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*Too many tasks,
not enough arms.
Please Help!*

Illustration from the November 27th, 1909 edition of the Colville Examiner.

Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society Newsletter
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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

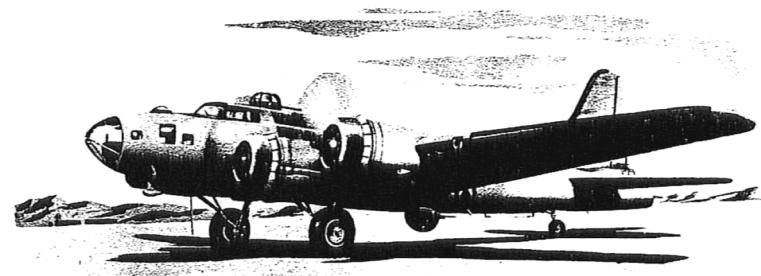
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Twenty-Six Missions: The Robert Willis Grove Story

by
Wally Lee Parker

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

(Part Two)

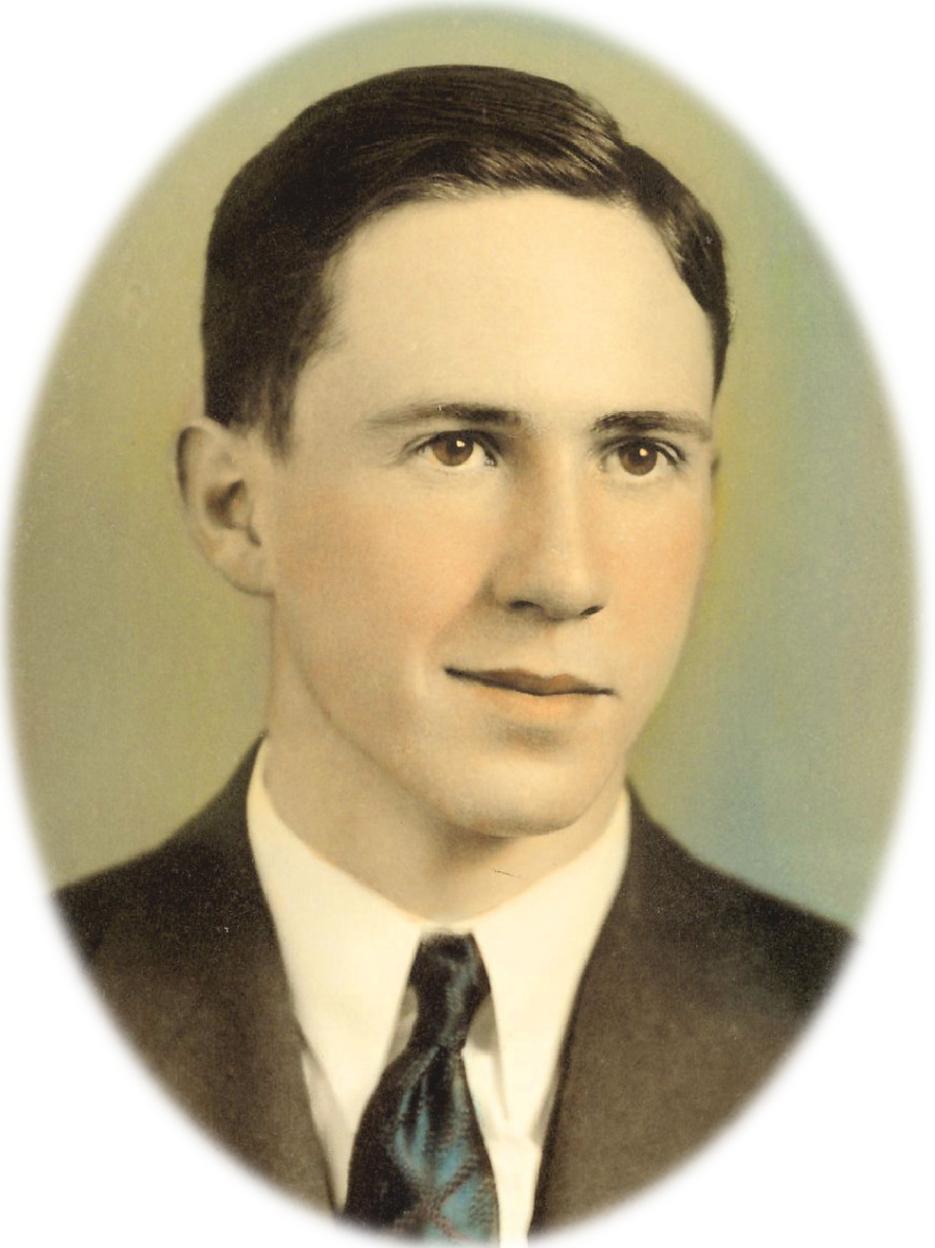


... into the Great Depression ...

