

Are You Trying to Remember “The Good Old Days?”



Illustration from the May 1st, 1921, edition of Motor West.

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THE
**CLAYTON/DEER PARK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Mortarboard

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Coming this summer!
Settlers Day — July 22nd — at Deer Park's Mix Park.
Brickyard Day — August 5th — in downtown Clayton.

Peter E. Meyers
— **Early Deer Park Area Settler** —
by
Peter Coffin

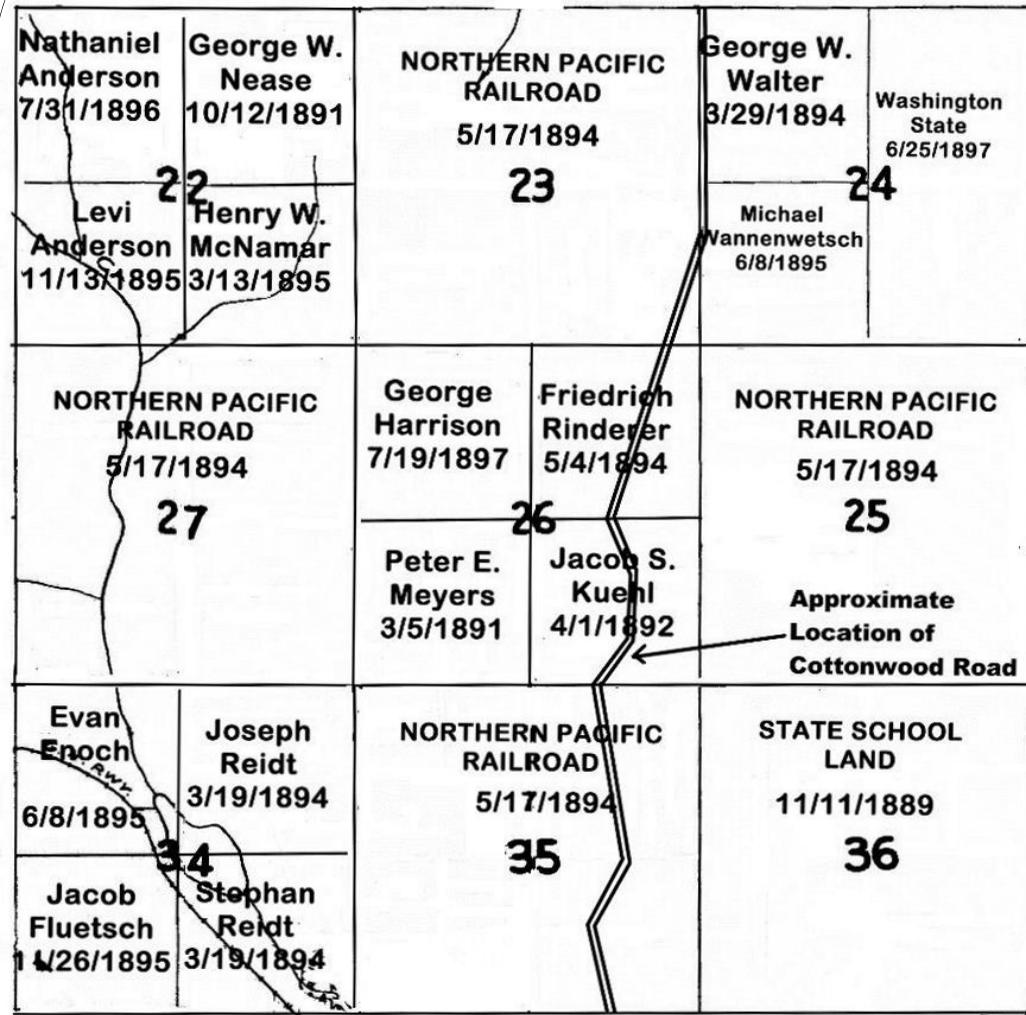
Peter E. Meyers was born in Pennsylvania on June 13, 1835 to Johannes Peter Meyers and Catherine Enterline. In 1862 he married Anna Marie Hoffhine (July 29, 1839, to November 12, 1925) and fathered two boys (Calvin H., 1863-1918; Wallace W., 1871-1949) and two girls (Minnie A., 1868-1871; Ella M., 1877-1963). He and his family moved west in 1884, stopping first in the Medical Lake area where they stayed for 6 months before moving to Deer Park. They homesteaded north of the future site of Deer Park in the Southwest Quarter of Section 26-Township 29 North-Range 42 East WM (**Figure 1, next page**), just north of the present day Pete Reiter farm.

When the Meyers family arrived at their Deer Park homestead, the land was heav-

ily forested. Mr. Meyers and his son Wallace cleared land and built a house and a road to the Brown and Carter sawmill six miles away on Wild Rose Prairie (NW/4 Section 35-Township 28 North-Range 42 EWM) — just southeast of where Dragoon Creek passes under Dalton Road. Just how much road would have been needed to be built is uncertain as the Cottonwood Road was located about 3 miles east of the mill's location. The Brown and Carter mill had been built in the fall and winter of 1883, and was later purchased by Lewis Gemmill and James Titus.

