From Deer Park High School in 1911 to Deer Park City Hall Today

By Marie Morrill

Originally Written as an assignment for Public History 398, Professor Larry Cebula, EWU, March 19, 2012

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One Dollar Beginnings

In Spokane County there is a warranty deed which states “Frank A. Reed and Emma A. Reed… for and in consideration of one ($1.00) Dollars, in hand paid, convey and warrant to School District #102 all of block 4 in Reed’s First Addition to Deer Park, Washington… Dated this 5th day of June, 1911.”¹ With this transfer of property the building of Deer Park’s first high school began. Frank Reed was a Deer Park banker whose name lives on because his largesse was also the seed that started Camp Reed, a YMCA camp south of Fan Lake in Pend Oreille County.²

The building of a new high school was evidence that Deer Park was not only growing but was also a progressive community in which to live. Before the opening of the high school, children who graduated from eighth grade could continue their education only by attending high school in Spokane or Cheney. An eighth grade education was considered sufficient for the average person.³

Statewide, public high schools were still a rather new phenomenon. Though there were high schools in the state prior to 1895, any public funds spent on them were spent illegally. In 1893 a few taxpayers in Seattle threatened the school board with an injunction to close the high school in order to stop spending public monies on it. The school board immediately closed the school for two weeks and then brought it back under the name “Senior Grammar School of Seattle.” Under this title they continued to use public funds until 1895 when the state legislature passed a law making public high schools legal.⁴

The city of Deer Park looked forward to the school’s completion. An item in the July 28, 1911 Deer Park Union read, “a large amount of prosperity is in sight…the new school building is well underway.”⁵ The school was in operation that fall. Built at a cost of $20,000, it was considered a selling point for attracting new residents to the community. The school first opened as a two-year high
school. In December of 1911, the Deer Park Union ran an article about the good things of the area extolling the school as being accredited and “… recognized by the Spokane high school, Cheney State Normal, Pullman State College—all accepting graduates therefrom.”

In 1911 the completed brick building had three floors: a main floor and upper and lower floors. The lower floor would likely be considered a daylight basement today. All three floors followed a similar floor plan with a central hall running the length of the building and classrooms or other rooms on both sides of the hallway. Stairwells were symmetrically placed at either end of the building and serviced all three floors. The main floor contained the administrative offices, including the principal’s and the school superintendent’s offices on the north side of the building while across the hall were a general classroom and the library. The upper and lower floors had two classrooms coming off either side of the hallway for a total of nine classrooms.

The high school was constructed of brick with a concrete foundation, recessed panel wall design, decorative gables at the front and center roof line and segmental windows at east and west ends of the building. The building’s main entrance led to the main floor and was protected by a covered portico. The roof of the portico had a railing so that it could serve as a kind of balcony. The picture of the building one sees most often and taken at about this time shows students up on that balcony.

The new school welcomed students from near and far. Some had to stay in town in order to go to class because they lived too far away to walk or (Continued from page 613)

(Continued on page 615)
As late as 1930 an advertisement was placed in the Deer Park Union advertising homes for rent to families with students needing to stay in town for the school year.

Diseases were often a challenge in those years, at times closing all the schools due to such things as smallpox or measles. The decision to close was not always because of an existing epidemic but often as a means of preventing a disease from becoming an epidemic. In 1918 the “Spanish Flu” made its appearance in the United States which would eventually spread to more than a third of the population. Over half of the United States soldiers who died in Europe during World War I died of influenza. By October it had spread throughout the Pacific Northwest. The schools closed and the high school became a temporary hospital for six weeks, even being called the “Pest House” by some of the locals.

One of the first intermural competitive activities that Deer Park High participated in was debate. In January of 1912 a debate was held with a school in Latah regarding whether senators should be “elected by a direct vote of the people” with Deer Park arguing in the affirmative. In 1914 three Spokane schools participated with Deer Park High School in a debate competition which was held at the Methodist Church in Deer Park.

