

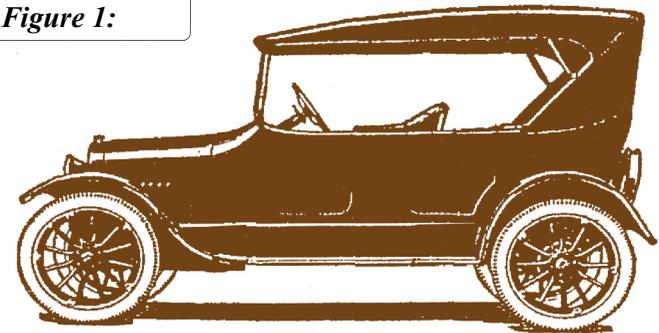
THE
**CLAYTON/DEER PARK
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
Mortarboard

© C/DPHS

The C/DPHS is an association of individuals dedicated to the preservation of the history of our community. To the preservation of the region's oral history, literary history, social history, graphic and pictorial history, and our history as represented by the region's artifacts and structures. To the preservation of this history for future generations. To the art of making this common heritage accessible to the public. And to the act of collaborating with other individuals and organizations sharing similar goals.

The Deer Park Motors Company
 by
Peter Coffin

Figure 1:



**Reduced Freight Rates Lower Prices On Chevrolets
 To the Following Prices FOB Deer Park**

"490" TOURING	\$ 663.00
"490" ROADSTER	658.00
"490" UTILITY COUPE	932.00
"490" FOUR-PASSENGER COUPE	1067.00
"490" SEDAN	1093.00
"490" DELIVERY	643.00
"490" CHASSIS, MARTIN-PARRY	588.00
TRUCK CHASSIS	860.00
TRUCK, EXPRESS BODY	998.00

DEER PARK MOTOR CO.

FULL LINE OF CHEVROLET AND FORD PARTS

*Ad from the Deer Park Union,
 July 20, 1922.*

Free — Take One

The C/DPHS meets at 9 a.m. every second Saturday of the month. Join us at the Clayton Drive-In, Clayton, Washington. Visit our website at <http://www.cdphs.org>

Image from the March 3rd, 1916 issue of Good Housekeeping Magazine.

**Let's
 bring
 history
 back
 into
 fashion!**

**Join the
 Clayton / Deer Park
 Historical Society.**



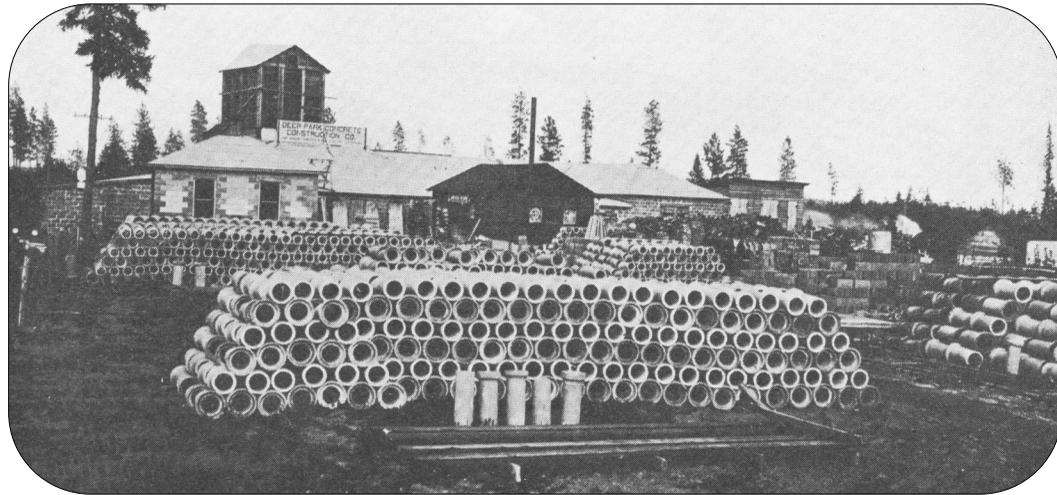


Image from

Figure 2:
The Deer Park Artificial Stone casting plant.
This factory was located south of town, east of Main Avenue, and north of H Street.

The first decade of the 1900s saw the arrival of four or five automobiles in the Deer Park area. Enough of them had arrived in the second decade to justify the establishment of several shops in Deer Park to repair them. One of the men repairing automobiles was O. M. Kimmel who had been working beside his father as a repairman in 1911 in a shop located on east Crawford Street. In 1916 Kimmel had established himself as a reputable mechanic and decided to build an impressive repair and sales facility on the northeast corner of Main Avenue and A-Street.⁽¹⁾ Kimmel's garage was to be constructed of the "air spaced" concrete blocks cast by the Deer Park Artificial Stone Company. The one-story building was to be fifty feet wide, eighty feet in length and cost \$3500 to build.

By the late summer of 1917 O. M.

Kimmel and J. B. Sharkey had filed for incorporation of the new firm of Kimmel-Sharkey Motors Company to operate the garage with capital stock of \$10,000.⁽²⁾ Sharkey, from Gary, Indiana, an expert electrician, had been connected to several large firms in the eastern United States. At this time it was reported that an additional \$3500 had been invested in power machinery, auto supplies and parts for the operation of the garage.

