

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
CLAYTON/DEER PARK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mortarboard

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Winter — 1936

by

Bob Gibson

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

Ask about

“Collected Newsletters: Volume Twenty-Two.”

*Society contact information can be found
on page 1032 of this issue.*

In the fall of 1936 I started 1st grade at the Clayton school. At that time my folks had a farm on Belle Star Road — about a mile west of the Farm-to-Market Road. I had to walk to the corner to catch the school bus. Farm-to-Market is now called the Williams Valley Road.

The bus was owned and driven by Scotty McGrorty. It was just a wooden cracker box built on a 1920s-something Dodge frame. It had a bench down each side where we'd sit. It didn't have a heater.

In the late 1930s Scotty bought a 1932 Chevrolet bus — a better one that could carry about 25 kids.

Our farm had no electricity back then, so I had to study by kerosene lamp. Since my dad had to milk the cows by hand, and my mom had a newborn daughter to take care of — and since I was the only one on that stretch of road — I had to make the trip to meet the bus alone.

The winter I started school, it snowed and snowed. It got about 4 feet deep out on the level — deep enough I could walk overtop

the wire fences. It would be dark before I'd get home. Dark enough that I'd get really scared when the coyotes started howling.

One cold January morning after a large overnight snowfall, I trudged down to the bus stop and waited for the bus. I waited until the middle of the afternoon — when our mailman, Mr. Huffman, came along to deliver the mail. He asked what I was doing. I told him I was waiting for the school bus. He told me I must have missed it and I should go home. When I got home my mother asked me what I was doing home so early. I said I must have missed the bus. That was the only day I missed school that year.

One other thing that happened that year was that the school bus slid off the road and got stuck. Scotty told us all to get out of the bus, then asked the older boys to get behind and push. When Scotty hollered to push, the boys pulled back — they didn't want to go to school. After a while they decided to push and got the bus back on the road. That morning we were late for school.

My folks' transportation at that time



Photo from the Anne (McGrorty) Mertens Collection.

Scotty McGrorty's School Bus.
(Uncertain as to whether it was the first or second.)
Photo taken about 1938.

Back row, left to right:

Joe McGrorty, Alex Michael, Lena Michael, Ester Michael, Margaret McGrorty, Mrs. Mary Costa, Mrs. John Costa holding Bruno Costa, John Costa, Dominick Costa.

Front row, left to right:

Josephine Michael, Maxine Michael, Anne McGrorty, Ida Marconi, Mary McGrorty, Mary Ellen Costa with Duane Costa and Teresa Costa, Mira Costa, Teno Costa.

was a horse drawn wagon — or, in winter, a horse drawn sled. Back in those days, the county only plowed the roads used by the school bus and mailman. I remember dad built a snowplow so he could use his team to cut us a path to the plowed road.

Besides my dad, I had two aunts and three uncles that went to the Clayton school. My oldest aunt, Catherine, graduated from Clayton High School, then went to Cheney Normal. After that she taught in the Colville School District.

As I said, I only went to Clayton through the 6th grade. My folks were forced to

sell the farm when World War Two broke out. We moved to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. While there, Dad helped build the Farragut Naval Training Station. When the war was over we moved back to another farm near Clayton.

I graduated from Deer Park High in 1948. My daughters Dianne and Sherry attended Clayton back in the early 1960s. The principal was Roy Hale. Dianne's favorite teacher was Mrs. Inga McDonald. My granddaughter, Rachéa, was in Clayton's last kindergarten class.

— end —

Sometimes Things Just Go Wrong

by

Melvin Mullenix & Pete Coffin

In the 1950s Mullenix Trucking had a contract hauling crushed limestone from Pacific Silica Company's limestone pit in Cottonwood Canyon southeast of Chewelah to a railroad siding in Valley, Washington, where the crushed limestone would be loaded into a gondola for rail shipment. The load-

ing facility was located over a pile of crushed limestone being stockpiled for winter shipment. A large timber ramp had been built so that a dump truck could be backed up over the edge of the gondola and dump the crushed limestone into it.

One day, driver Roy Newman



Photo from the Melvin Mullenix collection.

The Mullenix truck after backing into the railroad gondola and the gondola rolling down the track.

backed up the 1955 Reo dump truck too far and the truck and gravel load fell backwards into the gondola. Then things got worse! Apparently the brakes on the gondola had not been set properly. When the truck fell into the gondola, the car began to roll down the siding away from the loading ramp.

