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Illustration from "Normal Instructions & Primary Plans," February, 1922.

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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 Four)**

by

**Wally Lee Parker**

... a different world ...

In the early 1950s I was just old enough to comprehend that the real world was a much larger and more complex place than previously understood. I began to understand that somewhere far beyond the mountains rising to the west of Williams Valley was an ocean. And that not many years before a war had taken place there — a war splashed in black and white across the screen of our little Crosley television in a weekly program titled Victory at Sea. Then too, there was a book available in the Clayton school library showing colored drawings of World War II era aircraft — the most fascinating being that of a P-40 fighter painted with a deadly looking

shark's mouth

If it had ever come to mind back then, it probably would have been very difficult for us to understand how different the world we were being raised in was from that of the kids old enough to have fought in World War II. Their world was someplace insular, someplace seemingly protected by that same faraway ocean. Our world had a sky crisscrossed with vapor trails — some of those trails left by aircraft that could fly non-stop across that same ocean in just a few hours to drop nuclear bombs on cities in Russia or China.

In those early years we'd occasionally receive instruction on television and by pamphlets in the mail demonstrating how, in

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anticipation of nuclear attack, to set up a fall-out shelter in our basement — a useless bit of data for our family since our farmhouse didn't have a basement at the time. And on occasion there'd be demonstrations of how students caught at school should huddle under our vintage wooden desks during such an attack.

In his memoir, *Nothing's Sacred*, comedian Lewis Black — recalling his own schooltime instructions on how to escape being incinerated by “a fireball from hell” — said even then the absurdness of being told to “hide under kindling” didn't escape him.

If there was a difference in being raised in the prewar and postwar decades, it could have been that the daily struggles with hunger and want of the prewar era's depression was exchanged for the plenty of the 1950's — a plenty spiced by a subtle though constant sense of dread; especially since it was clear nobody with a proper understanding really expected any of those “in case of nuclear attack” protective measures to actually work.

To draw that sense of dread closer to the surface, on occasion we'd pass a roadside shanty of plywood and tarpaper manned by the Cold War's iteration of the civilian Ground Observer Corps — the idea behind the postwar version being to watch for Russian bombers intent on striking Fairchild Air Force Base and the Kaiser aluminum facilities near Spokane.

It was the first Sunday in December, 1941, when the door between America's prior and current world views slammed shut, and that constant sense of just below the surface dread began. Pearl Harbor put to rest the belief that the rest of the world was something apart, and that America was somehow isolated from the concerns of those distant places. After the war the weight of being this new world's prime target settled in. And in reality, America has never had a truly peaceful night's sleep since.

### ... changing priorities ...

On the first of January, 1942, the *Deer Park Union's* front page carried this

message from Arthur B. Langlie, governor, State of Washington.

*“Our nation is at war. All citizens of the State of Washington are subject to being called upon for service in the protection and defense of lives, homes and property.”*

*“Our state, because of its strategic location; the large amount of defense activity here; and the presence of armed forces of our nation, has a particularly heavy — yet challenging — responsibility.”*

*“Fortunately, in this state, with the cooperation of the ex-service men, public officials, volunteer citizens, and with assistance and direction from the federal government, civilian defense organizations were already set up to deal with emergency conditions such as we now face. The nucleus of civilian protection was developed in the State of Washington for more than six months before Japan struck at our Pacific outposts. Few if any states were as well prepared to face the situation that confronts us today. We must, however, enlarge our civilian protection rapidly, fix responsibilities definitely and all participate in discharging those responsibilities to the end that whatever challenges may be presented to this state in the coming months we, as citizens, will not fail the United State of America in the conflict that confronts our nation.”*

In what may be the most telling paragraph, the governor continued, *“We must adjust ourselves quickly to the conditions that exist. The emergency calls for an entirely different attitude than that to which we have been accustomed in the time of peace. We must face the necessity of complete and wholehearted obedience to orders and directions of our government and all the inconvenience of our personal plans that may be entailed in following these orders and direction.”*

That directive for “an entirely different attitude” would affect everything, including planning for upcoming community events such as Deer Park's fair.

Other articles in the *Union's* first edition of the year drove home the idea that the most valuable forms of community service

going forward would be those related directly to the war effort. One was titled “*Committee Chiefs for Civilian Defense Named.*” Among the names mentioned, it stated Deer Park's mayor, Earl Mix, had selected Ira Atkeson, a local baker, to be the chief air raid warden; utilities manager Orval Bonser became auxiliary fire chief; and Roy Morris, city marshal, was to take charge of the auxiliary police. It was also noted that Bonser and Morris were to attend the three-day session of a “*chemical warfare school*” at the Spokane Armory.

Another article stated, “*Because of the great interest in Red Cross work which local women have shown and the large number who registered for various types of Red Cross work recently, it has been decided to form a unit here.*”

Page three of the January 1<sup>st</sup> issue began a series of articles drawn from the pages of the “*Civilian Protection*” handbook produced by the Washington State Defense Council. The first article to be published was titled, “*What To Do In an Air Raid.*” It laid out a set of general instructions, including the best way to counter incendiary devices landing on or near combustible structures. Regarding such, it said, “*play a spray from a garden hose on the bomb,*” but cautioned that “*a jet, splash, stream or bucket of water will make it explode.*”

The newspaper's first mention of the Deer Park Fair Association appeared in the January 15<sup>th</sup> issue, when it was noted that the group had paid \$400 toward the debt accumulated in the purchase and refurbishing of the Arcadia warehouse and grounds, with \$500 left owing.

