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THE  
**CLAYTON/DEER PARK  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**Mortarboard**

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**Pioneer Families In The Deer Park/Clayton Area**

— The Westbys —

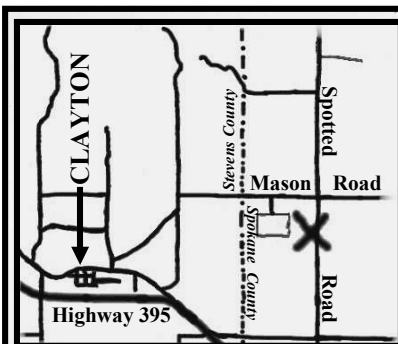
— by Kenneth Westby —

In the late 1800s the Erling K. Westby, Ola A. Westby, and Ole T. Westby families settled near Clayton. Erling (1867-1904) was a half-brother to Ola (1859-1918). Their father, Andreas Anderson, was a first cousin to Ole (1859-1928). All three

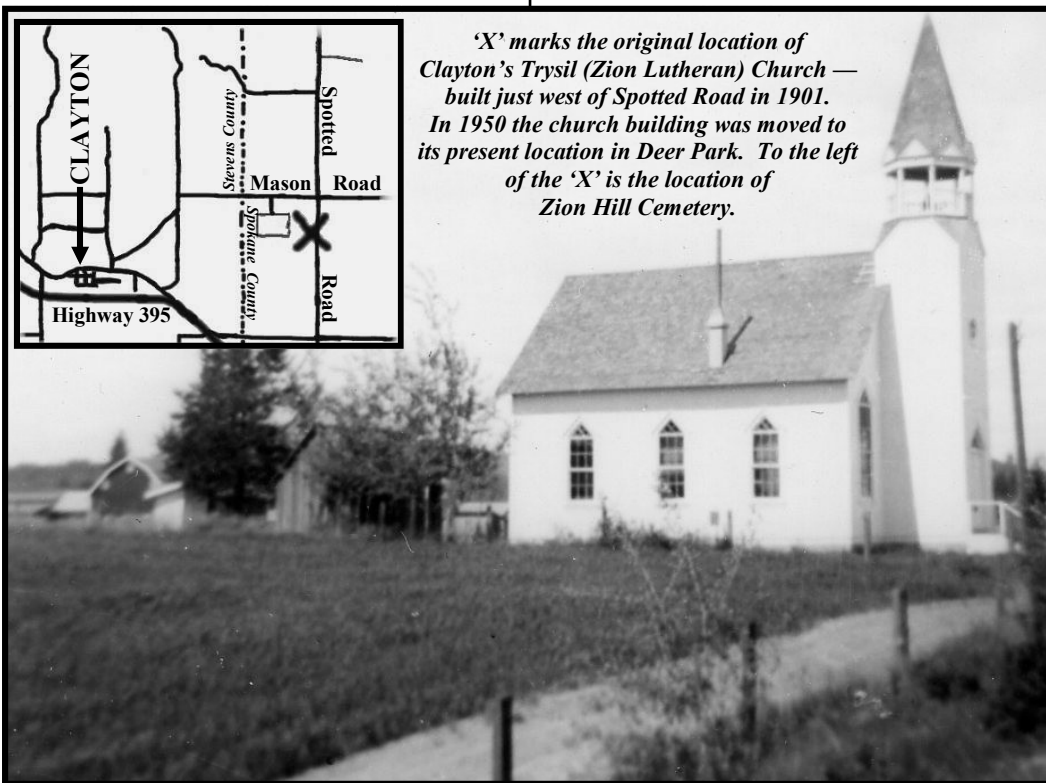
families settled in the very northwest corner of Spokane County, along present day Spotted Road.

The Westbys were among the many immigrants from Trysil, Norway settling into this area just before the turn of the century. Trysil is located in

Free — Take One



*'X' marks the original location of Clayton's Trysil (Zion Lutheran) Church — built just west of Spotted Road in 1901. In 1950 the church building was moved to its present location in Deer Park. To the left of the 'X' is the location of Zion Hill Cemetery.*