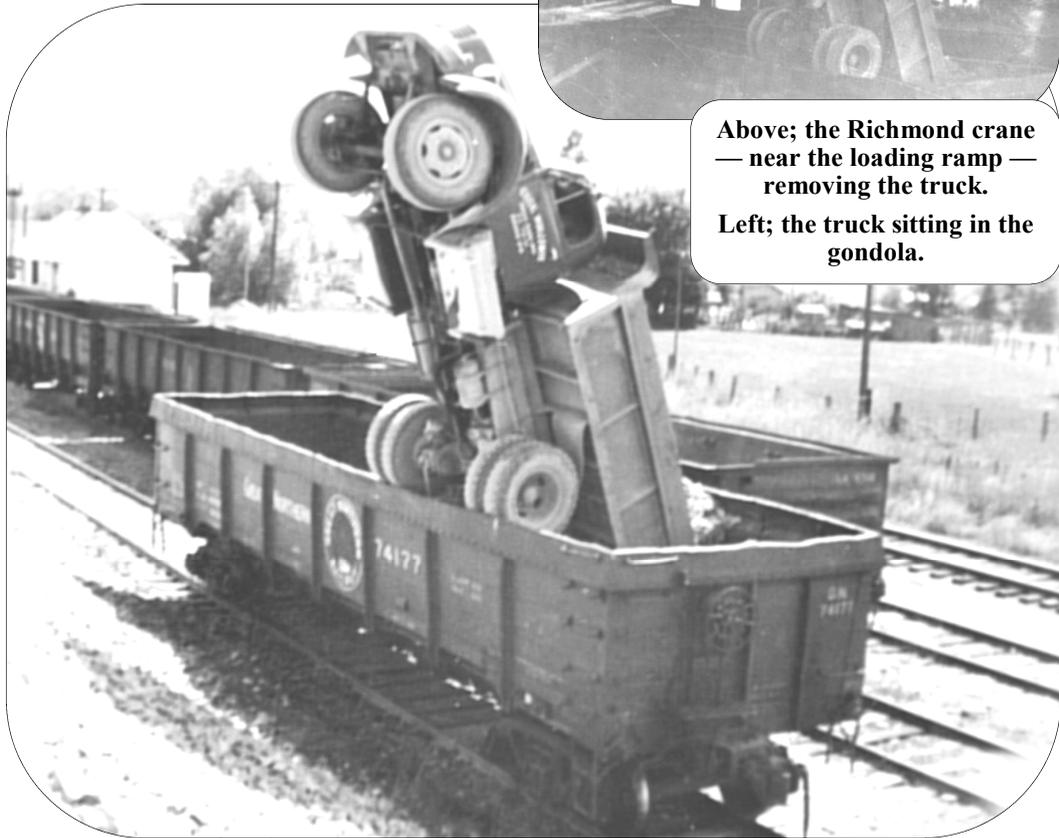
Mullenix Trucking contacted the Great Northern Railroad about renting a crane to remove the truck from the gondola. The price Great Northern quoted was very high and Mullenix trucking then called Mr. Manly Brandenburg who was the supervisor of the Deer Park Pine Company's logging operations to ask if they had some sort of crane that could be rented at a lower price. Mr. Brandenburg said that there was a crane capable of doing the job loading logs at Kettle Falls being oper-

ated by Mr. Richmond. The quoted rental rate was much more reasonable than the railroad crane rental so the mobile crane was driven to Valley and the truck extricated from the gondola.

— end —



Above; the Richmond crane — near the loading ramp — removing the truck.
Left; the truck sitting in the gondola.



Photos from the Melvin Mullenix collection.

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

Bits of Chatter, Trivia & Notices All Strung Together

... *"I will camp on their trail"* ...

The following letter to the editor appeared in the December, 1898, issue of "Recreation" magazine.

"In this vicinity, a few years ago, a man could catch salmon and mountain trout by the hundred, and could see 25 to 200 deer in a day's hunt. Now he cannot, in a week or month, catch or kill what he could eat in a week. The deer and birds have been destroyed by the hogs and pot hunters, the fish by sawmill dams and dust. Our present game warden and fish commissioner and I have just been given the lumber men a roundup (phrase reproduced as written). One of the men pleaded guilty, and was fined \$100 and costs. Another was arrested and was acquitted, the jury being out all night and standing 5 for conviction and one for acquittal. The other 2 that were arrested were turned loose, because the deputy warden and the lawyer thought they could not be convicted. As long as I am in this locality I will camp on their trail, which is 7 miles above this place on the Little Spokane and its tributaries. Some of them have dams that the fish cannot get over. If we can not compel them to take care of their dust we shall soon have no fish nor meadow lands along the stream. — J. C. Cowgill, Chattaroy, Wash."

If you wondering about the above noted "Recreation" magazine, it was published in New York City between 1895 and 1912 by one George Oliver Shields. The publisher, Shields (1846-1925), was also a well respected writer, hunter, and conservationist — part of a growing conservationist movement that included a slew of other notable late 19th to early 20th century sportsmen such as

Theodore Roosevelt.

As for the above signed Mr. Cowgill, a biography found in "An Illustrated History of Spokane County, State of Washington" — a massive tome written by Jonathan Edwards and published in 1900 — states ...

