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Illustration from the Automotive Digest, March, 1920.

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Clayton's Moose Temple — The Early Years —

by

Wally Lee Parker

... saving what they could ...

On May 29th, 2005, an arson fire gutted what was doubtless the most iconic building still standing from the little town of Clayton's heyday, its Moose temple. Evidence of the structure's importance to the region's history is borne out by the fact that the destruction earned around 45 seconds worth of coverage on that evening's national news, as well as extensive mention throughout all of Washington State. Such widespread attention to the community's misery was short-lived. But locally, the heartache continues even today.

Embedded on the northwest corner of the temple's still standing brick and terracotta shell was a decorative cornerstone — a time capsule of sorts in which documents and mementos had been sealed during a ceremony 78 years, 6 months, and a handful of days prior to the fire. There was a sentiment within a small sliver of the larger community that those artifacts should be retrieved before the soot-blackened walls were toppled and the rubble cleared away. But Clayton Grange #456, the owners of the temple since 1958, staved off

any further destruction pending a final decision on what to do with the remains. Recovering their singed hearts, they collected the insurance money and began constructing a new interior inside the still solid walls. In rebuilding, the grangers had decided to save what they could of the relic's historic soul.

... an era of fraternal organizations ...

Early twentieth century rural society was shaped by distance and isolation — words that have little meaning today unless something malfunctions and part of our technological web collapses. Life then was largely labor intensive and inconvenient. People maintained their sanity — or at least most did — because their expectations were lower and their involvement with neighbors and the larger community generally higher.

In the early 1920's, most roads between the farms surrounding Deer Park and Clayton were little more than twisting wagon paths — clogged during winter snows, without bottom during spring melts. Rudimentary pole bridges would disappear under high water.

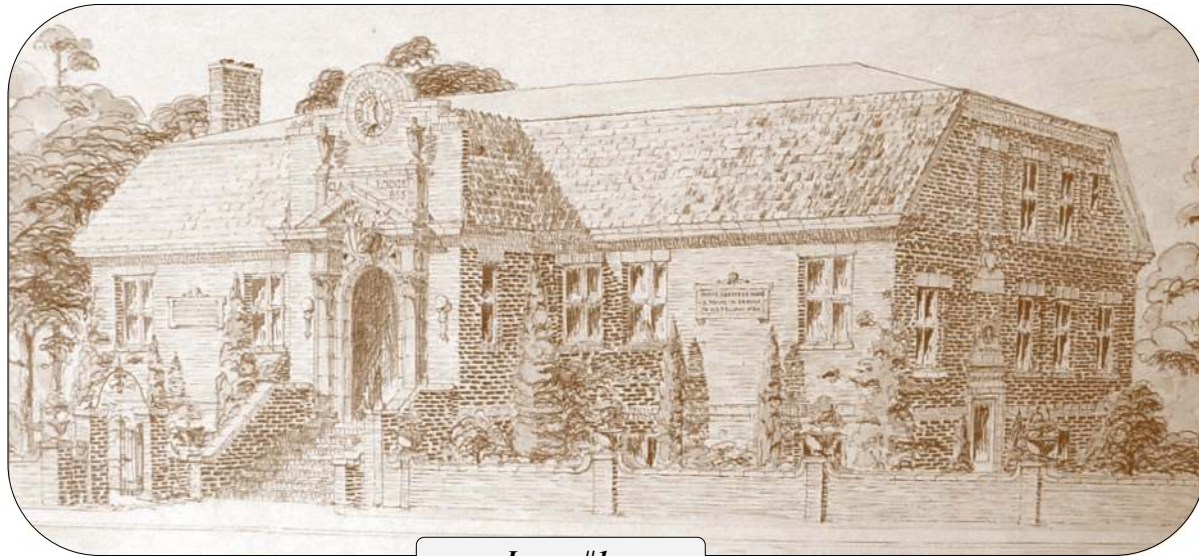


Image #1.

This illustration of the Clayton Moose Temple, date unknown, was provided by the relocated from Clayton to Loon Lake (and apparently since dissolved) Moose Lodge #855. It very well may be a replica of a portion of the “blueprints of the elevation of the building” sealed within the temple’s cornerstone.

And the ruts molded into drying mud by wagon and car wheels often made pushing new paths between the trees or along the edges of the fields preferable.

Since most rural areas made do without line-delivered electrical power, the magic of broadcast radio — still very much in its infancy in the early 1920s — had to be energized by battery. Generally, telephone service only extended into rural areas on lines strung and maintained by farmer owned cooperatives. For those living outside the local switchboard loop, talking to a neighbor required a face to face visit. Considering the prohibitive cost of long-distance messaging by telegraph or telephone, the postal service was a cheap means of communicating at a distance — and fast enough for the pace at which most people lived. Automobiles had only just begun to infuse themselves into rural life as something that could be relied upon. But regardless of

mode, traveling across the region was still a time-consuming adventure — with trains by far the most comfortable and stress-free means.

Despite common and seasonal hindrances to travel and communication — or very likely because of them — the larger community overflowed with active social groups. Announcements of church functions, school-related events, the doings of fraternal organizations and the local granges, and reports of various business and political meetings littered the pages of the area’s weekly newspapers. (For links to more information regarding the area’s first newspapers — the *Deer Park Union*, *Loon Lake Times*, *Clayton Critic*, and *Clayton News-Letter*, see the “Further Reading” box at the bottom of the facing page.)

Grange halls, just as that organization’s founders originally envisioned, served as social centers for rural families — provid-

ing space for dances, concerts, plays, and religious and political rallies, as well as a classroom for education on agricultural topics. Fraternal organizations served some of the same functions in the towns — as well as becoming social forums in which informal and sometimes formal planning of a community’s economic future took place.

In the early years, the region surrounding where the Spokane, Stevens, and Pend Oreille county lines touched was a rapidly developing economic zone based on the mineral, timber, and agricultural potential of the area. This continuing expansion was largely fueled by capital flowing out of Spokane. And a good number of the men controlling that capital were members of fraternal organizations.

... a Moose temple for Clayton ...

All this was doubtless the reason Clayton reacted so positively to the announcement in the early summer of 1926 that the Loyal Order of Moose was interested in forming a local chapter in the town. Since A. B. Fosseen, then president and primary stockholder of the town’s founding corporation, the

Washington Brick, Lime & Sewer Pipe Company, was a member of the Spokane lodge, the town clearly had an inside advocate — said advocacy eventually solidifying in the construction of town’s remarkable Moose temple.

The first known notice of the Moose organization’s designs on Clayton was found on the last page of the May 6th, 1926 issue of the *Deer Park Union* — in the local “Correspondents” segment. Under the heading for “Clayton,” Mrs. E. E. Williamson wrote, “*The Fraternal Order of Moose is advertising a free entertainment at the Grange Hall (Clayton Grange #456) next Thursday night. They are making an effort to establish a lodge here.*”

(The Grange Hall in which the first organizational meetings of the Clayton’s Moose Lodge were held has since been sold and moved to a new location. For details of that move, see the article listed in the “Further Reading” box below.)

On May 13th, the *Union* described the previously announced event with this. “*A ‘Get Together’ was held at the Grange Hall Thursday evening, sponsored by the Moose Lodge of Spokane. About twenty members were present, including the drum corps. The crowd*

Further Reading — Relocating the Original Clayton Grange Hall.

“The Story Beneath Leno Prestini’s Sketch ‘Hell at Dawn,’” by Wally Lee Parker. Mortarboard #27, July, 2010 — page 337 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 8. http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_27_downsinglesinglepageweb.pdf

Further Reading — Early Newspapers for the Local Area.

“Searching for Old Newspapers in Washington State,” by Ken Westby. Mortarboard #112, August, 2017 — page 1523 — http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard_issue_112_web_.pdf

“The Clayton News-Letter,” by Wally Lee Parker. Mortarboard #113, September, 2017 — page 1529 — http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_113_web_1_.pdf

“In Search of the Deer Park Union’s First Editor,” by Wally Lee Parker. Mortarboard #113, September, 2017 — page 1537 — http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_113_web_1_.pdf

was entertained by speeches by several prominent members who told the story of the Moose, followed by a free dance and supper. Music was furnished by the Moose 3-piece orchestra. Prospects are favorable for the establishing of a local lodge.”

