

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.

**Telephone Service
Comes to Deer Park**

by
Ken Westby & Peter Coffin
(part one)

... introduction ...

The telephone had been demonstrated in 1876 by Alexander Graham Bell in the eastern United States.⁽¹⁾ Surprisingly, there were two relatively unheard-of inventors in the dash to patent the telephone; Bell and the lesser-known Elisha Gray. Both men had independently designed devices that could transmit speech electrically. They rushed their respective designs to the US patent office on the same day, but Bell arrived with proper documentation two hours ahead of Gray and patented his telephone first.

Upon seeing the device for the first time, President Rutherford B. Hayes told Bell,

"That's an amazing invention, but who would ever want to use one of them?"

Any description of the beginnings of telephone service in northeastern Washington starts with Charles B. Hopkins. Hopkins and his partner, Lucien E. Kellogg, had founded the *Palouse Gazette* newspaper in 1876 in Colfax, Washington. At this time the United States Signal Service was constructing emergency telegraph lines westward from Fort Missoula to Fort Walla Walla during the Nez Perce Indian War.⁽²⁾

In 1883-84 the US Government abandoned its military telegraph lines. Hopkins had obtained government consent to install telephone lines on the old telegraph line be-

— footnotes —

⁽¹⁾ Elliott, Dan: "A Tale of Two Telephones: Competitive Telecommunications in Early 20th Century Montana." (<http://dialmontana.com/#BellSystemSide>)
⁽²⁾ "A Brief History of the Development of Toll lines in the State of Washington," Don Ostrand, Telephone History Group.



Illustration from "The Telephone Review," February, 1914.

A Growing Archive.

As assured in our mission statement, the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society is "dedicated to the preservation of the history of our community," and specifically "to the art of making this common heritage accessible to the public." Our publications, both print and online, are currently the primary manifestation of that part of our mission. All prior editions of our newsletter — the *Mortarboard* — are available online without charge. All prior editions of the *Mortarboard* are also available as bound editions in a print-on-demand format for a small donation — said donation intended to cover our print cost. We also have four volumes of earlier archival material in a print-only set titled "The Reports." For further information on our print titles, contact anyone in the "Society Contacts" box found on the last numbered page of this issue.

— the Editor

Free — Take One
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Visit our website at <http://www.cdphs.org>

tween Colfax and Almota, a small settlement on the Snake River, after buying over 100 miles of the telegraph line for a twenty dollar gold piece.⁽³⁾ The subsequent extension of the telephone line for communication grew rapidly and reached Spokane in 1886. At that time W. S. "Billy" Norman, a real estate company owner, investor and associate of many of the important businessmen of Spokane, had established the Spokane Falls Telephone Company, with fifty subscribers.⁽⁴⁾ Hopkins sold an interest in his telephone company to Billy Norman and together they reorganized under the name Inland Telephone and Telegraph Company, operating under license from the American Bell Telephone Company with Hopkins as general manager.⁽⁵⁾ In December 1886 another telephone entrepreneur, Thaddeus S. Lane from Ohio, established the Home Telephone & Telegraph Co., in Spokane, an independent company featuring "automatic" telephone systems, unlike the Bell company's "manual" telephones and switchboards.⁽⁶⁾⁽⁷⁾

The telephone exchange office for the Inland Telephone and Telegraph Company was built in the Hyde Building on the corner of Riverside and Wall. By November, 1886, Charles Hopkins had hired the twenty-one year old Thomas Elsom to install phone lines

in Spokane.⁽⁸⁾ Elsom kept a personal diary, took many photographs of telephone line installations, and became known as "Spokane's first telephone installer." In the next few years, telephone exchanges were established in several of the larger towns in eastern Washington.⁽⁵⁾ Hopkins and Norman consolidated long-distance connections in 1890 through their Bell-affiliated company, Inland Telephone & Telegraph.⁽⁹⁾ In October, 1893, long-distance service was first established between Spokane, Seattle, Tacoma, and Portland. The 750 mile line ran from Spokane south to Waulula on the Columbia River and from there, downriver to Portland. From Portland, the line ran through Vancouver, Olympia, and Tacoma to Seattle. The No. 10 hand-drawn copper wire was strung between live cedar poles that were 30 and 65 feet tall, and the signal was amplified every half mile.⁽¹⁰⁾

The Spokane Fire of August 4, 1889, destroyed the Spokane telephone systems. After rebuilding their system, Norman and Hopkins sold half of the Inland Telephone and Telegraph Company to the Sunset Telephone and Telegraph Company — a holding company under American Bell (AT&T) in the Pacific states.⁽¹¹⁾

In 1901, The Spokane Falls Tele-

— footnotes —

⁽³⁾ *A Brief History of the Development of Toll lines in the State of Washington*, Don Ostrand, Telephone History Group

⁽⁴⁾ *An Illustrated History of the State of Washington*, by Harvey K. Hines, p. 237, Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1894

⁽⁵⁾ *A Brief History of the Development of Toll lines in the State of Washington*, Don Ostrand, Telephone History Group

⁽⁶⁾ <http://spokanehistorical.org/items/show/327#.VOgZtlPF85A>

⁽⁷⁾ *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, June 26, 1976, pages 20-21

⁽⁸⁾ Ladd, D., 2000, *Thomas H. Elsom, Spokane's First Telephone Installer: Spokane, WA, Tornado Creek Publications*, 128 p. (also *The Pacific Northwestern*, Vol. 44, Issue 2)

⁽⁹⁾ *An Illustrated History of the State of Washington*, by Harvey K. Hines, p. 237, Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1894.

⁽¹⁰⁾ http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage+output.cfm&file_id=5571

⁽¹¹⁾ Durham, Nelson Wayne: *History of the City of Spokane and Spokane County, Washington*, Volume 2, p.364.

phone Company serving Spokane was absorbed, along with other wider holdings, into the Inland Telephone and Telegraph Company.⁽¹²⁾ Inland subsequently transferred its rights, privileges, franchises, and business to the Pacific States Telephone & Telegraph Co., also a Bell System company, serving over 3300 subscribers in Spokane according to an October 17, 1900, article in the *Spokane Chronicle*.⁽¹³⁾ Pacific States Telephone Co. later became the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company. In 1913, American Telephone & Telegraph Company acquired Thaddeus Lane's Home Telephone Company, thereby eliminating independent telephone service in Spokane and establishing Bell's dominance in that city.⁽¹⁴⁾

... telephone lines built north ...

