

THE
CLAYTON/DEER PARK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Mortarboard

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*Origin of
Arcadia Orchard Company's
Low Line Canal*

by
Peter Coffin

Confusion about where Arcadia Orchard Corporation's Low Line Canal began has been the subject of many discussions between members of the Clayton-Deer Park Historical Society. Sanborn Fire Insurance maps first drafted in 1914 show water filled ditches on the east side of the Deer Park Lumber sawmill. A question has been, "Do these ditches represent the origin of the Low Line Canal or not?" The Sanborn maps show an open Low Line Canal ditch along the west side of North Road (commonly known as 'Swamp Road'), south from Sixth Street and Railroad Avenue to the point near First Street where the Low Line Canal went into an underground flume. On Sanborn map #76 at the intersection of North Road and Sixth Street the Low

Line Canal course is shown to head northwest off the map. These maps do not show the connection of the Low Line Canal to the Dragon Creek Reservoir or the water filled ditch on

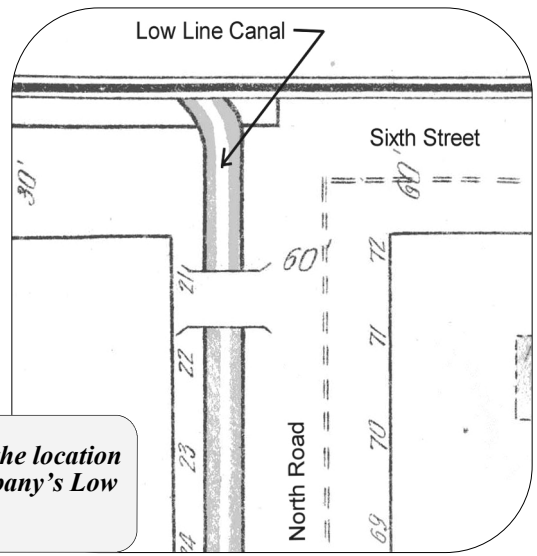


Figure 1.

A portion of Sanborn Fire Map #76 showing the location and orientation of the Arcadia Orchard Company's Low Line Canal

Get the Latest Historical Gossip!



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

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VANDALS CUT CANVAS IN ARCADIA FLUME

**This is a Penitentiary Offence, and
 the Company Will Prosecute
 the Perpetrators to the
 Full Extent of the
 Law**

Saturday night someone cut the canvas in the flume of the Arcadia Orchards Co., leading from the Dragoon creek dam at the point where the flume crosses Spring creek. A considerable part of the foundation was washed out as the act was not discovered until several hours later.

During the winter a number of holes were cut in the flume several miles north of Deer Park. As it was believed these were the acts of mischievous boys, the damage was repaired and no action taken by the company. It is thought that the latest act was done by an older person and the company has decided to take immediate steps to put a stop to these acts of vandalism.

It might be of interest to know that under the provisions of sec.

2833, Remington & Ballenger's code, the malicious cutting, breaking or injuring of flumes, head-gates, canals or mill dams or the making of any aperture in same, with the intent to injure or destroy, is punishable by imprisonment in the state penitentiary for two years and a fine of \$1000.00 The penalty is severe because much damage could result, not only to the property of the company but to the property of others as well.

The company is offering a reward of \$100.00 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who injured the flume Saturday night and it is the duty of every law abiding citizen of Deer Park and the surrounding country to assist in bringing these vandals to justice. Whether boys or men they are a disgrace to this community and an effort should be made to rid the country of their presence.

A short time ago water was turned from the flume near the railroad south of Deer Park, the foundation of the track washed out and a wreck of a passenger train narrowly averted. It is possible that this was the same individual who maliciously damaged the Arcadia flume Saturday night.

Figure 2.

Deer Park Union,
 June 19, 1914.

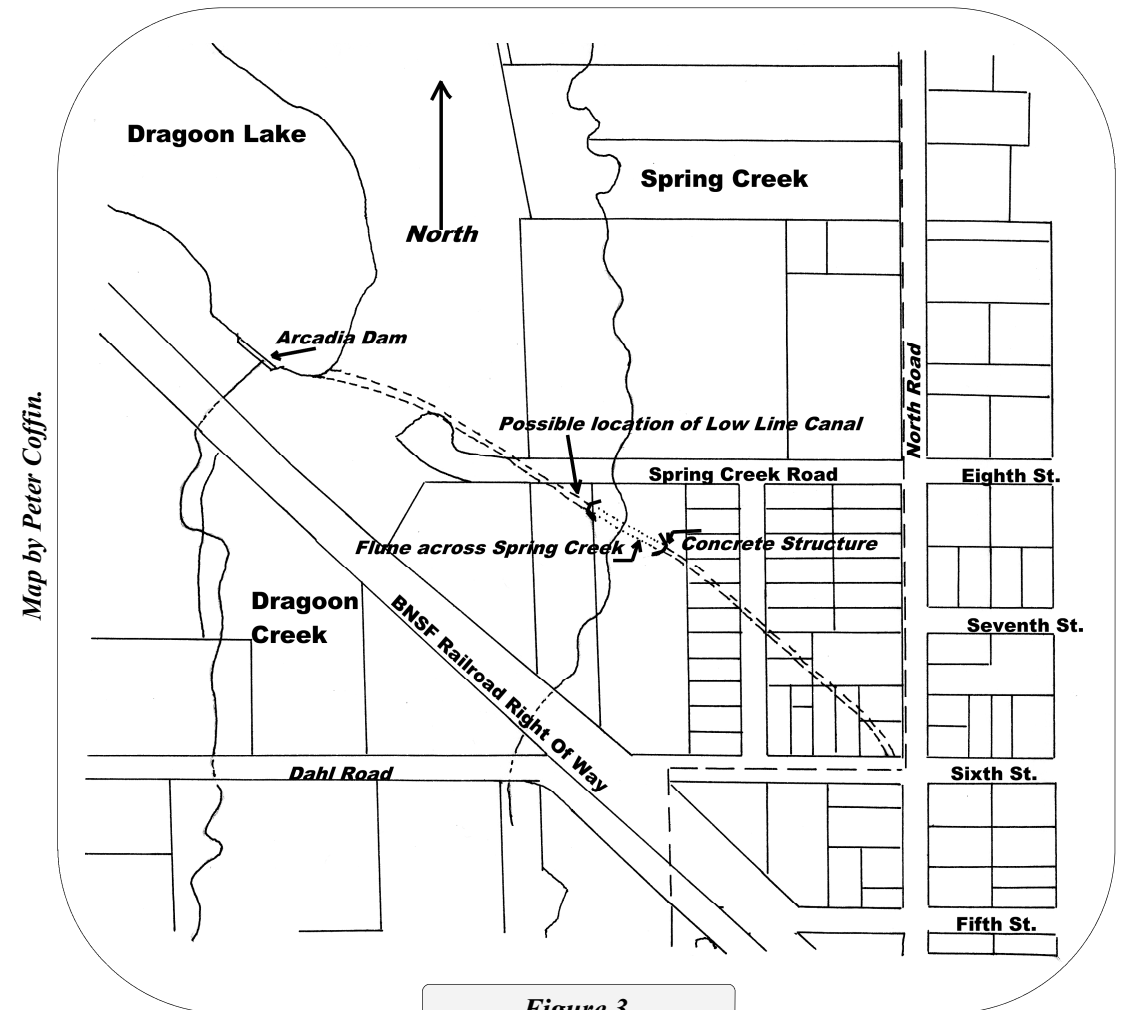


Figure 3.