In the “Correspondents” segment of that same paper, Mrs. Williamson added, “They (assumedly officials from Spokane’s Moose Lodge) secured about 25 members for the order and will establish a lodge if they can secure fifty members.”

The July 8th edition of the *Deer Park Union* stated, “the lodge has a membership of 54, and several more have signified their intention of joining” — this wording implying that the Clayton chapter had officially come into existence in the weeks prior. The article also noted that “Plans are going ahead for the construction of a new Moose temple in Clayton”, and that work on said temple was likely to start within a week.

... as Battista Prestini recalled ...

In his unpublished memoirs, Clayton resident Battista Prestini — older brother of Clayton artist Leno Prestini — stated that the town’s lodge was “started” on “July 19, 1926.” It isn’t clear whether he’s referring to the date the local chapter was accepted into the national organization or the date construction began on the temple’s physical structure. That said, a history published by the *Clayton Moose Bulletin* early in 1932 dates the Clayton chapter’s acceptance into the Loyal Order of Moose as June 20th, 1926 — leaving open the possibility that Battista was saying actual construction began a month later, though we’ve yet to find any mention through other sources of July 19th specifically.

Battista’s handwritten notes — now held in the Stevens County Historical Society’s archive — also list the fifty original members of Clayton’s chapter (Battista among them), plus the name of the chapter’s “supervisor, Lee L. Safford” — assumedly the overseeing representative from the Spokane

lodge.

Prestini identified A. J. Sartori, from Spokane’s Moose Lodge, as the primary mover and shaker for Clayton’s lodge, suggesting in his notes that Sartori “pushed ... with all his might” and “talked the brickyard and terracotta workers into ... using all their skills to put up a brick and terracotta building.” That said, Battista’s writings make it clear he wasn’t particularly enamored by Mr. Sartori or his tactics.

Battista’s script goes on to report that Washington Brick & Lime donated the materials for the temple, while financing was carried out through the sale of \$25.00 interest bearing bonds. Other sources suggest the truth is a bit more complicated — as one might expect.

... construction begins ...

We can document that Washington Brick, Lime & Sewer Pipe Company donated the land on which Clayton’s Moose temple was built — that donation first announced in an article appearing in the July 29th, 1926 edition of the *Deer Park Union*. The newspaper states that the brick company had “given” the local Moose chapter the necessary land. At the time of the article, the gift was more promissory than actual since the record books at Stevens County’s courthouse show it wasn’t until October 4th, 1926 that the official transfer of ownership was made — that transfer being recorded as, “Washington Brick, Lime and Sewer Pipe Company to Clayton Lodge #855 of the Loyal Order of the Moose.” The record then goes on to note exactly what was being deeded — “Lots 1, 2, 3, & 4, W² of lot 5, Bk 2, Clayton;” with the “W²” in the description apparently indicating the west half of “lot 5.” In later reporting the half lot isn’t mentioned — though the official record takes precedence.

The above quoted July 29th article then goes on to state, “Heaps of brick and other building materials and a gang of busy Moose each evening is a sure indication that the proposed Moose Temple of Clayton will soon materialize. Plans are all completed for

a one-story building with basement which will be comprised of a large lodge room, dining room and kitchen, and furnace, restrooms and cloak rooms. They expect to have the finest dance floor in Stevens County.”

Regarding the above “completed” plans, a document later discussed will clearly state that “The first design ... was drawn up on July 4 and 5 ...” — a few weeks after the Clayton chapter’s acceptance into the order.

It’s quite possible the highly motivated volunteer construction crews didn’t consider throwing the first shovelful of dirt a matter requiring a ceremonial record since — other than the possibility Battista Prestini meant July 19th as such in his notes — we’ve yet to find the exact date construction began.

That noted, under the headline “Moose Hall to Be Pretentious Building,” an article from the September 30th edition of the *Union* reported the following. “Members of the Moose Lodge of Clayton were proudly exhibiting to Deer Park people on Tuesday the plans of the new Moose temple being built in that town, the funds for which are being raised by selling bonds. At present basement work is being done, and much of the labor is contributed. This work, however is preliminary to letting the contract for the structure, which is to be one and one-half stories high, with a front of 75 feet, and 40 feet deep. The main floor is to have an auditorium, 38x52 feet clear, with stage, dressing rooms, cloak rooms, moving picture booth and other features. In the basement a reading room, dining and club room are planned, with kitchen, showers and furnace.

“The front of the building will have a face brick and terra cotta finish, with the embellishments and emblems of the lodge as decorations, and the blueprint designs indicate that it will be second to none in this part of the country when finished. The entire temple will be built of brick furnished by the Washington Brick, Lime & Sewer Pipe Company, which is interested in the welfare of the employees, and furnished the material at a very low cost. The roof will be covered with clay shingles made

by the company, thereby making the entire building a home product with the exception of the lumber used in construction. It is expected that this will be purchased here, thereby making it a home product complete. In addition to the low price for building material, the Clayton company gave the site to the lodge where the temple is being erected, consisting of four lots. A total of 115 bonds have been sold to date to cover the expense of building, and when completed the property will be valued at about \$12,000. The lodge has 65 members at present.”

... an official history ...

Though clearly already underway, an article appearing in the November 9th, 1926 issue of the *Spokane Chronicle* headlined “New Moose Lodge Will Be Started — Spokane Officials Will Be in Charge of Ceremonies at Clayton, Wash.” The body of the article stated, “The ceremony of laying a cornerstone for a new Loyal Order of Moose lodge will take place Sunday afternoon at Clayton, when members of the order in eastern Washington and northern Idaho will begin the construction of a new \$30,000 temple for the new Clayton lodge, which was formed last summer.”

It’s duly noted that the September 30th *Union* and November 9th *Chronicle* give two different values for the temple.

A paragraph in the *Chronicle* article specific to Clayton’s local membership notes, “A. B. Fosseen, president and general manager of the Washington Brick, Lime and Sewer Pipe Company, will deliver an address on behalf of the men in the company’s big plant at Clayton, virtually all of whom are members of Clayton’s lodge, who is manager of the Clayton plant, will speak. L. W. Davenport, past dictator; Ole Wind, vice dictator; Roy V. Stewart, prelate; George Wagner, secretary; Wallace Thoreson, treasurer; and Fred A. Goodrich, Robert Salisbury and Earl G. Burr, trustees, will be other speakers.”

As part of the upcoming Sunday, November 14th ceremony, a collection of artifacts was to be sealed into the temple's cornerstone. Among said objects was a letter addressed to "you who open this cornerstone." A reprint of that letter was included in the February 23rd, 1932 edition of the *Clayton Moose Bulletin*. Under the headline "A Brief History of Clayton's Moose Lodge," the article, in part, reads ...

"You who open this cornerstone, probably many years from the present, will be interested in the inception of and erection of this building, and with that in mind, a brief history of the beginning of the lodge, whose home it is intended to be, is here given, with the story of how this building was erected. A number of other articles of contemporary origin would naturally be of interest and are enclosed along with this manuscript on separate paper.

"The Loyal Order of Moose, in its campaign for increasing the membership of the lodge, started out in this vicinity in April 1926, with the idea of starting a lodge in Deer Park, our neighboring town on the east, and tried to interest the residents of Clayton in a lodge at Deer Park.

"On April 29, 1926, Brother A. J. Sartori, Supreme Councilman of the Order, in company with Brother L. L. Safford, organizer of the lodge, visited Clayton on the occasion of a banquet given in honor of Mr. Z. Varo, the retiring superintendent of the terracotta plant existing here. At this banquet they spoke on the Moose Lodge. These gentlemen found that Clayton was a more fruitful field for a Moose lodge than Deer Park and began a campaign for members. Sufficient members were signed up, 50 in number, so that the lodge was instituted on June 20, 1926.

