

THE
CLAYTON/DEER PARK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mortarboard

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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.

Benjamin H. Lewis Man of Faith, Music, & Numbers

by
Peter Coffin

Benjamin Lewis moved to the future Deer Park area in 1891 from Spokane. He had been born near Swansea, Wales, in October 1851, and later moved to Cardiff, Wales, from where he moved to Spokane. His 1889 move from Wales to Spokane must have been a serious undertaking. He had married Sarah _____ in 1882 and by the time of the move they had three children, David H. (born in December 1885), May (born in April 1888) and Edwin B. (born in April 1889).

Deer Park was only a portable sawmill site along the Spokane Falls and Northern Railroad when Benjamin Lewis and his family moved to the area. He managed to purchase a quarter section of land to farm from the railroad (southwest quarter, Section 27-Township 29 North-Range 42 East WM on Dragoon Creek approximately one mile north-northwest of the *Short and Crawford portable saw mill). Shortly after arriving in Deer Park his family became larger when Rachel M.

(born August 1890) and Benjamin H. Jr. (born August 1898) were born.

During the 1890s the Short family, along with other community members, organized the Congregational Church. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis and their family became charter members of the church. Benjamin was well trained in music and a gifted singer. Several *Deer Park Tribune* newspaper front pages contained articles about the Congregational Church's religious services. In addition Mr. Lewis taught Sunday school classes.

Besides farming his land, he was a book keeper for the Standard Lumber Company owned by William H. Short. In March, 1914, Standard Lumber Company was sold to Leuthold and Wilson and became the Deer Park Lumber Company and after that time he was elected treasurer for the city of Deer Park. He was repeatedly elected to that office until his death in 1934.

He and his wife believed in education

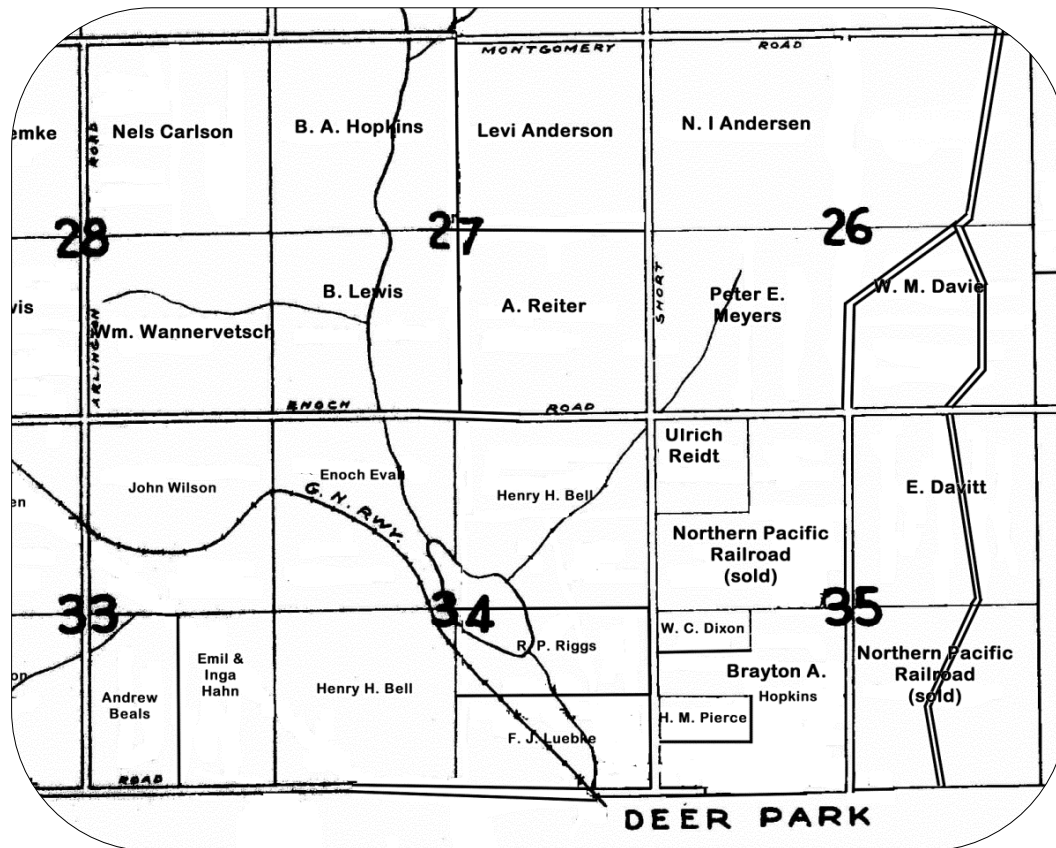
**See Mortarboard issue #74, page 897, Peter Coffin's "Deer Park's First Sawmill Moves," for further details about the Short and Crawford portable sawmill.*

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

*Ask about
"Collected Newsletters: Volume Twenty."*

*Society contact information can be found
on page 936.*

*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>*



Above: 1905 land ownership map of a portion of Township 29 North-Range 42 East WM showing the farm tract that Benjamin Lewis owned.

and all of his children received education beyond high school. His son Edwin had attended Washington State College and was a teacher, his daughters Rachel, May, and Katherine all were teachers. These daughters all married into Deer Park's important families. Oldest daughter Rachel, married the local bank cashier Evan Berg (June 28, 1913), daughter May married lumber grader Ernest DeVoe (May 2, 1913), and the youngest, Katherine, married real estate owner Chester C. Groshong. His oldest son David H. moved to Montana and was employed by the United States Forest Service

Tragedy struck in September of 1919 when his son Edwin B. drowned in Deer Park Lumber's mill pond while saving the life of a nine year old boy who had fallen into the pond while playing on the logs.