Robert Willis Grove was ten and a half years old on October 24th, 1929 — the day a massive stock market crash heralded the beginning of the Great Depression. It would be several years before most everyone was ready to admit that the country, the entire world in fact, was in a state of deep economic distress — with no easy solution in sight. Said state of distress would wax and wane

until the massive spending precipitated by the Second World War drew America out of its economic malaise. How Roy Grove's Deer Park dry goods store managed the darker days of the 1930s, we don't know. What we do know is that a very large number of businesses, farms, and families didn't manage — the depression affecting everyone in some way.

Many of the elders with recollections of the depression years can relate at least a few bleak incidents. But what most remember is



Robert Willis Grove
1919 — 1992

that as children they didn't really understand that things could or should have been different — could or should have been better — simply because they had nothing to compare the times to. An occasional or frequent lack of money to buy food, clothing, shoes, toys, or most anything else may have hinted that things were not really right. But even though the times were absolutely bleak by modern standards, there's an almost universal sense that the era's young gained a much more responsible attitude from the experience; a much more responsible attitude that in turn reinforced a sense of obligation to the general welfare.

... school days ...

As for the young Willis Grove, a simple sketch of sorts can be drawn out of the school related articles appearing in the pages of Deer Park's long running newspaper, the *Union*. These articles suggest he was a good student, musically and athletically talented, socially adept and popular with his classmates.

The front page of the February 2nd, 1933 *Union* noted that some "excellent results were obtained" by Deer Park's eighth grade class in a series of "reading, spelling, and geography" tests — in which Willis managed an average of 93%.

On the prior Monday — January 30th, 1933 — several articles that would eventually prove of significance to Willis's life, as well as the lives of the rest of the world's population, appeared in the *Spokane Chronicle*. The newspaper noted that someone named Adolf Hitler had assumed the office of Chancellor of Germany — Hitler being a "controversial politician" the Associated Press characterized as the "picturesque leader of the German fascists." According to the *Chronicle's* several articles on the Führer's assumption of power, the only people that seemed particularly disturbed by this turn of events were the citizens of Great Britain and Germany's Jewish popu-

lation. In fact, a growing percentage of America's citizenry were at least somewhat, if not wholeheartedly enamored by Hitler's political and social views.

All that seemed far away from daily life in the late summer of 1933. Willis had just entered high school. The September 14th, issue of the *Deer Park Union* reported he was, as a pianist, part of the entertainment for the Parent-Teachers Association's teacher's reception. Shortly after, he was voted vice-president of the incoming Freshman class. Over the ensuing winter he played forward on the high school's basketball team.. Early in his Sophomore year, he was again elected class vice-president.

Willis's Junior year began with his election as class treasurer. In late September, 1935, the *Union* announced that Willis would be playing a part in that year's all high school play, a "negro farce comedy" scripted in 1920 by O. R. Cohen. The play carried the title "*Come Seven*," and was a stage adaptation of Mr. Cohen's 1919 novel of the same name.

Regarding the play, a review appearing in the October, 1920 issue of New York's *Theatre Arts Magazine* stated, "It is a record of the maneuverings of two negroes in an attempt to profit by various pawnings of various engagement rings without coming within the reach of the law. ... (Mr. Cohen's) all colored play runs off into the reaches of what is familiarly called hokum."

Something more of the nature of the play can be drawn from the December 18th, 1920 edition of San Francisco's *The Argonaut* — that city's long running literary and arts journal. Announcing *Come Seven*'s impending appearance at the city's Alcazar Theater, the magazine notes, "There are no white characters in this farcicality, to be staged for the first time outside of New York, where it recently scored a great hit at the Broadhurst Theatre." The *Argonaut* also states, "It will be a novel surprise to see all the Alcazar's (favorite

Illustration on page 1849 from 1944's "Pilot Training Manual for the Flying Fortress B-17,"
United States Army Air Forces.



The Willis Grove Orchestra

Deer Park High School's Alumni Dance — May 11, 1940.

Left to Right: Ted Edgett, Jack Milan, Red Owens, Ted Blevins and Willis Grove.

This photo, taken in the old high school's Crawford Street gymnasium, shows the band within a decorative alcove intended to represent a windmill. The set was held over from the prior week's Junior Prom, the theme for that dance being "an old Dutch garden."

The Willis Grove Band provided music for both events.
(Photo courtesy of Gordon Grove)

actors) appearing in blackface."

In the local high school's version of the play, Willis is listed as playing the part of the lawyer, George Washington Chew.

The November 7th, 1935 edition of the *Deer Park Union* carried the play's review, stating, "A good sized audience gathered at the gymnasium in spite of the cold weather to

see the production of 'Come Seven' as the first all high school play of the school year, and everyone was in praise of the manner in which the young people presented this well-known comedy by Octavus Roy Cohen. Many of the well-known characters created by this famous writer of modern negro stories were in the cast, and the readers of the Saturday Evening

Post were in the presence of story paper friends as they watched the portrayal of the story. The whole play was well presented, and the audience was lavish in praise of their efforts. Unfortunately, the cold weather made it hard to warm the big auditorium and detracted from the pleasure of the entertainment."