The author's estimate of the probable route of Arcadia's Low Line Canal.

the east side of the main sawmill building. To date no maps have been found that definitively show where the Low Line Canal was located between the reservoir and Sixth Street (see Figure 3 for author's estimate of route).

The front page of the June 19, 1914, Deer Park Union newspaper article about flume vandalism (facing page) provides a hint as to where the Low Line Canal connected to

the reservoir. The article says that a flume led from the Dragoon Creek Reservoir dam and crossed Spring Creek.

Unfortunately the area immediately south of the Dragoon Creek dam has been the site of log unloading into the reservoir for Deer Park Lumber/Deer Park Pine's sawmill and no flume or canal evidence can be found.

Last summer the Society was con-



Figure 4.

*Above: A photograph of the stone-concrete structure in the horse pasture.
Below: Detail of the stone-concrete structure showing the cement blocks plugging an apparent flume mouth.*



Figure 5.

Photos by Peter Coffin.

tacted by Mr. J. D. Crow, owner of the old sawmill site (*now Esmeralda Farms*) who wanted some historical pictures of the dam site. During his visit to review the Society's photograph collection, he offered to take me on a tour of the mill site and have me point out where portions of the mill were located. As we were leaving the site he told me of a problematic drain under his access road that seemed to originate near the upstream southeastern corner of the dam. During high spring flooding, water emerged from the northern side of Spring Creek Road north of the present school bus barns, and he was worried about it washing out and creating an access problem. After thinking about this statement I began to wonder if some part of the drain was the buried remains of the flume mentioned in the 1914 newspaper article.

In driving on Spring Creek Road (*the western extension of Deer Park's Eighth Street west of North Road*) to and from the dam site over the years, I kept seeing a low stone structure almost hidden by brush and weeds in a fenced horse pasture. This winter the horse pasture was empty and the gate was open, so I felt free to walk onto the property and photograph the low stone-concrete structure.

The stone-concrete structure has all the characteristics of an Arcadia Orchard Company irrigation structure. As seen in Figure 4, the cemented masonry structure is almost invisible from the road. It sits on the east side of a relatively large depression under some large fir trees. Closer examination of the feature shows two or three stages of construction. The apparent youngest is a wall of cast concrete blocks which appear to be plugging a cast concrete portal about three feet high and four feet wide. This concrete casting has a cast vertical slot that may have held a board or barrier. Possibly the oldest work is composed of field stones cemented into a low wall as high as the concrete portal. This portal is positioned in a place that could very easily lead to the canal located on the Sanborn map at Sixth and North.

It is likely a flume had been constructed to carry the Low Line Canal flume water across Spring Creek and onto the eastern bank of the creek. From that point on it is my opinion that the canal ran southeast toward and under the present site of the mill houses and to the intersection of North and Sixth where existing mapping shows it.

— end —

Other Arcadia Orchards Articles by Peter Coffin.

Arcadia Orchards Concrete Headstones: Monuments to a Failed Business Scheme.
Mortarboard issue #19, November, 2009 — page 241. Collected Newsletters, Volume 6.

Construction of the Arcadia Orchards Irrigation System.
Mortarboard #25, May, 2010 — page 313. Collected Newsletters, Volume 7.

Arcadia Orchards and the Smudge Pot.
Mortarboard #55, November, 2012 — page 673. Collected Newsletters, Volume 15.

Arcadia Orchards Company's Irrigation Water.
Mortarboard # 56, December, 2012 — page 685. Collected Newsletters, Volume 15.

Floyd Lorenzo Daggett: Arcadia Orchards Entrepreneur.
Mortarboard #75, July, 2014 — page 914. Collected Newsletters, Volume 19.

Edward Nelson Robinson: President, Arcadia Orchards Company.
Mortarboard #90, October, 2015 — page 1149. Collected Newsletters, Volume 24.

Deer Park's Ground Observer Corps

by

Ken Westby & Peter Coffin

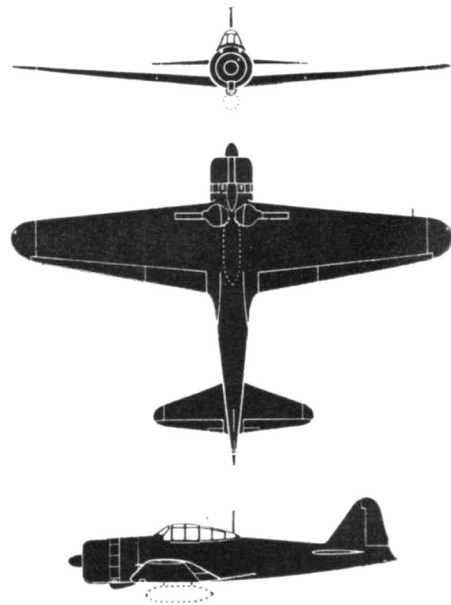
... introduction ...

In the years after the Second World War Russia began taking over eastern European countries, forming the "Soviet Bloc", and developing its own atomic bomb. This caused much anxiety in Western Europe and the United States as relations with Russia and China deteriorated into what is termed the "Cold War" and the "Iron Curtain".

The "Cold War" along with North Korea's invasion of South Korea in the early 1950s caused the United States to increase its arms production and plans to defend itself against an Communist attack. It was likely that a Soviet attack of the United States would be directed over the North Pole and northern Canada. This is the shortest route and crosses a sparsely populated land mass where detection would be unlikely. Intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) were under development by both the US and the Soviets, but these were not perfected until the late 1950s. An

attack, if it were to happen in the early 50s, would likely involve the use of long-range bombers flying the polar route. Until a more

"ZEKE" (ZERO) TYPE O MK. 1 F



SPAN: 39 ft. 5 in.
LENGTH: 30 ft. 3 in.
APPROX. SPEED: 326 m. p. h. at 16,000 ft.

SERVICE CEILING:
38,500 ft.

RESTRICTED

Right: A three view silhouette taken from the United States War Department's "Recognition Pictorial Manual" #FM 30-30. This particular edition of the manual was first published in April, 1943, for use by Army and Navy personnel, as well as members of the World War II era Ground Observer Corps. Updated versions of this type of manual were issued in 1951 and 1955.

Plane Watchers On 24-Hour Duty Three Shifts Being Used in Deer Park

Deer Park's "Operation Sky-watch" went into action Monday morning atop the high school building as scheduled. As a part of a defense project carried on in 27 states, watchers for unidentified aircraft are on duty atop the high school building 24 hours a day.