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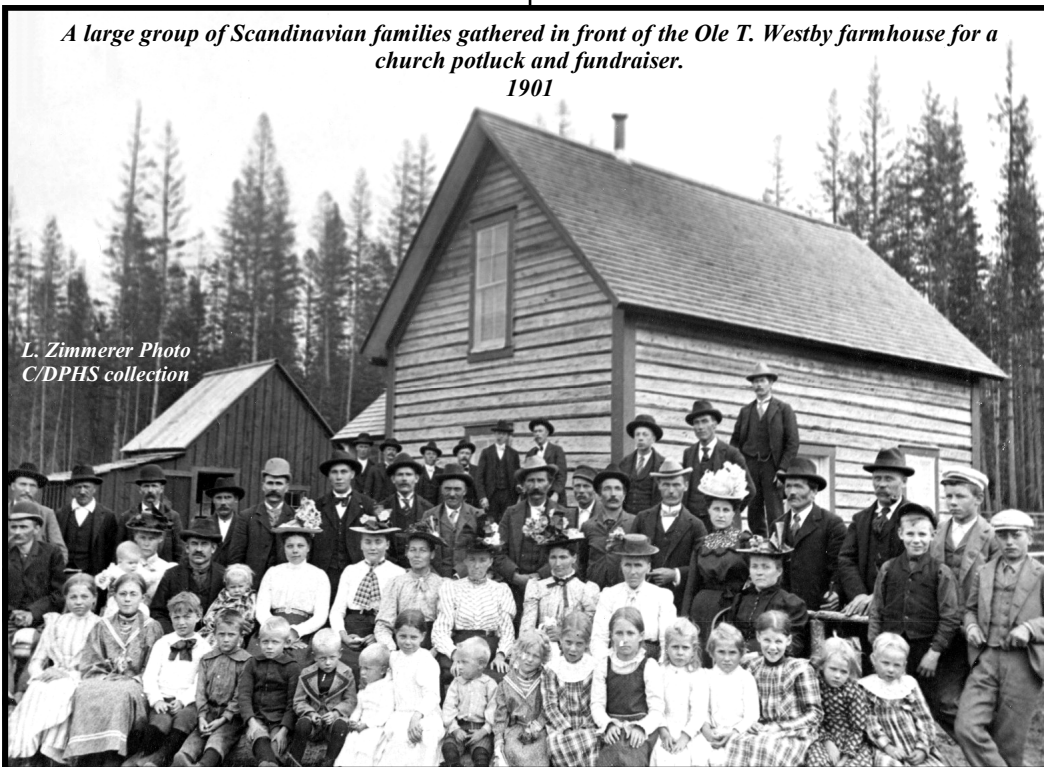
the widest part of Norway — about thirty miles from the Swedish border. The community either takes its name from, or gives its name to, the nearby Trysil River. The river is calm in the stretch flowing by the city, so one theory proposes that the name Trysil means “quiet forest” — ‘try’ drawn from the word for timber or forest, and ‘sil’ meaning still, calm, or quiet.

Because a farmstead normally passed from father to eldest son, it was common in Norway for a man to take as his surname the name of his ances-

tor’s farm. Westby (or Vestby) is the name of the farmstead near Trysil to which these families were originally connected.

Norwegian immigrants to the United States were chasing after the promise of freedom in a land of unequalled opportunity and fortune. The opportunity to acquire a homestead in northern Spokane County — where, during the late 1800’s, timber was king — brought many immigrants from Trysil. These people were accustomed to cutting and clearing timber, working with animals and es-

*A large group of Scandinavian families gathered in front of the Ole T. Westby farmhouse for a church potluck and fundraiser.  
1901*



*Back row — from left: unknown, unknown, Carl Olson, Martin Hafsol (?), Magnus Olson, unknown, unknown, Peter Roland, Karnius Dahl.*

*Third row — from left: unknown, Andrew Westby, unknown, Louis Christianson, Anton Iversen, Waldemar Westby, unknown, Ola A. Westby, Otto Dahl (?), John Johnson, unknown, Arne Roland, Olive Roland, Paul Johnson, unknown, Torvald Westby.*

*Second row — from left: Erling Westby, baby Otene Westby, Helene Westby, Ole T. Westby, Ida Westby, Anna Westby, Mrs. Shørholm, Oline Westby, Anne Olson, Ragnhild Johnson, Tea Olson, unknown, Olaf Westby, Halvor Westby.*

*Front row — from left: Nellie Westby, Inga Johnson, Olaf J, Johnson, Albert Westby, Einar Westby, Olaf Westby, August Westby, Elida Westby, Marie Johnson, Hilda Westby, Sena Iversen, Inga Iversen, Serena Grambo, Inga Westby, Helen Westby.*

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tablishing farms. And the terrain and climate around Clayton was not unlike that of their home in Norway.

As with many ethnicities across the country, these immigrants congregated in rural communities where they could share in a common brotherhood of language, beliefs, and values — and offer each other mutual support while learning a new language, new customs, and dealing with the various other problems associated with adjusting to life in America.

**Erling K. Westby**

Erling Westby came to America during the 1880's and located on the northeast quarter of Section 20, T.29 N, R.42E, WM, Spokane County. Erling was married to Kjersti Iversdatter, (b. Norway 1869) sister of immigrant Anton Iverson (1862-1932).

When Erling settled on the quarter section of land east of Clayton, the only 'improvement' on the property was a log cabin — probably built by someone intending to file a homestead claim who then, for some reason, abandoned the acreage.

Regarding newly opened government lands, even-numbered sections were set aside for homestead claims, and odd-numbered sections were given to the railroads — in this case to the Northern Pacific Railroad as an incentive to lay tracks through Spokane and on to Seattle. This practice of granting land to railroads to induce them to build new routes was extended to property thirty miles on both sides of the proposed railroad tracks.

Sections 16 and 36 in each Township was reserved for local school use - the land usually being sold to fund the area's schools.

Most of the land in the saucer-shaped valley northward from Spokane was timbered. Where Erling settled, the trees were up to three feet in diameter at their trunks. A small creek flowed across the central part of his land — a tributary to Dragoon Creek — and wild grass grew in the open meadows.

Land was cleared, and new fields planted with alfalfa, wheat and oats. Water from a spring found in the central part of the farm was piped to the house and barn. The original homestead is now cleared of timber, except a few acres around the cemetery located on the hill in the north central part of the farm.

Erling cut and sold cordwood to the brickyard in Clayton (where it was used to fire kilns), and also shipped some to Spokane as firewood. He also delivered farm produced milk to customers in Clayton.

Crippled by rheumatic fever, Erling passed away in 1904. His widow, Kjersti, and the children continued living on the farm and selling milk until they moved to Clayton — where they operated a hotel and boarding house, and the children attended school.

The children of Erling and Kjersti were Albert (b.1893), Olga (b.1895), Einar (1896-1955), Erling Kasper "Kap" (1898-1974), and Oscar (b.1900).