By the beginning of his Senior year, Willis Grove had enlarged his inclination for public performances to venues outside of school, as noted in this blip from the October 1st, 1936 issue of the *Union*. "A group of young men forming a local orchestra have been playing during the week at the Wellpinit Rodeo. They report an interesting atmosphere, with Indians presenting tribal dances in full regalia. Those playing are Willis Grove, Earl Potter, and Ted Blevins."

Willis's high school years ended with the commencement held on Thursday evening, July 10th, 1937. As the following week's *Deer Park Union* explained in its coverage, "After the diplomas had been granted, Superintendent Blevins announced another award, which the school makes each year. Willis Grove was called to the front of the platform and presented with the Citizenship Trophy, at the result of the decision of the faculty. This is an award for the best spirit of citizenship within the class and school, and is based on sportsmanship, studies, and general high-class school spirit during the year."

... after high school ...

Though Willis may have done some work at the family store after graduation, considering his active nature it's reasonable to assume he was very interested in striking out on his own. We know he continued with his band, as noted in the *Union*'s first issue for the month of May, 1938. "The Deer Park Orchestra, headed by Willis Grove and Ted Blevins, furnished music for the Junior Prom at Riverside High School at Milan, Friday evening. They reported 62 girls and 23 boys in the crowd of dancers, which is an unusual reversal of attendance."

Ad from the *Deer Park Union*.
May 2nd, 1940.

Ten months later, under the headline "Record Crowd Attends St. Patrick's Dance," the March 23rd, 1939 issue of the *Union* stated, "the local orchestra, under the direction of Willis Grove, delivered a wonderful performance."

A week after the above appeared in the local paper, another event was mentioned. "The senior class of the Deer Park High School will hold their class dance in the high school gym Friday, April 14. Willis Grove's local orchestra will furnish the music."

Implying an attempt to develop other streams of income, three issues of the March 1939 *Union* contained the following ad. "Public address system for Rent. We make installation. For information, inquire, Willis Grove, Deer Park."

An article of a different tone appears in the April 20th edition of the *Union*. "Frank



Photo courtesy of Gordon Grove.

Deer Park's "Public Service Station" — circa 1939.

Alvin 'Tuffy' Luhr (pictured) and Ben Renner took over operation of Deer Park's downtown Shell station on August 1st, 1939. Willis was employed at the station before he entered the Army Air Corps. The beginning date of said employment is not currently known, though it may have been after Tuffy assumed sole ownership of the station early in 1941.

Hulbert, Willis Grove, and Leonard Pulliam were arrested by officer Ed Baker while driving here from Spokane. Each was charged with having only one license plate. The three were bringing automobiles to Deer Park for the Hulbert Motor Company and were traveling in a group when stopped. They were each fined \$5 and costs, \$2 of which was suspended for Grove and Pulliam. Frank Hulbert paid all the fines as the boys were working under his direction at the time."

The above suggests — though does not clearly indicate — that during this period Willis was finding casual employment to augment any income received from his band.

In late September, 1939, the *Union* reported, "Willie Grove's orchestra has signed a contract to play at Diamond Lake the rest of

the season."

Early May of 1940 found the band performing at Deer Park High School's Junior Prom. The following weekend the band played at the same venue — the high school's Crawford Street gymnasium — for the school's Alumni Dance. Prior graduates, from 1919 forward, attended. Late May found the band back at Diamond Lake. And the last mention of a playdate so far found in the *Union* for Willis's pre-war band — though not necessarily the last local performance by the group — was mid-March, 1941.

In August of 1939, longtime local resident Alvin 'Tuffy' Luhr, in partnership with Clayton's Ben Renner, leased downtown Deer Park's Shell service station. Willis became Tuffy's employee, presumably shortly

after Tuffy took sole control of the station in January of 1941. That association would prove lifechanging for both these young men.

... looking up ...

According to articles in vintage issues of the *Deer Park Union*, the idea of an airport for the city of Deer Park had been bouncing around since the late 1920s. With preliminary work on a dirt runway beginning a mile and a quarter east of downtown Deer Park in 1934. By late 1936, the town's compacted 4,600 foot southwest to northeast runway was suitable for use.

Loud, slow, and still a relatively rare sight, the aircraft using the field would doubtless have drawn attention — especially among younger people with an intense interest in venturing into the wider world. On occasion that wider world would drop into Deer Park's airport, as it did on the 15th of June, 1940. Under the heading "Free Flying Lessons," the following week's *Union* explained, "Dwight L. Calkins of the Calkins Aircraft Company from Felts Field in Spokane spent Saturday morning in Deer Park giving free sample flying lessons. Guy Wheeler distributed about twenty complimentary tickets, each good for fifteen minutes instruction, and as many local young men spent the morning flying over the surrounding lakes and countryside. Calkins was flying a Luscombe training ship."

We've no data to suggest Willis was among the recipients of these "complimentary tickets."