On January 22<sup>nd</sup> the *Union*, under the headline “*Schools Receive Raid Instructions,*” reported, “*Engineers from the Spokane County Defense Committee met with superintendent E. M. Blevins on Monday and emergency instructions for both grade and high schools were outlined.*”

Both the grade and high school had two “*assigned quarters*” for sheltering within each school “*where pupils will remain until*

*the all clear signal is given.*” “*Grade boys, south end main hall; grade girls, north end main hall; high boys, basement of high school; high girls, first or main floor hall.*”

It was also noted, “*If fire alarm is sounded while air raid is on, students will be conducted to nearby homes or safe places for protection.*”

“*Should an air raid alarm sound while students are riding the school buses, the bus drivers, who have been instructed in emergency procedures, will be in complete authority and will have full supervision over them.*”

In mid-February the city announced, “*May Hold Practice Blackout Soon.*”

“*Spokane county as well as the four northern counties in Idaho may have blackout practice Saturday, February 28 ... Homer Huston, local member of the county board, states that nearly all plans are ready and final approval for the test are all that is being awaited.*”

“*Citizens of the Deer Park area will be warned with a series of short blasts on the city siren and the lumber mill whistle.*”

The March 5<sup>th</sup> *Union* reported that the prior week's blackout went well; the only problems being as outlined below.

“*Most trouble was encountered at the residence of the (Deer Park Union's) editor, Karel Wegkamp ... The Wegkamps left Deer Park during the night between Thursday and Friday for Boise, Idaho. When the blackout came they were in Weiser, Idaho, and did not return until early Monday morning. No satisfactory explanation of the light burning has been obtained ... A friend extinguished it by pulling the master switch outside (the house).*”

“*The only other weak points were that at least two residents had to be asked to turn lights out, a night light at one of the oil company bulk plants showed, the altar light at the Catholic Church was visible from two angles, and several persons with heating stoves with glass fronts had a glow on the windows.*”

How serious the locals were viewing the possibility of an actual invasion was suggested by this headline appearing in the April

16<sup>th</sup>, 1942 *Union*. “Organize Minute Men to Protect District: Volunteers Will Defend Airport in Case of Invasion” — the final phrase in the headline, “Not Military Service,” making it clear that this guard would be police in nature.

As the article explained, “*The Minute Men will be organized in Deer Park and will be ready to take (an) active part in the defense of the community in case of invasion, town marshal Roy Morris told the Deer Park Union this week. Citizens owning rifles and twenty-twos — no shotguns — are asked to register with Morris at the City Hall. It is hoped that at least two hundred will be recruited from the Deer Park-Denison area.*

“*These volunteers will be instructed in their duties, and will serve as defenders of the local area, especially the airport, in case of invasion, parachute landings and so forth. They will not be taken away from the district to service elsewhere. They will use their own equipment and ammunition.*

“*Deputy Sheriff Corey was in Deer Park Tuesday to start the organization work, and the groups in the county will be headed by deputy James Cannon. Morris will be head of the Deer Park group.*”

... “**or discontinue them entirely**” ...

On April 30<sup>th</sup> the *Union* reported, “*To be or not to be is the question today regarding the holding of a fair in Deer Park this fall. The association will meet on Tuesday, May 5, to determine whether or not to hold a fair.*

“*War conditions and the speed it has added in general conditions makes the staging of the annual show a difficult task. Although reports have it that in most places fairs will be held as usual, they are being cancelled in some spots. Reasons given are principally the lack of time on the part of active workers, and the various difficulties caused by the war.*

“*Association president J. E. Olson urges that all interested parties be present to help arrive at a good decision because it will be necessary to have more help this year than at any previous time.*”

Less than five months into the war and the shift in priorities was clearly evident. Within weeks of Pearl Harbor tires became an essential item and speed limits were lowered to conserve those on hand. Within a month the shift from manufacturing of civilian to military goods was underway — with building civilian cars banned. Rationing of certain types of food became ever more restrictive. And labor shortages were developing — especially in rural areas where both men and women were being pulled away from agricultural jobs to defense work — as well as into the military. It was also becoming evident that those remaining in the local community would have more to do and less to do it with.

Despite this, in early May the Fair Association announced that the fair would be held on September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. But just a month later, the June 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Union* warned, “*If there is not sufficient interest shown when the Fair Association meets on Tuesday, June 16, the fair for this fall will be cancelled, according to L. D. Boyd, secretary.*

“*Attendance at meetings has been poor, and arrangements are far behind the usual schedule, Boyd told the Union. ‘Action must be obtained right away, or we cannot expect to host the annual affair,’ the secretary said.*

“*Boyd urged all interested persons to be on hand at the Legion Hall at eight o’clock next Tuesday.*”

After that meeting, the *Union* reported everything was back on track,

“*The question of whether to have or not to have a fair this year was definitely settled at the meeting Tuesday night ... Regardless of the fact that there is a great shortage of farm labor at this time, a large number of members turned out and expressed their willingness to work and to have an even bigger and better fair.*”

With the prior president stepping down, the paper stated that the group’s new president would be Karl Herrmann, while M. R. Simpson would continue as vice-president, L. D. Boyd as secretary, and Al Bishop as

treasurer.

Normalcy at a time of crisis is usually a much-craved substance. But regardless of how comforting having the town’s annual fair sounded, this from the June 25<sup>th</sup> *Union* put it all back in perspective.

“*Within the next two weeks classes in chemical warfare will be started in Deer Park. Each class will be able to handle from sixty to seventy-five persons and plans are being arranged to have classes during the day, for the convenience of the men who work the night shift at the mill, as well as in the evening. The announcement was made at the general meeting of the civilian defense workers held Wednesday evening in the gymnasium.*

“(James A.) Reeder, assistant coordinator of Spokane County, was the main speaker of the evening. He told about the seriousness of the war situation, especially with regards to the ‘it can’t happen here’ attitude of the people. He urged people to wake up and do their part by working in Civilian Defense. He stated that the entire Pacific Coast is in the combat zone and is in grave danger from sabotage.

“*Mayor Earl Mix discussed the new emergency messenger corps which Jack Parrish is heading. The Corps was recently formed and is made up of boys with bicycles who will be able to deliver messages and render other services during emergencies.*

“*Ira Atkeson, district air raid warden chief, and Roy Morris, district police chief, spoke on the possibility of holding weekly meetings for each unit of the civilian defense. Atkeson’s group will meet each Tuesday night, and Morris’ group will meet each Thursday evening at the City Hall. The firemen will do their defense work in connection with their regular monthly meeting. It is hoped to have a general meeting similar to the one Wednesday night each month.*

“*Dr. M. D. Wood, head of the medical unit announced that fifty-five Deer Park residents have received First Aid certificates. More classes, including one in advanced First Aid, may be started soon.*

“*Moving pictures about First Aid and armed home forces were shown.*”

... **the final straws of July** ...

