Early post offices were established throughout the Deer Park and Clayton area to serve the settlers. As roads and means of transportation improved many small post offices were consolidated into large ones. Over time the Deer Park Post Office absorbed the Corbin, Wellford, Denison, and Hazard rural post offices. The original Deer Park Post Office was located in Peter Meyer’s Forreston store on the old Cottonwood Road (now in part Dalton Road) north of Deer Park. O. F. Kelly moved the post office into the developing Deer Park town site in 1890 to be nearer the railroad and the area’s population center. There are differences of opinion about how and where these moves of the first post office led to the first Deer Park town post office. W. H. Short, in his manuscript, “From Whence We Came” states:

“The advent of the railroad brought an end to mail deliveries by stage coach to Peter Myer’s (sic) homestead, Lost Springs, on the Cottonwood Road and prompted the post office to be moved to the railroad. Deer Park was passed by: and Foreston, a siding two miles northwest of the sawmill was chosen as the new site for the post office.” (Short, p. 4)

According to Bert Webber in his 1987 book, “Post Marked Washington,” the post office “Old Deer Park” was established on June 7, 1890, “...on the road from Spokane to Colville (now Public Avenue) on the farm of the postmaster, (SW section 26, T29N, R42E).” He writes that it was, “...moved two miles south June 13, 1891.” He does not mention the Forreston location. This move was made by Peter J. Kelly and brought the post office close to the railroad. (Webber, p. 77)

This first post office in Deer Park was located on Main Avenue (commonly called “Street”) in one of the early buildings on the west side of the street facing the Kelly house. The Webber chapter on Deer Park contains several stories, including one about a robbery. He writes that the post office was robbed during the noon hour of May 18, 1904.

“The robbers were obviously acquainted with the surroundings and the routine followed by the postmaster, for they certainly knew that Miss Curtis kept the money in P. J. Kelly’s safe at night. She evidently considered the money safe in the office while she was out to lunch. The office at that time was situated between Kelly’s store and Louis
Lovig’s saloon with a street at the rear, across from which stood the railroad water tank. On this day a row of box cars had been parked on the switch track, which was often the case, so view from that direction was blocked. The glass in the rear door was broken out with a glass cutter, so all one needed to do was reach through the hole and move a wooden prop that kept the door closed. After entering, the money drawer was opened and the contents taken. Nothing else was disturbed. The culprits left by the back door, locking it as they went. Miss Curtiss noticed that the prop had been removed when she returned, then discovered the looted drawer. She notified Spokane authorities. As often occurs, reporters write about happenings but not always a follow-up to tell the outcome. Does anyone know if the robbers were caught?” (Webber, p. 77-78)

Figure 1: The location of the first Deer Park Post Office on Main Avenue just north of the Kelly building marked "P O." (Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Deer Park)

Figure 2: The Kelly house in approximately 1908. The library/den of this house was used as a post office for some time. (Daggatt photograph Collection, Spokane Library Northwest Room)
Another story involves a more recent postmaster:

“A story goes that Howard Worhle at one time had a heated discussion with a patron who owned a chicken farm. On the morning after the exchange, the postmaster, on opening the outside collection box, found a live hen therein. Alongside the hen, which started clucking as the box was opened, was a freshly laid egg. In addition, in the excitement of having been discovered from that dark, cold box, the hen decided to make a small deposit—this one of a different nature. Wohrle is reported to have taken the chicken home where it performed well for years, and eventually made a tasty meal.” (Webber, p.78)

SUBSEQUENT POST OFFICE LOCATIONS

The post office moved from the Kelly Block side of Main Avenue to the public library room of the P. J. Kelly House in September and October of 1933 as an economy move (Deer Park Union September 21, 1933, p. 1).

In the spring of 1937 the post office moved to space just south of Mix’s confectionary on the ground floor of the hotel (Deer Park Union April 29, 1937, p. 1 and May 6, 1937, p. 1). There is still an outline in the brick pattern on the west side of the hotel building showing where the door opening was located.

