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Illustration from "System on the Farm Magazine," January, 1919.

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THE
CLAYTON ♦ DEER PARK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Mortarboard

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*A History of
The Deer Park Fair
— 1931 through 1946 —
(Part One)*

by

Wally Lee Parker

... a two-headed cow ...

Like now, back then the breeze wafting through the local fairgrounds carried a unique blending of odors. Sometimes the cotton candy was predominant. Quite often that was overpowered by a bouquet reminiscent of the barnyard back home. But thinking back, it's not the endless jars of pickled vegetables or pens of cows, goats and rabbits I recall with clarity. My fragments of seventy and then some year-old recollections are reserved for the carnival.

One such occurred on a September evening in the early 1950s. I know it was September because back then all of Deer Park's

community fairs were held within the first few weeks of the start of school — that being the only reason to look forward to the start of school as far as I was concerned. What I recall was a box-truck with an image of a two-headed cow painted on the side parked in the carnival area. I vaguely remember a guy standing on a wooden platform beside the truck, his voice barking out that for just a small token — maybe two bits — you could walk up the ramp into the enclosed box and take a look at this wondrous freak of nature.

More than likely my mom and sisters were off looking at the jams and jellies or some such. Whatever the reason, it was just me and my dad strolling the midway. Normal-

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ly Dad didn't succumb to any kind of fairway foolishness. He figured anytime some hawkker assured you there would be a winner every time, the winner would most always be the hawkker. But this time, with only a minimal amount of pestering, we found ourselves inside the box.

Naturally, since the two-headed cow didn't look anything like the image on the outside of the truck, we were disappointed. What we actually saw was a mound of undeveloped fetus spread out just beneath the skin of its fully developed and actively outgassing twin — at least that's how the exhibitor described the abnormality. If that interpretation was accurate, there should have been a head under there somewhere — at least technically. And if so, what was barked from the outside platform wasn't exactly a lie.

And that's equally true of ancient memories. While not particularly accurate, they're not necessarily lies. To draw recollection and reality into alignment, we try to find some kind of verification. A few lines of print in a vintage newspaper, for example.

... 1931 — how the annual fair began ...

In some ways it was the worst of times. America was entering a decade of sparse rain that would turn Oklahoma and surrounding states into a dust bowl, while most of the rest of the country noted significant periods of drought. After 1929's stock market crash, the economy had slowly fallen apart. Nationwide unemployment reached 15% in 1931 and just shy of 25% by 1933. It would get better from there, but slowly. In the meantime, many communities shredded, their residents packing up and moving toward what they hoped would be something better (the author's family being part of the era's Okie migration). Other communities drew closer together, huddled in self-reliance. The local newspaper suggests Deer Park and surrounding communities were among the latter.

For example, the first flicker of circumstance leading to Deer Park's long though



not unbroken chain of community fairs appeared in the February 12th, 1931 issue of the *Deer Park Union*. Under the headline "Rural Community Organizes 4-H Club," the newspaper reported, "An interesting and enthusiastic meeting was held at the Williams Valley Grange hall on Tuesday evening for the purpose of organizing a 4-H club." This club wasn't just to be limited to Williams Valley, as the next issue of the *Union* made clear when it noted, "The entire Deer Park district is in the area from which (4-H) membership is expected."

And then, under the lead-in "May Have Home Agricultural Show," the *Union's* last February issue tied the founding of the 4-H Club to the beginning of Deer Park's fair. "Following the organization of the 4-H club in Williams Valley last week, an idea has developed that may give Deer Park a fair of its own next fall."

On June 11th, 1931, that idea was fully expressed in the *Union*. "... plans are maturing for a local exhibit, the community as

a whole backing the efforts of the 4-H club members and the Deer Park Commercial Club cooperating on the part of the city.

The above article continued, "With the interstate fair definitely discarded, local farmers are expressing their desire to help in a big community exhibit." This alluding to the fact that the traditional showcase for the tri-county area's agricultural output was Spokane's Interstate Fair — first held in 1901. But depression era economics had forced that enterprise into bankruptcy after the 1930 season — not to be fully revived until 1952.

By mid-June the *Union* was announcing that "the Deer Park Commercial Club (had taken) definite action looking to cooperating with the 4-H clubs and farmers of this district in putting on an agricultural display ..."

What the article outlined was a two-day exhibit to take place before the beginning of school on September 8th — this since the intent was to use Deer Park High School's Crawford Street gymnasium (demolished in 2016) as the main exhibit hall for "displays from farms (and) gardens."

In early July the *Union* headlined "Farmers Growing Keen for Exhibit." As the text explained, "Inquiries have been made by several parties about showings of canned fruits and vegetables; also jellies and jams."

Under the headline "Deer Park to Have Community Fair," the August 15th issue of Spokane's *Daily Chronicle* carried this announcement as a "Special" from Deer Park.

"The local 4-H clubs, supplemented by the Deer Park Commercial club, will put on a community fair here on August 28-29. Exhibits of the clubs will be shown and a general community exhibit of agricultural products will also be displayed.

"A program of 4-H activities is planned and a speaker from the state college and a 3-reel motion picture showing club work will be shown. The exhibit will be housed in the high school gymnasium."

Animal husbandry was not to be forgotten, as this from the August 20th issue of the *Union* clarifies. "The old Red Front Livery

Barn is being prepared for use of the livestock exhibitors." The location of this barn is not currently known, but the fact that its use is being discussed with the fair only a week away suggests how frenetic the overall situation had become.

