

# Spring is Full of Surprises!



Illustration from the August, 1911 issue of Century Magazine.

Join the  
Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society  
and Discover a Few for Yourself.

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NEW VENUE FOR MEETINGS — EVERYONE'S WELCOME.

Second Saturday of each month, beginning at 10:00 a.m.,  
Behind (south side) Deer Park's City Hall — The West Side Annex of the Old Fire Station on "A" Street.

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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### January 1930 Photo of a Clayton Moose Fraternity "Caper" Hopefully Explained.

by

Wally Lee Parker

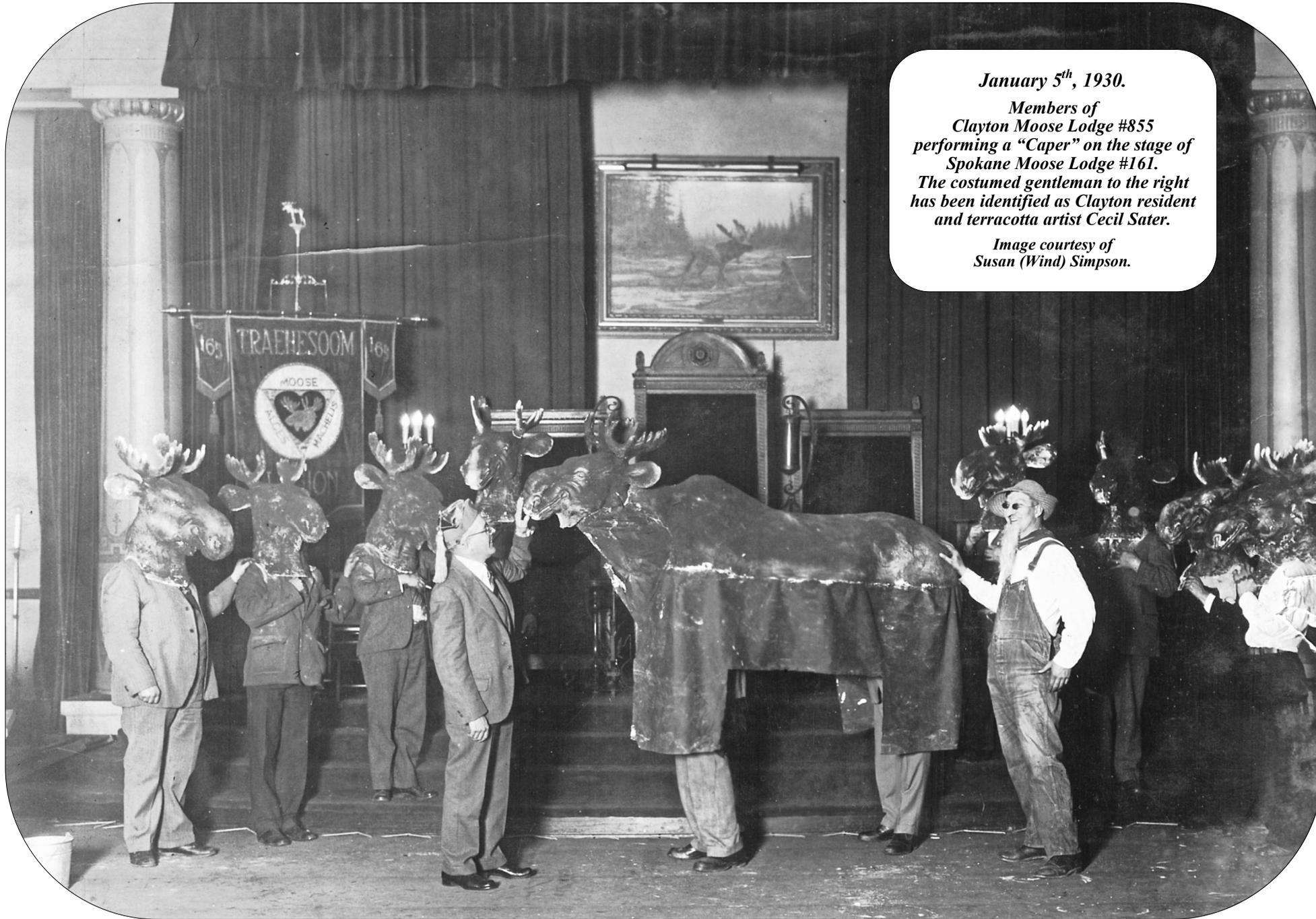
Late last year a flurry of emails were exchanged between several society associates regarding a previously contributed photograph showing what appeared to be a stage performance presented by members of the Loyal Order of Moose. It was natural to assume the image, preserved in Susan (Wind) Simpson's collection of family memorabilia, was related to Clayton's Moose Temple in some way. As Susan put it, "The (photograph) of the Moose guys is one of our family's favorite mysteries."

As to why such an oddity might end up among Susan's family photos, her grandfather, Fred Wind, was instrumental in the construction of Clayton's Moose Temple — that back in 1926. Her grandmother, Lena, was editor of the town's newspaper, the *Clayton Moose Bulletin*, from at least January of 1929

until June of 1931. Lena may have been editor from the *Bulletin's* founding in July of 1928. But having no copies from the paper's first six months of operation, we can't confirm whether Lena held the position of editor from the beginning, or to what degree she may have been involved with the paper's founding.

