The C/DPHS is an association of individuals dedicated to the preservation of the history of our community. To the preservation of the region's oral history, literary history, social history, graphic and pictorial history, and our history as represented by the region's artifacts and structures. To the preservation of this history for future generations. To the art of making this common heritage accessible to the public. And to the act of collaborating with other individuals and organizations sharing similar goals.

# THE CLAYTON/DEER PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Mortarboard

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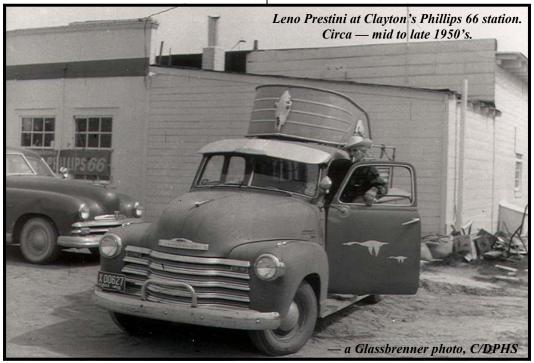
# Leno Prestini's "Premiere Exhibit" At Gonzaga's Crosby Library Nevember 1960

— November, 1960 —

Consisting of nineteen canvases, the first and possibly only staged showing of Clayton resident Leno Prestini's artwork was organized by Leno's friend, Father Louis St. Marie, S. J., Associate Professor of English at Gonzaga University in Spokane. No record is currently available as to the interest this showing may have

generated at the time.

The one remaining artifact from this 1960 exhibit known to exist is a mimeographed handout containing a forward penned by Father Louis St. Marie. As such, this mimeograph likely contains the only learned critique of Leno's work contemporary to his time. The original of this document is held in



the Special Collections of the Foley Library at Gonzaga University. It is reproduced here by permission — for which the society is both grateful and delighted.

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#### **Paintings on Exhibit**

The Last Buffalo (1959) - Old Deer Park 1910 (1960) - Lost Dutchman (1960) - Footprints in the Dust (1945) - Dutchman's Gold (1960) - Fantasy (no date) - Old Red Mill (1958) - Winter Night (1959)-Autumn Idyll (1960) - Unhappy Cure (1960) - So Late (1952) - Line Cabin (1946) - Dollar Sign (1959) - Rainbow Trail. (1952) - Matador (1954) - Doors of Life (1957) - War Pony (1959) - Depression, 1933 (1937) - Shifting, Whispering Sands. (1955)

——— from the Louis St. Marie, S. J. Papers, Jesuit Oregon Province Archives, Gonzaga University. Used by permission - with special thanks to David A. Kingma, JOPA Archivist.

### **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.

Charles "Chuck" Stewart of Pasco, Washington, writes ...

Alaine Qualls' letter in the Spring '08 Mortarboard (Issue # 1, Page 2) about Burton Stewart, my Dad, fixing TVs brings back many memories. Dad got his electronics training in the Army Signal

Corps during WW2, fixing aircraft and ground station radios while stationed at Chico, California. I don't know when he started fixing radios and TVs for local folks, but I do remember a lot of activity during the 1950s and 60s. Our folks bought our first TV set, a Crosley table model, in 1955 when we were still living on the farm west of Clayton. It never seemed to need much fixing, but many others did. Sometimes Dad would go to people's homes to diagnose a problem, but most often he would bring sets home from Carl's after completing the day's mail route.

After dinner newspapers were spread on the kitchen table and someone's TV set was plugged in to warm up for testing. Dad would probe the nest of soldered terminals (this was long before printed circuit boards) with his volt-amp-ohm meter and find the source of the trouble. Most of the time it was a resistor or "condenser" that he could replace out of his stock of spares — filling the house with the spicy smell of soldering. Often, however, a vacuum tube was the culprit that required an afternoon trip to a wholesale electronics store in North Spokane. My sister and I always hated those stops because we had to wait in the hot car forever before Dad emerged with the parts.