The Meyers farm was about one-half mile west of the Cottonwood Road that led from Fort Sherman on Lake Coeur d'Alene to Colville. Because of the location, the Meyers farm became a stopping place for teamsters

Figure 1.



Partial map of T29N-R42E

Showing Land Ownership and Homestead Locations.

Deer Park is just south of Section 35, and the Arcadia Orchards Dragoon Reservoir (the Mill Pond) is in the center of Section 34.

(Map by Peter Coffin.)

Photo by Bill Sebright.



Figure 2.

Picture of the house at 407 East Crawford. The chimney didn't exist when my Grandparents lived there, and neither did the addition to the left of the chimney.

hauling freight to and from Colville and Spokane Falls, and their house developed into a small store to supply the teamsters. Before Deer Park became large enough to support a post office, the Meyers house also contained the first post office in the area. Mail came twice a week by carrier from Hazard on Wild Rose Prairie. The post office was moved to Deer Park in the late 1890's.

As the area's population of settlers' children increased, the first school classes were held in the Meyers house. In time a separate school was built on the Meyers property by neighbors contributing labor and supplying building materials.

Peter died on April 16, 1908, and was one of the first people buried in the newly opened Woodlands Cemetery. After Peter died Anna continued to live on their home-

stead until 1912, when she and her son, Wallace, moved to a house in Deer Park on East Crawford. The homestead house was destroyed by fire prior to 1925. Anna continued to live in Deer Park until she died on November 1, 1925. Funeral services for her were held in the Open Door Congregational Church of which she had been a long time member. She was buried in Woodlands Cemetery, next to her husband.

May I speculate about where the Meyers house was located on East Crawford? My Grandparents, Peter and Lena Michie, lived in a house at 407 East Crawford (Figure 2, above). They purchased the house in the late 1940s after Wallace Meyers died. When they lived there the house was smaller than it is at present. Heat was supplied by a big wood burning kitchen stove, and water

Notes as to Source Material.

Deer Park Union, November 19, 1925 — "Pioneer Citizen Passes to Rest."
Deer Park Union, May 6, 1926 — "D.A.R. Honors Pioneer Mother."

was obviously a late installation. The lot had a small building that my Grandfather used as a shop, but had obviously been a chicken coop. And there was a barn at the back of the lot that had housed large animals at one time. The Spokane County Assessor indicates that the date of construction for this house was 1911.

Without a detailed title chain search I cannot be positive but it is possible that his house was the one that Anna Meyers and her son moved into in 1912.

— end —

“And the West is West”

— or —

How a Story in the Saturday Evening Post Raised Some Ire in Early 1920s Deer Park

by

Wally Lee Parker

... a subscriber complained ...

Mr. W. W. Gillies, the publisher/editor of the *Deer Park Union* from August, 1919, to October, 1923, was likely the author of an unsigned editorial appearing in the July 7th, 1921, edition of that newspaper. As for the identity of the below alluded to “subscriber,” due to the passion voiced in the *Union’s* critique of William Allen White — whose relevance to Mr. Gillies’ editorial is also disclosed below — my inclination would be to say that said “subscriber” was Mr. Gillies himself. I say this because editors, when sneaking around the absolute truth in order to dispense some literary justice, often find it expedient to exercise a little subterfuge. (The *Mortarboard’s* editor would never, of course.)

The 1921 editorial states,

A subscriber to the Union last week complained because we had not commented on a recent story by William Allen White in the Saturday Evening Post entitled “And (the) West is West,” which deals with Spokane, remarks lightly upon Deer Park, and dilates upon the beauties of Loon Lake. Two reasons

might be advanced why we did not. One was that we were confined to our home with an injury, the other that the story is scarcely worthy of recognition by even so humble a publication as this.

The article is but another of the marvels of editorial selection in that one wonders why a magazine will pay out good dollars to a writer who has written well for the inferior product of his pen also. An unknown scribe would have been laughed at for presuming to tender any such stuff to a reputable periodical for publication. It is not witty, it is not human, and is about as humorous as a dictionary. If it is satire, it is a sorry attempt. If intended to truthfully picture the west as it really is, it is so grossly exaggerated as to convey nothing to an inquiring mind.

The writer has every respect for the journalist who truthly (a now obsolete word) wishes to present to a national list of readers the weaknesses and advantages of the various cities or sections he may visit. “Bill” White has failed to do either in the case of the Inland Empire. He wrote the article because he well knew some gullible editor would pay him so much a word for doing so. What other rea-



From the top of Mount Spokane.

“Shanley took the doctor resolutely by the arm, led him west to a knoll, pointed to a flickering white spot in the green forest carpet of the landscape and said, ‘Doctor, that’s Loon Lake — my place. You’re going there Friday — for a week.’”

*Both the above quote and illustration from “And the West is West,”
The Saturday Evening Post, June 18th, 1921.*

sons there were for his indictment and the publication thereof are inconsequential and will probably always be wrapped in obscurity.

The story that so inflamed the *Union’s* editor was a long piece published in the June 18th, 1921, *Saturday Evening Post*. A copy is available online through Google’s collection of public domain publications.

... a story of conflicting manners ...

From the above editorial, I was expecting something terribly critical of the Deer

Park/Loon Lake area. What I read was an assumedly fictional satire on the social manners prevalent among the wealthy in post-World War I America.