The most significant identifying element within the photograph itself is a vertically banner draped from a freestanding holder. This banner carries an emblem — a triangle within a circle, then a heart within the triangle, and finally a moose head within the heart. Above this emblem is the word "Traehesoom" — pronunciation unknown. Below the emblem is the word "Legion." On each side of the draped banner hangs pennants bearing the number 165. Altogether this suggests the ban-

All Past Issues of the Mortarboard Can Be Viewed on Our Website:  
<http://www.cdphs.org/mortarboard-newsletters.html>



January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1930.

Members of  
Clayton Moose Lodge #855  
performing a "Caper" on the stage of  
Spokane Moose Lodge #161.  
The costumed gentleman to the right  
has been identified as Clayton resident  
and terracotta artist Cecil Sater.

Image courtesy of  
Susan (Wind) Simpson.

ner represents Traehesoom Legion #165. More on that later.

One other thing can be discerned from the photo. Looking at the columns that frame what appears to be a stage, it's likely the event didn't take place in Clayton's Moose Temple. And that left another puzzle.

Some time ago Susan Simpson alerted the society to the existence of archival copies of the *Clayton Moose Bulletin*, preserved on microfilm in the archives at Washington State University's library. Society member Pete Coffin visited the Pullman campus for the specific purpose of transferring the spool's images to digital format. Burning the same to DVDs, Pete sent a copy to Susan.

The images on the microfilm begin with the Bulletin's 25<sup>th</sup> issue — that published on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1929. The newspaper's final issue, published on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 1932, finishes the reel. What's missing are the first 24 issues and a scattering of issues, pages, and clipped columns in between. What is there is proving incredibly useful when conducting research into a community that's otherwise not well represented in the historical record.

Inspired by the recent interest in the mystery photo, in early December Susan informed us that she had "... decided to look at the old Moose Bulletins to see if I could find anything." And, "I actually found something ... the photo itself, front and center, on the first page of the January 14, 1930 issue."

Right there, crossing the center two of the paper's six columns, and barely recognizable as little other than a blotchy black, outline is the photo. Below the photo a column header states, "*Traehesoom Legion Elects Officers.*" And below that the subheading says, "*Clayton Moose Lodge Put on Stunts at Midwinter Frolic Acclaimed to Be Best Ever Staged.*" The words that follow begin dissolving the mystery of the photo.

"*Traehesoom Legion held its midwinter frolic on January 5 in Spokane. Election of officers took place at this meeting with the following results; Great North Moose, Bert Whitford of Spokane; Great East Moose, Larsen of*

Coeur d'Alene; Great South Moose, Thompson of Pullman; Great West Moose, Roy V. Stewart of Clayton.

"Clayton is again represented in the chair officers of the Legion, of which we should be justly proud. Clayton 'pulled off' probably the most unique stunt ever staged in the Legion. Clayton lodge is probably the only one that could put on such a stunt. Eight of the Clayton brothers wore large Moose heads completely covering their heads down to the shoulders, while two brothers acted as front and rear legs, respectively, of a complete moose. These heads and the moose were made out of paper mâché. The aggregation paraded around the hall cutting up various amusing capers, and Cecil Sater, acting as the animal trainer, put the moose through several trained animal acts. In all it was a weird, fantastic act."

Thick letters crossing the top of the January 14<sup>th</sup> issue headline "See the Wild Moose at the Big Feed Wednesday Night." The short article related to that headline reads, "Clayton lodge is putting on a big feed tomorrow night for all of its members. This dinner will be served at 6:30 o'clock in the dining room of the temple. It is the desire of the officers to have as large an attendance as possible at this meeting. A good time is assured as we have several stunts to put on. Clayton's wild moose will make its first appearance here. This is the same moose that entertained the Legion on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Don't miss the meeting, as you will miss a good feed and a good time."

The above articles leave a couple of unanswered questions. One being, what exactly was the Traehesoom Legion?

It appears the Moose Legion was a worldwide association of "second degree" and above L. O. O. M. members volunteering to engage in charitable works. Various Legions

drew members from Temples in their area. Each Legion was designated a unique number and chose a unique name. Regarding Traehesoom Legion #165, the material quoted above states it included members from Temples in Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, Pullman, and Clayton. Other eastern Washington and northern Idaho lodges may also have been involved. Beyond that, little else is currently known.

The word Traehesoom piqued our curiosity. The mystery was solved by society member Ken Westby who noted it was the name of the national organization's Illinois children's home — Mooseheart — spelled backwards.

We know the "caper" photo was taken at Spokane's Moose Temple. At that time the lodge was located at 921 West Sprague Avenue. The three-story structure was suitably embellished with terracotta (possibly Clayton's) — including the motto "Man's Greatest Good is Found in Service to His Fellowman" presented as a multipiece glazed cornice crowning the building's entire façade. The ground floor entry appears to the left of a street level storefront — suggesting the lodge occupied the upper two levels. Over said entry was the familiar three-dimensional terracotta moose head. Like a good portion of downtown Spokane's classic structures, not a trace of this building has survived.

