. Gem-

(Continued on page 525)

(Continued from page 524)

mill, then living on Dragoon Creek, got into the game pretty early with a single-cylinder Cadillac touring and Prof. A. G. Craig a little later with a single-cylinder Reo runabout."

O. M. Kimmel, who has the honor of being the first auto mechanic in the town, says he hopes to stay in the business until every family in Deer Park has a car. Last year there were 126 cars in town, according to the assessment rolls.



The Clayton Eagle

Calendar of Events

| Event | Date & Time | Location |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| C/DPHS meeting | October 8, 2011 9:00am | Clayton Drive-In |
| C/DPHS meeting | November 12, 2011 9:00am December 10, 2012 9:00am January 14, 2012 9:00am | Clayton Drive-In |
| Winter Fest <i>Display of Memorabilia</i> | January 21, 2012 | Deer Park Community Arts Center |
| Old Settlers Picnic <i>Display at Mix Park</i> | July 28, 2012* | Deer Park Mix Park |
| Clayton Brickyard Day <i>Display of Memorabilia</i> | August 4, 2012* | Clayton |
| Clayton Fair <i>Display of Memorabilia</i> | August 24, 25, 26, 2012* | Clayton Fairgrounds |

* projected dates



Lorraine Nord and Robbie Paul, the winner of our third raffle, display the quilt and two pillows Robbie has won. Robbie bought her raffle ticket at the Clayton Fair. The ticket was drawn at our September 10, 2011 meeting. *Photo by Amy Nord*



Terra cotta modeling tools and squares once owned by Einer Berg donated by Cliff and Karen Meyer are examined at our August meeting by Marilyn Reilly, Duane Costa, and Warren Nord.

Clayton/ Deer Park Historical Society Minutes — September 10, 2011

In attendance: Marilyn Reilly, Karen Kievit, Alan Berg, Warren Nord, Lorraine Nord, Ella Jenkins, Lonnie Jenkins, Roxanne Camp, Mark Wagner, Sharon Clark, Pete Coffin, Allan Fackenthall, Donald Ball, Lynn Fackenthall Wells, Bill Sebright, Grace Hubal, and Eve du Bois.

Society president, Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Bill talked about and showed: 1- Spokane Preservation Advocates tour involving the old W. B. L. and MF Co. 2-Don and Lorraine Ball's 60th wedding anniversary and Don's 82th birthday party October 1 at the Clayton Grange, from 1 to 5 PM. 3- This month's Heritage Network meeting will be at the Clayton School, Monday, September 19, 9:30 AM. 4- Bill received a phone call from Gary Tewinkel who had read the article about Gus Olson. Gus Olson was Gary's mother's brother and was married to Sarah Bernice Enman. Gus's story written by Joe Tewinkel Jr. will be in a future Mortarboard.

Treasurer, Mark Wagner reported that there is \$3,030.18 in the main checking account. Checking account activity: 2 checks were written, one to Bill Sebright for the flag case for \$26.00 and one to the Deer Park School District for the rental on the Clayton School for the Brickyard Days for \$150.00. There were deposits totaling \$165.00.

Secretary, Grace Hubal reported that 4 Society cookbooks were sold this month and she deposited \$40. An additional 5 cookbooks were sold by the Clayton Drive-In. \$50 was collected. There are 16 cookbooks remaining. Grace typed up thank-you letters to Don and Mary Jo Reiter, Mike and Roberta Reiter, and Cliff and Karen Meyer and mailed them off.

Print Editor, Sharon Clark handed Mortarboard #41. It has the final installment of Art Stelling's "Becoming a Marine."

Vice President, Pete Coffin reported that the digitizing of the Arcadia film from Don and Mary

Jo Reiter might cost up to \$1000. He brought up the importance of making a budget for the Society. Webmaster, Penny Hutten sent the following report on the new website: Jake White has all of this year's Mortarboards, most of the Clayton pages, 4 pages about the C/DPHS, and contact information on the new web site. Take a look at www.cdphs.org and let us know what you think. We want to know what we can make better.

Budget and money making ideas:

Yearly income: C/DPHS dues, Collected Mortarboard book sales, cookbook sales

Yearly expenses: Insurance- \$700; Deer Park Chamber of Commerce dues- \$50; Heritage Network dues- \$20; Clayton Day rental- this year- \$150 and next year- \$230; digitizing Reiter's films- possibly \$1000; printing expenses; Eagle maintenance \$100 yearly, and Web Site- \$200. It is questionable whether or not the Chamber of Commerce will be putting together an annual booklet and if we will be placing an advertisement in it each year, business card size ad is \$100.

Money making ideas: Sharon suggested a 50/50 raffle as a money-making project. An auction and "yard" sale was discussed.

The Clayton Fair went well. Pete Coffin added 2 sets of shelves in our display area. That made it possible to display many more of our books, etc. Thanks Pete! Thank you to everyone for filling shifts at the fair. Marilyn Reilly suggested we get more room for displays. It was difficult for many people to get to the displays. We discussed moving the tables to the back of the room, so there would be more room at the entrance.

Bill talked to Howard Richards about having the picnic and history display at the Clayton Grange instead of the Clayton School. We could use the south and west sides of the Grange. Denise hasn't gotten back to us about having our history display inside the Grange. Warren Nord feels very strongly

(Continued on page 528)

(Continued from page 527)

that we don't use the Clayton School again. The \$230 rent is far too high for such short time!

Quillow Raffle Drawing: And the winner is Robbie Paul. Lorraine presented over \$400 from the 3 Quillow raffles to Treasurer Mark Wagner.

Next meeting is October 8, 2011, at 9 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 AM.

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: 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

WANTED: Any stories and photos from Williams Valley #452 and Gardenspot #278 Granges

WANTED: Any information on the Williams Valley Grange Orchestra
Contact: Ann Fackenthall, WVG

(Rollosdotter@gmail.com) 466-3564.

FOR SALE: The 2011 Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society Cookbook, “A Collection of Recipes and Stories” (see our ad on page 524 for details)

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Special Thanks to this month's volunteer proofreaders — Charles Stewart, Grace Hubal, Florene Moore, Peter Coffin