

Do You Know the Real Story?



Illustration from the January 1915 issue of Life Magazine.

Join the
Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society
and make sure it's told right.

Free — Take One

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
**CLAYTON/DEER PARK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Mortarboard

© C/DPHS

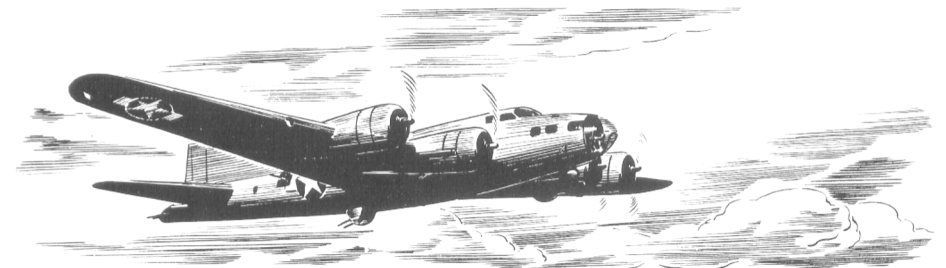
The C/DPHS is an association of individuals dedicated to the preservation of the history of our community. To the preservation of the region's oral history, literary history, social history, graphic and pictorial history, and our history as represented by the region's artifacts and structures. To the 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.

Twenty-Six Missions: The Robert Willis Grove Story

by
Wally Lee Parker

With the assistance of Gordon Grove, Mike Paulick,
Charles Stewart, Ken Westby, and many others.

(Part One)



... October 9, 1942 ...
... in route to Lille, France ...

He was sitting directly behind the Plexiglas bubble enclosing the nose of his assigned B-17 bomber as the lusterless machine — its original olive drab paint faded toward a dusty brown — clawed its way upward into a formation of like aircraft circling high over the English countryside. And even though he

carried the official Army Air Corps designation of Enlisted Bombardier, this would be both the first and last time Sergeant Robert Willis Grove would see the European air war from the forward-most viewpoint of a Flying Fortress — an aircraft certain members of the high command described as invincible. Why he was acting as bombardier on this particular

— text continued on page 1836 —

407th Bombardment Squadron.

Though unmarked, this photo is believed to be of the 407th Bombardment Squadron (8th Air Force, 92nd Bombardment Group) when stationed at Alconbury, England.

The date is uncertain, but most likely late spring or early summer 1943.

Sergeant Robert Willis Grove is in the front row — ninth from left.

History of Aircraft Shown.

The B-17 shown, tail-number 229996, was named “Flag Ship.” On the 24th of April, 1943 — shortly after its arrival in England — it was assigned to the 407th Bombardment Squadron at Alconbury.. It was lost on November 16th 1943 when 130 B-17s raided the molybdenum mines at Knaben, on the southern tip of Norway. Nine of the crewmen became prisoners of war. The tenth evaded capture, then was helped back to England by the Norwegian resistance.



Illustration on prior page from 1944's "Pilot Training Manual for the Flying Fortress B-17," United States Army Air Forces.

Photo from the Gordon Grove collection.

— text continued from page 1833 —

mission is a bit of a mystery, since 8th Air Force regulations posted in June of 1942 prohibited enlisted men from acting as such within that command — prohibited despite being fully rated to do so. Regardless, on this bright autumn morning he was about to be a part of something no one had ever witnessed before (but many would after); the gathering together of an aerial mass of over 100 four-engine bombers — both B-17s and B-24s — to carry out a mission of very lethal intent.

For most of the airmen involved it would be their first taste of the real thing. And as with most real things, it would be a sorting of expectations, with the easy ones quickly put to rest. Some of what was about to happen would be a matter of chance. Some would be a matter of enemy actions. But the likely result was that at least a few of these young men, possibly quite a few, wouldn't be coming home.

Noncommissioned bombardiers such as Willis would serve with distinction in other theaters of war; places such as North Africa and the Pacific. And the military's description of the skills required of enlisted bombardiers clearly puts them on par with any commissioned officer trained to carry out that aerial specialty. Despite whatever thinking brought about the edict restricting the use of enlisted bombardiers within forces based in England, on the morning of October 9th, 1942, as the Flying Fortress named "*Phyllis*" rose from the airfield at Bovington (about 25 miles northwest of London), said restriction had been overlooked, misplaced, or ignored. We know as a fact that the young man tasked with carrying out that aircraft's singular objective — dropping eight 500-pound bombs into a factory complex near the town of Lille in occupied France — was Sergeant Grove.