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1942, under the headline “*Patrolman Talks on Fair Requirements,*” this short notice appeared in the *Union*.

“*State patrolman J. E. Baker will address the members of the Deer Park 4-H Club and Community Fair Association when they meet in the Legion Hall Tuesday evening at eight o’clock, President Karl Herrmann announced today.*

“*Baker will explain the recent ruling of the governor regarding fairs, and let the group know exactly what will be necessary to comply with the law in holding the fair.*”

The results of patrolman Baker’s address were reported in the July 9<sup>th</sup> *Union*.

“*No Fair in 1942 was the verdict of the members of the 4-H Club and Community Fair Association when they met in the Legion Hall Tuesday night. State Patrolmen J. E. Baker explained the restrictions and requirements laid down by the army, and the group decided that the risk of going ahead was too great and call the whole thing off for this year.*

“*Baker explained that plans would have to be submitted to and approved by the army for the evacuation of the fair crowd in case of emergency; and that such evacuation would have to be accomplished without congesting a military highway. The highway in front of the fair buildings is a military highway, and a way would have to be opened up to take the crowd out through the back fields and disperse them.*”

At that time the main highway from Spokane to Colville passed through Deer Park as the town’s designated Main Street — Highway 395 as now constituted didn’t exist. Nor did ‘H’ Street as currently laid east from Main Street across what was until recently the south end of the fairgrounds.

The July 9<sup>th</sup> article continued, “*It is doubtful that an adequate plan for handling the 1200 spectators could be worked out and*

receive the necessary approval.

As for the Old Settlers' Picnic, "At least to date, plans for the annual North Spokane and Southern Stevens County Settlers' Association are going ahead at a rapid pace. Herb Reiter and (George) Bud Schonfeld are planning an elaborate sports program with a lot of cash prizes for the various events; and Mrs. Karel A. Wegkamp is lining up an outstanding program with War Production Board's Lars Carlson as the principal speaker.

"There is no apparent conflict of the picnic with the army's plans. The affair, being held at the tourist park (Mix Park), which has adequate outlets away from the highway — and the gathering being considerably smaller than the fair — it is not thought that any difficulty will be encountered from that angle."

Regarding the fair's remaining business — the following.

"Plans were made for the Fair Association to meet on September 15 and lay plans for money raising enterprises to meet their (\$425.00) note at the bank. The group will also meet annually in March to decide on holding or not holding a fair until a definite action is taken to resume fairs, or to discontinue them entirely."

#### ... on the home front ...

"Minute Men Are Organized" was one of the article headings in the July 16<sup>th</sup> Union. It reported that, "J. E. Stelting of Clayton was elected commander of the local Minute Men group when an organization meeting was held Tuesday night at the Family Theater. Jim Cannon, Chief Deputy Sheriff of Spokane County, who heads the Minute Men, was in charge of the session.

"Stelting is an ex-serviceman and a member of Guy Enman Post American Legion. He will appoint three captains, one to serve Clayton, and two for the Deer Park area. The purpose of the Minute Men group is to guard the home front.

"Between seventy-five and one hun-

dred men attended the meeting."

As regards the minute men, on July 30<sup>th</sup> this appeared in the Union.

"Ralph Smith, founder of the Minute Men and commander of the group in the Spokane Valley, addressed an interested crowd of one hundred fifty Deer Park and vicinity Minute Men at the high school gym Wednesday evening. Smith spoke stirringly on patriotism and explained the purposes and functions of the Minute Men's organization.

"Harvey Coe and Fred Reynolds, who had been named captains, appointed a number of corporals and started assigning men to the small units.

"Cards were issued to those who had registered, and it was announced that armbands should be ready for distribution by the old (Deer Park) airport (on the south side of the Deer Park Milan Road) Sunday, August 9, at 2 p.m. All Minute Men and fellows interested in becoming Minute Men are requested to be present. It will not be necessary to bring guns to this meeting.

"On August 23, Valley commander Smith will be present at a 2 o'clock meeting on the same field, and local men will be present with their arms. Smith stressed the importance of bringing guns unloaded to prevent any sort of accident."

#### ... some good news at year's end ...

With the decade long string of prior fairs broken, this announcement appeared in the September 17<sup>th</sup> issue of Deer Park's newspaper.

"At the Tuesday night meeting of the Fair Association plans were made to give a chicken dinner at the Congregational Church basement on October 2. Solicitations will be made for the chickens and L. D. Boyd is in charge of the committees. ... Proceeds from the dinner will be used to pay on the association's note which is held by the Hillyard Branch of the Spokane and Eastern Bank."

In the November 19<sup>th</sup> issue a second dinner was announced. The reason given,

"When the association took over the (Arcadia apple packing) building for fair purposes, the members made about \$1,000 worth of necessary improvements ... and they have been struggling with the debt for several years. It is now reduced to \$148, and they are out to clean it up."

And clean they did. As the next week's Union explained, "When the cash had been counted and all the expenses deducted

the check was found to be sufficient. A total of \$158.45 was earned, leaving around ten dollars to the good after all bills were settled and the debt wiped out. One of the happy surprises for the workers was that fact that one of Deer Park's citizens handed the committee a check to cover the price of all of the turkeys used in the dinner."

— to be continued —

## Is this The Oldest Building in Deer Park?

by

Peter Coffin

A small, false fronted wooden building at 32 E. First Street in Deer Park may be its oldest building. Writers of the Historic Resources Inventory thought so but listed its

construction date in 1917 (*See note #1*).

This age designation is in error, possibly due to the building being moved to its present location in mid-1917. A July 13, 1917



Photo by Peter Coffin.

