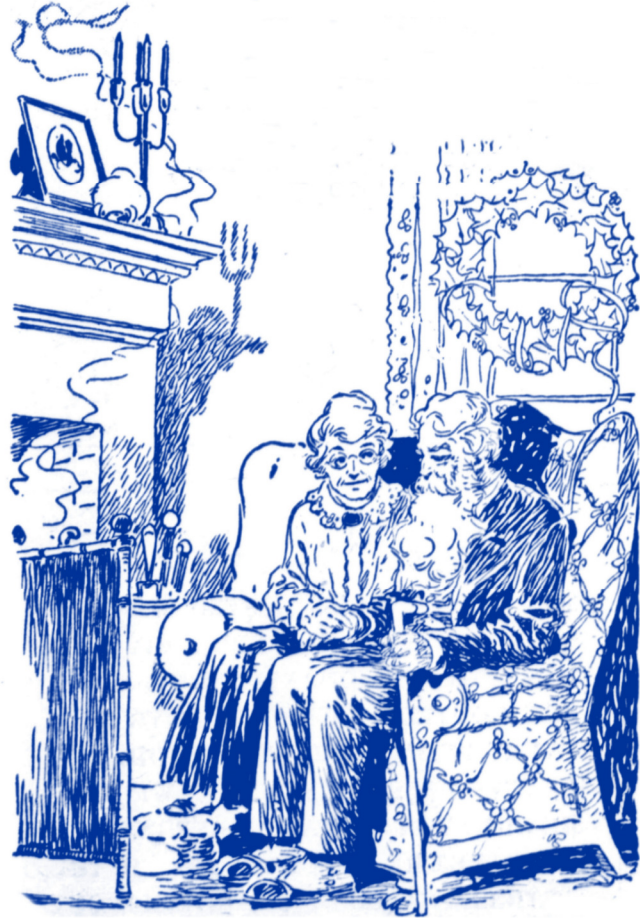


# Holiday Memories?

## Bundle them for the kids!



*(We'll help you with the bow.)*

Join the  
**Clayton ♦ Deer Park  
Historical Society.**

Open Meeting Second Saturday of Each Month — 10:00 AM.  
Deer Park City Hall Complex — 300 Block East 'A' Street — Look for the Sign.

(website) [www.cdphs.org](http://www.cdphs.org)  
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(telephone) 509-276-2693

*Illustration from the Colville Examiner, December 24, 1921.*

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Clayton ♦ Deer Park Historical Society Newsletter  
Issue #140 — December — 2019

*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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## *A History of The Deer Park Fair*

— 1931 through 1946 —  
*(Part Two)*

by

*Wally Lee Parker*

*... the onrush of time ...*

The history of Deer Park's community fair is surprisingly complex. Each year it consumed a significant portion of the time, attention and energy of a great number of people — organizers and exhibitors alike. But like many long-enduring things that once meant so much, the rising tide of history eventually overwhelmed this homespun event. Now the approximately 10 acres along the east side of South Main Street that once hosted this unique and much anticipated blending of agricultural displays with home crafts and arts and a small but vigorous carnival has been given over to commercial establishments and their attendant parking lots — the land and its history forever drowned beneath the inevitable on-

rush of progress.

The fair still exists — having moved to another place and having taken another name. But that's a story for another time.

And speaking of another time; somewhere in my house, packed in a box, there's a collection of the blue and red ribbons my mother brought home from the Deer Park Fair back in the 1960s and early '70s — at least a few won for her tin-can art.

Mom was always picking up ideas for crafts from magazines or by just looking at the works of others and figuring out how to do the same thing — and maybe even a little better. Somewhere she saw tin cans being turned into wall decorations. All that was needed was a selection of empty food cans of increasing diameter, a set of small to medium tinsnips,

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<http://www.cdphs.org/mortarboard-newsletters.html>

needle-nose pliers for twisting the ribbons of sheared metal, some aerosol paints, brass (split pin) fasteners to tack everything together, and lots and lots of Band-Aids.

The idea was to create rosettes by taking each can — tomato paste cans for the smallest, number 10 fruit cans for the largest — and cutting the sides into quarter-inch or less wide vertical strips while leaving them attached to the base of the cans. The pliers were then used to bend the strips outward in curls. Painted, then pinned together with a single brass fastener through a hole drilled dead-center in the bottom of each stacked rosette, they made clever, intricate, and prize-winning wall decorations. The results were attractive enough — at least to some — that Mom made a few hundred extra dollars selling her creations.

As for the fair, it appears that creativity and fun counted a lot more than sophistication when judging the arts and crafts. And because of that, most anyone interested could find some way to participate. And participate they did.

... 1938 ...

The February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1938 issue of the *Deer Park Union* stated, “Much interest was shown at a meeting held this morning when representatives of the town council, the granges and the 4-H clubs met to outline plans for the newly acquired fair building;” said building being the Arcadia Orchards Company’s former apple packing warehouse, having been purchased by the city of Deer Park on behalf of the fair group after forfeiture for back taxes.