The Deer Park area's first settlers had arrived in 1882 when Henry Maxum and B. B. Rhodes came to Wild Rose Prairie.⁽¹⁵⁾ Then in 1889 the Spokane Falls & Northern Railroad came through Deer Park. That same year, Washington was granted statehood, P. J. Kelly opened a store in Deer Park, and W. H. Short established the Short Lumber Company at the

town site.⁽¹⁶⁾

Unfortunately, Elsom's diaries for the years 1891-1896 are missing for the time period that telephone lines were probably built north to Deer Park. Lillian Woodard's and Bessie Eickmeyer's paper, "The History of Wild Rose Prairie," written in 1935, contains the following sentence: "The long distance telephone line established in 1895 still follows that old Colville trail from Deer Park to Woodward corner."⁽¹⁷⁾ This is the only direct reference that we have found that dates the construction of a telephone line to Deer Park. The "old Colville trail" is probably the wagon road north from Spokane up Dartford Creek to Austin Road and Wild Rose Road where it veered northwest along the bluff south of the Dragoon Creek Valley crossing Lillian Woodward's land (W/2 SW/4 Section 35-TWP 28 N -RGE 42 E) until it intersected present day Dalton Road and thence north to Deer Park and not the Cottonwood Road which was located several miles to the east. This route is shown on a map titled "Pre-1913 Roads in the Clayton-Deer Park Area" in the article "Roads and Highway Development in the Clayton-Deer Park area".⁽¹⁸⁾

Elsom's diary pages for the spring of

— footnotes —

⁽¹²⁾ *In 1901 the Spokane Falls Telephone Company, that first served Spokane, was absorbed along with other wider holdings into the Inland Telephone and Telegraph Company, a Bell/AT&T company. Inland subsequently transferred its rights privileges, franchises, and business to the Pacific States Telephone & telegraph Co., also a Bell/AT&T company, which later became Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co.*

⁽¹³⁾ *By October 1900, Pacific States Telephone Co. had 3375 subscribers in Spokane and plans to extend lines to Milan and later to Newport. (Spokane Chronicle, October 17, 1900, p.3, column 3)*

⁽¹⁴⁾ Elliott, Dan: *A Tale of Two Telephones: Competitive Telecommunications in Early 20th Century Montana* (<http://dialmontana.com/>)

⁽¹⁵⁾ *Pioneer Days Revisited, Historical Resources of the Deer Park Area*, p. 34, "Deer Park will Live Over Old Days", by Dorothy Rochon Powers.

⁽¹⁶⁾ *Spokane Falls & Northern Railroad comes to the Deer Park area in 1889. P.J. Kelly opens a store in Deer Park. Short Lumber Company established.*

⁽¹⁷⁾ *Pioneer Days Revisited, Historical Resources of the Deer Park Area*, by Nancy Fisher and Etta Bennett, p. 16 "History of Wild Rose Prairie", 1935, by Lillian Woodward and Bessie Eickmeyer.

⁽¹⁸⁾ Coffin, Peter: *Roads and Highway Development in the Clayton-Deer Park Area*, Mortarboard, Issue 36, (April 2011), p.445.

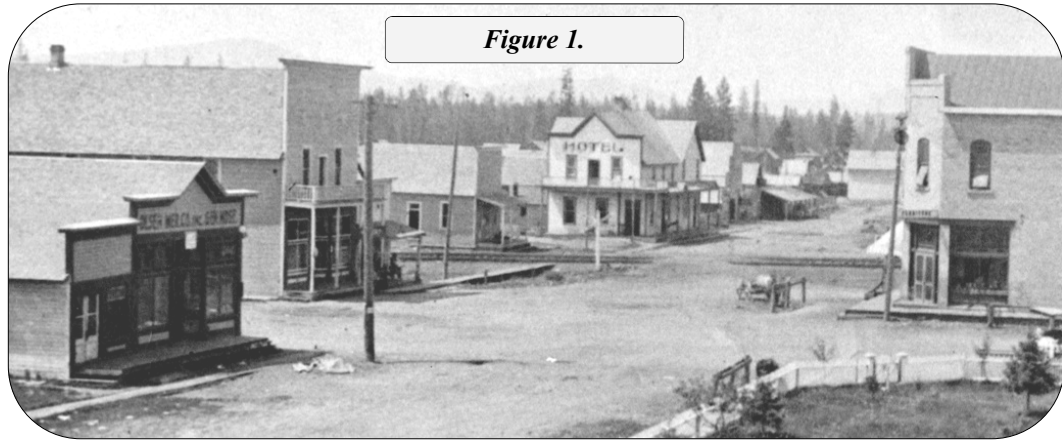


Figure 1.

Deer Park, southwest of the intersection of Crawford and Main
— sometime between 1898 and 1907.

From the Lawrence Zimmerer photo collection.

1899 contain many references to his traveling to Colville and Kettle Falls on business pertaining to extending pre-existing telephone lines to Republic and the Canadian mining area. Certainly during the 1890s a telephone line had been built to and through Deer Park. In June, 1897, a “Spokane & British Columbia Telephone Company” activated its telephone line between Spokane and British Columbia, passing through Deer Park, Colville and points north.⁽¹⁹⁾ Although it began as a cooperative venture between that telephone company and Bell’s Inland Telephone & Telegraph Co., the cooperation soon broke down in a bitter dispute between the two companies.