Just five years before Willis had graduated from Deer Park High School — graduated with enough basic understanding of math and science that, after enlistment, he was selected to learn the complex calculations in-

herent in aerial bombardment. And now, on this chill autumn morning, his one chance to do for real what he'd trained so hard for slipped away. As the fortunes of war would have it, that loss would be the result of something beyond his control.

The French coast was only six minutes away when Grove's Fortress was forced to turn back. We can't ask Willis for the details — he passed away in 1992. And even if we could, Willis's son, Gordon, relates that his dad was reluctant to talk about his wartime experiences — a reluctance quite common among veterans of that war. To reconstruct the events of that morning — and the twenty-five subsequent missions Willis flew as machine gunner — we'll have to rely on other sources.

As for why Willis enlisted in the Army's Air Corps two months before the United States officially entered World War II, his son believes it was with the intent of becoming a fighter pilot.

That didn't happen — at least not until later. Still, of all the things Willis Grove experienced while rising through the ranks toward a commission of his own, the one most likely to have endured within his memory were the events surrounding several remarkable photos taken on that singular October morning. Remarkable photos showing a line of weary young airmen standing near the tail of their severely damaged aircraft. A line of weary young airmen doubtless shaken by how close they'd come to a possibly fatal fall into the chill waters of the English Channel.

... among Deer Park's "Old Settlers" ...

Willis Grove's paternal grandfather, Jacob Templeton Grove, moved his family — his wife Marietta, sons Glenn and Roy, and daughter Stacy — from Pennsylvania to the Deer Park area in 1893. The family first settled on Wild Rose Prairie southwest of Deer Park. Then, after about four years, moved to a homestead "*near Fan Lake*" — approximately 7 miles north of Deer Park.

Scan from the Gordon Grove collection.

Little is currently known about the elder Groves, other than that Jacob was born in Pennsylvania in January of 1845 and died in Deer Park on November 24th, 1915. Reportedly he served in the Grand Army of the Republic during the Civil War. He was also Deer Park's Postmaster from about 1909 through July of 1913.

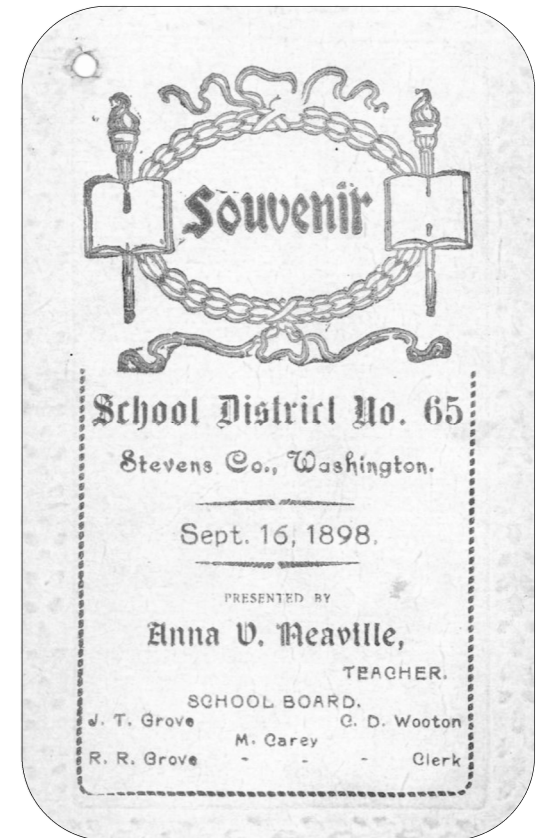
His wife, also a Pennsylvanian, passed away on February 1st, 1927 — passed away while being cared for at the Spokane home of her daughter, Mrs. Stacy Anderson.