"At the installation ceremony the following acted as officers: Supreme Councilmen, Al J. Sartori, acting as installing officer. The officers of Spokane Lodge No. 161 ..." Following was a list of officers from the Spokane lodge in attendance at the cornerstone ceremony.

After such, the article continued, "The new lodge, right from the inception, was interested in a lodge building because of a lack of a suitable meeting place, and also because of the occupation of most of the members was either in the brick or terracotta plant, both engaged in the manufacture of building materials. This desire of the membership for a new building met with a quick response from the Washington Brick, Lime and Sewer Pipe Company, through its president, A. B. Fosseen, in cooperating with the lodge. A building committee was appointed by brother Greenway, dictator, on June 30, 1926, composed of the following: Brothers R. V. Stewart, Ed Wester, C. H. Link, Wallace Thoreson and J. O. Greenway.

"The first design, of which this building was the result, was drawn up on July 4 and 5 and was accepted contingent upon the cost of erection. Dr. Safford of the Spokane lodge recommended the sale of \$25 building bonds to finance the building, which was followed. A large portion of this work was planned to be donated and following this plan, the excavations for the footings, and most of the brickwork for the footings, was donated by the lodge members, with the aid of a few outsiders. The most notable instance of labor donated was performed in the terracotta department, the terracotta all being pressed by volunteer labor." Whether the company donated the cost of firing the terracotta is left open.

The article continued, "When it is recalled that the market price of this terracotta is over \$3,000, it is seen what a big help this was.

"The bonds were sold very readily to the members, most of them buying bonds and then volunteering labor besides; so, it is very evident the spirit in which this building was erected. We must state that the spirit of cooperation as shown by the members of the lodge, and the helping hand given us by the Washington Brick, Lime and Sewer Pipe Company, are the sole reasons why a building of this class for a town of this size could be erected. We really believe that the erection of this building

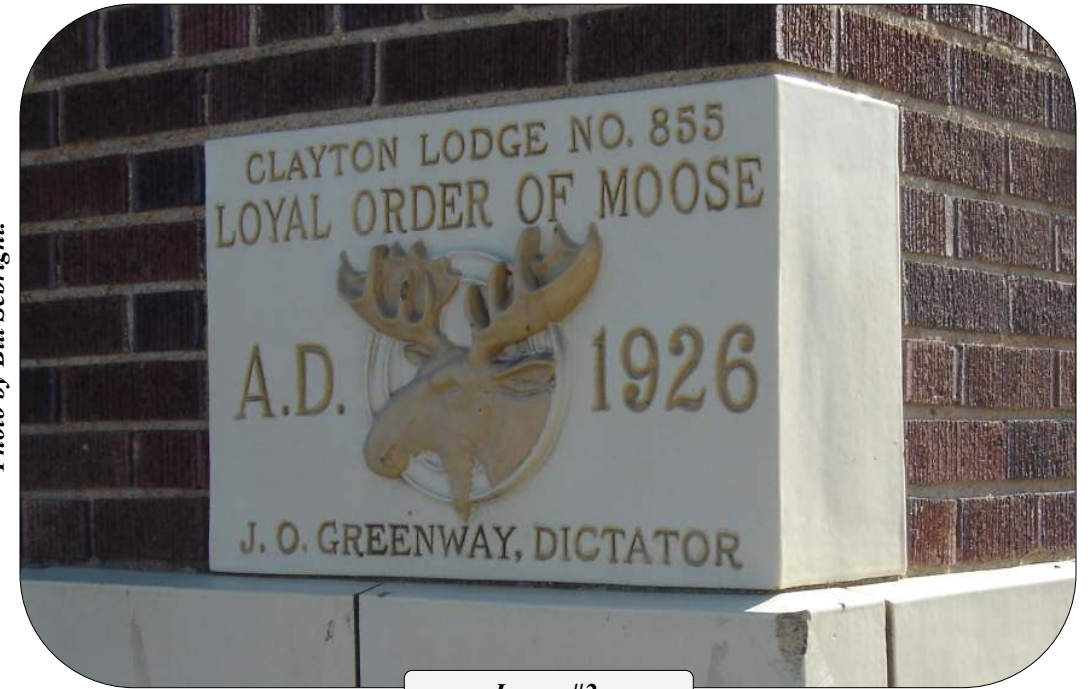


Photo by Bill Sebright.

Image #2.

Cornerstone — Northwest wall of Clayton Moose Temple.

"We cannot help in writing this account to conjecture the conditions under which mankind will exist when this cornerstone is opened." — November 14, 1926.

by such a small membership is an example of the teachings of our order. "One for all, and all for one." "A burden too heavy for one is born lightly by many." Without the following of such teachings this building could not have been erected.

"We cannot help in writing this account to conjecture the conditions under which mankind will exist when this cornerstone is opened. One of the aims of this lodge, in common with other fraternities, is to bring about the 'Brotherhood of Man.' We wonder as we put this manuscript in this stone, what strides you who open this stone have made. We believe that we of the present day in following the teachings of our order are helping to that happy day, that golden age when all of

mankind has learned that 'Man's greatest good is found in service to his fellow man.'

"List of articles placed in Cornerstone of Temple of Clayton Lodge No. 855, L. O. O. M., November 14, 1926.

"Names of members of lodge up to and including November 14, 1926.

"Photos of officers.

"Clipping from paper called the Spokane Chronicle, dated November 9, 1926; and also (an) excerpt from the Spokesman Review, of Spokane, both having reference to the ceremony of laying the cornerstone of Clayton Lodge No. 855, L. O. O. M. Temple.

"A few pennies, nickels and dimes, and any other small contributions those present may wish to place in the stone.



Photo by Bill Sebrigh.

Image #3.

Front (north) side of Clayton Moose Temple.

“We wonder as we put this manuscript in this stone, what strides you who open this stone have made. We believe that we of the present day in following the teachings of our order are helping to that happy day, that golden age when all of mankind has learned that ‘Man’s greatest good is found in service to his fellow man.’”
— November 14, 1926.

“Blueprints of the elevation of the building.”

Whether the more perishable of the above cornerstone-entombed artifacts have survived the ravages of time and the hall’s interior gutting fire of May 29th, 2005 ...

... bringing the temple to life ...

The January 6th, 1927 issue of the *Deer Park Union* records, “The members of the L. O. O. M. here took advantage of the two-day holiday (assumedly New Year’s Eve, which fell on a Friday, and New Year’s Day, which fell on a Saturday — Saturday likely being considered a normal workday for that era’s industrial laborers), and all turned out

and helped raise the big truss for the roof.” In the meantime, fraternity events — card parties, dances, suppers — continued to be held in the local grange hall.

The headline “Clayton Moose Temple is Opened” appeared in the February 24th *Union*, followed by the subheading, “Lodge Will Open with Smoker Next Wednesday Evening and Entertainments to Follow.” As the text explains, “The new Moose temple is about ready for occupancy, the doors and windows having been put in during the past few days.”

The above term “Smoker” is classically defined as “an informal gathering of men,” but as used above likely means a program of boxing matches.

Through the remainder of the winter

and on into spring, a steady stream of activities were held in the new hall and reported in the *Union*; among them this from the May 12th edition. “A class of three girls will be graduating from the Clayton (high) school on Friday evening, the exercises to be held in the Moose temple.”

Early August saw this headline, “New Moose Lodge Receives Big Class.” The first paragraph noted, “23 new members were initiated. ... The reception of these members places the Clayton lodge among the leaders in the order, the total membership now being 150.”

“This growth is phenomenal in that the organization is only a year old and started with fifty members. During this time a Moose temple has been erected that has drawn comment in all circles of the order as one of the finest among the properties owned by any of the organizations.”

The article went on to declare, “The new maple floor has been planed and polished, giving it an excellent surface for dancing.”

On August 18th, the *Union* reported, “The temple at Clayton is going forward steadily in completion and at present a forced air furnace is being installed with all of the necessary equipment to give comfort during the coldest weather.” It also stated, “Two weeks ago the lodge initiated a class of 23 members, and last evening another class of 15 was listed for the ceremony. These are not only gathered from Clayton, but from Deer Park and other nearby towns, and the organization is becoming a district affair rather than for Clayton only.”