The *Spokane Chronicle* reported on January 8, 1900, that Spokane & British Columbia Telephone Co. brought suit against Inland Telephone & Telegraph Co. for breach of contract by refusing interconnection at Spokane and by cutting down wires belonging to Spokane & BC Telephone Co. on its route

northward from Spokane to the U.S. boundary and passing through Mead, Deer Park, Clayton, Loon Lake, Springdale, Valley, Chewelah, Addy, Colville, Marcus, Bossburg, and Northport. Inland’s defense was that S&BC failed to abide by a contract requirement to use only equipment made by the Bell System.⁽²⁰⁾ The matter was finally settled out of court in Bell’s favor, and the resulting loss of access to Bell’s long distance services brought about the financial collapse of the Spokane—BC telephone company. The *Chronicle* on December 7, 1901, reported that the Spokane & British Columbia Telephone Co. had failed to meet expenses, went into receivership, and closed its operations, except at Republic, Washington.⁽²¹⁾

This wire-cutting incident likely did not affect telephone service between Spokane and Deer Park, since Bell Telephone seems to have been here from the start, most likely operating as Inland Telephone & Telegraph, and

— footnotes —

⁽¹⁹⁾ *Spokesman-Review*, June 15, 1897, page 6, column 4

⁽²⁰⁾ *Spokane Chronicle*, January 8, 1900, p. 3, column 3.
Pacific Reporter, Volume 63, p.1117.

⁽²¹⁾ *Spokane Chronicle*, December 7, 1901, p. 5, column 5.

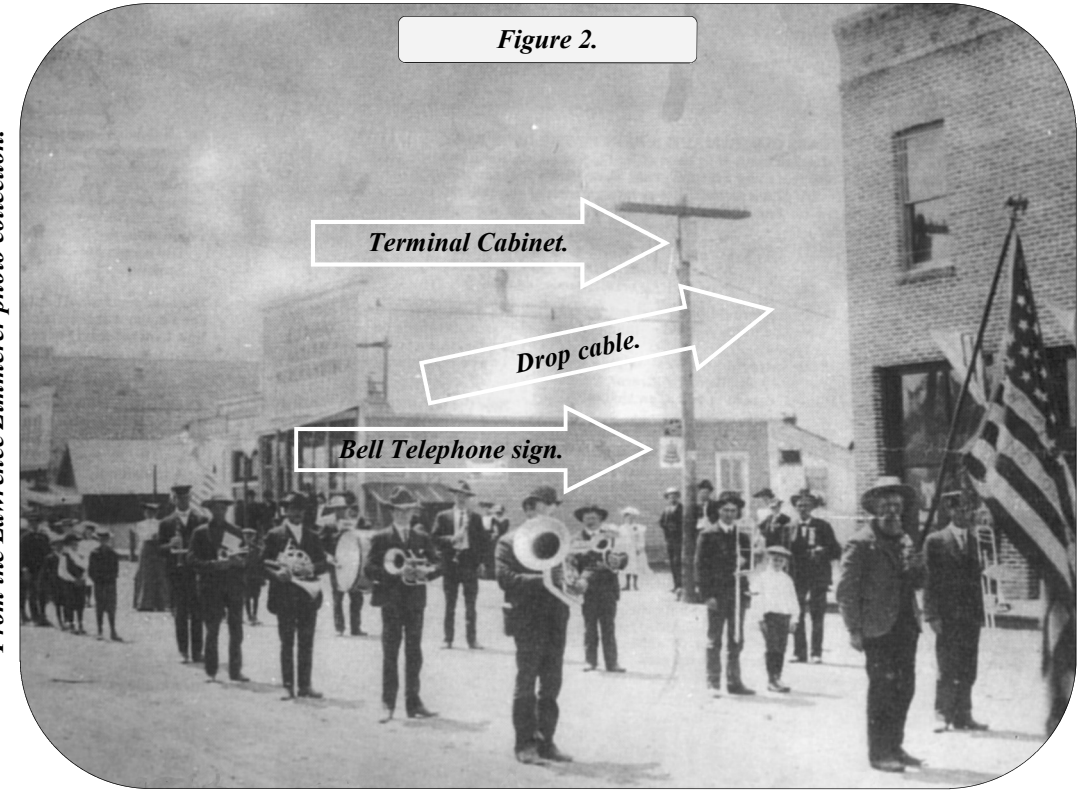


Figure 2.

From the Lawrence Zimmerer photo collection.

Facing south on Main Avenue at the intersection of First Street. Picture may have been taken from 1902 to 1908. John Beard, an early businessman, holds the tuba, and Ralph Edwards, a Civil War veteran, was the flag bearer.

that was around 1895 as stated in the “*History of Wild Rose Prairie*”.

... telephone infrastructure in Deer Park ...

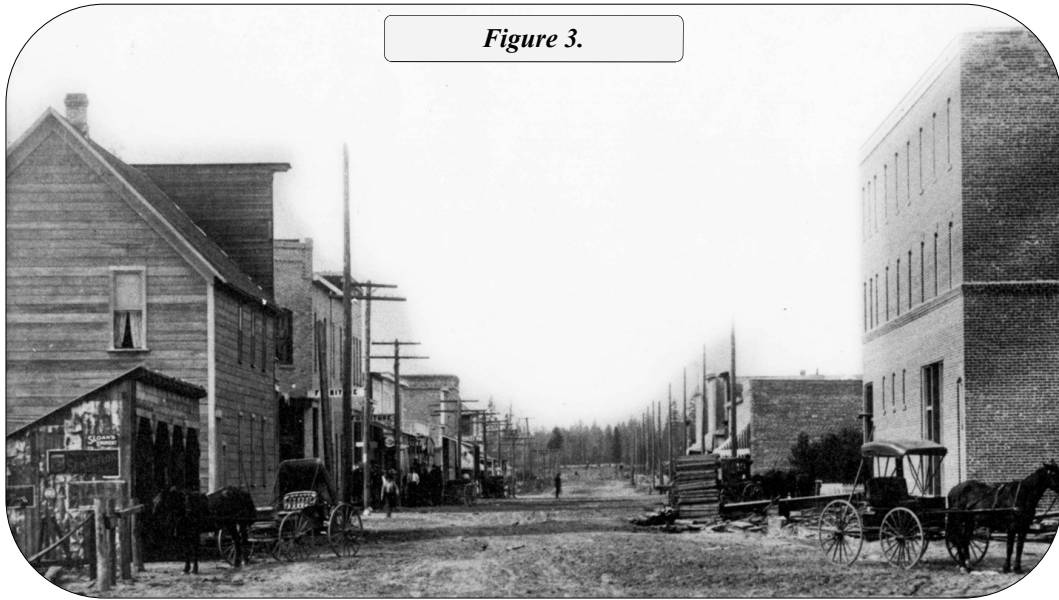
Early photographs such as those in the Lawrence Zimmerer Collection along with local newspaper articles help greatly in piecing together the sequence of events in the development of telephone service within the community, and to a degree how this system became interconnected with rural “farmer-owned” telephone systems outside the town. This is discussed in the following pages, with photos presented in what appears to be the best chronological order starting with Figure 1 from be-

fore 1908.