Benjamin H. Lewis was a dedicated public servant working at his desk as city treasurer. He died at his city hall desk on March 20, 1934, at age 83. His wife Sarah died in 1938 and both are buried in the Woodland Cemetery.

— end —

The First Known Deer Park High School Annual: Reviewing the 1915 "Senior Cycle"

by
Wally Lee Parker

This spring, Marilyn (*Strong*) Taylor donated a copy of the earliest known and likely first ever Deer Park High School annual to the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society. Titled the *Senior Cycle* and collectively edited by the *Senior Class of 1915*, this 5¼ x 8¼ inch, 68 page book is in remarkably good condition. As regards that condition, society president Bill Sebright noted, "Marilyn — a postcard collector — said she found the book while engaged in her hobby. As for how it stayed so pristine for the last 99 years," Bill could only wonder.

*Deer Park's first high school — having since been converted to the town's city hall — was built in the summer of 1911. The earliest known mention of the new school is found on page 4 of the July 7th, 1911, issue of the *Deer Park Union* — which coincidentally is the oldest currently known surviving issue of Deer Park's newspaper. As just a notation, the article headlines, "Bonds, yes!" And then goes on, "The school election held last Monday resulted in a landslide strictly in favor of building the new school house. There were 192 votes cast — 189 for and 3 against it, and the three could not be found after the election."

The article doesn't specify that the new school would be a high school. That's likely because it appears, as noted below, that it wasn't originally intended as such exclusively.

Three weeks later another mention is made in the *Union*. This, just one line buried in a local news column, simply states ⁽¹⁾"Our new school building is well under way and when finished will be one of the best in the state."

In mid-August the following article suggested that the project was coming together with remarkable speed — at least by today's standards.

⁽²⁾"The new school building is nearing completion, the roof is on and Mr. Miller, the inspector in charge, ordered the American flag nailed to the pole to celebrate the event. The lathers commenced this week and the plasterers will commence their work next Monday."

Once open, adjustment had to be made to best utilize the new school's space. As the *Union* reported from a November meeting of the school board, ⁽³⁾"Principal C. E. Stuebaker ... talked along the line of improving the schools and suggested that Miss Mor-

⁽¹⁾ *The Deer Park Union*. July 28, 1911. Page 2, column 1.

⁽²⁾ *The Deer Park Union*. August 18, 1911. Page 6, column 2.

⁽³⁾ *The Deer Park Union*. November 10, 1911. Page 1, column 6.

(*Note) For further information on the original high school building, see society member Marie Morrill's "From Deer Park High School in 1911 to Deer Park City Hall Today" in issue #50 (June, 2012) of the *Mortarboard*.

Deer Park High School Faculty: 1914 — 1915



W. O. Cummings, B. S.
*Iowa State Teachers College
State College of Washington*
*Superintendent of Schools
and Instructor in Science
and History.*



Jessie M. Eastman, B. A.
Carleton College
*Instructor in English and
German*



Mary E. Wiley
Instructor in Music

Photos from "The Senior Cycle," — May, 1915.

ris' room, 6th and 7th grades, be moved to the new building."

From this and other documents it appears that the 8th, 9th, and 10th grades were already housed at the new school. As for whether there was an 11th and 12th grade — whether the new high school was intended to be a two or four-year institution — the *Union* appears to contradict itself on that matter.

An article appearing on page 6 of the *Deer Park Union's* Christmas issue — in reference to the opportunities the community provides — quite clearly states, ⁽⁴⁾"There is a two-year high school established and accredit-

ed, being recognized by the Spokane High School, Cheney State Normal, Pullman State College — all accepting graduates therefrom."

In the same Christmas issue, but on page one under the headline ⁽⁵⁾"Deer Park High School Notes," the *Union* states, "The debate between the 11th and 9th grades took place Monday afternoon, in which the higher classmate won the decision of the judges, who were Mr. Raymond, Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Tuttle. Other visitors were present. All the debaters won the admiration of those who listened to them discuss the subject of direct election of

Deer Park High School Faculty: 1914 — 1915



Mrs. Alice T. Cutts, B. A.
*Middlebury College
Seattle Business College*
*Instructor in Latin, Algebra,
and Commercial Work*



May A. Rowe, B. S.
*Beloit College
Chicago University
Washington State College
University of Wisconsin*
*Instructor in Home
Economics, Botany and
Geometry*



Windsor Drisko
State College of Washington
*Instructor in Manual Arts
and Drawing*

Photos from "The Senior Cycle," — May, 1915.

United States senators. Edna Clayton, Roy Mix and Mont. Chadbourne of the 11th grade, the winners, had the negative side, and Lyle Dennison, Wallace Daniel and James Desmond upheld the affirmative."