The next week’s *Union* reported that Deer Park’s mayor, Earl Mix, along with the fair association’s president, J. E. Olson, had “conferred with the county commissioners relative to an additional tract of land lying south of the warehouse which is to come up for tax sale soon. The commissioners agreed to reserve it for the city to purchase, and option money was placed for the reservation. The price will be nominal. The tract includes

*all land between the warehouse site and the old ballpark, excepting the Harry Renshaw property, and also includes a strip between the ballpark and the railroad property, extending to the south city limits.”* The article continued to describe how W. P. A. (Work Progress Administration) assistance would be “sought” to clear and landscape the area.

According to the *Union*, a meeting was held between “representatives of the fair association, town council, commercial club, booster club and various granges in the high school building” on Tuesday evening, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. At said meeting, “plans for improvement of the (new) property (should it be obtained by the city) were submitted as drafted by the W. P. A. engineer in Spokane.”

In early April, 1938, the *Union* reported, “At its monthly meeting Tuesday evening the Deer Park Commercial Club launched a campaign looking toward the complete repairing of the fair building and parking (assumed to mean landscaping) the grounds.” The article went on to mention that the work would need local funding on top of anything the application then under review by the Works Progress Administration in Washington, D. C. might provide.

Among the intended works, “A new roof, interior (re)modeling, and work on the (warehouse) basement are contemplated, and extensive landscaping of the grounds, which have been considerably enlarged by accessions of property held by the county” — the last suggesting that the extensive acreage to the south of the apple warehouse had by this time actually been surrendered to the city for payment of back taxes.

Regarding the fair building, the June 16<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Union* stated, “It is understood that this project is meeting the approval of the Spokane office (of the W. P. A.) and will soon be on its way to the headquarters in Washington (D.C.). At present the W. P. A. workmen are busy constructing a sidewalk on the west side of Main Avenue south of the railroad tracks which will give opportunity for visitors at the building during fair time to

*avoid walking in the highway with the attendant danger (of) being killed or injured by speeding motorists.”*

The article also reported that, “Preliminary work for the 4-H Community Fair, which will be held September 16-17, is being speeded up, and everything will now move steadily toward that annual event. The executive committee is busy getting material together for the premium lists, and heads of the various departments are hunting for high class exhibits. It is hoped to show a considerable increase in these over last year.”

By the beginning of August, a note of pending panic was creeping into the *Union*’s reporting — as this from the August 4<sup>th</sup> issue suggests. “The W. P. A. project planned for repairing and renovating the former apple warehouse acquired by the city and planned for use as a fair exhibit building and civic center was returned from the state W. P. A. headquarters recently with the official endorsement and was immediately started to Washington for the national W. P. A. and presidential approval. It is now expected to have this endorsement returned in time to do the work immediately necessary ...”

The above was reiterated in the August 11<sup>th</sup> issue with, “The work on the building will be started as soon as the project papers are returned from Washington.”

In that same article it was reported that “An enthusiastic meeting of the 4-H Community Fair Association was held at the American Legion hall Tuesday evening and the reports of the various departments indicated that preparations were practically complete.” It was also noted, “A new departure (for the fair) is an open class competition for boys and girls, offering opportunity for those who may not be 4-H members to enter (the) completion in home economics and industrial arts. Artwork is also included, and any boy or girl under 18 years may enter exhibits. This opens the way for those who are doing this work as study in school to exhibit.”

Toward the end of the month the *Union* reported that on Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>,

“a telegram from Senator (Lewis Baxter) Schwellenbach, in Washington (D.C.), that an allotment of \$5,565 to improve town recreational facilities had been approved by President Roosevelt and returned to the state administrator. This is the project that has to do with the conditioning and improving of the apple warehouse that has been acquired by the city and is to be converted into a permanent home for the 4-H Community Fair, and a civic recreation center. The fair association has been waiting anxiously for this approval, as the fair is only a few weeks ahead and the work will have to be hurried.

“This project involves all work to be done on the building, including a new roof, interior changes and other improvements. Those that are essential for the fair will be rushed first by W. P. A. labor under the supervision of J. E. Olson, president of the fair association, and other work will be held up until later.

“Another project for improving of the grounds has not yet been approved.”

Despite the apparent approval of the funds directly related to the fair’s pavilion, on September 1<sup>st</sup>, the following appeared in the *Union*.

“Great bodies move slowly and has proved the case with the W. P. A. project for the fair building, and with the date of the event only two weeks in the future, promoters of the enterprise began to get nervous. As a result, a group of volunteers started on the roof today, and are going to do the work rather than get caught with a leaky roof when stormy days arrive.”

That proved a good decision since the September 8<sup>th</sup> *Union* recorded that “The town council received word this week the W. P. A. would not start on the (warehouse) project until September 19,” the first Monday after the fair would have closed. Despite that, the level of enthusiasm among exhibitors was high, as noted in the same issue with “Reports coming from many sources indicate keen competition among the organizations in booth exhibits. They will occupy almost the entire interior

space of the building.”

A surprise appeared on the last page of the *Union's* September 15<sup>th</sup> issue with an ad announcing the upcoming weekend would see a rodeo at Deer Park. The location of the rodeo wasn't mentioned in the ad, though the next week's *Union* placed it “at the old ballpark,” doubtless meaning the one to the south of the fair pavilion — along the east side of South Main Street and something north of its future intersection with East “D” Street. The ad's appearance is referred to as a surprise since as of yet no prior mention of the rodeo has been found in the newspaper.