This work of the Ground Observation Corps was scheduled for May but postponed until this time for further study. It is under the Air Defense command and report is made by telephone to the filter station in Spokane. At that place the path of any planes or plane is charted. Jet interceptor planes which are on 24-hour duty will investigate any craft not identified as friendly.

The local project which has been organized by John Turner, Charles Hammond and Stanley Bacon has watchers working in three-hour shifts. Women are on duty in pairs during the hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The men are

watching during the other 12 hours and on Sundays.

The committee reports that they could use a few more volunteers both for the day and night shifts. With a full corps of watchers no one would need stand offener than once a week.

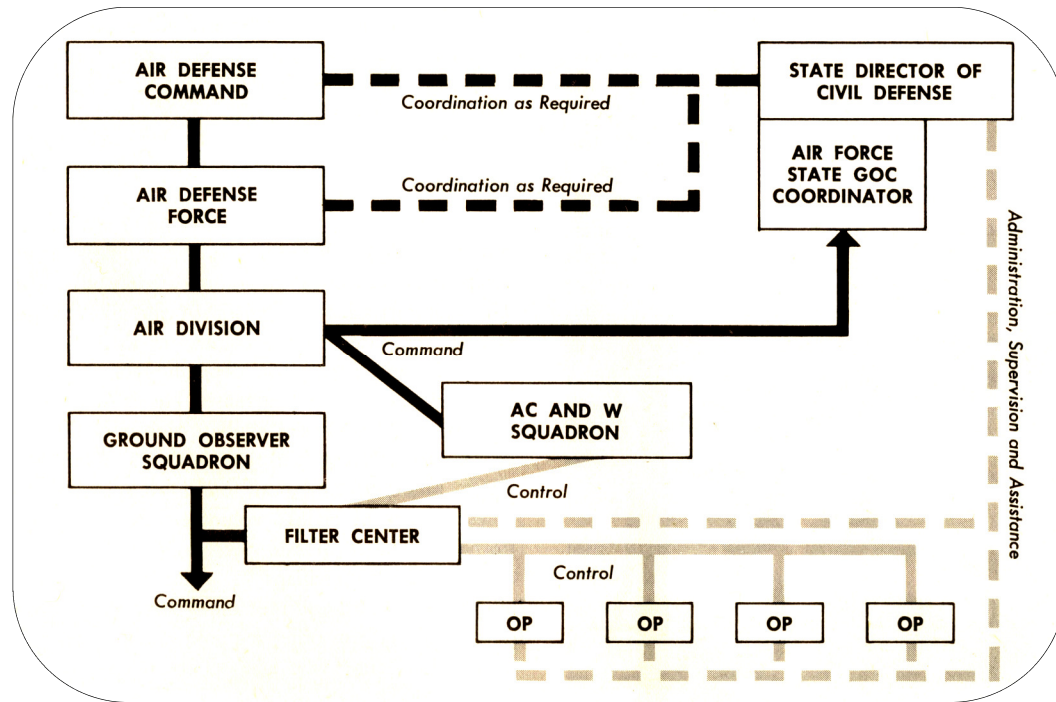
The following ladies are on schedule this week: Edna Litzberger, Opal Krick, Mollie Nelson, Mary Ann Moll, Marlene King, Edith Pleger, Mary Albertal, Mrs. Ray Lackner, Lillie Grove, Mrs. Floyd Moll, Darlise Pleger, Alice Enright Mildred Hammond, Marion Mix, Ann Kynett, Fleta Craft, Jessa Keyes, Viola Rusk, Florence Frazer, Grace Bettfreund, Frances Haden, Cappy Smith, Dorothy Boggs, Jo McDowell, Grace Weber, Lorraine Bishop, Rae Mullenix, Marilyn Alm, Lali Olson, Kathleen Wolfe, Leta Chapman.

Mayor Earl Mix took the first "graveyard shift" Monday night. Others who have worked thus far on the night shift are Henry Litzberger, Allen Pakenhall, John Turner, Paul Hodges, John Wright, Ray Lackner, Lyle Willis, B. R. Fitch, Charles Hammond, Floyd Smith, John Erickson and Claude Krick. About 50 men have indicated they are available for the work.

Above clipping from the Deer Park Union, July 17th, 1952.



Qualified ground observers were entitled to wear the insignia illustrated to the left — this copied from Air Force Manual #355-10.



“Control of the Ground Observer Corps” as outlined in United States Air Force Aircraft Recognition Manual 355-10 — published April, 1955.

sophisticated detection and warning system could be built, an alternative Civil Defense plan involving volunteer observers was put into effect.

... the Ground Observer Corps ...

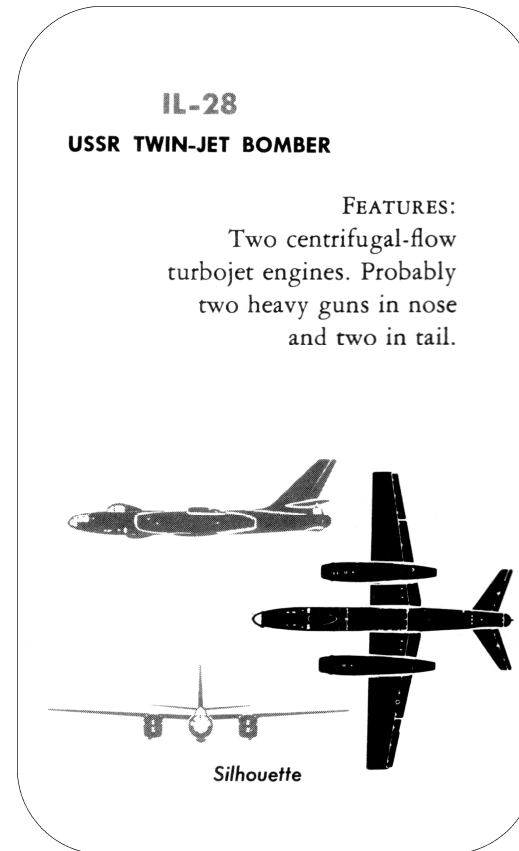
The first “Ground Observer Corps” began in World War II where over a million civilian observers on coastal observation posts watched for German and Japanese aircraft⁽¹⁾ until the defeat of the Axis powers in 1945. The second Ground Observer Corps, organized in the early 1950s, was a similar ground watch program — this using an Air Defense

Command phone link that could result in interceptor aircraft being scrambled.

Deer Park took part in this program in 1952. The program began in late July with volunteer observers from the local community. The first volunteer group was composed of 31 women committing to a 12-hour two-person day shift, and 12 men committing to a 12 hour two-person “graveyard shift.” Fifty men had indicated they were available for the work (see *Deer Park Union* article, page 1255). These citizens joined the local observer corps in a patriotic effort to help safeguard the nation against air attack during a scary time in our country’s history. The list of volunteers in-

— footnotes —

⁽¹⁾ Ground Observation Corps: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ground_Observer_Corps



IL-28
USSR TWIN-JET BOMBER

FEATURES:
Two centrifugal-flow turbojet engines. Probably two heavy guns in nose and two in tail.