The rest of the summer appears to have been just as busy for the airport, as recorded in the next month's *Union*. The paper's July 18th edition, under the headline "Aero Club Visits Here," stated, "Twenty-two young men and women, members of Spokane's Aero Club, brought eleven planes to rest on the Deer Park Airport Sunday morning on a goodwill visit.

"The flyers, without excep-

tion, expressed admiration of the field and its possibilities. They plan to make another trip here in the near future.

"Although Deer Park was not aware of the flyers coming until late the previous evening, seven Commercial Club members were on hand to greet them. The group had breakfast in the hotel coffee shop before taking off on the return flight."

... an impending storm ...

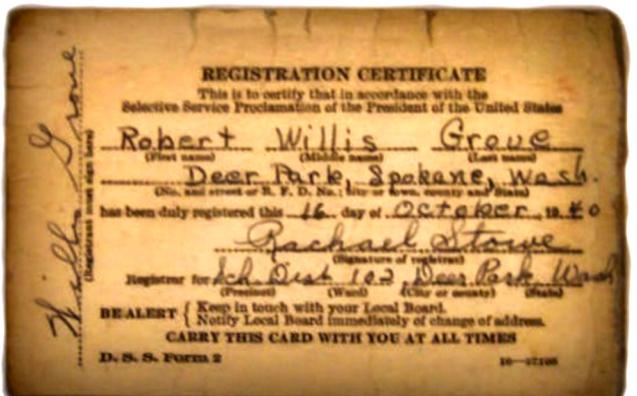
Citizens hoping the United States would stay out of wars raging in Europe and the Far East were doubtless unnerved when, on September 16th, 1940, the federal government enacted the Selective Training and Service Act — the country's first peacetime draft. As part of the accompanying military buildup, recruitment efforts were ramped up. The impact of those efforts was suggested in this article from the April 10th, 1941 issue of the *Union*.

"Four young men from this communi-

Willis Grove's Draft Registration Card.

Dated October 16th, 1940, the reverse side carries identifying information.

Height 5' 8", Weight 130, Eyes brown, Hair brown, Complexion light, Race white. Later official military documents place Willis's height at five foot five inches.



DATE	AIRCRAFT FLOWN			CROSS COUNTRY		REMARKS OR INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE CERTIFICATION NUMBER AND RATING
	MAKE AND MODEL	CERTIFICATE NUMBER	ENGINE	FROM	TO	
7-7-41	Cub	NC 16665	Conf. 40	Deer Park	Deer Park	Straight & Level & Turns Sweatley 22814
7-8-41	"	"	"	"	"	Climbing Turns & Gliding Turns 22814
7-10-41	"	"	"	"	"	S Turns, St Level Whiteley 22814
7-11-41	"	"	"	"	"	S Turns St Level - Climbing Turns Whiteley 22814
7-12-41	"	"	"	Spokane	Spokane	" Landings 22814
7-13-41	"	"	"	Dee Park	Dee Park	Landings 22814
7-15-41	"	"	"	"	"	22814
7-16-41	"	"	"	"	"	Confidence Man. 22814
7-17-41	"	"	"	"	"	22814
7-20-41	"	"	"	"	"	Landings, Star Verticals 22814
7-22-41	"	"	"	"	"	Solo.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING ENTRIES ARE TRUE AND CORRECT.
SIGNED *Willis Grove*

PAGE TOTAL	TOTAL TIME TO DATE
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ty made application for enlistment in the United States Army this week when Sergeants A. O. Moore and Ira R. A. Pirtle from the recruiting office brought one of the army's new mobile units to Deer Park Wednesday and Thursday.

Those applying were James Paul Erickson, Harold Stumph, Lawrence L. Welch and Harold Leo (Shorty) Young. All of them will go into the Air Corps School Troops at Bakersfield, California if they are accepted.

The men were taken to Spokane for preliminary examinations and it is expected they will leave very shortly for the service."

... taking wing ...

Our first direct newspaper evidence that Willis Grove was interested in flying — possibly as his choice for the manner in which he'd fulfill his military obligation — came

from the July 31st, 1941 edition of Deer Park's newspaper. Under the headline "Local Pilots Are Making Progress," the Union recounted, "With two Piper Cub airplanes headquartering at the Deer Park Airport and making daily flights, eight young men of the community are making rapid strides toward becoming aviators.

"One of the planes is owned by Tuffy Luhr, Orland Berg (aka Orland Luhr), Gilbert Shrauger and Willis Grove. All of these boys have completed their dual instruction and are now doing solo work in order to gain the necessary thirty-five hours for private license.

"The other ship, a yellow and black job is owned by Earl Potter, Marion Kimmell, Danny Johnson and Leo Siers. These fellows are also taking flight instruction.

"Skeets Whiteley of Spokane is teaching both groups."

We do have some information on the

Further Reading Regarding Deer Park's Historic Airports:

"An Airport for Deer Park," by Peter Coffin.