"J. C. Cowgill, one of the enterprising citizens of Chattaroy, is a native of Dover, Delaware, born March 3, 1846. He was raised to the life of a farmer and when he reached adult age naturally took to that occupation at first. However, he soon became imbued with a desire to see something of the world and embarked on a merchant vessel which sailed between Philadelphia and the West Indies. He remained on the ship during the four years following 1864, then farmed till 1871, after which he moved to Santee, Nebraska, where he served as postmaster and had a trading post until 1877. He next moved to Dakota, farmed for two years there, then went to Mile City, Montana, and worked in a store for a short time. Subsequently he went to the Pine Ridge agency and worked a trading post at Wounded Knee until September, 1882, when he came to Chattaroy, Washington. He is now engaged in the mercantile business there and has charge of the post office. Mr. Cowgill has spent a great deal of time prospecting and is the owner of several promising claims. He is also extensively interested in Chattaroy real estate. Socially, he affiliates with the I. O. O. F. He is a very active man in the affairs of the community and is respected and esteemed by all his neighbors."

No doubt we need to excuse the lumbermen Mr. Cowgill had a hand in rounding up from being counted among "all" those neighbors overflowing with respect and es-

teem. On the other hand, anyone willing to put their personal safety at risk to protect the natural beauty of the Little Spokane River has the C/DPHS's respect.

But the story doesn't quite end here.

... *Is that how Chattaroy got its name?* ...

There was another Cowgill family in Chattaroy. As for their biography — again, drawing from Edwards' *Illustrated History of Spokane County* ...

"Robert P. Cowgill, a pioneer of 1883, was born in Dover, Delaware, December 10, 1857. He lived in the city of his birth until he was seventeen, then went to Sioux City, Iowa, where he served as a clerk in a boot and shoe store for three years. He next moved to the Pine Ridge agency, Nebraska, clerked in a general trading store there for one year, then removed to Springfield, Dakota, where he was engaged in farming and stock raising about three years. He then went into town and was engaged in the meat market business about one year, after which, in 1883, he came to Chattaroy, or Kidd Post Office as it was named at that time, and opened a general merchandise store. He also took a contract to carry the United States mail from Spokane to Chattaroy. Mr. Cowgill sold out his store in 1895, and since then has been dividing his energies between mining and farming. He lives on his homestead near Chattaroy. Mr. Cowgill is one of the leading and influential citizens of that section of the county, takes a lively interest in local affairs, and was for several years justice of the peace and postmaster. Socially he is affiliated with the I. O. O. F., and the K. O. T. M., being a charter member of both these organizations. He was married July 29, 1879, to Margaret M. Lang,

a native of Montreal, Canada. They have six children living, namely; Ralph P., Daniel, Alice, Lela, Griffith and Susan L., also one deceased, Margaret. Mr. and Mrs. Cowgill are Quakers."

Though not made clear in Edward's *Illustrated History* — but likely assumed by anyone who took the time to read both the above biographies — J. C. (Joseph Corbit Cowgill) and Robert P. (Robert Pennewell Cowgill) were in fact brothers; Joseph being the second child of Daniel and Susan Cowgill, and Robert being the seventh.

Of some interest is a puzzling bit of material expanding on the statement in Joseph's bio indicating "He next moved to Dakota, (and) farmed for two years ...," those two years appearing to have occurred around 1878 and '79.

In substantiation of the above, the 1880 Federal Census for Meyer County, Dakota Territory, records that one Joseph Cowgill, a 34 year old single white male, was at that time a resident of Meyer County. The census states that Joseph's mother and father, as well as Joseph himself, were all born in Delaware. The record indicates that at the time the census was taken, Josepha was employed as a "USID Watchman" — the acronym standing for United States Indian Department (see note below). The report goes on to state that Joseph was "unemployed" for four months due to an "arrow wound."

There seems little doubt that this is the same J. C. Cowgill that later homesteaded at Chattaroy. The available genealogical data suggests he never married. And that at some point he left the Chattaroy area — moving back to Delaware, where, in 1910, he passed away. Reportedly he was living with his sister, Alice, at the time of his death.

Note:

An explanation for the acronym USID was located in a book produced by the U. S. Government Printing Office titled "Report of the Special Commission Appointed to Investigate the Affairs of the Red Cloud Indian Agency." The official date of publication for the report was July, 1875. On page 836 the acronym USID appeared. The acronym was followed by the explanatory descriptive — "(United States Indian Department.)"



Robert Pennewell Cowgill and Margaret M. (Lang) Cowgill.
Photo from "An Illustrated History of Spokane County" — published in 1900

As for Robert, there's a genealogical notation that he died in "Fresno," January 29th, 1953. The material on hand doesn't specify which "Fresno," though there are at least three areas in the United States that bear that name. The one we typically think of is the city in California. Another, less thought of, is a suburb of Houston, Texas. And lastly, there's a largely forgotten unincorporated area in Ohio.

As regards the Ohio site — it should be noted that Ohio has a long Quaker history. In fact, another small Ohio community known as Quaker City is located only fifty miles from Ohio's Fresno. Since Robert and Margaret were Quakers, it would suggest Ohio remain an open possibility when speculating as to where the couple were living when Robert passed.