The December *Union's* sixth page article — the one characterizing the new "two-year high school" as being "established and accredited" was contradicted by the following

Union article, published five months later.

⁽⁶⁾"The Board of Education last week engaged Mr. Levi Clark of Blain, Wash., to take charge as principal of the high school for the coming school year. Mr. Clark comes well recommended as an educator of high ability and attainments. He will receive every encouragement necessary to help put our high school on the accredited list and we sincerely

⁽⁴⁾ *The Deer Park Union*. December 22, 1911. Page 6, column 2.

⁽⁵⁾ *The Deer Park Union*. December 22, 1911. Page 1, column 6.

⁽⁶⁾ *The Deer Park Union*. May 17, 1912. Page 1, column 2.

hope he will succeed. Several changes are contemplated by the board in regard to additional studies, etc., and no stone will be left unturned to put the Deer Park High school in the front rank.”

As noted in the *Union* article quoted in paragraph seven on page 923 of this issue, the superintendent for the first year of the high school's existence was C. E. Studebaker (Clement Earl Studebaker — no known relation to the automotive Studebakers). So far the only other mention of this teacher is located in a *Spokesman-Review* article from the late spring of 1912. Said article, recounting the plans various Deer Park teachers had for the coming summer, noted that ⁽⁷⁾“Superintendent Studebaker will improve his ranch near Deer Park.”

It appears that Principal Clark obtained his stated goal of full accreditation by the next summer, with Deer Park being listed among the state's accredited four-year high schools in a publication titled ⁽⁸⁾*Washington High School Directory: 1913-1914* — said listing noted as being “Correct” as of “June, 1913.”

The above volume also stated that the high school's enrollment stood at 44 as of November 1st, 1913.

Including Mr. Clark, five Deer Park High School instructors were listed in the above publication; along with their qualifications and salaries. Principal Clark, for teaching agriculture, history, and manual training — as well as his other duties — was contracted to earn *\$1550.00 for the year. Specializing in home economics, physiology, and biology, Mary A. Rowe took home \$900.00. F. R. Quinby, with a salary of \$765.00 for the year, taught German, chemistry, music, and geometry. Jessie Eastman — while doing additional work in the elementary grades — earned \$720.00 for teaching English. And Berthadel Beers, teaching Latin, algebra, shorthand, and typewriting, took home \$765.00.

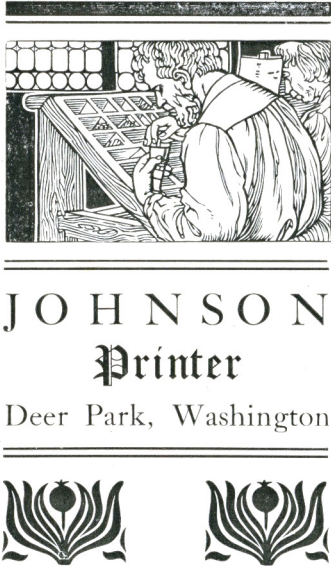
The yearly wage for unskilled labor would have averaged around \$600.00 at that time.

By the next school year — the school year in which the *Senior Cycle* was produced — the faculty had expanded by one, with three of the prior year's teachers — including Principal Clark — having moved on (only Rowe and Eastman remained).

A listing of the 1914-1915 faculty, along with photos extracted from the first *Senior Cycle*, are posted on the pages 924 and 925 — with W. O. Cummings noted as the high school's new principal.

As for the *Senior Cycle* itself — which has managed to survive a century and still displays itself nicely — it's stated as having been printed in May of 1915 by J. H. Johnson; Mr. Johnson also being the owner and editor of the *Deer Park Union* at that time.

J. H. Johnson's place in Deer Park's history was first documented in the July 7th, 1911, edition of the *Deer Park Union*, where it's noted that, “Mr. J. H. Johnson of Chicago has purchased the *Deer Park Union*. He intends to run a strictly first class country paper independent in politics, but to do everything in his power to boost Deer Park and vicinity. He



JOHNSON
Printer
Deer Park, Washington

Illustration from “The Senior Cycle,” page 61.

Deer Park High School Class of 1915

Lyle M. Denison



Emma F. James



Anna Fornfeist



Photos from “The Senior Cycle,” — May, 1915.



Mildred S. Renshaw



Merle T. Shaver

solicits the patronage of all the merchants and will do all in power to merit the same. Please do not take this week's issue as a criterion, but have a little patience as it takes some time to get the paper back on its feet. In a couple of weeks we will be thoroughly equipped to do

all kinds of job work in first-class shape.” It appears that the 1915 *Senior Cycle* was one such “job work.”

Little is known of Johnson's subsequent history. After leaving his owner/editor position at the *Deer Park Union*, he and his

⁽⁷⁾ *The Spokesman-Review*. May 26, 1912. Part two, page 6, column 3.