Albert worked at the Short Boarding House in Deer Park while he attended high school. He became an accomplished violinist and draftsman, was married and had two daughters that married and lived near San Francisco — where Albert and his wife died. They also had an infant son who died before the family moved from Clayton.

Olga married Ole Wind, whose parents lived on a small farm north of Clayton in the early 1900's. Ole worked as a mail clerk on the railroad, living in Spokane until he retired, and then in Clayton where Ole worked in a mercantile with Olga's brother "Kap" until his death. They had one son, Alfred, and two daughters, Francis (m. Reinhold Weishaar, 1909-1970) and Vera (m. Jack Spaulding) living on the Wind family farm.

Einar, Kasper, and Oscar came back from Clayton to the farm with their mother about 1913, clearing and improving the land, while working elsewhere for wages.

Einar worked with horses and timber. He also worked with terra cotta in Clayton and California after the farm was sold in about 1919. He was married to Madeline Lowe (1909-1979) and had a daughter, Minnie.

Kasper took a by-mail correspondence course in business administration and had his own flourishing mercantile business in Clayton until he moved with his family to Spokane — where he worked at the Kaiser Aluminum plant. "Kap" and his wife Ruth had three daughters (Lois, Mary and ??). He died in August, 1974.

Oscar married Blanche White and lived in Montana, Clayton and Spokane — where Oscar worked as a store clerk. They operated a thriving

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restaurant in Clayton for several years. Blanche died in the 1950's. As of 1976 Oscar was living in a convalescent home in Spokane.

**Ola A. Westby**

In 1882 Ola A. Westby married Oline Halvorsdatter. Four of Ola A. and Oline Westby's children were born in Norway before they came to America. Their farm was located on the Southeast quarter of Section 20, T.29 N, R.42E, WM — east of Clayton, along Spotted Road.

Ola's brother Andreas (1853-1930), was never married. He lived in his own house near the family home. He was a kindly man and helpful with work and care of the farm and children. Ola and Andreas cut and sold cordwood from the farm, and also from the quarter section east across Spotted Road.

Land was cleared of stumps and brush for crops by manpower, horses, dynamite and fire. When Ola's sons were out of school, and old enough to work, they helped with hauling cordwood to the railroad, where it was shipped to Spokane for fuel. A carload of twenty cords sold for about \$50 before 1910, and later for \$100.

The children of Ola and Oline Westby were Anna (1884-1902), Halvor (1886-1955), Kornelia (1888-1976), Elida (1890-1964), Olaf (1893-1951), Otto (1895-1956), August (1898-1946), and Julia (1902-1977).

Anna died at age 18.

Halvor became an accomplished violinist,

carpenter and woodsman. He and his wife, Bernice, had one son.

Kornelia "Nellie" and her husband, Martin Carlson, had two daughters, Thelma Irene (1920-1929), and Lucille (1925-1995).

Elida and her husband, Edgard Sandberg, had one son, Luther (1917-1998).

Olaf became an auto mechanic after he left the farm. He worked at garages in Spokane and Deer park, and later he and his brother August established an auto sales and service in Clayton — which remained in operation for many years. Olaf and his wife, Margaret, had one daughter, Edith, and one son, Eugene.

Otto worked on the farm and served in the Navy during World War I. He also did carpentry work in later years. He and his wife, Linnea, had two sons, Richard and Lawrence.

August and wife, Goldie Irene Brown (1902-1982), had one daughter, Alyce.

Julia and her husband, Jacob Renner, had two sons, Albert and Leonard, and one daughter, Irene — who married Don Fish, proprietor of Fish Chevrolet in Deer Park.

**Ole T. Westby**

Ole T. Westby and his wife, Helene, emigrated to the United States — along with their first son, Torvald — in 1887. They spent their first year on a small farm they had started in Norman County, Minnesota. That year's winter was so harsh both animals and humans alike were in extreme peril.

*Photo courtesy Kenneth Westby*



*From a Deer Park Lumber Company land sales brochure printed about 1915, this photo looks south down Spotted Road. Trysil Lutheran Church stands to the right of the road, and the Ole T. Westby farm to the left. In the foreground, Mason Road branches to the right.*

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Ole was on the brink of despair. Many years later he recalled that he was ready to beg, borrow, or steal whatever needed to return to Norway — providing spring would ever return to Minnesota. That same winter a second son was born to the family.

Ole's cousin Torgal, and Torgal's wife Inger, had immigrated from Norway to Spokane County about three years earlier. They invited Ole to join them at their homestead on Wild Rose Prairie — where, Torgal assured him, the winters would be more to his liking. So Ole and Helene packed up their sons and their belongings and moved to Spokane County. While residing with Torgal and Inger, Ole worked in sawmills along the Little Spokane River, and also as a blacksmith. By 1893 he'd earned enough to purchase some railroad timberland in the northwest quarter of Section 21, T.29N, R.42E, WM — near his cousins Erling and Ola.

The family moved to their new farmstead and began clearing the land. Prime timber was sawn into railroad ties and sold to the railroad. Some logs were delivered to the Deer Park Lumber Company, and the remainder was cut into cordwood and shipped by rail to Spokane. Ole operated a blacksmith shop in nearby Clayton, at the same time employing relatives and woodcutters to tend to the farmstead's timber and land clearing operations.