As headlined in the September 3rd *Union* — "Much Enthusiasm Over Community Fair" — it appears to have all come together well enough that the first sentence of the article beneath the headline stated, "The 4-H and Community Fair held on Friday and Saturday so won the appreciation of the hundreds who attended that the one most heard expression was 'Let's do it again next year.'"

The next several issues of the *Union* echoed the "do it again" sentiment. And then the September 17th newspaper made it real with the headline "Plans Started for Fair Next Year." This article ambitiously proposed that the fair group being formed "be known as the North Spokane and South Stevens County Fair Association" — that name apparently rejected as a little too encompassing. The article went on to report that "the total cash expense of the last exhibit (the 1931 fair) was less than \$20" — that suggesting just how much had been donated by the local community.

... 1932 & the Arcadia warehouse ...

Only to be expected, the "bigger and better 4-H fair and exhibit" promised in the June 9th issue of 1932's *Union* would magnify the fair's problems as well. For example, if the high school's Crawford Street gymnasium were to be used once again — that being the initial plan — it would be best to schedule the fair before September 6th — the planned first day of school. The *Union* noted another potential difficulty when it reported, "Among the club members, the enthusiasm is growing steadily, especially in clubs interested in stock raising. It is probable that this department will double in the number of exhibits over last year. Housing of this part of the fair will be one of the problems."

In mid-June the first two days of Sep-

tember were set aside for the fair. Also, it was announced that a “permanent” organization to oversee the intended annual event had been formed. Its official name, the “4-H Club and Community Fair” committee — not the North Spokane and South Stevens County Fair Association first proposed.

In late July of 1932 the *Union* announced a new wrinkle to the plans. “The committee is investigating the apple warehouse as a place for housing the entire exhibit, and it will probably be used. It is but little farther from the center of town than the gymnasium, and the livestock can be sheltered under the same roof. In that case only evening programs such as the moving pictures and addresses will be held in the gym.”

Perhaps the best artifact remaining from the Arcadia Orchards era, the above noted apple warehouse was the subject of an article appearing in the *Union*’s July 13th, 1917 edition. The story explained that earlier in the week Deer Park’s “Arcadia Valley Fruit Growers Association” had begun work on a packing warehouse some sixty feet wide by one-hundred and ten feet long with a ten foot deep concrete basement beneath — adding that several more “storage buildings (would) be constructed on each side in the future.” The 1929 version of Sanborn’s Fire Insurance Map contains the footprint for both this main building and the later storage buildings (see figure #2).

As with most stories dealing with buildings and businesses found in the vintage editions of Deer Park’s newspaper, an address, street name, or other location data was missing — which implies the article’s descriptive “between the railroad track and the concrete roadway” would have been sufficient for most locals. That said, the structure, now demolished, was located on the east side of Deer Park’s South Main Street, a quarter mile south of its junction with Crawford Street.

It’s possible the idea of sheltering the livestock exhibits “under the same roof” meant placing them in the storage buildings on the north and south sides of the apple packing

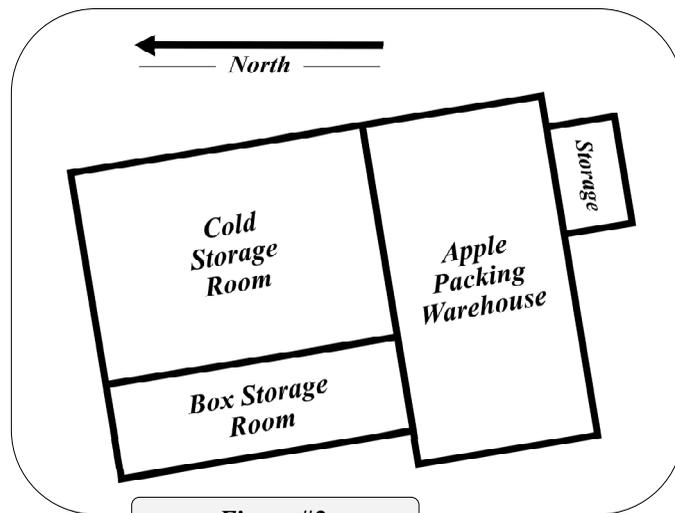


Figure #2.

The Apple Packing Complex.

The above is the packing complex layout as represented in the 1929 version of Sanborn’s Fire Insurance Map for Deer Park. According to the July 13, 1917 edition of the Deer Park Union, the area identified as the Apple Packing Warehouse was 60 by 110 feet.

Guesstimating from those dimensions and the Sanborn map, the Cold Storage and Box Storage rooms, under one roof, were a square approximately 100 feet on a side, with 30 feet partitioned off for box storage. The storage structure on the south side was about 20 feet by 34. The ridge beam for the Apple Packing Warehouse ran to the east and west, ridge beams for the additions appear to have abutted the packing warehouse’s roof from the north and south. Photos of the structure throughout the years would be greatly appreciated by the society. As of yet unverified reports suggest that prior to its demolition the northside addition might have served as a partially underground livery stable and/or a storage area for fire equipment.

warehouse. It’s currently believed these adjoining structures had been demolished at some point prior to the mid-1940s.