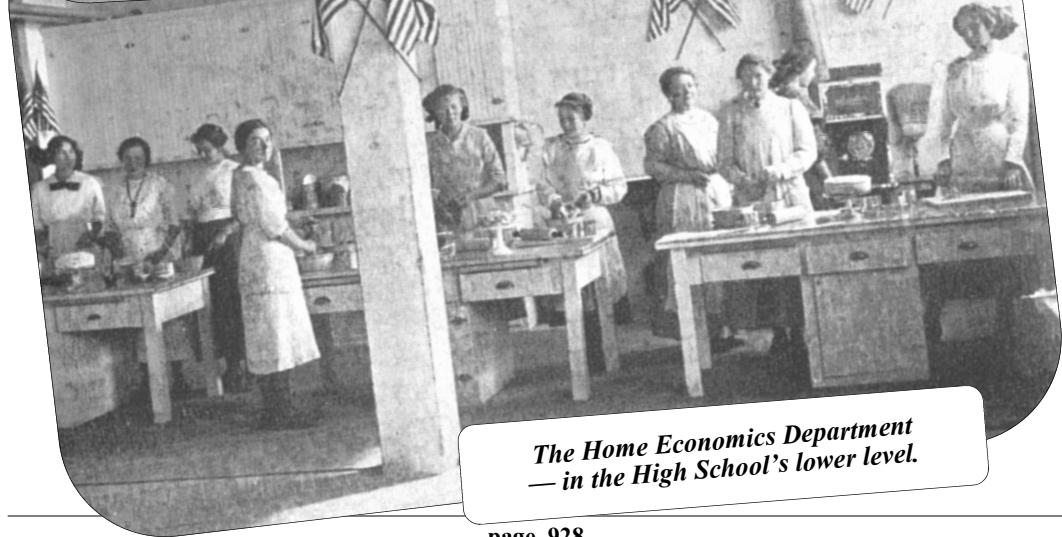
⁽⁸⁾ *Washington High School Directory: 1913-1914*. Published by Mrs. Josephine Corliss Preston, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Olympia, Washington. (No date of publication, but the introduction states that the enrollment figures are up to date as of November 1, 1913 — so it's fairly safe to assume a date of publication shortly thereafter.)

(*Note) For more information on the approximate buying power of the above stated dollar amounts in the early years of the 20th century, see *Mortarboard* issue #43, page 887, Wally Parker's “Working Wages: Wages Paid by Milan's Lumber Company in 1907 & '08.”



The new Deer Park High School — circa 1914 —

The cast of "Bread on the Waters" — a play presented by the Senior Class at Olsen's Hall on the 9th of April, 1915.



The Home Economics Department — in the High School's lower level.

Photos from "The Senior Cycle," — May, 1915.

wife, Emma, moved back to the Midwest — to Wisconsin.

According to the ⁽⁹⁾*Spokane Chronicle*, Emma returned to the area after J. H. passed away and married Deer Park's legendary and recently widowed *Dr. H. H. Slater. Emma died in 1947, a year after Dr. Slater.

If typical of his work, the craftsmanship evident in the *Senior Cycle* suggests that J. H. "Harry" Johnson was a reasonably skilled publisher.

As for the senior class itself, in their "Class History" — page 13 of the *Senior Cycle* — they noted, "The class of 1915 has the distinction of being the first class that has taken the entire four-year course in the Deer Park High School. Four years ago the present class consisted of sixteen members. However, only three of that number, Mildred Renshaw, Emma James and Lyle Denison, have completed the course. Anna Fornfeist and Merle Shaver have entered the class during the Senior year."

Though the fact that only "five" graduated from a class that began four years earlier with 16 students seems below average, it falls close to the statewide medium as published in ⁽¹⁰⁾*The Washington High School Directory: 1913-1914* — in which it was stated, "Approximately one pupil out of every three entering the elementary grades enters high school in this state." And, "Approximately one pupil out of every three entering high school graduates from high school."

The above directory reports there were 3,817 students enrolled in Washington State high schools during the 1912-1913

school year — the last complete year of statistics available in that particular directory. We can compare that to the ⁽¹¹⁾327,873 students reported enrolled in the state's public high schools as of October, 2013. Washington's high schools graduated just over ⁽¹²⁾64,000 students in 2012 — which places the current probability of graduating for students entering high school at just over 75%.

Back then, high school was an option for relatively few. How few can be deduced by comparing the number of students attending high school in the early years of the respective centuries to the 1910 federal census estimate for the population of Washington State — which stood at 1,141,990 — and the 2010 estimate which stands at 6,724,540.

As for the quality of education between now and then, common wisdom generally considers that high school graduates from the early 20th century were — as far as overall education is concerned — comparable to college graduates from the beginning of the 21st century. Nothing from the *Senior Cycle* would suggest such common wisdom is in error. For example, the following "Debate Notes" from page 39 of the *Senior Cycle*.

"The debating team of 1914 set a record of which the Deer Park High School can be very proud. The team was composed of Emma James, Mildred Renshaw, Edith Reed, and William Short. Although it was their first year at this work, and also the first year that Deer Park was represented in the interscholastic debates, they tied for second place with the Lewis and Clark High School of Spokane.