The archives of most historical societies are filled with photos — many lingering without identifying names, locations, or details of the events being displayed. Without a backstory, that leaves them little more than ghostly images floating untethered in the stream of time. Due to happenstance and research, the January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1930 photo seen here was spared that fate.

———— end ————

### ***Further Reading***

***"Clayton's Moose Temple: The Early Years," by Wally Lee Parker. Mortarboard #27, July, 2018 — page 1685 — Collected Newsletters, Volume #35. [http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter\\_123\\_\\_web\\_.pdf](http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_123__web_.pdf)***

## ***Notes from the Office***

— or —

### ***Happenings In & Around the Society's New Crib.***

by

***The Editorial Group***

***... an official place of residence ...***

Mike Reiter brought the subject up during the historical society's October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting. He pointed out that since Deer Park's fire department had moved into a brand-new fire station on the north side of Crawford Street, its old complex — on the other side of the street and south of the town's city hall — had been left vacant. The minutes of that meeting have Mike casually suggesting that the standalone training structure at the west end of the old firehouse "is possibly available for Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society use."

The minutes of the very next month's meeting — that of November 10<sup>th</sup> — recorded that Mike Reiter had "checked about (the possibility of the society) meeting in the building next to the old fire station. According to (Deer Park) Mayor Tim Versal, it might be possible for the C/DPHS to have sole use of the building. Mike and Bill (Sebright) will look at the building before the next meeting." A recounting of that visit appeared in the December, 2018 *Mortarboard's* (#128) Letters/Brickbats column.

"Just after noon on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, several members (Mike Reiter, Bill Sebright, and Wally Parker) of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society gathered in a small, vacant building just to the west of Deer Park's former fire station — said fire station being to the immediate south of the current city hall. The reason for this gathering, it had been brought to our attention that this structure might be made available to our group as

a temporary home.

"The building's main room is 23 by 27 feet, with kitchen style cabinets along the north wall. There's also a lavatory — always a plus for us elderly — and a seven by nineteen-foot room that could serve as either an office or a storage room. Bare, plain, and adequate as a meeting hall, the main room could also act as a work area for the immense task of identifying and indexing the society's collection of documents and artifacts."

The article continued on, detailing the history of the society's search for a physical presence in the community, as well as a few of the additional things needed if the group expects to fulfill its mission.

Deer Park's City Council meeting are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of every month. Mike sat in on November's second meeting, with the intention of asking the entire council about the surplus portable. The next day he sent this email, stating the reason he didn't speak the night before, and suggesting a more formal approach to appearing before the council was indicated.

"Well, last night's meeting was somewhat tense with ... major discussions. I decided to wait until December 5<sup>th</sup>. I'll get on the agenda."

Mike further indicated he intended to put on a full presentation, using copies of the society's publications and the recently created voice-over version of the society's digitized Arcadia Orchards film as props.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike affirmed he had scheduled the presentation, noting alt-

## ***New Time for Society Meetings!!!***

hough several city officials had unofficially warmed to the idea of allowing the society use of the building, it was the entire “council who makes the determination.”

The minutes of the historical society’s December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting included this description of the city council’s December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

“With Mike Reiter as lead, the Society went before the Deer Park City Council to discuss the use of a recently vacated small building on city property as an office/workspace/museum for the C/DPHS.

“Thanks to Roberta Reiter, Betty Burdette, Penny Hutten, Bill Sebright, and Marilyn Reilly for their attendance and support. Tom Costigan was there, so I’m sure it will be in the Tribune. Richie Schut is on the council

and publishes the DP Gazette, so it should be covered in the Gazette also.

“Mike made a great presentation. He listed the many good things the Society does and showed the Arcadia Orchards movie. He pointed out that the Chamber of Commerce and Senior Center have the use of city facilities without expense. Roger Krieger, City Services Director, also pointed out that these two organizations use city locations without expense. Council member Dee Cragun read a motion she had written out before the meeting stating that the City and C/DPHS will come to an agreement for the use of the building by the old fire station. It was passed unanimously. All council members — Joe Polowski, Don Stevens, Richie Schut, and Mary Babb, as well as Mayor Tim Verzal — were very supportive.

### ***Sadie Supervises the Painting.***

***With the freshly shampooed carpet protected by plastic, donated chairs moved to the center of the room, and Sadie passively watching it all, Roberta and Mike Reiter give the interior of the society’s new meeting room a fresh coat of paint.***



## ***10:00 AM, Second Saturday of the Month.***

“Richie Schut would like to have more Society involvement in the Gazette. Jason Upchurch, Pastor of what was the Wild Rose Methodist Church and now the Redeemer Bible Church, gave the invocation and would like to share historical information with the Society. Jim Palmer Sr. offered the use of a large meeting room at the Real Estate Marketplace if the above building becomes too full of museum items to be used for meetings. Jim also offered to give us two office desks.

“We can be very happy with the overwhelming support shown to the C/DPHS Wednesday night.”

The description ended with a few housekeeping issues related to the possibility of having new digs, among them “Be looking for affordable tables, chairs, and display cases.” And, “Mike will look into replacing the

fluorescent light fixtures with LED lights.”