On August 18th, 1932, with just two weeks to go, the fair association made the following request, “Plans for the 4-H Club Community Fair are now rapidly being completed. We desire all the exhibits of every kind we can get, especially livestock. May we have some good farm horses, farm exhibits, fancy work, manual training exhibits, relics and curios.”

The following details were published in the *Union*’s August 25th edition.

“The exhibits will be housed in the apple packing warehouse on the south side (apparently meaning on the south side of town), which will afford ample space for all that are offered. The evening gatherings will be held in the gymnasium, with music, demonstrations, moving pictures and a lecture on Thursday evening. A stock parade and awards will be made on Friday.”

The article went on to note that home economics groups from Clayton, Half Moon, and Wild Rose had expressed interest in participating, then added, “Admission will be free, and no charges will be made for entries.”

The September 8th edition of the *Union* summarized the fair this way.

“At the surprisingly low expense of approximately \$65.00, the combined 4-H Clubs and community farmers put on a fair on Thursday and Friday of last week that was mighty creditable for the conditions faced. Community clubs and 4-H members worked hand in hand, and vied for honors, and when it was all over they were keen to put on a better one next season. The housing in the Arcadia warehouse was ideal and much surprise was expressed at the excellent opportunity it gave for putting an entire exhibit under one roof.”

With that, the subject of the fair disappeared from the *Union*’s front page.

... 1933 ...

The *Union*’s August 10th, 1933 edition carried the headline “Plans for 4-H Fair

Maturing Rapidly.” It then continued to outline a more formal — less casual — presentation.

“Plans for Deer Park’s third annual 4-H Club and Community Fair, September 15 and 16 (Friday and Saturday of that week), are almost complete, and its promoters are looking forward to a bigger and better exhibit than either of those preceding. Officers are: Earl P. Jones, president; L. D. Boyd, secretary; C. J. Rhodes, treasurer. Department heads are: J. C. Trull, agriculture; Walter Sargent, livestock; Frank Carlson, poultry; Bob Christensen, rabbits and fur-bearing animals; Mrs. Bessie Eickmeyer, home economics; Miss Oma Bacon, flower show; R. M. Damewood, 4-H Club agriculture; Lloyd Roberts, 4-H Club livestock; Mrs. Merle Simpson, 4-H Girls’ Club work.”

The day before the event’s mid-September opening, the *Union* assured its readers “Everything Ready for Community Fair.”

“The 4-H Community Fair will open at noon tomorrow at which time all entries will be closed and the outlook is for an exhibit that the Deer Park district and the promoters can point to with pride, and as a result the space in the big Arcadia warehouse is practically engaged for exhibits by granges, home economic clubs, community and individual farm exhibits.”

The article went on to note that “the program planned for Friday evening” was the only one “for which a charge is to be made,” said charge being “ten cents.”

In bold letters, the September 21st edition of the *Union* stated, “Local Fair Succeeded Beyond All Expectations.” Then summarized the event by saying, “Over 100 individual exhibits of livestock were shown, besides some excellent groups of poultry and rabbits. In the various Grange, Home Economic and individual farm booths remarkable showings of vegetables and fruits were seen” drawing forth “expressions of surprise” from “visitors who did not know of the producing ability of this section” of the country.

In late October, 1933, this appeared in the *Union*.

“The officials of the Deer Park 4-H Community Fair held a reorganization meeting Friday evening and began plans for next year’s fair. ... In discussing plans, considerable interest was manifested in a proposal for a three day exhibit. It was asserted that a considerable part of the first of the two days was used in getting exhibits into place, and time was not given for judging in (a) satisfactory manner.”

... 1934 ...

... apple warehouse to fair pavilion ...

For the several years previous, planning had begun late in the season, but not in 1934 — as stressed by this from the April 12th issue of Deer Park’s *Union*. *“By getting an early start, the promoters expect to make the fair bigger and better in all ways than in previous years. As far as is now known, the Arcadia warehouse will be used for housing the exhibits.”*

On July 12th it was reported that the fair would indeed be expanded to three days, beginning on Thursday, September 13th.

And then, the August 23rd issue of the *Union* carried this headline, *“Legion Purchases Arcadia Warehouse.”*

“A deal was completed during the past week by which Guy Enman Post, American Legion, became the owner of the Arcadia warehouse property, (the) transfer being made by the Arcadia Holding Company and Spokane County. The deal has been pending for a year. ...”

“Plans back of the purchase stamp it as a civic rather than commercial enterprise. The grounds will be improved and parked for a playground, and the Spokane officials of the WERA (the depression era Washington Emergency Relief Administration) have promised help, both in planning the enterprise and by furnishing funds for labor by unskilled workmen as a relief measure. All expense of material used will be met by the legion. Much of

the outside work will be done this fall, and if the weather should make it necessary to stop, considerable inside work will be furnished. A roof will be put on and two or three rooms may be partitioned off inside for use of the caretaker.

“The Legion has in mind the supply of a need that Deer Park has felt for a long time. The building when it is ready for use will (be) available for any public gatherings or enterprises of a non-profit character, without rental charge. Commander Clarence Lansing told the Union man on Tuesday that it could remain the home of the 4-H Community Fair Association for exhibit purposes on this basis as long as that body did not undertake to commercialize its enterprise. Other non-profit gatherings will be given the same privilege. As the plans are matured, special stress will be placed on the playground and making the property a beauty spot instead of the litter of assorted material that now is stored on the ground. As a civic project it will have the two-fold purpose of furnishing a civic center that will supply a long felt need and will furnish work for some time for men who need it. The members of the post should receive the hearty support of the public in their project for welfare work.”