Children born to Ole and Helene included Torvald (1886-1972), Olaf (1888-1918), Inga (1890-1975), Hilda (1893-1986), Olga (1895-1987), Ida (1898-1989), Otene (1900-1978), Harald (1902-1999), and Peter (1904-1983).

Torvald "Bill" married Hilda Halsten, and worked for the DuPont Company near Ft. Lewis until his retirement. He opened a resort at Spencer Lake near Shelton, Washington. They had six children: Oscar, Helen, Oliver, Esther, Thora, and Weldon.

Olaf "Dud" married Charlotte Culp, and worked for the DuPont Company with his brothers until his retirement. They had no children.

Inga married Erik Holstad in 1908. In 1921 they returned to Norway so Erik could manage his father's farmstead there. Their children were Clara, Ernest, Alfred, and Olga — all of whom remained in Norway.

Hilda married Jim Forgey. They moved to DuPont, Washington, where Jim worked at the DuPont company with his brothers-in-law. They had five children — Roy, Ole, Marie, James, and

Gordon.

Olga "Helen" married Fred Forgey — brother of Jim Forgey. They lived near Peone Prairie and had two sons, Orville and Lyle.

Ida married Cloyd Nolan in 1915. Their children were Harris, Clarice, Violet, Lillie, Harold, James, Richard, Cloyd, Dorothy, and Donald.

Otene married Archie Warner in 1920. Archie did maintenance work at the Deer Park sawmill, then operated an automotive service station into the 1940's, and later began a radio/TV repair business at his home in Deer Park. They had three children — Evelyn, Arthur, and Robert.

Harald married Thelma Norseth in 1939. In partnership with his brother-in-law, Archie Warner, he operated an automotive service station in Deer Park until 1944, when failing health forced him to withdraw from that business. After major surgery and a nearly year-long recovery, he was hired by the Deer Park/Clayton School District to maintain its fleet of school busses. He continued in that capacity until his retirement in 1967. Harald and Thelma had one son, Kenneth.

Peter married Thora Olson in 1936. Peter joined his brothers at the DuPont Company, where he worked until his retirement. They had four children — Gail, Norman, Elaine, and Wes.

**Trysil Lutheran (Zion Lutheran) Church  
And Cemetery**

The local Trysil Lutheran Church was organized in 1892. A Norwegian-language church, services were initially held in members' homes and in the one-room schoolhouse at the crossroads adjacent to the southeast corner of Ola A. Westby's timber land. During some years only three or four services were held — whenever pastors could come — sometimes from as far away as Portland.

Erling Westby donated an acre of land along Mason Road for a church cemetery, and another acre along the eastern boundary of his farm for a church. That acre was directly across Spotted Road from the Ole T. Westby farm.

The church was built in 1901. Every fourth Sunday Pastor I. Blakken would travel from either Rockford or Coeur d'Alene to hold services. He traveled by train, and stayed with members of the congregation.

The church building and cemetery were

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originally named Trysil Lutheran Church and Trysil Cemetery — in honor of the congregation's homeland. The architect and chief builder of the church was Karnius Dahl (1866-1902). The church building was moved to east Crawford Street in Deer Park in 1950 —where it was upgraded. The acre of land previously occupied by the church was traded for an

additional acre at the north side of the cemetery. At that time, the Deer Park congregation chose new names, Zion Lutheran for the church, and Zion Hill for the cemetery. Today, the cemetery is three acres in size.

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**Letters To The Society**

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

Below is a heavily edited compilation drawn from a set of emails exchanged between Bill Sebright of the C/DPHS and 1959 Deer Park High School graduate Kenneth Westby, now of Vancouver, Washington. Ken, in essence, said ...

*“My mother was Thelma Norseth. She was born in Spirit Lake, Idaho, in 1908. My father, Harald Westby, was born on the family’s Clayton farmstead in 1902. The two were married at the Trysil (Zion Lutheran) Church in 1939 — when it was still on Spotted Road.*

*“Mom, her parents and two siblings, were living near Potlatch, Idaho, when they were drawn to Deer Park by the Arcadia Orchards Company’s promise of prosperity. Her parents bought a 5 or 7 acre parcel on the east side of Cedar Road, just a short distance south from Crawford. It’s possible that Mom attended the little Arcadia schoolhouse on Cedar Road. If so, it would have only been for a short time, because I recall her saying she walked with her older brother to the old white schoolhouse in Deer Park — and that they would ski to school in winter.*

*“When the Arcadia Orchards went bankrupt, Mom’s parents bought and fixed up an old house on Park Avenue between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, and moved the family into town. Even before that, to supplement whatever income they hoped to gain from the orchards, my grandfather, Andrew Norseth, worked at the Deer Park sawmill — he remained there until he retired.*

*“As to the Westby side of the family, there were three Westby families that settled on Spotted*

*Road. The Ola A. Westby, Erling K. Westby, and Ole T. Westby families. My father was the second youngest of Ole T. Westby’s children.*

*“The Trysil Lutheran Church my folks were married in was built in 1901 approximately a mile and a half northeast of Clayton. The church’s original founding fathers were largely from the Trysil community in Norway. At first services and hymns were conducted in Norwegian. But by the 1920’s membership included so many non-Scandinavians that services were being held in English, and English language hymnals were adopted.*

*“My dad could speak, read, and write Norwegian because it was spoken so much at home when he was growing up. School was taught in English only, but he said confirmation classes for the young were always done in Norwegian — so he had to know Luther’s Catechism backwards and ‘frontwards’ in both English and Norwegian.*