"Deer Park won three out of four

⁽⁹⁾ *The Spokane Chronicle (Final Empire Edition)*. August 9, 1947. Page 3, column 3.
⁽¹⁰⁾ *Washington High School Directory: 1913-1914*. Page 2. (See "Note #8," bottom of page 927, for further details.)
⁽¹¹⁾ *State of Washington, Office of Public Instruction, October Enrollment Report, 2013-2014* (<http://www.k12.wa.us/DataAdmin/>).
⁽¹²⁾ *Report to the Legislature: Graduation and Dropout Statistics Annual Report; 2011-12*. A publication of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Washington.
(*Note) For more information on Doctor H. H. Slater and family, see *Mortarboard Issue #28*, page 349, Harold Angus Slater's "I Remember."

debates, those with Colville, Cheney, and Hillyard. It lost only to North Central of Spokane. Considering the advantages that the larger schools had over Deer Park in the way of extensive reference books and libraries, together with years of experience, the showing made by Deer Park is excellent. The Deer Park team led all schools in Northeastern Washington outside of Spokane.

“Superintendent Clark, now of Colville, coached the team and deserves much credit for his excellent work.

“Two debates, those with Colville and North Central, were held in Deer Park, while our team made the trips to Cheney and Hillyard.

“Although this is a good record we are not going to stop until we beat North Central, and hold first place among the schools of Eastern Washington.”

With an odd resonance to one of today’s pressing questions, the subject being debated among the various schools in 1914 was — “Resolved. That all unskilled laborers from southern and eastern Europe should be excluded from the United States.”

The 1915 *Senior Cycle* contains the names and class photos of the freshman, sophomore, and junior classes as well. Unfortunately, in those cases the group photos do not specify which student is which. But still, the text may contain important clues for anyone researching any of the following names.

The Class of 1916: Rose Eastland, Muriel Enman, Donald Reed, Sarah Enman, Floyd Wolfe, Naomi Dunham, Florence Reetz, Bert Moore, Stella Shonkwilet, Beatrice Gollan, and Howard James.

The Class of 1917: Florence James, Edward Peterson, Myrtle DeVoe, Ruth Garver, Mable Hunt, Myra Taylor, Helen DeVoe, Sadie Conner, Clyde Hiatt, Wesley Williams, Gertrude Alberthal, and Edith Johnson.

The Class of 1918: Katie Roberts, Golda Blair, James Wolfe, Janice Renshaw, Lee Andrus, Esther Hunziker, Harold Bagley, Zetta Barnes, Laura Andrus, Grace Day, Stella Davis, Louis Stuhr, Mary Fallon, Alma Turbin, Beatrice Cutts, Phillip Lohrey, Ora Knoertzer, Harry Hutchins, Forest Chadbourne, and Ward Gray.

The above students would have gone on to live through the most interesting parts of the 20th century. Because of that, the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society would appreciate any further details regarding any of the above students our readers might be able to offer.

As part of the C/DPHS’s mission of archiving the history of the local area, the society has been attempting to scan into electronic format as many vintage years of Deer Park High School annuals as can be located. Currently in digital or hardcopy format we have annuals for 1915, 1923, 1937 (incomplete), 1942 (digital), 1943 (digital), 1944 (photocopy), 1945, 1949 (photocopy), 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1970, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, 2001, and 2009.

We also have a photocopy of Clayton High School’s 1924 annual.

Although the donation of any hardcopies for the missing years would be appreciated, the important thing is the data these perishable time capsules contain. For our purposes, just the privilege of making high definition photocopies of any of the issues missing from our list would be extremely helpful in allowing us to fulfil our mission of collecting materials of historical significance to the local community, and then of engaging in the “art of making this common heritage accessible to the public” — which is also the function of this newsletter.

— end —

If you have a vintage Deer Park or Clayton High School annual suitable for donation or photocopying, please contact society president Bill Sebright at either sebrightba@gmail.com or (509) 276-2693.

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

Bits of Chatter, Trivia & Notices All Strung Together

... the last whistle ...

In July, the C/DPHS’s president, Bill Sebright, sent out a general email announcing that Marc Stelting, “in honor of his Dad, Art, and grandfather, Jim,” had donated a bell — the type that uses a cord-activated mechanical clapper to strike a hemispherical gong — to the society (see photo page 935). This particular bell was once used in the old Clayton brick plant — something to do with the operation of a clay conveyer. That donation brought up the subject of historic bells and whistles throughout the community — and specifically the steam whistles at the Clayton and Deer Park factories.

At least one of the emails forwarded to your editor’s desk suggested not everyone in the area penetrated by such mellow wails was happy with those community wide calls to work, lunch, and then home. They considered it intrusive and somewhat similar to the whistles alluded to in the classic science fiction movie *Metropolis* (I say alluded to since the movie, released back in 1926, was silent). In the movie, steam whistles called an army of spiritless workers who then, in column after column, shuffled lockstep to their work stations.

Remembering that your elderly editor had been one of those shuffling into Deer Park’s sawmill back in the day, Bill asking how long I’d worked there — and if I recalled when the company had ceased operation.

I replied, “I worked primarily in the cut-shop from the late summer of 1966 until about February or March of 1971 — that was when the mill was being phased out — by that I mean being shut down section by section as the last few orders worked their way through

the system.

“My first winter at the mill the cut-shop was closed for about three months due to a recession in the housing industry, and I, like the other new hires, was laid off until the orders picked up in the early spring of ‘67. We scaled back a few other times in the years after, but I had enough seniority by then that I was usually just bumped to a lower paying job or moved to a different part of the factory. For all those years, whether or not we were going to stay in business was a subject of rumor.”