After the set was repaired, especially after replacing the picture tube, the set would be left on all night for the new parts to "burn in". Dad would get up early to adjust the picture using the "test pattern" that the stations broadcast before their regular programming started. I sometimes "helped" by watching the picture as Dad turned knobs in back, informing him when it stopped rolling, when it was square, or whatever he wanted to know.

Car radios were Dad's nemesis. Their vacuum tubes didn't stand up to the vibration of the unpaved roads of those days, so they were constantly in need of repair. The bad part was that many of the owners expected Dad to crawl under the dash to get them out, and remove screws and bolts in impossibly tight places, then put them back in when repaired. Car radio chassis were also very tight and hard to work on. He was relieved by the advent of transistors and printed circuits in the late 1960s that made them somewhat reliable.

The first TV sets were black & white of course. But I'll always remember when Dad took me into the back room at Carl Lindh's Phillips 66 station to see the new "color TV set". It must have been 1956 or 57. We went in just as the Ozzie and Harriet show was starting, just when they showed the front of their big white house. It was amazing to see the blue sky, the white house and the green grass on the TV. But I was really puzzled when a smiling Ozzie and Harriet and family appeared with blue hair, white faces and green clothes! The "color TV" was a multicolored piece of transparent plastic that someone taped to the front of the TV! It may have been Leno Prestini - it was something he would have done. I was not impressed — too naïve to catch the humor.

Editor's note: The colored plastic overlay Chuck describes was, in the early 1950s, commonly advertised in magazines and such as a mail-order wonder device that would turn any black & white television into a color set for only \$4.95 — or thereabouts. The advertisement was worded in such a way that the manner in which the vaguely described product achieved this wonderful transformation wasn't revealed until the 'victim' opened the package.

The society's own webmaster, Bob Clouse, sent this note to the Mortarboard's editor. This is an extension to Bob's story titled *Boxing At Deer Park High School*, which begins on page 133 (Volume 3) of the *Reports to the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society*, as well as being posted on the website.

In the spring of 1946 — after the school year's basketball and boxing were history — everyone's interest turned to track. A few of us high school freshmen were loitering under an old apple tree out behind the Crawford Street gym. We were loitering right next to the school's track — where some of the older boys were practicing race starts, high-jumping, hop skip and jumps, and things like that.

Rotted to mush apples were lying all around on the ground. But some were still firm enough to hold their shape if you picked them up. And for some reason it seemed like a good idea to pick one of those up — an especially juicy one — and test my pitching ability just as the guys took off down the track in one of their practice standing starts.

Of all the people, it was the side of Kenny Fisher's head that ran into my apple.

I knew who Kenny Fisher was. I was on the boxing team. I had watched Kenny annihilate every one of his opponents that winter.

Kenny did a ninety degree turn without missing a stride. He confronted us with flashing eyes as rotten apple dribbled down onto his nice, clean tracksuit. He did not appear to be amused.

"Who threw that apple?"

Silence. The whole track team had their eyes on us.

There was nothing I could do other than

say, "I did."

daisies. I'm sure it was only a few seconds that we back to practice. stood there, eyes locked, but it felt like an hour.

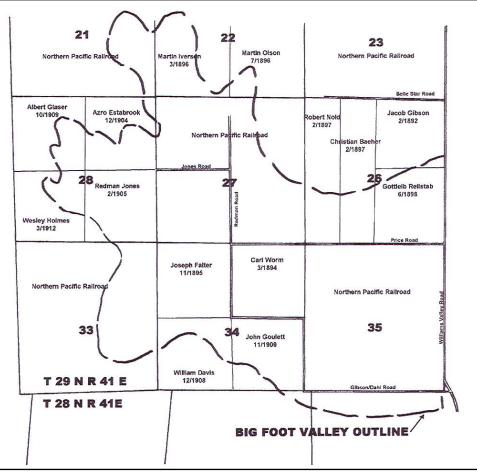
So what did Deer Park's most formidable If looks could kill I would be pushing up athlete do? He just pivoted on his heels and went

### Early Residents of the Big Foot Valley By **Pete Coffin**

Big Foot Valley is a relatively small area about three miles southwest of Clayton in Stevens County, Washington. It covers about 6 square miles of the south half of Township 29 North, Range 41 East WM. On the map below, the heavy lines west of Williams Valley Road shows the approximate

boundary of the valley.