“Fair Made Record for Fine Exhibits” was the headline in the September 22<sup>nd</sup> *Union*. The newspaper then went on, “With perfect weather and a fine enthusiasm on the part of the promoters, the Eighth Annual 4-H Club and Community Fair went into history Saturday night as the biggest and best on record. In nearly every department the displays were larger than in former years, and in quality they showed a steady progress in exhibit ideals. There was very little evidence of using the fair for commercial purposes, which was a pleasing feature.

“The stock department, which attracted widespread attention, had a total of over 100 entries, distributed among horses, cattle, sheep and swine. The 30 head of horses were some of the finest the district could produce, and among the 48 head of cattle there was high class evidence of the growth and quality of the dairy industry that is growing steadily in North Spokane and south Stevens Counties. The sheep and swine exhibits were not large, but good.

“On the main floor the exhibits practically filled the floor space along the walls and showed the results of a good year in field and garden. In the grange booths, Garden-spot won first award and the blue-ribbon, with Clayton second and Williams Valley third. The Spring Creek Women's Club booth was decorated with the blue ribbon, and in the home economics department Williams Valley was first and Deer Park second. Other home

# RODEO

## Deer Park, Wash.

### Sept. 17th. & 18th.

CLAYTON BAND

**Bronc Riding, Bareback  
Riding, Steer Riding,  
Calf Riding**

All Rides must Register before 11:00 a. m. on  
day of Show with P. C. Young  
**General Admission 35c**

**BIG DANCE**  
Saturday Night at the Gymnasium  
**8 Piece Girl Orchestra**

*Rodeo Ad  
Deer Park Union.*

*This ad appeared on the last page of the  
September 15<sup>th</sup> 1938 edition of the Deer  
Park Union. This was the earliest public  
notice so far located of the fair  
association's intention to add a rodeo to  
the schedule. That said, the rodeo quickly  
became a major factor in the fair's  
growing popularity.*

economics and 4-H displays were awarded for excellence. An exhibit of garden produce that attracted wide attention was the individual exhibit booth which contained some of the best vegetables seen here in years.

“The poultry department had 42 exhibits of poultry and rabbits, some of which were new here in the rabbit industry. The blue ribbon award for poultry was given to a trio of Plymouth Rocks owned by R. S. Van Hook. Ducks, geese and turkeys were prominent in the showing, which was superintended by Mr. Van Hook.

“The flower display was somewhat smaller than in past, owing to the inability of some contributors to make showing this year, but there were some of the finest specimens ever seen here in some varieties. Prominent among them were some unusual specimens grown by Henry Roberts.

“Judging contests both Friday and Saturday kept the crowd interested, the interior work being done on Friday and the stock judging on Saturday. On Friday evening an excellent program was given in the high school gymnasium, the numbers being furnished by the various granges, 4-H clubs and home economics clubs of the district, and the big auditorium was well filled for this occasion. On Saturday night the fair was closed as per program by a dance in the gymnasium, managed by Ted Blevins and assistants, the music being furnished by a group of eight girl musicians from Spokane. This also was well patronized, and a good time was reported.”

At this point the article outlined the introduction of the rodeo into the 4-H Club and Community Fair's annual planning.

“The rodeo, which was a new departure in the fair plans, was a success from the beginning, the grandstand at the old ballpark being filled with spectators at all sessions. This was carried over into Sunday, the last exhibitions being given Sunday afternoon. Fancy horseback riding, bronco busting, and steer riding made up much of the fun, which was carried in a way that left no time not occupied. Some of the horses were mean, and

the riders had to display plenty of ability to stay aboard. The only accident that happened was to Harold Welch, who was thrown from a steer Sunday afternoon and received a painful cut on one ankle when the animal stepped on him. It was not serious. Prizes were not offered for this exhibition, but the riders were paid for their work. It attracted enough attention to make it probable that it will be an annual feature in the future.”

In summation the paper stated, “The attendance was excellent throughout, and all departments netted enough to place the fair association on the black side of the ledger for the entire enterprise. One proposal being made that is worth careful consideration is that the fair for next year be enlarged to include the entire north end of this country, and be known as the North Spokane Fair or some similar name to be inclusive of all of the present interests. The permanent home now ready warrants this plan for enlargement.”

The next week's *Union* reported, “A telegram from Senator Schwellenbach on Tuesday, sent from Washington to the *Union*, stated that an allotment of \$7,825 had been approved by the President, and been sent back to state headquarters. This money is to be used on a project for improving the building and fairgrounds. Men are already at work on the building.”

And with that, the subject of the fair and fairgrounds disappeared from the *Union's* front page for the rest of the year.

... 1939 ...

Amid the slow but steady lifting of the Great Depression's gloom, Deer Park's community fair was on everyone's mind at the beginning of 1939. Arguably that mindset was influenced in part by the opening of New York's World's Fair on April 30<sup>th</sup> — the theme of said massive event being “The World of Tomorrow.”