Mortarboard #70, February, 2014 — page 849 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 18.
http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard_issue_70_singlepage.pdf

CLASS.	CLASS.	CLASS.	1	INSTRUMENT RADIO OR HOOD	TIME				DAILY TOTAL TIME
					DUAL AS INSTRUCTOR	DUAL AS STUDENT	SOLO DAY	SOLO NIGHT	
			30				30	30	30
			30				30	30	30
			30				30	30	30
			30				30	30	30
			2	-			2	-	2
			30				30	30	30
			30				30	30	30
			30				30	30	30
			1	-			1	-	1
			1	-			1	-	1
			30				30	30	30
			30				30	30	30
									8 30
									8 3

two airplanes mentioned above, that drawn from the "Pilot Log" Willis Grove kept during his training flights at Deer Park's airport. We believe the aircraft owned by Earl, Marion, Danny and Leo was a Taylor J2 Cub, tail number NC16665. Possibly built in 1935 or early '36, it likely was pulled aloft by a 4-cylinder air-cooled Continental A-40-3 engine producing 37 horsepower. We believe the other plane was a Piper J3 Cub, tail number NC21500. The data indicates this early version of the Piper branded Cub was powered by a 50 horsepower Continental engine very similar though somewhat improved over the earlier version powering the Taylor. While sorting through Tuffy Luhr's photographs during my interviews with him back in 2007, the Piper was the specific aircraft Tuffy identified as belonging to his group.

That the two planes are almost identical is explained by the fact that the Taylor Aircraft Company was purchased by William Piper in 1937. With a few modifications, the J3 Piper Cub is simply a continuation of the J2 Taylor Cub.

In Tuffy Luhr's 2007 interviews, he described the art of flying his group's Piper

Willis Grove's Pilot Log.

Beginning from this page, the logbook records 56 flights — with a total of 68 hours, 10 minutes of airtime.

The third column carries the airframe/tail number of the aircraft flown. The airplane designator NC16665 being the Taylor J2 Cub used at the beginning of instruction. Later on, the aircraft number was changed to NC21500 — indicating that the Piper J3 Cub was being used.

The logbook is from the Gordon Grove collection.

Cub this way.

"The Cub was about as simple as you could get for an airplane. Fabric over a wooden frame, I think the whole thing weighed in at about 700 pounds. You steered by a stick coming up between your legs and a set of stirrups for your feet. It was a two place, with tandem seats — one in front of the other. You could fly from either seat — though when you went up alone it was best to fly from the backseat — to balance the weight. It had brakes, which no one used. Those were activated by a pedal coming out from under the seats and rubber bladders inside the wheels pushing blocks of wood out against the drums. The fuel tank was under the cowling — just in front of the windshiel. The fuel gauge was a metal rod sticking up through the cowling. On the other end of the rod, sitting in the tank, was a float. As the fuel level dropped, the rod would slide down into the tank. Watching through the windshield as the rod disappeared — that's how you estimated how much fuel you had left."

According to the logbook Willis kept of all his training flights, his first thirty-minute-long instructor-assisted hop — meaning



Photo courtesy of Gordon Grove.

Willis Grove and the Deer Park Flying Group's Co-Owned Piper Cub.

Robert Willis Grove, uniformed for work at Tuffy Luhr's service station, stops for a photo.

Note the circle with the caution "Student Flying" on the fuselage.

Also note the rod rising from the cowling in front of the windscreens. Supported by a bulb floating in the craft's gas tank, that's the Piper Cub's fuel gauge.

'Skeets' Whiteley was onboard — took place on July 7th, 1941. The log indicates the plane used was the older Taylor J2. In the remarks column Whiteley wrote, "*Straight and level and turns.*" On the pair's fifth flight they spent two hours at Spokane practicing landings — possibly due to the availability of better airfield conditions near that city. The next day, July 13th, they spent half an hour practicing landings on the field at home — and twice again on the 15th.

They spent one hour aloft on the 16th, then again on the 17th, practicing landings and something called "*confidence maneuvers.*"

Regarding the last, I checked with former Deer Park resident and frequent *Mortarboard* contributor Chuck Stewart — a long-time small aircraft pilot himself.

Noting that the student's instructor would be on board to direct and if necessary assist during this phase of flight training, Chuck wrote, "*Recalling my own confidence*

maneuvers, they were intended to make the pilot-to-be confident that the airplane would not fall out of the sky from unusual attitudes, more aggressive control inputs, or from a short absence of control inputs. I remember steep turns, slow flight, and, of course, recovery from stalls in various flight configurations. Later came spins and spin recovery, which I still shudder at."

As if in confirmation, the remark's column for July 20th held this notation, "*Landings, Stalls, Verticals.*"

And on the 22nd, the single remark, "*Solo.*"

The training flights continued in the J2 Taylor Cub until, on August 10th, Willis records a switch into the J3 Piper Cub. The final 37 flights recorded in the book are all in the newer aircraft.

On September 17th, the logbook notes an hour and 45-minute loop trip from Deer Park to Newport, then on to Sandpoint and back to Deer Park.