The map is annotated with the names and dates of land assignments granted by the United States Government to homestead applicants and the Northern Pacific Railroad under the Homestead Act of 1864. The Homestead Act gave title to a 160-acre



tract of land to a person over 21 years of age that lived on the land for 5 years and built a small house on the tract.

The map shows that the earliest settler was probably a Jacob Gleason who probably filed for a homestead in the NE/4 Section 26, Township 29 North, Range 41 East WM in 1887. This tract is on the far east side of the Big Foot Valley.

Many of the original homestead tract have changed hands a number of times since they were first patented. However, one tract, the William Davis homestead — SW/4 Section 34 Township 29 North, Range 41 East WM — is still in the possession of descendants with the name Davis. This is unusual in that in the greater Clayton, Big Foot Valley, Williams Valley, and Wild Rose Prairie area only two other homesteads are owned by descendants under their original family name.

Some patented tracts have changed hands one or two times only. The Jacob Falter homestead — NW/4 Section 34 Township 29 North, Range 41 East WM — was sold to the Enfield family in the period 1900 to 1910. In 1910 the tract was sold to the Elden Corey Coffin family and is still owned by Coffin descendants. Portions of the John Goulett

homestead — SE Section 34 Township 29 North Range 41 East WM — were sold to the Michie family in the period from 1910 to 1920. A 40-acre tract is still owned by a Michie family descendant.

Two of the roads in the Big Foot Valley were named for early homesteader Redman Jones who homesteaded the SE/4 Section 28 Township 29 North, Range 41 East WM. He and two other early settlers were supposedly the source of the Big Foot name according to my family. John Goulett and another resident all supposedly had exceptionally large feet and thus were the source of the name. My family always referred to the intersection of Price Road and Redman Road as Teves Corner. And individual named Robert Teves lived in the SE/4 of Section 27 Township 29 North, Range 41 East WM and is listed on the 1920 Census of the Clayton area.

In the past 10 years the land in Big Foot Valley has been divided and sold in smaller and smaller tracts to individuals and families wanting to live in a rural setting. There are only a few remote tracts containing a quarter section or more of undivided land left.

### Recent Society Minutes (April and May)

Members, associates, and guest attending one or both of the last several meetings include Bill Sebright, Mark Wagner, Rob Higgins, Robert Clouse, Mary Clouse, Wally Lee Parker, Patricia Parker, Warren Nord, Lorraine Nord, Marilyn Reilly, Don Ball, Lorraine Ball, Duane Costa, Bob Gibson, Ray Hall, Grace Hubal, Dorothy Kincaid, Aaron Olson, Arlene Olson, Jeff Lilly, Bob Lemley, and Paul Erickson.

The April meeting began with President Bill Sebright's report regarding his recent meeting with Colleen Febach, Administrator of the now closed Deer Park Hospital. The administration donated several items to the society's archives.

Bill also met with Shauna Ferguson, Secretary, Deer Park School District. Shauna allowed Bill to copy the school district's 1915 manual. She gave him original 1958 and 1980 programs from the opening ceremonies for Deer Park's new high schools. And finally, she added the missing names to our list of former school district superintendents

— 1915 to present.