Image #1.

East 32 First Street, Deer Park, Washington.  
Photo taken August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

### Hardware Co. Buys New Location

A deal was consummated this week between the Hunziker Hardware Co. and Mr. Thompson whereby the former acquired the lot and building, corner of First street and Main avenue, formerly occupied by Stone's billiard parlors. The Hunziker Co. contemplate the erection of a modern store building, suitable for their ever increasing business. Details will be published later of the new building and when erection of same will commence.

Image #2.

Deer Park Union front page article reported that the land containing Stone's pool hall had been sold to the Hunziker hardware operation (See image #2 above for this article). The September 7, 1917 front page article said that the pool hall had been moved back and rotated to face First Street (See image #3 for first three paragraphs of this article). At that time the building was to be used as a workshop and for storage of farm equipment. Interestingly the Historic Resources Inventory listing says that the building was originally a store but later was a church. The Sanborn fire insurance map (Block #170) shows a building in the approximate location of East 32 First Street that is labeled "Church Rm" (See note #2). This set of maps is not specifically dated so when the building may have been used as a church can-

### NEW \$12,500 STORE BUILDING STARTED

Contractors Getting Busy on the  
Hunziker Hardware Co's  
New Store

Actual work was started Monday on the new two-story brick store building on the corner of Main avenue and First street, for the Hunziker Hardware Co.

A section of the old Kelly warehouse has been taken out and the old pool hall on the corner, has been moved back and turned around to face on First St., and will be used as a workshop and storagehouse for farm implements.

The new building will have a frontage on Main avenue of 40 ft. and have a depth of 95 ft. and be two stories high with a basement.

Image #3.

not be set. This might be in error in that the building was used as a storage building by the owners of the Hunziker hardware building well into the 1970s. This building has housed

#### Notes.

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_, 1991(?), *Historic Resources Inventory, Deer Park, WA: Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, not page numbered.*
- (2) *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, September 1915, revision June 1932.*

many businesses including an electronic repair shop and a shoe repair shop.

The oldest wooden building in Deer Park whose construction can be reliably dated

is the Open Door Congregational Church which was built in 1896.

— end —

## Clinker Boats on Loon Lake

by

Wally Lee Parker

The photo below, found in the Loon Lake Historical Society's archives, was probably taken between 1901 and 1910. The place was Loon Lake, and the large boat in the background was Evan Morgan's legendary excursion steam launch "Gwen." The estimated date is based on postmarks found on postcards originally circulated at that time by Evan Mor-

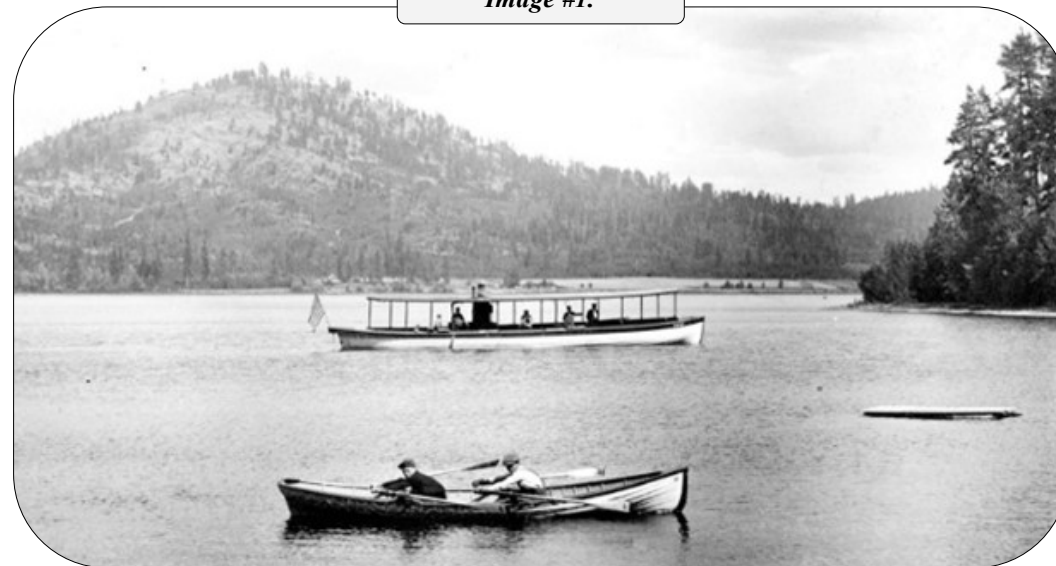
gan to advertise his resort. This image, or one very like it, is believed to have appeared on one issue of that series.

In their notes, the Loon Lake group refers to the rowboat in the foreground as a "clinker boat." Emails exchanged between this researchist and the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society's president, Bill Sebright,

### A Clinker Boat on Loon Lake.

This image from the Loon Lake Historical Society collection shows a clinker boat in the foreground and Loon Lake's legendary steam launch Gwen in the background.

Image #1.



suggested we conduct a search to define what the term clinker boat means, since both of us were at a loss.

As a bit of background, according to a 1915 promotional brochure in the Loon Lake group's collection, Evan Morgan began building rowboats at Loon Lake around 1897. The brochure states these boats were for "livery purposes" — in this instance meaning they were for rent to the patrons of Morgan's resort. Among those boats were "a number of clinker-built cedar boats." The brochure also said these boats could be built to order for private parties — going on to reprint a few letters of recommendation received from such customers.

The brochure described the planking used in Morgan's rowboats as cedar. The structural elements — ribs, keel and such — white oak. Yellow pine was used for the seats and flooring. The fittings were galvanized

iron; though, for a little more money, purchasers could have the fittings plated with brass or nickel. The boat was then finished with oil and varnish or three coats of marine paint.

Relevant to the name "clinker boat," the most telling paragraph in the brochure is the following. "They (the boats) are copper-riveted throughout and no clinch-nails are used. ... Many clinch-nail and factory-made boats have made their appearance on Loon Lake since we built our little fleet, but they have been abandoned a long time ago, showing the quality and merit of the workmanship and material used in our boats."