With the council’s tentative approval, the next step was for the city to work up a formal document, one that looked very much like a standard real-estate lease agreement. After some thoughts were exchanged, official consideration of the document was placed on the next month’s itinerary.

In preparation, Bill Sebright did some research regarding any extra insurances and such it might be advisable the society carry. And then, at the January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting, “It was moved by Pat Parker and seconded by Mike Reiter to accept the lease agreement for our new C/DPHS building. After discussion it was passed unanimously.”

Fifteen years, eleven months, thirteen days and one name-change after the historical society first became an officially incorporated

### ***A Surprise for the Society’s President.***

***While Bill Sebright was away on vacation, Mike Reiter organized a refreshing of the building’s interior. This was Bill’s reaction when entering on the morning of the first meeting held in the new venue.***

***The pictures to the right are part of Harry Deuber’s illustrations for Deer Park’s 1989 Washington State Centennial celebration mural.***



Photo by Mike Reiter.



Photo by Mike Reiter.

**Seventeen Attend the Society's First Meeting at New Venue, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

**Regarding this first meeting Mike Reiter noted,  
"Good turnout despite 12 degrees with snow and 15 to 30 mile-per-hour gusts!"**

non-profit within the State of Washington, Bill Sebright, as president, signed a lease giving our group its first brick and mortar presence in the community.

In short order a small cadre of members painted the walls, shampooed the rug, and gathered chairs and tables. They finished by hanging photos and artwork throughout. The building now looks befitting a serious group doing serious work.

This home can — due to changing circumstances — disappear just as quickly as

it appeared. That's always something we need to keep in mind.

Another thing to keep in mind is that when it comes to collecting and archiving local history, our group's decades behind most regional historical societies, and at least a century behind a few. There's a herculean amount of work to be done. And now, thanks to the City of Deer Park, we at least have someplace to do it.

— end —

**Help Wanted:**

**Building and Maintaining a Facebook Page for the Society.**

*The society is looking for one or more volunteers able to construct, administer, and edit a Facebook page for our group. Since this would not be a social or reunion page — rather one limited to items of historical interest — we wouldn't expect it to carry a large amount of traffic. If you have any interest in exploring this request further, please contact the society.*

# Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

## Bits of Chatter, Trivia, & Notices — all strung together.

... "the other boy had disappeared" ...

The following article appeared in the June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1922 issue of the *Deer Park Union*. Besides a description of the loss of a youngster to the pond at Deer Park's sawmill, it also notes the absence of a recently developed and widely promoted resuscitation device that some believed might have preserved his life.

"Walter Moores, 12 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Moores who live in the east part of town, was drowned in the mill-pond Sunday evening at 5:30 o'clock. The little fellow, with his brother, had witnessed the ball game in the afternoon and went from the grounds to the pond, where the two were supposed to have been playing around the floating logs. It is presumed they tried walking on some of the logs, which turned with them, both boys being thrown into the water.

R. W. Hunt heard their cries and rushed to the rescue. He found Clarence clinging to one of the logs, but the other boy had disappeared."

According to another article on the front page of the June 8<sup>th</sup> *Union*, the baseball game mentioned above was between Colville and the locals. It may have been played on a diamond at or near the future site of the town's Tourist Park — later renamed Mix Park — that about fifteen hundred feet southeast of the sawmill's Dragoon Creek dam.

The drowning article continued, "A hurried call to Dr. W. J. Kress brought him to the scene and by the time he arrived John Gum and 'Bonny' Alberthal had brought the apparently lifeless body to the surface. Dr. Kress tried every means known to revive the boy, but found no signs of life, the body being cold, and he was unable to get either water out of the lungs or air into them. Asked if a

Image from February 1917 edition of Motor Boating magazine..

**Pulmotor Type B Resuscitation Device.**

*This early attempt at a mechanical resuscitation device was heavily promoted — though later as heavily criticized regarding its effectiveness and drawbacks. One specific concern was the possibility of long term pressure related damage to the lung's tissues when used by other than specially trained medical personnel.*



pulmotor would have been of assistance in restoring him, the doctor replied that he doubted it, though he expressed the belief that a pulmotor should be available in Deer Park, it being near so many lakes and resorts.”

For a bit more regarding “pulmotor,” see the photo and caption on the prior page.

“Mr. Moores, who is a day watchman at the sawmill, with Dr. Kress brought the lifeless body of his son to the Stone undertaking Parlor. The father, even though at work at the mill, was unaware that his two boys were around the pond, they having come in another way than the main road. The boy, in addition to his parents, is survived by three sisters, Grace, Gladys and Erma, and three brothers, Clarence, Harley and John. One sister and one brother were older, the rest were younger than the unfortunate victim.

“Funeral services were held in the Methodist church Monday afternoon at 3 o’clock, Rev. Dow Delong being in charge. Interment was made in Woodland cemetery.”

It appears the correct spelling of the family’s last name is Mooers, with Walter Marion Mooers having been born on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1909. His father, Frank Albert Mooers passed away December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1957, and his mother, Bessie Olive Mooers, on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1970. According to online sources, all are interred at Deer Park’s Woodland Cemetery.

