

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

All Rights To This Material Reserved By C/DPHS

Leno Prestini Project Underway — Local Historical Societies Involved —

On February 4, 1906, in a far northern province of Italy, legendary local artist, adventurer, and individualist Leno Prestini was born. In October of 1907 his father, Luigi, left the small town of Besano and immigrated to the United States via New York's Ellis Island. Eleven months later Leno's mother, Caterina Andreoletti Prestini, with Leno and his older brother Battista, joined Luigi at Barre, Vermont, where Luigi was employed as a stone cutter.

The family moved to the Buckeye area — south of Deer Park — in 1911, then settled into

Clayton about two years later, after Luigi began working at the Washington Brick & Lime Company's terra cotta works.

Leno's father died in March of 1919, and, several years later (at age 15) Leno went to work at the Clayton factory. It's assumed that Leno developed his artistic skills while working under the direction of the skilled artisans — sculptors and draftsmen — of the terra cotta works.

Leno is best known as a folk painter. His artwork is not abstract, but does tend heavily toward



The above mural is part of the Loon Lake Historical Society's collection of Leno Prestini material, and can be seen on display at the 'Old Schoolhouse' in Loon Lake.

— Image Courtesy Of Loon Lake Historical Society —

Free — Take One

**Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society
Newsletter — Issue # 1 (May) — 2008**

the surreal. Symbols, explicable or otherwise, abound. What is evident from any study of his work is that his artistry is underappreciated.

Last year Bruno Costa donated an untitled Prestini painting to the C/DPHS. Society member Robert Clouse took the painting to the 'Antique Roadshow' in an attempt to place an insurance value on the work. He was told it was impossible to give the painting a monetary value since Leno's works have no history in the art market. The very reason museums have so many of Leno's paintings is that so few were ever sold.

The probable key to understanding Leno's artwork is to understand the man. It has been 102 years since Leno's birth, and 45 since his death. The opportunity to speak with those who knew him personally, to gain whatever insights into his personality they might provide, is fast disappearing. The Prestini Project may be the region's last best chance to save as much as possible of this remarkable character's legacy.

The Prestini Project is organized under the umbrella of 'The Heritage Network' — a region wide nonprofit founded in 2005 to assist local organizations in uncovering and preserving the area's historical resources. Three of The Heritage Network's many member organizations are currently

working on the Prestini Project — the Stevens County Historical Society, the Loon Lake Historical Society, and the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society. The objectives of these groups is to produce a one hour DVD showcasing the life and artistry of Leno Prestini, to publish a biography containing high quality reproductions of many of his paintings, sketches, and other artwork, and to stage a major multi-community exhibit of those works.

The current target date for the completion of all the Project's goals is late 2010.

The more ambitious aims of this project are heavily dependent on the availability of grants and donations. However, the collection of first person remembrances by the Loon Lake and Clayton/Deer Park groups will go on regardless of the success of these other goals. After all, Leno was ours.

More information about this project can be obtained at:

[http://
www.lenoprestini.com](http://www.lenoprestini.com)
www.loonlakehistoricalsociety.com
www.stevenscountyhistoricalsociety.com
www.claytondeerparkhistoricalsociety.com
www.TheHeritageNetwork.org

Letters To The Society

**Please Note:
All comments, corrections, and criticisms printed can
and will be edited by the society for clarity, brevity, and
— if necessary — content.**

This letter is in reference to the article "Stepping to the Side: A Dynamite Primer", found in Volume Four of the *Reports to the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society*.

— Faye Reilly writes —

On page 150, in the part about Weber Hardware, John Weber said that they never stored dynamite in the Deer Park store. The fact is they did. I delivered to the store for many years, and we unloaded dynamite right along with the paint, glassware, pots, pans, bolts, nails, and other items.

In early spring, the store's owner, Gene Weber, would begin taking pre-orders for dynamite.

When the railroad car carrying those orders arrived, he or one of his employees would call the customers and ask them to come and take delivery of their dynamite at the railroad siding in Deer Park — directly off the car.