It appears the terms clinch-nails and clinker boats are in an odd way related — at least that's the hypothesis put forward in an article titled "Boat Building for Amateurs" that appeared in the May 1895 issue of *Carpentry & Building: A Monthly Journal*. In the first several paragraphs of the article, the author, H.

**Image #2: Methods of Attaching Planks (Strakes) to a Boat's Framework.**

These illustrations from Mr. Campbell's article suggests the various ways in which clinch-nails are used to fix planking to a boat's ribs. The first two illustrations on the left below are enlarged (and slightly modified) as Image #3 on the facing page. Image #3 clearly shows how a longer clinch-nail driven through the boat's ribs is then bent over, and in places where no rib is available shorter nails are driven through the overlapping planks alone and then bent. The clapboard overlap style is known as "lapstrake" — the planks or strakes being overlapped. Modern sources tend to agree that clinch-nail rowboats using lapstrake planking are known as clinker boats.

Image #2.

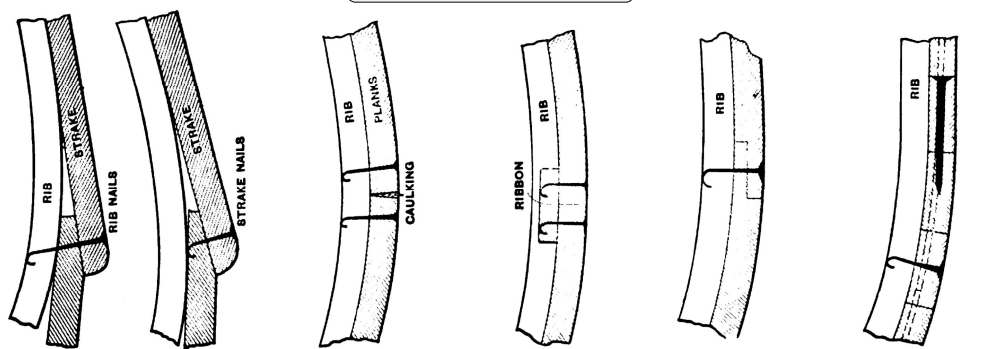


Fig. 1.—Two Examples of Lapstrake

Fig. 2.—Carvel.

Fig. 3.—Ribbon Carvel.

Fig. 4.—Shiplap.

Fig. 5.—Strip Laid.

Note from Ken Westby: Merriam-Webster defines Clinch-Nail as "a nail made of soft metal or so cut that the pointed end may be bent over easily for clinching."

L. Campbell, introduced us to a type of boat "in common use among the fishermen on the Great lakes, which for strength, safety, buoyancy, lightness, ease of management and general all-around purposes cannot be excelled." According to the author, these boats were "generally known as 'clinkers,' a corruption of the word 'clincher,' which alludes to the manner in which they are built, the planks or 'strakes' being lapped over each other like the clapboards on a house, and nailed through and through, the nails being 'clinched' on the

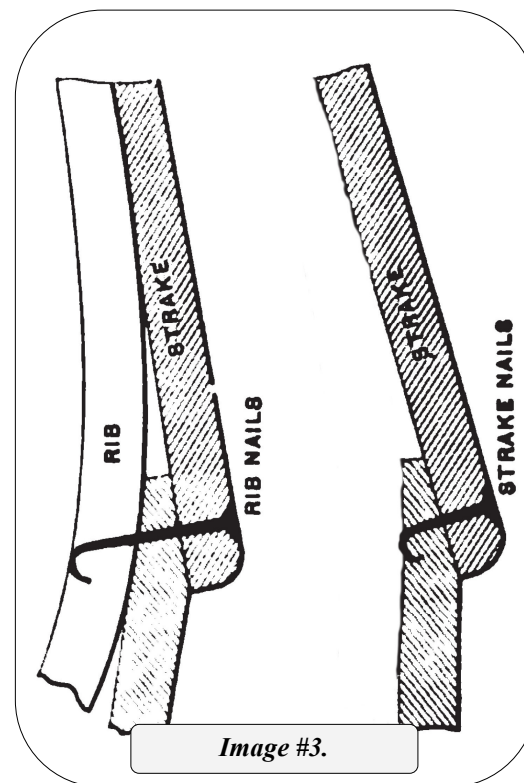


Image #3.

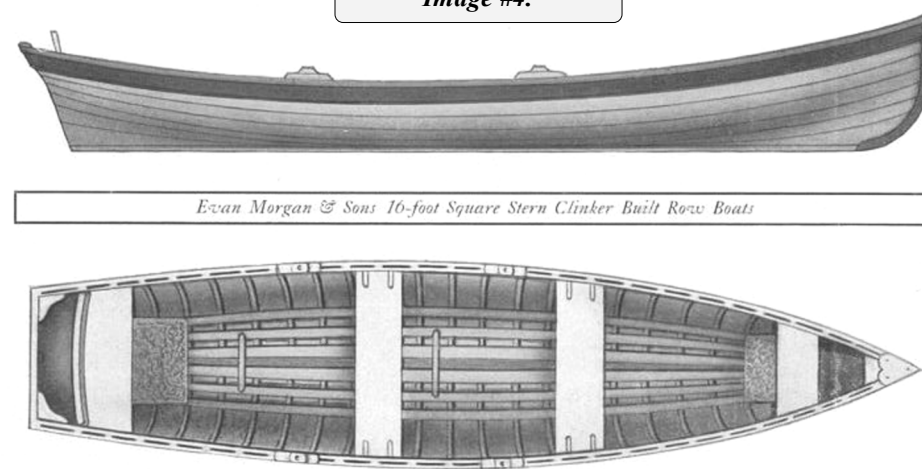
Image #3:

Lapstrake hull construction using clinch-nails. Illustration from "Boat Building for Amateurs," *Carpentry & Building* magazine, May 1895.

Image #4:

Drawing of Evan Morgan's "Clinker Built Cedar Boats," from a 1915 promotional brochure in the Loon Lake Historical Society's Evan Morgan collection.