Additionally, two previous *Mortarboard* articles contain useful information when correlating these photos with the expansion of homes and businesses in the downtown area: *Historic Deer Park’s City Center: Mortarboard*, Issue 20 (December 2009), p. 253 (discusses the early business buildings along Main Street), and *Kelly House: A House in the Center of Deer Park’s History Moves: Mortarboard*, Issue 22 (February 2010), p.277 (establishes Peter Kelly and O.F. Kelly chronology).

The photograph in Figure 1 (*facing page, top*) is the earliest in a group of photographs used to document the building of a

Figure 3.



Photograph from the Lawrence Zimmerer collection.

North on Main Avenue in approximately 1909. Jeff Moore's saloon is on the left and the Olson Hotel, built in 1908, is on the right.

telephone system in Deer Park. The two wooden poles opposite at the corners of the intersection probably supported a few overhead telephone wires by 1907. The photograph is not sharp enough to discern the wires. Telephone service is known to have come to Deer Park around 1895-1897, but may have served only two or three businesses, and some of that may have been dismantled in 1900 due to intercompany disputes.⁽²⁰⁾⁽²¹⁾ See page 1220.

In November, 1907, the Spokane County Commissioners granted a franchise for a Deer Park telephone system to Louis Olson, A. M. Johnson, D. R. Throop and Anton Iversen.⁽²²⁾ Whether any new construction or service resulted from this franchise is unknown, and no further mention of it has been found to date. Inland and/or Pacific States

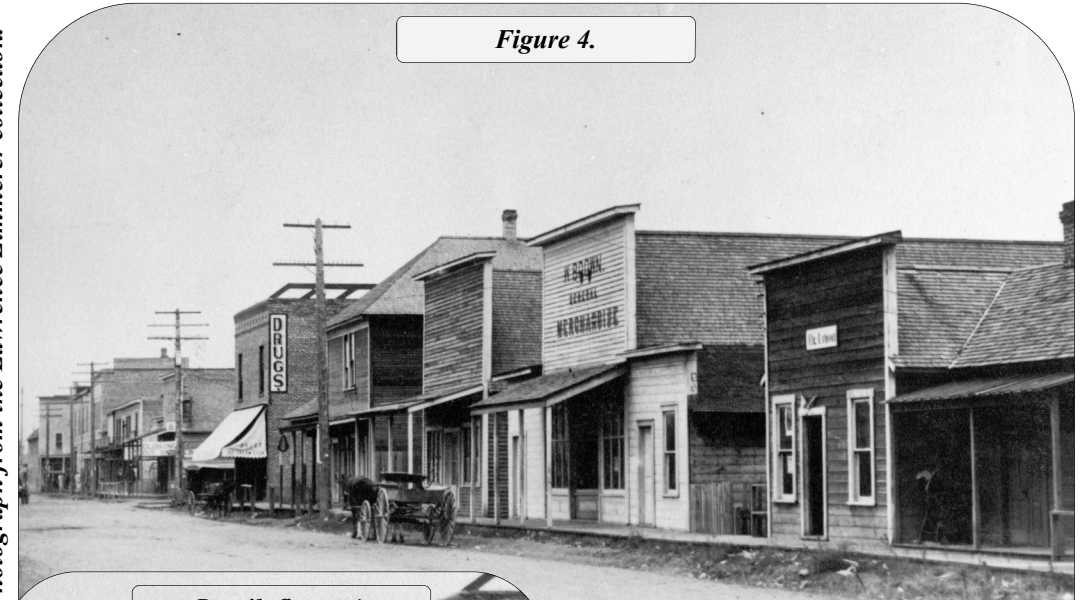
Telephone Co. had already established telephone service at Deer Park and, as we shall see, was operating a Bell Telephone exchange in the H. H. Slater Building well before this time.

Figure 2 (page 1221, top) is poorly preserved but contains much information about early telephone service in Deer Park. The telephone pole has one cross-arm, and a "Bell Telephone" sign. A drop cable from a terminal cabinet beneath the cross-arm enters the 1902 Slater Building, where the Bell Telephone switchboard was first located. This photograph is the best evidence that the first telephone switchboard was located in the Slater Building. However, as that building didn't exist prior to 1902, and since we know telephone lines from Spokane were brought to

— footnotes —

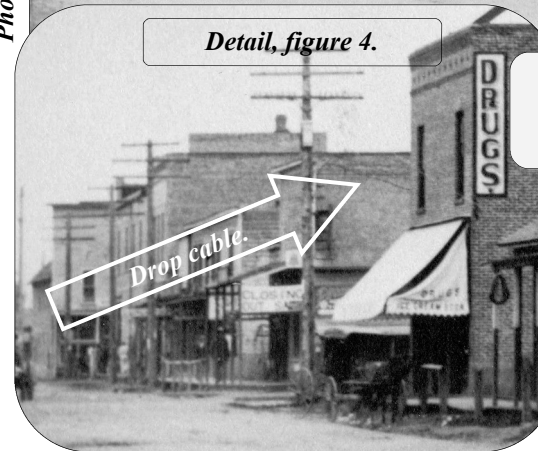
⁽²²⁾ *Electrical World and Engineer* (McGraw), Saturday November 9, 1907 and *American Telephone Journal* (Chicago), November 2, 1907)

Figure 4.



Photograph from the Lawrence Zimmerer collection.

Detail, figure 4.



South along Main Avenue from Second Street in 1909-1910.

