

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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Mike Burdega: Highlights of his Life

— by Margret Burdega —

(this article was written in the third person by Mrs. Burdega)

Mike Burdega was born April 19th, 1918, on a farm near Colonsay, Saskatchewan — the first child of Nick (1888-1940) and Margaret Kalynka (1899-1988) Burdega. His parents had immigrated from the same village in the Ukraine. Nick, at age 17, traveled (probably walked) across Europe to Hamburg, Germany, where he sailed for Canada. Margaret came with her mother, her sister, Helen, and her brother, Bill. She was 8 years old. They came through Ellis Island at New York City, then probably by train to Saskatchewan where her older brother, Harry, and sister, Mary, were already living.

Nick and Margaret were married on April 25th, 1917. They homesteaded near Colonsay, and Mike and his younger brother, Julian, were born on the farm. Julian died when he was 6 months old. The winters were cold and the crops did not do well. Nick decided to move on.

Sometime around 1921 Nick took his wife and son to Trail, British Columbia — where he got a job in a zinc plant. They lived near the railroad. One time Mike put on his dad's work gloves and went out on the railroad track to stop the train.

Next the family moved into the Garfield

Free — Take One

*Photo courtesy of
Burdega family*



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Bay area of Pend Oreille Lake, Idaho, where Nick farmed on shares with a man who worked on the railroad. Mike remembers walking down to the lake to see the mail and supply boats come in and conning a boat ride or two.

When Mike was about 5 years old, his dad got a job with the railroad section gang and the family moved to Spokane. They lived on 2nd Avenue, just east of Division. Mike started school there. His mother would take him to school, and as soon as they let the kids out for recess he would come home and she would have to take him back.

Before long the job moved them again — this time to Pasco. They lived in a section house. Mike remembers one of the brakemen befriended him and let him ride in the caboose for a little ways. They lived quite close to the stockyards, and he can remember going there to see the livestock.

Soon they were on the move again, this time to Kellogg, Idaho, where Nick found work in the Bunker Hill mine. From Spokane to Pasco to Kellogg during Mike's first year of school.

In Kellogg they again lived near the railroad tracks where many immigrant families lived — Ukrainians, Swedes, Italians, Russians, and so on. The men worked in the mines, the plants, or on the railroad.

Nick bought a little house, then built another for his family, after which he rented out the first house to supplement the family's income.

Mike went from 1st through 7th grade in Kellogg. Mike was involved with school sports, with swimming at the YMCA pool, hiking with the Boy Scouts, and fishing.

In 1926 Mike and his mother traveled back to Saskatchewan where he became acquainted with his grandmother, aunts, uncles, and cousins. His sister, Mary, was born there on the 18th of May. When Nick brought the enlarged family home to Kellogg, he didn't realize he needed to declare the new addition, so Mary was actually illegal. When she was 18 years old she had to go into Canada, then come back as a legal immigrant.

Nick Burdega was still dreaming of a farm. In 1931 he found what he wanted on the edge of Wild Rose Prairie, just north of Spokane. He moved the family from Kellogg that summer. Mike's youngest sister, Helen, was born at the new home on the 27th of August.

Nick would farm the Spokane County

property in the summer, then go back to work the Kellogg mine in the winter — leaving the family to take care of the livestock and chores on the farm.

When Nick would travel home, he'd take the bus as close as he could and then walk the rest of the way.

For 8th grade Mike attended a rural school about a mile from the farm — Iowa school. And then to Mead High School. Every school day a neighbor drove Mike and four neighborhood girls five miles to meet the Mead school bus.

Mike was of small stature, but he loved sports and was fast. He made the football, basketball, and baseball teams and made numerous friends — a number of which remained so for life. Between his junior and senior years — hoping he would put on some height and weight — Mike took a year off from school and worked the farm. He didn't seem to grow any, so he went back and graduated from Mead in 1937.

The summer after graduation Mike worked on the family farm. That fall his dad got him a job at the Kellogg zinc plant making seventy five cents an hour. He paid thirty-five dollars a month to live in a Kellogg boarding house. Mike earned fourteen hundred dollars his first year at the zinc plant, and seventeen hundred the second.