Image #4.



Permission to use Images #1 and #4 in this article courtesy of the Loon Lake Historical Society.

inside; hence the name.”

There are several major construction difficulties when it comes to stick-building a boat — at least stick-building one you expect to be watertight. Since you’re using planks — the aforementioned “strakes” — to cover the framework, sealing the seams between those boards is of extreme importance, as is exactly how snugly the edges of those boards are expected to fit. In his article, Mr. Campbell illustrates the various ways this can be accomplished (see *Image #2*), then goes on to suggest why, all things considered, the lapstrake clinker boat might be the easiest to construct.

With the clinker style, thinner planks can be used, which makes for a lighter and easier to manage boat. Due to the clapboard style overlaps, less shaping of the planks is needed when bending and twisting them to fit the curvature of the hull. At the same time, the overlap allows enough area between the boards to apply a reliable amount of caulk.

The overlaps add extra rigidity to the entire construct, and permits clinching the planks to each other at points without an underlying rib or bit of framework (as seen in *Image #3*).

Without either a more detailed description from individuals with direct knowledge of the construction methods used to create Evan Morgan’s clinker boats or a surviving example of one of his rowboats, we can’t state with absolute certainty how the rowboat in image number one was built. We can’t state with certainty that our understanding of the term clinker boat is the same as Morgan’s. That said, it’s still a good bet.

As for how Morgan’s larger boats, the Gwen and Loon, were built, we have one example of such at the bottom of Loon Lake’s Moose Bay. A closer, noninvasive examination of that drowned boat — believed to be the Loon — might reveal quite a lot.

— end —

## Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

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

#### ... an Arcadia Orchards Company tag ...

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of November, society president Bill Sebright received this email from Deer Park’s Robert Wiese, along with several photos of Robert’s found artifact.

“I think I mentioned a while back that Mary and I were metal detecting and I picked up a good signal by the big (maple) tree (on the northwest corner) at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Railroad Avenue. I pulled this tag from about three inches (down). I thought I might share the image with you in that the October Mortarboard had the article on the Arcadia Orchards.”

Bill forwarded Robert’s materials to the Mortarboard. In return I sent Bill the following thoughts and guesses.

“Robert’s photos are very good quality — exactly how these kinds of items should be photographed for reproduction in the Mortarboard; that being on a solid white or, if necessary, contrasting colored background. Regarding the intended use of the item, I would speculate that it’s one of a series of like artifacts, each impressed with a unique number. If that were the case, it’s possible the item was intended to be attached to something else via a flexible strap or ribbon. Could it be some kind of inventory tag — attached to piec-



#### The Mystery Tag

Approximately 1½ inches in diameter, and apparently of a light metal such as aluminum.

es of equipment for inventory control? Did the Arcadia use something like this as part of a tamper-seal for freight cars? Was this something employees wore for identification? Right now, it’s a mystery.”

In a follow-up email Robert added, “It appears to be a non-ferrous material such as copper or brass, but I don’t think it’s aluminum.” As for giving the metal the scratch test, “I’m a bit shy about scraping or other means of testing” — that being the proper way to approach what may be an absolutely unique artifact.

Pete Coffin noted he hadn’t run across any mention of objects of this type in his extensive research into the Arcadia’s history. He surmised that it may have been “an identification tag for a worker.”

Mike Reiter mentioned the problem to Gordon Grove and Gordon suggested “The numbers may have identified boxes or lots of apples.”

What we can say is that blank tags, being of a relatively soft metal, would have been very easy to stamp lettering into with a low-tech hand-press and die. If the numerical portion of that die were made of interchangeable single digits, any three-digit number between 001 and 999 could be expressed.

We’d be very interested in hearing from anyone having knowledge or experience with something of this nature. And we want to thank Robert and Mary Wiese for bringing it to our attention.

#### ... trouble getting a new Ford ...

The following appeared in the February 18<sup>th</sup>, 1916 edition of the *Deer Park Union*.

“About March 2<sup>nd</sup>, O. A. Peters expects a full carload of Ford autos, which he ordered for spring delivery. The autos will be on display in the Moore building, corner of Main and Crawford. Mr. Peters has leased this building and on or about March 15<sup>th</sup> he will open up a first-class garage, also a repair shop. An expert has been engaged to take charge of this department.”

In mid-March this appeared in the newspaper. “The various manufactures of automobiles in this country are well represented in Deer Park this year, so if you want to buy any particular make, why these are the men to see: Chevrolet — Homer Slater; Buick — O. A. Peters; Studebaker — Homer Riney; Ford — O. A. Peters; Overland — Olsen & Staley; Dodge — William Critzer.”

But for those wanting a Ford, things were not going smoothly, as this note signed by O. A. Peters published in the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1916 *Union* suggests.

“Owing to the inability of the Ford Motor Car Company to meet the demand for cars, it may be some disappointment to those who have made deposits with me for Ford cars to be delivered within the next thirty days. I therefore take this method to announce that all those who have made deposits on Ford cars to be delivered in October may either withdraw their deposits or let same stand as a deposit on



**Ford Coupelet.**

*The above image of a Ford Coupelet was copied from the November, 1914 issue of the "Ford Times" magazine.*

*cars to be delivered sometime between now and spring. Please notify me to that effect. All orders for cars will be filled in rotation as received."*

*As to how many wanted their money back, it's hard to say. All we do know is that this appeared in the March 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of 1917's Deer Park Union.*

*"O. A. Peters, local agent for the Ford auto, received a carload of eight 1917 cars Thursday. They will be handed over to their new owners as fast as possible."*

*As for the prices being paid, an ad on the back page of that same issue noted the following. The Ford Runabout, \$345; the Touring Car, \$360; the Coupelet, \$505; the Town Car, \$595; and the Sedan, \$645. Those prices were all f. o. b. (freight on board), Detroit.*