The story begins with the arrival in Spokane of Doctor Curtis Alden and his wife, Abigail. Fairly well-to-do with old money, the New York City couple are here to visit moderately well-to-do cousin Robert Higginson and his wife Martha.

The story’s first page is littered with quotes from a Spokane Chamber of Commerce guide to the city and surrounding environs, and, as with most such bits of promotional

literature, most everything described is in some way unique — the biggest, the best, the most promising — in the world.

In order to better display the region to the Aldens, the Higginsons arranged a daytrip. As the story relates,

—
They took him up on a high mountain — Mount Spokane — “the only mountain in the world owned by a municipality,” again to quote the handbook of the chamber of commerce — and showed him the kingdoms of the earth that compose that Inland Empire: Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho, and North-eastern Oregon, stretching illimitably, with rich fields upon soft foothills, over jagged peaks full of minerals, and across wide green forest ranges spangled by a thousand lakes.

It was on this trip that Dr. Alden and his wife were introduced to Michael Shanley and his wife. Mr. Shanley, a half-dozen years before, had been an Idaho miner of very coarse demeanor. He’d struck it rich, and assumed, due to his new wealth, that he’d be able to look any man in the eye as an equal — that being something the old wealth of the Atlantic coast traditionally tended to dispute.

It was that clash that lay at the heart of the story — with Spokane, Loon Lake, and to some degree Deer Park, being caught in the crossfire.

... regarding the story’s author ...

The author of the piece, William Al-len White, was a well-traveled and internationally known author, novelist, journalist, and social and political editorialist whose primary job was editing and publishing the *Emporia Gazette*, of Emporia, Kansas. His reputation as a writer was enhanced by two Pulitzer Prizes. The first, for “editorial writing,” was awarded in 1923. The second was awarded posthumously in 1947 for his autobiography.

Whether the author ever visited Spokane himself, we don’t know. Train travel being the norm for long distances overland

trips in the early 20th century, and the author being well traveled, it’s probable he at least passed through. And it’s possible he may have even stood atop Mount Spokane. Currently, we just don’t know.

... as seen from the top of Mount Spokane ...

Loon Lake, along with Deer Park, comes into play in Mr. White’s story when the newly rich Michael Shanley, picnicking with the group Robert “Bob” Higginson had assembled on the top of Mount Spokane, essentially intimidates New York City’s more refined Doctor Alden into visiting Loon Lake.

—
It was then that Shanley took the doctor resolutely by the arm, led him west to a knoll, pointed to a flickering white spot in the green forest carpet of the landscape and said, “Doctor, that’s Loon Lake — my place. You’re going there Friday — for a week.” He grinned, knocking his high, undented soft black hat over his eyes as he added, “No chamber of commerce, no literature, nothin’! Somethin’ to fish, somethin’ to shoot, somethin’ to eat! And the sleepin’s fine!”

“But —” the doctor interjected.

“But — and be damned! It’s all arranged.” Shanley nodded to their host. “Bob and me’s blocked it all out.”

“Well, Mrs. Alden, of course, may have plans,” the doctor explained.

But Shanley again bowled him over with, “Ah, we’ll take care of the women. Mamma’s goin’ to have somethin’ doin’ every night. Our private car on the Great Northern will bring a bunch up from town for diner. It’s easy — only thirty-five miles — and we’ll go down to Deer Park one or two nights for a dance. It’s no trouble. You’re signed.”

And so it was.

... is Loon Lake visible from Mt. Spokane ...

Most residents of the Little Spokane River Valley are aware that a line of hills to

Seeing Loon Lake from the Top of Mount Spokane; the Math.

These calculations should be considered approximations since they are simple plain geometry and trigonometry. True rigor would require spherical trigonometry, which no one would really want to try and follow.

Regarding the scene atop Mount Spokane in which the character Michael Shanley was to have shown Doctor Alden “the kingdoms of the earth that compose that Inland Empire: Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho, and Northeastern Oregon,” it’s fairly easy to calculate how tall something must be to be seen above the Earth’s horizon at any given distance. Or, considering the reverse, how far away the horizon is from a given elevation. The formula is the distance (in miles) squared/1.513. If the border is 132 miles away — as the Oregon border is measured due south from the top of Mount Spokane — then the viewer’s height required to see it over the curvature of the Earth would be 11,516 feet. Mt Spokane, at 5,887 feet (per Google Earth), is not nearly tall enough for an observer standing on the top to see into northeastern Oregon.

Applying the same formula to Loon Lake, and using terrain maps supplied by Google Earth, I got a distance from the summit of Mount Spokane to the far northwest shore of the lake of 26.28 miles. This gives us a minimum elevation differential required as 456.5 feet. Clearly the mountain is tall enough for an observer to see Loon Lake, so we have to examine the intervening terrain issues.

*Using the known elevations and distances and a little trigonometry, we can calculate the altitude angle of the line of sight from Loon Lake to the summit of Mount Spokane. Effective elevation difference is Mount Spokane’s elevation of 5,887 feet, minus Loon Lake’s surface elevation of 2,386 feet, minus Earth’s horizon curvature of 456.5 feet, which equals 3044.5 feet. And the altitude angle equals arctangent [elevation/distance] equals arctangent [3044.5ft/26.28*5280ft] equals arctangent [.021941] equals 1.2569 degrees.*

We don’t really need the degrees, but, since that’s how we visualize, it helps when thinking about it.