In Kellogg, in the spring of 1940, Mike's dad died. Mike decided to return home, but continued to work at the zinc plant while having a house built on the Spokane County farm.

In 1943 Mike's sister, Mary, graduated from high school and got a job in Spokane. She shared a Spokane apartment with a Mead classmate — Margret Hanna. When Mike came to take Mary home for the weekend, he met Margret. It wasn't long before both girls were spending weekends on the farm.

Mike and Margret's first official date was on Valentine's Day, 1944 — dinner at the Wandermere Clubhouse. After that it was a spring and summer of picnics, movies, dances and getting acquainted with each others families. Mike called his fiancée "Margie", and that name stuck. On August 18, 1944, Mike Burdega and Margret Hanna were married in Coeur D' Alene, Idaho, and moved onto the farm.

Soon after the two were married, Mike finished paying what his father still owed on the farm.

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*Photo courtesy of
Burdega family*



Even though World War II was in full swing, Mike had not been drafted. With his wife, mother, and sisters as dependents, and himself a farmer, he was deferred. But as the war dragged on, things began to change. In 1945 he was called in by the draft board. To reduce the chores, all the livestock was sold. Plans were made for Margie, now six months pregnant, to stay with her parents at Twin Lakes, Idaho — at least until the baby was born. Just days before Mike was to leave, the war ended. He was notified not to report.

As his father had before him, Mike farmed in the summer and worked out in the winter. He worked at Kaiser's Aluminum plant, at Baxter Hospital while it was being built, and at various construction jobs in the Spokane area. In the summer he farmed the Kauffman Ranch on shares for the family that owned the Buick Company.

Mike decided that if he started dairy farming he would have year around income from the farm, and not have to look for outside work every winter.

He had drilled a well to have good water for the house, but it was not enough for the dairy, so he had another, deeper well drilled. He started buy-

ing dairy calves and raising them. He got some shipped to him from the Tillamook area of Oregon. We named one 'Tilly' and one 'Mook'. Those calves were the beginning of a herd that grew to more than 100 milk-cows, and almost as many replacement heifers.

In the spring of 1954 Mike traded the farm on the hill for a larger farm down on Wild Rose Prairie. It was 280 acres with 160 cleared. It had a creek through it, and water rights so he could irrigate the crops. Two more wells were drilled to supply the dairy and the new house he built to accommodate his growing family.

His Wild Rose family consisted of Marny Jean (November 23, 1945), Michael David (October 29, 1947), Kerry Irene (July 15, 1949), Lauri Elizabeth (September 30, 1951), and Wendy Lynn (January 29, 1958).

Mike gradually cleared most of the rest of the land — over 100 acres — and bought an adjoining 160 acres for a total of 440. He raised hay and grain to feed the cows through the winter. For many years he raised potatoes and sold them to stores in Spokane.

Buying seed potatoes in the spring and

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cutting the seed by hand, planting, watering, hilling, watering, and hilling some more. Finally in October he could dig the crop and store it in the big cellar. Now he had his winter job — washing, sorting, sacking, and selling potatoes.

All this while he was milking and caring for eighty or more cows and their offspring. Even when Mike hired help he worked with them. When he hired a milker, Mike still did most of the feeding of his cows, and cared for the calves.

Mike helped organize the Spokane County Rural Fire Department on Wild Rose Prairie (Station 45), and served as a volunteer fireman for over 20 years. His retirement check from the 'Fireman's Fund' is his spending money — he calls it 'Pennies from Heaven'.

Over the years there was socializing and vacation travel. Mike loved to fish and always found time to go with one of his 'fishing buddies' — George Rock or Clyde Vigil or Ray Barthole. Mike and Margie often went to Saturday night dances at local Grange halls and a house party was traditional on New Years Eve. They joined the Eagles in Deer Park and camped with the RV group. They took a trip to Scotland with sister Helen and her husband Dick Montgomery. They went to Hawaii with a

dairy farmer tour group. Twice they went to Detroit, Michigan, with their close friends Harold and Jean Weger to buy new cars — and once again with the Wegers and Davises. They went to Arizona with the Wegers to visit George and Lillian Rock and Toots and Chuck Davis — who were spending their winters there. For ten years they belonged to the 'Hix 'n Chix' square dance club, and took a Caribbean cruise with the group. They took a great trip to Alaska with June Hale and Doc White while Wendy was living in Anchorage. For many years there was a regular trip to Reno, Nevada, with the Wegers and often other friends — a regular trip to Reno in October, after the spuds were dug.