As for resenting those whistles, most working class people live by the whistle in one way or another. It’s just that some of the whistles are actually bells. Some are more musical tones. Some are just inky numbers that a wall-mounted clock bites into a sliver of cardstock bearing the worker’s name. And some are just a boss’s cranky voice yelling “get back to work” — or a colorful, possibly profane variation thereof.

Though he seldom used profanity, Art Roll was cut-shop supervisor at the sawmill. He had an elevated office on the south side of the shop — elevated at least 10 feet above the floor so he could visually sweep the entire shop through the glass-paned windows that lined three sides of his heated cubical (one of the few areas in the cut-shop heated in the winter). At times you’d look around and he’d be sitting at his desk. Other times he’d be propped against the railing at one of the stairway’s landings. Sometimes he’d be prowling the floor. Regardless, there wasn’t much happening he wouldn’t know about.

If there was a spot for new hires open in the summer, the company made it a habit to take on college kids as a way of helping them

and their families with expenses. Most of those kids were grateful — though a few just barely. I recall one that made a sport of running into the cut-shop just as the morning whistle was blowing. Since Art was acutely aware and not terribly appreciative of things that suggested a less than workman like attitude, he did take notice.

One morning the kid was about a minute late getting in. Art was standing half way up the stairs, on the landing — hands in his coveralls' pockets, rocking his adequate tummy against the railing, watching. Art waddled over to the kid — after 40 plus years in a sawmill, most everybody waddles — pulled his right hand out of his pocket, curled his index finger in a “*come here*” manner, and waited for the kid's approach and — eventually — full attention.

I say Art curled his index finger, though I can't state that as a certainty. It was a rare employee that had worked in the cut-shop very long and still had all his fingers. As I recall, Art was missing random lengths of more than one. I just can't remember which.

Anyway, whatever the conversation, it was drowned out by the rising racket as the cut-shop came to life. There was the screeching shrill of the dry planers just a few dozen feet away. (I still carry a high pitched whistle inside my ears likely associated with four and a half years of that.) There was the slap of wood as the cut-off saws came to life. And then the upward winding chippers, vacuums, and dozens of smaller electric motors. Whatever one-way communication was occurring between the two — the kid standing slack-jawed for the majority of it — it caused Art to turned even ruddier than usual.

After that the kid continued to run in just as the whistle was blowing — it being a matter of principle I suspect. But at least he wasn't late anymore.

The sawmill was ripe with what was clearly gossip. Some of that came from the mill's foremen — though I'm sure none would own up to it. It's possible a portion of that was management communicating with the

workers by other than official means. But occasionally the official anti-scuttlebutt policy would break down and we'd hear some gossip from the bosses themselves. For example, there was the recent Deer Park graduate hired to fill a vacancy left by a college kid going back to school at the end of the summer. The new kid had worked for just a few weeks when he informed Art that he'd need a week off to go hunting with his dad. Art tried to explain that that wasn't the way it worked. That he'd have to work there long enough to earn vacation time, then put in for the time he wanted off, and — assuming no one else with more seniority wanted that same block of time — it's possible he'd get the time off. But, since an awful lot of the guys who'd worked there for years and years wanted time off during hunting season, even then it was unlikely.

The kid explained that he always went hunting with his dad in the autumn. That for the last few years he'd even been taking a week off from school just for that.

Art gave the kid a final, “No,” and on the Friday before the hunting trip was supposed to take place, the kid quit.

Art was stunned. The idea of having a job when so many men were desperate for work, and walking away from that job for something as petty as a hunting trip just didn't make sense to him — or most of the rest of us for that matter. It had Art so bumfuzzled he just had to tell some of the older employees. So the story got around.

A couple of Mondays later, I'm hard at work watching the ten inch blade of my cut-off saw snap window stock to length (all this snapping occurring just an inch or two beyond the unguarded tips of my fingers) when the guy running the saw next to me taps me on the back. I turn, and he points (he still had an index finger to do that with) to the floor just below Art's office. There, fresh back from his trip and standing nose to nose with Art, was the time-off-for-hunting kid.

Everybody in the cut-shop is watching — most surreptitiously — a few of the elders outright. Art just keeps shaking his

head from side to side. And the kid just keeps getting more and more frustrated. Finally the kid storms off. Art looks at all of us, shrugged his shoulders, grins, and waddles up the stairs to his office.

Story was the kid took the matter of Art not taking him back over to the main office — over to the plant's superintendent, Harvey Coe. Seems the main office unsympathetically explained that the circumstance of his departure didn't merit a rehire.

Hopefully the kid learned something about working in the real world as a result.

My dad, Owen Lee Parker, worked at the Clayton brick plant from 1948 until it shut down in '57. Then at the sawmill till it shut down. And then on the income from selling the family farm, plus several summers picking fruit in Washington and Oregon (like Mom and Dad had done when they were younger — making the orchards more of a vacation than work), until cancer finally wasted him away a short time later. As a lifetime working man, who only got to retire due to what proved to be a fatal illness, he's the one that explained to me what working for wages was all about.