The first printing of the first edition of the society's new newsletter, the Mortarboard, hit the streets with 75 copies. The Mortarboard will be published at least quarterly, and more often if sufficient news is available. Bill said copies of the 'free' newsletter have been left at the Clayton Drive In, Deer Park Bowling Alley, Deer Park Chamber of Commerce, Loon Lake Historical Society's Old School House, and Loon Lake's Moose Murals.

After a given number of pages of the newsletters have been published, those pages will be collected into a series of booklets that will then be available for a small donation. This will assure that anyone looking for information or stories from previous issues of the newsletter will always be able to find a copy.

Perhaps the highlight of the April meeting occurred when Bob and Mary Clouse presented the society with one of Bob's Golden Glove pendants, as well as the three ribbons Bob won boxing for Deer

Park High School. We were delighted.

Twenty people crowded around the Clayton Drive In fireplace for May's meeting.

Bill Sebright reported the society's progress in its effort to identify all of the community's old schools. "We want to complete this list and identify the original locations of these mostly rural primary schools," he said. In response, Marilyn Reilly added 'Arcadia, formerly located at the corner of Cedar and Westmoreland, to Bill's list.

Aaron and Arlene (Pugh) Olson talked about the Ed Olson farm on north Dalton Road. Aaron's father owned the 6 Pines Dairy and delivered milk all around Deer Park.

Between 1941 and 1947, Arlene's parents owned what is now Deer Park's Levi's Market at Railroad and Fourth. Mister Pugh bought the market from Gillinghams, and sold it to Randalls.

Aaron was asked if he could confirm this story related by Alvin 'Tuffy' Luhr during one of Tuffy's recent interviews with the C/DPHS. This incident likely occurred in late 1941.

Tuffy said, "Marjorie and I used to fly down to Coulee Dam every once in awhile — that was back in the construction days. It was a good Sunday morning flight. Trouble was, toward autumn you could start out with a beautiful morning, and end up with fog. One time we came back and I couldn't see the airport. I spotted the Deer Park water tower, and was thinking I could just about estimate where the airport's runway was from that. Before I took the chance of dropping down into the mist blind, I decided to circle around the area a few more times. That's when I spotted an open patch north of town. So we came down on Ed Olson's farm — out in one of his fields."

Aaron responded, "Tuffy landed his Piper Cub out on the farm more than once. The family knew him well."

Another special guest was Spokane's Bob Lemley. Bob is a former missileer with the Strategic Air Command. His memories of Deer Park revolve around his tours of duty inside Deer Park's Atlas ICBM bunker back in the early 1960's. His recollections, along with those of a number of other former missileers, can be found in volume two of the Reports to the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society.

Visiting from Colorado, Paul Erickson, son of John Erickson and Katy (Fisher) Erickson, stopped by. One topic discussed was the area's con-

nection with the Norwegian town of Trysil. A number of the area's family-lines can be traced back to Trysil. And there is an active international society interested in reconnecting the descendants of Trysil's dispersed population with the town's family histories and cultural heritage. More information about this can be found on the C/DPHS website.

Before being physically moved from Clayton, Deer Park's Zion Lutheran Church was called the Trysil Lutheran Church. Clayton's Zion Cemetery was originally know as the Trysil cemetery.

It was pointed out that Martin Iverson and Martin Olson, both among the Big Foot Valley's original homesteaders, were Trysil descendants. More information about these homesteaders, as well as a map pinpointing the locations of their homesteads, can be found in Pete Coffin's "Early Residents" article beginning on page 13 of this issue of the Mortarboard.

Paul also donated a number of artifacts to the society's collection — including an antique smudge pot believed to have been used in the Arcadia orchards, and a book of early Deer Park city maps showing, among other things, the path taken through the city by the Arcadia Orchards Company's irrigation flume. Paul has also agreed to keep in contact with the society as an associate-at-large, and act as society ambassador at this summer's Trysil reunion in Norway.