In the late 1960s and early '70s Mike began to have health problems. It seemed like a good time to retire. He built another house — and drilled another well — on the north end of the Wild Rose property. Mike and Margie moved in in July of 1976.

Of course retirement is not just sitting. Mike still plants a garden in the spring and even at 90 has chores to do. Every day he feeds the livestock — song birds, quail, pheasants, deer, and stray cats.

Society Minutes — August, 2008

This warm, sunny Saturday morning began with panic when it became obvious that our usual meeting place, the Clayton Drive In, was unexpectedly unavailable. Society member Lorraine Nord is also a member of the Clayton Grange — and has a key to the Grange Hall. She contacted Jack Lewis of the Grange, and informed him that she was moving the meeting to the Grange Hall's basement. A sign was posted at the Drive In directing people to the temporary meeting place. This glitch in circumstance turned out to be for the better due to the large number of people attending this month's meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 09:15 AM — only fifteen minutes late despite the morning's chaos. Those in attendance included Bill Sebright, Mark Wagner, Patricia Parker, Wally Lee Parker, Bob Clouse, Mary Clouse, Marilyn Reilly, Lorraine Nord, Warren Nord, Violet Zimmerer, Eddie Olson, Jorene Peer, Betty Burdette, George Olsen, Terry Olsen, Tom Olsen, Monica Olsen, Sue Newell, Eve du Bois, Florene Moore, Sharon Clark,

Eldon 'Swede' Hutchins, and Jack Lewis.

Society treasurer, Mark Wagner, reported the current status of the society's finances. He also noted that the society booth at the Settlers Day picnic had netted \$90, while an additional \$45 from Clayton Days and \$42 from the Loon Lake Historical Society had accumulated in the society's coffer through donations received in exchange for C/DPHS publications.

It was noted that the largest recent outlay was \$500 for the acquisition of an original Leno Prestini painting (see page 33 of the 'Collected Newsletters' for details).

It was also noted that Mark is checking as to the exact non-profit tax number the society should be using on its official correspondence and such.

Bill Sebright reported that he had received an email from Duane Becker of the Pend Oreille County Historical Society in Newport asking for permission to publish several photos the society has posted online, as well as in its print publications.

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Chaos and Community
— a typical Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society meeting —

The images requested by Duane are of the former Atlas missile site at Deer Park. He wants the images for an article he is writing for an upcoming issue of the *Elk Sentinel Community Newspaper*. The society directed Duane to Dick Mellor, former Ballistic Missile Analyst Technician with the 567th Strategic Missile Squadron. Dick was one of the missileers who assisted the society's editor of print publications, Wally Lee Parker, in the technical research for Wally's booklet length article, and he was the gentleman who originally obtained the images used by the society in that publication, and he also obtained permission for the society to use them.

The article, *Standing Watch: the story of Deer Park's Atlas Intercontinental Ballistic Missile, 1961 — 1965*, was first published in 2006, and continues to be available as part of the society's "Reports to the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society" series.

We received a second message from Duane saying, "I was on your website reading some of your minutes from past meetings when I noticed that you were seeking info on the Owens Museum near Bear Lake." Duane then proceeded to give Bill the requested contact information. Bill Sebright outlined the data Duane had supplied, and then ex-

pressed his amazement that someone actually reads the society's minutes.

Bill reported that the society's Settlers Picnic booth was a success, in part because the C/DPHS sign donated by Marilyn Reilly added to the booth's visibility.

Art Stelting and Minnie Westby Hayworth were able to put names to the students in two different vintage Clayton school photos posted at the booth. Art also provided the society with several dozen photos of his family, the town of Clayton, and of the Clayton brickyard.