Above and Left: Ground observer manual #355-10’s silhouette of the Russian tactical range IL-28 bomber. Few Russian aircraft were shown in this 1955 manual, and none that were known to have sufficient range to reach the continental United States. However, just a year after the book’s publication the turboprop TU-95 long range bomber went into production. And that bomber — the strategic equivalent of America’s all jet B-52 bomber — still remains a significant part of the Russian military (just as the B-52 remains a significant part of ours).

cludes the names of many of the community’s leading citizens.

... Deer Park’s observation building ...

As an observation post, a small wooden shack was erected atop the high school building on east Crawford Street. It was situated on the west end of the roof, next to the parapet wall and near a roof-access hatch. An observer would climb the west stairway of the school to the top floor, and then climb a ladder to reach the roof. The shack was about six feet by eight feet with a door and a small wooden deck. One was supposed to climb from the hatch onto the wooden deck without walking on the building’s fragile tar-and-gravel roofing material.

Because access to the roof-top was difficult, the shack was eventually moved to a vacant lot on the north side of east First Street, in what is now the parking area for the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall.

... operation of the observation corps ...

The civil defense volunteer ‘Spotters’ from town would take turns manning the post for shifts of a few hours during the days, sitting on a chair on the deck and watching for “suspicious” aircraft. Every airplane the spotter viewed was noted in a logbook provided for this purpose, listing its direction of travel

and whatever identifying markings could be seen with binoculars. A telephone provided was to be used to report whenever a “suspicious” plane was spotted over Deer Park. The plan was that if a Russian heavy bomber was seen, the spotter would inform Fairchild Air Force Base which would then scramble fighter jets or launch Nike missiles to hopefully shoot it out of the sky before nuclear disaster rained down on Spokane.

Observers were credited with the number of hours they spent in the observation shack and awards were given for those obtaining a large number of volunteer hours.

... radar plane detection ...
&
... the end of the ground observer corps ...

In early 1952 plans were formulated

to develop a line of radar detection installations from Alaska to Greenland across Canada. An agreement between Canada and United States and the collaboration between the United States Department of Defense and the Bell System resulted in the construction of the DEW Line (*Distant Early Warning Line*) beginning in December 1954. This system of 63 computer controlled radar stations stretched from Alaska to Baffin Island, covering nearly 6200 miles. Construction on the DEW Line was completed on April 15, 1957, and in 1958 became a cornerstone of the new NORAD (*North American Air Defense Command*) organization.⁽²⁾

With the activation of this sophisticated radar warning system, the need for the second Ground Observation Corps ended.

———— end ————

———— footnotes ————

⁽²⁾ Distant Early Warning Line: (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distant_Early_Warning_Line)

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

Bits of Chatter, Trivia & Notices All Strung Together

... a round loaf of flying fire ...

It was the early 1950s. The Cold War’s version of the Ground Observer Corps was just being put into operation (the first version — that from a very hot Second World War — had been disbanded in 1944). And, as happenstance would have it, the skies this new, postwar crop of civilian volunteers spent largely uneventful days and assumedly sleepless nights scanning appear to have been filled — at least according to the nation’s newspapers — with a bewildering assortment of unidentified flying objects.

So it wasn’t all that surprising when, on the 28th of August, 1952, local residents unfolded their copies of the *Deer Park Union* and found this particular note in William C. Roll’s weekly “*Shavings from the Mill*” column.

“While they were sky watching Tuesday night, Fred Roberts and Doug King say that at 12:30 they saw a flying saucer in a direction southeast of the school. They say it appeared like a large, round loaf of flying fire.”

The first question that comes to mind is what, if anything did these gentlemen report

to Spokane’s Air Defense Filter Center. From the description, it’s fairly obvious they saw a meteor. But still — even though the Air Force’s *Aircraft Recognition for the Ground Observer* manual (#355-10) is more than a little vague on how to classify novelistic airborne objects — they should have telephoned in some kind of report as a matter of protocol.

That said, we don’t know if the two observers would have — or in fact did — use the term “*flying saucer*” when talking to the filter center — or when talking to anyone else for that matter. Or if that particular descriptive is nothing more than just a bit of creative narrative added by someone else on the story’s journey to the tip of Bill Roll’s pen. After all, it was the ongoing flow of gossipy observations that gave the long-running “*Shavings from the Mill*” its front-page popularity.

If Mr. Roll did add that term to the description himself, we need to give him a pass. All he was doing was using that era’s vernacular for what is now, more often than not, called a UFO — an unidentified flying object — with UFO tending to be a much better descriptive for the wide variety of airborne objects reported over the years.

As for the original germ of the term flying saucer — that bit of cultural history is rooted right here in Washington State.

On Thursday, June 26th, 1947, an article on the front page of the morning edition of the *Spokesman-Review* was headlined “*Sights ‘Saucers’ Flitting in Air.*” Carrying the dateline “*Pendleton, Ore., June 25,*” the Associated Press piece that followed stated that Kenneth Arnold, a civilian pilot from Boise, Idaho, had reported sighting “*Nine bright, saucer-like objects ... flying between Mount Rainer and Mount Adams*” on the afternoon of June 24th.

Historians now suggest it’s quite possible that the first recorded use of the term flying saucer also occurred on June 26th, when the *Chicago Sun* printed its account of Arnold’s sighting under the banner “*Supersonic Flying Saucers Sighted by Idaho Pilot.*”

None of this is to suggest that sight-

ings of flying objects are anything new. Accounts of strange aerial craft are as old as written history. But this time something caught fire, causing a rash of similar stories to ignite. This journalistic frenzy became so hot that within just a few weeks of the Mount Rainier incident, the most infamous UFO event of all time transpired.

On July 8th, 1947, bold type stretching across the face of the *Spokane Daily Chronicle*’s final edition blared “*Flying Disk is Found.*” A good portion of the nation’s other newspapers released the same Associated Press article. Though attempts quickly ensued to curb what has since proven to be a mass of misinformation, the damage was done. And as a result, the obscure little town of Roswell, New Mexico, has become the center of a conspiracy theory enduring to this day.

The Pacific Northwest was not quiet during all this. On the same day the *Chronicle* was announcing the Roswell crash, the *Spokesman-Review* carried a front page article detailing the search for “*eight or more ‘flying saucers’ ... reported to have landed on a mountainside near St. Maries, Idaho.*” Or more precisely, “*near Butler’s bay on the St. Joe River six miles west of St. Maries.*” This sighting was reported by a vacationing “*Mrs. Walter Johnson*” of Dishman, Washington.