Students were required to take a monthly exam to show they were progressing in their studies. In March of 1912, an article in the newspaper reported success on that count. If the students’ daily work and daily attendance were good enough they earned an exemption from the examination for that month. The article indicated that over 80% of the students were earning exemptions each month. Considering the number of students attending that year, it means only ten or twelve students had to take the test each month. It must have served as a motivator to do well on a daily basis, especially if you were one of the ones taking the test while your friends were off doing fun things.

The first few years did not have enough students to field a football team. The 1913 graduating class had only six graduates and the next year there were only three. They did have enough boys to field the other kind of football, known to Americans as soccer. In a game against Colville on Thanksgiving Day, Deer Park won 1-0 with Lee Chadbourne making the goal.

The first baseball team was organized in the spring of 1914. The team was formed by the students and managed by one of the players. All of their games that year were played against Loon Lake High School. The next year the roster was expanded to include Chewelah, Colville and Clayton high schools.

In the fall of 1917 Deer Park had recruited a football team of twenty-five boys. With a total school enrollment of only sixty-four, those twenty-five may very well have been every boy in the school. Though reported to be highly motivated their first game was a wipe-out with a final score of Chewelah 90 and Deer Park 0. Though a disappointing beginning, one of the freshmen, Howard Slater, would go on to a college football career at Washington State College and even play for a time for the Milwaukee Badgers of the newly formed National Football League. Because of Slater, Deer Park can claim an alumnus who was in the NFL.

It is unclear when the school’s first basketball team was created, but from readings of the Deer Park Union it is evident that it was a part of the extracurricular activities by the 1920s. 1932 was the year of the Deer Park Stags’ first trip to State with teacher, coach and bus driver, Sam Perrins acting as coach.

Although the school began as a two-year school, by 1920 the school was fully operational as a four-year school. An article running every week for several years titled “The Spectator” gave a summary of activities going on in the high school. Reported activities included banquets put on by the junior class for the senior class and faculty taking (Continued on page 616)
place in the “Domestic Science Room,” the election of class officers, game results, formations of new clubs, brief biographies of some of the students, and interesting topics in some of the classes. One of these topics was a discussion regarding whether the U.S. should help with the famine in Russia in 1922. Evidently things were getting quite intense when the bell rang ending the class as well as the discussion.²¹

The goals of education included a desire to instill values in the students. One of the goals of the English program was to increase the student’s ability to talk, speak and write while the purpose of literature was to train the mind to develop “...a taste for the best in literature and thus lay a foundation for later reading.”²² One book used in the English program was called “Manners and Conduct in School and Out.” The book was published by the Chicago high schools and Deer Park purchased twelve of the books to be shared among the students. The purpose of the book was “…to teach the things that make a girl a lady and a boy a gentleman.”²³

The school building was open to the public when plays were put on including an operetta called “Up in the Air.”²⁴ Not everything that took place in the school had to do with the school. It was sometimes used for caucuses and other town meetings.²⁵

In 1930 a special election for a tax levy was called. For nearly twenty years Arcadia Orchards had been a going concern with many farmers in the community active in the enterprise. Then in 1924 the business shut down and by 1930 the resultant decreased land values created a $40,000 shortfall in the school’s budget requiring a special levy.²⁶ In 1935 a $10,000 bond was approved for an addition onto the high school.²⁷ An additional $10,000 of state money was allocated for the addition.²⁸

So, with $20,000 a four-room addition was added to the east side of the high school. Opening day was delayed that year due to the construction and the school year began on September 8, 1936. The additional classrooms came at just the right time as the enrollment had increased from 178 to 188 students over the summer.²⁹ The east stairwell and main entrance were now nearly in the middle of the school. One of the rooms in this addition was the auditorium complete with a stage. Exit stage right and one was in a small room that served as the teachers’ lounge by day and the means of entry for any persons who might appear on stage, whether for a meeting or a play. The auditorium was the place for school dances while the teachers took time out in their lounge. The auditorium also became the lunchroom, though hot lunches were still being brought in. The Home Economics department was also moved into the new wing along with Science and Music.³⁰