The early history of Willis's maternal grandfather was outlined in the often referenced 1912 tome "*History of the City of Spokane and Spokane County.*" John A. Neaville was born in Council Hill, Illinois, on January 31st, 1844. Like Jacob Grove, Neaville also served with the Union Army during the Civil War. He taught school in Wisconsin for several decades, and then, in 1893 — the same year the Grove family arrived in Eastern Washington — Neaville relocated to Spokane, where he reportedly "*maintained an office as pension attorney for five years and for three years was superintendent of the county poor.*"

Neaville brought his wife, Myra, and four children; Anna, James, Libby, and Joseph Rae with him to Spokane. In 1901 he moved the family to Deer Park, where he again set up shop as a pension attorney. Aside from a "*short time*" in Colville, John continued to reside in Deer Park. Among other community involvements, he served as the town's mayor, and also as Justice of the Peace. After being "*stricken with paralysis*" that left him "*bedfast,*" he passed away at the Deer Park home of his son-in-law, R. R. Grove, on the 4th of February, 1930.

Willis's maternal grandmother, Myra Neaville, had died many years earlier — on the 4th of August, 1917.

Royal Roscoe Grove (better known as either Roy or R. R.) was about 21 years old when his family moved to the Fan Lake area north of Deer Park. His soon to be wife, Anna Neaville — just six months younger than Roy — appears to have taken a position teaching at



A school "souvenir" found in the Grove family Bible.

a nearby rural school at about the same time — about 1897. Since this was at least three years before her father, John Neaville, moved the rest of his family to Deer Park, it's possible that the fondness Anna and Roy had developed for each other had some influence on Neaville's decision to relocate to the small town.

As for documenting how the convergence of these two family names came about, the hint is provided by a small "*souvenir*" discovered in the Grove family bible by Roy and Anna's grandson, Gordon Grove. The souvenir is a small, imprinted card apparently in-



Identified as the "Ellsworth School" in the Lawrence Zimmerer photo collection, the above is assumed to be the school where Anna Neaville taught.

tended to be given to visitors to Anna's school. The card states, "School District No. 65, Stevens County, Washington. September 16, 1898. Presented by Anna V. Neaville, teacher." Below that are the names of the current school board members — "J. T. Grove, C. D. Wooton, M. Carey." And at the bottom of the card, the name of the school board's "clerk" is mentioned — "R. R. Grove."

Research done by Sharon Clark and Pete Coffin of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society strongly suggests that Steven County's School District #65 — as of 1898 — could best be linked to a one room school that once stood just west of Eloika Lake, and just inside the northern Spokane County line. (Prior to 1911, the area north of that border was still Stevens County. After 1911, that portion of Stevens County became the present day Pend Oreille County.)

Various names are associated with this particular school — Ellsworth, Stevens, Eloika Lake, and Fan Lake. What is known is that the Fan Lake homestead of J. T. Grove was proximal to Anna's school, and that this potential for getting to know each other was

the cause and effect that led to Roy Grove and Anna Neaville's marriage on the last day of October, 1900.

... a difficult beginning ...

According to materials published by the Center for Disease Control, at the very beginning of the 20th century one out of every 10 babies born would die within their first year. Anna Grove's first two children, May and Roy, became part of that sad statistic in 1902 and 1903 respectively — the first succumbing after just three days, the second either stillborn or dying on his day of birth. Both are interred at the St. Mary Catholic Cemetery in Deer Park.

The Grove's third child, Beatrice, was born in late February, 1905. She went on to live a full 85 years. Her final place of rest, Cincinnati, Ohio.

The fourth child was a different matter. Leah Viola was born on the 5th of October, 1908. According to her obituary, "Early in life she was a victim of infantile paralysis, which left her with a physical disability." Today we know "infantile paralysis" by another name. Polio.

With the most severe symptoms having been described in ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics, it's apparent polio is not a new disease. Most often it appears as a mild viral infection — barely noticed. But it can, on occasion, induce lifelong havoc and deformity — if not death.

Why it only began appearing in epidemic form in the late 19th century, then flared with increased ferocity through the first half of the 20th, was a puzzle for many years. The fact that these epidemics parallel the widespread increase in public sanitation projects within urban areas that began in the late Victorian era has long been noted — the hypothesis derived from that fact being that the lowering of rates of exposure to disease ridden effluence within a more germ conscious population resulted in a decline of those developing immunity to the virus, and, as a result the disease

Photo from the Lawrence Zimmerer collection.



Photo from the Gordon Grove collection.

**Royal Roscoe Grove & Anna V. Neaville
Photo likely taken shortly after marriage.**

would quickly rise to epidemic levels when it did — periodically — bloom within that previously underexposed population.

In other words, it was the newly realized epidemic nature of this ancient disease — and it's propensity to bloom within the more affluent communities within wealthier nations — that created the lingering panic that was eventually relieved by Dr. Jonas Salk's vaccine.