There was, or at least should have been an unease in all this. In March, just a year prior, Germany, under the Nazis, had

annexed Austria. And then, in October of 1938, the leading European powers allowed Germany to scoop the Sudetenland out of Czechoslovakia — the remaining pieces of that country (the parts not quickly stripped away by Hungary and Poland) disappearing into Germany altogether just 46 days before the World Fair's early 1939 opening.

America was already on the edge of committing to the expansion and modernization of its military forces despite the nation's continuing isolationist sentiment. To many citizens, Germany's action was the final bit of evidence that another worldwide war was inevitable. That became even more certain in the fall of 1939, with the German invasion of Poland on September 1<sup>st</sup>, and Britain and France's declaration of war on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

But the local newspaper's attention was still on domestic matters when, on June 29<sup>th</sup>, the *Deer Park Union* announced that "Members of the 4-H Fair Association voted at their meeting Tuesday night to incorporate the organization. A board of directors has not yet been selected, however. Purpose of filing corporate articles is mainly to place liability in case of accident or injury in connection with the conduct of the fair or rodeo. Under the previous set up, officials of the association were solely and personally liable for all obligations. This new step will place all liability on the organization, and will also make it possible for them (the organization) to legally own property and transact business."

The following paragraph from the July 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the newspaper made it clear that a rodeo was being planned for the upcoming fair, and such was envisioned as a permanent addition to the program. "At the association meeting Tuesday night, it was reported that work on the rodeo grounds was progressing rapidly, but that the present W. P. A. project allows for no skilled labor, and some of the building will have to be done by volunteers. Anyone interested, who can spare time to lend a hand will be welcomed any evening or Sunday at the grounds."

In the newspaper's first August edi-

tion talk of the onsite construction of another building appeared, along with the first known mention of the term "carnival" in association with Deer Park's fair.

"Final arrangements for the big barn dance to be given August 12 in the 4-H Fair Association Building were completed at the meeting of the group Tuesday evening.

"Plans were also made (for) the hog and sheep pens on the fair grounds. Ed Olson reported that a building at least 20 by 100 feet would be necessary to adequately house the exhibits, and work on it will be started very shortly. It will be necessary to use volunteer labor on the job, and anyone who can spare a little time is urged to contact either Ed Olson or Bob Greenwood.

"Port Young reported the contracting of the George Scott Carnival to show during the fair. Scott has a good-sized show with an attractive free act and should prove quite an addition to the usual events."

Whether the term "contracting" was intended to suggest an exchange of money one way or the other, or simply a binding assurance as to time and place, isn't reported.

The "big barn dance" mentioned in the *Union's* August 3<sup>rd</sup> edition was fully explained in its August 10<sup>th</sup> edition.

"A cash prize of three dollars is being offered to the couple wearing the most old-fashioned and funny costume at the 4-H Association Barn Dance Saturday night, according to F. C. Bradley, Chairman. 'Dress up in grandma's old party dress, put on granddad's stovepipe hat. Dig out those choke bore pants, spats, hoop skirts, and come in in and join the fun' says Bradley. 'We are going to have (a) hot time in the old town next Saturday. However, it isn't necessary to dress, you may come in your fish and soup, or your old overalls,' he added.

"The gala event is sponsored by the Clayton, Gardenspot and Williams Valley Granges; and the proceeds will go to the Fair Association. It will be staged in the Fair building in Deer Park, and everyone is welcome.

"The hall will be lighted with gas lanterns, and rustic decorations will form the background for the old-time musicians.

"The evening will be topped off with a supper of ice cream, cake, strawberries and coffee."

The next week's *Union* reported that two hundred and fifty people attended the above dance, producing \$75 for the "association's fund" As for the costume contest, "Mr. and Mrs. Peter Berg of the Williams Valley Grange won the three dollar prize for the oldest costumes. Mrs. Berg wore a black old-fashioned dress which had a tight waist and a full skirt, with a cape to match. Mr. Berg was dressed like an old-fashioned bartender with a derby hat, a big cigar, tight trousers and a shirt with diamond buttons."

Another article in that same *Union* noted that the dance's success had inspired the fair association to "sponsor another similar affair on Friday August 25." Said article also noted that "Money from the (August 25<sup>th</sup>) dance will be used to (electrically) wire the fair building;" leaving one to wonder whether the hall being lit "with gas lanterns" for the August 12<sup>th</sup> dance was simply a bit of stage setting or an actual necessity.

The lighthearted mood of expectation surrounding the upcoming fair was suggested by two items appearing in the newspaper's last issue for August. The first stated that "Port Young, rodeo Chairman, announces that he is stenciling bucking horse ads for the 4-H Fair and Rodeo on all cars nearly every evening from 7 to 9 p.m. in back of his store, and that any person wishing to may drive down and have his machine stenciled free of charge." The article goes on to note "The paint used is similar to showcard color and it washes off without damage of any kind to (the) automobile finish."

The other item noted "Local Males Launch Big Whiskerino Contest." The article states, "A voluntary whiskerino contest sponsored by some of the hardier male members of the district has sprung up, and a nice cash prize seems to be in the offing for the most



#### Whiskerino Contest

*The internet was unable to shed any light on the origin of the term whiskerino, though we did find it used in reference to beards in the January 14<sup>th</sup>, 1899 edition of Abbeville, Louisiana's newspaper, the Meridional. Doubtless the term is much older. The above illustration was extracted from the July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1922 edition of The Literary Digest.*

unique set of whiskers by rodeo time." All that was required was putting "two-bits in the pot and your name on the line." It was stipulated that "the longest or thickest beard does not necessarily win. There are many fine points to the judging of a whiskerino contest."