Using the tangent value, we can determine how high any intervening obstacle can be given the distance from the observer. For example, if we say Loon Lake is about 2 miles wide, then, looking across the lake towards Mount Spokane, any rise in the terrain of more than 232 feet [2 x 5280 feet x .021941] will block the view of Mount Spokane.

Returning to Google Earth, I examined the possible lines of sight from the summit of Mount Spokane to Loon Lake and, since Google Earth gives elevations, I looked at heights of intervening structures. It turns out that the lowest terrain points — those along the route of highway 395 and the railroad tracks — are not well aligned with the required sight line. You don’t see through the gap per se. The best I could come up with is a sight line from the far northwest shore of the lake passing over the terrain just north of highway 395. There’s a ridge-line there at an elevation of 2762 feet, and at a distance of 2.99 miles from the northwest shore. Doing the math, the maximum elevation which would still allow a peek of the lake from the mountain would be 347 feet above the lake surface — 2,732 feet above sea level. The low point of the ridge line sites 30 feet higher than this.

This being the best line of sight I could find, I concluded Loon Lake is not visible from Mount Spokane’s summit due to 30 feet of intervening terrain.

— Rick Hodges —

the west separates the floor of the valley from Loon Lake. Whether the gap in those hills the railroad and highway 395 passes through would allow someone standing on the top of Mount Spokane direct line of sight to the surface of Loon Lake seemed something that should be researched — so I requested help.

An email to the Mount Spokane State Park's website brought a response from Lisa Tawney. Ms. Tawney said, "*We are not aware of being able to see Loon Lake from the top of Mt. Spokane.*" She then added, "*I can forward this email along and see if anyone else has any input regarding the question.*"

Lisa's forwarding brought a response from Cris Currie, President of the Friends of Mount Spokane State Park — a group coordinating volunteer activities in support of the park. "*There is a lake that can be seen to the northwest — possibly Reflection Lake — but I really doubt it's Loon.*"

"*Lots of people say you can see Canada from the summit too. While that may have been true 100 years ago when the air was much clearer, it's not true today. I have barely been able to discern Snow Peak, which is very near the border, but nothing beyond that.*"

Society associate and *Mortarboard* contributor Chuck Stewart wrote, "*Without trying to do a geographical computation, I can only say for sure that in all the years of my young life speeding all over Loon Lake in a boat, I saw Huckleberry Mountain and Lane Mountain to the northwest, nearby Loon Lake Mountain and Deer Lake Mountain, and the ridge of the 'West Hills' out of Clayton, but not Mount Spokane.*"

Rick Hodges, 1964 graduate of Deer Park High, mechanical engineer, and contributor to the *Mortarboard*, took a more technical — mathematical — approach to the several line of sight questions raised in Mr. White's story. As Rick noted, "*There are two items to consider in deriving an answer. First, the curvature of the Earth. Second, the possible obstruction of the line of sight by intervening terrain.*"

Rick concluded that the lowest point in the line of hills rising between Loon Lake and the top of Mount Spokane is 30 feet too high to allow any portion of the lake to be seen from the top of the mountain. This line of sight does not allow for the height of any trees that might further obstruct the view.

That said, 30 feet is still a strikingly small margin. And even then, as society member Chuck Lyons noted, it's likely the naturally occurring surface of Loon Lake was somewhat higher before the Arcadia Orchards Company and others began manipulating the lake's level — meaning the amount of obstructive mountain ridge may have been even less than 30 feet in historic times. That said, and even assuming something has been left out of our considerations — even assuming our historic records are incomplete — whether any thin sliver of Loon Lake that may have been visible through the gap in the intervening hills could at any time have been poetically described as "*a flickering white spot in the green forest carpet of the landscape*" is questionable.

... the story's description of Loon Lake ...

As to what to make of Mr. White's description of Loon Lake — it being published at the very beginning of the 20th century's third decade — it serves the purpose of the story, but little else.

"*But those days at Loon Lake were great days for Doctor Alden. ... The doctor abandoned himself to the charm of the skies, the solitude of the mountains and the glamour of the lakes that come into his life every day; fishing and hunting by daylight, at night a dinner where cataracts of kindly people rushing by were gone at midnight. ... Shanley rowed his weight in the boat, carried his share of the pack, shot his share of the bag, and that settled, nothing else mattered.*"

Also of note is the implication, fostered by the following, that the Shanley's property at Loon Lake was more in the nature of a palatial estate than either a rustic cabin or

middleclass home.

"*Cousin Robert and Cousin Martha came up to Loon Lake the night before the Aldens left, and there was a farewell party fearfully and wonderfully made. Music and food, both for man and beast, were scattered in profusion over the great house.*"

The opulence of the Loon Lake property is suggested again in the story's final paragraph, with Doctor Alden — having returned to New York — reminiscing, "*He kept seeing Shanley in his hunting suit, Shanley sitting on a log before a campfire, Shanley swinging up a mountain trail under his pack, Shanley smoking in silence sprawling upon the great verandas at Loon Lake, Shanley in his baronial dining room.*"

Considering the area residents who were breaking their backs trying to tear a living out of the region's clay, timber, and fields, it's perhaps reasonable that the Deer Park newspaper would say of this story of mannered excess, "*It is not witty, it is not human, and is about as humorous as a dictionary.*"

... and Deer Park is mentioned in passing ...