The flight of October 5th is the longest and last hop noted in Grove's pilot log — two and a half hours from Deer Park to Colville, and assumedly (though not indicated) back. The rest of the book is blank.

We've no indication in the logbook or elsewhere whether Willis tested for his civilian pilot's license. What we do know is that six days after his last logged flight he was on his way to the Army Air Corps training center at Sheppard Field, Texas, to begin basic training. Whether he hoped to advance to pilot's training after basic remains conjecture.

... to be continued next month ...

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

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

... regarding Betty Burdette ...

The society is saddened to announce that Betty Lu Burdette, a lifelong resident of this community, and an active member of our group, has passed away. We've become accustomed to her alert and knowledgeable presence at our meetings, and her absence leaves us with a noticeable hollow.

We're asking anyone with memories in the form of little stories that capture bits of Betty's special character — the kind of stories the now-gone members of our community used to share across the kitchen table — to please write them down in letters or emails and submit them to the *Mortarboard* for publication. Since literary quality is by no means a requirement, the *Mortarboard*'s editor will

start with a recollection of his own.

... remembering Betty Burdette ...

I think it was my family's first summer on the Williams Valley farm. That would have been 1948. Our 106 acres were centered along the south side of Bittrich-Antler Road about a half mile west of its intersection with Williams Valley Road. Back then, our bit of road was called Atlantic, while the Williams Valley Road was generally referred to as the Farm to Market. Mike and Betty Burdette — I believe they only had one of their two boys at the time — lived in a little house on the north side of the road, maybe a three-minute walk to the east of us.

I'd just turned three that spring, so

my recollections of that time are just fragments. But there are a few images I can string together into something approaching a real memory. And one of those involves several little rubber ducks.

My mom and I had just walked back after a visit to Betty's place. A short time later my mom discovered me playing in a mudpuddle with a couple of little rubber ducks — and the ducks weren't mine. I vaguely recall that long, fretful return to Betty's house where I had to personally hand those ducks back.

Anyway ... within a year or two the Burdettes left, moving to a place a few miles away. After they left, I can still see myself looking around their now empty house. I thought it strange that they'd taken the building's doors and windows with them. After all, if somebody else moves in, what are they going to do for doors and windows? And then the rest of the house disappeared as well — dropping the number of households along our mile stretch of sand-surfaced road to just three.

For the next several years I still saw Betty on a frequent basis. She was a member of the Williams Valley Homemakers Club, as was my mother. And until I started school I was dragged along to most every club function my mother attended. In later years I would see Betty and her family on occasion, but, as happens when growing up, my attention always seemed to be elsewhere.

My first real conversation with Betty occurred not long after I joined the historical society — that conversation being a tape-recorded interview with both Mike and Betty to gather recollections of their early life in Williams Valley. My recounting of their story was published in 2005 by both the *Deer Park Tribune* and the historical society. A link to a recent reprint of the society's version is pro-

vided below.

Several important things I learned during that interview — well, important to me at least. One was what happened to that little house when it disappeared. The other, why its doors and windows went missing just before. (To answer the last, to keep them from being twisted and broken during the move.) Another thing I learned — and was reminded of every time Betty attended a historical society meeting — is that the incident with the two rubber ducks still embarrasses me.

I'm inclined to believe Betty remembered those ducks as well. And I suspect that whenever we talked, her failing eyes didn't see a battered old man well into his seventh decade, rather she saw a contrite three-year-old holding out two rubber ducks. But gracious by nature, and still very much the only adult in the room, she never brought it up.

... approaching 2000 pages ...

One of the *Mortarboard*'s peculiarities is its page numbering system. If anyone's curious as to why it's done this way, it's because your editor is old. Which is to say, of the several amateur periodicals I've designed over the years, it's been my habit to number the first page of the first issue '1' — as normally expected — but continue the pages through all subsequent issues as a consecutive stream. Years ago, periodicals with scientific, historic, geographic, technical and other kinds of content likely to be of further use tended to do the same — though they usually reset back to page one on an annual basis. At the end of each year these magazines and journals would publish comprehensive indexes to the prior year's contents — in the same manner and for the same reason a set of encyclopedias will

Further Reading — Betty Burdette

"Growing Up In Williams Valley: An Interview with Mike & Betty Burdette,"
by Wally Lee Parker.
***Mortarboard* #119, March, 2018 — page 1629 — Collected Newsletters, Volume #34.**
http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_119_web_.pdf

usually include a volume marked "Index."

Indexes allow searching for names and subjects not evidenced in an encyclopedia's alphabetical listings, or on a periodical's contents page. Before computers came along to allow line by line searches for specific words, indexes were a researcher's prime resource — and still are for materials not available in searchable electronic format. I know this because I'm old enough to have spent hours rummaging through the brittle pages of paper indexes.

There are hundreds upon hundreds of names, places, and events recorded in the *Mortarboard*'s prior issues. A comprehensive index would be of immense value to anyone searching for a specific keyword such as a family's last name.