By 1922 the Kimmel-Sharkey Motors Company had been re-named the Deer Park Motors Company and had acquired a Chevrolet dealership license. Interestingly, a company advertisement for Chevrolet said that both Chevrolet and Ford parts were stocked.⁽³⁾ Another advertisement reported that the company was planning a demonstration of a Twin City Sampson tractor on the Hazard farm on Wild

Footnotes:

- ⁽¹⁾ *Deer Park Union, November 3, 1916.*
- ⁽²⁾ *Deer Park Union, September 29, 1917.*
- ⁽³⁾ *Deer Park Union, July 20, 1922 (also "Figure 1" on page 1453).*



Photo by Peter Coffin.

Figure 3:
The Deer Park Motors Company garage as CCs Pawn Shop in 2009.

Rose Prairie.⁽⁴⁾

In July, 1922, Kimmel left the operation to supervise the repair department of Deer Park's Peters Brothers Garage, while O. A. Peters ran the automobile sales department.⁽⁵⁾ A. F. Anderson was hired by the Deer Park Motors Company, apparently to replace Kimmel.⁽⁶⁾

Newspaper advertisements in the late 1920s and 1930s continued to list Chevrolets for sale at Deer Park Motors. Unfortunately, they do not indicate who owned the business during this time until a Simonton was reported as the owner of the garage.

The Deer Park Motors Company was destroyed by fire about midnight on November 29, 1938.⁽⁶⁾ Monetary damages were estimated to be about \$6000, only half of which was covered by insurance. The fire's cause was never determined.

From her bed next door, Mrs. Olivia

Ricca was the first to notice the fire. It was difficult to put out due to the hose, couplings, and nozzles freezing. Every few minutes exploding cans of oil spread sheets of fuel across the floor. Seven automobiles were destroyed, including a 1933 V-8 Tudor, a 1936 Ford one and one half ton truck, a 1929 Durant, and a 1923 Packard wrecker — all belonging to the garage. Other automobiles destroyed were a 1929 Chevrolet Tudor, a 1923 Chevrolet mail truck, and a 1933 V-8 coupe. Curiously, no new display Chevrolets were mentioned as being destroyed. It is possible the company was no longer selling Chevrolets by this time.

Garage rebuilding did not start until April, 1940, after the Havre, Montana, company of H. Earl Clack purchased the property.⁽⁷⁾ In addition to the garage property the Clack company purchased the tract of land in front of the building and the Ricca property, which until that time had been leased from the Great

Footnotes:

- ⁽⁴⁾ *Deer Park Union, September 14, 1922.*
- ⁽⁵⁾ *Deer Park Union, July 13, 1922.*
- ⁽⁶⁾ *Deer Park Union, December 1, 1938.*
- ⁽⁷⁾ *Deer Park Union, April 4, 1940.*



Photo by Peter Coffin.

Above, Figure 4:
The front of Sculley's newly painted garage in 2016.

Right, Figure 5:
A Deer Park Motor Co. ad, July 2, 1931.

Northern Railroad. The rebuilding plans included a steel truss roof covering a single room. This would allow the repair of large trucks inside the building. In addition to repairing the garage the Clack Company planned to build a bulk plant for wholesale distribution of their petroleum products. Frank Hurlbert's repair business leased the newly rebuilt garage. He had been the proprietor of Deer Park's Central Garage north on Main Avenue.

The Hurlbert operation must not have lasted very long since E. H. Larson was reported as selling the business to Fred Reynolds and associates; Bernard (Neb) Olson and

A comfort to ride in-- a pleasure to drive

Whether it's a vacation trip ahead, a week-end jaunt, or just a single day's excursion, plan to take full advantage of it—go in a Chevrolet Six..... With a 50-horsepower six-cylinder engine to speed you along, you can cover plenty of territory in remarkably short time. You can really enjoy every mile and every minute, too—thanks to Chevrolet's many comfort features: Long wheel base, modern springs, insulated Fisher bodies, spacious interiors, and a smooth running six-cylinder motor. The longest journey you can make with confidence, knowing that Chevrolet quality will back you all the way. You can travel far and wide with only a few stops for fuel—in fact, 20 miles to the gallon is a usual experience with Chevrolet drivers. And even during high speed running, Chevrolet's oil consumption is very low. Pick out the places you want to visit, the people you want to see, and jump in and go! The journey will be restful and pleasant.

Deer Park Motor Co.



Photo by Peter Coffin.

Figure 6:
The south side of Scully's garage in 2016.

Rex Watkins by 1944.⁽⁸⁾ The Deer Park Motors Company was renamed the Deer Park Auto Freight Garage at this time, with an office, repair facility, and storage area for the freight line portion of the business. Watkins would repair cars, trucks and tractors. The Auto Freight business was divided into two parts. Fred Reynolds operated a milk collection business transporting ten gallon cans of raw milk from farms to a dairy for processing, while Neb Olson ran the conventional freight business.

During the late 1940s and early 1950s my father, Elden "Jack" Coffin, had his automobile repaired at the Reynolds garage and sometimes took me along. The northwest front of the garage was a display area for Persian orange Allis Chalmers tractors and other machinery. If no one caught me, I would climb up on them to pretend I was driving a tractor. The several large tanks of the Clack bulk petroleum plant were located south across

A-Street. "Icky" Calkins used a medium sized truck with large tanks on the bed to deliver gasoline and other petroleum products to the local farmers. Vern Robertson had been hired as a mechanic. He was a good mechanic and my father routinely used him to repair his 1950 Plymouth and his Case VAC tractor.