Deer Park has one mention in Mr. White's story — that when Michael Shanley tells Doctor Alden, "*and we'll go down to Deer Park one or two nights for a dance.*"

Since Loon Lake had been in development as a recreational destination since the arrival of the railroad in 1889, it seems unlikely that the area would not have had an onsite dance venue suitable even for relatively rich folk some 30 years later. That said — and keeping in mind that national prohibition began shortly after New Year's, 1920 — it may not have been a matter of availability, but rather reputation, that brought Deer Park to the attention of the creator of Alden and Shanley.

And yes, there were dances at Deer Park. And yes, they did draw attention.

As way of evidence; under the headline "*Hire Extra Cop; Curb City Toughs.*" this 1921 article, datelined "*Deer Park Wash., Sept. 24,*" appeared in the *Spokane Chronicle*.

"*Promoters of public dances here will in the future be asked to contribute a \$5 license fee to permit the employment of an extra officer according to actions taken at a special meeting of the city council Thursday evening. Dances held here are quite frequently permitted to operate until 2 or 3 a.m. as the promoters see fit, and Marshall W. Harker told the councilmen that after midnight it was impossible for one man to keep order.*"

"*Many persons from Spokane make it a habit to come here Saturday nights after the halls close there, and the marshal finds it difficult to curb the rough element that floats in at that time. The mayor will appoint a deputy in a few days to assist the officer.*"

Was it possible that William Allen White, when putting together his story of a new money westerner trying to impress an old money easterner, might have contacted someone familiar with the Inland Empire and asked if there were any dancing hot spots around Loon Lake?

Most likely Mr. White just looked at the map, saw Deer Park sitting quietly a stone's throw down the tracks, and liked the name.

Regarding the afterhours dances, they were enough of a local irritant that, a month after the above article appeared, Deer Park's city council required they close at midnight.

... a teapot in a tempest ...

So what explains the *Deer Park Union's* reaction to the *Saturday Evening Post* story? Was it that Loon Lake, as it really existed, wasn't being properly portrayed? It had long been a recreational destination, and the locals likely expected it to be sketched as something more than the thinly laid backdrop for a piece of social commentary. Was it because Deer Park was only mentioned as a dance destination; dances which, at the time of publication, were a source of irritation to many of the locals? What do you think?

———— end ————

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

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

... closure date for Clayton's terracotta ...

Currently most sources (including the C/DPHS) are giving the termination date for operations at Clayton's terracotta factory as 1948. Though this may be correct in the practical sense, a missive composed and dated February 15, 1949, by then president of Washington Brick & Lime, Neal R. Fosseen, suggests the formal date of closure may have actually been early 1949.

Please note that as of now this too is a guess.

Fosseen's letter — apparently intended for other members of WaCo's administrative team — was found in one of the bound volumes of company minutes now archived at Eastern Washington University's library. The letter lists the profit/loss figures from 1936 through 1948. It appears to suggest that the company losses from 1936 up until the end of the fiscal year in 1948 were \$150,656.25, and the profit \$5,627.09. The document indicates the fiscal years for 1946, 1947, and 1948 were calculated from September 30th to September 30th. Whether the years prior were calculated on the fiscal or the calendar year — either an acceptable form when it comes to business bookkeeping — isn't clear.

Since it's almost always in a company's interest to show more loss than profit in its official records, the numbers given in WaCo's document shouldn't be taken too literally. However, there's little doubt the terracotta works, due largely to the general decline in interest in the highly ornate version of the product, had fallen on troubled times in the years immediately prior to World War II, and

even worse times after.

What's most interesting about the letter are the explanatory notes, and Mr. Fosseen's conclusions regarding the best path forward for the company.

The first note reads, "No depreciation, taxes nor insurance were charged during the period from 1941 to 1945 due to the fact that the plant was inoperative." In other words, the terracotta was closed for the duration of World War II.

The second note suggests that an outlay was necessary prior to the end of the 1946 fiscal year to recondition the factory after it had sat idle for the prior four years.

The third note seems to indicate that at least half the factory's loss for the fiscal year ending in 1948 was in "terracotta specialties and ceramic glazed building tile."

The conclusion of Mr. Fosseen's letter begins with a summation of the situation as of the beginning of 1949, and ends with the long-expected recommendation.

"At present we have bids out on two very small jobs totaling approximately two tons together, and we have no other immediate prospects for handmade terracotta. One of the prospects for some time has been the extension of the Spokane & Eastern building; consequently, I conferred recently with Mr. Jay Campbell, Vice-President in Charge of Construction, who advised that he would not recommend their placing an order for the terracotta in view of the fact that he had no particular assurance that their building project could go ahead within two years. At present we have no other firm prospects for handmade terracotta, so it seems evident that there will

be insufficient market to keep the plant going, even if it seems profitable to do so.