*“Dad always pronounced the ‘Y’ in Trysil as a soft ‘I’ rather than a long ‘eye’. He said that the more correct pronunciation would probably be something like ‘Tree-sil’ — rhymes with diesel — and sort of a rolling ‘R’ with the tongue against the lower front teeth. But Americans were more comfortable with the soft ‘I’ and no funny stuff with the tongue, so ‘trissil’ is how it’s usually pronounced.*

*“And lets not even discuss the additional strange alphabet characters they have — like å, æ, and ø — because I’m way out of my league when it comes to the Norse language’s rules of pronunciation!*

*“The architect and construction supervisor for the Clayton community’s Trysil Church was Karnius Dahl — who died the year after the church was completed. He was buried at the Trysil (Zion Hill) Cemetery. I’m still checking into it, but there’s a possibility that Karnius may have been an uncle of the Louie Olson who inherited his father’s Louis Olson Building Supply in Deer Park. The building*

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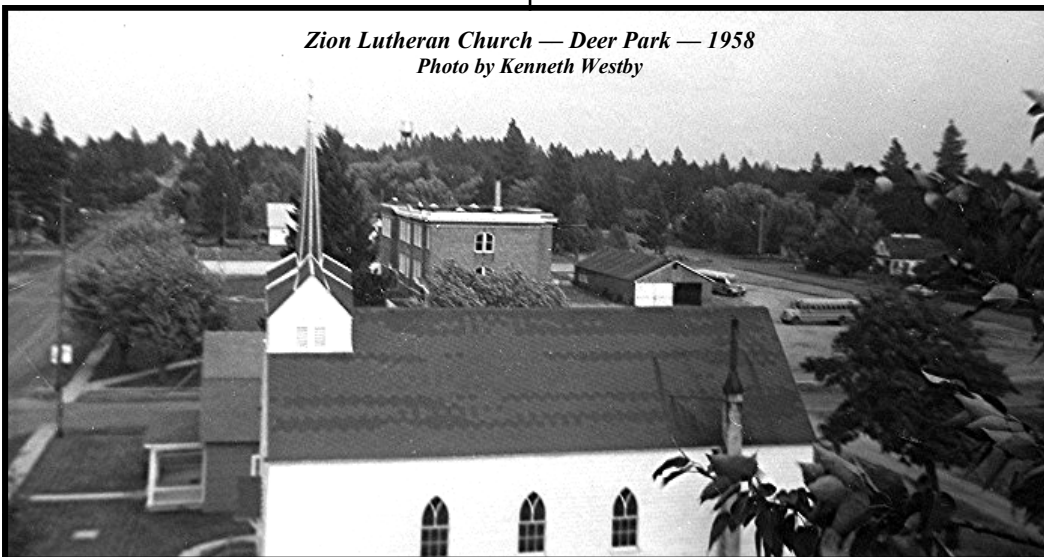
still had that name when we were teenagers. Louie's sister was Lena Wolfe, wife of Jim Wolfe who worked at the Deer Park Creamery.

"Anyway — in 1950 the Trysil Church was moved to its present location on Crawford Street in Deer Park. I was only 9 or 10 years old, but can clearly remember being fascinated with the whole process. The church's original steeple was removed in order to keep the overall height to a minimum. The building was jacked up. It was hauled on huge timbers atop what to a kid were immense multi-wheeled dollies that strained under the weight of what seemed like too much load. The whole thing seemed so top heavy I was amazed it didn't topple as it crawled along — with half a mile per day being considered a good clip.

"I recall its route to town as being Spotted Road to Montgomery Road to Colville Road to Crawford — then west on Crawford to the present site. There were one or two bridges — on Montgomery road I think — but I seem to recall an issue with one of the bridges. I suppose it's possible they took Montgomery Road to Short Road to 8<sup>th</sup> Street — or 6<sup>th</sup> — and over to Colville Road, but it seems like the T-bridge on Short Road would have been an issue. Bridges in those days weren't anything like today.

"And roads weren't paved like they are now either, so soggy roads would have caused delays.

"I especially remember when the church reached the intersection of Colville Road and Crawford Street. We lived just a block from there, so I



**Editor's Note:** This email exchange between Kenneth Westby and Paul J. Erickson gives some background on how the above image was obtained.

**Ken:** "I climbed a tree in Pinky Pakker's front yard to take this photo of the church, high school, and old bus garage."

**Paul:** "Wow! Now that's a photo You were way up there. I climbed some nice trees in Deer Park, but none as high as this. I'm sure I would have 'chickened out'. Your mom must have had heart failure when she saw this photo."

**Ken:** "I showed this to Mom years later — and she was horrified. I enjoyed climbing average trees, but this one was formidable. I would have chickened out too, except there was a girl I needed to impress. Later on I came to realize that girls aren't impressed by this kind of thing. Such stunts just confirm the general belief among girls that all boys are idiots."

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was on hand to witness all the activity. At several places along the route there were overhead wires that had to be taken down, and this intersection was certainly no exception. Traffic at Crawford was detoured — the power-lines maneuvered — but it still took several hours to get the building around the corner and rolling west on Crawford.