As for how the community along the Little Spokane River that the Cowgill brothers helped pioneer became known as Chattaroy, that, according to a newspaper article appearing in the September 17th, 1987 issue of the

Spokane Chronicle, was Margaret Cowgill's doing.

The article — by staff writer Carolyn Walton — noted that the Chattaroy area was first settled between 1875 and 1880. And that the community's first name, Kidd, "was changed in 1889 to avoid confusion with Kidd Montana." Carolyn then went on to say, "It was renamed for George Chattaroy, the hero of a novel that Mrs. Robert Cowgill was reading at the time" — the said Margaret Cowgill being, according to Edwards' *Illustrated History*, "a native of Montreal, Canada."

Leave it to a Canadian to come up with a compromise everyone can live with.

... *Sam Perrins' family history* ...

In last month's *Letters/Brickbats* column we included some material on what we believe to be Deer Park's first bowling alley. A quote in that article — this taken from the September 10th, 1942 edition of the *Deer Park*

Union — stated that *“The Deer Park Bowling Alley will reopen Saturday, September 12, at one p.m., after being closed during the summer months according to the manager, ‘Sam’ M. S. Perrins.”*

The “M. S.” in the above quote stands for Melvin Samuel.

For those that might not know, Sam Perrins was a teacher and coach at Deer Park High School from 1931 until his retirement in 1965. As such he is something of a legend — so much so that the athletic field across Crawford Street from the old high school (*the old high school being the current city hall*) bears his name.

While doing some online follow-up research on Mr. Perrins, I stumbled across a website called Mixbook.com. It allows people to set up various kinds of visitor viewable photo albums. And, it appears, someone in Sam Perrins’ family has done just that.

If you’d like to shake your memories of the Perrins family back to the surface, or if you’re just curious as to why a block of green beside Deer Park’s Crawford Street came to be called *“Perrins Field,”* the album is worth a look. It can be accessed at the web-address in the box at the bottom of this page — though it may be easier to simply type *“Mixbook Perrins Family”* into your browser and follow the clues.

And just remember, you can add to Sam Perrins’ legacy by sharing any memories the album dredges to the surface with the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society.

... a note from Gordon Reiter ...

Society member Michael Reiter sent the two prior issues of the Mortarboard (#80 and #81) — those containing Wey Simpson’s *“Growing Up on a Stump Ranch”* — to his uncle, Gordon Reiter. Uncle Gordon sent Mike the following in reply.

Web Address to the Perrins Online Family History Album.

<http://www.mixbook.com/photo-books/family/perrins-family-history-5155866vk=4u9VfHnEQQ>

“I really enjoyed reading this. I would imagine that my dad (Louie) would have been able to report similar happenings.”

“I remember my mom used to call Mrs. Simpson — Wey’s mother — to report any news about the family. Neva Simpson was the writer for the “Lost Springs” segment in the Deer Park Union. Most of the news from mom was about what the kids were doing, or who visited from out of town.”

“Mrs. Simpson was also the person who arranged entertainment for the Garden-spot Grange meetings. Wey Simpson was often an entertainer — singing or playing the piano. I also played many solos for the Grange over the years. Later, while in high school, we got together a little combo and played for dances at the Grange. I can recall the intermissions when every male would go out to the car for a nip of “Sneaky Pete” — which was what they called any booze that was available.”

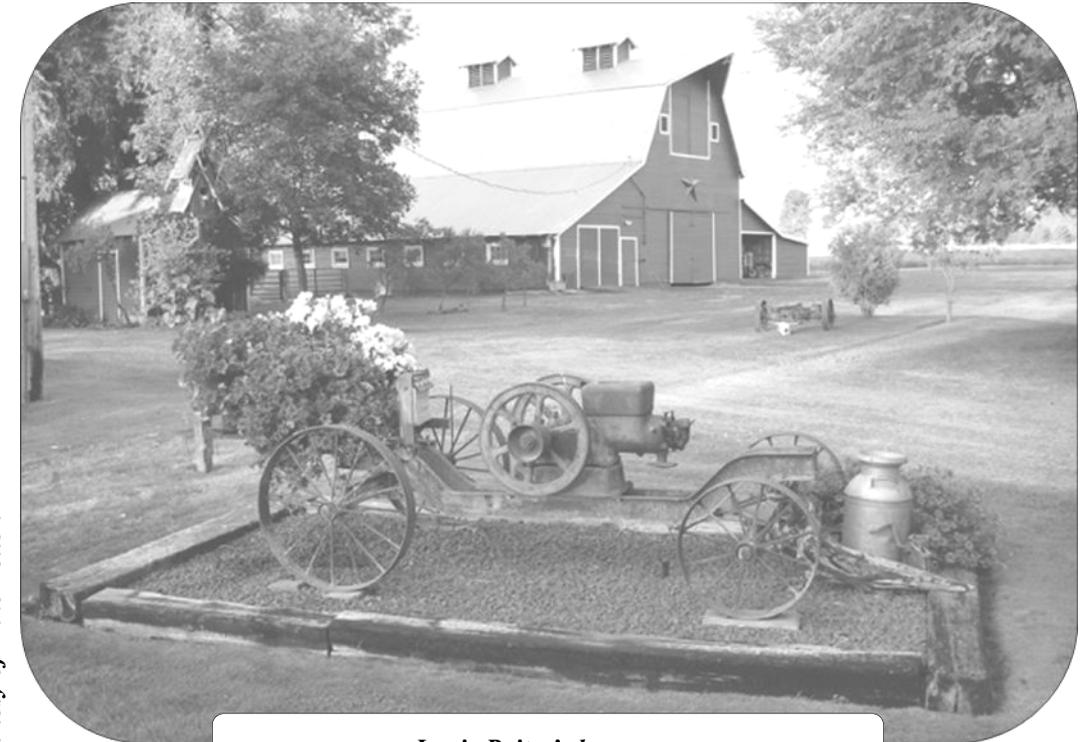
“Brother Tom and I have both said many times that we lived a ‘Norman Rockwell’ childhood on the farm. At the time I always felt city kids were luckier since they didn’t have the farm chores that we boys had. Many times the kids from Deer Park would come to the farm for a visit — would come to the farm to get a taste of farm life.”