"On the other hand, there is an indication of a substantial market for ceramic glazed units in the 5 x 12 and 8 x 16 inch sizes. It is even quite probable that larger sizes might be satisfactorily made on the existing extrusion equipment. Production of this material could be carried on with a very small crew and could fairly readily be transferred to either the Clayton brick or the Dishman tunnel kiln operation if conditions were such as to make that action advisable.

"In view of the above, I strongly recommend that the manufacture of hand-made terracotta be discontinued at the expiration of existing contracts, and that the decision be made now in order that the winding-up process may be done in an orderly fashion. Lack of decision at this time will inevitably lead to prolonging existing jobs and possible expenditures, which might otherwise be avoided. Lack of decision would also continue the operation of unneeded departments for possible future use. This obviously is very expensive and usually is the necessity for planning financial requirements. Terracotta requires very substantial amounts of money for work in process and, consequently, the elimination of this requirement would leave more funds available for inventory, accounts to receivable, etc., which will be urgently required."

We've yet to find out how long after this recommendation of closure was made that formal notice was given to the remaining workers, but most likely it was fairly quick.

... a postcard from the Weather Bureau ...

On April 12th, society member Mike Reiter, an employee of the City of Deer Park, sent the following email to the *Mortarboard's* editor.

"I changed out the water meter at Ron Wright's house — 22 South Arcadia — today. He said he found a postcard stapled to an inside wall and wondered if the house was a weather station at one time."

Mike included photos of both sides of the card in his email.

Mr. Wright explained he was remodeling a portion of the interior of the building. After removing the interior wallboard, he found the postcard — postmarked September 3, 1913 — between the studs. Since the space had at one time been painted, it led him to believe the building had been in use prior to the interior wall being finished.

Also, Ron was puzzled by a bundle of wires extending through a hole drilled in the wall's top plate. At some point the bundle had been cut away both below and above the plate, leaving only a short segment of the bundle. Ron had been told there was a teletype in the corner of the house at one time, but has no other information on that. Nor does the bundle of wires clearly indicate the historic existence of one or more teletypes.

Vintage homes are often blessed with such puzzles.

As for the postcard, that's a puzzle the *Mortarboard* has been able to at least partially solve.

The area on the front of the card usually reserved for the postage stamp is preprinted with "U. S. Department of Agriculture, WEATHER BUREAU, Official Business. Penalty for private use, \$300."

The Department of Agriculture was mentioned in the above because the Weather Bureau was a subsidiary department within that agency from 1891 to 1940.

The cancellation overprint used on this postcard has three elements. To the far left of the cancellation is the familiar circle containing the date, "Sept. 3, 1913," the time, "11— AM," and the place of cancellation, "Seattle, Wash." To the far right are the lines, more commonly seen as wavy lines, used to overprint the postage stamp or permit. In the center is a box carrying a promotional message — as was commonly done even then.

It's difficult to separate the words in the cancellation's overprinting from the preprinted permit below. However, enough of the overprint is in the clear to suggest what the

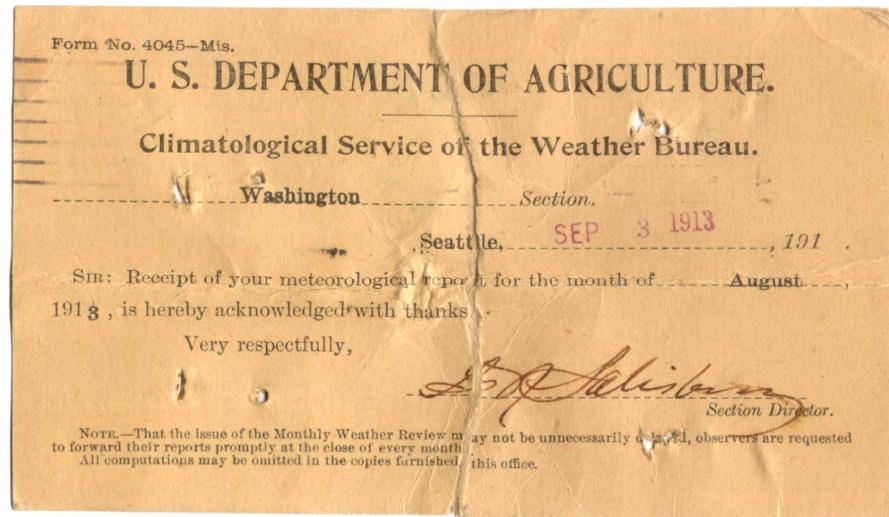


Figure 1.

Postmarked September 3rd, 1913, this card (face & reverse shown) was sent from the Seattle office of the Weather Bureau in receipt of Cooperative Observer Program member Robert Allison Jr.'s August weather data for the Deer Park area. The postcard, which was mailed under permit and did not require a postage stamp, measures 5½ x 3¼ inches. The weather data it was a receipt of is reproduced on the facing page.

cancellation message might have been.

The answer was found in volume two of Frank Morton Todd's *The Story of the Exposition*. Published in 1921, this massive endeavor archives the history of San Francisco's World's Fair of 1915.