At other times of the year, Oriard Powder Company would deliver cases of dynamite to our Spokane freight dock, and that evening I'd haul it out to Weber's in my truck. We'd let the truck sit on the street overnight, and unload into the store the next morning.

When I was still in school, I recall my dad picking dynamite up at Weber's store. They may have had storage sites outside of town, but I can't recall going anywhere except the store itself.

I just wanted to clarify that.

The following letters are in response to a request in the *Loon Lake Times* for information about Clayton's former Phillips 66 service station.

Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society
Newsletter — Issue # 1 (May) — 2008

— Philip Leliefeld writes —

I worked at the Phillips 66 station from the time I was in the 8th grade. I not only learned station work, but Carl Lindh had me doing all kinds of jobs, such as fixing fence, haying, fixing roofs on his barns, and all sorts of odd jobs — the experience of which has helped me all through the years.

Don Lindh did the oil changes, lube and grease jobs, tire repairs, and other car maintenance. He was quiet and a really nice guy to work with.

They always had a small supply of grocery items such as bread, ice cream, cigarettes, and pop.

They also had a TV tube tester for old TVs. If a TV broke down, one could take the tubes to the station and test them. Carl and Don kept a supply of TV tubes there.

After they moved to the new location on Highway 395, they built a large building and sold military surplus clothing, as well as other types of clothing, at low prices. He sold everything from gas masks to air mattresses. He also had livestock feed and salt blocks for the farmers in the area. The locals called it the Clayton Crescent.

Carl had a large dog he used for a watchdog inside the “Crescent” building. He left it there every night. One night someone broke into the building, and hit the dog over the head - just to steal several items. Carl was very upset as he thought a lot of his dog. He was very caring about both people and animals.

I remember the Phillips 66 as a gathering place for the locals. There were lots of jokes, laughter, and tricks played on one another.

One of my memories is when Leno Prestini was painting his picture of a bear climbing an old snag. Leno sometimes painted in the station, sitting his easel on the ice-cream freezer.

As I remember, the coffee pot was always on, and everyone was always welcome.

— Alaine Leliefeld-Qualls wrote —

My folks moved to Clayton in 1945. As I remember, Ray Scrivens and Carl Lindh started the Phillips 66 station. Don Lindh joined them after he returned from the army. After a time, Ray went to doing something else.

I recall the TV room they fixed up in the

garage across the street from the station. The people of Clayton would gather to watch the programs. My folks were one of the first to buy a TV from Carl and Don. Burton Stewart, our mail carrier, maintained the TVs for the local community.

— Alaine and Philip’s mother, Irene, add —

The Lindhs always seemed to think up new things for the town of Clayton, such as the little soft-serve ice cream establishment which was run by their wives - Dorothy and Marilyn. The people really enjoyed it. Later they started a small fast-food drive in.

When Carl worked as a substitute mail carrier for the local post office, Don would take over all the work at the garage.

The station also served as the bus stop for the Clayton kids.

The boys always provided young people jobs. My brother, Bill Dellinger, started working there when he was about 15. He was away with the Air Force during the Korean war, but he returned he went back to work at the Phillips 66, and continued with them - delivering fuel and fuel oil - until his retirement.

Summers and weekends since he was in the 8th grade, my son Phillip work there. He earned college money, and learned a lot.

Ed Hartell was another of the local kids they hired. Ed was so kind to me and my sister Vergie after we were widowed, checking to make sure our cars were in good running order.

Carl and Don extended credit to those who needed it, and let them pay as they could. I remember how charitable they were to Charlie Sherrill, giving him a place to live, and taking care of him until he passed away.

Carl and Don always cared about the people of the community, and they hold a special place in our hearts.



Recent Society Minutes

The C/DPHS holds its meeting the second Saturday of every month at the Clayton Drive In. Each meeting lasts approximately one hour, after which many members stay to visit and have breakfast. Meetings are informal, and anyone wishing to attend is welcome to do so.