“Thanks for sharing Wey’s story.”

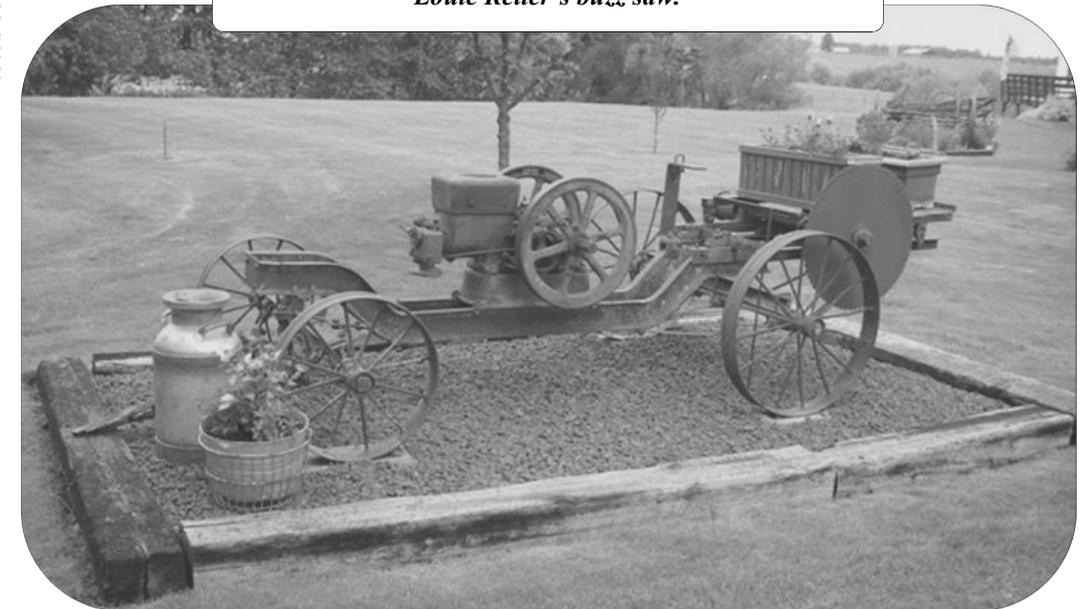
After reading Wey’s story, and then his uncle’s note, Mike wanted to add a few thoughts of his own to the discussion.

“In Wey’s story he mentioned a neighbor bringing over a saw to cut firewood. My Grandpa Louie talked about how he used to drive around the neighborhood pulling his buzz saw with a 1928 Dodge. And, since the Simpson farm was just to the west of ours, I’m sure Grandpa’s saw was the saw Wey recalls. We have that saw on display in our yard, although the engine is not the original.”

Mike sent photos of the buzz saw in



Louie Reiter’s buzz saw.



Photos courtesy of Mike Reiter.

question. Those are pasted on the prior page.

... **Spokane Falls & Northern Railroad** ...

Society associate Rick Hodges sent the following note.

"I recently acquired a Great Northern Railway Historical Society book titled 'The Great Northern Railway: Priest River, Idaho, to Hillyard, Washington, 1890 to 1920.'

"Contained within is a short section on the beginnings of the Railroad from Spokane, north through Deer Park, Clayton, Loon Lake, and so forth to the Canadian border. Eventually it reaches Nelson, British Columbia. I think it ranges too far afield of Deer Park and Clayton, but it does contain some interesting reading — including early maps of towns and stations such as Hillyard, Mead, Dean and Milan."