Arguably, one of the most interesting local sightings — the crash of a round, flat, mirror like object into Long Lake — occurred the year after Roswell. A trace of this incident is found in the August 23rd, 1965, edition of the *Spokesman-Review*, under the headline “*Flying Saucers, Fiery Balls Claimed Seen by UFO Buffs.*” The author of the piece, staff writer Jerry Wiggin, stated that “*In July, 1948, a woman from Tum Tum, Wash., wrote a letter to the Spokesman-Review*” describing the Long Lake incident. So far we’ve been unable to locate the assumedly published missive. If anyone can recall the name of the above noted “*woman,*” or any other information regarding this specific tale, such might prove useful in locating the original account.

In 1952 — the same year Fred and

Doug sighted the “round loaf of flying fire” — the September 4th edition of the *Spokane Daily Chronicle* quoted Mr. J. M. Stork of Spokane as saying “Four of us were on a boat in Coeur d’Alene Lake last evening. There was another boat with us with four more people on it. It was about 10:30 or 11 when we saw three distinctive balls of greenish hue and very bright low on the horizon in the east. We were sure they were not falling stars because they were traveling in a level or perhaps slightly upward direction. They were moving very fast, and the whole appearance probably lasted only three seconds.”

Again, the most logical explanation — despite an appearance of upward movement — meteors.

There have been any number of theories regarding the identity of UFOs. Some explanations were at least rational; among them that they were common objects such as floating dandelion seedpods, ice crystals, swamp gas, conventional aircraft misidentified, or the above noted meteors — these in all colors, including “greenish.” There were the usual psychological explanations; among them publicity seeking fabrications, hallucinations, delusions induced by mass hysteria or alcohol, and, of course, the ever popular secret government experiments to study the effects of panic on the population. But it appears the most enduring theories ascribe the sighting to highly advanced aircraft — either ours or theirs (with the “theirs” more than likely meaning Russian) — or to extraterrestrial visitations (which has always been my personal favorite).

Regarding the last of these theories, Hollywood, as ever, did its part muddying the waters. In 1950 it was the less than excellent movie, “*The Flying Saucer*.” In 1951 it was “*The Thing from Another World*” (with James Arness, the future Marshall Matt Dillon, playing the part of the green skinned, vegetable

based saucer pilot). And then there was the classic “*The Day the Earth Stood Still*.” Though 1952 was a little slack for extraterrestrial attacks, 1953 bit back with “*Invaders from Mars*” and “*War of the Worlds*” — among others.

Even the worst of these movies tended to play well in an era of Cold War dread — said dread clearly reflected in the government sponsored reemergence of the Ground Observer Corps.

UFOs aren’t quite as popular as they once were. One reason — we’ve entered an age when most everyone is carrying a cell-phone capable of taking high quality photos. As a result, people just aren’t as willing to accept reports of close encounters of the third kind without at least a few human/alien selfies for collaboration.

That’s not to say UFOs aren’t still being seen in Washington State. For example, a report filed with the National UFO Reporting Center⁽¹⁾ stated that on the evening of December 13th, 2015, at 08:00 PM, nine bright orange lights were seen maneuvering over the small town of Deer Park.⁽²⁾ The objects, in two groups, haltingly approached the town from the southwest, hovered, then moved off in different directions before fading from view.

What would our two Ground Observers from 1952 have made of that?

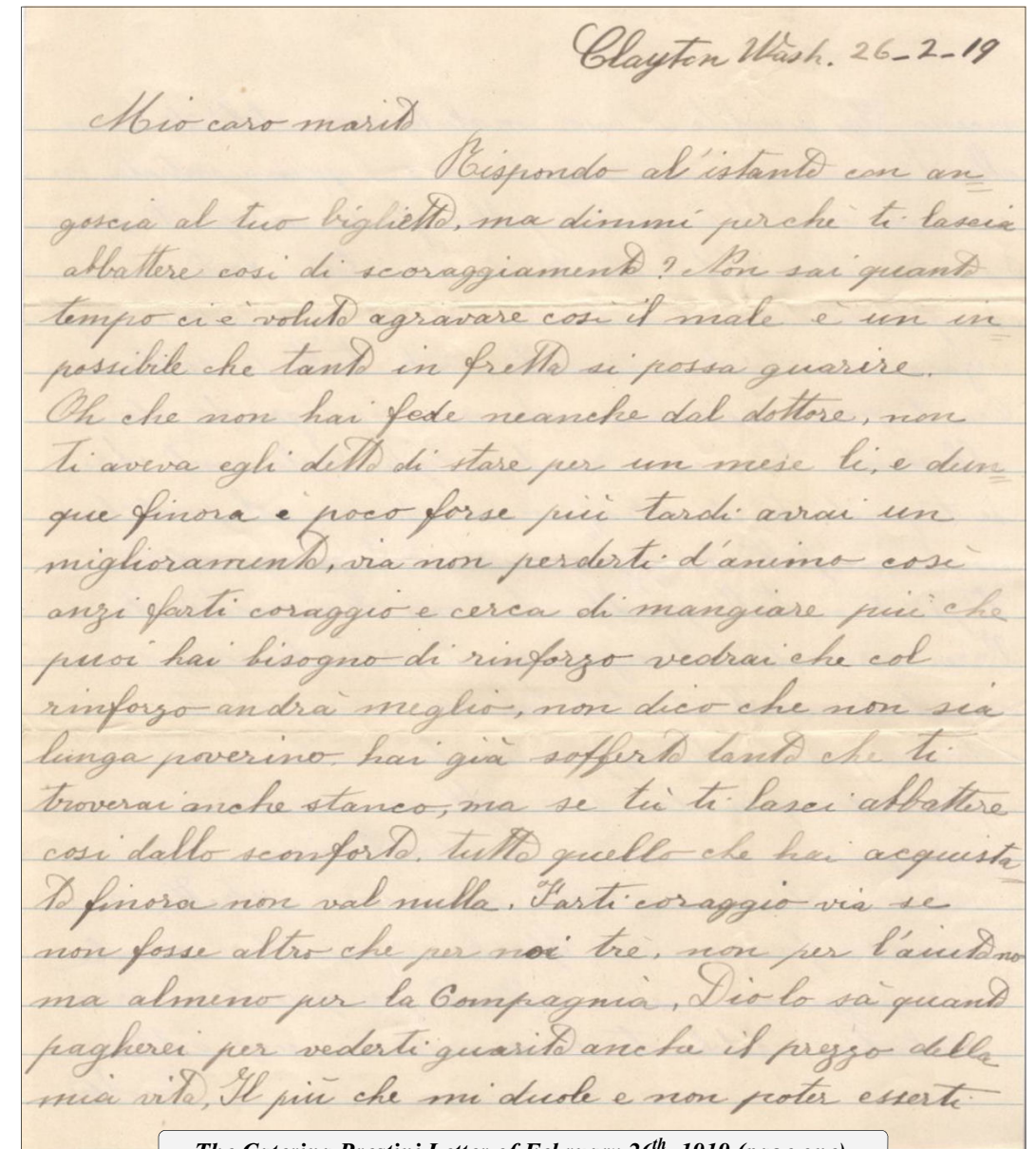
... looking for a translator ...