Under the tagline "Wives Raise Heck," an addendum to the article cautioned, "It has been pointed out that a number of the young married bucks around the village are still smooth shaven, and a checkup reveals that in most cases their wives refuse to let the whiskers grow."

With the fair set to begin the next day, the Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 1939 issue

of the Deer Park Union reported, “The Deer Park 4-H Club and Community Fair Association, in its meeting Tuesday night, officially approved the articles of incorporation as filed in Olympia and transferred all assets and liabilities from the old organization to the new.

“J. E. Olson, L. D. Boyd, Al Bishop, P. E. Young, F. C. Bradley, M. Simpson and E. P. Jones were named as the board of directors. Officers named by the directors for the next year are: J. E. Olson, president; M. Simpson, vice-president; L. D. Boyd, secretary; and Al Bishop, treasurer.”

As for the fair, under the headline “Fair and Rodeo Have Record Gate Receipts,” the September 21<sup>st</sup> Union said, “Gross receipts of last weekend’s fair and rodeo celebrations were \$1411.74, according to a preliminary checkup. This may be subject to some slight changes when complete reports are made. This is by far the largest amount ever taken in

at a similar celebration here. The affair as a whole showed a nice profit, but it was insufficient to cover the cost of the many improvements made during the past year.

“Revenue from various sources were as follows: Fair admissions, \$180.14; Evening program at gym, \$15.25; Dance, \$94.95; Carnival, \$105.25; Rodeo admissions, \$1016.15.

“Improvement expenses will take more than the total of this, however. Some of the larger expense items were over \$700 for conducting the rodeo, \$220 fair prizes, \$250 to \$300 for new lights and wiring, about \$150 for new sanitary facilities, and about \$200 for the new hog and sheep shed.” The article then made it known that “all affairs of the organization will be closed for this year.”

And with the rest of the world at war, who knew what the next year might bring.

... to be continued ...

**Fair Related Images and Stories Wanted:**

The society would appreciate any photos and/or stories about the Deer Park Fair, its rodeo or carnival. Please include all known data related to any images submitted — year, individuals pictured, explanation of what’s been shown. As for stories or anecdotes, they should be forwarded in either letters or emails. All materials should be sent to the postal or email addresses noted in the “Society Contacts” box on the last page of this issue. The society will consider all submissions made as intended for publication in the society’s various venues, and all submissions will be subject to edits where necessary or advisable.

# The Big Dig! (A Photo Essay.)

by  
**Peter Coffin**

In the summer of 2010, the Clayton-Deer Park Historical Society was told that there were piles of terra cotta molds in the brush just north of the site of the Washington Brick & Lime’s Clayton now demolished terra cotta factory. In early September 2010 Presi-

dent Sebright arranged for members of the Society to visit the site. Along with the Lanning family property owners, the group walked south from Merritt Drive to the site.

The site is very overgrown with bushes and small trees. Here and there in the heaps



Image #1.

Photos on this page by Peter Coffin.

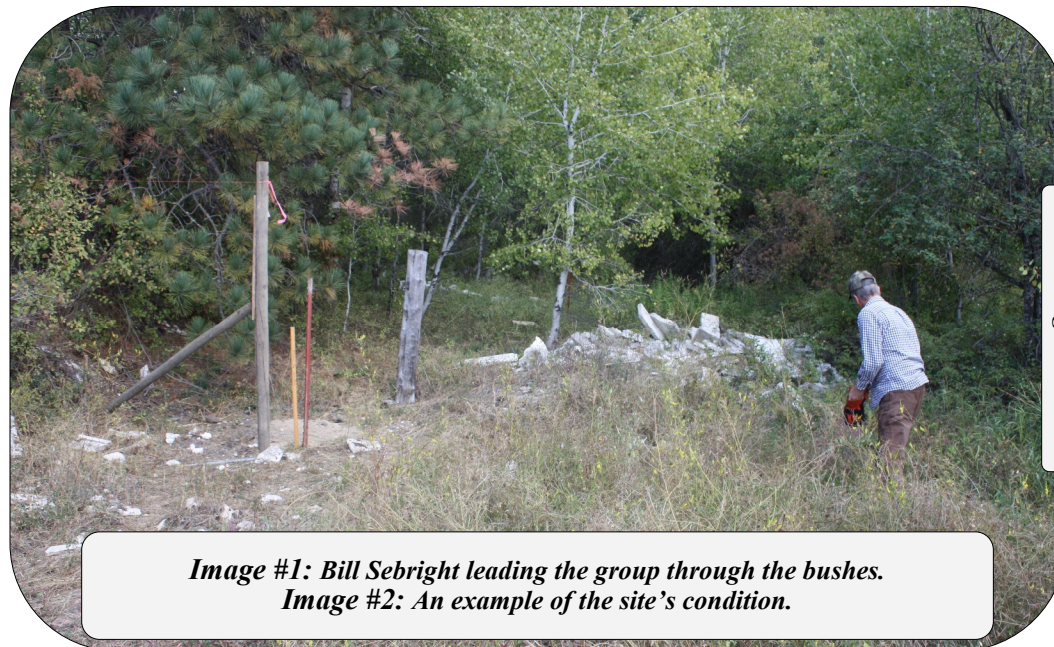


Image #2.