Society vice-president Pete Coffin replied, *"As far as I know the history of the Spokane Falls and Northern Railroad has not been properly done by anyone. That may be because the complete building records either have not been found, or have been destroyed."*

"The biography of Daniel Corbin by John Fahey has quite a bit, but not as much about the physical progress of the railroad building as one would like."

"The Inland Empire Railway Historical Society (currently constructing a new facility near Reardan, Washington — that facility to be called the Inland Northwest Rail Museum) publishes a yearly calendar which notes the day the end-of-track reached each little town going north from Spokane Falls. However, this annotation ends before the track reaches Springdale — though it does note the date in the autumn of 1889 that the track reached Colville."

"I am aware that there are bits and pieces of employee interviews and drafts of books listing every siding along the route of the successor to the Spokane Falls and Northern Railroad — the Great Northern — including the Kettle Falls Branch in existence, but

I've not been able to get my hands on them."

As the longtime readers of the *Mortarboard* know, Pete has an ongoing passion for local railroad history. And considering the part railroading has played in the settling of our area, that passion is not displaced.

... **the Dunrenton Ranch** ...

The following question was put forward by Pete Coffin in his addition to the society's minutes found on page 1015 of Issue #81. Pete wrote, *"I would ask the group if they have any suggestions or thoughts about the naming of farms and ranches. This comes to mind as regards the Mason farm, which was named the Keystone Ranch in that the Masons were from Pennsylvania — the Keystone State. Other names that I know of are the Dunrenton Ranch, Long Meadow Ranch, and Meadowmere."*

Regarding the Dunrenton Ranch, society member Wey Simpson responded ...

"We were close friends with the Porter family. They chose that name, Dunrenton, when they bought their farm because they were (finally) 'done renting' land to farm."

"Our farm name too. It was Dellanna; which we used as an identifying prefix for our registered Holstein cattle. It was a melding of the first names of both my grandmothers; Della Johnson and Anna Simpson."

"The Porters used Dunrenton as their Holstein prefix as well."

"Just thought I'd pass this along."

... **igloo shaped house** ...

President Bill Sebright recently sent the following email to the society's online members and associates.

"I received a phone call today from Mead's Rick Nelson — Rick is related to Henry and Dave Brockman."

Bill explained that Rick wanted to know if the society has a photo of the igloo shaped building that once sat in the relatively small triangle of land south of Deer Park be-

tween North Road and Dennison — just to the east side (and clearly visible from) Highway 395. Rick said that his mother once lived in that odd shaped house. Rick added that the round windows in the house were actually glass (Pyrex) pie plates. And also that there was a metal covered teepee on the property.

Bill inquired whether anyone in the society *"might have pictures, stories, or any further information about this place?"*

Society member Gary Ross responded; *"They sold raw-cut timber poles for various uses such as teepees and cheap corral fencing. As the years went by, weather took its toll on the display teepee and stash of lodge poles. But that's about all I can recall."*

It's likely all the area's older folk remember the place. And the rather unstable looking elevated sign — also made entirely of poles — that, as best we can recall, said *"Poles."*

The thing is, the place — looking all the world like a downed flying saucer sitting in a weed choked hollow — doubtless has a history worth hearing.

... **Bear Track Silver Mining Company** ...

In a letter to the *Mortarboard's* editor, society vice-president Pete Coffin outlined, then asked, the following.

"The front page of the July 14, 1916 Deer Park Union carried an article titled 'New Silver Mine,' which indicated that company had been newly incorporated to operate a silver and lead mine near Clayton."

"My research has not located such a mine — either on maps or in the Washington Division of Geology and Natural Resources 1956 listing of the 'Metallic Minerals' mines. Do any of the members of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society and/or Mortarboard readers have any information about this mine and its location?"

The above noted article reads ...

"Geo. E. Rumpf, formerly postmaster of Clayton, together with other parties, assisted by Att'y A. R. E. Crothers, have perfected

and incorporated a company to take hold of and operate a silver and lead mine near Clayton. The capital stock is fixed at \$100,000.00 and the par value of the shares is 10 cents.

"This company has a force of men at work and has already dug a tunnel into the hill. Assays of \$23.00 in silver per ton, and some lead, have been made on present showings."

"Mr. Crothers told us that the company will only dispose of enough stock to enable them to put in necessary machinery and do considerably more development work. The name of this company is The Bear Track Silver Mining Co."

As to whether any of the above is true — in the strictest sense — that, like the location of the mine itself, is an open question.

What is known is that the *"perfected"* Bear Track Silver Mining Company of Clayton was listed in the *"Sixteenth Biennial Report"* of the Secretary of State for the State of Washington under the heading *"Companies Stricken from Record Since Last Report on July 1, 1919, for Failure to Pay Annual License Fee."* The implication of being so stricken is that the company had dissolved sometime during the year prior — corporate dissolution often being as simple a matter as locking the office door and walking away.