As for polio's arrival in epidemic form in eastern Washington — in 1911 a book titled *“Report on Infantile Paralysis in the State of Washington During 1910”* was published in Olympia. In the book's introduction, the state's then Commissioner of Health, Dr. Elmer E. Heg, noted, *“Previous to 1910, infantile paralysis was not a reportable disease in the state ...”* He clarified that by adding, *“the disease was comparatively infrequent or, at any rate, much milder than was the case in the year 1910.”*

We currently have no documentation suggesting exactly when Leah contracted polio. We know that thirty-four cases were reported in Spokane County and City combined during 1910's outbreak. And as the state's *“Report on Infantile Paralysis”* noted, *“Practically all investigators are unanimous in their opinion that the disease is most frequent between the ages of two and three years, and such is the experience in this State.”* And even though cases of poliomyelitis did occur during non-epidemic years, Leah would have just been entering the highest risk group during the last few months of 1910.

The report also took pains to note that the term infantile paralysis *“did not adequately describe the disease.”* That it was *“a disease attacking equally a baby of four weeks or a man of sixty years.”* The extra concern regard-

ing the very young was derived from the crippling deformities the disease could induce in still developing bodies.

Despite the lingering complications brought about by the disease — complications that in Leah's case appears to have required wearing a brace on her right leg — she was well on her way to leading a full and active life until, as the February 26, 1931 issue of the *Deer Park Union* reported ...

“Miss Leah Grove, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Grove, is in St. Luke's Hospital in Spokane suffering from a broken leg and other injuries received when she was struck and seriously injured during a storm by an auto at a street intersection in Spokane on Friday evening. The car, driven by Mrs. Jessie Casey, struck her as she stepped from the curb at Post and Main avenues, the impact breaking her left leg above the knee and badly bruising her on one shoulder. At first internal injuries were feared, but an X-ray examination showed the broken leg to be the only serious injury. The car was going slowly and it was difficult to see because of a thick snowstorm. She was given first aid and later taken to St Luke's Hospital where the broken limb was set. An examination showed that the front wheel had passed over both limbs but the other was protected by a brace and was not injured. The rear wheel was resting on her chest when the car was stopped, and it had to be backed off before she could be extricated.”

The article went on to note, *“Miss Grove has been in the employ of Whitworth College since her graduation from that school last spring, being engaged in office work.”*

On August 3rd, 1931, Leah passed away. According to her obituary, the *“severe fracture of her left leg, the bone being broken*

in two places,” had failed to knit in the prior five months, necessitating *“a difficult operation”* to which she had *“succumbed.”*

Regarding her physical disability, the obituary noted, *“This, however, in no way quenched her fine spirit of determination, going through grade and high school, leading her classes in many ways. She won honors in her studies and as a debater, and during these years became an accomplished musician.”*

Just 10 years later — in early February, 1939 — the family was again devastated by the news that Roy and Anna's fifth child, Donald, had died by his own hand.

Born on October 31st, 1910, Donald graduated from Deer Park High School in 1928. His *Deer Park Union* obituary states *“He later attended Whitman College, receiving his degree in June, 1933.”* And further notes, *“At the time of his death he was enrolled as a law student at Gonzaga University.*

“Shortly after his graduation from college he was appointed to fill an unexpired term as Treasurer and Town Clerk. He has been reelected each year, and was still serving in this capacity at the time of his death. He had also conducted a fire and automobile insurance office for the past five years.

“Beside his public offices, he was Treasurer of the Congregational Church, Chairman of the Boy Scout Committee, a member of the Deer Park Commercial Club, and of the B. P. O. E. in Spokane. He had political ambitions, having on two occasions run for state legislature from the fifth district.”

Willis Grove would have just turned 12 when his sister Leah passed away, and was just a few months shy of 20 when Donald committed suicide.

The next member of the family, Chester, was born on the 19th of February, 1916. He became the last of the siblings to pass away — departing on April 17th, 1997. He is interred in Aurora, Colorado.

On April 6th, 1917 — just over a year after Chester's birth, America entered the First World War. Seven months after the killing part of that war was brought to a halt by the

1918 armistice, the last of Roy and Anna's seven children was born.

