

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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DEER PARK'S SCHOOL BUILDINGS 1899-1930

By Peter Coffin

Free — Take One

INTRODUCTION

School buildings in frontier America were generally the first community project undertaken by the settlers as soon as there were enough children in the area to justify them. Our area was no exception. By the turn of the century (1899-1900) over 25 rural and small town schools existed in the 12 township area surrounding Deer Park and Clayton. This number of schools is a testament to the importance given education by the early citizens of our community. Figure 1 is a map locating these rural and small community schools. The original land survey system of townships and ranges in the western United

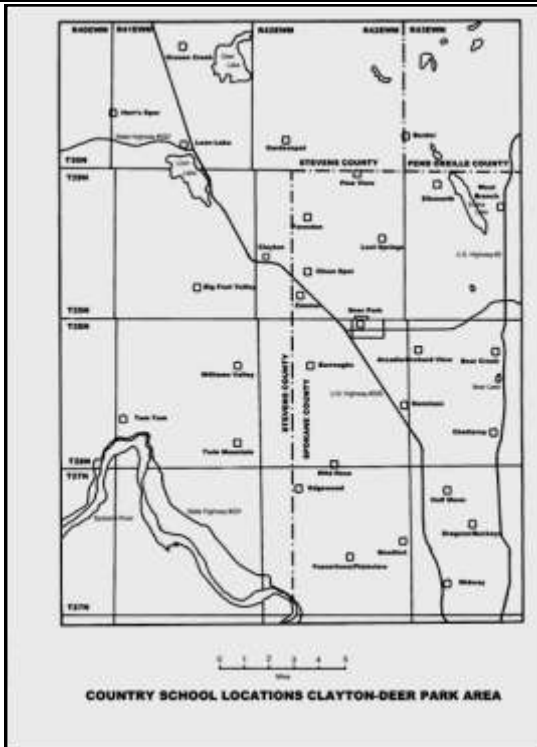


Figure 1: Index map of rural and town schools in the Deer Park-Clayton area.

States allocated sections 16 and 36 to the individual states to provide funds for school building and maintenance. The map shows that many of the townships contained more than one rural school.

Over time, as a transportation network of roads was built, many of the small rural schools were merged. By the 1940s most of the small, one room, rural schools had been consolidated into two or three larger districts such as Deer Park, Riverside, Loon Lake, and Mead. The Deer Park system received

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Left: Figure 2: A picture of the Deer Park School taken in 1899. (Lawrence Zimmerer Photograph Collection)

Below: Figure 3: The first Deer Park school house as remodeled into a private home on Second Street. (Peter Coffin Photograph, taken Feb. 26, 2009)

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students from a large proportion of the schools mapped on Figure 1.

THE FIRST DEER PARK SCHOOL

The Deer Park school system probably began in someone's house, possibly in the William Short family house, in the early 1890s. By 1899 a school house had been built on a Main Avenue lot just north of the present day Lauer Funeral Home. Figure 2 is a photograph of that building taken in 1899. It shows that there were about 34 students and two teachers at that time. This number is an approximation because of the condition of the original image.

This school house was moved and remodeled into a private residence after a lar-



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ger, two story grammar school was built to replace it. The remodeled original school house is presently located in the 400 block of east Second Street.

THE FOURTH STREET GRAMMAR SCHOOL

In the time period between 1899 and 1908 a large, two story grammar school was built on land now occupied by the Deer Park School Administration Building. Figure 4 shows this building as an imposing white building with a bell in the tower to summon students to class.

The photograph in Figure 5 was taken from the upper floor of the Temple Pharmacy at Main Avenue and First Street. It shows the grammar school building in the left hand



Figure 4: The Deer Park Grammar School at Main Avenue and Fourth Street sometime in 1908. (Gordon Daggett Collection Courtesy of the Northwest Room of the Spokane Public Library)



Figure 5: Photograph showing the location of the first Deer Park School and the new Grammar School. (Lawrence Zimmerer Photograph Collection)

portion of the photograph (Continued on page 544)



Figure 6: A photograph of the first Deer Park High School shortly after it was finished.
(Lawrence Zimmerer Photograph Collection)

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as well as the first school house just north of Doctor Slater's house (now the Lauer Funeral Home).

THE FIRST HIGH SCHOOL

By the end of 1911 an imposing new, all brick high school had been finished on the south side of East Crawford Street. Figure 6 is an undated picture of this building with a large number of students in front of it. When I look at this picture in detail I wonder how the two

students on top of the front entrance got there and why they were not told to get down before the picture was taken!

This building served the Deer Park School District as the high school until 1958 when it was replaced by a new high school building on South Colville Avenue. This solid brick building is still in service as Deer Park's City Hall, a Senior Center, Chamber of Commerce office and an office for the Spokane County Police Department.