Webmaster Bob Clouse reports that the number of visitors to the society's website in April edged perilously close to the 800 mark. Though we know that almost 800 unique email address sign onto to site at least once, we can't determine how many times any given address reconnected with the site. Regardless of whether they sign in just once in passing, or sign back on a hundred times, our counter will only record the first visit. And then, at midnight on the last day of the month, the site's visitor counter is cleared of memory, and the cycle starts all over again. Considering all this, almost 800 unique visitors in one month is a very good number.

Last month Bob was contacted by Minnestoa's Tulla Froyen, representative of the Ameriacn Trysil group. Tulla found the website while surfing the net for Norwegian names, and was so taken by Bob's work on the website that she alerted the entire Trysil conspiracy of the website's existence — one of the members of that conspiracy being Paul Erickson. Because of this, Bob is suspi-

cious that a lot of the site's recent activity has come from Norway — although the site's month to month trend has been steadily upward since inception. Since Norway is not currently part of the Axis of Evil, and therefore not a concern of Homeland Security, we feel safe in saying, "Good going, Bob."

The society holds it meetings on the sec-

ond Saturday of every month at the Clayton Drive In — beginning at 9 AM. Each meeting last approximately one hour, after which many member and associates stay to visit and have breakfast. Meetings are informal, and anyone wishing to attend is welcome to do so.

## Reconstructing The Arcadia Flume Details Regarding The Irrigation Flume's Transit Of Deer Park

The Arcadia Orchards Company's irrigation project is a very large part of the early history of the Deer Lake, Loon Lake, Clayton, and Deer Park communities. Except for an occasional surviving apple tree, or scattering of concrete monoliths, little physical evidence of that project remains. One of the ongoing hopes of the C/DPHS is to be able to construct a detailed map of the system. Toward that end we have been evaluating every scrap of evidence to come our way.

The clipping to the right — used here by permission of the Loon Lake Historical Society — is taken from a 1910 map produced by the Arcadia Company illustrating the company's "water supply and main canals". Among other features, the full map traces what the company calls the "high line canal" as it exits Loon Lake, bows northeast from the Clayton area, and then — on the west side of Spotted Road — turns due east in a straight line running parallel to and about ½ mile above Bridges Road. This high line canal continues east for 5½ miles.

The first two miles of this eastward run is shown on the Arcadia map as being a "siphon". We are likely to better understand the actual process by using the term reverse-siphon.

At the point where this reverse-siphon is used, the high line canal crosses the drainage basins of three head-water branches of Deer Park's Dragoon Creek. Since the level of the land slopes down into these drainage basins, in order to maintain the canal's water level either the canal would have to be elevated above the downward sloping land, or the canal's water would have to be contained in a pipe capable of withstanding water pressure. If contained within said pipe, that pipe could then follow the contour of the land until the land level once again rose close to the altitude of the original open canal. At that point the water could once again be released



into an open canal, and the normal flow continued.

The material used for these 'siphons' is unspecified, however, literature produced by the Arcadia Orchards Company states that, "The usual type of construction throughout the West for conveying of water is by open ditches or wooden flumes. Several years ago this company took steps to enter into a more permanent type of construction, and during the year 1915 galvanized iron pipe was substituted for wooden flumes upon a large part of the

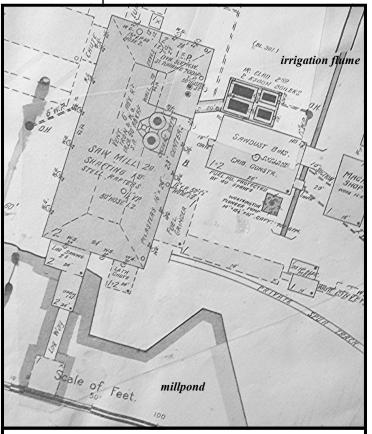
land. This pipe is good for from twenty to thirty years, as our soil is free from alkali or any other element which will cause disintegration of iron pipe."