In June of 1956 Faye Reilly purchased the conventional freight business from the Reynolds operation. Fred Reynolds retired and sold the garage business to Vernon Robertson in 1965. Robertson died in 1976 and Carl Justice bought the land as well as the business. By 2004 the garage building was being used as a pawn shop.

In 2010 the present owner, the Sculley family, purchased CC's Pawn Shop and moved their auto repair business from the southeast corner of Fir Avenue and Crawford Street into the old Deer Park Motors building.

— end —

Footnote:

⁽⁸⁾ *Deer Park Union, November 30, 1944.*

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

Bits of Chatter, Trivia, & Notices — all strung together.

... Spokane Pottery's E. K. Erwin ...

Last summer the society acquired a large cache of documents related to the early business history of Deer Park (see *Mortarboard* #99, page 1314 — July, 2016). Among the papers the society obtained from Kim Hickethier were records from Deer Park's historic First State Bank, sales records for the O. F. Kelly store dating from 1907 through 1922, and a book of legal records for the Arcadia Orchards Irrigation Association. Also included were some documents from the office of Deer Park attorney Olaf G. Follevaag. And all this appears to be just the beginning.

As for itemizing this accumulation, the society's vice-president, Pete Coffin, has begun the unenviable task of sorting through this mass of records — all of which are currently stored in his basement. His initial rummaging has already suggested just how rich an historical treasure chest this truckload of dusty books, letters, and legal documents are likely to be.

For example, Pete's been drawing up some First State Bank financial records that tend to throw light on the circumstances underlying the demise of Clayton's Spokane Pottery Company. For an outline of what we currently know about this company, check the *Letters/Brickbats* column beginning on page 1294 of the June, 2016, *Mortarboard* (#98).

In a recent email Pete noted that he had found some telling communications in the form of two letters between Deer Park's First State Bank and officers of the Spokane Pottery Company.

The first of these letters, dated June 3, 1909, is a two page missive handwritten in cursive on unillustrated Spokane Pottery Company stationary. The missive, addressed to "Mr. Louis Olson, Deer Park," was signed, "E. K. Erwin," then secretary of the above mentioned pottery company. As Pete notes, "They (the pottery company) were very slow to pay, and the material indicates they went into receivership." The below text of the aforementioned missive hints that the company's financial problems were well advanced by the letter's date.

"Friend Olson,

"The First State Bank sent the note for \$1129⁰⁰ to the Traders Bank for collection and wrote me that unless it was paid at once you would place the same in the hands of your attorney for foreclosure.

"I intended to stop off yesterday at Deer Park to see you and fix the matter up, but I had to go on to Clayton and could not do so.

"Now, Louis, you know if you have been to Clayton within the last two or three weeks that we are putting in a lot more machinery and improvements up there, and I want you to know that every part of the new work is paid for now, which makes your loan just so much more secure and valuable from a loaning standpoint. Our machinery ... (deleted for clarity) ... now installing ... has cost us ... between \$4500 and \$5000 cash.

"But if you still insist upon the immediate payment of the same, I will be up there next Wednesday or Thursday and pay it.

"It would, however, be an accommodation and favor to me to let the same run a

short time longer or until we fully complete our improvement. I paid out yesterday in cash to the men for labor and wood about \$2500, and if you have any of the time(?) checks of our company send me a list of the same and the accounts and I will send you the money for them.

"Awaiting your early reply, I beg to remain as always,

"Your Friend,

"E. K. Erwin."

As often, translating out of cursive requires an occasional application of guesswork. In the above, the phrase "Traders Bank" is believed to refer to Spokane's then active Traders National Bank. I've placed a question mark beside the word "Traders" since I'm not absolutely sure my reading of that handwritten word is correct.

Nearing the end of the letter, a second question mark has been added next to the word "time" in what appears to be the phrase "time checks." This question mark relates to the unusualness of the term, assuming the first word of the handwritten phrase is in fact "time."

Under the assumption that the phrase "time checks" is something possibly unique to the era, I went in search of other sources in which the term appears — and so far have found only one.

On page 40 of a weighty journal titled *Proceedings of the First Annual Convention of the California Bankers Association*

held at San Francisco, October 14th, 15th, and 16th, 1891, under the subheading "Suggestion Number Four," the following appears. "Time checks might be found useful and easy to handle. People could be encouraged to issue time checks — or notes that could be collected at a bank on a definite day for a definite sum — free of any interest-bearing phrases."

I believe what's being suggested is a bit of creative financing in which profit producing loans can be made without all the associated paperwork. I hand you cash, and you hand me a promissory note — a time check — cashable by me after a specific date, and written out for an amount that includes the original amount of the loan, plus any agreed upon upcharge in lieu of traditional interest.

That at least would be my guess.

On July 10th, E. K. Erwin again wrote Deer Park's First State Bank, this note, written on a form of company stationary that included the illustrated letterhead reproduced below, reads as follows.

"Gentlemen,

"Enclosed find check for \$500.00 for partial payment on note in compliance with your letter of the 8th last(?).