World War II entered into school life when in 1943 the school became the center from which ration books were distributed. The first books were issued in 1942 and were mainly for the purchase of sugar. A second book was issued in January of 1943 and a third in October of the same year including stamps for butter, cheese, lards and fats.³¹ In March of that year volunteers came into the Deer Park and Clayton schools and helped to distribute 2,685 ration books for both food and fuel oil rationing.³²

It was not only illness which could close the schools. Like today, snow “vacations” were common, usually lasting only a few days. However, in February of 1947 the schools had a “mud vacation” that lasted two weeks. The mud was so deep on the roads that school buses could not get through. Even after school started again, some of the students had to find their way to alternate bus stops because the buses could still not get through on some of the roads.³³

In 1947 the battle against epidemics was beginning to make progress with the use of inoculations against smallpox, tick bites and diphtheria offered in the schools. Students could only be given the shots with a signed consent form from the parents.³⁴ The residents of Deer Park also began to (Continued on page 617)
think it was time for a hospital and it was this year that the auditorium of the high school was used by the Community Hospital Association as a meeting place to discuss how one could be created.\textsuperscript{35}

An event that must have caused a stir in the town in 1947 was a radio broadcast from Deer Park’s own high school auditorium. KHQ came and aired a half-hour program in which the high school band played three march tunes and a number called “Poem;” a “triple trio” sang “All the Things You Are;” and Alvorine Riddle gave a talk on the school’s activities. The public was asked to be in their seat by broadcast time.\textsuperscript{36}

The Deer Park Schools were becoming crowded. Smaller school districts had consolidated with Deer Park. Loon Lake and Clayton no longer had high schools. With eight grades in the Deer Park grade school many classes were held in portables and there was even a fourth grade class meeting in the high school. Melinda Reynolds remembers attending fourth grade in the lower floor. One of her memories is the day a piece of plaster fell from the ceiling onto John Henry’s head. He was more upset about his big box of brand new crayons being broken by the plaster than by the injury to his head.\textsuperscript{37}

Of course the idea of building a new school meant asking for help from taxpayers. The school district decided it was time to build a new high school. A big challenge was getting Loon Lake to go along with the idea. Their eighth grade graduates would split off for high school. Approximately one half of the students would go to Chewelah and the other half would go to Deer Park. The residents did not like having to support schools so far away as Deer Park. The Loon Lake School District’s board of directors campaigned hard to gain approval of a bond proposal in the amount of $70,000 with one-half going for Deer Park and the other half for Chewelah. Because Loon Lake did not have a high school, they were required by law to support building programs at high schools where their students attended. The Loon Lake school board sent letters warning the voters that if the bond issue did not pass, “…we stand a very good chance of losing (Continued on page 618)
our school district.” Luckily the bond issue did pass and Loon Lake was able to keep its eight-grade elementary school.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new high school on Colville Road was in March, 1958 and the building’s completion was looked forward to with much anticipation. The Tribune ran pictures of the building in progress and students washing windows on the new building before the move-in. On November 25, 1958, the new high school was dedicated, the students and faculty made the move, and a few weeks later the old high school was renamed Crawford School and was ready for seventh and eighth graders. The old fourth grade class was transferred to the grade school and the portables at the grade school were able to be emptied.

Bill Sebright remembers moving from the grade school to Crawford School and he remembers dances “just about every noon” in the auditorium with 70 to 80 students participating. Mike Reiter remembers watching a Buddy Hackett movie in the auditorium a few years later. There was a shop class in the lower floor and one of the projects was building a table. Mrs. Ringstead taught her class that it is possible to build a computer out of a shoebox.

Since the school still did not have facilities for hot lunch, students were bused up to the new high school on Colville Road. Milk was delivered to Crawford School and placed in the refrigerator so if students brought lunch from home they could buy a carton of milk and remain at Crawford for lunch. Karen Parkhurst Hunter remembers buying the milk until the day her milk was curdled and she tried to drink it. That was the last time she bought milk at school.