Members, associates, and guests attending one or more of the last several meetings included Bill Sebright, Wally & Pat Parker, Bob Gibson, Warren & Lorraine Nord, Marilyn and Faye Reilly, Bob & Mary Clouse, Rob Higgins, Mark Wagner, Cliff Meyer, Duane Costa, Don & Lorraine Ball, Jack Erickson, Dorothy Kincaid, and Eloise Trimboth.

Among the items on February's agenda — Warren Nord presented Wally Parker with a hand-drawn map of the major buildings and business in Clayton as of 1955. Warren said he had major help from Eddie Olson in recalling the layout. The hope is to eventually create a decade-by-decade atlas and data base of both Clayton and Deer Park for use in various research projects. Any help in this regard would be greatly appreciated.

Society webmaster Bob Clouse reported that he had posted the society's entire collection of Lawrence Zimmerer's photos on the society's website. He also noted that the website had recorded 577 unique email addresses visiting the site at least once, and possibly more, in the month of January.

Highlights of the March meeting include Marilyn Reilly's unveiling of the new society banner intended to draw attention to the society's booth at this coming summer's Old Settlers and Clayton Days celebrations. This banner has been an ongoing pro-

ject for Mrs. Reilly.

The Deer Park Hospital Auxiliary, represented by Dorothy Kincaid and Eloise Trimboth, asked the society to help save whatever possible of the history of Deer Park's Hospital — now that the Hospital is being closed. Dorothy will organize the auxiliary's records, dating back to the hospital's founding, and deliver those to the society for safekeeping. Efforts to save other historical records will be undertaken by both Auxiliary and society members. An associate of the society has expressed interest in using these archives to write a chronological history of the hospital.

Bill Sebright announced that the Loon Lake Historical Society had presented our group with the construction plans for the building that once contained Clayton's Leno Prestini Museum. The building was long ago sold and converted into a private residence. Upon closure, the Prestini family donated sixty-one of Leno's paintings and many of the museum's other artifacts to the Stevens County Historical Society. The plans consist of the original architect's one-sheet perspective, and the actual blueprints. Our thanks to Karen Renner-Meyer, whose father, Ben Renner, actually helped with the building's construction, and the Loon Lake Historical Society for the donation of these unique papers.

Anyone having questions about society meetings and other related issues is invited to contact either Bill Sebright or Wally Lee Parker — both are in the telephone book. They will attempt to answer your inquiries.

Society Tours Deer Park's Olsen Building — Gordon Grove Takes Members On Tour —

Saturday, January 12, 2008

After the close of the society's monthly meeting, members and associates of the C/DPHS gathered at the southwest corner of Deer Park's Main and 1st Street for a tour of the Olsen Building — a tour guided by Gordon Grove, a member of the family that currently owns the structure.

Accessible by a stairway rising from street

level entry doors, the building's upper level has space for four offices on the street side, with a large theater "pavilion" toward the rear.

Doctor Glenn Snyder's first Deer Park office was located here, overlooking Main Street, and, as society member Bob Clouse commented after puffing up the steep steps, "I pity the poor souls that had to negotiate those stairs when hurting."

The pavilion area, approximately seventy

**Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society
Newsletter — Issue # 1 (May) — 2008**

by seventy feet, occupies at least two-thirds of the upper floor. The pavilion area is separated from the office area by a long hall. At the beginning of the hall is a small ticket office — since the pavilion once offered dances, movies, and live plays.

The stage area is located on the south side of the pavilion. The stage floor bows outward into the pavilion, with a trough deep enough to hide the stage lights inset into its lip. The stage is fairly shallow, but accessible from either wing. And propped against the back of the stage are background props — canvas over wood frames, once painted to possibly resemble store fronts or some such, but now faded beyond recognition.

On learning of our tour, Clayton's Eddie Olson, now ninety years old, said, "The very first dance I had with Lucille — the girl I would marry — was in that hall." Lucille Olson has been gone for many years now.

The building's first floor has been occupied by the R. R. Grove Department Store, and at least several different drugstores over the years. Currently the Secondhand Rose occupies the south side of the building, while the corner store remains unoccupied.