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Figure 3: The west side of the hotel shows the bottom outline of the door that led to the post office (P. Coffin Photograph January 2012)

(Continued on page 580)
On January 1, 1959, the post office finally got its own building at the corner of First Street and Vernon Avenue. On August 19, 1970, the present post office building opened on the corner of Vernon Avenue and A Street which doubled the floor space and provided for a parking lot.

POSTMASTERS

Postmasters prior to the Postal Reorganization Act of the 1970 (Public Law 91-375, August 12, 1970) were chosen partially by political means. An applicant would write to his or her congressman indicating their interest in the position of postmaster. The Postal Worker’s Union would provide a statement outlining the qualifications and competency of the applicant. Then the President of the United States would make a choice from the list of applicants with regard to the president’s political party. Since passage of the Reorganization Act the process has been centered in the Post Office system with little outside political influence. Interested applicants apply for the position with reasons for qualification which is reviewed by a professional review committee. The most highly qualified are then interviewed, sometimes by the Postal Operations Regional Manager. The most qualified is then chosen.

Many times an “Officer in Charge” is appointed to perform as acting Post Master until a qualified applicant can be found and appointed. Sometimes the “Officer in Charge” is appointed after the on-the-job training (Newell, 2012).

Deer Park Postmasters over the years have been: Wilfred G. Domerchart, June 7, 1890; Peter J. Kelly and Irene F. Curtiss, June 7, 1903; Jessie Ina Curtiss, February 6, 1904; Jacob F. Grove, June 28, 1909; Andrew J. Peters, June 10, 1913; Eugene E. Wood, June 12, 1918; Imogene Bamford, July 17, 1920; Clarence E. Hiatt, May 3, 1922; Mark Durrell, October 25, 1926; Ronald S. Hoog, July 1, 1950; Claude Krick, September 1, 1950; Howard John Worhle, August 1, 1953; Wendell C. Sinn, July 9, 1984; Lester W. Newell, March 9, 1991; Rebecca Rothaermel, July 24, 2008, Stephen V. Rorie, Aug 1, 2009. At present (January 2012),

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there is no Postmaster in Deer Park but an Officer in Charge.

RURAL FREE DELIVERY ROUTES
In past years, individual addresses were composed of names and the RFD number. With assignment of unique street addresses, rural postal routes are not now part of a unique mail address. Webber, in his book chapter on Deer Park, goes into some detail about the five RFD routes centered in Deer Park from 1904 to 1925. At present, mail routes are assigned on the basis of the volume of the mail carried in a year’s hourly basis. Changes to the routes are made by the postmaster to balance the work so each route takes the same yearly hour time.

REFERENCES
Webber, Bert (ed.), 1987, Postmarked Washington, An encyclopedia of postal history covering eleven counties of eastern Washington based on the research of the late Guy Reed Ramsey and other sources: Fairfield WA, Ye Galleon Press, V. I, 365 p. (Note that the book title page indicates there are three volumes but apparently only one has been published)
The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society sent an article to the Deer Park Tribune asking for anyone with information about Gus Olson to let us know.

The following information was sent by Gary Tewinkel. It was written by Joe Tewinkel, Junior. Their mother is Gus Olson’s sister.

Clarence Gustavus “Gus” Olson was born September 24, 1907. Gus had the opportunity to complete more education than some of the older members of the family. He graduated from Lewis and Clark High School where Ruth Tewinkel was one of his teachers. Then he worked with his dad on the farm at Clayton. On May 23, 1932, he married Sarah Bernice Enman whose roots were in the rural Clayton-Deer Park area and whose family continued to live in that area for many years. She was a teacher before they were married.