**Image #1: Bill Sebright leading the group through the bushes.  
Image #2: An example of the site’s condition.**



Image #3.

**Image #3: Bill digging.**  
**Image #4: A pile of salvaged brick.**



Image #4.

Photos on this and facing page by Peter Coffin.



Image #5.

**Image #5: Possibly a kiln firebox.**

of dirt, evidently pushed-up with a bulldozer, white, broken plaster molds could be seen protruding from the piles. In addition to the plaster mold pieces there were occasional piles of brick and a brick lined pit that may have been the remains of a kiln firebox.

The majority of terra cotta castings were used as decorative trim on brick buildings. Exactly what most of the broken molds produced can only be guessed at. Besides trim

animal heads, human faces and other items were cast to add additional decorative interest. Unfortunately, the molds have been damaged by both the mechanical heaping of the bulldozer and water dissolution of the plaster, which made finding a complete and identifiable artifact difficult.

— end —

**Articles Regarding Clayton's Founders:**

**"Washington Brick & Lime's Henry Brook,"** by Wally Lee Parker.  
*Mortarboard #46, February, 2012 — page 570 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 12.*  
[http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter\\_46\\_downsinglespageweb.pdf](http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_46_downsinglespageweb.pdf)

**"More Regarding Washington Brick & Lime's Mr. Brook,"** by Wally Lee Parker.  
*Mortarboard #49, May, 2012 — page 603 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 13.*  
[http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter\\_49\\_downsinglespageweb.pdf](http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_49_downsinglespageweb.pdf)

**"In Search of Joseph H. Spear: Clayton's Co-Founder,"** by Wally Lee Parker.  
*Mortarboard #98, June, 2016 — page 1292 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 27.*  
[http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard\\_issue\\_98\\_doublepage\\_web.pdf](http://www.cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard_issue_98_doublepage_web.pdf)

## In Search of Doctor John Loper Smith's Gold.

by

Wally Lee Parker

The September 6<sup>th</sup>, 1913 edition of *Mining & Engineering World* contained the following blurb. “It is reported that placer gold has been discovered at Chattaroy, a town 10 miles north of Spokane. A workman digging a post hole on property owned by Dr. J. L. Smith recently found a flake of placer gold in the dirt that weighed 20 cts. in value (period used as in original text), and there was more gold of a finer quality in the dirt. Placer mining never has been carried on in that section of the Spokane country. It is not known how rich the gold deposits are at bedrock, on account of the depth of the bedrock. Dr. Smith states that colors show in practically every pan of dirt washed.”

It seemed a story worth pursuing, though this investigator was more than a bit confused by the statement “a flake of placer gold in the dirt that weighed 20 cts. in value.” My first assumption was that the term “cts” was an abbreviation for carat — that being a means of designating the weight of a gemstone. A consultation with my editorial group suggested it was more likely an abbreviation of the word cents — essentially not suggesting the weight, but rather the then current monetary value of the flake. This didn’t make much sense either — the monetary value of gold nowadays being something that bounces around day to day. But a little research revealed that the Federal Gold Standard Act of 1900 set the value of an ounce of gold at \$20.67 in relation to the American dollar. It remained at that level until 1933. A result of that act was that the weight of a given amount of 24 karat gold (karat being an expression of purity) could be displayed as either a weight

or a monetary value, since such were made equivalent by the federal statute.

The other things of note in the article were the names “Chattaroy” and “Dr. J. L. Smith.” And so, with all those little bits of data piquing the curiosity, the game was afoot.

Published in 1900, the Reverend Jonathan Edwards’ often referenced tome, *An Illustrated History of Spokane County*, gives the following description of Chattaroy.

“This town of two hundred and fifty people is about twenty-two miles northeast of Spokane. It is two miles east of Dragoon Station on the Spokane Falls & Northern Railway. The Great Northern Railroad runs nearer, but has no station. Dragoon Creek flows through the town and its waters are utilized in running a sawmill. There are two general merchandise establishments. Barker’s Hotel has accommodated the public for a decade and a half. Dr. Smith conducts a drugstore in connection with his professional work. The blacksmith shop and feed stable are well patronized. The public school has an enrollment of sixty scholars. A Congregational Church, ministered to by Reverend F. McConaughy, of Deer Park, and a Sunday school endeavor to meet the religious needs of the place. The Modern Woodmen meet in their own hall and are constantly increasing in membership and influence.”

As for the doctor, Edwards’ *History of Spokane County* says this.

“Dr. J. L. Smith, Chattaroy, was born in Bridgeton, New Jersey, January 19, 1834 (should be 1845), where he resided until seventeen years old. He enlisted in the Civil War, in Company H, Third New Jersey Cavalry, in

Photo from “Journal of the 45<sup>th</sup> National Encampment, Grand Army of the Republic,” published 1911.