There was a rule that before school and following the lunch hour, no students were allowed in the building until the teachers were ready and the doors opened up, no matter how “horrendous” the weather. Mike Reiter and Mike Snook were able to get an exemption during the lunch hour because they had braces on their teeth and were under orders to brush their teeth following lunch no matter what. Apparently the principal was not thrilled with this exception and would stand scowling at them while they brushed their teeth in the boys’ lavatory.

Throughout Deer Park’s history the population has been almost entirely of European descent. Even the arrival of Mennonite families was a newsworthy occurrence. When a black family moved to Deer Park and sent a girl to Crawford School’s seventh grade in the 1960/61 school year, Melinda Ward had never seen a person of color before and was afraid to speak to the girl. She regrets that the family moved away before she could get up the courage.

By the late 1960s discussions and rumors were talked about even in school that the Crawford School was going to be condemned. The reason usually mentioned was a crack which meandered down the outside wall at the west end of the building. When 1921 graduate, Mae Boyd Ball, heard of the rumored reason for the condemnation she thought it was ridiculous. She told her son the crack had been there when she was attending the high school. On inspecting the west end of the building today the crack is invisible except for a few small cracks near the window sills. It would seem the crack has been repaired.

As the years passed, several parts of the building actually were condemned until, in 1971, the Fire Marshall ordered the building closed by the next summer. However, the school district was given an extension until suitable classrooms had been built. There were plans for a new middle school but first the school district needed a school bond to pass in the amount of $725,000.

For the next year and a half classes were held on only the main floor of the Crawford School and the remaining classes were held in portables which were set up near the high school on Colville Avenue. In 1973 all the students were moved to the new middle school which, though unfinished, was (Continued on page 619)
Today the building has a new look inside and out. The portico is gone from the main entrance and in its place is a structure which houses new stairs, ramps going up to the main floor and down to the basement, and an elevator shaft. When the project was begun, there was to be an elevator going up to the top floor but once the shaft was complete the elevator failed to materialize.

Upon entering the main floor there is a reception area and offices of the Chamber of Commerce on the left. To the south of the reception area is a large and spacious room where town meetings are held. Along the walls of the council room are photographs of senior classes from the building’s high school days. This area takes up the space created by the 1936 addition.

Back in the entrance area to the main floor there is a door leading up to the third floor which is usually kept locked. Turning right are modern restrooms on either side of the hallway and then glass doors leading to the City Hall offices. Everything on this floor is modern and up-to-date.

(Continued on page 620)
The basement area is entered from outside. The Deer Park Library was installed here when the building was first renovated. The present library is located on Forest Avenue and was dedicated on October 31, 1998. today, on entering the building the 1936 addition space reveals glass doors leading to a branch of the County Sheriff’s Office which includes offices for S.C.O.P.E. (Sheriff Community Oriented Policing Effort), C.O.P.S. (Community Oriented Policing Services) and D.O.C. (Department of Corrections). Turn toward the west and enter through glass doors into the Deer Park Senior Center which is filled with tables and has cooking facilities.

Back on the main floor, one can walk up the steps to the top floor. The west stairwell is not accessible to the public and, in fact, is blocked off. Across from the east stairwell is an alcove leading to the elevator shaft which is blocked off with a sheet of plywood. One can get an idea of how the school looked in its day even though the floor is now used mostly for storage. In the hallway, all the doors have been removed from the wooden lockers and are leaning against one wall. The walls and ceiling show rusty water stains and are crumbly so one can see the original lath and plaster and in some places the brick infrastructure. Lights hang from the high ceiling, though they don’t seem to be functional any longer. Curtains still hanging on the stage in the auditorium are quite see-through. Windows in the auditorium and the north side classrooms have been replaced with double-pane windows and let in the light. On the south side of the original building the windows have been covered with fiberglass siding which actually blends in quite well with the brick on the outside of the building. The classrooms are very large, more of a lecture hall in size with green chalkboards stretched across the rooms at both ends.