In Figure 3 (*facing page*) a second cross-arm has been added to the telephone poles on the west (*left*) side of the street. This second cross-arm could support ten additional telephone wires, providing five local telephone lines south, and five local telephone lines north, from the "central" switchboard located in the Slater Building at 1st and Main. The demand for local phone service at businesses and homes continued to increase from 1909 to 1912, and, as we shall see, this demand was quickly met by adding even more cross-arms with even more wires to these telephone poles along Main Avenue.

Deer Park prior to 1900, it is likely that some sort of telephone "central" existed elsewhere in the town for a short time. It may have consisted of a single telephone in a business establishment such as a hotel, store, mill, or boarding house, and shared by the community. Coin-operated phones were widely available by 1900, and these were often located in drug stores across the country. In any case it is noteworthy that a Bell operating company established a foothold in Deer Park by 1902 when the Slater Building was completed.

Electric power service was first brought to Deer Park in 1909 from a hydroelectric generating plant on the Little Spokane River near Milan. This establishes the date for the Figure 3 photo, because the photo shows the power poles being set on the east side of Main Avenue and awaiting the installation of cross-arms to carry the power wires. For safe-

ty and other reasons, electric power lines and telephone lines did not share the same poles, as is generally done today. All of the Lawrence Zimmerer photos show that these separate utilities are installed using poles placed along opposite sides of the streets.

Figure 4 (page 1223) shows that the telephone poles have three cross-arms and the drop cable to the Slater Building connected to Pacific Bell Telephone's "central" switchboard located there. This photograph was taken prior to construction of the Olson Building across First Street south of the Slater Building (marked "drugs") and the completion of the Slater Building expansion northward in December 1911.

Various cross-arm configurations are seen in the photos along Main and Crawford streets in Deer Park between 1902 and 1913. Until 1912-1913, growth in subscriber base was served by adding more wires and more cross-arms as needed (see figure 5 below). Subsequently, the use of messenger cables was preferred.

By 1911, telephone poles along Main

Avenue had been outfitted with four cross-arms each carrying 12 open wires as needed to support the rapid growth of telephone service in the town. Clearly, expansion by continued addition of cross-arms and open wires had to be avoided. Scores of open wires on cross-arms were unsightly and inadequate, and were so obstructive as to present physical and safety challenges for climbers attempting to install and maintain telephone lines. Eliminating (or reducing) the number of open wires and cross-arms was accomplished by using multi-wire rubber-jacked cables made up of fifty, one hundred, or more insulated wires of smaller gage, routed along streets and into building by means of telephone cables pulled through underground pipes or conduits, or telephone cables supported between wood poles by means of a sturdy steel wire called a "messenger," and this is visible in Figure 6 (facing page). A messenger wire is strung between poles and directly attached to poles as shown in Figure 7 (upper right, page 1226).

Figure 6 shows that by 1912-13 the cross-arms on the telephone poles have been

Evolution of telephone pole configurations 1902 to post-1912.

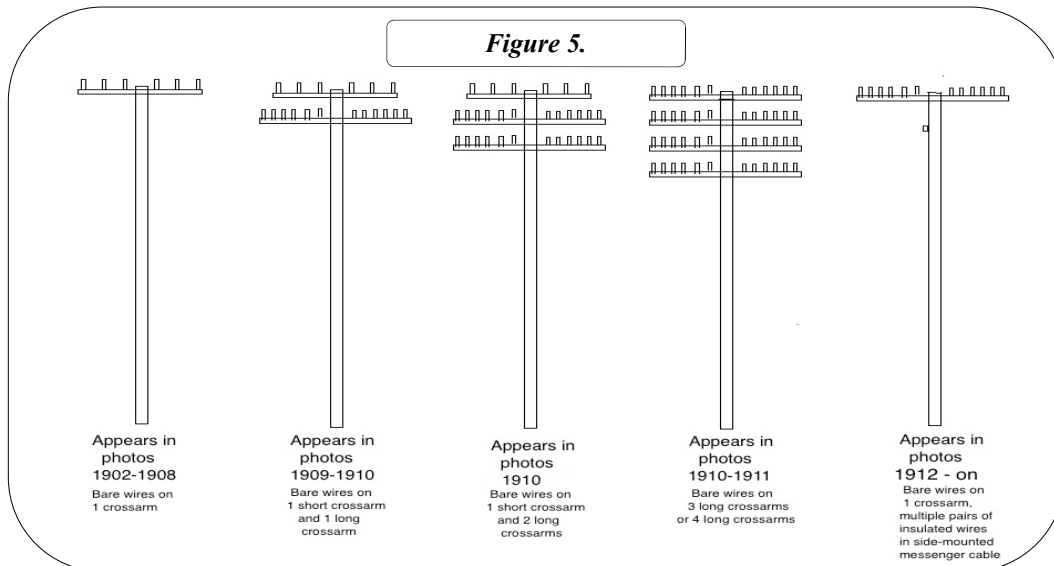


Figure 6.

Photo from Lawrence Zimmerer collection.

Emergency call box.

North on Main Avenue past Crawford Street taken in late 1912 or later, after the 2-story office building was completed next to the Kelly Building.