On May 19th, 1919, Robert Willis Grove entered a world still shattered by *“the war to end all wars.”* Like most citizens of the western world, his parents were doubtless unaware that the seeds of an even greater war were already being sown in both Europe and Asia. Little could they imagine that on one chill Friday morning several decades and a scattering of years later, their youngest son would be sitting at the bombardier's station, staring through the clear plastic nose of a four-engine B-17 bomber flying high above the English Channel. Little could they imagine that he'd be taking part in a massive aerial raid that was — in a very real sense — just a continuation of a conflict most everyone at the time of Willis's birth believed had been forever settled at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918.

... the airplane in the store's window ...

Roy and Anna Grove were married just two months before the 19th century officially faded into the 20th. During their life together they saw automobiles, trucks, and tractors replace horses, they saw the invention of the airplane, the electrification of America, the near universal use of telephones and radios, and medical miracle after medical miracle. What they witnessed was essentially a world being transformed by invention and engineering into something very different from everything that had come before.

Not only did they witness these changes, they were swept along by them.

As traditional, labor intensive agriculture gave way to the advancing mechanizations of the industrial revolution, more and more Americans moved from farms into urban communities. Following this trend, Roy and Anna left the family's Fan Lake farm in 1908 and moved their still small family to Deer Park, where Roy went to work at Olson Mercantile.

According to a February 7th, 1906

Editorial Note

In the contemporary accounts quoted — newspapers, books, etc. — the Olson family name was spelled either Olson or Olsen. Regardless of which spelling is used, all mentioned here are descendants of area pioneer Louis Olson (Lars Olsson), born September 13, 1857, died September 10, 1928.

Spokane Chronicle article, “*The Olsen Mercantile company, with the principal place of business at Deer Park, has filed articles of incorporation at the county auditor’s office.*” The article indicated “*Louis Olsen and O. L. Olsen*” were the “*incorporators.*”

Louis Olson was one of the main actors in constructing Deer Park’s historic core. It appears the above noted “*Olsen Mercantile*” was, in 1908, relocated to the ground floor of the Olson Hotel after that structure — still standing today — was completed. The building is located on the southeast corner of Main and Crawford.

Louis’s son, the above noted O. L. Olsen (Olaf Louis Olsen), began his working life as a telegraph operator and station agent for the Spokane Falls & Northern Railway, then moved into business with his father — as noted in the 1906 *Chronicle* article above. In 1909 he sold his interest in Olson Mercantile to his father in order to join the administration of the newly formed Arcadia Orchards Company. In 1911 — in partnership with the Arcadia Orchards president, Edward N. Robinson — he repurchased Olson Mercantile from his father and reincorporated it as the Olsen-Robinson Company

A few years later the store’s corporate ownership once again changed, as an article from the January 24, 1913 issue of the *Deer Park Union* explained.

“*On January 1, 1913, the Arcadia Orchards Co. purchased the general stock of merchandise of the Olsen-Robinson Co., and also of the Arcadia Inn, which was owned and operated by the same company.*” ... “*John Olsen has been appointed manager of the new store ...*”

Advertisements for the once again renamed store identify it as “*The Arcadia Orchards Company, Store Department*” — though in casual reports it was called, simply, “*The Arcadia Store.*”

The above noted “*appointed manager,*” John, was fourth in line for Louis Olson’s twelve children. He continued on as the Arcadia store’s manager until this notice appeared

in the January 16, 1914 issue of the *Union*.

“*John Olsen resigned as manager of the Arcadia Store Dep’t. last Saturday, and R. R. Grove succeeded him in this responsible position.*”

The next change occurred in the summer of 1915, as recorded by this June 25th article from the *Union*.

“*A deal was completed this week between the Arcadia Orchards Co. and R. R. Grove and R. A. Neaville, whereby the latter parties took over the Arcadia Store Department, good will and all.*”

“*We welcome these gentlemen into the Deer Park business field, and both of them have hosts of friends who wish them success in their new venture. Mr. Grove was the manager of this store for years, and knows the wants of the trade and has always endeavored to satisfy the public to the best of his ability. Almost every man, woman, and child in or near Deer Park knows ‘Roy.’*”

“*Ray Neaville also needs no introduction to the public. He is a bright young businessman, having been connected with the Standard Lumber Co. for a good many years in their counting room.*”

“*The new firm intends to carry an up-to-date stock of dry goods, shoes, novelties, etc., also having made arrangements to add a first-class grocery department.*”

Just the week before, the *Deer Park Union* had outlined the changes being made to the store.