*“The foundation and basement for the church had already been poured, and amazingly enough, everything fit just as it should.*

*“The present-day vestibule, viewing room, stairway, and balcony were not part of the original building. Nor was the office and storage room on either side of the altar. Those were added after the building was set down in Deer Park. The present steeple, taller than the original, was also part of the upgrade. Most of all this work was done by volunteers.*

*“As you can probably imagine, the congregation was hard put to finance this move, and its membership agonized over the amount of debt the church would have to assume. And that’s how retired Lutheran minister Carl Tjomsland fit in. Reverend Tjomsland had served as the pastor years earlier—and continued to fill in for Trysil Lutheran’s pastor from time to time.*

*“At the time of the move, Reverend Veldey was the church’s pastor. Shortly after the move Reverend Veldey relocated to a church in Camrose, Canada — returning a few years later to serve in Deer Park again.*

*“Reverend Tjomsland led services until a new pastor — Pastor Watness — was selected to take Veldey’s place.*

*“Anyway, part of the estimated cost of the*

*move and refitting was donated by Pastor Tjomsland and his wife — their offer being a major factor in the final decision to move the church. As a volunteer, Carl Tjomsland did much of the carpentry on the building. Considering all this, there was little objection when the Reverend and Misses Tjomsland suggested that church be renamed Zion Lutheran. The church’s Trysil Cemetery on Mason Road was renamed Zion Hill Cemetery shortly after.*

*“Interestingly, Pastor Tjomsland and his wife are buried at Woodland Cemetery.*

*“And Bill, I’m so glad you are interested in keeping the history of Deer Park and Clayton alive. If you are anything like me, you probably have a hundreds of questions that you would ask your parents and grandparents if they were still with us. While growing up, I heard lots of stories, but didn’t pay enough attention to recall them now. That’s why the work you and others are doing is so important.*

*“I’m sure you’ll have more questions, and I’ll will try to answer them if I can.”*

Editor’s Note: For another look at the Trysil Church and the immigrant community surrounding it, check Herman Johnson’s family history beginning on page 105 (Volume Three) of the ‘Reports to the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society’. Among other things, Herman’s recollections include the story of the creation of the painting “Jesus & His Disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane” so prominently displayed in Deer Park’s Zion Church.

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## **Over The Kitchen Table**

### **The Editor’s Ruminations Regarding A Road Trip To Colville’s Museum & Courthouse**

— by Wally Lee Parker —

This essay is about a July 16, 2007, fieldtrip to Colville taken by the C/DPHS President, Bill Sebright, and me. The original version of this report was written the day after the event and emailed to the society membership. It is reprinted here by Bill’s special request.

*So, on Monday morning Bill and I took off — heading north on Highway 395. Our intent, to*

*discover the extent of the Stevens County Historical Society’s holdings of Clayton related research material, and then to visit the Stevens County Courthouse in pursuit of the ownership history of the Clayton Moose Hall. Bill — as C/DPHS representative to a historical society umbrella group called The Heritage Network — also needed to attend a meeting that group was holding at the Colville museum that day.*

*I’m not sure what phrase best describes this journey — though “Two Old Guys on a Road*



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*Trip” sounds pretty good. Or maybe, “The Blues Brothers in Retirement”. And anyone who knows Bill Sebright understands that he would just have to be ‘Elwood Blues’ — as played so deadpan straight by Dan Aykroyd.*

*Bill was riding shotgun. Among his jobs — to remind me that the sign I just blew by said “Reduce Speed to 25”. To which my standard reply was, “What sign?”. He was also to watch for the next available potty-break, and to make sure I had the keys to my wife’s Lincoln Continental firmly in hand anytime we got out of the car — but before any locked doors were slammed.*

*After Bill explained that the weird twist in the road the Lincoln had just hammered through was the traffic roundabout at the entrance to Colville, we somehow managed to avoid any police entanglements while finding the historical society’s compound. There were a few more anxious moments when we discovered that nobody else was at the compound, and all the outside water-closets were locked as tight as the museum’s door itself. Worse yet, the grounds were covered by security cameras, which left any convenient behind-a-tree or lug-wrench-to-pad-lock-and-pry solutions out. Bill was a little upset about my pry-bar suggestion until I pointed out that that was just another useful life-skill I’d picked up while attending good old Deer Park High.*

*Glendine Leonard’s arrival with the museum keys solved our immediate problem, and minutes later we found ourselves in the museum’s archives, comfortably rummaging through a dozen ‘loose-leaf’ binders of Clayton and Leno Prestini related material. While Bill diverted attention by attending the Heritage Network meeting in a nearby conference room, I used my compact 10.1 megapixel digital to copy over a hundred pages of data.*

*During my conversation with Glendine (who oversaw the copying), I learned that the Stevens County Society intends to keep all of it’s Leno Prestini paintings in Colville during the proposed 2010 Prestini Project exhibition. Any prior talk of “satellite exhibits” — meaning exhibits put on in surrounding communities at the same time as Colville’s exhibit — weren’t intended to suggest that Colville would be sending parts of its collection of paintings to outlying communities. Rather, that each community could hold its own exhibit at the same time as the Colville showing, with each community*

*presenting whatever Prestini related material it could gather on its own. And that the “Prestini Project’s’ would include any such intended satellite exhibits in its pre-show public relations campaign.*

*While this was a disappointment (we’d hoped to have at least a few Colville’s paintings on display at Clayton and/or Deer Park), it was not unexpected since the Prestini paintings are doubtless the museum’s single most popular asset. And besides, the most notable benefit to our group from participating in the overall project is that we will be given access to the Colville museum’s archives in exchange for any data we might be able to collect within the local community regarding Leno’s history. Bill and I agree that we should attempt to take full advantage of this opportunity. Even if the ‘independent satellite exhibit’ idea flounders, the sharing of any Prestini data collected over the next several years should benefit all groups involved.*