For some time the society has been in possession of six letters, dating from February 21st through March 9th of 1919, that were written by Caterina Prestini, mother of Clayton artist Leno Prestini, and addressed to Leno’s father, Luigi Prestini — at that time a patient at the Lewis & Clarke Sanatorium, West 2404 2nd Avenue, in Spokane.

Report on Deer Park UFO Sighting, December 13th, 2015.

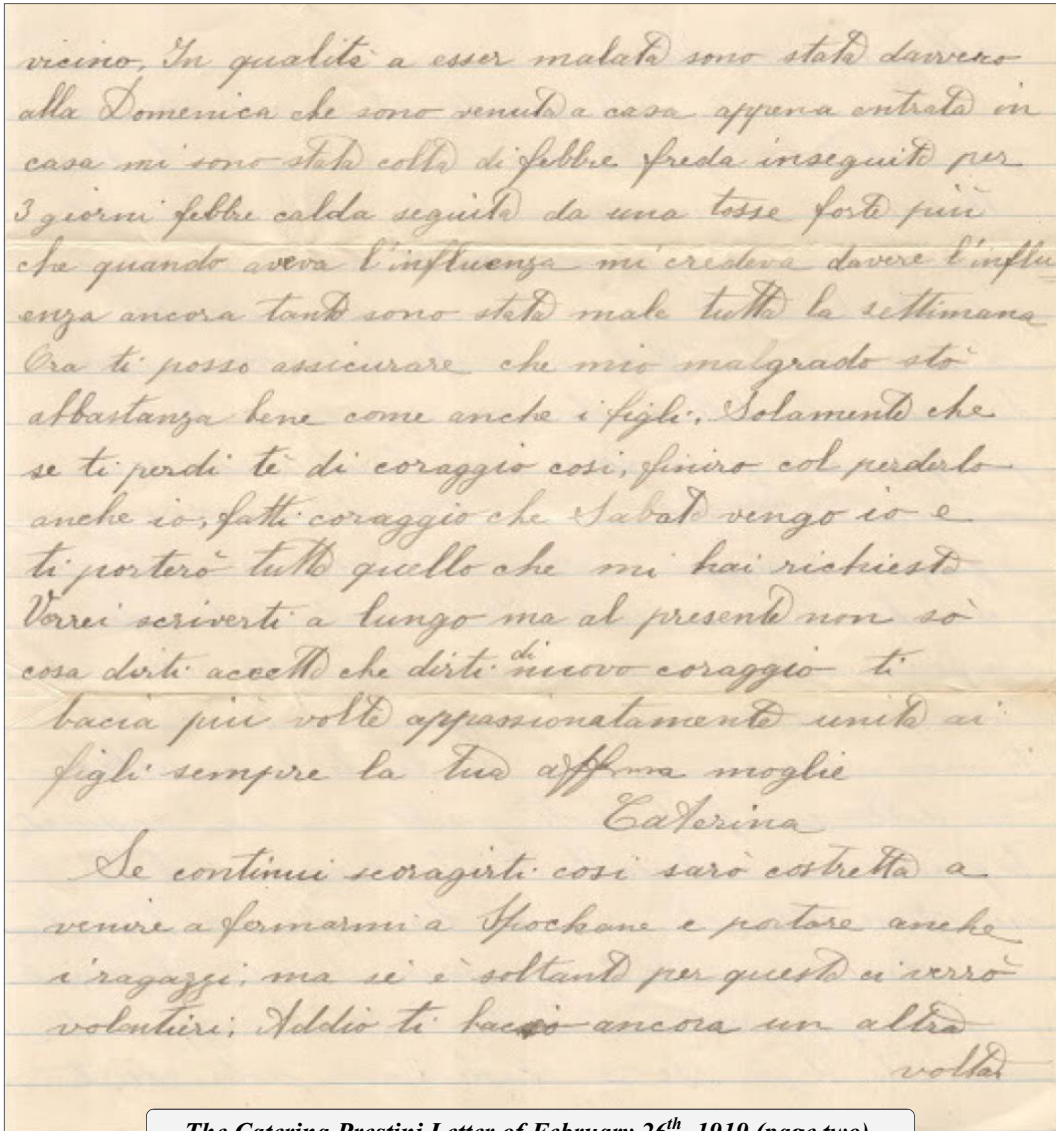
⁽¹⁾ National UFO Reporting Center website: <http://www.nwlink.com/~ufocntr/>.

⁽²⁾ NUFORC report page, Deer Park Sighting: <http://www.nuforc.org/webreports/124/S124651.html>.



The Caterina Prestini Letter of February 26th, 1919 (page one).

The society is requesting help in translating a set of letters originally penciled in a cursive form of Italian. While machine translations are possible when drawing from correctly spelled sources, it’s very difficult to determine the spelling of foreign words scribed in cursive — assuming such were correctly spelled to begin with.



vicino. In qualita' a esser malata sono stata davvero
alla Domenica che sono venuta a casa appena entrata in
casa mi sono stata colta di febbre fredda in seguito per
3 giorni febbre calda seguita da una tosse forte piu'
che quando aveva l'influenza mi credeva avere l'influe-
enza ancora tanto sono stata male tutta la settimana
Ora ti posso assicurare che mio malgrado sto
abbastanza bene come anche i figli. Solamente che
se ti perdi te di coraggio cosi, finiro col perderlo
anche io, fatti coraggio che Sabat vengo io e
ti portero' tutto quello che mi hai richiesto
Vorrei scriverti a lungo ma al present non so'
cosa dirti accetto che dirti di nuovo coraggio ti
bacia piu' volte appassionatamente unika ai
figli sempre la tua affenna moglie
Caterina
Se continui scoragirti cosi saro' costretta a
venire a farmarmi a Hochane e portare anche
i ragazzi, ma se e' soltanto per questo u' erro'
voluntieri. Addio ti bacio ancora un'altra
volta

The Caterina Prestini Letter of February 26th, 1919 (page two).

Links to more Prestini letters in need of translation.

Letters 1 & 2: <http://thebogwenreport.blogspot.com/2011/11/leno-prestini-files-1-letters-looking.html>.

Letters 3 & 4: <http://thebogwenreport.blogspot.com/2011/11/leno-prestini-files-2-letters-looking.html>.

Letters 5 & 6: <http://thebogwenreport.blogspot.com/2011/11/leno-prestini-files-3-letters-looking.html>.

These letters, along with a small assortment of photographs, postcards, and other Prestini related items, were donated to the society on the 26th of July, 2011, by John and Pat Colliver. As the Collivers explained, the artifacts were found inside a locked trunk purchased during an estate sale held at the Prestini family's historic Clayton home not long after the death of Leno's brother, Battista, in 1983.

Shortly after receiving the letters, I posted them, with the following explanation, to my personal blog.