“*The store now occupied by the Arcadia Store Dep’t in the Olson building, corner of Main and Crawford, is being remodeled and a partition has been erected through the center of the room, cutting the large floor space into two fair sized rooms, the west half of which will be occupied by the Arcadia Store Dep’t, and the east half is to be made into a comfortable and cozy auditorium for moving pictures, with an ice-cream and candy store in front. Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Pease, the lessees of this store, come here well recommended as progressive and enterprising business people, and we wish them success in their new ven-*

ture.” (The above described theater continued to operate into the early 1950s.)

For the next two and a half years, the store on the west side of the Olson building would be known as Grove and Neaville’s. And then, during the darkest days of the 1918 influenza pandemic, the *Deer Park Union* reported ... “*The morning of December 7th brought an unusual shock and sadness to the entire community when it was announced that J. R. Neaville had died.*”

This was an extra shock to the Grove family since Roy Grove’s wife, Anna, was J. R.’s sister. Then too, Olaf L. Olsen — co-founder of the original Olson Mercantile and J. R. and Roy’s frequent business associate — was married to J. R.’s other sister, Libby.

The deadly strain of flu was the dread of late 1918 — having already devastated the eastern side of the United States. The hope that the Inland Northwest might be spared was dashed when an article in the September 29th issue of the *Spokesman Review* reported that a meeting of the Washington State Board of Health held in Spokane had issued a “*public warning.*” Quoting the article, “*the disease has already made its appearance in Spokane and other parts of the northwest. Successive waves of the malady may be expected in the next six weeks to two months ...*”

The pandemic took a grip on eastern Washington in early October and didn’t release it until the worst of winter had passed.

Normally the flu is of greatest hazard to those with either underdeveloped or weakened immune systems — the very young and the very old. But in this case, for reasons still debated, it also targeted those considered the most robust — the otherwise healthy between 20 and 40 years of age. Joseph Rae Neaville turned 36 in 1918.

The actual means of death was usually a secondary bacterial pneumonia — a pneumonia that could overwhelm an otherwise healthy individual within 24 to 48 hours of the viral flu’s first symptoms. The instrument of death was suffocation — with the cyanotic blue cast of the skin steadily deepening as the



Roy Grove at the Kelly Block store.
This photo was likely taken in 1930 or ‘31.
It appears the sign above the store has yet to be changed. There’s uncertainty as to the identity of the young person in the photo.

disease progressed. Once this process had begun, there was little the medicine of that era could do.

Other than the short-lived euphoria brought about by the armistice ending the *Great War*, this growing epidemic was upmost on the mind of every family as the autumn of 1918 dwindled into winter.

The *Deer Park Union*’s advertisements for Grove and Neaville’s store continued to use both names for the next year. Then, beginning in January of 1920, only R. R. Grove was mentioned. An article about Roy’s history within Deer Park’s business community appeared in the April 27th, 1939, issue of the *Union*. Regarding the change in ownership after Neaville’s death, the article stated “*Grove bought the entire store*” — assumedly meaning he purchased the other half of the partnership from Joseph’s family.

The above article also went on to



Photos from the Gordon Grove collection.

Photos on the facing page.

Photos on the facing page are believed to have been taken in the late 1930s or early '40s. The upper shows the interior of the Grove's second store. The lower is of Roy and Anna Grove, location unknown.

quote Roy, in reference to the “depression of 1920,” as saying, “I was lucky for once in my life. I sold the store in the spring to a couple of Jews, and they put on a series of sales. When the crash came, they, not I, were holding the bag; and were forced out of business. I reopened the store in the same location in the fall.”

Though the store’s advertisements through the spring and summer of 1920 didn’t reflect a change of ownership, there was in fact a “crash” that spring. Sometimes called “the forgotten depression,” said crash was a sharp, economically debilitating deflationary episode that began in January of 1920 and lasted until July of 1921.

In mid-September of 1930, notice was given that R. R. Grove’s was moving from its location at the intersection of Main and Crawford to a building at the south end of the Kelly Block. Roy continued on with the store at that location — #7 North Main Street — until the first week of December, 1964, when he finally retired. Then, in the summer

of 1968 — 25 years after the death of his wife, Anna — he passed away.

For 49 years the name Grove had hung on a dry goods store along Deer Park’s Main Street. For 57 years R. R. Grove had been part of Deer Park’s business community. And for 61 years, Roy had been part of Deer Park’s history as one of its most prominent residents.