The *Deer Park Union*’s October 27th printing announced that the Moose organization intended to “Dedicate (the) Moose Temple Saturday,” even though, as later articles from Clayton’s own newspaper, the *Bulletin*, would indicate, it was yet to be finished inside.

As the *Union*’s October article explained, “The ceremony will mark the climax of over a year of effort on the part of the members, much of it being in personal labor at

times when not employed at the regular work of the day.”

The next Thursday’s *Union* described it this way. “Saturday, October 29, will long be remembered in Clayton, for on that day the Moose temple was dedicated. This day had long been looked forward to by the members of the lodge, and many hard days of work, as well as nights, had been put in, preparing the building for the ceremony. The members have lived up to their name of ‘Loyal Moose’ by turning out in force whenever they were required to help get the building ready. The Spokane lodge has also taken a great interest in the work, presenting to the lodge a beautiful tile panel of the seal of the Moose lodge, which was placed in the vestibule. The Spokane lodge also presented two beautiful bronze side lights for the main entrance and a very fine chandelier or lantern for the vestibule.”

After listing the L. O. O. M. dignitaries in attendance from the national and Spokane organizations, the article continued, “Preceding the ceremony of dedication, which was for members only, the Clayton lodge unveiled over the (west) entrance to the lodge a portrait of Mr. Sartori. (See Image #5.) This little ceremony was a complete surprise to him, and he felt deeply concerning it.”

... a Moose colony at Loon Lake ...

In late August 1927 — a few months prior to the dedication of Clayton’s Moose temple — an article in the *Deer Park Union* carried this headline, “Buy Acreage for Summer Residence,” and the subheading, “L. O. O. M. Secures 90 Acres on Loon Lake for Summer Colony — Buy Corbin Beach Park.” The subsequent article made it quite clear that the region’s Loyal Order of Moose had big designs for the Loon Lake district.

“Following a meeting with Evan Morgan, owner of the Corbin Beach Park acreage on the south side of Loon Lake ... members of the Clayton lodge announced that members of the L. O. O. M. had purchased 51



Source of photo currently misplaced.

Image #4.

Clayton Moose Temple Dedication — Saturday, October 29th, 1927.

“The ceremony will mark the climax of over a year of effort on the part of the members, much of it being in personal labor at times when not employed at the regular work of the day.” — The Deer Park Union, October 27th, 1927.

of the 90 lots in this acreage for a Moose summer colony home and had arranged with Mr. Morgan for the sale of the balance of the 90 lots in the plat. These lots were placed on the market by Mr. Morgan this summer as a special sale, and members of the lodge seized the opportunity to secure the tracts for this purpose. With the lakefront acreage goes the entire 90 acres held by Mr. Morgan, which he will deed to the lot holders in perpetuity for a private park.”

The lakeside frontage of the proposed colony was described as extending “from the island home of Mr. Fish, around Corbin cove, and east along the shore to the Carlson farm.”

In mid-January of the following year, a Union headline announced, “Plat is Filed for Lake Shore Homes. Evan Morgan Transfers 90 Lots and 90 acres to Incorporators of Moose Summer Colony.” The text that follows states the name of the new legal entity — “Lake Shore Homes” — and notes that it was “composed of members of the Moose lodges of Clayton and Spokane.”

After a fairly clear description of the proposed colony’s layout, the article noted, “Corbin Bay, so long known by that name, is to be rechristened Moose Bay, and the old haunted house which has stood since the early days is to be torn down and the lumber used in



Photo by Bill Sebright.

Image #5.

Portrait of Albert J. Sartori — West wall of Clayton Moose Temple.

“Preceding the ceremony of dedication, which was for members only, the Clayton lodge unveiled over the entrance to the lodge a portrait of Mr. Sartori. This little ceremony was a complete surprise to him, and he felt deeply concerning it.” — The Deer Park Union, October 27th, 1927.

a community clubhouse.”

The article concluded with the line, “The opening of the lake season will see the beginnings of a permanent Moose colony at Lake Shore Homes.”

In late February, according to the Union, “articles of incorporation were filed with the county auditor in Spokane ... the incorporators are L. W. Davenport and R. V. Stewart of Clayton, Fred Egger, Lee L. Safford, A. J. Sartori, W. W. Gillette, and W. J. Donovan of Spokane. A number of log cabins are now underway, being constructed for members of the colony who have purchased

lots ...”

Like most private or public plans either proposed or in effect in the late 1920s, within a few years the idea of a Moose colony would be disrupted by a worldwide and largely unforeseen economic collapse.

... 1928 ...

For Clayton’s Moose temple, the Union ended 1927 on a high note when it reported, “The Christmas program sponsored by the school and other local organizations was attended by the largest crowd ever gathered in

Clayton, the Moose temple being filled to its capacity. The program put on by the various grades of the school was enjoyed by all present. At the close of the program Santa Claus appeared and distributed candy to all.”

Nineteen twenty-eight, though taking up less space in Deer Park’s newspaper, continued to be largely upbeat.

On April 10th, 1928 the *Union* reported, “A record of five hours and sixteen and one-half minutes was made on Saturday by Vernon Smith, winner of the marathon race between the Moose temple in Clayton and the Spokane temple. Six men entered the race, four going over the entire course and two dropping out. Miss Ruby Olson, who has won some credit as an athlete in Clayton, was also reported to have started. Those finishing the race were Vernon Smith, Ralph Robertson, Parnell Nordby, Leno Prestini, and Ed Holland. Several prizes were offered.”

The facts supporting the headlined “Organization is Prospering” were outlined in the article below — this from the June 28th, 1928 *Union*.

“One of the most successful picnics held in years was put on by the Clayton Moose Lodge at Morgan Park, Loon Lake, on Sunday; it being one of the annual events in the life of the order. Probably a thousand people were in attendance, coming from all of the surrounding towns and from Spokane — which sent a large delegation accompanied by the Moose band. The crowd gathered early and stayed until late, and there was something doing all of the time.”

Another daylong event scheduled to take place Sunday August 19th at both the Clayton temple and Loon Lake’s Morgan Park was somewhat dampened when the Wednesday prior to the event a fire consumed a large wooden structure at Clayton’s brick plant. In the process about 100 cords of wood waiting to be fed into the kilns was consumed, and about half a million bricks — presumably not yet fired — were in large part damaged beyond salvage.

The first few weeks of autumn saw

the Clayton chapter involved in a renewed membership drive. Otherwise news from the temple was rather scant in the pages of Deer Park’s newspaper. The reason for this change was likely the advent of Clayton’s own newspaper, the *Clayton Moose Bulletin*. That paper, eight pages and very professional in form, was printed in Spokane. How much of the actual setup work was done by the local lodge isn’t clear. What is clear is that during its short life it became the primary voice for local news of Clayton, Loon Lake, and the surrounding districts.

... interior work still underway ...

Though the hall had been in active use for almost two full years, interior work was still underway in early 1929 — as this from the January 22nd issue of that year’s *Moose Bulletin* demonstrates.

“Following the enthusiasm aroused at previous meetings regarding the completion of the auditorium of the temple, Brother Link made a splendid report on the work done (last) Monday night. The ventilators and the caps for the columns were put in place, making a vast improvement in the looks of the hall ... The wiring was to be ordered and another work day puttying up the plasterboard seams called for Thursday night.”

The next issue of the *Bulletin* reported, “... it was decided that we meet next Monday night and finish up the puttying of the plasterboard. The plaster shop gang is going to finish up the running of the beams, and we believe that in the very near future the auditorium will be finished complete.”

February 5th found this in Clayton’s newspaper. “Brother Sater is to be highly commended on the wonderful ornamental work he is doing in the interior of the auditorium.”