Unclear in the above is the exact extent of land reportedly being purchased by the local Legion post — was it most or all of what later became known as Deer Park’s fairgrounds? Also unclear is why this same property was sold to the city of Deer Park in 1937 — a sale in which the Guy Enman Post doesn’t appear to have been mentioned. Is our gap in understanding due to a missing edition of the *Union*?

On the last Thursday in August, 1934, the *Union* announced, *“Plans for 4-H Fair Are About Complete.”* In part the article following noted, *“To date the following organizations have signified their intention to cooperate with booths or other exhibits: Clayton, Gardenspot, Williams Valley, Half Moon and Inland granges; Clayton, Spring Creek, Williams Valley, Wild Rose and Deer Park Home*

Economics Clubs. The 4-H Girls’ Clubs entering exhibits are Sunshine Sewing Club, Sunrise Cooking Club, Jolly Workers Sewing Club, Chattaroy Sewing Club, Half Moon Sewing Club. Boys’ clubs enrolled as exhibitors are the Wild Rose Calf Club, Dragoon Creek Calf Club, Chattaroy Garden Club and Elk Poultry Club. The Deer Park Parent Teacher Association will provide an educational exhibit, and there will be considerable groups of individual farm exhibits as were shown last year.”

The *Union*’s post-event summation was printed in the September 20th issue. Among the comments, *“The 4-H Community Fair, which was the center of attraction for three days last week, scored a decided success, in many ways being bigger and better than any of those preceding it.”*

... 1935 ...

In early March the *Union* announced that the days set aside for 1935’s fair would be reduced to just two. No clue as to why was found.

On July 25th an article appeared under the headline *“How to Prepare Exhibits for Fair.”* What followed were details on how to select and prepare *“exhibits of grasses and sheaf grains”* for best display. Among the instructions regarding vegetables, *“The day before the fair the vegetables should be gone over carefully with a soft brush to remove all particles of soil and give them a slight polish.”* No mention is given to preparing livestock, but then the newspaper’s July 11th and 18th editions are missing from the archive — missing issues being a not uncommon aggravation with no conceivable remedy.

The August 15th *Deer Park Union* noted, *“Approximately \$200.00 in cash prizes have been assigned to the various departments. Dr. Otto J. Hill, of the State College, has been secured again this year to judge the livestock. Dr. Hill is one of the best dairy judges in the northwest. His work (at the fair) last year was very satisfactory and we are*

assured the same expert service again. Bring your exhibit. Show what you have and get the money.”

In its September 19th issue, the *Union* headlined *“1200 Paid Admissions Pass Gate.”* That seems a good amount for a two-day small-town event.

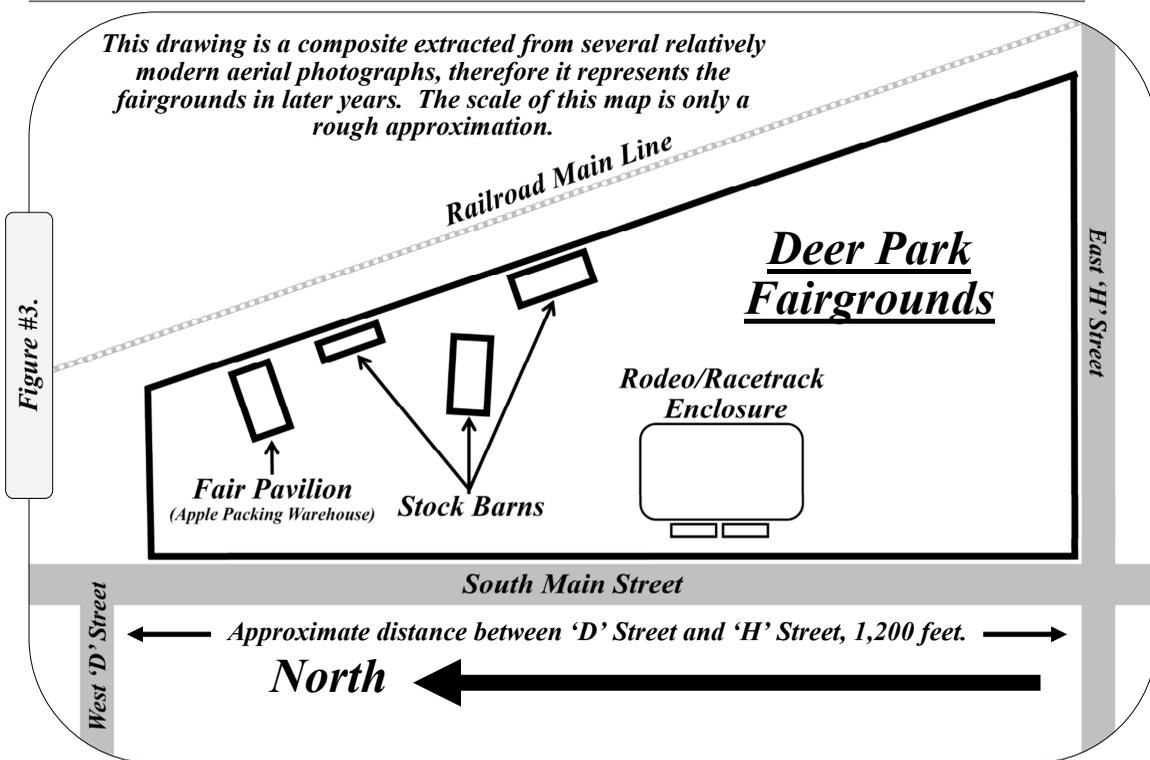
... 1936 ...