One example of that history is archived in the August 12th, 1943 issue of the *Deer Park Union* — that date being near the midpoint of America’s declared involvement in the Second World War. On page four, this short notation appears. “R. R. Grove, local dry goods merchant, is displaying a picture from England which is attracting considerable interest. It shows the big flying fortress on which Willis Grove is bombardier on the crew, along with some small fighter planes and their crews. Friends here readily recognize Billy in the front center of the group.”

... to be continued next month ...

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

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

... but where are we ...

It’s a puzzle. How do we describe the location of the society’s new home? The most accurate is to say it’s the freestanding building on the southwest corner of Deer Park’s city hall complex, and then give the address for the city hall — 316 East Crawford Avenue. We give that address because the

city hall is the only building within said cluster with an address.

Just drive around the block the city hall sits on. On the north side you’ll find the main building (the city hall) fronting Crawford street, with the three smaller buildings facing ‘A’ Street on the south. The problem is, when people approach a cluster of buildings they expect some kind of signage to indicate which

building's the one they're looking for. Not finding such is at first confusing, and then more than likely a bit irritating. After all, it's what we're conditioned to expect. If we don't find such we're reduced to pounding on doors, looking through windows, or otherwise engaging in what's likely to be described as "suspicious activities" on the police blotter.

It would seem the simplest way to prevent a first impression of either confusion, irritation, or incarceration (or any combination thereof) would be a sign clearly visible from the nearest street delineating which building houses the historical society. The problem is, we own neither the building nor the property on which it sits, so applying signage may be a problem. Any solutions?

... racing with the babies Beyersdorf ...

This from the July 27th, 1911 edition of the *Newport Miner*.

"With their tiny lives as a prize and the baby incubator at St. Luke's hospital as a goal, twins, a boy and a girl, born to Mrs. A. A. Beyersdorf of Deer Park at midnight Thursday, were treated to an auto race between Deer Park and Spokane yesterday afternoon in which death was defeated and speed records broken. In honor of the automobile that bore him and his sister to a chance for life, the boy was christened Winton. Both are on the road to health under the care of Dr. T. C. Barnhart. They are the first twins to be placed in the incubator.

"Cuddled in a clothesbasket, the twins and four men sped the 24 miles between Deer Park and Spokane, the distance being covered in less than an hour. On the Graves Road 60 miles an hour was made. The car was a Winton Six, belonging to the Arcadia Orchard Co. In the car were A. A. Beyersdorf, the father; Dr. H. H. Slater and Messrs. Burman and Lenardson, of the Arcadia Orchard Co. Mr. Beyersdorf is manager of the Spokane Lumber Co. at Deer Park and is putting the company's new mill on Diamond Lake."

Then this, from the April 30th, 1938

edition of the *Spokesman-Review*.

"Davenport, Wash., April 29, — Mrs. Nellie Beyersdorf, 58, died at her home here yesterday following a long illness. The funeral will be held at the Presbyterian church in Davenport Saturday at 1:30 p. m. with the Rev. Lee Knoll officiating and interment will be in the Wild Rose cemetery, near Deer Park, with the Eastern Star chapter of Deer Park in charge.

"Mrs. Beyersdorf was born in Minnesota and came west to Spokane with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Tarbert, in 1884, settling on Wild Rose Prairie 18 miles north of the city. Later they moved to Spokane, where Mr. Tarbert was employed in building work. Mrs. Beyersdorf attended the Bancroft school in Spokane and had a vivid remembrance of the big Spokane fire of 1889.

"In the early 90s the family moved back to Wild Rose Prairie and lived there when an Indian scare followed the tearing out of Indian fish-traps near Dartford by white men.

"She was a charter member of the Eastern Star chapter at Deer Park and was its second worthy matron. She married A. A. Beyersdorf there August 11, 1909. Mr. Beyersdorf, Potlach yards manager here, was a similar capacity at Ruff and Hartline before coming to Davenport with his family about six years ago.

"Mrs. Beyersdorf is survived by her husband, two sons, Virgil, teacher in the Bryant school in Spokane, and Rudolph, a graduating senior at the University of Idaho; two daughters, Josie, teacher in the schools a Mason City, and Anna, at the home; two sisters, Mrs. Laura Cox of Greenacres and Mrs. Jennie Emerson of Gerome, and four brothers, Elmer Tarbert, Reardan; Frank Tarbert, Springdale; Floyd Tarbert, Lincoln, and Clyde Tarbert, Deer Park."