The society wishes to thank Gordon for the privilege of touring this historic site.

Over The Kitchen Table
— editorial ruminations —
— by Wally Lee Parker —

And how exactly did Indiana Jones survive on the 'outside' of a submarine as it traversed the width of the Mediterranean Sea submerged?

Do you love a mystery? Does an unanswered question keep you awake? Do you enjoy putting puzzles together, but hate tearing them apart when done? If so, have we got a deal for you!

History is composed of a billion fragments of data. Some in photographs, some in letters, some in newsprint, some on microfiche, some buried in boxes of records left by long dead corporations. It's a puzzle.

Would you be determined enough to find the stories hidden in historic fragments? Would you be willing to spend countless hours in pursuit of the thinnest clue — even knowing that sometimes the apparent clues are illusions that don't actually exist, and the puzzle you're trying to put together can never be solved? But when successful, would you be willing to record your work for posterity, proud to show everyone the results — never having to tear the puzzle apart again?

History is found in grandma's recollections of her childhood. In the old tractor rusting away on the back forty. In the dusty scrub-board leaning quietly in the attic. In the stories shared by elders while they sip coffee and reminisce over the kitchen table.

Do you fancy yourself a writer? Do you

think you could write a story, if you only had a good plot for that story? Well, why not talk to grandma? Listen to her stories. Then write them down. Pull the scrub-board out of the attic. Run your hands across the bone-dry wood and tarnished metal until you hear the past speaking to you. Then write it down. Sit, steering wheel in hand, on that rusty old tractor. Feel the heat, smell the dust, hear the chugging engine reverberate through the parched breeze of ancient summers long dissolved into history. Then write it down.

And then take the risk of seeing what you've written printed on the pages of the "Reports To The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society".

Do you fancy yourself an artist? Can you draw a reasonable likeness? To a great extent the past is just a ghostly shadow, a trace of image held in the imagination. An artist can project that image onto paper — for everyone to see.

Trace a bit of history, then take the risk of seeing it impressed on the pages of the "Reports".

Fancy yourself a treasure hunting archeologist, full of flash and daring-do? Too bad that there aren't any Inca temples within walking distance of Deer Park. But how about taking your camera, map, and GPS high into the mountains above Horseshoe Lake in search of the remains of the mythical lost Arcadia pipeline — the pipeline that legend says once carried water from Calispell Creek

**Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society
Newsletter — Issue # 1 (May) — 2008**

all the way to Deer Lake?

No natives with poison darts are likely to wait in ambush, but will an occasional rattlesnake or ornery landowner suffice?

Get off your butt and live your dream — maybe not as large as Indiana Jones, but his life was fiction while yours doesn't have to be. Have your name recorded as the discoverer of the truth. Be a bit larger than someone who spends his entire life watching from a distance as other people live their adventure.

Eyes tired, straining against the glare as page after page of microfiche newsprint slides across

the viewer. And then a headline draws note. Something clicks inside your mind. A recognized name or event resolves, and another bit of puzzle falls into place. It's a little triumph you'll want to share.

It's adventure — of a sort. It's a challenge — of a sort. But mostly it's something worthwhile, in so far as when you're done you have something permanent to show for your effort. In the most literal sense of the word, you've just made history.

Why not join us in this adventure? A battered fedora and bullwhip are optional. Let your imagination lead the way.

Tuffy's War

The C/DPHS recently began a series of interviews with former area resident Alvin "Tuffy" Luhr — stepson of Clayton's Peter Berg. Tuffy has a long history throughout the area as a businessman specializing in the lumber industry, and, though approaching his ninetieth birthday, he's still active as an industry consultant.

Before the beginning of World War II, Tuffy, along with a handful of area residents, wanted to learn how to fly. Tuffy went into partnership with his brother, Orland, and with Willis Grove and Gilbert Schranger to purchase Deer Park's first locally owned airplane, a 40 horsepower Piper Cub.

With professional instruction, the boys did learn to fly.