Deer Park’s City Hall building has seen many changes over the years. It is amazing what has happened since the day the Reeds transferred the property to Deer Park School District back in 1911, and it all began with one dollar.

ENDNOTES

1. Warranty Deed 327725, Filed June 26, 1911, Recorded July 6, 1911, document from American Title Company.
9. Newkirk, 36
10. Newkirk, 36
15. Diamond Anniversary, 9
17. Diamond Anniversary, 9
18. Diamond Anniversary, 9
20. Diamond Anniversary, 11
23. “Manners Taught in H.S., ”Deer Park Union, October 12, 1922.
25. “Combination Ticket up to Voters,” Deer Park Union, April 6, 1922.
27. Diamond Anniversary, 6,7.
28. “$10,000 State Money for 4-Room Addition, Deer Park Union, February 6, 1936.
29. Diamond Anniversary, 5,6.
30. Pete Coffin, email message to author, February 24, 2012
33. “Classes Resume after ‘Vacation’” Deer Park Union, February 27,1947
35. “Play Postponed; Children Vacation,” Deer Park Union, April 10, 1947
37. Email 3/3/12 from Melinda Ward Reynolds.
42. Mike Reiter, email message to author, February 27, 2012
43. Reiter, February 27,2012.
44. Karen Hunter, email message to author, February 26, 2012.
45. Reiter, March 11,2012
46. “Another Mennonite Family Coming, ”Deer Park Union, September 30, 1930.
47. Donald Ball, Interview with author, March 10, 2012.
(Continued from page 621)

52. “Plan City Hall Dedication,” Deer Park Union, May 4, 1939.

54. Plaque on current Deer Park Library.
55. Tour of Deer Park City Hall under the guidance of city employees, Mike Reiter and Mark Lewis on March 1, 2012. Other members of the tour: Bill Sebright, Penny Hutten, Grace Hubal and Judy and Pete Coffin.

Loon Lake Historical Society
The Old Schoolhouse, 4000 Colville Road, Loon Lake, WA
Open Saturdays, 10 - 2, and Tuesday nights from 6 - 8 p.m.

Sharon Clark and Grace Hubal at our display in the Old School House courtesy of the Loon Lake Historical Society. The next chance to visit our display will be at the Old Settlers Picnic, July 28, 2012, but be sure to visit our neighbors and friends, the LLHS, at the Old School House this summer. Photo by Bill Sebright

MISS RICE LOSES A CLASS
Helen (Whitney) Robbins

One day in 1961, Miss Alice Rice left her science class to conduct some business elsewhere in the high school building (the present Middle School building). As her footsteps faded down the hall the science class decided to play a trick on her. The north side of the science room had a dark room area the size of a large closet. All the students crowded into the dark room, shut the door and became very quiet.

Soon Miss Rice was heard returning to the class room. Upon entering the room and seeing it empty, the class could hear her suck in her breath in amazement. She quickly locked the classroom door and stomped down the hall to Principal Pangle's office to report the missing students.

After she had gone the class quietly and quickly returned to their seats to wait for her return. Soon she could be heard stomping up the hall complaining loudly to Principal Pangle about what had happened. She unlocked the door, threw it open and both she and Principal Pangle saw the full classroom. Mr. Pangle looked at her and said that things seemed to be alright. Of course Miss Rice had no explanation and was greatly embarrassed.
Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society Minutes — May 12, 2012

In attendance: Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Don Reiter, Mary Jo Reiter, Warren Nord, Mark Wagner, Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Bill Sebright, Marie Morrill, Bob Gibson, Carol Walter, Bob Clouse, Sharon Clark, Don Ball, and Lorraine Ball

Society president, Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. 1) Bill picked up a box of pictures from Lorraine Nord. Les Bond had dropped the Martin and Antoinette Harris pictures off with Ammy Nord. Bill showed some of the many interesting and historic pictures to the group. 2) We have had our display at Loon Lake Saturdays since last meeting. The interest hasn’t been that great. Saturday hours are from 10 AM to 2 PM and Tuesday hours are, 6 to 8 PM through June. A signup sheet was passed around. Volunteers are still need for Tuesday, May 29 on through June.