### ... x-rays not a proven science ...

Currently not a lot is known about the Dr. W. J. Kress mentioned in the above article — said doctor having a practice in Deer Park as of 1922. That said, I can, due to a notice appearing in the State of Washington’s segment of the August 1920 issue of *Northwest Medicine* magazine, date at least approximately Dr. Kress’s arrival in our part of Washington State. To quote, “Dr. W. J. Kress, who formerly practiced in Belgrade, Montana, has located at Springdale” — Belgrade being about 65 miles east of Butte.

One further notice, this from the October 1920 issue of *Northwest Medicine*, stat-

## BUTTE NEWS.

### X RAYS IN THE COURT

Not Admitted as Evidence in a Case  
Before Judge McHatton.

KRESS AGAINST BIGELOW

The Judge Says the Discovery of  
the Science is Too Recent to  
Warrant Him in Recogniz-  
ing It as Reliable.

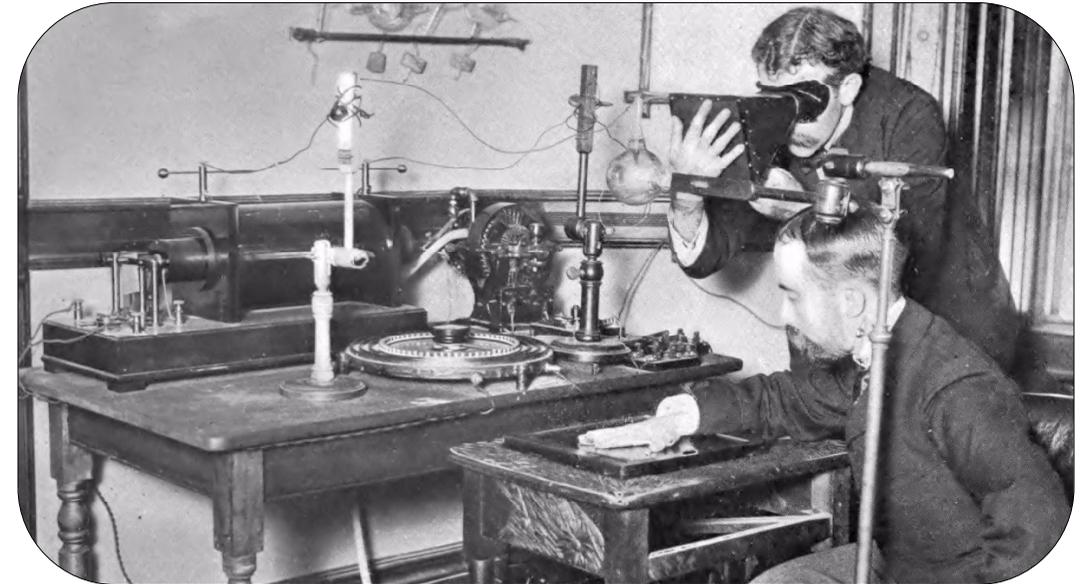
### Dubious Science?

Headline from the November 26<sup>th</sup>, 1896  
edition of the *Anaconda Standard*,  
a daily newspaper  
published in Anaconda, Montana.

ed, “The revised Medical Practice Act, passed at the last (Washington State) legislative session, provided for reciprocity (a recognition of the validity of licenses to practice medicine issued by other states) which the examining board has extended to many states. At the July session of the board fifty licenses were issued to the following ...” Among those listed was “W. J. Kress, Springdale.”

Tracing backward from that point moves us into the severely hypothetical. But this is the only candidate we have at this time.

A monthly magazine published 23 years before the doctor’s arrival in our state — that being the January 1897 issue of the *Medical Sentinel: A Monthly Journal of Medicine* — states, “Dr. W. J. Kress, one of Butte’s most



The above photo and following quote were taken from an 1896 book titled  
“The X Ray — or — Photography of the Invisible & Its Value in Surgery”  
by William J. Morton, M.D.

Bathed in the exposure from an x-ray emitting Crookes Tube, the gentlemen demonstrate the method then used to create images on a glass plate. To quote, “The method of its use is represented in the photograph in which the operator is judging as to the probable effect of the X Ray on the photographic plate in the plate-holder (lower right) by noticing the appearance of his own hand on the screen of his fluoroscope (upper right).”

popular physicians, has gone to St. Louis, Missouri, on a matrimonial venture, and will return with his bride during the month of January.”

While there’s little doubt the Butte referenced above is Montana’s, we still can’t be absolutely sure this is the same Dr. Kress that later relocated from Belgrade, Montana, to Springdale. However, if it is, I’m left wondering why the doctor had to go all the way to Missouri to gather himself a wife.

By way of a possible answer, a publication titled *Fifty-Fourth Annual Announcement of the Missouri Medical College Session 1894—95* indicates that among those matriculating at that school in 1894 was W. J. Kress, of, and I quote, “Missouri.”