1863. He served under General Phil Sheridan in the Army of the Potomac and was in all the principal battles and campaigns of that noted army until August, 1865, when he was honorably discharged. Dr. Smith was under fire one hundred and fifty times in a period of eleven months. In the fall of 1864, he received a gunshot wound in the leg and still suffers at times from the bullet, for it lodged in a position from which it could not be extracted. On April 5, 1865, he received a saber cut in the knee and three days later, on the night preceding Lee’s surrender, he was wounded in the right arm by a shell. That Dr. Smith’s military duties were discharged with unusual faithfulness and bravery is evidenced by the fact that he holds a certificate of merit from the chief executive of New Jersey. After the war he served in the United States navy yard for two years, then entered school, remaining until he received his M. D. degree from the Philadelphia Medical College in 1874. He subsequently graduated from the Pennsylvania School of Anatomy & Surgery and took a post-graduate course at the Jefferson Medical College. He first practiced in New Jersey, but moved to Philadelphia in 1890 and a year later to Chattaroy as a surgeon on construction for the Great Northern Railroad. He is still practicing in Chattaroy and also conducts a store there, carrying drugs as a part of this stock. He is a member of the F. & A. M. (Free and Accepted Masons), the I. O. O. F. (Independent Order of Odd Fellows) and is past chancellor commander of the K. of P. (Knights of Pythias). He was married October 10, 1892, to Edna A. Bailey, a graduate from the Nurses’ Training School of the Municipal Hospital of Philadelphia. Mrs. Smith is a talented and refined lady whose personal worth is recognized by all who have the pleasure of her acquaintance.”

Doctor Smith passed away at his home in Chattaroy on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1916. His obituary appeared the next Friday in the *Deer Park Union*. Among the passages therein was this, expanding a bit on the story of his arrival in the Chattaroy area.



**Doctor John Loper Smith**  
January 19, 1845 — September 30, 1916

“In the year 1891 he came west and, with a friend, located on a homestead near Priest River, Idaho, but soon after went to Chattaroy to take charge of a hospital for the Great Northern Railway.”

The above-mentioned railway hospital was a puzzle, so a request for further information regarding it was printed in the November 2014 *Mortarboard* — along with the doctor’s death notice as copied from the October 21<sup>st</sup>, 1916, edition of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. To quote, “John Loper Smith, M.D., Chattaroy, Wash.; Jefferson Medical College, 1890: aged 71; a veteran of the Civil War; surgeon-general of the G. A. R. (Grand Army of the Republic) in 1910-1911 and for many years in charge of the Great Northern Railway Hospital in Chattaroy; died at his home, September 30.”

In the years since several sources have been found that suggest an answer to the “*Railway Hospital in Chattaroy*” question. One is a 2006 article titled “*The Train Doctors: A Brief History of Railway Surgeons*” by Robert S. Gillespie, MD, — it’s available online at <http://railwaysurgery.org/>, webpage for the Railway Surgery Historical Center.

The picture of early railroading Doctor Gillespie paints is of an extremely hazardous industry — hazardous to employees, passengers, and bystanders — that, from the mid-nineteenth century through the first several decades of the twentieth, often operated in sparsely populated areas far beyond proper medical care. As a matter of employee and public welfare — but mostly to avoid what would likely be an absolute quagmire of lawsuits and medical expenses — the various railroads began to develop networks of healthcare facilities staffed by employee or contract physicians collectively known as railroad doctors. Sometimes the doctors worked in major medical institutions built or leased by the railroads. At other times the railroad doctors were rural or small-town physicians with their own practices working under contracts that required they attended any serious injuries occurring on

railroad property. In that capacity they either treated the patients at or near the site of the accident or took them to that doctor’s normal treatment facility. In Doctor Smith’s case, such was probably at or near his home at Chattaroy. Whichever, with his wife — a trained nurse — in attendance, said site was likely what the scant literature refers to as the “*Great Northern Railway Hospital in Chattaroy.*”

At least the above is what I’m going to assume until better educated on the matter.

As for the doctor’s one-year term as “*surgeon-general*” of the Grand Army of the Republic, the G. A. R. referenced was a nationwide fraternal organization open to Civil War era Union Army personnel — and as such the title was honorary within that fraternity.

The *Deer Park Union’s* obituary noted, “*There is scarcely a home from Wild Rose to Mt. Spokane, and from Elk to Mead, he has not entered professionally. That the people held him in esteem and appreciated his work as a physician was evidenced by the large number who attended the services.*” Which is to say, we went in search of Doctor Smith’s gold, and ended up with something better.