**... an Arcadia death ...**

*The July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1909 edition of the Wenatchee Daily World reported the following. "While swimming in the reservoir of the Arcadia Irrigation Company at Deer Park Thursday, Corbett Alberthal, aged 16 years, was drowned. His companions gave the alarm*

*and the body was recovered shortly afterward."*

*A quick search revealed one error with the above. Corbett William Adams Alberthal is buried at Deer Park's Woodland Cemetery, and the dates on his stone read born May 21 1899, died July 22 1909. That would make him ten years old at the time of death.*

*By reference to the "reservoir of the Arcadia Irrigation Company," our assumption is that Corbett was another victim of what is commonly referred to as Deer Park's millpond.*

*Corbett's parents were Gustav and Nancy Alberthal. The notice of Gustav's death appeared prominently on the front page of the Deer Park Union's January 12<sup>th</sup>, 1939 issue. In part it states, "Mr. Alberthal was born October 19, 1863 in Fredericksburg, Texas of German parentage. He moved to Spokane in 1883 and was married to Nancy Ann Corbett April 13, 1893. Six years later the couple moved to a timbered tract west of Deer Park and made this the family home until just a few years ago when they built the new home just west of the city limits." The obituary went on to note, "He is survived by his wife Nancy Ann and seven of his nine children."*

*Nancy appears to have passed away while on the west side of the state, that on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October, 1962. Since her name is chiseled beside Gustav's on one stone, we're assuming her remains were returned to Deer Park's Woodland Cemetery to rest beside her husband and in the presence of three of her children.*

**...work of reglazing three donated artifacts ...**

*Over the years a group of vintage documents in large frames have been donated to the historical society. Perhaps the most significant is a handcrafted "Honor Roll" naming the young men from "Clayton Washington and Vicinity" who served in World War II. This was donated to the society by the late Art Stelting. Though we currently don't know*



**A Donation from Deer Park's GSI!**

**On behalf of the society, Mike Reiter (right) is seen accepting from Matt Ingwerson of Deer Park's GSI Complete Glass Company the donation of three artifact reglazing projects.**

*(Photo by Rick Brodrick.)*

*which individual or group was responsible for creating the document, during the war years it was Art's mother, Ruth, who maintained and updated it while it was being displayed in the window of Clayton's Mercantile store. Among her updates, Ruth added a gold star whenever one of the boys was lost. The honor roll stayed in the window until 1957, when it was hurriedly removed as a devastating fire swept the building. The document's noticeable water damage occurred at that time.*

*A more recent addition to the society's collection is a large aerial photograph of*

*Deer Park believed to date from the early 1990s — this being donated to the society by Dwayne Strong. Unfortunately, the frame's glazing was broken when received.*

*Another large format aerial photograph, this of Deer Park's historic sawmill, is currently dated to the early 1950s. It was unglazed when donated — said donation from Gary Coe, nephew of Harvey Coe, the sawmill's longtime superintendent.*

*Society member Mike Reiter has been leading the effort to display a portion of the society's growing collection of artifacts at*



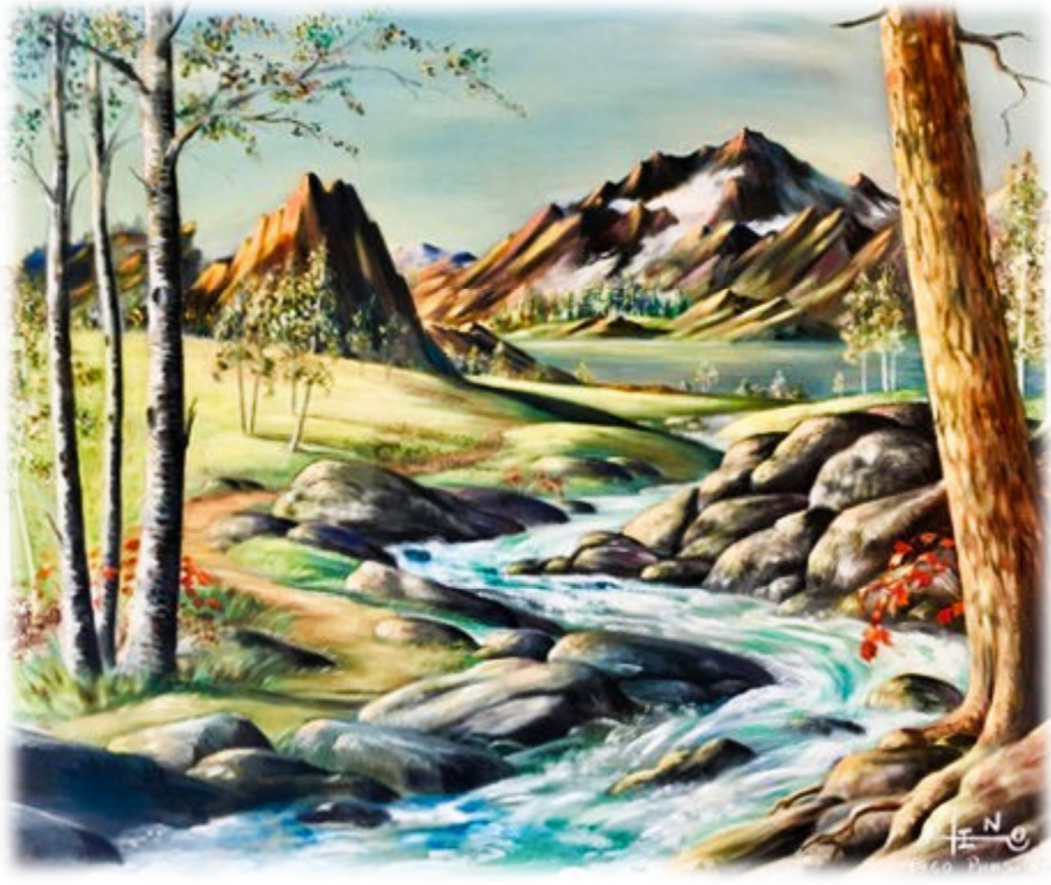
our 'A' Street "Museum." Since all photos and documents should have a protective covering of some sort, Mike and Rick Brodrick took these three artifacts to GSI's Deer Park store for reglazing. The company's owner, Brian Mattausch, donated the cost of glass and labor to the society.