Gus became a minister with the Assembly of God Church. No record was available as to his education for the ministry. He served churches in Davenport, Rice, and Clarkston, Washington. He was a quiet, gentle man who loved people. He poured himself into the ministry and served however he could. Jail services, for example, were a part of his concern. Bernice was also active in ministry alongside her husband.

He died on August 27, 1956. Bernice moved to Deer Park and lived many years there. She taught some piano in that time. She passed away in the early 1980s.

One daughter was born to this union, Elma Joy, on April 28, 1934. A year later, in early May of 1935, she died. To lose their only offspring like this must have been particularly difficult. Her grandfather Charles felt the loss too and commemorated her passing with this poem.

“When My Little Sunshine Lilly”  
*(In Memory of Elma Joy by Grandpa Olson)*

*Say gardener, where is my lily*  
*The sunshine of my heart?*

*Why did she from us depart*  
*My little sunshine lily?*

*So full with budding smile*  
*Like a balm in pain and trouble*

*But why such a little while*  
*Like the lily of the Valley?*

*Her gift was so complete*  
*To please the finest senses*

*With everyone she would meet*  
*My little sunshine lily.*

*Her toys now put away*  
*It was such wondrous pleasure*

*To watch her when at play*  
*Too good for us mortals*

*With the angels now she plays*  
*Through the clouds I see her waving*

*Bye-bye, bye-bye, bye-bye*  
*My little sunshine lily.*
Sarah Bernice Enman grew up in Williams Valley in a large family. Her brother Oren Guy Enman was killed in WW I. The local American Legion Post was named for him. A front page article from the February 24, 1921, Deer Park Union reported that the Guy Enman Post was officially launched. The article went on to say that Enman was killed in France on September 17, 1919, a few months after going into action. The article continued:

"...On the morning of his death he had located a German sniper, who had been picking off some of the men. The sniper spotted him at the same instant, an exchange of shots followed, and Enman dropped a moment later with a bullet through his head. Mortally wounded, his strength of will permitted him to stagger to a comrade and tell him of the sniper's position before he expired. The sniper was slain two minutes afterward."

The Sebright family has a story involving Sarah Bernice Olson. In August of 1939, Iva was ready to deliver her first child. Red and Iva made arrangements to go to a midwife's house in Deer Park when the baby was ready to come. Later in August when the baby was coming, Red took Iva to the midwife's house only to find out she wasn't home. Iva stayed at Sarah Bernice Olson's house to wait for the midwife. The midwife never showed up so, Sarah Bernice ended up delivering Chester Fackler Sebright, Junior. His first bed was a drawer in one of Sarah's dressers.

ALOYSIUS BISHOP
EDITOR'S NOTE:
This is the first of a series of articles about people of the Deer Park district. It is published to better acquaint you with those who help to make Deer Park.

“Ambassador of Good Will” between Deer Park and the farmers of the district might be an appropriate title for Aloysius Bishop, owner and manager of the Deer Park Creamery Co., manufacturer of butter and ice cream, distributors of soft drinks, locker box operators, icemen, cream and egg buyers and what have you. In Al Bishop you see the man who has 90% of his customers in the farming business and who probably does more than any other one person to attract the rural people into the town of Deer Park. You also see the man who founded a small creamery, and guided its destinies through good times and bad until it now covers five times its original floor space, and transacts many times the amount of business it originally did.

“Al” was born on the farm in Glencoe, Minnesota, June 21, 1891, on the longest day of the year, and he still thinks they should be longer so that he could get caught up with his work. His parents were German coming from Europe and changing the name from the German Bichoff to the more Anglo Bishop at the time of naturalization.

He stayed with the farm until he was nineteen when he started work as a helper in a creamery, and he has been in the business ever since. After four years on that job, he took a short course in dairying and creamery work, and went into the state experimental school. This job proved to be a most liberal education in his chosen field for he got a chance to experiment with and test all of the latest methods and machinery.