As Dad told it, hiring out was selling your time — quite literally, selling part of your life. The employer could tell a worker to do certain things during those hired hours, and, as long as those requests were within reason, the worker was supposed to do them.

What I took from this was that it was all a matter of how I chose to see things. If I chose to work rather than bum, thief, or go into politics (all pretty much the same), I could see it as something demeaning if I wanted to; in which case the demands of the sawmill whistle would be something to resent. On the other hand, I could look at working for wages as a cooperative endeavor — which would at least leave me with some dignity. Manipulating my frame of mind might just be, as Mary Poppins says, a spoonful of sugar — but it would be better than being chronically angry.

That mind trick — common to most working men — got me through an assortment of small jobs, through four-and-a-half years at

the sawmill, and another thirty-five years at Holy Family Hospital. A lot of that time I was inconvenienced enough that I could have chosen to be miserable. Sometimes I was. But the compensation tended to even things out.

As for the sawmill shutting down, we were informed of the fact just before the end of shift on Monday, the 28th of December, 1970. That was our first day back after our three day Christmas weekend. Harvey Coe, the plant's superintendent, called the factory workers into the cut-shop/molding area and announced that the entire sawmill was closing down permanently.

An article in the next day's Spokesman-Review stated that Harvey “*read the notice to some 200 workers at the lumber mill shortly after he received it Monday afternoon,*” then quoted him as having said, “*None of us had any idea it was going to happen.*”

As I recall, one of the more vocal wags in our totally flummoxed group asked Harvey why the company had waited till after Christmas to let the employees know. Harvey answered that they likely wanted everyone to have a good holiday first. To which the wag responded that if we'd known we'd soon be without work we wouldn't have spent money we didn't have buying Christmas presents we could no longer afford.

So much for our “good holiday.”

I still suspect the corporation's big wigs really waited till after Christmas to avoid banner headlines comparing them to Ebenezer Scrooge. And it seemed that most everything we heard from them after was heavily laced with corporate spin. For example, in it's December 29th article the *Review* noted that the sawmill's corporate owner, Potlatch Forests Inc., (then in the process of selling Deer Park's woodlands to Boise Cascade) intended to “*try to help the Deer Park plant employees to either relocate or find new employment in the area*” — which eventually boiled down to little more than a one-time offer to those with enough seniority to take available jobs at other company owned operations often hundreds of miles away from their homes.

During my last week at the mill I'd been bumped into the glue-room section of the cut-shop — the place where, among other things, the window and door jams were pressure treated. The two elders that normally worked the glue-room were rambling on about everything that was wrong with the country — as I've since discovered elders tend to do. The topic of the moment, the free ride people on welfare seemed to get. While admitting some people did need help, one of the glue-room guys frothed forth over his resentment that his government was spending his tax money to support a bunch of useless freeloaders.

Then he stops. Looks at me. Looks at his longtime workmate. Grins a lopsided grin and says, "I don't know what I'm going on about. Here pretty quick we might all be on welfare ourselves."

Looking back, it's reasonable to assume that at least a few local people were in fact irritated by the sound of the sawmill's whistle — just like a few Clayton people were likely irritated by the brick plant's whistle. But most probably took a more pragmatic view. To them those whistles meant food on the table and heat in the house. To most it was a clockwork reminder that wages were coming into the community. When those whistles went silent — when the era of Clayton and Deer Park as company towns faded away — it meant hard times and a difficult adjustment for most everyone.

And as always, the society invites anyone with anecdotes and/or photos of the old sawmill to share them with our readers.

—— Wally Lee Parker ——

Minutes of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society —— July 12, 2014 ——

In attendance: Peter Coffin, Judy Coffin, Sue Rehms, Wally Parker, Pat Parker, Betty Burdette, Mike Reiter, Bob Gibson, Donald Ball, Don Reiter, Mary Jo Reiter, Marilyn Reilly, Grace Hubal, Mark Wagner, Bill Sebright, Lorraine Nord, Jody Lentz, and Kay Parkin.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. He reported: 1) Lynn Wells took pictures of the brick hangar at Felts Field and the two "Aces of Spades" on the building (access through Spokane Turbine Center). With Sue Richart's (Crossroads Project) help, Bill copied a page from an online copy of the Clayton Terra Cotta book which showed that the "Aces" came from Clayton. Thanks Lynn and Sue! 2) Bill met with Marc Stelting, Art's son, who presented the Society with a \$500 check as per Art's wishes. He also donated a bell from the

Brickyard clay shed at the Clayton Brickyard. It was rung every time a load of clay came up the conveyor. 3) Plans have been made for displays at Settlers, Brickyard Day, and Clayton Fair. Mark signed a "Hold Harmless Agreement," necessary for the booth at Settlers this year.

Society Treasurer, Mark Wagner reported: That the ending balance for the main checking account as of June 30 was \$3,336.32.

Society Secretary Grace Hubal reported: I sent out 2 thank you notes for Warren Nord memorials and a thank you card to Marc Stelting.