Bill stated that the Brickyard Days also went well. Several society members helped with the traditional breakfast at the Clayton Drive In. An area for the C/DPHS display was set up in the multi-purpose room located in the addition just to the south of the historic Clayton school. Among those stopping by was former Clayton student and area resident John Henry. John's grandmother was cook at the Clayton school for many years. John has been supplying the society with many high quality family photos taken in and around the Clayton area — including almost a dozen pictures of the July 11, 1957, E & E Mercantile fire snapped by John's grandparents, the 'Doc' Harrisons.

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The date of the fire that decimated a good portion of Clayton's historic downtown was confirmed by consulting a detailed daily journal kept for many years by Warren Nord's mother.

Last week Donna Smith from the Clayton Post Office contacted society president Bill Sebright to say that, when replacing a sidewalk, they had discovered bricks believed to have been part of the rubble from the Mercantile fire.

Several of those bricks, along with the Henry photos, will be on display in the society booth at the upcoming Clayton Fair.

Bill also said that Ella May Jenkins has presented the society with a copy of the Big Foot Valley Reunion folder. The society hopes that some of the material can be reprinted after permission has been obtained from the original authors.

Print publications editor Wally Parker reported a fifth interview session with Tuffy Luhr had been completed, and is hopeful that an extensive article about Tuffy's life will be in print by the end of the year as a volume in the 'Reports' booklet series.

The society has published its first volume of 'Collected Newsletters'. This booklet contains the first four issues of the Mortarboard.

Since publication of our newsletters began, over three hundred free copies of the Mortarboard have been distributed. It's hoped that the three dollar suggested donation for the 'Collected Newsletters' will offset the expense of distributing these free copies.

The editor wanted to point out how the fact that the society hopes to keep all prior issues of the newsletter in circulation by binding them into the 'Collected Newsletters' series will affect the editorial content of the newsletters. Although there's a strong intent to provide entertaining material, the majority of our material also needs to be of historic value — in an archival sense. This means the majority of the material in each issue must have some enduring value as history. If this standard is maintained, then the historic value — as well as keepsake value — of our prior issues will increase over time.

Webmaster Bob Clouse reported that 749 distinct email addresses signed onto the society's website one or more times in July. The value of the website continues to be demonstrated as otherwise unlikely contacts continue to trickle in though the site — the majority being former area residents who

'discover' the society while surfing the web for trace mention of their old home towns or former acquaintances.

Bob reports that he has received a running commentary from former locals who are currently attending the Trysil Reunion in Norway — Paul Erickson among them. A commentary on the trip can be found at <http://bee-loudglade.blogspot.com/> — a blog written by Tulla Froyen.

Bob spent a day at Spokane's Museum of Arts and Culture (the MAC) searching for photos of Clayton's devastating August 5, 1908 fire. Bob states that no photos were found, but he does wish to extend a special thanks to Jane Davey, the museum's Assistant Curator, for her help with the search.

Florene Moore updated the society regarding her efforts to compile a list of old rural schools throughout the area — as to name and location. Jack Lewis states that he believes he may have photos of many of those schools, and will attempt to locate said photos.

Tom Olsen, genealogist for the visiting Olsen family, stated that the original spelling of the family name was 'Olsson'. His grandfather, Olaf, was mayor of Deer Park from 1915 to 1917. In fact, in many ways the early history of Deer Park was the history of the Olsen family — and vice versa. Further reading and a number of Olsen family photos can be found on the society's website.

The society was recently contacted by Sharon Boyd Clark of Medical Lake. Sharon reported that her parents, Betty and Dwight Boyd, lived in Deer Park for many years. Dwight was the Shell Petroleum products distributor and Betty worked for Doctor Christofferson.

Sharon also stated that her mother, Betty, was from the area's homesteading Tarbert family. Her family at one time lived on one of the old Westby farms on Spotted Road. In fact, her father built the house last owned by Del and Melda Marr at that location.

Missis Clark has given the society a number of photos and family records for our archives.

Jack Lewis has made a map of the Big Foot Valley, with names of the families living there when he was growing up.