*The Stevens County group has been around a long time. We both feel we need to tread lightly and watch attentively — while learning everything we can from them about historical societies and museums.*

*After our meetings, Bill sprang for lunch — doubtless in gratitude for surviving the earlier high-speed loop through the roundabout. After that, we dodged traffic until we found the courthouse.*

*The first door to the left was the Auditor’s Office. We went in, and ended up behind a couple of angry guys who figured someone had redrawn their property lines and cheated them out of some acreage. While this was going on, I was looking at this large sign prominently hung to remind patrons that “Attempting to Intimidate the Staff is a Crime”. I concluded from this that anger in the Auditor’s Office was not all that unusual.*

*When our turn came, I decided to let Bill do all the talking. After all, he’s the ‘Elwood’ type, and much more likely to remain stoically calm while being dragged off to jail.*

*This very nice lady listened to our problem, and after some discussion sent us down the hall to the Assessor’s Office. After a short wait behind the same angry guys from the first office, we explained what we were after and were escorted into the basement of the courthouse where we found ourselves surrounded by hundreds of giant books. After a quick explanation of how to find our way through those volumes, the escorting employee said, “If you*

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*have any problems, come upstairs and get me.”*

*It only took us about forty-five minutes to discover the following:*

*— On October 4, 1926, the Washington Brick, Lime, and Sewer Pipe Company deeded the land on which the Moose Hall is situated to the Clayton Lodge (# 855) of the Loyal Order of the Moose.*

*— On December 21, 1937, Lodge 855 quit claimed the property to Eric A. Johnston, Trustee of the Washington Brick, Lime, and Sewer Pipe Company.*

*— On March 16, 1944, Washington Brick, Lime, and Sewer Pipe Company (even though that probably wasn't the company's official name after reorganization), deeded the property to School District # 414, Consolidated, Deer Park.*

*— On August 28, 1958, Deer Park School District # 414, deeded Lots 1-7 inclusive, block 2 original, Clayton, to the Clayton Grange (# 456).*

*Doubtless, there's lots more to the Moose Hall story than just these dates. But having the dates will assist us in looking for the other bits of the story.*

*The only eventful thing on our return home was Bill's attempt to get the Lincoln's computer to*

*give him the outside temperature. I told Bill that Pat, my wife, gets the reading by pushing one of the buttons at the bottom of the panel – though I don't recall which. Naturally, Bill, being an educator by trade, gets to the bottom of the control console by starting at the very top. When the computer display stated that continuing to press every button from the top down in sequence would cause all automotive fluids to be spontaneously spilled onto the roadway, Bill finally moved to the bottom row of buttons where he found one that said “outside temp.” As a leap of faith in Ford, he pushed it. Seeing the number, he settled back into the Lincoln's leather, apparently satisfied.*

*On the positive side, seeing the message about spilling all fluids reminded us that we needed to press on home at the highest legal speed — which Bill — a.k.a. Elwood — continued to monitor.*

*It turned out to be an enjoyable day — and productive too. It's amazing what a couple of old guys — with a little luck and frequent pit stops — can do.*

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**Society Minutes — June, 2008**

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In attendance: Bill Sebright, Mark Wagner, Rob Higgins, Patricia Parker, Wally Lee Parker, Bib Gibson, Dwayne Costa, Robert C. Lemley, Bob Clouse, Lillie Gibson, Fay Reilly, Marilyn Reilly, Jeff Lilly, Florene Moore, Don Ball, Lorraine, Ball, and Lillian Koehler.

Society president Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 09:05 AM.

Treasurer Mark Wagner reported the current status of the society's finances. Said report was accepted and entered into the records.

The first order of business was the acceptance of a \$30.00 donation from associate Jeff Lilly. Jeff recent had an article, “Happy Birthday Deer Park” published in the *Deer Park Gazette* under his pen name. The \$30.00 represents his compensation for the article.

The general portion of the meeting began with Bill Sebright describing the route of he and his wife's upcoming boating tour of the rivers and canals of northern Europe. After the expected growls of envy settled down, the meeting proper began.

Bill noted that there's an ongoing discus-

sion regarding the fate of a building seen in the image on the back page of Mortarboard #2. The photo in question looks north along Deer Park's Main Street. The photo is from a postcard, circa 1910. On the right side of the photo, in the foreground, is a wood frame building bearing a sign stating “Arcadia Orchards Company”. This building was just south of the Olson Hotel building which still stands on the southeast corner of Main and Crawford. The photo was taken before the Olson Hotel's south side dining room was built — which gives us the approximate date.

Bill stated that he had a conversation with Deer Park's John Odyński – whose tax office is in Louis Olson's old hardware. John feels strongly that his office is in fact the old Arcadia Orchards office building. He believes the brick section was added onto the office, and this hypothesis is substantiated by the fact that John's son-in-law, while doing some repairs, noted evidence that the roof had been penetrated in the same location where the chimney seen in this photo rises. He also stated that, “You can still see the same roof peak even though much remodel-

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ing has taken place over the last hundred years.”

Bill stated that it has been suggested that the old office building had been moved north, and that the Lowry family had lived in it. Lillie Gibson stated she didn't believe that to be the case.

Bill suggested we all keep an ear out for any clues as to the fate of the old Arcadia office building.

Bob Clouse reported that the society's website was visited by 802 unique email addresses one or more times during the month of March.

Bob reported that in response to problems users of certain types of internet browsers were having, he had reconfigured all two thousand photos now on the site. As a result, the problem for non-Explorer browsers has disappeared. He said the pages also download at a much higher rate – a blessing for anyone on dial-up. Good going Bob.