"We thank you for the favors and courtesy shown us and assuring you that you will have no trouble in the future with the Spokane Pottery Co., or that you will lose cash(?) in doing business with us.

"We beg to remain, yours truly,

"Mr. E. K. Erwin, Secretary.

Letterhead from the Spokane Pottery Company note of July 10th, 1909.





E. K. Erwin.
*Photo from the August 1st, 1902,
edition of The Seattle Republican.*

Once again several question marks have been added to suggest instances of creative interpretation.

As for the promises regarding the continued solvency of the Spokane Pottery Company, an article appearing in the December 23rd, 1909, edition of the *Spokane Chronicle*, states, "Judge Hinkle issued an order yesterday setting January 15 (1910) as the date of sale of all the property of the Spokane Pottery Company which lately went into a receiver's hands."

The article also noted, "Some time ago, J. J. White was appointed receiver for the company and the sale will be conducted by him." The phrase "some time ago" suggests that Mr. Erwin may have known how precarious a position the company was in when he wrote the above letters to Deer Park's First State Bank.

J. J. White appears to have been an

J. J. WHITE
EXPERT ACCOUNTANT
Rooms 17 and 18 Exchange Bank Bldg.
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON
Best of References.

*Above ad for J. J. White from the
June, 1908, edition of
Northwest Mining & Metallurgy.*

accountant with an office in Spokane. Records indicate he served as Spokane's City Clerk from 1888 to 1890. It also appears he was killed in the infamous February 20th, 1916, train wreck at Cheney. Other than that, we currently have little data on him.

We do have a little more background on E. K. Erwin, the writer of the above letters. A report on the 1902 Spokane County Republican convention appeared on the front page of the August 1st, 1902, edition of *The Seattle Republican*. Said report contained the following biography of Mr. Erwin.

"E. K. Erwin, nominee for (Spokane) county clerk, was born in Freeport, Ill., in 1860. In early boyhood his parents moved to Tomah, Wis., where he followed the occupation of bookkeeper and accountant, also serving as city clerk in 1887. In 1892 he came to Spokane and engaged in abstracting and accountant work until the opening of the war with Spain. For many years, Mr. Erwin had been identified with the National Guard of Washington and was sworn into the United States service as a first lieutenant and assigned to Company A, First Washington Volunteers when that organization went into the field in the Philippines. After the war he acted as bookkeeper for the Hill Shoe Company, giving up that position to become county clerk two years ago."

His subsequent political career appears to have ended when Erwin didn't stand

for reelection in late 1908 as Spokane County Treasurer, instead choosing to run for the office of Washington State Treasurer. He lost that bid.

In the spring of 1909 rumors were about that Mr. Erwin might be appointed to an impending vacancy in the State's insurance office. Regarding such, the May 7th, 1909, edition of *The Seattle Republican* stated, "It is expected that in the very near future a vacancy will occur in the insurance office and it is hinted that E. K. Erwin has been slated for that place. For four years last past Capt. Erwin was treasurer of Spokane County, and for four years prior to that he was county clerk of Spokane, and in both places he made a splendid record and today stands ace high before the voters of that county." Nothing has been found as of yet to suggest that such appointment was ever made.

We know that Mr. Erwin was associated with the Spokane Pottery Company from its 1905 founding until it entered receivership. As for Mr. Erwin's activities later on, I believe he was acting as clerk for a Spokane judge as of 1919, and simultaneously continuing his position as secretary and bookkeeper for various speculative mining companies and the like.

We'll be looking forward to more enlightening bits of historic bric-a-brac as Pete Coffin delves further into last summer's truck load of priceless documents.

... regarding Spokane Pottery's trademark ...

In the society's January minutes — as printed in the February *Mortarboard* (#106) — society president Bill Sebright stated that he had "received a phone call and email from Buzz Hildebrand. Buzz sent a picture of a 3 gallon crock made by the Spokane Pottery Company of Clayton." Buzz's photos are reproduced on page 1435 of that issue.

In his email Buzz asked about the difference between the circular Spokane Pottery Company trademark as seen on the society's website, and the triangular one stamped



*Above & Below:
Photo (and enlargement) of the trademark
from a crock on display at the
Stevens County Historical Society's
Colville museum.*



Photo by Bill Sebright.

on his crock. A photo of both styles of trademark can be found in the above mentioned February *Mortarboard*.

The truth of the matter is that until receiving Buzz's email and photo, we were unaware that anything other than the circular trademark had been used by Spokane Pottery — simply because the few examples of Spokane Pottery trademarks we have in the society's collection are all circular in nature.

At least that's what we thought, until Bill — while rummaging through his own photo files — happened on a picture he'd taken at the Stevens County Historical Society's museum when attending a Heritage Network meeting held there in May of 2008. The nearly nine year old photo shows a two gallon stoneware vessel bearing Spokane Pottery's triangular trademark.

A subsequent online search revealed that at least several more examples of triangular logos stamped on Spokane Pottery Company artifacts are being traded in the internet's antique stoneware marketplace.

We can draw several conclusions from all this trademark confusion. First, history is complicated. Teasing out the truth is an ongoing and augmentative process. Secondly, we're only at the very beginning of understanding this community's extensive and very rich history.

... the schoolboard and 1918's pandemic ...