While the *Mortarboard*'s page numbering system was designed to simplify the use of an index, creating and continually updating said index would be a massive undertaking. The problem is, we've yet to find a person or group willing to take up the task.

So now you know why the page you're now reading is numbered 1861. You also know where you can find a volunteer job should hours and hours of meticulous work feeding a data starved spreadsheet sounds like fun — or at least like a worthwhile way to spend some otherwise unoccupied time.

... November 27, 1909 ...

Below are three items mentioning Deer Park copied from the "County News" segment of the above dated *Colville Examiner*. Although Deer Park's own newspaper, the *Union*, had been established in the summer of 1906, the editions printed prior to mid-1911 are assumed lost.

First, we've yet to find any indication of how the following legal dustup was settled.

"Papers have been served upon Mayor W. D. Phillips, City Clerk R. G. Cole and City Treasurer J. T. Grove of Deer Park, directing them to appear before Judge Hinkle on November 30 and show cause why an in-

junction should not be issued against them and the city of Deer Park. The complaint is that they spent more than \$500 on streets during the last three months without calling for bids as required by law; that it was done by day labor at an exorbitant cost, and that warrants have been issued against the city to pay for the work."

The second item indicates Deer Park was fielding a high school football team in the fall of 1909.

"The Chewelah High School beat the Deer Park High School team last Saturday afternoon, 11 to 0. The Chewelah team was much heavier and the only time that Deer Park had an opportunity to score was when they carried the ball to Chewelah's three-yard line and lost it on downs."

And lastly, the electronically inclined among the society's membership can likely explain the technical basis of what was being demonstrated below, though the objective in demonstrating such as described was likely a stock scam — as was suggested by the recreation of the phenomenon by Mr. Long.

"Considerable excitement was caused when some men went into Deer Park and placed a wireless telephone receiver in Smith's pharmacy and talked wireless stock to the prospective purchasers from a transmitter through the wall in Kelly's store. It is said that several bought, but Roy Long, a former telephone lineman, fixed up a couple of coils on an insulated telephone receiver and transmitter and talked from the Temple Pharmacy through a brick wall to the dentist's office about as well as the other wireless with apparatus made for its special purpose."

... more on Evan Morgan's boats ...

In the January issue of the *Mortarboard* (#129) we included an article titled "Groff's Boat." The article was an attempt to run down several rumors that former Loon Lake resident Octavius Clifford Groff once owned the steam engine used to power Loon Lake's iconic excursion boat, the Gwen. Our

research indicates the Gwen, beached for the winter of 1916, was torn apart after water allowed to collect inside the hull froze. A portion of that article referenced a comment by Mr. Groff obtained in a 1982 interview for the Stevens County Oral History Project in which he appears to be saying that at one time he had the Gwen's "engine and boiler down in my shop."

A referral was tendered to society member Pete Coffin suggesting he contact Marv Franz regarding Loon Lake's history during the Evan Morgan era. During a subsequent telephone conversation, Mr. Franz indicated that after the Gwen's destruction "*The machinist Strandberg rescued the engine, repaired it and used it to power a shingle mill somewhere north of Loon Lake.*"

Mr. Franz noted that a second excursion boat had been built, and its drowned hull is now a favorite dive spot along Loon Lake's western shore. He stated that said boat was powered by a flathead gasoline engine.

Regarding the "machinist Strand-

berg" and the second excursion boat, this from the March 16th, 1922 edition of the *Deer Park Union*. "Evan Morgan, with the assistance of Frank Strandberg, expects to start work soon on the construction of a 65-foot launch to be used on Loon Lake this year. The boat will be called the 'Loon,' and will be docked at Morgan Park."

The stated length of the gasoline powered Loon was greatly reduced during actual construction — a fact noted in another *Union* article printed later in 1922.

Two things of significance can be drawn from Pete's conversation. Mr. Franz agrees that Loon Lake's drowned boat is Evan Morgan's second excursion boat, the Loon. He also connects the name Frank Strandberg to the fate of the Gwen's lost engine — a good hint for further research.

We want to thank Pete for following up on this, and we have several other questions to ask Mr. Franz going forward.

— Wally Lee Parker —

Minutes of the **Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society** — April 13, 2019 —

In attendance at the new meeting hall on the northeast corner of Margarette and East 'A' Street, Deer Park: Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Marilyn Reilly, Bill Sebright, Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Mark Wagner, Don Ball, Eleanor Ball, Jesse Leiser, Chuck Lyons, Bill Phipps, Marie Morrill, Rachelle Fletcher, Roxanne Camp, Mary Jo Reiter, Lorraine Nord, Judy Gross, Jeff Clark, Wey Simpson, Betty Deuber, Ella Jenkins, and Sue Rehms.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He reported: 1) He met Carolyn Williams in Arden to get the original pictures of Edna Berg, etc. He scanned the pictures. Pete scanned the 2 jour-