Society Vice President Pete Coffin reported: The project I have been trying to complete before Settlers Celebration is a set of township ownership maps for the following townships: T27N-R41E, T27N-R42E, T28N-R41E, T28N-R42E, T29N-R41E, T29N-

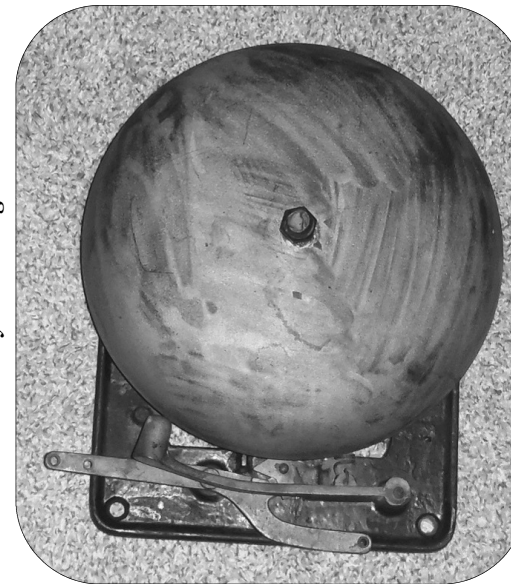
Photo by Lynn Wells.



Above: Felts Field terra cotta
"Ace of Spades."

Below: Clayton brick plant bell.

Photo by Bill Sebright.



R42E. In Spokane County they will cover homesteader ownership, 1905 ownership, 1912 ownership, 1930/1933 ownership, 1940 ownership and 1950 ownership. In Stevens County I have been unable to find a source for 1905 or 1912 ownership data. Pete displayed the maps for all to look at before, during, and after the meeting.

Print editor, Wally Parker reported: 1) The July *Mortarboard*, #75, includes "100 Year Old Arcadia Orchards Artifact Uncovered During Recent Work in Downtown Deer Park," "Floyd Lorenzo Daggett: Insurance Salesman, Spokane Mayor, Arcadia Orchards Entrepreneur," and "Clayton Grade School - 1924: The Writing on the Wall." 2) Brought to the meeting - 100 copies of *Mortarboard* #75 (July), and 20 copies of the *Collected Newsletters, Volume Nineteen*. Volume Nineteen includes *Mortarboard* #72 through #75. 3) And just as a reminder for anyone attending events that may be of interest to the readers of the *Mortarboard*, take a camera (digital) and a notepad, and if you see a story opportunity - something that might work well in the *Mortarboard* - snap lots of photos and jot down whatever info you can to accompany those photos. If you can get a phone number or email address that might lead to additional information about your photos, get those too. That will give the editorial staff (currently one) an opportunity to follow up on any materials that seem likely to result in a story. Also, if there's any "free" printed materials available at said event, grab an extra copy for *Print Publications*. If your notes and photos are included in the *Mortarboard*, such "grabbed" materials might supply information useful in setting up the background.

Society Webmaster, Marie Morrill posted *Mortarboard* Issue #74 on the website.

Penny Hutten reported by email that the Westerners are planning 2 tours for this summer. One is to the Ferry County City of Republic on July 31st. The Patsy Clark Gold Mine will be the main destination. Here is a link to the Republic Historical Museum, <http://www.ferrycountyhs.org/index.html>. The sec-

ond tour is of Lincoln and Spokane County Ghost Towns which will be on August 21st. For information or to make reservations call [\(509\) 747-1335](tel:5097471335).

Clayton Brickyard Day planning meetings were held on June 18th and July 9th at the Real Estate Market Place. The flyers were distributed. Ad money is coming in. Jodie Lentz ordered 100 t-shirts. They are really selling well and will be on sale at Yokes.

Betty Burdette reported: To celebrate the “70th Birthday of the Deer Park Airport,” there will be a Fly-in on July 19th. There will be antique planes and about 50 vintage dragsters from the 30 years in which part of the airport was a drag strip.

Settlers Day will be July 26th. The Society plans to have a booth at Mix Park.

Still pending: The deteriorating condition of the Eagle was discussed. We will be looking into it. Tom Taylor won't be looking at the Eagle until after haying.

Mike Reiter mentioned: 1) That there will be another car show at Mix Park next Saturday, July 19th. One of the Deer Park High School girls is organizing it for her senior pro-

ject. 2) He got a picture from the granddaughter of Adolphus and Anna Woods. They used to live at 4th and Armim near the Hegre Administration Building (old DP Elementary School). They are coming up after Settlers Day. Pete Coffin will try to find something about the family in Ancestry.com.

Marilyn Reilly reported: She brought in copies of the March and April 2006 *Nostalgia Magazine*. Lots of information. Fay Reilly's funeral service will be Saturday, July 19, 2 PM, at the Catholic Church.

Jody Lentz arrived at the meeting with the Brickyard t-shirts. She sold a dozen! Bill mentioned that next year, in 2015, it'll be the 100th anniversary of the Clayton School. Do we, the C/DPHS, want to do something to celebrate? If so, we'll need volunteers to work on this!

Next meeting: Saturday, August 9th, 2014, 9 AM at the Clayton Drive-In.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 AM.

The meeting minutes submitted by Grace Hubal, Secretary.

— end —

Volunteer proofreaders for this issue: Patricia Parker, Bill Sebright, and Lina Swain.

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 —