This last summer society president Bill Sebright sent the following email to several members of the society. "Attached is a photo of a page from the Deer Park school board minutes where it talks about closing schools in response to the ongoing flu epidemic." The referenced pandemic arrived in the United States just as the First World War was draw-

ing to a close (late 1918), and extended well into the next year. With its unusual proclivity for striking younger adults — 20 to 40 years of age — extra hard, the fatalities it produced tended to leave noticeable gaps in the region's social and business community. The referenced "page from the Deer Park school board minutes" is found among the vintage minutes held in storage by Deer Park's school district.

Simply put, everyone was scared — which seem reasonable considering this flu killed by slow suffocation due to secondary pneumonias against which the medical arts of the time had little in the way of defense.

There were two pandemic related schoolboard notes on the above mentioned page. The first, identified as being from a "Special Meeting" of "Deer Park School Dist. #102, Spokane, Co.," was dated February 14th. The "Directors present" were identified as "Worthington, Follevaag, & Grove." The inclusion stated, "Mr. Evans, Health Officer, met with the board and by his order the schools were closed 2/14/19 at noon, remaining closed until the following Monday. Both buildings to be fumigated." The notation was signed, "Roy R. Grove, clerk."

Another "Special Meeting" was held on February 17th. The note for that session stated, "Motion made and passed that two people be employed to look after the influenza situation in the schools and the necessary appliances purchased for their use." The schoolboard was clearly taking no chances.

... Worthington of the schoolboard ...

It's believed that the "Worthington" identified as one of the "Directors" in the above schoolboard notes was in fact the Reverend William Worthington, at the time pastor of Deer Park's Open Door Congregational

Church. As of now the only documentation regarding such membership comes from an article appearing in the "Twice-Told Tales" segment of the April 1st, 1920, issue of the *Deer Park Union*, which states, "At a meeting Monday night, the school board as at present constituted organized for the ensuing year, with Rev. Wm. Worthington, chairman, and O. G. Follevaag as clerk. Mrs. E. E. Wood is the third member." While we currently don't know when Mr. Worthington was elected to the schoolboard, we do know he resigned his position within weeks of the above *Union* article.

The society has pieced together some background for the pastor, beginning with a reference book titled *Rural Uplook Service*, first published in 1918 by noted American horticulturist Liberty Hyde Bailey. Bailey's book advertised itself as "A preliminary attempt to register the rural leadership in the United States and Canada." Each alphabetized edition was essentially a *Who's Who* among rural organizers such as horticulturists, agricultural researchers, authors on rural subjects, activist ministers within rural communities, and so forth. The 1918 volume listed close to 3,000 alphabetized individuals, among them "Worthington, William, minister, Deer Park, Wash."

Worthington's short biography began by stating that the minister held the position of principal at the Puget Sound Academy during the 1905 – 6 school year.

In confirmation, the 1909 edition of *Patterson's College & School Directory* also noted Worthington's posting at the school, and goes on to describe the academy, located in the town of Snohomish, Washington, as a "co-ed" "preparatory" school associated with the Congregational Church.

The 1918 edition of Bailey's *Uplook Service* next indicates Mr. Worthington taught economics at Walla Walla's Whitman College in the "1907-10" school years. It also records he was born in Grove Lake, Minnesota, on the 13th of July, 1871. That he married Carrie Amelia Palmer on August 28th, 1901, and that

they had two children, Leora and Helen. It goes on to note he had received a Bachelor of Arts from Whitman College (Walla Walla) in 1900, and a Bachelor of Divinity from the Chicago Theological Seminary in 1904.

The April 11th, 1919, edition of the *Deer Park Union* rounds out the picture with, "Rev. William Worthington, pastor of the Congregational Church and a graduate of the Lewis and Clark High School with the class of '96, will be the speaker for the June graduating class baccalaureate exercises at the Lewis and Clark High School."

Perhaps the most intriguing element in Mr. Worthington's history is a line in Bailey's *Rural Uplook Service* that reads "Associate editor, *Encyclopedia of Practical Horticulture*, 1914."

And sure enough, there was a four volume horticultural encyclopedia produced by the "Encyclopedia of Horticulture Corporation, North Yakima, Washington," in 1914. If anyone wants to take a look, facsimiles of all four volumes can be downloaded from Google or like services.

The title page of each volume lists Granville Lowther as "Editor-in-Chief," and William Worthington as "Associate Editor." After that it adds, "Assisted by the best known scientific and practical horticulturist throughout the country, and particularly in the Northwest." It also explains that the set is "a reference system of commercial horticulture, covering the practical and scientific phases of horticulture, with special reference to fruits and vegetables."

Also note, in the book's list of assisting "scientific and practical horticulturist" is one "A. G. Craig, Horticulturist Washington State College; Superintendent Arcadia Orchards Company." More about this later.

Regarding William Worthington's arrival in Deer Park, the January 12th, 1917, edition of the *Deer Park Union* records, "Rev. Worthington, of North Yakima, arrived here today (Friday). His family will come as soon as his household goods arrive. He will occupy the Congregational Church pulpit Sunday

Further Reading on 1918's Pandemic:

"Mystery of the Class of 1919," by Mike Reiter.

Mortarboard #99, July, 2016 — page 1310. *Collected Newsletters, Volume 27.*
http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard_issue_99_doublepage_web.pdf

morning.”