nals, one by Edna Berg Cruger's husband, Dean. 2) He received a phone call from Sherry Fenley. She has a lighted curio cabinet to donate for the new building. Mark Wagner and Bill picked it up at Scott and Stephanie Little's farm. 3) Grace Hubal volunteered her help to pick up the Society's Leno Prestini memorabilia and Betty Burdette's Deer Park Hotel pitcher and bowl set from the display case at the Clayton Drive-In. The placement of the 1930s Deer Park High School Pep Club memorabilia, a 1950s collection of Carl and Don's Phillips 66 items, and a picture of the 1950 Clayton Home Ec. Club were added to the display case. Many thanks to Randy Long

for helping us replace the items. 4) He picked up a letter at City Hall from a DP Elementary student asking about Deer Park's "founding father." Pete wrote up a short biography of William Short.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported the main checking account ended the month at \$8,865.23. There were deposits of \$255.00. A check was written for \$81.60 to Mike Reiter for supplies and one for \$20.00 to Bill Sebright for dues for The Heritage Network. The web hosting account ended the month at \$597.42 with a withdrawal of \$11.84 for web hosting. The Brickyard Day account is at \$1,414.05. Joe Polowski has a display case to donate to the Society for our new building.

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 April *Mortarboard* (#132) 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 patrons requesting such. This 16-page issue opens with the first number in a series titled "*Twenty-Six Missions: The Robert Willis Grove Story.*" 2) The *Mortarboard* is open to the idea of running reoccurring by-lined columns on assorted subjects of local historical interest should anyone care to author such. If you'd like further information or wish to discuss this concept in depth, contact the editor.

Webmaster Marie Morrill reported: 1) I have uploaded April's *Mortarboard*, Pete's updated index to the *Mortarboard* and his index to reports to the Society. I put this last index alongside the *Mortarboard* index for the time being. I have no idea where a better place might be. 2) Also, I am updating the last paragraph under the history of the society. It says we have no physical structure. It will say, "*Thanks to the generosity of the Deer Park City Council the Society is now in possession of the fire department's old training facility*

located at the corner of Margaret and E. A Street where we meet on the second Saturday of the month at 10:00 A.M."

Pete Coffin reported: 1) Took pictures of the Antler Room/Arcadia Inn parapet failure and submitted two to the *Tribune*. The *Deer Park Gazette* asked the Society for old pictures of the hotel and I sent them two and a biographical manuscript on Louis Olsen, Sr. who built the hotel. 2) President Sebright gave me a 1902 Kelly Store "Day Book" that had been donated to the Society by Mrs. Earl. I cleaned it off, took pictures of the cover and internal pages as well as wrote up a short description. This is the oldest Deer Park business material that the Society possesses. 3) President Sebright gave me two three-ring binders from Carolyn Williams of Colville containing diary material and photographs describing the life of Sidney Dean Cruger. I digitized the material and because of the subject of much of the material I sent her a DVD with all of the Diamond Lake/Scotia pictures the Society has from A. Hulseizer. In addition, I sent her an Einer Berg family tree as S. D. Cruger had married Edna Berg. 4) The Settlers organization asked the Society for material for a flyer describing the Deer Park Drag Races to be handed out during the July celebration. I abstracted material from the Fury/Coffin *Mortarboard* on that subject and sent it to them for consideration. 5) The name Marv Franz was given to me as a source of information on the history of Loon Lake and the steam launch Gwen. I called him and discussed with him what he knew and wrote up a report for Editor Parker. 6) President Sebright asked me to answer questions from Jeff Clark about Timothy G. Hunziker and sent him *Deer Park Union* newspaper clippings documenting Mr. Hunziker's ownership of one of the first hardware stores in Deer Park. The hardware store became Webers. I also prepared a Timothy Hunziker family tree for him. 7) Assembled photographs of Leno Prestini's paintings that Bob Clouse took that were on a DVD Bob gave me. 8) Visited the Spokane County's Assessor's office and worked on doing a title

search. As a Grantor-Grantee state one has to know the names of the seller and the buyer to review the paper documentation.

Mike Reiter reported by email: 1) Roberta and I had a great visit with Elizabeth Deuber at her home in Spokane. We showed her the rough draft of the video I have been working on regarding a closer look at her husband's paintings on the first 100 years of the history of Deer Park. We are going to try to set up a time to get together for an interview to get some background information on how the paintings came about. 2) It is also apparent after our visit that there is a whole other story dealing with how the paintings were enlarged for display on the fair building. 3) I set up a TV and DVD player in our new building. I

added a couple of Knights of Pythias articles (a sword and pin) to our display case.

Betty Deuber brought several professional pictures taken of the Atlas Missile while in transit. She also brought brochures that narrated her and her husband's murals that he painted for the Centennial of Deer Park in 1989. She also brought slides showing the development of the large versions of the murals at the Deer Park Fairgrounds.

Next Meeting: Saturday, May 11, 2019, at 10:00 AM at our new building.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

The Society meeting minutes 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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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 Hedges, Bill Sebright, Linda Swain, and Charles Stewart.

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.