A year later he took active charge of a creamery for the first time in his life. About ten miles from the little town of Peterson, Minnesota was a poor, dilapidated, run down sort of a place, and Al struggled with it for six full months. According to this story, the natives of the section all spoke Scan-
Of course he could not, and finally he got so lonesome he quit and started for the west.

First he visited with three of his sisters in Alberta, Canada, and continued on to Spokane arriving in the fall of 1915. He immediately went to work for Frank Flood of the Broadview Dairy quitting in the spring because he wanted to take a little vacation and look around the country. However when he wanted to go back to work there were no jobs to be found.

A chap he had worked with named Vandervert met Al on the corner by the Davenport Hotel and told him about Deer Park, suggesting that he come here and start a creamery. Al came, landing here May 10, 1916. Wedge was just pouring concrete for the foundation of the grain warehouse. When Al talked to him about a creamery, Wedge poured water on the whole deal. However ten days later after Al had gone to work at the mill Wedge approached him on the idea of building the creamery in its present location and spending his spare time running the grain company. So the plant was built, and to this day Al is still trying to get enough spare time to run a grain elevator or do much of anything else.

The new business opened its doors August 6, 1916, and bought its first can of cream from Louis Ritter (sic). Mr. Ritter still sells the bulk of his cream to the Deer Park Creamery Co. Another early customer still patronizing the plant is Walter E. Bushnell, customer 10.

Starting with a 700 pound churn, a 10 gallon tub type freezer and a bunch of old second hand machinery the place has developed into one of the most modern in the Inland Empire. In 1920 they built a refrigerator unit and started to manufacture ice. In 1935 egg buying started. ’37 brought refrigerated locker boxes and 1938 the distribution of soft drinks. The plant now employs 3 to 4 persons at all times.

Besides being a progressive business man, Al has taken much time to devote to community and civic activities. He is a member of the St. Mary’s Church and the Deer Park Commercial Club, past president of the Settler’s Association, been treasurer of the Fair Association for the past five years, served on the city council from 1931 to 1934, and has been a continual subscriber to and advertiser in the Deer Park Union for 23 years.

He is married to a Deer Park girl, and has two daughters, the older just entered grade school last year.

His favorite pastime is reading, and for lighter relaxation he likes to go deer hunting. He says that he keeps going out because he expects to actually kill a deer someday.

This article was published on the front page of the June 1, 1939, Deer Park Union under the column name “Who’s Who In Our District”. The writer of this column is not named.)

The Ad above was taken from the November 17, 1916, Deer Park Union.
Excerpt from the *Deer Park Union* regarding Deer Park Creamery August 11 1916

**DEER PARK CREAMERY**

**STARTED MONDAY!**

**Turning Out a Superior Product**

**Under Direction of A. Bishop**

**Expert Butter Maker**

The first consignment of cream was taken in at the new Deer Park creamery Monday, and the wheels of this industry started with all prospects of a successful career. Mr. Bishop, the manager, is an expert butter maker of many years experience, and guarantees to turn out a product that will credit to himself and the town.

Ice cream is also one of the products which will be manufactured; in fact, the first lot has already been placed on sale. Its purity is absolutely guaranteed.

The farmers can make more real money by selling their cream direct to this creamery than by trying to make butter at home; and then waste their time and money in going around looking for customers. Arrangements have been made to pay spot cash for all cream offered, and the more cream brought in the better.

The butter manufactured by the Deer Park Creamery Co, will be put up in 1-lb. packages, and every pound guaranteed.

A cordial invitation is extended by Mr. Bishop, to all the farmers in this valley to come in and inspect his new plant. There is no need of shipping cream to Spokane any more, as the same market prices will prevail here as there.

The citizens of Deer Park can do no better turn for the welfare of the city than to call for and insist upon getting butter made at the Deer Park creamery, a strictly home institution.

The above advertisement was taken from the January 5 1922 *Deer Park Union* and appeared there regularly many times.

More About The Bishop Family

**By Sharon Clark**

Al Bishop was in the creamery business in Deer Park for over forty years.