The personal memories of people familiar with Clayton’s Moose temple before it was gutted by fire, along with several images of the hall’s original interior, suggest a very ornate field of three-dimensional plasterwork

surrounded the auditorium stage. There were also at least several ornate medallions on the ceiling. Articles from the *Clayton Moose Bulletin* indicate that these were primarily, if not totally, the work of Cecil Sater, modeler for Clayton’s terracotta factory. All this sculpting appears to have been done afterhours at a time when six-day workweeks were still the standard. This, along with ongoing financial constraints within the fraternity, might explain the slow rate of progress at completing the hall’s interior.

If the minutes and other books of Clayton’s Moose Lodge #855 still exist, they might well shed some light on the local fraternity’s financial condition at various points in its life. Attempts to find and gain access to these records, assuming they still exist, have so far proven fruitless. All we currently have are the generally unrevealing public reports that have somehow survived, such as this quote from the *Bulletin*’s late February 1929 issue.

“The plan for raising funds with which to pay off the present indebtedness are progressing very satisfactorily.”

“Brother Ole Wind, our Noble Past Dictator, took the floor and instilled more pep and enthusiasm into the crowd than has been done for a long time. He called attention particularly to our financial condition and stated that now was the time to put our shoulder to the wheel, pay off our debts, and complete the building. A splendid plan was devised whereby means could be secured to do this, and Brother Dictator, upon motion made and seconded, appointed a finance committee to take charge of this matter.”

A month later, in February’s final issue, the *Bulletin* stated, “Last meeting night, the question of finishing the auditorium was again brought up, and ... it was decided to go ahead and finish the beams, and together with the modeling done by Brother Sater — which he reported to be practically all taken care of — this is going to make a wonderful change in the appearance of the lodge room.”

The phrase “all taken care of” may

have been a bit premature.

Early summer saw Clayton’s Moose distracted by its sponsorship of another heavily attended picnic at Loon Lake’s Morgan Park. But by late September, the issue of the temple’s yet unfinished interior is once again a topic in the *Bulletin*.

“Mention of the building was made, particularly the plaster forms and means and ways of finishing this end of it was discussed, and it was hoped some agreement could be made soon whereby this particular part of the building could soon be finished.”

The October 1st issue noted that “Brother O. R. Wind” had been appointed to “see that the ceiling was finished.” Two weeks later the *Bulletin* reported, “Brother Ole Wind gave a splendid report on the progress his gang was making on the interior of the building, and everybody was keyed to finish the auditorium in the quickest possible time. The only delay now was the lack of moulding plaster, but this was expected very shortly, and it will not be long now when the beams are covered with their ornamentation. Every night is a worknight ...”

The October 15th article went on to suggest a group be formed to get the “clubroom finished up.” It’s unclear where the clubroom was located — possibly the basement.

And then, in late October 1929, the bottom began dropping out of America’s stock market. This didn’t seem of much concern to the working class, at least until banks began to close at an alarming rate, and soon after unemployment began to rise.

... 1930 — clearly pay-as-they-go ...

Unemployment in 1929 averaged 3.2%. In 1930, after late 1929’s stock market collapse began to settle in, it rose to 8.9% — an unemployment rate noteworthy of a severe recession, but still not in depression territory. In 1931 it reached 16.3%, with no top in sight. The next year it reached 24.1%. And then, in 1933, it reached the Great Depression’s peak



Image #6.

Interior of Pre-Fire Moose Temple / Clayton Grange / Looking East.
The plaster relief portrait above the stage is that of then national head of the Moose organization, Secretary of Labor for the United States, James A. Davis.

(Photo courtesy of Sue Hodges.)

of 24.9% — which is to say, a quarter of all Americans were unemployed for most or all of the year. Not until 1941, likely because of greatly increased military spending in anticipation of the country becoming entangled in World War II, did the unemployment index once again fall below 10%.

One indicator that Clayton was feeling the downturn — as the initial recession steeped its way into all aspects of the economy — was this note in the April 1930 *Moose Bulletin*. “The next card party for the benefit of the emergency relief fund will be held Wednes-

day night, April 9, in the Moose temple.” This suggested a significant number of local families were having problems making ends meet.

Despite the deteriorating economic situation, the local Moose organization managed to hold its annual Loon Lake picnic in late June 1930, and also act as a co-sponsor of that July’s boating regatta — the latter of which resulted in a \$250.00 check being presented to the lodge for its part in the regatta’s profit sharing plan. Said profit resulted in this note in the August 5th, *Bulletin*.

“There are several things to be done



Image #7.

Interior of Pre-Fire Moose Temple / Clayton Grange / Looking West.

(Photo courtesy of Sue Hodges.)

before winter and this money will certainly be put to good use. One thing that must be done is to get our heating system to work properly, and some investigation is now going on toward that end.”

In early October the *Bulletin* reported “the furnace is working fine.” And then, on November 11th, this ... “Last Wednesday night’s meeting was a good one. Past Dictator Olaf Wind started a movement to finish the temple interior. He told us that we could buy Textone for 25 cents per pound and urged everyone to start buying a pound or so as often as he could. A large dishpan was placed on the altar, and in a few minutes, we had

enough money to buy some nineteen pounds.”

As a promotional brochure printed in 1925 by Textone’s manufacturer, the United States Gypsum Company, explained, “Textone is a medium for the decoration of walls and ceilings. It is a white powder that is rendered plastic by the addition of water. It is applied with a brush. The rough-texture effects which it is possible to produce with Textone are the results of manipulation with tools in everyday use by the painter and decorator — a whisk broom, a stippling brush, sponge or wadded paper, or often nothing more than the palm of the hand.

“Any desired color effect can be pro-

duced by the addition of pigment colors to the plastic Textone.”

The full versatility of Textone when it comes to adding a three-dimensional aspect to otherwise flat surfaces is outlined in an article in the January 1930 edition of *Popular Mechanics* titled “Relief Decorations with Stencils.” Whether complex procedures such as stenciling were used to add decorations of differing textures and colors to the various surfaces inside Clayton’s temple isn’t recorded in any writings so far located, and the loss of the temple’s original interior to fire has eliminated the possibility of looking for any surviving examples of such in the building itself.

In late November the following notation — indicating that the ornate plasterwork surrounding the auditorium’s stage had yet to be completed, along with the identities of the gentlemen undertaking such — appeared in the *Bulletin*. “Brothers Cecil Sater and Ernest Huffman very kindly consented to start work on the arch over the stage preparatory to having it painted.”

... Amos ‘n’ Andy ...

The November 25th, 1930 *Bulletin*’s report on the prior Wednesday’s meeting included the following, “Brothers Roy Stewart, O. R. Wind, C. H. Link and Charles Bahm were conspicuous by their absence. Brother Stewart fell asleep while listening to Amos and Andy and was unable to attend lodge. Brother O. R. Wind also stayed away to listen to Amos and Andy. We are thinking seriously of writing to Amos and Andy personally with the idea of having them broadcast one hour earlier so as not to interfere with our lodge meetings.”

The Amos ‘n’ Andy program — a situation comedy now considered controversial due to racial stereotyping — was reportedly the first radio program recorded on resin disk (on records) then distributed for broadcast through syndication. In the autumn of 1930, it was the most popular program nationwide — being transmitted locally between 8:30 and 8:45 every evening except Sunday from Spo-

kane’s KHQ Radio. With an estimated one-third of America’s population listening in, there’s little doubt the lodge’s weekly meetings, scheduled to begin every Wednesday at eight o’clock, were being affected.

As for how the problem was sidestepped, in the middle of December, this was noted. “The Amos and Andy fans certainly had their innings at the last meeting. Dictator Fred Wind brought over a midget receiving set, and when Amos and Andy were announced at 8:30, everyone made a dash for ringside seats. This proved to be a very pleasant diversion, and it is hoped that this can be a permanent feature at our lodge meetings.” So much so that the second paragraph of the *Bulletin*’s January 13th, 1931 “Moose Column” began, “After everyone had listened to Amos and Andy, and the lodge duly opened ...” — suggesting the lodge’s schedule had been arranged around the show.

... early 1931 begins a “final” fund drive ...