The society's meeting was honored by the presence of Clayton elder Eddie Olson. Eddie recounted a story about how two unrelated Olsons were speculating as to how so many Olsons came to

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be scattered around the country.

One Olson said, "I found out why that is."

"For sure," the other asked?

"Yes," the first replied. "We took a trip back to Duluth, Minnesota. And right there in the town I saw a factory. And a big sign on that factory said 'Olson Manufacturing Company'. And that explains why there are so many of us Olsons."

"Makes sense to me," the second replied.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.

The society wishes to extend a special thanks to the Clayton Grange for the use of their basement. We expect that the September meeting will be held in our usual venue, the Clayton Drive In.

Society meetings occur on the second Saturday of every month. We 'normally' begin at 09:00 AM, and continue for about an hour. The meetings are open, and drop-ins are welcome.

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.

First is a letter from Charles Stewart requesting help with the actuality of a plot hatched by his father, Burton Stewart, and Burton's best friend, Leno Prestini, to give the tall stack at the Clayton brickyard a fitting farewell.

As a kid I heard my dad and Leno Prestini planning a final memorial to the brickyard, but I didn't witness it myself, and I've never found out if it actually happened.

It was in the early 1960's, after the brickyard had closed and just before the big smokestack was to be demolished. Dad and Leno thought there should be some kind of suitable ceremony to remind people of how important the brickyard was to Clayton. Just after dawn on demolition day, Dad and Leno planned to pile a bunch of old tires inside the base of the smokestack and set them on fire. If it happened, black smoke must have billowed from the big stack for a few hours, just like it did when the plant was burning coal.

I didn't see it, and I don't remember Dad saying anything about the results. Can you or any of your readers confirm whether they actually did it or not?

The society received this Saturday, August 16th update on the doings at the Clayton Fairgrounds from Mary Lentz. With the Clayton fair only a week away, the pressure was obviously on.

Mary writes ...

The big thing going on now is the addition of a picnic shelter, and getting the bathrooms useable by this time next weekend. In the past month the community has donated \$12,000 to build the shelter — with any extra to be used to complete the restrooms. The volunteers started on the drilling of the postholes on July 23, and set the poles in concrete on the 25th. They worked over the weekend to get the sewer completed, and the power in so everyone would be out of the way of the framers. The framers came on the 28th, and finished up the next day. The framers were the only people paid for their work — and the Clayton Grange picked up half the cost of that.

Several volunteers — both in their late 70's — helped level the ground and put rebar in place for the August 9th concrete floor pour.

In the meantime, other volunteers worked on the wiring, plumbing and framing of the bathrooms. As of today, my hubby completed the plumbing — with only one leak — and then took off for a week of fishing in Alaska.

Getting the fixtures and doors set by fair time is in someone else's ballpark.

We're short \$2,000 dollars in paying for the bathroom fixtures — twelve in all — and the shingles for the roof of the picnic shelter.

That's it in a nutshell. It's late. I've got to get some sleep. I'll have to get up early for the Grange's Sunday morning pancake feed.

In reference to last month's Mortarboard, this from Paul J. Erickson.

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The Inga Erickson article (Mortarboard #4, page 47) talked about Inga being born in a little log cabin near Deer Park. When I read that, I recalled that the cabin was on the farm owned — the last time I heard — by Bobby and Lillie Gibson.

When growing up — whenever we would pass by the Gibson place — my dad would point out a little building as the place he was born. I was always amazed by that. Seeing it as ancient history, I always wondered how the cabin could still be standing after all that time.

Society president Bill Sebright contacted the Gibson family and was told that the cabin in question has disappeared from the property.

The following exchange began with an email message to society president, Bill Sebright through the society's website. Renee (no last name given) of Victoria, British Columbia, is attempting to trace the life of her great great grandmother — a convoluted life that appears to have been lived somewhat outside convention. The only connection to our area appears to have occurred during the last year of the lady's life.

Renee wrote ...

I have a mystery I am hoping your readers might be able to help me with. After twenty years of extensive research, the trail of my ancestor — Margaret Davis — has run cold in Deer Park.