"While galvanized pipe is of course good, we do not believe it will compare with concrete construction, and during the season of 1916 we have installed approximately 50,000 feet of concrete underground."

This concrete pipe was manufactured by the Deer Park Artificial Stone Company. Their factory was probably located just to the south of 'E' street, and about 90 feet east of the railroad tracks.

Although at the time it was also common to use wooden stave-pipes — in diameters ranging from a few inches to 12 feet — for irrigation projects, the Arcadia doesn't mention wood as being used in anything but flumes. So we must assume that the siphons were either of galvanized metal or concrete. And the literature seems to suggest that when pipelines were used in conjunction with the main canals, those pipes were 4 feet in diameter.

At several locations throughout the Arcadia system, canal water was dumped into natural drainage channels such as streambeds rather than being routed through open ditches, wooden flumes, or metal or concrete pipes. At some point along the streambed, likely by damming the natural channel to impound the flow and raise the water level, the water was extracted — possibly assisted by pumps — and directed into either an open ditch or flume. Since no artificial construction appears to connect the "high line canal" to the "low line canal" as seen in the map on the opposite page, the assumption is that the bed of Dra-



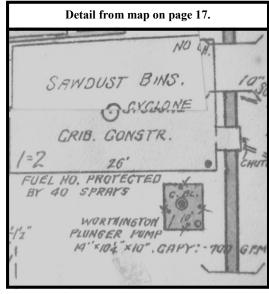
The above segment from one of the Erickson maps shows the Deer Park sawmill, circa 1915. The lower left corner is the millpond. To the right of the sawmill building, and extending out of the upper right corner of this segment, is what the map identifies as a flume. Although not an absolute, it is possible that this is the beginning of the "low line canal". This flume continues on in a straight line to the northeast for approximately 475 feet, and then disappears over the edge of the map.

goon Creek was used to move water south from the upper canal.

The Arcadia map indicates that the Dragoon Creek Reservoir — known locally as the Deer Park Lumber Company millpond — was one such impoundment reservoir. The low line canal is shown exiting the southeast corner of the millpond, and, paralleling along the east side of the Great Northern Railroad's main line. The canal continues south along this route — continues through the southwest corner of the city of Deer Park and then, in a serpentine manner, across another 4½ sections until it once again dumps into Dragoon Creek.

Exactly how the waterway's passage through the streets of Deer Park was accomplished has been a puzzle. A partial solution fell into place when Paul Erickson presented the C/DPHS with a set of 1915 city maps. These maps had long been in Paul's family, and reveal certain details of the waterway's movement through the city.

Extracted from the Erickson maps, the diagram on page 17 shows the Deer Park sawmill as it existed in 1915. What the map identifies as a "flume" can be seen in the upper right hand corner of the diagram. While it can be assumed that the pond raised the water level enough that gravity flow could have moved water along through a short section of underground pipe and into the flume — as possibly indicated by the break between the edge of the pond



and the beginning of the flume — it's also possible that a pump may have raised the water level above the pond's surface level and into a somewhat elevated flume. Accurate measurements of the probable pond surface level compared to the street levels in Deer Park might give us some clue as to which.

The enlarged detail from the Erickson maps seen at the bottom of this page shows a pumphouse sitting to the left of the flume headwater. The legend beneath the pump-house indicates a pump capable of delivering 700 gallons a minute. This is equivalent to 93.58 cubic feet, or about 3½ cubic yards of water a minute. Though the pump could dump 1½ cubic feet of water a second into the flume, it is not an absolute certainty that was the pump's function. And the term "plunger pump" used on the map doesn't seem to match the Arcadia's impeller style pump schematic as seen on page 19.