In mid-February, the *Bulletin* reported, “The interior of the lodge room is rapidly taking on a new and beautiful appearance. The plastering has been completed and the work of painting the ornamental plasterwork is nearing completion. The arch over the stage has been completely painted and is truly a very beautiful piece of workmanship. Brother Cecil Sater was in charge of the painting of the arch and was assisted by Brothers Leno Prestini, Henry Pederson, Bill and Bob Sater and Fred Wind.”

Plans were underway to gather enough money to finish the temple’s interior, as noted in an open letter published in the March 17th *Bulletin*.

“We are making a final effort in a drive for funds to complete our temple. We have mailed out over a thousand letters to members of Traehesoom Legions enclosing a dance ticket selling for one dollar for our big Dedication dance on March 21. Returns have started to come in and we are expecting a generous response in our efforts to raise funds.

“Members of the Loyal Order of Moose everywhere ... are buying the dance tickets ... to help us finish what has been so nobly started.”

Several articles in the March 31st *Bulletin* categorized the results of the first dance, one stating, “Over two hundred couples attended the dedication ball in the Moose temple.” the other noting, “The dance held Saturday, the 21st, was a big success, socially and financially, and netted the lodge a very neat sum.” The newspaper went on, “Another dance will be held April 4, and promises to be as successful as the first one.”

The April 14th *Bulletin* reported the results of the April 4th dance. “The dance held Saturday night, April 4, was well attended and highly enjoyed. There were more than forty couples present and, considering the fact that there were five dances in the community that night, this was a fine attendance.” This article then goes on to clarify a large part of the temple’s fund-raising strategy. “The floor is the best and music is first class. Attend these dances at the temple every other Saturday night.”

... the short life of Clayton’s Moose Bulletin ...

The Deer Park Union’s begrudging announcement of a new competitor in the local news-field came near the bottom of the July 19th, 1928 frontpage — and without a bold print header to draw attention. This nondescript inclusion stated simply, “Solicitors from Clayton were calling on the merchants here to secure advertising for the proposed paper to be published by the Moose lodge of that place. The success of the campaign was not learned here, but several reported turning down the ladies who were asking for business for the new enterprise.”

The C/DPHS has in its possession an electronic scan of several years of the Clayton Moose Bulletin, beginning with the January 8th, 1929 issue. Unfortunately, the first issue in this electronic file is “number 25” of the

paper’s first year — the first 24 issues apparently having been lost. Counting backward, that would suggest the newspaper’s first issue was published on July 24th, 1928, a week after the above non-announcement appeared in the *Union*.

We don’t know to what extent subscriptions and advertisements were supporting Clayton’s paper during most of its run, but we do know that toward the end of the publication’s run it was drawing a subsidy from the local fraternity’s treasury.

With the copies on hand, we can confirm that the *Bulletin*’s editor, at least as of the beginning of 1929, was “Mrs. Lena Wind” — meaning it’s quite possible one of the “ladies” characterized by the Deer Park Union as being turned down when “asking for business for the new enterprise” in mid-July 1928 was the *Bulletin*’s editor.

Aside from occasional missing issues, the *Bulletin* offers a heretofore unobtainable glimpse into several years of Clayton’s history. But, as is the nature of the historian’s heart, we wish we had more.

As for the fate of the *Bulletin*’s first known editor, the paper’s June 2nd, 1931 issue carried this announcement. “It is with the deepest regret that I am severing my editorship of this paper, but due to the fact that I expect to make my home in Seattle, I cannot go on with this work. ... I remain yours sincerely, Lena Wind.”

In the next week’s edition — the first printed under new management — the chairman of the lodge’s newspaper committee, R. V. Stewart, explained with a unique spin that, “This issue of the Clayton Moose Bulletin marks a new step in the progress of this paper. In the past the paper has not been printed in Spokane and the editor was not a member of the Moose Lodge. Henceforth the paper will be printed in Deer Park, with Mr. G. H. Rice as editor, Mr. Rice becoming a member of the Clayton Lodge. We feel that with the editor having a personal and direct interest in the lodge, his interest will be reflected in the paper, and with Mr. Rice’s extended experience

in publishing the *Deer Park Union*, we naturally expect to see a better paper than was published in the past.”

While it is true that Guy Rice had been owner, editor, and publisher of the *Deer Park Union* since 1923 — giving him extensive experience with small-town publishing — there seemed to be little concern in the above comments that Mr. Rice would now be responsible for editing and printing two weekly newspapers, one published on Tuesday, the other on Thursday. Nor was there any elaboration as to what financial arrangements the lodge may have made with Mr. Rice. While we don't know if Lena Wind was compensated for her work with the *Bulletin*, or did such as an unpaid volunteer, we do know that Mr. Rice was an editor and publisher by trade (his other trade being a well-respected pastor), that he probably had a dominant financial interest in Deer Park's *Union*, and that he likely intended to profit from his work for the *Bulletin*.

As for R. V. Stewart's observation that the *Bulletin's* prior editor wasn't a member of the Moose fraternity, the unmentioned fact is that Lena Wind, being female, wasn't by fraternal rules allowed full membership. As for how she got the job in the first place, her husband's family name, Wind, is closely associated with the lodge's founding. Regarding Mr. Stewart's insinuation that the *Bulletin* was something less of a publication under Mrs. Wind's editorship, that is simply not borne out when inspecting the copies on hand.

When Mr. Rice took charge of the *Bulletin*, several changes were observed immediately. One was the loss of advertisements from Spokane and more distant locations — that likely due to the change in printers. Almost all the ads from that point forward were from the local area. The second change was that the *Bulletin's* normal eight-page editions were reduced to four, while the *Union* continued to print six, and occasionally eight pages.

Despite hopes, the *Bulletin* would fold eleven and a half months later — the reason very clearly stated in this editorial from its final edition, dated May 17, 1932, and likely

written by the editor, G. H. Rice. “*With this issue the Clayton Moose Bulletin gives up its place in the sun and retires from business. This is due to a vote of the lodge at its meeting Wednesday evening, in which it was decided that under the present conditions the extra expense placed upon the members by the publication was not justified.*”

... late 1931's unsettling reality ...

The summer of 1931 included several major events sponsored in part by Clayton's Moose lodge and reported by the *Bulletin's* new publisher and editor, Mr. Rice. The first was the “*Loon Lake Regatta*,” described this way in the July 28th *Bulletin* some eleven months and a few odd days prior to that newspaper's unfortunate demise.

“*A crowd estimated at 2,500 thrill seekers gathered at Morgan Park to witness the second annual regatta of the Inland Empire Outboard Motor Club on Sunday, and spent an afternoon full of excitement ...*” The article went on to note that due to a decline in attendance from the prior year “*the event was not a financial success.*”

The second big event of the summer was a gathering of fraternity members from various Moose lodges around the Inland Empire. To quote the August 11th, 1931 *Bulletin*, “*A crowd of pleasure seekers variously estimated at from 600 to 1200 gathered at Morgan Park,*” among them “*representatives of lodges from Colville, Newport, Spirit Lake, Rathdrum, Coeur d'Alene, Wallace and Spokane.*” Just the week before, the *Bulletin* had suggested up to 2,500 Moose members might attend. Once again, expectations weren't met.

During the depression, orders received by either of the local area's main employers, Deer Park's sawmill or Clayton's brick and terracotta works, tended to make the front page. It meant the factories would be put into operation long enough to process those orders, and that meant at least some work for locals starving for a paycheck. In that environment it wasn't a surprise to see this notice

in the November 26th edition of the *Union*, and then reprinted in the following week's *Bulletin*.

Under the headline, “*Local Organization for Relief Work — Care of Needy Will Be Handled by Allied Organizations of City to Get Best Service,*” the article reported, “*At a meeting held at the American Legion clubroom on Friday afternoon, plans were definitely made for caring for cases of need as they may develop, and the plans are comprehensive enough so that any real need will be well cared for.*” What followed was the outline of a collaborative system for collecting and distributing “*food, clothing, bedding or cash*” to area residents in dire straits.

What seemed to be occurring was an indisputable realization that the economic situation, despite frequent rosy predictions, was not going to be getting better anytime soon, and that steps need to be taken — which was prudent since the worst days of the Great Depression were just settling in.

... and then, irrevocable change ...