This potential link between Washington State’s Doctor Kress and the gentleman graduating from a Missouri medical college 26 years earlier, then possibly returning to Missouri from Montana several years after said graduation to collect the love of his life, is tenuous to say the least. But, assuming the thread is real, it draws our local history to an article appearing in the November 28<sup>th</sup>, 1896 issue of the *Anaconda Standard* — a highly respected Montana newspaper. The city of Anaconda is 20 miles west of Butte, and therefore 85 miles west of Belgrade — Belgrade being the point of Dr. Kress’s 1920 departure for the town of Springdale.

Has anyone followed to this point?  
Under the headline pictured on the

facing page, the *Anaconda Standard* wrote, “The first attempt to introduce the wonderful Roentgen X rays as evidence in the courts of this state was made yesterday to Judge McHatton’s department of the district court in the case of Dr. W. J. Kress against Charles A. Bigelow, but the attempt met with failure. Dr. Kress sued Bigelow for \$100 for performing the necessary surgical operation in setting a broken leg of the defendant’s son. The defense to the suit was that the doctor had not treated the case properly. When Bigelow was on the witness stand yesterday he testified that he had taken his son to the Edison Photograph Parlor where the X ray photographing apparatus is in operation and examined the fractured bone by means of the rays. He also had photographs made of the bone by the X ray process. Bigelow was asked to explain the condition and appearance of the bone as he saw it, but an objection was made to the testimony by Attorney Kirk, who represented the plaintiff.”

Before continuing, it might be informative to ponder exactly what is being laid out. Mr. Bigelow, apparently of his own volition, took his son to the “Edison Photograph Parlor” to use the parlor’s x-ray equipment to image his son’s fractured leg. Dr. Kress isn’t mentioned as being a part of that decision. The suit rises from the father’s refusal to pay for the treatment Dr. Kress provided since the father’s interpretation of the x-ray images leads him to believe Dr. Kress’s treatment wasn’t medically proper.

Aside from the father’s medical qualifications, the article’s first paragraph might lead one to wonder why an 1896 photography studio is equipped to take x-rays — because that must have been the situation if the gentleman first “examined the fractured bone by means of the rays,” then “had” x-ray “photographs made.”

The article continues, “The admissibility of the testimony was argued at great length by Mr. Kirk and E. H. Howell, the latter representing the defendant. Mr. Howell not only held that the witness should be permitted to describe what he saw under the X ray, but

that the photographs should also be admitted in evidence. At the conclusion of the arguments Judge McHatton ruled that the evidence as offered was not admissible, as the court declined to take judicial notice of the correctness or reliability of the X ray photographing process or that the rays correctly represented the bones of the human body. The discovery of the science is too recent to warrant the court in recognizing it as reliable without it being substantiated by other testimony, and the court ruled that expert testimony on that point would be required before it would be received in evidence. The defense was not prepared to offer expert testimony on the X ray proposition, so the whole testimony was ruled out. The trial resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff for the amount sued for with costs.”

While the settlement may at face value have been based on a technicality, it’s disconcerting just how valid that technicality was.

Just the year before — in late December, 1895 — a scientific paper that translates as “On a New Kind of Rays” was released by German scientist Wilhelm Röntgen. The “new kind of rays” were x-rays, the discovery of which later won the gentleman a Nobel prize in physics.

Among the entrepreneurs immediately drawn to the subject was Thomas Alva Edison. Five months after the release of Röntgen’s paper, Edison had developed a rudimentary medical fluoroscope — as seen in use on the prior page — which allowed direct viewing of the otherwise invisible bits of radiation that managed to pass through objects placed between the fluoroscope and an x-ray producing lamp. This might explain why, in late November of 1896, Mr. E. H. Howell went to the local “Edison Photograph Parlor” to view x-ray images of his son’s broken leg — apparently with Edison’s fluoroscope. After that he decided to have a permanent image created on one or more photosensitive glass plates.

But parlors carrying Edison’s name weren’t the only place one could go to play

with this new toy. It became quite popular for middle and upper-class Americans to have skeletal photographs taken of various parts of their bodies, or spend a fair amount of time looking at such parts through Edison’s fluoroscope. In response, a large number of similar venues opened around the world to cater to the fad.

The thing was, at that time few if any understood just how dangerous this newly discovered form of radiation was, though often disastrous experiments to discover the ray’s medical uses would shortly clarify such. So even though Dr. Kress was doubtless aware of x-rays, he wouldn’t have been an expert on such. Besides, as the plaintiff in the case, it’s probable Mr. Bigelow’s attorney would have objected to any testimony the doctor might have had to offer on the subject.

### ... the killing jar ...

In last month’s *Mortarboard* we published a piece about an 1882 entomological (bug collecting) expedition that included a trip through the Little Spokane River’s watershed. Among the insect specimens collected were Pine White butterflies; the caterpillar stage of which can, at times, be devastating to conifers — woody stemmed trees or shrubs bearing needles or scale-like leaves. One piece of literature published by a member of the above noted expedition gave some details on how the insect specimens were collected.

In the March 1886 edition of the *Canadian Entomologist* monthly, R. H. Stretch, assistant to the 1882 expedition’s leader, Professor Hermann A. Hagen, wrote ...

“Our collection appliances consisted of nets, envelopes, cyanide bottles and pill boxes.”