At that time the State of Washington didn't have any regulatory system for controlling the creation of corporations. As Washington's then Secretary of State, J. Grant Hinkle, explained in the state's *Seventeenth Biennial Report* (published in 1922), *"The State of Washington is the easiest State in the Union in which to do corporate business. It is the only State in which for Forty Dollars a corporation can qualify regardless of its capitalization and proceed with the sale of stock without having to give" the State "any account whatever ... as to its activities or methods of conducting business. For this reason, the State ... is well and favorably known for floating oil and gas stock, and ... is being exploited each year by these stock jobbers ..."*

We may never know whether the

Bear Track Silver Mining Company was a legitimate mining company or simply a corporate shell created to exploit investors. However, finding the physical remains of the mine

may give Pete, our resident geologist, a clue as to how serious this corporation really was.

———— *Wally Lee Parker* ————

Minutes of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society ———— January 10, 2015 ————

In attendance: Sue Rehms, Wally Parker, Pat Parker, Don Reiter, Ron Harris, Larry Bowen, Mary Jo Reiter, Mike Reiter, Roberta Reiter, Betty Burdette, Mark Wagner, Bill Sebright, Lonnie Jenkins, Ella Jenkins, Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Grace Hubal, Roxanne Camp, Lorraine Nord, Marie Morrill, and Lynn F. Wells.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. He reported: 1) He received an email from Lori Pointer requesting pictures and information about her Grandmother, Arline Spitzer and her Mother, Gertrude Justice. Pete sent her a picture from Carl Justice of a 12 year old Arline. Bill sent her pages of DPHS Antlers from 1947 and 1948 showing Gertrude. Carl Justice is Lori's great uncle. Lori sent 3 pictures to the Society, including one of the Spitzer House at northeast corner of Crawford and Colville. The photos were passed around (*see photos on pages 1030 and 1031*). 2) With the help of Pam Christofferson Allen, Peggy Christofferson Coyle, and Leanna Lake-Wolf, we have all the names for the 1981 DPHS Drill Team picture taken at Finch Arboretum. 3) Neecha Casberg Treglown called to say she has a stock certificate from the Williams Valley Phone Company. Her Grandfather, Edward Christian Casberg bought 1 share of the company in 1929 for \$100. She would like to know who bought out the company and if it has any monetary or historical value. Pete had the following to say, "*The Herbert Mason diary infers that the Williams Valley Phone Company* (assuming that the lines Mr. Mason

repaired were the Williams Valley's lines) *was some sort of co-operative. He and other residents repeatedly reset poles and repaired the lines as well as the phone sets themselves. He never mentioned buying shares in the company. If the company was bought out and didn't go bankrupt, the shares would have been called in.*" 4) Just a reminder, if you haven't paid your dues, \$20, they were due January 1. Give them to Mark or send them to CDPHS, Box 293, Clayton, WA 99110.

Society Treasurer, Mark Wagner reported: The ending balance for the main checking account as of December 28th was \$6,708.82. A check was written to Grace Hubal for flowers for Taffy and Randy for \$30. Deposits were a total of \$415.00. The web hosting account stands at \$1,011.57 with a withdrawal of \$27.90. The memorial fund is at \$2,365.00. The Brickyard Day fund is at \$889.17.

Society Secretary Grace Hubal reported: 1) She requested that Wally make a poster to advertise the Society's publications. She picked them up, laminated them and put one at Odynski's. There will be one at the Loon Lake Historical Society and one at all of our summer displays. 2) She sent out thank you cards for memorial donations and a welcome to the Society letter to Winnie Moore. 3) She put a poster at Gardenspot Market advertising the sale of CDPHS publications. 4) We are still looking for a Secretary. Contact Grace or Bill if you are interested.

Society Vice President Pete Coffin reported: 1) Digitized a collection of historic

photographs belonging to the Bankey family. They were long-time residents of the Clayton area living about ½ mile south of the fairgrounds. Their farm buildings have been torn down. 2) Helped Melvin Mullenix write a short manuscript describing a trucking accident that occurred at Valley in the 1950s using photographs he has donated to the Society. The manuscript was submitted to Editor Parker for inclusion in a future *Mortarboard*. 3) Helped Roxanne Camp write a short manuscript describing a 1930s Horse Shoe Lake shingle mill. We utilized a photograph collection Darla (Todd) Grieves donated to the Society. The manuscript was submitted to Editor Parker for inclusion in a future *Mortarboard*. 4) Took photographs of portions of the beginnings of Arcadia Orchard Company's low line canal near the old Deer Park saw mill site and wrote up a description to accompany the photographs as possible *Mortarboard* filler. 5) Prepared a short manuscript about the Silver Belle Mine that is located on Don Stevens' land NE of Clayton. 6) Provided President Sebright and Editor Parker with CDs of Mullenix, Justice, and Bankey photographic collections that they didn't have.