This hint as to how deeply the effects of the deteriorating economy began to be felt locally was found in the February 16th, 1932 *Clayton Moose Bulletin*. “*The Clayton Relief Committee wishes to thank the citizens of Clayton for their wonderful response to our call for clothing and bedding during the past week. Also, to especially congratulate the Home Economics Cub for their assistance in preparing this particular case of relief. Such cooperation is immeasurable and appreciated to no end by the Committee.*”

Injecting a bit of levity, the next week's “*Moose Column,*” included this bit regarding duties assigned to the membership. “*Brothers Jake Renner and Harry Cowan are the 'House Committee' for the next two weeks, although Brother Harry doesn't know it yet. This means that they must build the fires, swamp out the hall at least three or four times each week, serve lunch and wash dishes on lodge nights, thaw out the water pipes that*

someone always forgets to turn off, and make themselves generally useful about the place, besides running down and telling the dictator that it is lodge night and he should be at the meeting, etc. Well, 'House Committee' is a swanky title anyway, boys.”

The suggestion of a declining membership and a search for more community centered uses for the temple is found in this, from the March 29th edition of the *Bulletin*. “*After considerable discussion, the members decided to fit up (phrase used) the club room downstairs so that it could be used as a gymnasium, principally for the benefit of the high school boys. A boxing ring will be installed, also a punching bag and various other exercising equipment.*”

The April 12th, 1932 issue of the *Bulletin* followed up with, “*The gymnasium will soon be ready for use, and any brother who has any difficulty to settle can make good use of the boxing ring. Smokers (boxing matches) will probably be a feature of some of our meetings in the future.*”

And then, with the May 17th announcement that the *Bulletin* was shutting down, this appeared in the far-left frontpage column of the newspaper's final issue. “*In the future a Clayton column will be maintained in the Deer Park Union, in which the news of Clayton and the Moose lodge will be printed to such extent as the editor is able to obtain it. To this end special effort will be made through Clayton correspondents to furnish each week as much Clayton news as has been published in the Bulletin in the past.*”

The hoped for “*Clayton correspondents*” didn't readily materialize, and when regular reports from Clayton did begin appearing in Deer Park's *Union*, they seldom carried any news of what was going on at the Moose temple. Rather they followed the pattern of news from most such local correspondents in primarily recounting benign social gossip.

In 1933, as newly elected President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's “*new deal*” began to push back against the economic collapse that left a quarter of American's work-

force unemployed, nationwide membership in mutual support groups such as the National Grange appeared to be on the rise, while membership in fraternal organizations such as the Moose seemed to be in general decline. The following item, copied from the Deer Park Union's September 28th, 1933 issue, seems to verify that the local Moose lodge was in trouble. "The Clayton lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose voted to meet only on every other Wednesday evening until further notice."

We have no documentation as to how far the Clayton temple's membership had dropped from its height of around 180 members in pre-depression days, but doubtless it was precipitous.

... financial knowledge ...

From 1933, and on through the remainder of the local Moose fraternity's tenure as custodian of Clayton's temple, news of the lodge as anything other than a venue for the local school's programs became scant. Due to the common assumption that the largest block of lodge members were employees of the Washington Brick, Lime & Sewer Pipe Company, it would appear the financial health of the lodge was directly tied to the financial health of the company. As the company suffered, the number of lodge members withered, and with that the lodge's once exuberant spirit faded.

The brick company's depression era situation was spelled out in the case history segment of a court decision (specifically, Stewart versus Johnston) rendered by the Supreme Court of Washington State in the summer of 1948. To quote the background history part of that decision, "In 1933, the Washington Brick, Lime and Sewer Pipe Company had fallen upon evil days. In the depths of the depression there were no orders for bricks or terra cotta and the company was insolvent ... and a receiver was about to be appointed in an action then pending. To forestall the receivership, a trust deed to Eric A. Johnston (a prominent Spokane businessman), for the ben-

efit of its (the company's) creditors, was executed by the corporation on July 20, 1933, which trust deed covered all of its property, real, personal, and mixed. This trust deed gave him (Johnston) power to carry on the business or to sell the property (all the company's holdings) if and when it appeared to him that further operation was not in the best interests of the property. Prior to the execution of this trust deed, and since May 1919, Mr. A. B. Fosseen had been president of the corporation.

"Appellant Burkhalter (one of those filing against a perceived impropriety in Eric Johnston's tenure) testified that, in 1933, the value of the properties of the corporation was at least seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (To quote Mr. Burkhalter) 'I don't believe anybody would need to invest that much money in obtaining control of it.' At the time of the execution of the trust deed, the obligations, exclusive of those to preferred stockholders, totaled about two hundred thirty-two thousand dollars, of which thirty-five thousand dollars was for taxes — which were then five years in arrears — and thirty-five thousand dollars for labor. From Mr. Johnston's testimony, it would be gathered that there was a serious question whether, if the assets and properties of the company had been sold at that time, enough would have been realized to meet those obligations. He concluded that the only chance ultimately will pay the creditors in full was through operation of the company's properties, and he borrowed operating capital for that purpose."

The above knowledge gives this short blip from the March 15th, 1934 Union a bit more meaning, in that the company, under Eric Johnston's directive, may have been converting surplus property into cash, or ridding itself of extraneous holdings. "Several parties are purchasing the houses they now live in from the W. B. L. & S. P. Co. All of the company houses are for sale."

Referencing the direction of Mr. Johnston's stewardship, the court document indicated, "The operation of the company dur-

ing the trusteeship was very successful, and within the first three years of operation three quarters or more of the indebtedness was paid and it was evident that continued profitable operation was possible. Respondents (Mr. Johnston and associates) attribute this primarily to Mr. Johnston's services; and appellants (Mr. Burkhalter and associates) attribute it, in large part at least, to an increased demand for building materials."

Both these viewpoints appear to have held a degree of merit.

Regarding the company's ongoing situation, under the headline "Clayton Plant Has Rush of Business," the following appeared on the front page of the Deer Park Union's May 20th, 1937 issue.

"A Union reporter dropped into the brick plant at Clayton on Tuesday with a nose for news and discovered a scene of bustle and business that was interesting. Inquiry brought out the fact that the brick plant was enjoying the best business in several years, and while running to capacity was not able to keep pace with the orders coming in."

The article went on to note, "a heavy business for the summer is assured," and then concluded, "Work in the terracotta plant is expected to begin early next month. Orders are being figured on at present, on which the company expects to begin work as soon as the preliminaries are completed. When this happens business in Clayton will look like the good times of pre-depression day."

Despite this prediction of better times, on December 21st, 1937, local Lodge #855 of the Loyal Order of Moose transferred the title to Clayton's Moose temple to "Eric A. Johnston, Trustee, Washington Brick, Lime & Sewer Pipe Company." We've no documents indicating any financial considerations that may have been involved, meaning the underlying circumstances of the transaction are yet to be uncovered. Which is to say, we can't confirm or deny the persistent rumor that the company either repossessed or assumed ownership of the building due to moneys owed. What is known is that the local lodge didn't dissolve.

Rather it moved to Loon Lake, after which Clayton's direct association with the Loyal Order of Moose ended.

... "many years from the present" ...

On January 20th, 1938 — a month after the above transfer of title — Deer Park's newspaper announced, "A mass meeting of the patrons of the Clayton school will be held on Friday at the schoolhouse to discuss the possibility of taking over the Moose temple and converting it into a school gymnasium." A levy vote the following March ended any immediate hope of that occurring.

Washington Brick, Lime & Sewer Pipe Company continued to open the temple for school and community functions until, on March 16th, 1944, title to the classic building was transferred to Consolidated School District #414 — finally making the temple Clayton's official school gymnasium. And then, on April 28th, 1958, title was again transferred, this time to the temple's current custodian, Clayton Grange #456.

Over the years since, the true history of Clayton's Moose temple largely dissolved from the community's memory, to be replaced by speculations that have aged into a set of assumed truths. The C/DPHS's current research may have dispelled at least a few of those assumptions.