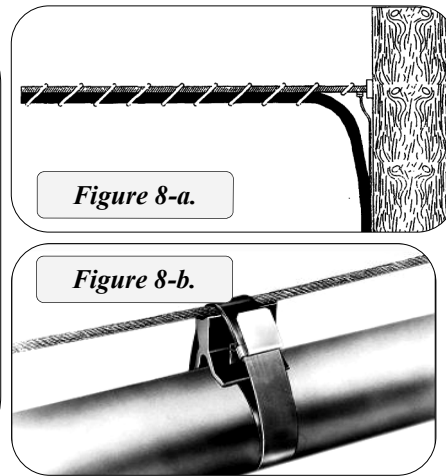
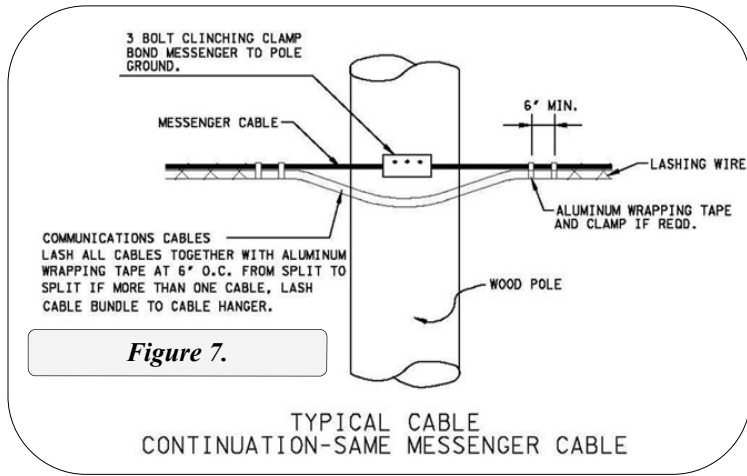
reduced from four in 1911 to one, and the open wires having been replaced with multi-wire cable on the poles. The emergency call box on the pole beside the Kelly Building was required by Ordinances #45 and #47 enacted by the Deer Park City Council in January and March, 1912, and was mandated in the franchise subsequently issued to Pacific Tele-

phone Company.⁽²³⁾⁽²⁴⁾⁽²⁵⁾ By mid-May of that year the installation of the box was underway through mutual efforts of the town and telephone company, and it was reported at the May 14, 1912, Council meeting that this box was in place and ready for the phone to be installed.⁽²⁶⁾

The telephone communication cable

— footnotes —

- ⁽²³⁾ *Deer Park Union, January 12, 1912.*
- ⁽²⁴⁾ *Deer Park Union, March 22, 1912.*
- ⁽²⁵⁾ *Deer Park Union, April 26, 1912.*
- ⁽²⁶⁾ *Deer Park Union, May 10, 1912.*



Above left: Messenger cable pole installation. Above right — top and bottom: Typical means of suspending cable from the messenger wire.

is securely lashed or clamped to the messenger wire in one of the ways shown in Figure 8-a and 8-b (above).

The Deer Park local system continued to use open wire lines on pole-mounted cross-arms in some neighborhoods as late as the 1950s before being replaced with messenger cable. But by 1912-1913, telephone poles along Main Avenue had cross-arms mostly replaced by multi-wire messenger cables of sufficient size to meet projected subscriber growth for several years. When their capacity was reached or the cables failed, they would be added to or replaced with cables of even greater capacity for expansion.

We can't be certain, but it is likely that the single cross-arm seen atop the poles along Main Avenue in 1913 (Figure 6) was reserved for wires used solely for long-distance lines in/out of the city for up to 50-100 miles. Open wire lines, of #8 or #10 gage, properly installed, transitioned, spaced, and supported on glass insulators were capable of carrying conversations over distances approaching 100-200 miles between amplifiers, or "repeaters." Technically, six wires could support three telephone conversations; or with the use of special "multiplexers" or "wire car-

rier" available by the early 1900s, six wires could support perhaps 18 or 24 simultaneous long-distance conversations between exchanges.

Within the local exchange, a telephone line required two wires and would support one conversation. Local lines were offered as one-party "private" lines, or multi-party lines with 2, 3, or 4 parties per line. Rural lines may have supported as many as ten or more parties. Users of multi-party lines were expected to share the line, respectful of others' need for privacy. Multi-party lines could be offered at a lower rate than private lines because more subscribers could be served over the same two wires strung along the poles leading away from the central switchboard.

Each private line and each party line uses two wires, called a "wire pair". The party line has all of the parties' phones connected in parallel onto that wire pair, serving 2, 3, 4, or more parties. Each of the wire pairs coming from the many users (or "subscribers") enters the switchboard office, usually combined within a group of multi-pair cables. With the older manual switchboard, or "cord-board," each wire pair appeared on a numbered jack in front of the operator. The number on that jack

Photograph from the Lawrence Zimmerer collection.



Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company's switchboard in the west side of the Olson Building in 1921. Shown here are Norma Turner, Manager (standing), and Ethel Hickey operating the switchboard.⁽²⁷⁾⁽²⁸⁾

identified the phone number for that line, and/or the numbers assigned to each of the parties. The conversation was carried over that wire pair between the subscriber and the operator, once the operator plugged a cord into that jack (the cord was also connected to the operator's headset). A dry-cell battery on the user's premises powered the subscriber's telephone. A large storage battery at the switchboard powered the operator's handset/microphone. Years later the large battery at the switchboard office also powered the subscriber's telephone. Only then was it necessary for battery current to also flow over the wire pair out to the subscriber's location. Prior to that the wire pair was considered

"dry," meaning that the wire pair between the switchboard and the subscriber did not carry battery power.

The cord used by an operator to plug into a wire pair at the switchboard was actually two cords, connected together in such a way that the second cord could be plugged into another wire pair, thereby establishing a connection between two different subscribers, or in the case of a long-distance call, between a local subscriber and a distant switchboard providing service to subscribers in another exchange area. Several of these two-cord circuits were available at the operator's switchboard position, allowing many simultaneous connections to take place. Additional circuitry

— footnotes —

⁽²⁷⁾ Deer Park Union, December 9, 1920.

⁽²⁸⁾ Parker, W. L., 2010, *The Olsen Hotel Theater, Mortarboard, Issue 22 (February 2010)*, p.283.

and lever switches in each cord combination allowed the operator to: (1) answer calls from subscribers, (2) place calls to subscribers, (3) listen-in on a connected call to ascertain if the call had ended, (4) “split” a connected call so the operator could speak with one party without being heard by the other party in the call, and (5) to apply a “ring” voltage to signal a subscriber to answer. Early switchboards required the operator to operate a hand crank for this, but later switchboards incorporated a motor-generator at the central office for producing ring voltage.

Switchboard operator duties in towns like Deer Park were not limited to simply connecting callers. An operator was expected to answer all manner of questions such as time and date, who to call about what, and where the fire was. A small-town telephone operator in Kansas is said to have correctly answered a caller’s question, “what is the capital of Wisconsin?”⁽²⁹⁾ Such extracurricular duties were routine for operators in the small telephone exchanges.