Print editor Wally Parker reported: 1) Ninety copies of the January, 2015, *Mortarboard* have been printed and are ready for distribution. This issue features the conclusion of Wey Simpson's "*Growing up on a Stump Ranch*." 2) Certain hardcopies of issue #81 may contain smudges, blurs, splotches, or other inky artifacts. These occurred after our LaserJet printer's toner cartridge sprang a leak. We lost about 80 sheets of paper due to this spill, though the printer itself was spared any excessive internal dusting. A backup cartridge was installed, and the print-run finished. As many of the damaged pages as possible were saved — thusly the random blackish dribbles on certain copies. A telephone call to Brother International resulted in a promise to send a replacement cartridge in exchange for the return of the leaking cartridge. This promise was not, however, obtained without the to-be-expected aggrava-

tion. It began with a help-line "*conversation*" with a well-spoken computer. The computer assured me that I could talk in a normal manner and it would understand me — although one of us appears to have been in error about that. As a result, I was forwarded to a "*human*" assistant who cheerily picked up my call after a mere 30 minute wait. Other than some apparent cognitive dissonance regarding what constitutes well-spoken English, we came to the conclusion that the cartridge was (a) one of theirs, and (b) leaking. Our only disagreement came when she suggested I reinstall the leaking cartridge in the printer for further testing — likely as the next step on her diagnostic flow sheet. I very politely said something clearly translatable as "*Are you Nuts?*" And we moved on. As a final I was switched to another English speaking computer. This computer was supposed to ask me "*five customer satisfaction questions.*" The computer began by requesting the last four digits of a number string I apparently was supposed to know. I said, "*Say again.*" After about ten seconds the computer said, "*Your continued silence indicates and unwillingness to participate in this survey, therefore I am disconnecting.*" Click, click ... silence. A rude computer. Isn't technology wonderful. 3) Due to outside circumstances (*having nothing to do with English speaking computers*), the next edition of the *Collected Newsletters* has been delayed until February.

Webmaster Marie Morrill reported that December's *Mortarboard* is now on the Website.

There was an interesting discussion about the beginnings of phone service in the Clayton/Deer Park area. Betty Burdette said that Mike spent many hours maintaining phone lines in the Williams Valley area. Don Reiter said that his Dad and Uncles did the same thing north of Deer Park. Pete Coffin and Larry Bowen said similar things about the Big Foot Valley area.

Ron Harris came to the meeting to

———— *Text continues on page 1032* ————



*The photos described below
are from the
Lori Pointer collection.*

*Left:
Arline Justice with son, Jim. Elevated
Arcadia Orchards flume in Background.
Circa 1927.*

*Below:
Carl and Augusta Spitzer (business attire)
with workers in the Spitzer family's
apple orchard.
Circa 1923.*

*Facing Page, Lower:
The Spitzer house at northeast corner of
the intersection of
Crawford and Colville Street.
Circa — believed to be in the 1920s.*



*The house that E. C. Casberg built in 1909.
Photo from the Ron Harris collection.
Date of photo unknown.*



— Text continued from page 1029 —

day. He lives on the farm where Edward C. Casberg once lived. He brought a picture of the house that E. C. Casberg built in 1909 (see picture on page 1031). He also brought a trim board with Casberg's name, the name T. J. Aoris, and the date Sept. 29, 1909 on the back.

We are still looking for ideas and volunteers for the 100th Anniversary of the Clayton School. The first Brickyard Day planning meeting will be February 11, 6 PM, at Real Estate Marketplace in Deer Park.

Mike Reiter reported that: 1) He had talked to Alexander Pope. Alexander's cousin who had many family photos had passed away. Alexander is working on getting the pictures for the CDPHS to scan. Alexander's family once lived where Mike lives now. 2) He also heard that someone has pictures of the Atlas Missile in front of the Crawford School back in 1963. We have copies of the color slides that Fay Reilly took at the time.

Betty Burdette mentioned that volunteers are needed for the Settlers Day fund raising dinner and auction at the Eagles, Saturday,

March 7. The dinner starts at 5 PM. The auction is at about 6:15 PM. If you have donations for the auction or have questions call Betty Burdette at 276-6709. The next Settlers Day planning meeting is at 4:30 PM, Wednesday, January 14, at the Deer Park Ambulance office.

Lynn Wells brought and passed around pictures of the Prufer farm. She will email digital copies of the pictures to Pete, Wally, and Bill. Jason West has purchased the farm and has no plans to sell any part of it.

Lynn also gave an interesting and informative talk on DNA testing and genealogy. DNA testing is available through Ancestry.com for about \$100. Another choice is through National Geographic for \$200. If you have questions get ahold of Bill at 276-2693 and he'll get you in touch with Lynn.

Next meeting: Saturday, February 14, 2015, at 9 AM at the Clayton Drive-In.

Meeting adjourned at 9:59 AM.

The meeting minutes submitted by Grace Hubal, Secretary.

— end —

Volunteer proofreaders for this issue: Bill Sebright, Lina Swain, and Charles Stewart.

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 —