Margaret was born in Harrisburg, Oregon, on the 15th of July, 1878. Her birth name was Maud Myrtle Martin. As for why she changed her name, a trail of broken marriages with one or more ill-tempered men may have had something to do with it.

Research lead Renee to believe that Margaret died in or around the town of Deer Park in December of 1925 — following the death a few months earlier of her last husband, William T. Davis.

In response to Renee's request for assistance, Tom Costigan, editor of the *Deer Park Tribune*, provided the following clipping from the December 17, 1925 issue of the *Deer Park Union*.

Woman Stricken With Apoplexy — Dies Quickly

Mrs. Margaret Davis, living at Peterson's logging camp in Whitney Canyon near Tum Tum, was stricken with apoplexy yesterday and died two hours later. She was walking with Mrs. Peterson on a road near the camp when she suddenly sank to the ground unconscious. She was carried to the camp and expired about two hours later. She had been suffering from high blood pressure for two years, and death was attributed to this condition, leading to apoplexy. The body was brought here by undertaker O. A. Stone, and funeral arrangements are waiting word from a daughter in Boise, Idaho. She is reported to have been about 40 years of age.

As to the above, society associate and avid genealogist Pete Coffin, who was also in contact with Renee, said ...

The term 'apoplexy' probably described a rupture of an aneurysm in her heart or brain caused by the reported high blood pressure.

Regarding Pete's attempts to locate traces of Margaret's last husband in the Stevens/Spokane County and north Idaho areas, he summarized his search by saying ...

Among the many, I found no William Davis with the identifying history needed to connect him to your great great grandmother.

In closing, Renee wrote ...

I am hoping to find evidence of property held as well as what line of work — if any — William T. and Margaret Davis were engaged in in the Deer Park area. And perhaps who William T. Davis's next of kin might have been.

If you or any of your readers have any information about the life and death of both William and Margaret, would they please contact me either by email (myxcape@yahoo.com) or through the society.

Normally the society will not include mailing or email addresses in the 'letters' section. We will include such when requested, and when the situation seems to warrant complying with such.

Old Settlers: The Tarbert Family — A Letter From Sharon (Boyd) Clark —

Joseph Dugan Tarbert (1838-1914) and Nancy (Knox) Tarbert (1840-1900) took a homestead on Wild Rose Prairie in 1884.

Their youngest son, Clyde Tarbert (born June 7, 1881, in Worthington, Minnesota — died May 21, 1948, in Spokane) and Miss Ina Melissa Tucker (born July 4, 1886, in Cambridge, Nebraska — died June 17, 1961, in Spokane) were married at Hazard, Washington in 1903. They lived on Wild Rose for a while, then moved to Edgewood — just over the Stevens County line — where they raised their children. After Clyde passed away, the farm was sold and Ina moved to Deer Park. She owned a house on Main Street with two apartments. She rented the larger unit and lived in the smaller one until she died.

My mother, Iona Elizabeth “Betty” Tarbert, was the ninth of Clyde and Ina’s twelve children. She was born on the 23rd of January, 1922, and passed away September 23rd, 1999. On July 27th, 1940, she married William Dwight Boyd (1912-

1987).

I have some comments about the Kenneth Westby article that appeared in the issue #3, page 21, of the Mortarboard. My family lived on the quarter section identified as having been owned by Ola A. Westby and his brother Andreas. We lived there from the 1940s, until 1955.

There were two houses on the property. My grandparents, L. D. and Dora Boyd, lived in the bigger house, with my folks, Dwight and Betty Boyd and their young family lived in the smaller house — at least at first.

After a couple of years, my folks moved into Deer Park because Dad needed additional work to support the family. This didn’t last very long.

Within a short time the smaller house was moved into Deer Park and situated on a lot on ‘B’ Street — where it still stands. My grandparents moved there, and we moved back to the farm. All this was done around 1946 — certainly before I started school in 1947.