Regarding 1936’s fair, on September 17th Deer Park’s *Union* reported, *“Although hampered by cold and stormy weather, Deer Park’s Sixth Annual 4-H Club and Community Fair was a pleasing success in everything but attendance. The exhibits in nearly all departments were larger and better than last year, this being especially notable in the stock department. In the women’s exhibits much praise was given to the exhibitors, and the work of the 4-H girls won high awards. Williams Valley Grange won the blue ribbon again for best community exhibit, with Gardenspot and Clayton following closely for honors. In the Home Economics departments, the Spring Creek, Williams Valley and Deer Park Clubs won in the order named.”*

Among the numerous other items noted in the report was this; *“In the stock exhibit, H. H. Lenhard won first prize for best two-year-old bull and cow, and also captured the Grand Champion prize for bulls awarded by the Lundale Hardware.”*

On October 1st, 1936’s fair was summarized this way in the *Union*.

“The 4-H Community Fair Association held its final meeting for the present year at the Congregational Church on Friday evening, following an evening dinner brought by the various members. The attendance was large, members of the various granges and home economics clubs being present, in addition to the regular 4-H workers. The business connected with the fair was closed with all bills paid, although bad weather cut down the attendance, and as a result, finances were not up to expectations. Pleasing reports of work in the various departments were made, and the



group of workers were encouraged in despite of adverse conditions this year. Plans are being matured whereby the association may get the building into better condition for next year, by repairing the roof and otherwise making it more usable.”

... 1937 ...

... an oversight in incorporation ...

Nineteen thirty-seven’s fair was originally set for the 10th and 11th of September. Since those days were also penciled in by the Stevens County Grange Fair, Deer Park advanced its plans one week, to the 17th and 18th.

An article in the *Union*’s September 1st edition noted, “Preparations are being made to house the livestock in the big cement basement under the main building, and an entrance is being cut through the wall for that purpose” — the reason for this move appar-

ently having to do with “leaking” in the prior shelter. But a more complete understanding is difficult since several lines of print in that portion of the article are sporadically illegible.

Under the byline Toby Trotter — sounding very much like a nom de plume — the *Terse Tattlings* column of the September 9th *Union* carried this introduction to the weekly editorial. “There is always a little group of highbrows in every community that thinks anything in the nature of the 4-H Community Fair is something of a two-bit sideshow. They are unwilling to recognize in it an honest effort to promote an important angle of the future of this district. This is to be expected, for it crops out, no matter what a community is planning in the path of progress. And if the fair was given merely to show what the farmers could raise, there might be some reason for this attitude, for the farmers are not so much concerned in raising big stuff as they

are in raising a lot of it, and of marketable value. Their crop exhibits and livestock are but a secondary matter with them when they back a proposition of this kind.

“The promoter of an agricultural exhibit such as will be shown here next week is taking a long look into the future. On the basis of what is being done today, he is cultivating an urge for bigger and better agriculture and all that pertains to it, but he knows that the task will fall to his children and those of his neighbors, and he will not be the promoter of this better agriculture, for it is not only a long look but a long task.

“The first and greatest task of these fair promoters is to create future farmers. To do this he sets about to make his children see and feel that their father’s vocation is one eminently worthwhile. He has the task not only of making a living, but of promoting an industry that is necessary to the national life. He is trying to show his children that farming is one of the most important industries in the country today, and that as industry makes everything bend to bigger and better results, so it is the business of the farmer to make his best better in every part of his business. By doing this he is a nation-wide benefactor, for he is making a better country.”

The above is suggestive of questions circulating within the community related to the value of the fair as an ongoing event. As for 1937’s fair, the first paragraph of the *Union*’s September 23rd summary of the event read, “With weather made to order, bigger and better exhibits in all departments, and a splendid spirit of optimism prevailing, the Seventh Annual 4-H Community Fair passed into history Saturday evening as the best of the whole number thus far.”

September ended with the Fair Association “able to report that it could meet all expenses, although the bills were heavier than last year.”

The first issue for the month of November found the *Deer Park Union* reporting that “J. E. Olson, president of the fair association, has been spending his spare time soliciting

funds to secure the Arcadia packing house from the county, and on Saturday stated that practically enough was (illegible) to cover the amount needed.”

How this relates to the reported sale of the warehouse to Deer Park’s American Legion Post in August of 1934 isn’t clear, though at that time of this second sale it was noted back taxes were due Spokane County.

On November 25th, 1937, under the headline “City Acquired Old Arcadia Warehouse,” the *Union* reported the following.

“After a campaign for funds which was started by President J. E. Olson, of the Community Fair Association, and his helpers, the Netherlands American Bank of Spokane decided to the Town of Deer Park the portion of the Arcadia warehouse property owned by it, and the warehouse now is in the possession of the city for use for civic purposes. The deed was granted to the city for use for civic purposes. The deed was granted to the city because the fair association was not incorporated and could not hold property. It will have the use of the building as a permanent home for its exhibits. It is understood that the county will cancel outstanding taxes against the property.