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Figure 7: The 1922 grade school as it appears in April 2011 as the School Administration Building. From the front the building appears as it did when built. (Peter Coffin Photograph)



Figure 8: The first Deer Park Gymnasium as the Deer Park Community Center in April 2011. The building appears as it did when built! (Peter Coffin Photograph)

THE "NEW" GRADE SCHOOL

By the early 1920s the pre-1908 Grammar School apparently was overcrowded with students and plans for a new, brick grade school were drawn up. A \$27,000 bond issue was passed to build a new eight room grade school on the Grammar School lot. This building was finished in 1922¹ and served as the school district's only grade school besides Clayton until Arcadia Elementary opened in the fall of 1973. The 1922 building was enlarged in the middle 1940s with an eastern addition containing four more class rooms, a kitchen, and a gymnasium.

THE FIRST HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

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After years of planning, ground was broken for a new high school gymnasium in November of 1923². The school district had just built the grade school on north Main Street and had no funds for such a project. However, a group of businessmen formed the Deer Park Athletic Association, raised \$7500 to buy a tract of land across Crawford Street from the High School as a site for an athletic field and to build a gymnasium. This association held title to the building and leased it to the school district. At the end of the ten-year lease the title was signed over to the school district. Deer Park Lumber and other merchants gave the project special low prices for lumber and other construction materials. William Burgenhagen was construction superintendent supervising construction labor donated by both the students and citizens. The lack of school district bond money and the donation of building materials explains why the high school gymnasium was constructed of wood and not brick. This building is now utilized as a Com-

munity Center and appears much as it did when built in 1923.

CONCLUSION

The Deer Park School District has had a tradition of providing school buildings for its children. As the student population increased in the 1890s from children of the workers in the Short sawmills and surrounding farms, to the children living in the small town the first school buildings were replaced with larger buildings. At present the Deer Park Consolidated School District consists of over 6 buildings, including the 1922 grade school building, the Clayton School building, and a newly expanded and remodeled High School completed just last year. The area citizens can be proud of their school district's buildings.

NOTES

1. Spokesman-Review, Spokane, WA, October 31, 1922, p. 6. This newspaper article indicates that the building was planned and built in the period from May to October in the same year! A picture of the completed building is included in the article.
2. Spokesman-Review, Spokane, WA, November 16, 1923, p. 6.

A LONELY SILO

By Peter Coffin

At the corner of Whittier and Cowan Roads just northwest of Clayton, Washington, a concrete stave silo stands alone in a field. The openings for accessing the silage face west where there is only open space so the barn that perhaps used to stand there has long since disappeared. The land upon which the silo stands is presently owned by Charles Duncan. In the past the land has been owned by E. A. Melander (1933, 1940) and L. Steele (1950). Who built the silo is uncertain. The concrete silo was patented in 1907 by a Michigan man

named Hiram Smith. The first concrete silo was built in 1909 in Paw Paw, Michigan, southwest of Kalamazoo, Michigan. Thus this silo would most likely have been built sometime after 1909. The Melander family lived in the area in the early part of the 1900s and Bert Melander was the Great Northern Station agent for a number of years. It could be that the Melander family built the silo.

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Below: Figure 2: Concrete Stave Silo at Whittier and Cowan Roads from the west. The openings on this side infer that a barn perhaps stood on this side of the structure so the silage could be moved from the silo to the feed mangers in the barn. The silo roof is partially visible just to the left of the bottom of the silo shaft. (2011 P. Coffin Photograph)

Above: Figure 1: Concrete Stave Silo at Whittier and Cowan Roads from the south. (2011 P. Coffin Photograph)



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Figure 3: The roof of the concrete stave silo at Whittier and Cowan Roads. (2011 P. Coffin Photograph

REFERENCES

Bernhardt, Patrick, 2010, Hiram Smith and the first concrete farm silo: Examiner.com.

Bryan, F. R., 2006, Henry's attic: Detroit, Wayne State University Press. (the first silo is stored in Henry Ford's Dearborn Village Museum in Detroit)

Hanson, E. S., 1916, Concrete silos, their advantages, different types, how to build them: Chicago, The Cement Era Publishing Company.

Right: Figure 4: Photograph taken inside the Clayton Great Northern Railroad Station. Left to right: Ole Wind, Olga Westby, Emma Cowan, Bert Melander from the captioned picture in the Lawrence Zimmerer collection. This picture was taken before October 17, 1911, as that was the marriage date of Ole Wind and Olga Westby.