The Center for Disease Control defines potassium cyanide as a “white granular or crystalline solid” that is a “highly toxic chemical asphyxiant.” The term “chemical asphyxiant” is used since cyanide’s toxic mechanism is to block the ability of individual cells to uptake oxygen — leaving people

smothered even though their blood is so saturated with oxygen it displays vivid red. Which is to say, cyanide is not nice stuff.

Cyanide killing bottles, either purchased or homemade, were widely used for dispatching insects at the time Professor Hagen and his team visited our area. A popular method of creating the bottles was to place a few splinters of crystal cyanide at the bottom of a tightly sealable jar and pour a thin layer of stiffly mixed plaster of Paris over the bottom to keep the crystals in place. Common practice was to then allow several hours for the plaster to dry before closing the jar. The hydrogen cyanide gas rising from the crystals would quickly kill any insects sealed in the jar, and firmly snugging the jar’s lid or stopper when not actually transferring insects would keep the cyanide effective for some months. A strip of blotter paper, occasionally replaced, could be used to prevent any accumulation of excess moisture inside the jar.

**A Homemade Killing Jar.**  
Illustration from the 1902 edition of  
“Instructions for Collecting  
and Mounting Insects,” by C. Abbott Davis.



Cyanide was and is used in numerous manufacturing processes — arguably the most notable being in the reduction of heavy metals. In very small amounts it can also be found in various household products. More disquieting, it's also found as a naturally occurring trace element in certain foods.

Historically, great pains were taken to remind everyone that regardless of its utility as a chemical, in its concentrated form it's also deadly. At the time of 1882's entomological expedition, cyanide in crystal form was easily accessible, the only restriction to purchase apparently being the judgement of the retailer as to the character of the purchaser (the character of the retailer therefore being the only

real restriction).

Concentrated cyanide is very much a legally restricted purchase nowadays. As for how restricted, it's been suggested — considering the level of scrutiny — that it might be unwise to “shop that question around.” After all, the proliferation of tamperproof packaging for retail consumables — something younger people more than likely don't even recognize as unusual — is a direct result of Chicago's 1982 rash of deaths after the capsules in randomly selected bottles of drugstore Tylenol had been laced with cyanide — a crime that has never been satisfactorily resolved.

————— *Wally Lee Parker* —————

## Minutes of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society ————— February 9, 2019 —————

First meeting held at 313 East 'A' Street, Deer Park.

In attendance: Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Marilyn Reilly, Bill Sebright, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Mark Wagner, Mike Reiter, Roberta Reiter, Don Ball, Roxanne Camp, Jesse Leiser, Tom Costigan, Betty Burdette, Chuck Lyons, Marie Morrill, and Rick Brodrick.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. He reported: 1) Gary Ross sent a 2002 *Inlander* article on Leno Prestini by Jack Nisbet. We didn't have a copy of this. 2) He received an email from Dennis Nicholas saying to let him know about tables, chairs, and shelves. He is willing to help pay for them. 3) We received a \$1000 check from Ronald Decker on behalf of Lucille Decker/Williams. He wrote, “Great job on the Atlas 5 and we need more of Leno's cool paintings.” 4) We received a \$300 anonymous check, a \$65 check from Bill Phipps,

\$130 from Jeff Lilly, and \$65 from Gary Ross for tables, chairs, and shelves. Mike Reiter reported he received another \$250 anonymous donation. 5) We received an envelope of Deer Park High School band material and Settlers buttons from Carolyn Knapp Nelson. 6) We received 6 more checks for dues. Now thirty households have paid dues for 2019. 7) Forms have been filled out and sent back for us to have our booth at the Clayton Community Fair.

Pat Parker moved, and Chuck Lyons seconded that we change our meeting time to 10:00 AM, second Saturday of the month. After discussion the motion was passed unanimously.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported the main checking account ended the month at \$6,776.83. There were deposits of \$60.00. A check was written for \$20.00 for Clayton Grange Rental and one for \$126.20 to Wally Parker for print supplies. There was a

transfer of \$250.00 to Liberty Mutual Insurance. The web hosting account ended the month at \$621.10 with a withdrawal of \$11.84 for web hosting. The Brickyard Day account is at \$1,414.05.

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 February *Mortarboard* (#130) have been printed for distribution. A PDF (Portable Document Format) file of the same has been forwarded to the Loon Lake Library giving that library the ability to print copies of the issue if requested by their patrons. The web version has been submitted for uploading. This 16-page issue features a piece by Pete Coffin titled “*Frank Frey: Terracotta Modeler*.” The article includes an image of Leno Prestini's oil painting, “*Ghost Riders in the Sky*.” Next comes “*How to Support a Family of Four on Twenty-Five Cents a Day*,” followed by a piece about “*The Northern Pacific Railroad's Entomological Survey of 1882 — Injurious Insects Along the Cottonwood Road*,” both by the society's current editor. 2) Ten copies of *Collected Newsletters Volume 37* have been printed. This volume binds *Mortarboard* issues #128 through #130. A complimentary copy of this volume has been mailed to the Stevens County Historical Society for their archives. 3) With the Society's settlement into a new home, it's likely an ongoing chronicle of occurrences in and around the building will be archived in the *Mortarboard*. Anyone with news, observations, or opinions related to the new habitation are requested to forward such to the editor by email, telephone or post. 4) Several errors in the January issue of the *Mortarboard* (#129) have been noted and corrected post-publication. The most egregious is the absence of the standard “*Volunteer Proofreaders*” list on the final page. That list should include Betty Deuber, Pete Coffin, Bill Sebright, Chuck Stewart, Lina Swain, and Ken Westby. Said errors are being corrected in the archival issue and will be reflected in reprints going forward.