“This transfer is the culmination of an idea conceived by the association a few years ago, when the growing success of the fairs pointed to them as a permanent institution. The plan came to a climax this season and businessmen and other citizens, together with several agricultural organizations, raised the necessary funds. The building will be protected by insurance, and improvements will be made as the need rises.

“There will be considerable land connected with the purchase, which can be landscaped, and it will make a good W. P. A. (Works Progress Administration 1935 — 1939, Work Projects Administration 1939 — 1943.) project during the coming year.”

The line in the above article — “The deed was granted to the city because the fair association was not incorporated and could not hold property” — indicates the Fair Asso-

ciation hadn't filed to incorporate within the State of Washington, therefore wasn't legally recognized as an entity capable of owning property. While likely convenient at the time,

this arrangement would prove to have profound consequences many decades later.

... to be continued ...

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

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

... *Bill is Settlers' Grand Marshal* ...

As seen in the photo below, society president Bill Sebright and his wife Anni were Grand Marshals at this year's Deer Park Settlers Day celebration. Anni snapped this photo of Bill sitting on the rear deck of John Shroyer's Thunderbird and waving to the people lining Crawford Street near the start of the annual parade. But being at the head of life's

parade is nothing new for Bill.

Being chosen Grand Marshal should not be construed as implying that Bill is that old, especially considering that as best I can recall the *Mortarboard's* current editor first met Bill on the first day of school for both of us — that at Clayton's classic redbrick schoolhouse in the fall of 1951. That said, I'm always quick to point out that Bill's five days older than said editor — which takes at least



some of the sting out of our co-owned vintage.

My envy of Bill began that first day of school. At that time whenever we lined up — to march or recite or whatever — it was always in alphabetical order. (Do they still do that?) Being Wallace, I usually found myself somewhere near the tail-end of the line. Bill, with his given being William, should have been right back there with me. But he was generally known by his socially accepted non de plume, which moved him to a position just after all the Alices and Allens in the room. As for me — my other name was Wally. Regardless of which of my names was used, I stayed right where I was.

The other reason for envy, it was obvious from the get-go that Bill was incredibly smart. In everything that happened in school, he was always either at or near the top of the class — meaning if we lined up according to grades on a test or something else earned by our own effort, he was still at or near the head of the line. And that — being at the head of the line — is something that hasn't changed for him in all these years.

After graduation from Washington State University in 1967, Bill became a primary teacher. He did that for 35 years — the last thirty locally at Clayton and then Deer Park. (Apparently he still teaches locally on occasion.) And according to both students and parents alike, he was and is an exceptional teacher.

When the survival of the old Clayton school came into question just after the turn of the millennium, Bill, though recently retired, was out in front in the community's effort to save the much-loved building. And we're suspicious that he, as a veteran of the school district, had more influence than he's willing to admit with the district's decision to extend the old building's life as a place of learning.

A biproduct of that "save the old school" effort was the Clayton Historical Society — officially incorporated as a non-profit in January of 2003. Sixteen years and one name change later, Bill is still the president and primary cohesive force holding that organization



Bill Sebright
— 1951 —

together.

All this is to say, envy aside, we're all very proud of President Sebright — and happy to see that the entire community agrees with our assessment of one of Clayton's favorite native sons.

... a *Gwen* photo floats to the surfaces ...

Our community has its legends. One of those involves the still existent hull of a large watercraft sunk just offshore at the southern edge of Loon Lake's Moose Bay (that in itself a historic name that seems to have fallen out of use). In the late summer of 2017, the historical society went in search of that legend, and the story beneath it. The results of that search appeared in the *Mortar-*

board's November and December 2017 issues (#115 & #116).

Since then previously unknown bits of data have been either found or rediscovered — one such bit of rediscovered data being the photograph to the right.

We have high confidence that we know the fate of Even Morgan's steam powered excursion boat, the Gwen — and that it's not the drowned hull currently resting at the bottom of Moose Bay. The demise of the original Gwen, constructed at Morgan's Landing in 1901, occurred during the late fall or winter of 1916. As reported in Washington State's Eleventh Biennial Report, "*Loon Lake, once quite a prosperous body of water for boating, was not included in our (passenger carrying motor powered watercraft) inspection this year (1917). The only steamboat on the lake received serious damage last winter. The caretaker hauled her out for the winter, failed to drain the bilge off, and when the cold weather set in the water in the hull froze, bursting the planking from the ribs and frames and destroying the hull beyond the possibility of repair.*"

The photo shows a currently unidentified man standing in front of the Gwen while the craft was beached — assumedly to avoid the crushing effect of a winter's ice. The image shows a heavy plank beneath the keel,



Image from the Kristy Dyck collection.

The Gwen.

An unknown Gentleman standing in front of Loon Lake's legendary steam launch Gwen.