This pitcher and bowl were once used in the Olson Hotel at Main and Crawford in Deer Park. (See Page 550 for story)
Photo by Bill Sebright



Calendar of Events

Event	Date & Time	Location
C/DPHS meeting	December 10, 2011, 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 Grange Hall
Clayton Fair <i>Display of Memorabilia</i>	August 24, 25, 26, 2012*	Clayton Fairgrounds

* projected dates

Historical Bowl and Pitcher Donated to C/DPHS

This pitcher and bowl were once used in the Olson Hotel at Main and Crawford in Deer Park. It was given to Mike and Betty Burdette by Lena Olson Wolfe in the 1980s. It was donated to the Society by Betty Burdette at our October 2011 meeting. It is on display at the Clayton Drive-In.



Right: Betty Burdette with the Olson Hotel Bowl and Pitcher.
Photo by Bill Sebright

Reminder: Dues are \$20 per Family and due January 1, 2012

Name & Address: _____

Dues \$ 20.00 Additional Donation:\$ _____ Total Dues and donation: \$ _____

Clip and bring payment to our monthly meeting or Mail to C/DPHS, Box 293, Clayton, WA 99110

Clayton/ Deer Park Historical Society Minutes — November 12, 2011

In attendance: Don Reiter, Mary Jo Reiter, Warren Nord, Lorraine Nord, Mark Wagner, Betty Burdette, Marilyn Reilly, Sharon Clark, Pete Coffin, Judy Francis, Bob Clouse, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Lonnie Jenkins, Ella Jenkins, Bill Sebright, Bob Gibson, Roxanne Camp, Don Ball, Lorraine Ball, Penny Hutten, and Kay Parkin.

Society president, Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM. Bill talked about and showed: 1) Lyle Holcomb gave the Society a metal bread box full of “wood block” stamps. 2) A 1901 original land grant to Glen Grove, signed by President William McKinley. It was given to the Society by Nancy De Voe Runge and Patricia De Voe Piper. Their father, Hollis De Voe, graduated from DPHS in 1925. They dropped off the document at the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce. 3) Tom Costigan presented the CDPHS 2 diplomas and an auto-graph book that once belonged to Mary DePaolo. 4) Karen Meyer of the Loon Lake Historical Society loaned the CDPHS 2 Clayton Tattlers, Clayton High School newspapers, from 1939; 2 sports letters, one from DPHS and one from CHS; a 1945 DPHS Antler; a 1940 DPHS composite senior class picture; and a DPHS scrap book from MarGwen Morgan containing a 1940 commencement program.

Marilyn Reilly announced that Grieffs’ Farm Museum will have a pie and ice cream social November 13 @ 2 PM.

Treasurer, Mark Wagner reported that there is \$3,230.23 in the main checking account. Checking account activity: \$202.00 in deposits; Checks written: 75.00 Taffy Long for landscaping maintenance for Eagle. The secondary account had 251.25, activity: \$ 9.95 for website hosting. Mark will sign up for paperless statements before the charges take effect.

Secretary, Grace Hubal sent a report stating that 7 cookbooks were sold; \$55 was deposited in our secondary checking account to help pay for the website. She is on her way to Ohio to visit family.

Print Editor, Sharon Clark handed Mortarboard #43. Sharon put a note in the Mortarboard on page 536 about a Fran Graham who is looking for some information on her family. Sharon is doing further research for her. The Westerners this Thursday are having a meeting. The focus will be the Mullen Road through Spokane. Call Penny if you need more info.

Vice President, Pete Coffin reported that: 1) Grady Knight emailed about the 35 mm film and Pete has to make an appointment so Grady can look at the film. 2) Jackie Strong was given the diplomas Pete had. Pete has been busy writing about the oil boom in the Clayton- Deer Park area. Several wells were drilled over 100 years ago. Two papers are in the works about rural post offices in the area.

Webmaster, Penny Hutten reported that: The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society website had a recent update. We added three links to *The Bogwen Report*; it is Wally Parker's blog. The three links were to the Leno Prestini letters on his blog. The new website will have more added as Jake has time between his busy school schedule. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Wally Parker sent a copy of one of the Leno Prestini letters to the special collections librarian at Gonzaga. All six letters have been copied to Wally's blog. Wally can refer them to the blog to translate the Italian letters. Anyone wanting to see the letters can pick them up on the CDPHS website as well.

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Winterterfest was discussed. A better booth location at the civic center was discussed. Shirts are now available.

Next meeting December 10, 2011

Respectfully submitted by Mark Wagner, Acting Secretary

*Wishing You a
MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and a HAPPY
NEW YEAR*



Special Thanks to this month's volunteer proofreaders — Bill Sebright, J.L. Brian

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

settlement in the Clayton/Deer Park Area

WANTED: Any information on the Williams Valley Grange Orchestra
Contact: Ann Fackenthal, WVG
(Rollosdotter@gmail.com) 466-3564.

WANTED: Any stories and photos of your family’s history in connection with their occupations and

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

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