This is not to say we fully understand the financial, social, and membership stresses that resulted in the local Moose lodge finally surrendering its coveted temple. If the records of that lodge still exist, they could tell us much. And if the opportunity to do a detailed study of the books of the Washington Brick & Lime Company ever presents itself (those records known to be held in the archives of Eastern Washington University), we might be able to paint a much more detailed picture of the temple's early history. After all, what we've published here is just a quick sketch with many dark corners still in need of light — the kind of light only research can provide.

What we can say with certainty is

that Moose Lodge #855 did its best to create something enduring for the community. It was simply overwhelmed by the complex economic forces that shook the very foundations of all of the world's industrialized nations. Which is to say, when the temple's walls were being laid, very few if any members of the organization could have envisioned a financial collapse so devastating it would draw most of the group's carefully laid plans to ruin.

Sealed within the temple's time-capsule is a message addressed to those "who open this cornerstone." The summation of that message states in part, "We cannot help in writing this account to conjecture the conditions under which mankind will exist when this cornerstone is opened. ... We wonder as we put this manuscript in this stone, what strides you who open this stone have made."

As of the date of this *Mortarboard's* publication, it's been 91 years and 8 months since that piece of paper last saw the light of

day. Much has changed technologically. In that sense our world would likely be both frightful and fascinating to the temple's builders — while the social and cultural changes would doubtless leave them bewildered.

As for their temple, it's been ravaged by both time and vandalism. The supposedly weather and age-proof terracotta has been brutalized by the changing seasons, as well as innumerable tossed rocks. And the many nights of labor spent sculpting the interior plasterwork were quickly crumbled to nothing by the flames of 2005's malevolent fire.

Most of these things were unexpected. A few simply enrage. But through it all the cornerstone has, as hoped, remained undisturbed. We, like the builders, can only wonder how long that will continue. And what the world will be like when the cornerstone's seal is finally broken.

— end —

Comments Policy

We encourage anyone with observations, concerns, corrections, divergent opinions or additional materials relating to the contents of these newsletters to write the society or contact one or more of the individuals listed in the "Society Contacts" box found in each issue. Resultant conversations can remain confidential if so desired.

Minutes of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society June 9, 2018

In attendance: Marilyn Reilly, Bill Sebright, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Mark Wagner, Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Mike Reiter, Ella Jenkins, Lorraine Nord, Sue Rehms, Rick Brodrick, and Marie Morrill.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. He reported that: 1) Society member Tom Michaels (DPHS Class of 1961) passed away last week. 2) Bill received a letter containing a circa

1960 Ham radio operator post card with the address Rte. 3 Box 192 Deer Park, WA. It was from Alvin Schaut, Plainfield, WI. A thank you letter was sent. 3) The Settlers Committee said we had to have a proof of insurance letter to have a booth at Mix Park for Settlers. He requested one and received it by email the same day. Much easier than the last time we dealt with them. 4) An email was received from Gabrielle von Trapp requesting to use

historic photos for a barn they are remodeling as an event center in the area. Permission was given. No more correspondence has occurred. 5) At 1 PM today Barry McCombs will be presenting a program on Prohibition at the Stevens County Historical Society's Museum, 700 N. Wynne in Colville. 6) On Saturday, June 23, 9 AM to 3 PM the North Spokane County Farm Museum will present Farm Heritage Day. 7) Wally and Bill received an email from Ron Endlich giving us permission to reprint his WBL tile article. He is working on another WBL tile article.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported the main checking account ended the month at \$6,374.24. There were deposits of \$89.00. One check was written for \$326.80 to Discount Sign Warehouse for shirts and one for \$126.20 to Wally Parker for supplies. The web hosting account ended the month at \$558.42 with a withdrawal of \$10.95 for web hosting. The Brickyard Day account is at \$1013.72.

Society Vice President- No one has stepped forward to become Vice President.

Print editor Wally Parker reported: 1) One hundred and twenty copies of the June *Mortarboard* (#122) have been printed for distribution, and the PDF version has been submitted for uploading to the society's website. This 16-page issue reprints a story titled "An Open Letter Concerning the History of the Herman Johnson Family in the Clayton Area." The story, written by Herman Johnson, was first printed in 2007's *Reports to the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society, Volume III*. 2) Work is currently underway on a special edition of July's *Mortarboard* that will recount the very early years of Clayton's former Moose Temple — now the home of Clayton Grange #456. 3) Some new (old) data has surfaced regarding the fate of Evan Morgan's gasoline powered launch, the Loon — said Loon quite possibly being the identity of the drowned boat and snorkeler's magnet currently submerged at the southern end of Loon Lake's Moose Bay. More on that in future *Mortarboards*.

Webmaster Marie Morrill reported that she has uploaded the June *Mortarboard*.

Pete Coffin reported the creation of three articles for future publication: 1) "The Loon Lake Mountain Mine" describes a field trip Cliff Meyer and I took in 2013 to look for a lost mine on the north side of Loon Lake Mountain. 2) "Frank Frey ("Fry") Terra Cotta Modeler" is a biographical paper responding to Tom Gardner asking about what information I could find about Mr. Frey. He is possibly the subject of Leno Prestini's painting of him as a cartoon observer on some of his paintings. 3) "Opening Loon Lake Water into the Arcadia Orchard's Irrigation System" details the events of September 7, 1911 when a group of important Spokane businessmen were brought out to Loon Lake to celebrate the opening of the High Line Canal.

Mike Reiter reported that Dan Huffman and he had ended the time lapse photography for the tearing down of the Civic Center and the building of the new fire station. They have incorporated some of the beams from the old civic center and the stag head from the floor into a table. Mike said the roundabouts will start construction next week. More lively discussion followed.

Penny Hutten reported: On June 21, 2018, the Westerners presenter will be Riva Dean; her talk is titled "The Northwest Room at Spokane Public Library." Ms. Dean is the Northwest Room Librarian, where she has been for almost ten years. Riva will be talking about the resources in the Northwest Room. In addition to describing the local history resources which many of you may have used, she will talk about some of the library's treasures. The Northwest Room's closed stacks include photographs, manuscripts and rare books relating to the Northwest. The vault also includes the Fuller collection, a collection of rare books collected by George Fuller, Spokane's first librarian. Please join us at the Airport Holiday Inn, 1616 S Windsor Drive Spokane, Washington 99224. Contact Pat Holien by June 18th, for reservations. Pat's email is patholien@comcast.net and phone number is

509-951-2090.

June 13 will be the 5th planning meeting for the 35th Brickyard Day. The flyer is shaping up. The Clayton School has been reserved for August 4.

Pete Coffin moved, and Pat Parker seconded, a motion to give Taffy and Randy Long \$200 and a thank you card for the Socie-

ty using their restaurant for many years.

Next meeting: Saturday, July 14, 2018, at 9:00 AM at the Clayton Grange Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 10:17 AM.

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

— end —

Tile Historian Needs Assistance with Research!

Seattle area resident Ron Endlich is a member of the Tile Heritage Foundation, a nationwide non-profit dedicated to “an awareness and appreciation” of historic ceramic tiles. He is a published author with whom the C/DPHS has worked before.

Ron sent the following request. “I am currently researching WaCo tile and terracotta work made at the Washington Brick, Lime and Sewer Pipe Company (WBLSPCo) located in Clayton. I am seeking examples of decorated tiles, figurines or other terra cotta work designed at the company by Leno Prestini, Cecil Sater, Frank Frey and others to document and photograph as part of my research. Any information would be much appreciated!

My contact information is below. Thank you.”

r.endlich@comcast.net — (206) 713-0891

Society Contacts

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From “The Coast” magazine,
April, 1907



See Yourself in Print.

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

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

— the editor —

New Venue for Society Meetings:

On the Second Saturday of each month, at 9 a.m.,
the Clayton / Deer Park Historical Society
will be meeting in the basement of the Clayton Grange Hall, the south side of
Railroad Avenue, Clayton, Washington.
Our meetings are open to any who wish to attend.

Volunteer proofreaders for this issue: Bill Sebright, Chuck Stewart, Lina Swain, and Ken Westby.