As for his leaving, the following appeared in the “*Twice-Told Tales*” segment of the May 6th, 1920 *Union*. “*A farewell reception was tendered Rev. Wm. Worthington, retiring pastor of the Congregational church, last Thursday evening.*”

The *Union*’s use of the term “*retiring*” may be misleading. In its June 24th, 1920 edition, the Congregationalist Church’s national newsletter, *The Congregationalist and Advance*, noted, “*Rev. William Worthington has begun his ministry with Corbin Park, Spokane, having just completed three splendid years with Deer Park.*”

... *the Arcadia’s horticulturist* ...

The 1920 edition of Liberty Hyde Bailey’s *Rural Uplook Service* records the following regarding the Arcadia Orchards Company’s Superintendent of Horticulture, A. G. Craig.

Albert G. Craig was born in Michigan on the 20th of April, 1877, and “*reared on farm.*” He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from the Michigan Agricultural College in 1902. That same year he married Clara L. Hoffner (possibly Haffner). He was an instructor in horticulture at the Michigan Agricultural College for the 1904 and ‘05 school years. He then moved to Washington to teach and do research in horticulture at Pullman’s Washington State College.

The *Sixteenth Annual Report of the Director of the State Agricultural Experimental Station — Pullman, Washington* records, “*In March, 1906, Mr. A. G. Craig was added as Assistant Horticulturist.*” The *Nineteenth Annual Report* specified “*Mr. A. G. Craig resigned as Assistant Horticulturist February 1st, 1909, to enter commercial work.*”

Among the papers Mr. Craig published during his time at Pullman was one titled *Commercial Potato Culture in Washington*. In 1909 this was presented as a thesis to obtain a Master of Horticulture degree from

the Michigan Agricultural College — which, according to 1920’s edition of the *Rural Uplook Service*, Albert G. Craig did receive.

The “*commercial service*” Mr. Craig entered after leaving his position at Pullman’s Experimental Station is outlined by the *Uplook Service* as being “*horticulturist and field manager, Arcadia Orchards Company, Deer Park, Wash. 1909-18.*”

An obituary for Mr. Craig was located in the August 31st, 1925, edition of the Michigan State College’s alumni newsletter, *The Michigan Agricultural College Record*. That edition reported, “*A Spokane, Washington, newspaper prints the following obituary of A. G. Craig.*”

“*Albert George Craig, 48, widely known horticulturist and a resident of this region for the last 20 years, died yesterday afternoon (July 31) at the Deaconess Hospital following the results of an injury received April 25 in a dynamite explosion on his ranch at East Farms.*”

“*Mr. Craig approached a stick of the explosive, thinking it had failed to become ignited. It exploded as he reached to pick it up. He was severely injured, and three weeks after the accident his right arm was amputated. A week later it was found necessary to remove his right leg, and subsequent operations were performed in an effort to save his life.*”

“*Mr. Craig was born in Harbor Springs, Mich., and was a graduate of the Michigan State College of 1902, taking his master’s degree a year later. He taught at that institution for three years, then moved west where he was an instructor in the horticultural department of the State College of Washington at Pullman for three years.*”

“*For nine years Mr. Craig was horticulturist at Arcadia Orchards at Deer Park, and for six years was manager for the Spokane Valley Orchard and Land Company. He had been active in farm bureau work and in the state horticultural association.*”

“*He leaves a widow, Mrs. Edna Evans Craig, at East Farms, Wash., and three*

sisters and four brothers in the east.”

I’ve yet to find which “*Spokane, Washington, newspaper*” published the above, however, having found a somewhat different obituary on page 14 of the August 1st, 1925, edition of the *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, my suspicion falls on the *Spokesman-Review*.

Also of note is the above article’s listing of Mr. Craig’s wife as Edna Evans Craig. According to a Spokane County marriage certificate, dated December 19, 1918, Edna was Albert’s second wife, he being divorced from his first — Clara. Edna is listed on the marriage certificate as a teacher residing in Deer Park at the time of the union. Mr. Craig had already moved to East Farms, Washington, when the ceremony was held.

Also of note is the fact that Mr. Craig, like the Reverend Worthington, served on Deer Park’s schoolboard.

As for evidence, first we have this from the March 2nd, 1917, edition of the *Deer Park Union*. Under the headline “*School Election Gets Interesting*” the *Union* reports, “*The interested parents and tax payers of School District No. 102 who are going to the Main Ave. school house tomorrow (Saturday) afternoon to vote for two school directors for the coming year, will find plenty of candidates to choose from, there being five in the field.*”

“*Both the old directors, Prof. A. G. Craig and Mrs. Matt Peterson, are up for re-election, and as they have served this district to the best of their ability during the past term, they feel that their record in handling the district’s affairs speaks for itself, and they are perfectly willing to let the voters decide whether they want them to return or not.*”

It appears “*Professor Craig*” was running for a three year term on the board, which he apparently won. The other candidate, Mrs. Peterson, was vying for a one year term.

Mr. Craig didn’t finish his term, as suggested when the February 8th, 1918, *Union* announced, “*The coming spring election of school directors is due next month. Only one director is to be chosen this trip, unless Pro-*

fessor Craig decides to resign.” Nineteen eighteen was the year Craig left Deer Park’s Arcadia Orchards Company to manage the Spokane Valley Orchard & Land Company, so it appears a resignation was forthcoming.