The editor of print publications, Wally Lee Parker, reported that some headway is being made on Marilyn Newkirk's request to reprint certain material from the society's publications in a book she is writing about our area – a book tentatively titled “*The Legacy of Yesterday*”. A copy of those portions of her manuscript containing the desired quotes indicates an appropriate use of the material. There does seem to be some difficulties regarding what legal form the subsequent permission should take. Until that's resolved, no firm commitment can be made.

Regarding the progress being made by The Heritage Network's Prestini Project, the editor reported that he had worked up a letter to be sent to various individuals within the region's arts community – a letter intended to solicit their participation in certain aspects of the project. Copies of this letter were handed out to the group.

Copies of Mortarboard #2 were passed out. And copies were also supplied for public distribution.

An overview report was given regarding the continuing series of society interviews with Alvin “Tuffy” Luhr – formerly of Clayton, Deer Park, and Loon Lake. Our hope is to publish the results of those interviews as a single topic issue of the “*Reports to the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society*”. We are hoping to have Tuffy's story in print before the end of the year.

Also touched upon were some developments regarding a previously unknown Prestini

painting that recently surfaced in Oregon. Details will likely appear in a future issue of the Mortarboard.

Bill Sebright told the group that Joe Feist, the current principal at Deer Park High School recently gave the society a bound portfolio titled “Deer Park High School Commencement Addresses”. This is a typewritten compendium of Valedictorian and Salutatorian speeches from 1959 through 1969. The apparent reason for creating this collection was a former principal's edict that manuscripts of all intended commencement speeches be submitted to his office for pre-screening – due to what the principal considered an indiscretion uttered during a prior commencement event.

Bill sent emails to several of the people who had written the speeches contained in the portfolio. The ensuing internet discussion involved a half-dozen people, most of whom recall the principal, Mr. Lee Pangle, and his policies with some humor.

Because of the quality of the comments made during this online discussion, it is likely that quotes from such online discussions will be included in future editions of the Mortarboard as part of a recurring article about online happenings. It is hoped that those people not online will use telephones and letters to join in these conversations. And it is hoped that many of the small fragments of history being recalled during these online sessions can be permanently archived in the Mortarboard via such articles. The practicality of doing the above will be kicked-about within the online community.

Some discussion occurred regarding the archival contents of the former Owens Museum. It was put forth that some of this material may be in the archives at the Newport Museum. Some discussion ensued regarding the best way to confirm whether the Newport group has possession of these documents.

Also brought forward was a suggestion that the society look into the possibility of renting a building in Clayton for a C/DPHS museum. No progress was made on this subject.

Lillian Koehler brought a violin that was once a prized possession of Williams Valley's Mattie Canfield. Mattie was the subject of an article in Volume 3 of the “*Reports to the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society*”. To be able to see this instrument up close was a treat. The society wants to

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thank Lillian for the opportunity.

Learn a bit more about Mattie's violin in the article below.

Florene Moore updated the society on the writing and editorial work she is currently doing in association with the "Farm Museum". Florene said, "I'm editing a diary of Lucy Boorman from 1893. Lucy taught one 4-month school term in Williams Valley that year. It's very interesting to me not only because of her references to teaching and her description of traveling to Colville for exams, but also because my family, the Eickmeyers, are mentioned rather often."

"Lucy later married Ed Kratzer. Lucy and

Ed are the grandparents of C/DPHS member Lorraine Ball. Lorraine had given this diary to Loretta Hall-Greiff of the North Spokane Farm Museum. Loretta transcribed it, and then asked me to edit it. All this is nearly finished."

"Loretta intends to publish the diary, along with photos and a map. We are also considering adding samples of the type of school exams used during Lucy's tenure."

The meeting was called to adjournment at 10:06 by acting secretary Patricia Parker.

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### Mattie Canfield's Violin

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Society member Lillian Koehler brought a violin formerly owned by legendary Williams Valley resident Mattie Canfield to the society's June meeting. Mattie gave the violin to Lillian and her family in 1954 — several years before Mattie's death.

Written or printed inside the violin's case are a number of signatures, including Mattie's — with the notation Winslow, Arizona, added below Mattie's name.

Visible inside the violin's body is a paper sticker with the words "Jacobus Stainer in Absam prope Oenipontum 1612" — with the "12" added in handwriting. On the back of the violin's body, near the neck, the name "Stainer" is impressed into the wood.

Translated, the above notation states that "Jacob Stainer in Absam near Innsbruck made this in 1612".

Jacob Stainer was born in Austria in 1617. Prior to Stradivari, the violins he created were perhaps the most sought after. Today the originals are extremely rare, and extremely valuable.

Mattie's violin is a low cost model, stamped with a famous name as part of a marketing strategy. Mass produced violins label in the same manner as Mattie's were being sold during the late 1800's and early 1900's for prices ranging from five to twelve dollars — not an insignificant sum at the time — through outlets such as the Sears Roebuck catalog.

Although the market value of a mock Stainer of this type, according to internet sources, is probably less than one hundred dollars, its historical



*Photo courtesy  
of Bob Lemley*

value to the people who recall Mattie and his stories — many doubtless more fanciful than factual — is immense. In that sense, this artifact is absolutely priceless.

More about Mattie Canfield can be found in an article beginning on page 100 of Volume 3 of the "Reports to the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society".

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Comments & corrections can be mailed to the editor — Wally Lee Parker, 6904 N. Stevens, Spokane WA 99208-4015