A chapter titled "Getting the World's Attention" notes that, beginning in 1910, various means of promoting the upcoming fair were considered. To quote the book, among them was "A cancellation stamp bearing the Exposition legend suggested ... by Assistant Postmaster William F. Burke ... early in 1911." The description of the quickly developed postmark was, "In a rectangular field, which would be certain to strike clear of the postage stamp, it bore the legend: WORLD'S PANAMA PACIFIC EXPOSITION IN SAN FRANCISCO, 1915."

That does appear to be what we're seeing on the postcard.

Also on the face of the card is the intended recipient, "Robert Allison Jr., Deer Park, Wash." A search of the 1910 and 1920 census records by society Vice-President, Pete Coffin, didn't find Mr. Allison. But, as Pete notes, people could easily "move about in that

period of time."

The reverse of the postcard states, "Sir: receipt of your meteorological report for the month of August, 1913, is hereby acknowledged, with thanks. Very respectfully, G. N. Salisbury, Section Director."

George N. Salisbury was "Section Director" for the State of Washington from 1894 until 1923. He'd joined the Army Signal Corps in 1883, back when the Weather Bureau was an agency within that organization, and, after discharge, continued on with the Bureau until his death in 1925.

Deer Park's first weather observations — which is to say the first of those officially recorded in the Department of Agriculture's database — began in May of 1911. We believe James Mills, a gentleman residing in or near Deer Park at the time, captured that data. A more complete picture of Mr. Mills and his contributions to the area's weather records can be found in the February, 2017, issue (#106) of the *Mortarboard*. See "Winter Scenes: An Artifact from the Arcadia," beginning on page 1,421.

Robert Allison Jr. appears to have been a volunteer in the Department of Agricul-

Clipping showing the August, 1913, weather data Robert Allison Jr. collected for Deer Park as printed in the Weather Bureau's "United States Department of Agriculture Monthly Weather Review."

Figure 2.

1262

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW.

AUGUST, 1913

TABLE 1.—Climatological data for August, 1913. District No. 12, Columbia Valley—Continued.

Stations.	Counties.	Elevation, feet.	Length of record, years.	Temperature, in degrees Fahrenheit.						Precipitation, in inches.				Sky.			Observers.			
				Mean.	Departure from the normal.	Highest.	Date.	Lowest.	Date.	Greatest daily range.	Total.	Departure from the normal.	Greatest in 24 hours.	Total snowfall, unmelting.	Number of rainy days, 0.01 inch or more.	Number of clear days.		Number of partly cloudy days.	Number of cloudy days.	Prevailing wind direction.
Washington. Deer Park.....	Spokane.....	2,050	2	63.0	95	23	30	18	52	0.64	0.21	0	5	26	2	3	sw.	Robt. Allison, jr.

ture's Cooperative Observer Program — or COOP as it was commonly called. As of yet the *Mortarboard* hasn't uncovered documents suggesting when Mr. Allison took over from Mr. Mills, nor when Mr. Allison subsequently left the volunteer position — though his first observations are currently believed to have been sent to Seattle beginning sometime in 1912. What has been discovered are several of Robert Allison Jr.'s reports as they appeared in the Department of Agriculture's *Monthly Weather Review*. A clipping (**Figure 2.**) showing the *Monthly Weather Review's* data for August, 1913, is pasted on page 1,497 of this issue. This is the data the postcard reproduced in this issue (**Figure 1.**) was in response to.

As to Ron Wright's question, we've no data suggesting his home was at one time a weather station, nor whether Robert Allison Jr. may have been living there when sending his weather data to Seattle. We've yet to find any comprehensive information as to how the Cooperative Observer Program worked when Mr. Allison was part of the program. However, it's currently believed it was a totally volunteer program — read uncompensated. As far as we can currently tell, Deer Park's weather station would have been an essentially amateur operation. That said, since the data collected constitutes the bulk of the area's historical meteorological data, we'd very much like a better understanding of the mechanics of the Department of Agriculture's Cooperative Observer Program. Hopefully at some point documentation explaining such will fall into our hands.

The *Mortarboard* wishes to thank Ron Wright for sharing this unique discovery with the historical society, and society member Mike Reiter for bringing this matter to our group's attention.

... the mythical Calispell diversion ...

One of this historical society's ongoing projects is to determine the full extent of the last century's Arcadia Orchards project,

and to replace the folklore that has grown up around the subject with facts and reasonable suppositions. Society member Pete Coffin has been very active in this research, and the bulk of the documentation currently in hand has been sourced by him.

That said, there's still a tremendous amount of research that needs to be done — sufficient research to keep historians busy for years to come. And one of the areas in need of resolution is suggested by this news release, as published in the January, 1913, issue of *The Irrigation Age* magazine.

"An engineering project which will provide for the irrigation of 50,000 acres of land in northeastern Washington, and save another large area from annual devastating floods, has been undertaken by the Arcadia Orchards Company of Spokane. The undertaking involves the expenditure of \$500,000 in construction work and will open the way for an additional expenditure of approximately \$2,000,000 in the development and irrigation of raw timberland, making it the largest private reclamation undertaking in the history of the State of Washington.