I remember, my family shipped cream occasionally and used the frozen storage for beef, grown and butchered on the farm, along with an occasional deer, if Dad got lucky.

Society member, Karen Renner Meyer, with Al Bishop in 1957 in front of the ice cream machine. This Photo appeared in the 1957 *DPHS Antler.*

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Spokane. Her engagement announcement to Lester Russell, son of Harry Russell of Clayton, was printed in the August 26, 1955 issue of the Tri-County Tribune.

A large family reunion for the Bishop family in Deer Park occurred the weekend of June 21, 1968 to celebrate Al’s 77th birthday. It was attended by Al’s brothers and sisters and daughters and family from Canada and Omaha, Nebraska and elsewhere. This was written up in the June 20, 1968 Chronicle and the Deer Park Round-Up column of the Tribune. The Chronicle article mentioned the creamery was sold a year and a half ago.

Aloysius Bishop, 91, died February 19, 1981 in a Coeur d’Alene hospital. Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Gertrude Hnatiak, Vancouver, British Columbia, and Mrs. Lorraine Russell, Post Falls; 11 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and one sister. Spokane Daily Chronicle

**Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society Minutes February 11, 2012**

In attendance: Grace Hubal, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Don Reiter, Mary Jo Reiter, Karen Meyer, Cliff Meyer, Warren Nord, Mark Wagner, Betty Burdette, Marilyn Reilly, Sharon Clark, Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Lonnie Jenkins, Ella Jenkins, Bill Sebright, Penny Hutton, Lynn Wells, Allan Fackenthal, Mike Reiter, Roberta Reiter, Eve Dubois, Chris Atela, Sue Rehms, Margie Burdega, Florene E. Moore, and Roxanne Camp.

Society president, Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Bill talked about and/or showed: 1) Bill signed Society insurance renewal papers and Mark wrote a check for $689.18 to Standen Insurance. 2) David Bensco-ter is very interested in Arcadia Orchards and also in identifying and preserving the heirloom varieties of apples in the Arcadia Orchards. He plans to start this fall with trees in the area of Deer Park Milan and Cedar Roads. 3) Kristen Griffin contacted Bill in regards to a field session about Spokane buildings with Clayton bricks and terra cotta for the National Trust Conference later this year. 4) He passed around copies of 1939 Clayton High School Tattlers. These came from Linda Kelso Stewart. They are on loan from the Loon Lake Historical Society. 5) Bob Clouse is now at Lilac Plaza, apt #406. His phone number is 747-1128. He donated his copies (8x10) of Leno Prestini paintings to the Society. 6) Bill showed an article from The Outpost honoring Lorraine and Don Ball and their more than 60 year marriage.

Treasurer, Mark Wagner reported that there is $3,723.69 in the main checking account. There were $263.00 in deposits. One check was written for membership to the farm museum $20.00. The web maintenance account had $255.45 with a $10.95 withdrawal for the monthly web hosting fee.

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The Spokane Daily Chronicle May 1-, 1946 reported that the Deer Park Creamery started an addition this week to the storage plant that will double its cold storage capacity to 500 units for frozen food.

Al Bishop had two daughters, Gertrude Ann and Lorraine Maryan. They both graduated from Deer Park High School.

Gertrude was president of the Class of 1950 and she went on to Holy Names College on a music scholarship. Her engagement announcement to Douglas Hovan AC of the Royal Canadian Air Force, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jovan Hovan of Milk River, Alberta appeared in the June 2, 1952 Spokane Daily Chronicle. Douglas was stationed in Clinton, Ontario and attending radar and electronics school.

Lorraine graduated with the DPHS Class of 1953 and attended Eastern Washington College of Education at Cheney and Holy Names College in Spokane.