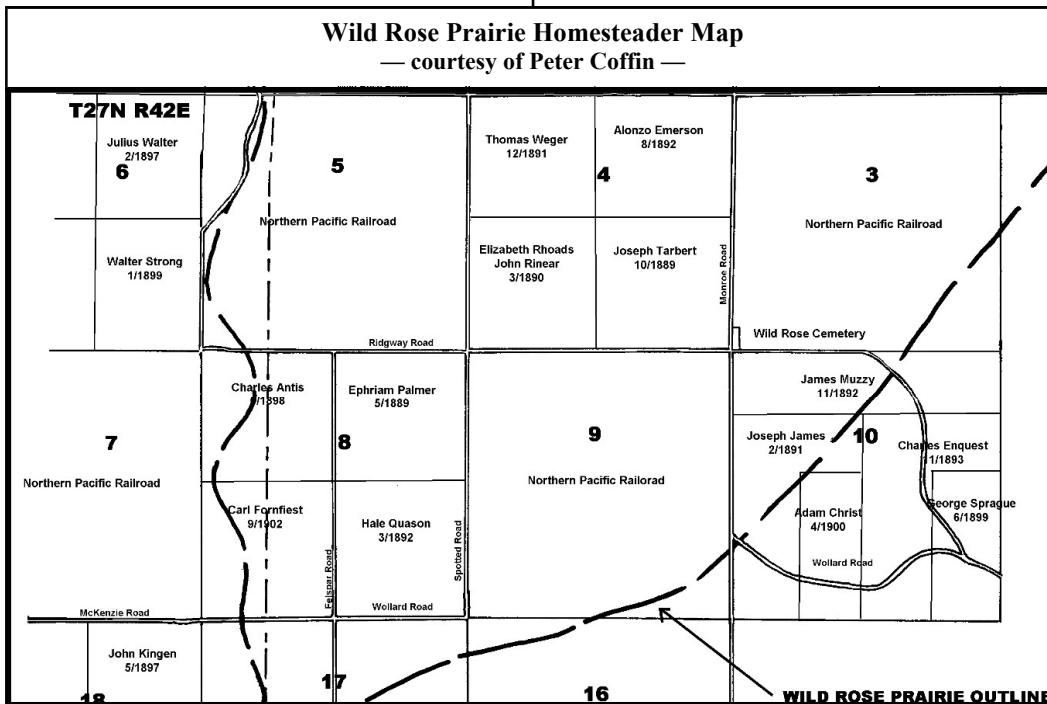


Photo Courtesy of Sharon Clark



A Tarbert family photo taken at the Old Settlers picnic, 1922 or '23

Back row — from left: Viola, Iona Elizabeth “Betty” being held by Ina, Clyde Tarbert holding Wesley, Minnie, Roger, and Oliver

Front row — from left: Bruce, Julia, and Walt

(three additional children; Norma, Clifford, and Cloye Mae, were born after this picture was taken)

My sister, Dorthy, and I remember going to Sunday and Vacation Bible School at the Trysil Lutheran Church on Spotted Road. We walked across our field to the road, crawled under the fence, and walked another quarter mile to the church.

We also watched the preparations for moving the church — much to the concern of our par-

ents. Dad was friends with the mover, Bob Harrendeen. Since I was only nine, and my sister eight, Mister Harrendeen reported our visit to our dad, and we were forbidden to go back by ourselves.

I remember waiting in our driveway, sitting in our car with Dad, watching the church building pass by on its way to Deer Park. We had to take

The Dwight & Betty Boyd farm near Clayton — circa, 1947

Photo courtesy of Sharon Clark



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down our mailbox to give the building room, then replace it after the church was gone.

Our home was primitive. The major section was a two story log house. The logs were about ten inches thick, squared off, and caulked between. Outside it was covered by overlapping wood boards. The kitchen and attic were added on later. The inside staircase was never finished.

You couldn't tell from the outside that it was a log house. Dad built a new house about 1953, and the old house was moved behind the barn, where it was used to store hay and shelter cows.

In the summer of 1955, Dad sold his 80 acres with the house, barn, and other buildings. Grandpa's 80 acres were retained for some time and farmed by my cousin, Don Ball. Our original log house isn't there anymore. I don't know if it was torn down, or just moved again.