— end —

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

In attendance at the society’s museum, 300 Block East ‘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, Bill Phipps, Mike Reiter, Roberta Reiter, Dick Purdy, Nancy Sanders, Nancy Fisher, Roxanne Camp, Eleanor Ball, Larry Bowen, Chuck Lyons, Don Brodrick, Lorraine

Nord, Jeff Clark, Tom Costigan.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He reported: 1) Robert Weise sent a picture of a “*bar back*” from 123 Main in Deer Park. More on this in Pete Coffin’s report. 2) The hand scanner that Nancy Fisher donated to the Society is working out great. Bill scanned some Prestini pictures at the last Heritage Network meeting in Colville. The Prestini catalogue of paintings housed at the Stevens County Historical Soci-

ety Museum is now complete. He has also been scanning the 1970 Rose Parade scrap book. 3) Bill gave Angie Tobeck files for old pictures of the area for the Wicked Pickle, a restaurant she is opening in the building just east of the Clayton Post Office. Jimmy Hatfield built it about 2006 and named it the Lonesome Dove Saloon. 4) Susan Simpson emailed saying she has family artifacts she will send for display at our museum. 5) Ramona Curtis emailed looking for her cousin, Susan Simpson’s, contact information. Her email was forwarded to Susan. The two have reconnected. Susan sent some family tree information.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported the main checking account ended the month at \$7773.96. There were deposits of \$0. Checks were written for \$244 to Andy Carlson for Brickyard Day, to Mike Reiter for \$27.23 for printing and to Pete Coffin for \$25.47 for batteries. The web hosting account ended the month at \$598.82 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 November *Mortarboard* #139 have been printed for distribution and a PDF version has been forwarded to the Society’s website for online posting. After all the hardcopies were printed, an anomaly was noted at the bottom of page 1970. The reason for the anomaly was found and the artifact removed from the file. A printable version (sans anomaly) has been forwarded to the Loon Lake Library for on-request reproduction. 2) The current 16-page issue begins with part one of “*A History of the Deer Park Fair: 1931 through 1946.*” Still under construction, it’s currently unknown how many parts will be needed to tell the story. The Letters/Brickbats segment notes Society President Bill Sebright’s turn as Grand Marshal for Deer Park’s Settlers Day event; the surfacing of another vintage photo of Loon Lake’s legendary steam launch Gwen; and an

editorial regarding the distressed Clayton eagle. 3) Collected Newsletters #40, combining the September through November issues of the *Mortarboard*, is under construction.

Webmaster Marie Morrill reported by email: 1) I have uploaded November’s *Mortarboard* onto our web site. I will not be at the meeting tomorrow. I am getting over a bug, and I don’t want to share it with the group.

Pete Coffin reported: 1) Provided Deer Park Gazette’s Editor Ellie Chambers a 1911 picture of the old Deer Park High School (now city hall) and a copy of Marie Morrill’s *Mortarboard* article describing it (From Deer Park High School in 1911 to Deer Park City Hall Today: *Mortarboard* Issue 50, June 2012). 2) President Sebright received an email from Robert Weise who had some old maps that the Society might be interested in that he found in the Wayland/King house that he is selling. President Sebright asked me to follow up and pick them up. I picked them up and found them to be mainly some real estate work maps from the Deer Park Land Company real estate business. Most of the maps have little historic value. Perhaps the most interesting is a tube with three Notary Public licenses issued to William Allgeier who worked as salesman for this company. 3) A short possible *Mortarboard* article on the 2010 Historical Society field trip to the terra cotta plant’s mold dumpsite in Clayton that President Sebright, myself and the Lanning family made has been submitted to Editor Parker. 4) After an October field trip to Chuck Lyons’ Challenge Hill Farm he and I wrote up a manuscript describing his collection of steam traction tractors. I will submit the manuscript to Editor Parker. 5) In 2009 members of the Historical Society took a field trip to Big Foot Valley to look over the old schoolhouse and were unexpectedly able to visit a pair of old home sites. I am submitting a manuscript describing the trip to Editor Parker.

Pete brought up the idea of burning discs of DPHS annuals to sell at the Settlers Picnic. We will discuss it more before Settlers. Mike Reiter and Bill talked about



getting the glass replaced in 3 Society pictures, Dwayne Strong's aerial view of Deer Park, Gary Coe's aerial view of Deer Park Pine, and Art Stelling's record of Clayton's World War II men in the service. Mike will take them to GSI to have the glass replaced.

Mike and Roberta visited Jannis Snook and took a picture of her with her Leno Prestini painting. He is writing an article for the Mortarboard.

Mike is also taking orders for Society t-shirts. Let Mike or Bill know if you are interested.

Nancy Fisher talked to Dixie Riddle again. His family moved to the future Game Farm in 1938 or 1939. They had a dairy farm there until 1943, when they sold it to the State. Nancy brought some early settler notes and diaries, a 1913 *Loon Lake Times*, and a 1921

Clayton School 2<sup>nd</sup> grade picture.

In going through files, Bill found a school census for Shirley School District, # 183. It seemed to be in the general area between Lost Spring and the area once called "Boggsville." The names Shives and Hallgarths appear. No one had heard of Shirley School District. Pete said it would be in the Borders School area. Any ideas?

Chuck Lyons said he would be willing to have a field trip to his "tractor museum" after the May Society meeting.

Next meeting Saturday, December 14, 2019, at 10:00 AM at our new building.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 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.

### Society Contacts

C/DPHS, Box 293, Clayton, WA 99110  
Bill Sebright, President — sebrightba@gmail.com — (509) 276-2693  
Wally Lee Parker, Editor of Print Publications — bogwen100@msn.com — (509) 467-9433  
Website — <http://www.cdphs.org>

### 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 — as a matter of prudence and professionalism — 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 hurtful misunderstandings.

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.