Further Reading Regarding the Steamboat Gwen:

"In Search of the Legendary Gwen (Part One)," by Wally Lee Parker.
Mortarboard #115, November, 2017 — page 1565 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 33.
http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_115_web_.pdf

"In Search of the Legendary Gwen (Part Two)," by Wally Lee Parker.
Mortarboard #116, December, 2017 — page 1581 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 33.
http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_116_web_1_.pdf

"Letters/Brickbats: More on Loon Lake's Drowned Boat," by Wally Lee Parker.
Mortarboard #124, August, 2018 — page 1713 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 37.
http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_124_web_.pdf

"Groff's Boat: In Search of the Gwen's Lost Engine," by Wally Lee Parker.
Mortarboard #129, January, 2019 — page 1792 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 37.
http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_129_web_.pdf

with a round log (doubtless more than one) between keel and plank to act as a roller.

As to the identity of Moose Bay's drowned boat, I have a very strong hypothesis. I believe it's Evan Morgan's second large excursion launch, the Loon, built and launched in 1922. This craft, somewhat smaller than the Gwen, was powered by an internal combustion gasoline engine. Though we don't yet know the date the craft actually sank, we believe it was sometime after the summer of 1929 — that being the last date in which a large excursion craft at that time belonging to the Lake Shore Homes Moose Colony is mentioned (see *Mortarboard #124, page 1713 — link at the bottom of the facing page — for details*).

All this considered, the search for the full story of Loon Lake's drowned boat continues.

... editorial regarding an eagle in distress ...

This last summer it became evident Clayton's terracotta eagle was once again in need of repair. And there's an ancient Chinese saying that might be applicable to this situation. "*A person attempting to travel two roads at once will get nowhere.*"

In 1922 the eagle was sculpted and fired in twenty-nine separate pieces at Clayton's terracotta works. Then — using metal rods, wires and brackets — it was assembled atop the State Armory building in downtown Spokane. In 1975 the Armory's military inhabitants moved to a new site at Geiger Field,

and the Armory, being surplus, was placed on the market and sold to the City of Spokane. In 1983 the 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry, Washington State National Guard, with the full blessings of the city, reclaimed the Armory's eagle and with great difficulty it was moved (in twelve segments) to Geiger Field to be remounted on a new pedestal as a monument to the past and present members of that unit. There it rested until late in 2009 when a notice was sent to various historical groups that due to new construction undertaken at Geiger Field the statue faced the wrecking ball unless some individual or group stepped forward to move it to a new site. Considering the statue's size and weight, that would be a massive undertaking.

At the urging of the late Robert Clouse, at that time our society's webmaster, the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society did step forward and with impressive contributions of money and labor by the whole community set to saving this artifact. But taking this challenge was only the first decision the society had to make. The second was whether the statue, once obtained, would be treated as an historic antiquity — which is to say in the manner most any practiced antiquarian would treat such a significant acquisition — or would it continue being treated as the military memorial it had very clearly become.

Architectural terracotta as an economical replacement for sculpted stone became a mass production mainstay in the 1880s. For the next 50 years it was advertised

Further Reading Regarding Clayton's Eagle:

"Eagle Rescued by Local Historical Society," by J. L. Brian.
Mortarboard #22, February, 2010 — page 280 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 6.
http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_22_downsizingpageweb.pdf

"Eagle History and Dedication," by 'Editorial Group.'
Mortarboard #29, September, 2010 — page 366 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 8.
http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_29_downsizingpageweb.pdf

"Regarding the Clayton Eagle Restoration," by Wally Lee Parker.
Mortarboard #89, September, 2015 — page 1136 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 24.
http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard_issue_89_doublepage_web.pdf

as being effectively immune to weather related deterioration. While the longevity of glazed ceramics in protected situations is essentially unlimited, such conditions are surprisingly rare. Exposure to the weather, especially moisture in conjunction with large temperature variations such as the freeze-thaw cycle common in northern latitudes, can play havoc with the finely sculpted ceramic surfaces and fired clay bodies beneath. That's the simple reality of architectural terracotta when exposed to the weather.

If the eagle had been treated as an historical acquisition, it would have been stored under controlled conditions until a means of displaying its reconditioned form in a protected environment became available. Reconditioning in the antiquarian sense would have included the removal, whenever possible, of anything not part of the statue at the time of its original assembly on the Armory — among other things this means any trace of the subsequent paints and modern cementitious or plastic grouts used to freshen the artifact over the years.

The society chose to refurbish the artifact in what seemed a reasonable manner, then, in 2010, mount the artifact at Clayton in a fashion similar to its presentation at Geiger Field. This was done for the best of reasons — to honor the military. But it has proven detrimental to the artifact's survival.

In 2015 the society spent \$12,000 to have the Pioneer Waterproofing Company of Spokane prep the statue's surface and apply a semipermeable coating — the intent, to keep moisture from entering the statue while allowing any moisture that did get in a means of escape at the molecular level through the coating itself. Problems first noticed several years ago reached a point this summer when cracking and spalling of an area comprising the upper surface of the tail feathers made it obvious that repairs were necessary. The waterproofing company did such without charge (something we shouldn't expect again) and suggested the membrane's failure be attributed to preexisting fracturing of the terracotta body



Photo by Bill Sebright.

The Eagle's Plight.

This photo shows the damaged area after being repaired and prepped for recoating.

underneath said membrane. As part of its evaluation, the company recommended the statue be protected from rain and snow by the application of an overhead shield — a roof.

Your editor sees two primary problems with this idea. Building an attractive roof, open on all sides but still large enough to protect the statue from even mildly wind-driven rain and snow, is likely to be very expensive — especially considering said structure will need to be strong enough to resist this area's occasional tree-toppling gales. To do it right will require the help of a structural engineer and a significant amount of money. Secondly, the land on which the statue now stands is not the society's property — that being a short-term economic convenience that will

doubtless come home to roost at some point.