... *further schoolboard research* ...

The complex history of Deer Park’s schoolboard is one of doubtless hundreds of areas of research the society needs to fully investigated in order to have a reasonably inclusive understanding of this community’s past. As per usual, there are any number of problems making the retrieval of these stories problematic. As regards those problems, access to the minutes of past schoolboard meetings — at least that portion of those meetings not dealing with confidential matters — currently appears not to be one.

With one photograph, Bill Sebright captured a significant bit of 98 year old data from the schoolboard’s records. That one photograph led to a significant portion of the threads of research presented in this month’s *Letters/Brickbats* column. One can only wonder how many more threads, covering a vast range of possible subjects, can be pulled from those vintage documents.

It’s probable that the greatest obstacle to making full use of those documents is finding individuals who have the time and necessary skills to access and photoduplicate this material — and by that I mean all the vintage material. We know the school district has preserved a significant amount of this data. It appears they’re willing to allow respectful access. The problem we currently have in doing so seems a matter of volunteers willing to take on the task — and a large task it’s likely to be.

... *museum musings* ...

At the society’s last meeting the subject of a publicly accessible place to store the group’s growing mass of archival materials once again came up. The society’s collection

of artifacts, photographs, and documents is currently kept in at least a dozen basements, garages, and workspaces. It would be so much more convenient if all this could be gathered into one place — a place where the real work of sorting, cataloging, and preservation could begin. The reason it isn't happening is really quite simple. It has to do with money, and also the number of volunteers willing to help. If anyone can come up with a realistic solution to either of these problems — though both will need workable answers — we'd be most interested in hearing.

The key word when it comes to "solutions" is "realistic."

In the past we've given at least passing entertainment to any number of schemes for obtaining a museum — a museum actually being the most membership inclusive objective any historical society can work toward. By inclusive I mean that up until now the principle activities within our society have been research and publishing. The reason for that is again quite simple. Research and publishing are the least expensive endeavors we can engage in and still be considered a legitimate historical society. What research and publishing are not is membership inclusive. There are few pathways to full participation for those whose skills and interest lay outside those areas. For example, we have little to nothing to offer potential volunteers willing to engage in hands on activities such as restoring vintage antiquities. Other than the society's booth at summer events, we have next to nothing to offer those who might be willing to — and actually good at — interfacing with the public. Having some kind of brick and mortar presence in the community — even if not an actual museum — would open up opportunities for a much broader swath of potential and existing members to participate fully. Opportunities such as those mentioned above.

That said, there's a very steep downside to all this. And there's a swath of historical societies acting as caretakers of museums who can confirm this. Once you've taken responsibility for a museum or historical

building, your main focus changes from whatever you were doing prior, to raising funds in order to keep your doors open. Maintaining such an essentially endless fundraising campaign is not a small task.

Even assuming a building were donated to the society without stipulation — a structure in prime shape and in need of no immediate input of cash to make it useable — the society would still likely need to raise something in the order of a thousand dollars a month just to take care of all the little incidentals such as heating, electrical, water, sewage, refuse collections, insurance and taxes. In other words, all the expenses, short of labor, encountered by a small business, but without said business's potential to generate a self-sustaining income.

There isn't a single member of the group who wouldn't dearly love for the society to have, if not a full-fledged museum, then at least a dedicated clubhouse with attached storage. The fact that we don't has apparently implied to some that we lack sufficient imagination to envision the possibilities. And that's untrue.

It reminds me of a talk I had with a member of the "Save the Old Clayton School" group back when the fate of that historic brick building was still in question. That person wistfully said, "I dream about winning the lottery bigtime. If I did that today, the issue of the old school would be totally settled by tomorrow."

I shared that sentiment at the time — and now, as it relates to the society, still do. As a sentiment it's a pleasant diversion from the hard math. But a diversion is all it is.

I recall a society meeting some ten years ago at which a cardboard dinner plate upon which someone had sketched a floorplan for a museum was passed around. Apparently, this drawing was offered as a serious proposal to our unimaginative group. Our answer then was the same as it is now. We have no way to pay for this — neither the initial construction, nor the upkeep. The reply to our concerns was straight out of the movie *Field of Dreams*. We

were told "Build it and they will come" — apparently suggesting that once built, one or more apparitions capable of solving all our pragmatic problems would stroll out of some nearby alfalfa field.

Trust me on this, imagination is not the issue here. What is at issue is the math. In order to move forward, the numbers have to be there.

The society does need, if not a museum, at least someplace to organize and store its growing collection of documents and artifacts. But we also need to continue publishing stories that reveal something of our local history. What would be very helpful in both

these endeavors would be a much larger membership — not only to broaden our financial base, but more importantly to enrich the society with a wider spectrum of experience-honed skills that can then be applied when pursuing our various projects.

A lot of what we do is hard work. The reward for that hard work is the sense of self-worth derived from doing something clearly of value to the community — the community we now live in, or at one time lived in. Regardless of which, it's still in some sense our home.