Sadly, the infant son, Winton, died on August 2nd, 1911. His twin sister, Winifred, died a few days later.

———— Wally Lee Parker ————

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

In attendance at the new meeting hall on East 'A' Street: Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Marilyn Reilly, Bill Sebright, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Mark Wagner, Mike Reiter, Roberta Reiter, Don Ball, Eleanor Ball, Jesse Leiser, Tom Costigan, Betty Burdette, Chuck Lyons, Bill Phipps, Marie Morrill, Dick Purdy, Larry Bowen, Mary Jo Reiter, Lorraine Nord, Judy Gross, Tim Verzal, Jeff Clark, and Rick Brodrick.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He reported: 1) Carolyn Williams from Colville sent an envelope of pictures and diary pages. Most are connected to Edna Berg, a 1927 Clayton High School graduate. Pictures were passed around. 2) Does anyone know when "Stag" became Deer Park High School's mascot? We tentatively came up with 1940.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported: 1) The main checking account ended the month at \$8,711.83. There were deposits of \$2,101.00. A check was written for \$10.00 for Incorporation Filing and one for \$65.00 to Mike Reiter for supplies. The web hosting account ended the month at \$609.26 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 March Mortarboard (#131) have been printed for distribution and the PDF version has been submitted for uploading to the Society's website. A PDF file of the same has been forwarded to the Loon Lake Library, allowing them to print copies for any interested patrons of that organ-

ization. This sixteen-page issue begins with an investigation titled "January 1930 Photo of a Clayton Moose Fraternity Caper, Hopefully Explained." The central artifact in this article is a vintage photo of what appears to be a mysterious fraternal ritual. The next piece, "Notes from the Office," is an accounting of the events leading up to the procurement by lease of our society's first place of residence. This month's Letters/Brickbats column follows the adventures of area doctor William J. Kress. It includes a discussion of the experimental versions of several now frequently used medical devices. A final item in the column adds some miscellaneous data related to February's piece about the Great Northern Railroad's 1882 bug collecting expedition through the region. 2) Just a reminder that Print Publications will consider letters (email or missive) on subjects of general historical interest for publication in the Mortarboard as space allows. Send such to the applicable address in the "Contacts" box found on the last page of each issue. 3) If you want to participate in creating these Mortarboards as a member of the Editorial Group, drop the editor a line.

Webmaster Marie Morrill reported: 1) She uploaded the March Mortarboard. She has also uploaded Pete Coffin's Loon Lake Chronology. She created a new page for the chronology.

Betty Burdette brought in a large envelope of pictures, artifacts, and newspaper clippings to do with the Williams Valley School.

Pete Coffin reported: 1) Purchased a computer program to convert Greg Fury's

Deer Park Dragstrip 8mm films into the more useful MP4 format. After converting all 30+ hours of the films, I gave them and Fury's 3-ring binder to Mike Reiter. 2) I am in the process of generating a printable Einer Berg family tree partly for one of my first cousins as well as Carolyn Williams who provided President Sebright with several Berg family diary pages. 3) Have been reading Jack Nisbet's book "Ancient Places." Chapter V "A Possible Friend" describes William M. Manning's collecting Indian artifacts and history that is becoming a major part of the Museum of Arts and Culture's Indian collection. The first pages of his Chapter VI "Riding the High Wire" also recounts much area Indian history. His Chapter VII "Terra-Cotta Man" is about

Leno Prestini who was the basis for the presentation at the Museum of Arts and Culture which some of the Historical Society members attended some time ago.

Mike Reiter reported: 1) He bought a glass display case from Antique Gallery on North Monroe for \$75 plus tax. He is looking for some helpers to pick it up this Thursday. Rick Brodrick volunteered to use his pickup. Mark, Pete, and Bill will also help.

Next Meeting: Saturday, April 13, 2019, at 10:00 AM at our new building.

Meeting adjourned at 11:09 AM.

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

— end —

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

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

C/DPHS, Box 293, Clayton, WA 99110

Bill Sebright, President — sebrightba@gmail.com — (509) 276-2693

Wally Lee Parker, Editor of Print Publications — bogwen100@msn.com — (509) 467-9433

Website — <http://www.cdphs.org>

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.

*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.