Treasurer, Mark Wagner reported that there is $3,097.67 in the main checking account. There was $12.00 in deposits. The web hosting account had $372.60 with a $10.95 withdrawal for web hosting. There were 150.00 in deposits for the web hosting account. Our federal tax return was filed and accepted for the year.

Secretary, Grace Hubal reported by email: 1) Grace sent a thank you letters to NW Canopies for changing the website on our banner, to Sue Kelsch for the DP Gazette article, to Les Bond for his historic pictures, and to Ammy Nord for her getting Les's pictures to us. 2) She placed a Society classified display box advertisement in the Deer Park Tribune for May and June 2012. The cost was $13 plus. Grace is donating the price of the ad for 2 months.

Vice President, Pete Coffin reported: 1) The 35mm of Arcadia Orchards circa 1910 has been digitized and was shown during the meeting. A page of P. Coffin’s comments about the film was handed out. 2) Four possible Mortarboard articles in paper and digital form were given to Editor Sharon Clark. They include the following titles: Rural Post Offices in the Clayton-Deer Park Area; Silica Mining Near Half Moon Prairie; Arcadia Orchards and the Smudge Pot; The Evolution of Spokane County. 3) A group of short stories about the Clayton-Deer Park area were given to Editor Sharon Clark. Titles include: A Cat Fight, A Moonshiner is Caught; An Electronic Car Analysis; Class Scheduling Conflict; Miss Rice Loses a Class; Moonshine for Underage Drinkers; Too Many Beans Means Trouble. 3) Pete Coffin asked Editor Sharon Clark if she could ask the Eastern Washington Historical Society if they have any information about a monument being erected at the site of a 1800s US Army Dragoon camp on Dragoon Creek. 5) Pete Coffin suggested that perhaps the Museum of Arts and Culture (MAC) would be a good place to store the original 35 mm film, the original DVD, and the mini-tape of the 1910 Arcadia Orchard film. If the MAC is approached he recommends that a deal is made whereby the CDPHS could have access to MAC material and photographs without the published high costs. In addition he recommends that the CDPHS retain ultimate ownership and copyrights to the film. 6) A sponsorship of awards for the MOPAR class of the Camaro Club Open Car Show in August was made by P. Coffin in the name of the CDPHS.

Print Editor, Sharon Clark reported: 1) The May Mortarboard was distributed. Articles on the E. E. Williamson place by Bill Sebright and Chuck Stewart, autobiography on J. A. Prufer from the Deer Park Union, and an article on Washington Brick and Lime’s Mr. Brook by Wally Lee Parker. The Frank Young biography is in progress.

Webmaster Penny Hutten reported by email: 1) Penny met with Sharon Clark and Bill Sebright. Sharon and Bill learned how to edit the Website. Anyone finding mistakes on the Website should let Penny, Sharon, or Bill know, so the mistakes can be corrected.

Wally Parker is rebinding his publication on Tuffy's War so that the name of the book is on the spine. Several books will be at the Loon Lake display. The cost will be $8 each. Wally is working on other research projects for the future.

Both the Loon Lake Historical Society and the North Spokane Farm Museum have offered to host our meetings. It was suggested that we might have our June meeting in Loon Lake. After a short discussion it was decided that the June meeting will be at the Clayton Drive-In.

(Continued on page 624)
“Pete Coffin will now show the Arcadia Orchards film. Lights Please!” The film was shown, many commented, and all enjoyed. Copies of the film are available from Pete Coffin.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03.

Next meeting, June 9, 2012, at the Clayton Drive-In

Submitted by Mark Wagner, Treasurer and acting 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.

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

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 business, 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.