A kerosene lamp hanging from the ceiling above the manager and an electric light hanging over the desk on the far right are seen in Figure 9 (page 1227). The partition behind the switchboard conceals wires and other apparatus associated with multi-wire cables entering from outside and connecting to the switchboard. This 1921 photograph was taken shortly after the switchboard “central” was moved from the Slater Building at First and Main to the Olson Hotel Building where it remained much as it appears in the photo until September 1951 when Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company replaced the manual telephones and switchboards with automatic “dial” telephones and equipment in Deer Park and the surrounding area. The automatic switching equipment was housed in a new brick building on east Crawford.⁽³⁰⁾ Today that building is expanded and houses modernized local and long-distance telephone exchange equipment.

— to be continued —

— footnotes —

⁽²⁹⁾ *American Telephone Journal*, April 4, 1908.

⁽³⁰⁾ *Deer Park Union*, September 20 and September 27, 1951.

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

Bits of Chatter, Trivia & Notices All Strung Together

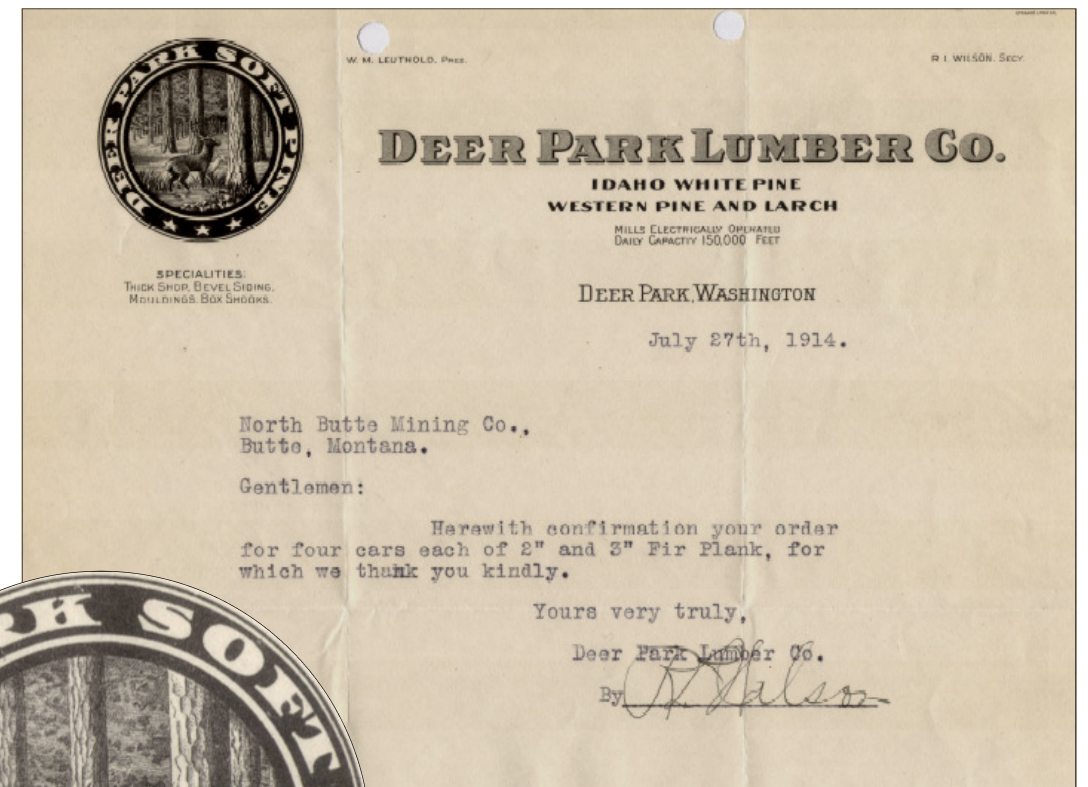
... credit due for prior story ...

In the minutes of the society's December meeting (Mortarboard #93), Pete Coffin, in regards to new materials he was submitting for publication, wrote, “‘Stealing Gas in Big Foot Valley’ is a short story told to me by Lonnie Jenkins shortly before he died describing thievery in that valley.” That prompted your editor to drop the following email to Pete

— this dated December 18, 2015.

“I was checking to see if my pending (stories) file was up to date and discovered that I’d already put the gas stealing story in the ‘Letters/Brickbats’ segment of the December issue (see page 1191). However, there is no attribution to Lonnie Jenkins. If you like, I’ll make a notation of attribution and place it in the next ‘Letters/Brickbats’ column.”

Pete wrote back, “Yes, I would.”



— Sawmill Stationary with Logo —

This recently obtained Deer Park Lumber Company order confirmation is in response to an eight railroad car order for fir planking received from the North Butte Mining Company. The order confirmation measures 8¼ inches wide by 7 inches tall, with the logo being just 1½ inch wide. The signature appears to be that of the co-founder and secretary/treasurer of the company, Raymond Wilson. Note the detail seen in the logo enlargement to the left.



As concerns the editorial observation regarding the identity of the Big Foot Valley perpetrator that your editor appended to Pete’s original script, it appears that Pete is still keeping that part of Lonnie’s story to himself.

... a Deer Park Lumber Company artifact ...

The Mortarboard recently came into

possession of the above typed acknowledgment to a lumber order received from the North Butte Mining Company. Dated July 27th, 1914, the missive was signed by Ray Wilson of the Deer Park Lumber Company.

The Deer Park Lumber Company letterhead was only a few months old at the time — as verified by the following quote from the April, 1914, issue of a Portland, Ore-

gon, periodical titled *The Timberman*. “The new Deer Park Lumber Co., which recently bought out the Standard Lumber Co., at Deer Park, Wash., started its mill the latter part of March.”

The above article went on to note, “W. M. Leuthold and R. L. Wilson, the principals in the new firm, have transferred their offices from Fish Lake, Idaho, to Deer Park, Wash” — the noted Idaho property having been bought by the two in the fall of 1910. That purchase, formalized as the Wilson-Leuthold Lumber Company, was described in the October 1st, 1910, issue of *Lumber World* as “a new company in which Ray L. Wilson, vice president of the Acme Lumber & Timber Company of Spokane, and Walter Leuthold of St. Paul, are the principals.”