All the children of Clyde and Ina Tarbert have passed on, but their descendants meet at Deer Park's Earl Mix Park every year on the second Sunday in August for a family reunion and picnic.

**In Search Of
Edgewood School**

Below is a photo of the students at Edgewood school. The original photo was a keepsake of one of the children shown — Betty Tarbert — and the image was sent to the society by Sharon (Boyd) Clark, one of Betty's daughters.

Sharon states that her mother had noted on the back of the photo, "All Edgewood School but Walter Tarbert", and then listed the names of those

included.

Sharon says, "Someone is hidden behind my mother", and goes on to explain that the original photo had the name "Lyle" written on the surface in ink, and an arrow pointing to the person standing directly behind Betty.

As for the location of the school, Florene Moore writes, "I know about Edgewood School

**Edgewood School — about 1931 or '32
from left**

**Harold Barnhart, Harold Weger, Mead Barnhart, Wesley Tarbert, Betty Tarbert, Bob Barnes,
Norma Tarbert, Bessie Stephens, Walter Strong, Carol Weger, Mildred Barnhart**



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because my uncle, Andy Eickmeyer, moved the building onto his farm. I think its previous location was near the present intersection of Felspar and Ridgeway Roads.”

If the general consensus that the school’s original site was “just” over the line into Stevens County is correct, that would place it no less than one and three-quarters miles due west of the Wild Rose Cemetery.

Florene Moore adds, “When I was 10 years old — and living in Chewelah — I came back to Wild Rose and stayed with my Uncle Andy and

Aunt Betty to help with my cousin Edith’s 6th birthday party. The party was held on their farm, inside what was once the old schoolhouse. Later, the building was used for storage and such until it finally deteriorated so much it was torn down.”

Sharon said, “My mother told me that the Tarbert kids walked over the hills from their property to get to the school. The road was the long way around. Charles Denson was a teacher there — he later taught 7th and 8th grade at Deer Park, and coached the girls’ athletic teams.”

Over The Kitchen Table

The editor’s thoughts on keep history at hand

— by Wally Lee Parker —

With the publication of our first newsletter collection, the concept behind the society’s newsletters has come full circle. And the unusual look of the individual copies of our newsletters should start making sense. The object is to create newsletters filled with historic gossip, and bind them into booklets that are permanently in print — meaning back issues will always be available.

We have the technology to do these things. We have computers that allow even me to write with some semblance of intelligence. An internet that allows people from around the world to talk just as if they were sitting face to face, chatting over the kitchen table. And the miracle of desktop publishing

— which allows just about anyone to create something at least palatable, and then laser-jet it into print on demand. If there’s any genius here, it’s a willingness to exploit all this technology — an exploitation that requires stubborn bull-headedness more than smarts.

What we cannot create is the history we report. For that we need sources. Books and newspapers are helpful, but what we need most are personal recollections. And for those special one of a kind memories, we must depend upon our readers’ input.



Society Want Ads

Scans Of Annuals Wanted: Deer Park High School annuals wanted for scanning or donation. We have 1923, 1950 to ‘53, 1960 to ‘63, 1978, and 1983 to ‘89. We would like scans or donations of other years for the C/DPHS archives. We also have a scan of a 1925 memory book from Clayton High School. Any opportunity to

copy other Clayton school memorabilia would be appreciated. Please contact the society at any of the addresses in the ‘Contacts’ box below.

Wanted: Identification of 4th Pilot: In the late summer of 1940 four young Clayton/Deer Park area men purchased a J-2 Piper

Cub with the intent of learning to fly. These were Alvin ‘Tuffy’ Luhr, Orland Luhr, Willie Grove, and Gilbert (?). We believe the last young man was an employ of Deer Park Pine, but little else is known. Can anyone supply a name and other pertinent data about Gilbert? If so, please contact the society.

Society Contacts

Bill Sebright, society president — (president@claytondeerparkhistoricalsociety.com)
Bob Clouse, webmaster — (webmaster@claytondeerparkhistoricalsociety.com)
Wally Lee Parker, editor of print publications — (print_publications@claytondeerparkhistoricalsociety.com)
C/DPHS, Box 293, Clayton, WA 99110

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