Webmaster Marie Morrill reported: 1) She uploaded the February *Mortarboard*.

Pete Coffin reported: 1) Provided reporter Hawk Hammer of KXLY Channel 4 television a copy of the Arcadia Orchards movie so he could extract clips for a feature on the movie. Also arranged for Mr. Hammer to film interviews with Mike Reiter and myself at my house on January 23<sup>rd</sup> where all the movie material is kept. 2) Provided Carman (King) Hill a DVD of all of the Walt King photographs and associated material that I had digitized over 5 years ago. 3) Was called by KSPS (Public television channel 7) and asked if they could still use the Arcadia Orchards film under the rules the Society had required when they produced the 1913 Northwest Profiles. I assured them that they could. They also wanted to know where the movie was available as KXLY had broadcast that they had the only access. I told “Bob” at KSPS of the “*Video*” file on the C/DPHS website where the narrated movie is available for viewing. 4) I digitized the Harry Deuber 1989 Deer Park Centennial posters that I have from Mike Reiter as a basis for another video. The posters apparently do not have the entire painting on them, and I will possibly have to photograph the original paintings to get the full image.

Penny Hutten emailed that the Westerners' will have Chet Caskey as the speaker on February 21. He is a history teacher in the Act 2 Program, historical guide for Spokane's Parks and Recreation Department, long-time member of the Westerners, and former Sheriff of the Spokane Corral. Chet will be speaking on Haunted Hillyard: The History & Folk Lore of Spokane's Oldest Suburb. An author of 10 books on Spokane History and Folk Lore, Chet will also be introducing his new book just out by the same title as the talk. Bring a \$10 bill for a discounted price on the new book. Please join us at the Airport Holiday Inn, 1616 S. Windsor Drive Spokane, Washington 99224. Contact Penny Hutten by February 18th, for reservations. Penny's email is lov2book@gmail.com and phone number is 509-276-0135. The organization's website

address is <https://www.westernersspokane.org>  
Mike Reiter reported: 1) Mike and Roberta Reiter, Roxanne Camp, and Rick Brodrick worked hard over the last few weeks on our new building. They vacuumed the carpet. Then Mike and Roberta paid to have it shampooed by Steve Mitchell of Pro Carpet. Harry Deuber's Washington Centennial pictures decorate the west wall. Another piece of Deuber artwork is in a corner on Melda Marr's Easel. Jeff Lilly, Brickyard Day Chair, brought us some folding chairs. Mike scrounged a couple tables from downstairs in city hall from the old defunct arts commission. Mike and Roberta bought six other tables from a guy in Coeur d'Alene. Rick Brodrick donated 21 padded chairs he bought from a church that

was consolidating with another, so had surplused them. Mike and Roberta put screens and blinds in the windows. Roberta decorated the bathroom with Reiter family pictures. 2) Winnie Moore sent me 3 glass slides. One is of the Open Door Church when the front of the building opened on Railroad Ave. Another was of the Arcadia flume. The last one is an old shot of the mill. Winnie said her folks, Harold and Esther Ross, had them.

Next Meeting: Saturday, March 9, 2019, at 10:00 AM at our new building.  
Meeting adjourned at 10:16 AM.  
Minutes of this meeting submitted by Mark Wagner, acting Secretary.

— 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.*

### Society Contacts

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### Editorial and Copyright Policy

*Those contributing "original" materials to the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society retain copyright to said materials while granting the Mortarboard and the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society durable permission to use said materials in electronic and print media — including permission to reprint said materials in future Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society publications. Under certain conditions proof of ownership of submitted materials and/or a signed release allowing use may be requested. No compensation for materials submitted is offered or implied. All materials submitted are subject to editorial revision for content, language, legal exposures and so forth. Any material published as an exception to these general understandings will be clearly marked as to the nature of the exception.*

### Permission to Reprint Policy

*When requests to reprint C/DPHS materials are received, such will be granted in almost all instances — assuming of course that we have the right to extend such permission. In instances where we don't have that right, we will attempt to place the requester in contact with the owner of the intellectual property in question. But, as a matter of both prudence and professionalism, in all instances a request to reprint must be made and must be made in writing (letter or email), before any C/DPHS materials are reprinted.*

Volunteer proofreaders for this issue: Betty Deuber, Rick Hodges, Bill Sebright, Lina Swain, Susan Simpson and Ken Westby.

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 —

### About our Group:

*The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society was incorporated as a nonprofit association in the winter of 2002 under the title Clayton Historical Society. Our mission statement is found on the first page (upper left corner) of each issue of our newsletter, the Mortarboard.*

*Our yearly dues are \$20 dollars per family/household.*

*We are open to any and all that share an interest in the history of our region — said region, in both a geographic and historic sense, not limited to the communities in our group's name.*