The society has tried traveling on two roads at the same time; one path in attempting to preserve an artifact of unique historical significance to the town of Clayton, the other to continue displaying that artifact as a military memorial fully exposed to the elements. It should be clear by this time that those two objectives are very likely incompatible — at least incompatible without an even greater

community wide investment of cash, labor and goodwill.

Once again the society has to make a choice regarding the eagle. It can do something exceedingly difficult, or it can do nothing except continue to patch as long as there's anything to patch. Either is likely to have uncomfortable consequences.

— Wally Lee Parker —

Minutes of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society — October 12, 2019 —

In attendance at the society's meeting hall, 300 Block 'A' Street, Deer Park: Marilyn Reilly, Bill Sebright, Wally Parker, Pat Parker, Mark Wagner, Ella Jenkins, Sue Rehms, Mary Jo Reiter, Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Rick Brodrick, Jessica Tennant, Damon Smathers, Don Ball, Elaine Ball, Mark Bryant, Barry Pasicznyk, Larry Bowen, Dick Purdy, Nancy Sanders, Marie Morrill, Nancy Fisher, Lorraine Nord, and Eleanor Ball.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He reported: 1) On October 3, Trudy Edington Laswell sent the following email: "Hi Bill. We spoke years ago when I was looking for anyone who remembered my Edingtons in Deer Park. You helped me to contact Mrs. Lawrence Zimmerer. Now I would ask you if you can please connect me with Gerrine Boverman as her email I had doesn't work anymore. I guess it has been too long since we spoke. But she is my cousin on Lon Edington's line. Thank you so much. PS I love your newsletter." Mary (Wolf) Zimmerer and Trudy's Uncle Lester Edington were 1936 DPHS classmates of Tuffy Luhr. 2) Bill visited Ryan Moore's office to look at Knight's Construction picture hanging system. We need more input before talking to Doug Knight. 3) The Eagle tail has

been repaired. They are waiting for the repair to cure before they paint it. Doug Flewelling suggested that we keep snow off of the tail. 4) Nancy Fisher called and has an extra hand scanner for the Society. It will be very handy for scanning pictures in some albums. She brought it to today's meeting.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported the main checking account ended the month at \$8030.66. There were deposits of \$563. One check was written for \$195 to Prettymans for Brickyard Day. The web hosting account ended the month at \$610.66 with a withdrawal of \$11.84 for web hosting. The Brickyard Day account is at \$2035.33.

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 October *Mortarboard* #138 have been printed for distribution and a PDF version has been forwarded to the Society's website for online posting. A printable version has been forwarded to the Loon Lake Library for on-request reproduction. 2) The current 16-page issue begins with the reproduction of an early Arcadia Orchards brochure titled "Views of Arcadia." Next comes a piece titled "Winnie Moore's Magic Lantern Slides" that details the recent donation

*Deer Park & Other Locations Currently Carrying Print Copies of the Mortarboard:
City Library, City Hall, Gardenspot Market, Standen Insurance,
Odyanski's Accounting, the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce, the Deer Park Library and the Loon Lake Library.*

of three Arcadia era promotional artifacts to the Society. The Letters/Brickbats column features a request from the Loon Lake Historical Society for information about a set of photographs depicting what appears to be an army encampment at Morgan's Park, circa World War I.

Wally also brought up future stories. Many memories were shared about the old creamery and fairgrounds.

Webmaster Marie Morrill reported by email: 1) I have the October *Mortarboard* uploaded onto the website. I hope to have more time to devote to the Website this month.

Mike and Roberta Reiter are in Ohio for a funeral. Mike had a prototype of a Society t-shirt hanging on the easel. We'll talk more about the shirts when Mike is back, and Rachele Reiter is here to talk about the t-shirt

printing process.

Nancy Fisher has been talking to a man named Riddle. His family had a dairy farm where the old Game Farm was. Only Mary Jo Reiter remembered Dixie Riddle and family having a dairy there.

Pete Coffin and Rick Brodrick changed the batteries in the towel dispensers.

Chuck Lyons emailed "Sorry I'll be missing this Saturday's C/DPHS meeting. Antique tractor plow day in Tekoa. Hope to see you all next month."

Next meeting Saturday, November 9, 2019, at 10:00 AM at our new building.

Meeting adjourned at 11:04 AM.

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

— end —

Volunteer proofreaders for this issue: Rick Hodges, Bill Sebright, Chuck Stewart, Lina Swain, 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, Copyright, and Reprint Concerns" 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.

Society Contacts

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Website — <http://www.cdphs.org>

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.

Editorial, Copyright, and Reprint Concerns

*Those contributing "original" materials to the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society normally retain copyright to said materials while granting the *Mortarboard* and the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society durable permission to use said materials in our 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 may be requested. No compensation for materials submitted is offered or implied. All materials submitted are subject to editorial revision. Any material published as an exception to these general understandings will be clearly marked. When requests to reprint materials are received, such will be granted in almost all instances in which the society has 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 work in question. But in all instances where a request to reprint is made, it should be made to both the society and the author of the piece, and it should be made in writing (letter or email). The society considers the application of common business conventions when dealing with intellectual properties a simple means of avoiding misunderstandings.*