——— Wally Lee Parker ———

Minutes of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society ——— March 11, 2017 ——

In attendance: Bill Sebright, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Don Ball, Mark Wagner, Marie Morrill, Peter Coffin, Judy Coffin, Lorraine Nord, Marilyn Reilly, Betty Burdette, Mary Jo Reiter, Mike Reiter, Bill Phipps

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. He reported that: 1) Deer Park Elementary group pictures from Kim Lucas and Gloria Hartley were passed around for members to add or correct names. 2) The first Heritage Network meeting this year will be March 20, 9:30 AM at the Stevens County Museum in Colville.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported the main checking account ended the month at \$7,166.16. There were deposits of \$140.00. One check was written to Mark Wagner for Incorporation filing of \$10.00. The web hosting account ended the month at \$766.65, with a withdrawal of \$10.95 for web hosting.

Society Vice President Pete Coffin

reported: 1) Examining the truck load of old Deer Park business records has been interesting. The bulky ledgers of the Kelly store are not particularly interesting. Several ledgers of insurance policy listings would be more useful if one could associate the location description of the property and owner with where in Deer Park the lot is today. The most interesting files are the letter files of the First State Bank of Deer Park. 2) From the letter files of the First State Bank of Deer Park I have scanned and filed material on the following subjects; Arcadia Orchards, Deer Park prohibition, Wild Rose Farmers Club, Wild Rose Orchards Company, Spokane Pottery, early Loon Lake, dealings and recommendations of the First State Bank, other banks in Deer Park, as well as material about individuals such as the Throop family and my Grandfather E. C. Coffin. 3) Several subjects for *Mortarboard* articles exist in this collection of early Deer Park records.

Deer Park Locations Currently Carrying Print Copies of the Mortarboard:
City Library, City Hall, Gardenspot Market, Standen Insurance, & Odynski's Accounting.

Print Editor Wally Parker reported: 1) One hundred and ten copies of the March *Mortarboard* (#107) have been printed for distribution, and the online version has been submitted for posting. This sixteen page issue leads with Rick Hodges' story about the winter of 1968. Next is Chuck Stewart and Susan Rumble's history of their grandfather, Clayton's H. B. Stewart. And lastly, the *Letters/Brickbats* segment is a response to a question brought to the society's attention regarding Doctor Glen Snyder's former residence/clinic at 327 E. B Street in Deer Park. 2) The prior inkjet printer issue has been resolved, and ten issues of *Collected Newsletters, Volume 29*, have been printed. This volume combines *Mortarboard's* #103, #104, and #105.

Webmaster Marie Morrill reported that the March *Mortarboard* has been uploaded to our Web Site. This time everything went smoothly.

Mike Reiter reported that they are building apartments on the old Deer Park Fair-ground area. They will be named the Fair-grounds Apartments. The last census showed that the current population of Deer Park is just over 4,000. The general recent growth of pop-

ulation of the Deer Park area was discussed. Mike noted that the Community Center is still part of the new Fire Station.

Betty Burdette reported that the Settlers Day auction generated over \$3,000, and 50-60 dinners were served. This is the 96th year for the Settlers. The buttons and shirts have a picture of the old sawmill.

The second Brickyard Day Committee meeting was March 8. The Terracotta Plant will be the theme of the 34th Brickyard Day Celebration. The parade staging area will still be at Mason and Railroad Road. The reviewing stand will be back in front of the Post Office. Elizabeth Gillum and Bucky Colvin will organize the Brickyard Fun Run. The band Spare Parts will be playing at the School grounds. The next meeting will be April 12, 6 PM at the Real Estate Market Place in Deer Park.

Next meeting: Saturday, April 8, 2017, at 9 AM at the Clayton Drive-In.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 AM.

The Society meeting minutes submitted by Mark Wagner, acting Secretary.

— end —

Volunteer proofreaders for this issue: Pete Coffin, Betty Deuber, Rick Hodges, Bill Sebright, Chuck Stewart, Lina Swain, and Ken Wesby.

Society Contacts

We encourage anyone with observations, concerns, corrections, or divergent opinions regarding the contents of these newsletters to write the society or contact one or more of the individuals listed below. Resultant conversations can remain confidential if so desired.

C/DPHS, Box 293, Clayton, WA 99110

Bill Sebright, President — sebrightba@gmail.com — (509) 276-2693

Peter Coffin, Vice-President — pcffn@q.com

Wally Lee Parker, Editor of Print Publications — bogwen100@msn.com — (509) 467-9433

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— C/DPHS —



From "The Coast" magazine, April, 1907

See Yourself in Print.

The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society's department of Print Publications is always looking for original writings, classic photos, properly aged documents and the like that may be of interest to our readers. These materials should be rooted within, though not limited to, northern Spokane County, southeastern Stevens County, and southern Pend Oreille County. As for types of materials, family or personal remembrances are always considered. Articles of general historical interest — including pieces on natural history, archeology, geology and such — are likely to prove useful. In other words, we are always searching for things that will increase our readers' understanding and appreciation of this region's past. As for historical perspective; to us history begins whenever the past is dusty enough to have become noteworthy — which is always open to interpretation. From there it extends back as deep as we can see, can research, or even speculate upon.

Copyright considerations for any materials submitted are stated in the "Editorial and Copyright Policy" dialog box found on page 1468 of this issue. For any clarifications regarding said policy, or any discussions of possible story ideas or the appropriateness of certain types of material and so on, please contact the editor via the email address supplied on the same page.

— the editor —

A print copy of this issue of the Mortarboard is or soon will be available in booklet format.

Ask about "Collected Newsletters: Volume Thirty."