Though unverified, it’s possible that the men had become acquaintances at least several years earlier, both having graduated from the University of Minnesota — Wilson in 1907 with a Bachelor of Law degree, and Leuthold in 1909 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. They continued the business relationship begun in 1910 until Wilson, in March of 1939, sold his interest in the Deer Park operation to Leuthold.

After leaving the Spokane area in the



Photo from “The Gopher,” University of Minnesota, 1907.

Raymond Wilson.
July 21, 1883 — April 3, 1961

fall of 1942, Wilson and his sons, Charles and Robert, built a successful sawmill business in the Warm Springs area of Oregon.

— Wally Lee Parker —

Minutes of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society — January 9, 2016 —

In attendance: Lorraine Nord, Mike Reiter, Roberta Reiter, Betty Burdette, Bill Sebright, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Marilyn Reilly, Judy Coffin, Pete Coffin, Mark Wagner, Ella Jenkins, Sue Rehms, Roxanne Camp, Bob Peetz, and Chuck Lyons.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. He reported: 1) We have received dues from as far away as California, Arizona and Colorado. Nineteen households have paid dues. 2) Gary Ross sent

an obituary that included the name of a “Mason” from Deer Park. Pete Coffin couldn’t find the name on his “Mason” family tree. 3) He ordered and received “Registration Methods for the Small Museum.” It is a “how to” book for setting up a cataloging system for pictures, artifacts, etc. 4) He finished scanning the Costa collection that Carol Mattausch Crane gave to the Society at Brickyard Day. Pictures of Mira and Teno Costa were passed around.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported: The main checking account ended the month (December 31st) at \$7,426.68. Checks written were to Rotary for signs for \$25.00. There were deposits of \$349.00. The web hosting account had a withdrawal of \$10.95 for web hosting and ended the month at \$885.08.

Society Vice President Pete Coffin reported that: Gerald Gimmel printed six of the Bennett/Fisher history book. His grandfather had one of the first cars in the area. There was a mill on Dragoon Creek near Dalton Road. The old highway used to go through there. 2) Chuck Lyons brought a picture of “Old Buck” to Pete at the meeting today. Chuck has a tractor collection on Wallbridge Road south of the Happy Home Church. There will be more on this later.

Print editor Wally Parker reported: 1) One hundred copies of the January *Mortarboard* (#93) have been printed for distribution. The online version has also been submitted for posting. This issue contains an essay based on the recently acquired panoramic photo taken at the Settlers Association’s 3rd annual picnic, June 19th, 1924. A short article by Pete Coffin titled “Jack Coffin’s Clayton High School Misbehavior Leads to Work” is also included. The Letters/Brickbats column contains further comments on the impending disassembling of Deer Park’s classic gymnasium, and some thoughts regarding a vintage windstorm. 2) Fifteen copies of *Collected Newsletters* #25 have been printed and are ready for distribution. This booklet combines *Mortarboards* #91 through #93. 3) Print Publications is suggesting that the society begin to take a more proactive approach toward increasing membership. The rationale here is simple. We seem to have a shortfall when it comes to finding members that have the specific skills required for certain projects, plus members that find themselves in a situation that allows them to donate the tremendous amount of time the above mentioned projects require. The likelihood of filling these talent/time deficits would be increased if we had a significantly larger

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*This organization is meant for those with a reverence for the past.
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For those believing tradition still has a place in the modern world.
For those believing the richness of history can teach.
And for those that believe a community’s heart
can be found in its history.*

C/DPHS, Box 293, Clayton, Washington
(509) 276-2693

(Yearly dues: Twenty dollars per household.)

Suggested membership ad for the C/DPHS.

membership. Our usual means of advertising for membership has been to rely on the visibility provided by the society’s participation in local events, and through our print and online publications. It’s remotely possible that a more direct appeal for membership will garner greater results. One possibility for said advertisement would involve illustrations and short, hopefully snappy text displayed through novelistic (for us) means such as postings on reader-boards, free bookmarks left at strategic locations, and, possibly, space in other publications when such is not cost prohibitive. The initial problem with advancing such an endeavor is that a volunteer coordinator will be needed to manage everything. 4) In last month’s minutes your editor reiterated a concern brought forward by society president Bill Sebright during November’s meeting. Bill

indicated that the growing mass of photographs, documents, and artifacts in the society's collection are on the verge of becoming — if they have not in fact already become — unmanageable. What is needed is some means of cataloging everything so that each artifact's existence, makeup, associated data, and location becomes a matter of record. And then, after a system for cataloging has been constructed, volunteers willing to devote the significant amount of time needed to sort through and index all the currently held materials — as well as the new materials constantly being added — will be needed. As a result of last month's reiteration, society associate and professional software developer John Henry volunteered his expertise toward the creation of such a cataloging system. Since John doesn't live in the immediate area, the back and forth needed to customize the system to our needs will be carried out primarily online. Any members or associates willing to offer input into the society's needs regarding this cataloging system are urged to contact the society. From that point such volunteers will likely be drawn into at least some aspects of the development process. Any help would be welcome.

Webmaster Marie Morrill reported by email that: 1) She uploaded the January newsletter and figured out how to put in the year 2016. She will not be attending as she is in Florida enjoying her new granddaughter.

Wednesday, February 10 will be the first Brickyard Day Committee planning meeting. We are still looking for a theme for this year's Brickyard Day. Last year it was the reunion of the Clayton School. We are trying to draw more people to the Clayton School on Brickyard Day.

Mike Reiter reported that: He has heard no further developments on the Civic Center.

Betty Burdette said: The Settlers Picnic fund raiser will be at the Deer Park Eagles, Saturday, March 5. There will be a dinner and silent auction. Betty mentioned that her 70th year reunion is this year.

Next meeting: Saturday, February 13, 2015, at 9 AM at the Clayton Drive-In.

Meeting adjourned at 9:49 AM.

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

— end —

Volunteer proofreaders for this issue: Pete Coffin, Bill Sebright, Charles Stewart, 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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