"As you will quickly realize, these letters are handwritten in Italian. My purpose in posting them is to solicit translations and discussions of their contents. If translations are received, they'll be added to the blog for further comment and discussion."

Although the online files have been observed a number of times (*hopefully on occasion by something other than one of the millions of robot programs roaming cyberspace*), we've yet to receive a single reply.

We believe these letters may hold hints as to whether Caterina realized she was about to find herself a widow.

The letters can be seen by following the active links pasted in the box at the bottom of the facing page, or by typing "*The Bogwen Report: The Leno Prestini Files*" into your computer's internet search engine.

If anyone knows anyone able and willing to translate these letters, society contact numbers and email addresses can be found on the last page of this issue.

... a "Bird's Eye View" of Springdale ...

This last January your editor came across a postcard showing — as printed on the card — a "*Bird's Eye View, Springdale, Wash.*" It appears to be an old card. How old is a bit of a mystery. The manufacture's mark, "E. C. Kropp Co., Milwaukee," limits the possible years of production to between 1907 and 1956 — the span of time the company used that specific mark. The postmark on the

card's reverse is illegible, so that's of no use in dating the photo, or in clarifying the place from which it was posted. But, based on the casual indifference to specifics with which the address seemed written, it's likely the card was mailed long before the postal service required any great degree of precision in such matters.

Add to this the overall appearance of the town seen in the photo, and it would suggest that the early years of the 20th century would be a reasonable guess as to the image's age. Hopefully — when viewing the buildings seen and the general layout of the town — one or more of our readers can first confirm that the town photographed is in fact vintage Springdale. And after that perhaps even go on to narrow the probable age of the image down to within a likely decade or so.

The writing on the postcard initially added another layer of mystery. A downward pointing arrow drawn on the upper part of the photo (*Figure 1, pages 1264 and 1265*) was reproduced in the cursive text written on the card's opposite side (*see Figure 2, page 1265*), thereby suggesting that something in the photo is the subject of the text. That would seem easy enough to determine — until it's realized that the cursive script (*cursive often being hard enough to read in itself*) is not written in English. (*Doesn't that problem sound familiar?*)

On a chance I took two words that seemed fairly evident in the cursive script, those being "*naar ons,*" and typed them, along with the word "*translate,*" into Google's internet search bar. Almost immediately Google flashed back the phrase "*to us,*" along with a notation that the language it was translating was Dutch.

I would need verification on that of course, since my suppositions with about half those seven cursive letters were still iffy. Then too — even assuming my identification of every cursive letter is correct — the only accurate way to translate from one language to another, regardless of whether from cursive or print, is to have someone who knows both



Figure 1.

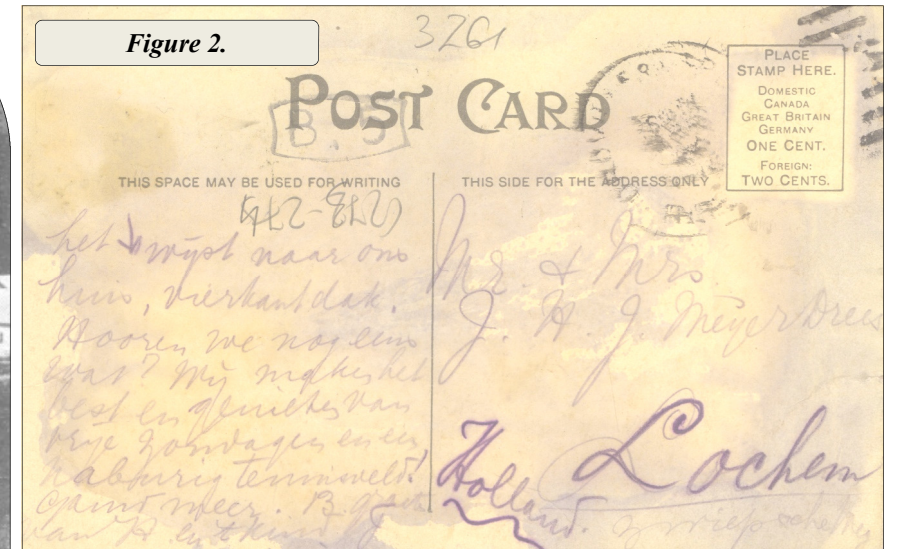


Figure 2.



Figure 3.

languages reasonably well do the translating. And even then, each individual translator will have to be given a degree of latitude since translating is much more the art of rephrasing meanings than of simple word substitution (which can get whoever is attempting the translation into a lot of trouble). And too, being humans, we all seem to draw a subtly different meaning from whatever we read or hear.

That's the reason translations done by computers often contain less-than-sensible phrases. It's a reminder that no matter how many gigabytes of algorithms an electronic construct applies to the problem, machines have yet to match the nuance that self-

awareness adds to the equation. When computers are able to do unfailingly masterful translations of pieces of literary art, humans had best prepare for some unpleasant readjustments in the planetary pecking order.

But I digress.

Being in a quandary regarding the meaning of the postcard's (likely) Dutch cursive, on the morning of January 23rd I sent the following missive, along with a scan of the text side of the postcard, to the *Mortarboard's* Editorial Group. "Would anyone care to try to translate the message written on this postcard? Looking at the writer's cursive, the few simple words I'm able to make a reasonable guess as to the spelling of suggests that it's

Figure 1:
 The top edge of the photo — that containing the inscription "Bird's Eye View, Springdale, Wash.," — has been trimmed from this image.

Figure 2:
 See the translation in column one, page 1266.

Figure 3:
 Enlargement of the area containing the arrow.

Figure 4:
 The first building seen directly below the arrow is likely the "square roof" structure noted in the translation.

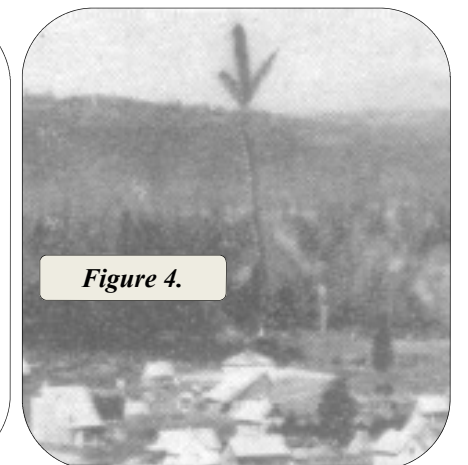


Figure 4.

Dutch.”

The first reply came from group member Charles Stewart. “Yep ... sure enough Dutch. But beyond identifying it, that’s all I can offer.”

A few minutes later I received this from Wey Simpson. “Having some Dutch ancestry, I have some familiarity with the words and terms. Several of the words definitely have bits that are from the Netherlands. I note that a town name (Lochem) is written next to ‘Holland,’ which would seem to also verify your assessment. Also it appears to be addressed to Mr. and Mrs. Meyerbrink, which is certainly a Dutch name.”