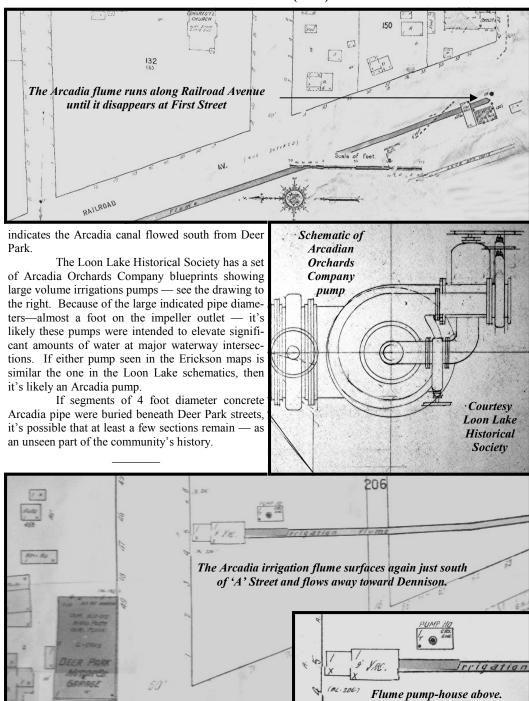
Another legend seen in the below diagram states "FUEL HO. PROTECTED BY 40 SPRAYS." Providing this spray may have been the actual function of the pump. On the other hand, it could well be that the pump was intended to do both, just as the millpond acted as the float pond for sawmill logs, as well as the impoundment for Arcadia Orchards water from the high line canal.

On the Erickson maps, the Arcadia flume disappears off the edge of the sawmill map, and reappears on one of the city maps as a flume running south along Deer Park's Railroad Avenue — just to the east of the main railroad tracks. This flume abruptly ends at the intersection of Railroad and 1st Street — as seen on the upper map on the next page.

The flume reappears on another page of the Erickson maps, rising, as shown in the lower images on the next page, to the south side of 'A' street, and again to the east of the railroad tracks. It is clearly marked "irrigation flume", so there is little doubt that it is a continuation of the same flume seen on the other maps.

Again we have a nearby indication of a pump—this time in the form of a designated pumphouse, with the legend "gas engine" included. The assumption would be that the pump was used to lift canal water to a higher level than possible with the normal equilibrium expected through a reverse-siphon. Though this would be our expectation, we would need something more substantial than an ambiguous legend on a map to affirm such.

From there, the first map in this article



page 19



We believe this photo of downtown Deer Park, looking north on Main Street, was taken about 1910. Of particular interest is the wood frame building on the right. The sign above the entrance says, "Arcadia Orchards Company". And the line below, "Largest In The West".

### Mortarboards Available From Our Website You Can Print Your Own

The C/DPHS newsletter is printed and distributed by the society without charge. This means that only a limited number of copies of any given issue are available. If you've miss an issue, two options are available — visit our website at http://www.claytondeerparkhistoricalsociety.com,

where you can download and/or print any available Mortarboard issue from our PDF files. Or you could wait and buy a copy of our 'Collected Mortarboards' — the first of which should be appearing this coming winter or early next spring.

### **Over The Kitchen Table**

### The Editor's General Ruminations — Spiced With An Occasional Brainstorm

Publishing the Mortarboard reminds me of my mother's potato pancakes — as soon as a plate of mom's tater-cakes hits the table, they were snapped up. The cakes were just a blend of mashed potatoes, minced onions, eggs, milk, and pepper formed into patties and fried in bacon fat on top of our kitchen's wood burning range. But we considered them a treat.

The only thing I can assume from people's reaction to our newsletters — the way they've been snapped up — is that this community is hungry for this kind of thing. That this community is hungry for our hopefully not too pretentious blend of ancient

history and benign gossip.

Publishing these newsletters is part of the art of making this community's common heritage accessible to the public — just like it says in the society's mission statement. I enjoy working on this and other society projects, and I'm sure many of you would too. We meet at the Clayton Drive In — at 9 AM every second Saturday of the month. Join us.

Send any comments or corrections to ...

Wally Lee Parker 6904 N. Stevens Spokane, WA 99208