"The project now in hand is to lead the excess waters from the Kalispel River and other Pend Oreille County streams through the Kalispel Mountains by means of an 18-mile flume and a mile tunnel to Deer Lake and Loon Lake, and thence to the land in the Arcadia district. Preliminary work has been underway for two years and the ground has been completely covered by engineers, according to officials of the orchard company. Water rights have been obtained on the waters of Kalispel River and other streams in that locality, and the work will go forward with all possible speed. It is expected that the project will be completed within three years."

Of particular note in the above is the spelling of Calispell as Kalispel. There appear to have been several variations of the spelling floating around in the early years. A resolution was finally reached by the United States Department of the Interior's Board on Geographical Names. In a publication subtitled

Decisions Rendered between July 1, 1941 and June 30, 1943, the board fixed the spelling as used in Pend Oreille County as "*Calispell*" — "*not Calispel*," "*not Kalispel*" (or, it can be assumed, the above used "*Kalispel*").

Historians occasionally run into the term Calispell River (using that, or one of the variant spellings for Calispell) when doing research — this apparently in reference to the stream flowing the short distance from Calispell Lake to the Pend Oreille River. The Board of Geographical Names clearly stated that the term "*creek*," not "*river*," should be applied to the indicated stream henceforth.

As for Calispell Lake's watershed — meaning the small mountain creeks descending east toward Calispell Lake — and the Ar-

cadia Orchards Company's plan to gather them all up at the 2,600 foot level and divert their output around the hills to Deer Lake — it appears that proposal was considered by many locals to be a severe water-rights overreach. And perhaps more than a little wicked in its assumptive arrogance.

At this point we don't know if any part of the physical aspect of this project was actually begun. If it was, it's possible some indication — such as the remains of concrete dams and siphons, or perhaps the metal bindings for wooden pipes and flumes — lies hidden beneath a hundred years of overgrowth.

———— Wally Lee Parker ————

Minutes of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society ———— May 13, 2017 ————

In attendance: Bill Sebright, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Mark Wagner, Lorraine Nord, Marilyn Reilly, Sue Rehms, Chuck Lyons, Ron Wright, Ella Jenkins, Mike Reiter, Roberta Reiter, Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Denny Deahl, Craig Olson, Marie Morrill, and Bill Phipps.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. He reported that: 1) Jesse Klemish brought 2 cans from the Deer Park Creamery. One has the name Harry Maxwell on a metal plate. Jesse has asked relatives, who say that his family is not related to Matt Klemish who owned Matt's Tavern in Clayton for many years. 2) Chuck Stewart mailed a small "album" of pictures taken in October of 1941 by Burton Stewart, Leno Prestini, and at least one other photographer. The photos show Burton and Leno scaling the Clayton brickyard's largest (108 foot high) smokestack. The "album" was on display.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner re-

ported the main checking account ended the month at \$7,197.76. There were deposits of \$180.00. A \$112.40 check was written to Wally Parker for print supplies. The web hosting account ended the month at \$744.75, with a withdrawal of \$10.95 for web hosting.

Society Vice President Pete Coffin reported that: 1) He was unable to find any connection with Harry Maxwell and Deer Park. 2) Pete picked up pictures from Burt Ernst Friday. Some are of the Renshaw family who were friends of David and Esther Hutchins. They are Xerox copies. Pete will try to get the originals.

Print editor Wally Parker reported: 1) One hundred and ten copies of the May *Mortarboard* have been printed for distribution, and the online version has been submitted for posting. This sixteen-page issue contains the story surrounding Fay & Marilyn Reilly's photos of the March, 1961, arrival in Deer Park of the 567th Strategic Missile Squadron's first

operational Atlas ICBM destined for the local coffin bunker. The Reilly's photos are included, along with diagrams taken from an official document that has been described as the military's Atlas E owner's manual, and a photo (from an outside source) of the Atlas missile raised into firing position during a propellant loading exercise at the Deer Park bunker. 2) Just a reminder regarding documenting this summer's Old Settlers and Brickyard Day events. Please include notes regarding circumstances and individuals connected with any photos submitted for publication. Please gather any itineraries, programs, handouts, and so forth related to the days' events that may add relevance to any photos of said events. This also holds true for the upcoming fair and rodeo.

Webmaster Marie Morrill reported that the new Mortarboard has been uploaded. She also brought the month's statistics of web activity for review.

Mike Reiter reported that: 1) Ground-breaking has occurred for the new fire station/civic center building. The contract for construction begins Monday, May 15. Whether this means construction will actually begin

then is not known. Mike and Dan Huffman will again have a time lapse camera set up on the old agriculture building to record progress. 2) Mike brought a sample brochure he created to pass out during Society events such as Settlers Day to generate interest in the society.

Ron Wright found a postcard dated 1913 during the remodel of his house. It's a receipt for local weather data forwarded to the Weather Bureau in Seattle. He also found a stack of envelopes that said "Deer Park Orchards." He thinks his house was a pay office at one time for the "Deer Park Orchards."

The Brickyard Day Committee meeting was May 11. Ella Jenkins will be our Honored Citizen. We hope to have the t-shirts and flyers ready by the next CDPHS meeting (June 10). The next planning meeting will be June 7, 6 PM at the Real Estate Market Place in Deer Park.

Next meeting: Saturday, June 10, 2017, at 9 AM at the Clayton Drive-In.

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 AM.

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

— end —

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.

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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.

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— the editor —

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