And then, on the morning of the 26th, I received this note from Editorial Group member Ken Westby, “My friend Tom Branderhorst and his sister, Nel, who were born in Holland, were able to translate it for us.”

The postcard reads, “— it (the arrow) points to our house — square roof. Will we

still hear something? It’s going great with us and enjoying free Sundays and a nearby tennis court. Write back soon. Greetings from H and the child.”

Once again, my Editorial Group comes through.

Unlike most notes scribbled on postcards, this missive tells us at least a few things about the writer. The arrow and the words “our house” clearly place the writer in Springdale. It mentions “free Sundays” — and at a time when six day workweeks were common, that would suggest that the individual was working at or near Springdale as opposed to just visiting or vacationing.

Please contact the society if you have any information regarding this image — anything that might suggest a date for the image, information about the structures seen, or stories about Springdale’s past.

———— Wally Lee Parker ————

Minutes of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society ———— March 12, 2016 ————

In attendance: Mike Reiter, Roberta Reiter, Betty Burdette, Bill Sebright, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Marilyn Reilly, Mark Wagner, Ella Jenkins, Sue Rehms, Roxanne Camp, Tom Costigan, Don Ball, Dianne Allert, and Bob Gibson.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. He reported: 1) I received an email and phone call from Happy Avery. Happy is working toward a doctorate in history at the University of Montana and living in Spokane. Happy has written two articles about Deer Park for the “*Online Encyclopedia of Washington State History*,”

found at <http://www.historylink.org/>. Happy is asking permission to use some of the C/DPHS’s photos. Appropriate credit will be given. The two articles may be included in future *Mortarboards*. 2) Wally and I met with John Henry in Spokane on February 19th. We worked on the cataloging system. We are looking into buying a computer to be the “hub” of the program. 3) Bob Gibson is in Room 226 at Manor Care. I visited him Tuesday, and Pete and Judy visited him Friday. He hopes to be home in a week. He would have been home already, but was given the wrong medication. 4) Annette Buehler emailed me

asking about a piece of pottery from Spokane Pottery in Clayton. Wally has been corresponding with Annette. 5) There will be a “Leno Prestini’s World” slide presentation at the Museum of Arts and Culture led by Jack Nisbet. It will be at 6:30 PM on April 13th in the Eric A. Johnston Auditorium. 6) The Clayton Grange hosted a 99th birthday party for Eddie Olson Friday, March 11th.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported: The main checking account ended the month (February 29th) at \$7,390.68. Checks written were \$10.00 for Incorporation filing. There were deposits of \$20.00. The web hosting account had a withdrawal of \$10.95 for web hosting and ended the month at \$846.23.

Society Vice President Pete Coffin reported by email: 1) I have purchased several of the Arcadia Press pictorial history books. The Stevens County one is interesting in that nothing is mentioned south of Chewelah. Southern Stevens County doesn’t exist in this book. The Spokane bridges volume shows the Monroe Street Bridge under construction in 1909 and 1910. This documents the opening scene of the Arcadia Orchards movie as having been filmed before late 1909 as in it the Monroe Street Bridge is of iron beam construction. 2) I have found two letters written by Deer Park Lumber Company President Walter Leuthold to my Grandfather (Peter Michie) inquiring about the sale of the lumber company’s steam engines. I sent copies of these letters to Editor Parker and President Sebright. As part of this discovery I wrote a biographical manuscript describing my Grandfather’s life and sent it to Editor Parker. 3) President Sebright assigned me the task of checking Happy Avery’s History Link manuscript’s photographic material. The Deer Park thumbnail part of her work is now available on HistoryLink.org as Essay 11193 “*Deer Park—Thumbnail History*”. 4) I am planning on helping the Congregational Church and Gail Brown fill a history wall in the Church’s library room with photographic material I scanned from their files in 2010 for the Historical Society.

Print editor Wally Parker reported: 1) One hundred copies of the March *Mortarboard* (#95) have been printed for distribution, and the online version has been submitted for posting. This issue presents the concluding part of Ken Westby and Pete Coffin’s “*Telephone Service Comes to Deer Park*.” The Letters/Brickbats segment contains request that all members of Deer Park High School’s class of 1946 contact Betty Burdette at (509) 276-6709 regarding a class reunion; the segment also presents a photo of the Clayton “*Union*” Band; and then some observations regarding “*minors under the age of 14*” working at Deer Park’s sawmill. 2) Progress is being made regarding John Henry’s effort to create a computer based artifact and photo cataloging system for the society. This is a free-time volunteer effort on John’s part, so it may take some time.

Webmaster Marie Morrill reported by email that: 1) The *March Mortarboard* has been uploaded to our web site. It opened for me, so I hope that this month it will be okay for everyone. 2) February visitor stats show an average of 146 visits per day and a total of 4,099 visits for the month.

Penny Hutten reported by email that Jeff Sims will be presenting “*The Gully and its Historical Impact on Downtown Spokane*.” His talk will uncover the layers of dirt and debris lying under downtown, landfill for a large gully which was once a major part of Spokane’s topography. He will discuss the history of the businesses and buildings which were built over the fill, and how some of the early buildings crumbled and cracked because of their shifting foundations. Please join us at the Airport Holiday Inn, 1616 S. Windsor Drive Spokane, Washington 99224. Contact Pat Holien by March 13th, for reservations. Pat’s email is ptholien@comcast.net, and her phone number is 509-466-2439.

Wednesday, March 9th, was the second Brickyard Day Committee planning meeting. The next Brickyard Day planning meeting will be April 6th, 6 PM, at the Real Estate Marketplace. It was moved to the first Wednesday of the month due to the April 13th

Leno Prestini presentation. Bill, with Wally's help, will be writing a short history of the Clayton Brickyard for the Brickyard Day Flyer.

Mike Reiter reported that he is writing a history on "*The Mystery of the Class of 1919*." He also reported on the old mural panels from old Fair Building (*old Arcadia Orchard apple warehouse*) that are in storage in the city hall. He would like to make a DVD of Denny Lippert's narration of the locations on the mural.

Betty Burdette said: 1) This year is her DPHS Class of 1946's 70th reunion. Call Betty at 276-6709 if you have questions. 2) The Settlers Picnic fund raiser was held at the Deer Park Eagles, Saturday, March 5th. The Settlers Day dinner was a success as over 100 dinners were served. The auction was also a success and brought in over \$3,000.

Next meeting: Saturday, April 9th, 2015, at 9 AM at the Clayton Drive-In.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 AM.

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

— end —



Above: Booster pin for the July 23rd, 2016, Old Settlers Day parade & picnic. Call Betty Burdette at (509) 276-6709 for more information about the event and the many volunteer positions needing to be filled.

Volunteer proofreaders for this issue: Bill Sebright and Linda 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 —

From "The Coast" magazine, April, 1907



See Yourself in Print.

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

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

— the editor —

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

Ask about "Collected Newsletters: Volume Twenty-Six."