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Secretary, Grace Hubal emailed her report:
1) Grace sent a C/DPHS recognition certificate and a graduation card and check to Jake Wilson.
2) She also sent our membership money to the North Spokane Farm Museum.
3) Her Society email account ghubal@hotmail.com got hijacked. Her new email address is: hubals@msn.com.

Vice President, Pete Coffin reported: 1) He plans to take the Arcadia Orchard promotional film to Seattle the 3rd week in March to get it copied.

Print Editor, Sharon Clark handed out Mortarboard #46. 1) She mentioned that the Society is always looking for more articles. 2) She also printed the Collected Newsletters of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society Volume 12. It is on sale for $4 each. 3) Charles Stewart sent this note concerning oil exploration in the Clayton area: “H.B. Stewart and wife leased the oil and gas under their land (160 acres bordered by Williamson and Stephenson Roads) to Harold P. Collins for 10 years for 10 shares of Clayton Oil Company Stock plus a royalty of 10% of all oil and gas produced on the premises. No drilling was ever done and the stock was soon worthless. Even though they lost no money, Dad still expressed anger about the deal even 60 years afterwards.” 4) Daryl Click sent his yearly dues plus an additional donation of $100.

Webmaster Penny Hutten reported: 1) All the pictures have been changed to enlarge when clicked on. One of the Clayton School pictures pages, actually decreases when clicked (I will need to update it with new copies of the pictures). 2) I also called the Melbourne IT Company that owns the old domain name. They said it was standard to leave the domain up for two months after we stop payment. They said it was standard practice. It should go away on March 15th. I will recheck then. 3) I will send the new URL around so everyone knows how to access the website. 4) There is a Westerners meeting on Thursday, February 16, 5:45 PM. If you are interested in going, contact Penny at 276-5454. 6) The Eastern Washington Farm Heritage Show is May 12 and 13, 10 AM-6PM at 10200 E. Sprague Avenue.

Chris Atela reported: The audio CDs version of Wally’s Standing Watch turned out really well. He is donating the audio (digital) master CDs and his time in making them. Selling the CDs was discussed. More discussion is needed. Penny can set up a PayPal feature to sell the CDs on the website. Marilyn Reilly suggested KPBX (Bookshelf) as a possible place for the CD to be heard.

Florence Moore reported on WinterFest 2012. Florence was on the WinterFest Committee. Many Society members manned the C/DPHS booth. (Sharon Clark, Betty Burdette, Marilyn Reilly, Penny Hutten, and Kay Parkin). There were a lot more people and a lot more activity than last year. Everyone loved Pete’s maps. There was also a great interest on the Arcadia Orchards. We sold a lot of Collected Newsletters. The Deer Park Gazette wrote up such a wonderful article on WinterFest with lots of pictures. WinterFest 2013 will be on January 26th.

Eagle maintenance: a section on the base is starting to chip. It needs to be fixed when winter is over. Bill will contact Tom Taylor, who has been very helpful in the past.

Roxanne Camp shared an advertising flyer for Deer Park Pine Public Auction back in the 1970s. Pete will digitize it.

Williams Valley Grange is honoring the firefighters with a Spaghetti Feed at 1PM today.

Betty reported on a fund raiser at Eagles to benefit DPHS Band & Choir from 5-8 PM today and 10-3 is benefit for DP Float: Pie sale at Yokes.

Mike Reiter reported that Pete Coffin dropped off his article on the 1921 Oil Boom in Clayton for Mike to look over. He gave us a lot of information. Oil and Gas leases were included in the packet. Pete will digitize the material.

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Karen Meyer reported on the Preserve America Project. She passed out the Historical Happen- 
ings newsletter (Loon Lake Historical Society). Money can be earned for the Society.

Next meeting: March 10, 2012
Meeting adjourned at 10:10 am
Minutes 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 the Brickyard/Ramble In Tavern
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.

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Grace Hubal, secretary — (hubals@msn.com)

Visit our New Web Site: cdphs.org
Our old web site was discontinued as of January 15, 2012