Orland went on to become a single-engine flight instructor at Luke Army Air Force Base in Arizona. Second Lieutenant Luhr was killed in 1944 — the results of a mid-air collision over the mountains north of Luke Field.

Willis Grove completed 25 missions over Europe as a B-17 bombardier.

Tuffy spent a good portion of the war with the Civil Air Patrol. In 1944 he entered the army, and was involved in ground combat in Europe. His only experience at flying for the military was when substituting for an Army Air Corp light aircraft pilot who had been wounded by small arms fire while spotting for artillery. For six hours — until another Air Corp pilot could be brought forward — Tuffy was in the Air Force.

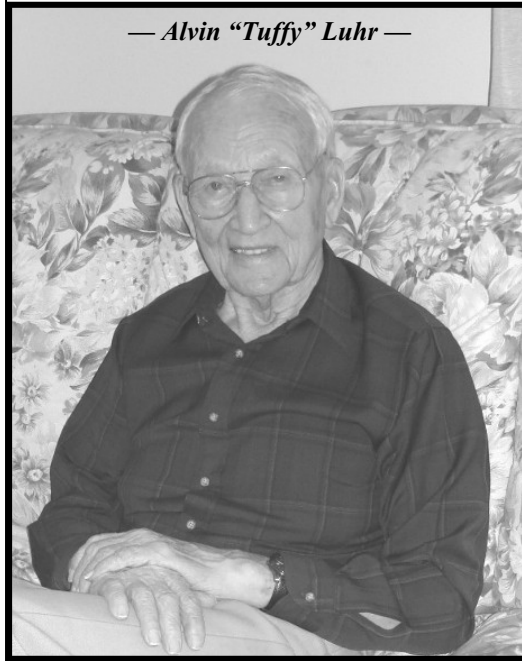
No details about Gilbert Schranger are currently available.

The society hopes to obtain at least several more interviews with Mister Luhr. His life is proving to be too rich in detail for the bare sketching possible with just a few hours of taped interview.

We are also pursuing all available military data on his brother Orland — data such as the military's official report regarding the incident in which Orland was killed.

Gordon Grove, son of Willis Grove, is

— Alvin "Tuffy" Luhr —



**Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society
Newsletter — Issue # 1 (May) — 2008**

searching through family photos and documents, trying to gather as much data as possible on his father's military career.

Anyone having information regarding any

of the above mentioned men, or regarding anyone else whose military career they believe we should be made aware of, are asked to contact the society.

4th Deer Park Steam Locomotive Identified — 5th Hinted At —

The Deer Park Lumber Company and its corporate predecessor, the Standard Lumber Company of Deer Park, are known to have owned and operated steam engines as part of their logging operations. These engines ran either on tracks belonging to the two corporations through their wholly owned subsidiary railway companies — “Deer Park Central” for the Standard Lumber, and the “Deer Park Railway Company” for Deer Park Lumber — or they ran over regular mainline tracks, assumably by agreement with the tracks' owner.

Railroad historians had previously identified three of these engines for us, and have recently added a fourth. The three previous engines, all geared locomotives that were designed especially for logging and mining operations, included two nearly identical Lima Shay B 42-2 engines — shop numbers 2219 and 2715 — and a C-70 Climax engine — shop number 1596.

Shop number 2219 was built in 1909 for the Moore Logging Company of Wickersham, Washington. It was placed up for sale by Deer Park Lumber in 1926. Shop number 2715 was constructed in 1913 for the Salt Lake & Alta Railroad Company. Purchased in January of 1922, Deer Park was the third owner of this engine. Shop number 1596, a Climax locomotive built in 1922 was purchased new by Deer Park Lumber in August of that same year.

An article about the three above geared locomotives, as well as a discussion of the differences between geared and rod type steam engines, can be found beginning on page 158 (volume four) of the *Reports to the Clayton/Deer Park historical Society*.

To an internet request for more data, railroad historian Martin Hansen replied, “Deer Park Lumber had the geared engines you listed, but they also had a least one rod-type engine. This ‘rod’ engine was built by the (Brooks Locomotive Works) in September, 1892. She was a 2-8-0 that weighted

65 tons. She carried construction number 2157, and had 55 inch drive wheels. She was bought by Deer Park Lumber in August of 1928. I’ve no details as to its fate.”

Another railroad historian, Dale Jones of Beaverton, Oregon, told the society that his information indicated that Deer Park Lumber Company may have own as many as five steam locomotives. And recently found material from our local newspaper, the Deer Park Union, tends to corroborate that belief — although the original articles from which these snippets appear to have been taken have not yet become available.

On March 28th, 1913, the Union reported that “B. F. Steeley left for Duluth, Minnesota, ... to bring back a new locomotive for the Standard Lumber Company's logging road”. Unless there is an error in the previously obtained material, this is likely the fifth engine Dale Jones alluded to.

Another fragment from the same issue of the Union — whether from the same article or another isn't clear — states that “The Standard Lumber Company began building its logging railroad north from the plant this week. It taps timber in the hills north of town. Twenty men are at work.”

Although not positive, this does suggest that the above unknown engine was the first for the lumber company. We know that Standard Lumber Company did own a corporate railroad — the Deer Park Central — when the company was sold and reformed as the Deer Park Lumber Company in 1914. Deer Park Central was listed as one of Standard Lumber Company's holdings at the time of sale.

Have all the locomotives once owned by Deer Park's sawmills been uncovered? We don't know. But bit by bit at least a few specifics about the local lumber company's history before the advent of practical lumber trucks are being teased from such remaining fragments of history.

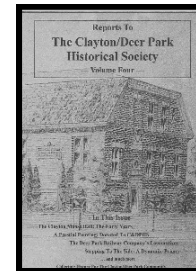
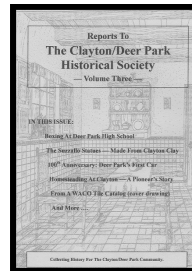
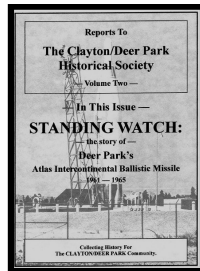
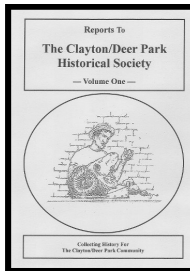
Historical Society Publications Available Locally

The Clayton/Deer Park historical society was first formed in 2002 in an attempt to save the old Clayton schoolhouse for public use. As part of that effort, the group officially incorporated in January of 2003 as the Clayton Historical Society. The society was instrumental in placing the old school on the National Register of Historic Places, and, when the building was refurbished as a working school, the society had accomplished its original goal.

Recently the group added Deer Park to the society's name. This was done to better reflect the geographic area from which the society's membership is drawn, and to better delineate the society's area of interest.

Our mission statement can be found on the front page of this publication, just to the left of the publication's name. One item in that agenda reads, "the art of making this common heritage accessible to the public." One expression of this 'art' is the growing number of publications produced by the society.

Currently these publications consist of a continuing series of booklets titled "Reports To The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society". Copies of all four volumes so far published are available for a small donation at the Clayton Drive In in Clayton, and the Loon Lake Historical Society's 'Old School House' at Loon Lake.



Society Website

Robert Clouse is webmaster for the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society. He has done a remarkable job in placing an impressive number of photos and documents on the society's website. For anyone with even a passing interest in the history of this area, it would be advisable to visit ...

<http://www.claytondeerparkhistoricalsociety.com>

... or just type **Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society** into your search-engine. Either way, prepare to be impressed.

Write, eMail, Or Visit Us

The society holds an open meeting at the Clayton Drive In on the second Saturday of every month at 9:00 AM. Everyone is invited, and no RSVP is required.

If you want to email us directly, you can visit our website for our email addresses.

We are always interested in hearing from

anyone with stories and/or photos to share. Letters for publication (or not) are always welcome.

If you'd like to write the Mortarboard's editor, send your snail-mail to ...

Bogwen Desktop Publications
6904 N. Stevens
Spokane, WA 99208-4015