Thanks to one and all at GSI for their contribution in preserving the local area's history.

... *Prestini's "Autumn"* ...

**"Autumn" by Leno Prestini — 1960.**

*Photo by Mike Reiter. Permission to use this image courtesy of Jannis Snook and the Prestini Estate.*



In a conversation with the owner of Leno Prestini's painting "Autumn" — Deer Park's Jannis Snook — historical society member Mike Reiter obtained the following background on the painting.

As Mike explained it, among his other duties Doctor Merrill Dean Snook of the Deer Park Veterinary Clinic looked after Leno Prestini's dog — the one seen sharing the artist's journey in Leno's cryptic painting, "The Doors of Life." Sometime in the spring of 1960, Leno and Doctor Snook negotiated the possibility of Leno painting a picture for



**Leno and his dog.**

*The above is a segment from Leno Prestini's 1957 canvas "Doors of Life."*

*The original is in the Stevens County Historical Society's extensive collection of Prestini artwork.*

Jannis, the doctor's wife. An agreement reached; it was then a matter of consulting with Jannis regarding the painting's subject.

Mike said, "Jannis stated that she was talking about a serene landscape with the possibility of a lake, stream, pine trees and some of Leno's famous mountains as a background. During this discussion the three Snook children came tricycling down the hall and through the living room. This made an impression on Leno. As Leno later told the

Snooks, 'The stream represents the river of life coming down through the middle of an otherwise tranquil setting, just as the children had rolled through the living room.'"

Jannis reported that Leno borrowed the painting for his November, 1960 showing at Gonzaga's Crosby Library — for that exhibit it is listed as "Autumn Idyll." Nineteen of Leno's paintings were shown there, including the above noted "Doors of Life."

... *crossing 2,000 pages* ...

In May of 2008 the society published the first edition of its monthly newsletter/journal, the *Mortarboard*. At that time a decision was made to run the page numbers consecutively between issues — in other words, to use a pagination system similar to that classically used by scholarly journals in which each page throughout an annual run of 4, 6, 12 or more issues would carry a unique number. Then, at the beginning of the next yearly volume, the page numbers would once again begin at one. Since these types of periodicals indexed all significant materials from the prior year by subjects, names, and the like at year's end, the objective of consecutive page numbers was to increase the speed and accuracy of locating items listed within those year-end indexes. Because the monthly page count for the *Mortarboard* was expected to average between eight and sixteen pages, there seemed little point in breaking the pagination system into yearly volumes. Rather, the magazine's entire lifespan would be recorded as a single run of pages — the hope being that at some point we'd have the people-power needed to index everything.

In last month's issue of the *Mortarboard* the magazine's page-count crossed 2,000. Through the publication's one hundred and forty-two continuous issues — the one in hand included — the society has collected a remarkable trove of history; a good portion of which would very likely have otherwise been lost. Our hope is to continue this effort. But to do so will require help of all kinds, and lots

of it.

In the seventeen years since the society's January 30, 2003 incorporation a number of things have changed, including the size of the task we've undertaken. That just keeps growing. To deal with this we need volunteers willing to donate time, effort, and a large measure of invention and inspiration. And we need them now.

Unrecorded history has a definite shelf life. By that I mean history, in its most accurate and well flavored form, is unlikely to survive beyond those who've experienced it firsthand. After that, everything we hear is essentially rumor. Which is to say, in just the few years the society has been in existence the greater part of an entire generation — those having lived through World War II — have passed away. What we've captured of their lives through personal interviews and their

own written accounts is remarkable. But having those accounts also reminds us of all the other voices now lost forever.

In a few cases those having passed leave enough in letters, newspaper accounts, and documents for us to puzzle out their story, though the accuracy of any such story carries an element of conjecture in that it's almost always in part a guess. But every new clue regarding a person, object, or event we find can draw us closer to the truth. Finding those clues, then indexing and preserving them, is a truly herculean task. As for why we should index and preserve — a romantic (which both amateur and professional historians tend to be) would say that not forgetting is something we owe those that passed this way before. Simply said, it feels like the right thing to do.

———— Wally Lee Parker ————

## Minutes of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society ———— January 11, 2020 ————

In attendance at the society's museum, 300 Block East 'A' Street, Deer Park: Marilyn Reilly, Bill Sebright, Wally Parker, Pat Parker, Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Rick Brodrick, Jeff Clark, Mark Bryant, Mike Reiter, Roxanne Camp, Chuck Lyons, and Michael Wolfe.

Society President Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He reported that: 1) He received an order for "Reports to the C/DPHS," volumes 1 through 4, from Gayle Davis Harper, Deer Park High School class of 1967. She wanted them for her brother Gerry who still lives in Big Foot Valley. 2) Ben from The Depot railroad museum in Ritzville called looking for contact information for Gordon Grove. He understood Gordon could help them restore an antique National cash register. Unfortunately, Gordon couldn't help

them. 3) Melissa Silvio, Valley Historical Society Vice President, sent pictures of a 1908 post card showing the Valley train station. They are writing an article about the station and wanted information about it. Pete Coffin told her that the railroad at that time was called "The Snake" because it was so curvy. That will be part of the article.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported by email: The main checking account ended the month at \$7,653.33. There were deposits of \$205. Checks were written for \$100 to Taffy Long for Eagle maintenance. The web hosting account ended the month at \$1030.95 with a withdrawal of \$41.01 for web hosting and a deposit of \$484.98. The Brickyard Day account is at \$1,945.33.

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 January *Mortarboard* (#141) have been printed for distribution and a PDF version has been forwarded to the Society's website for online posting. Also, a printable PDF has been forwarded to the Loon Lake Library for their use. 2) The current 16-page issue begins with part three of "A History of the Deer Park Fair: 1931 Through 1946." Next is a piece by Peter Coffin and Chuck Lyons titled "Challenge Hill Steam Tractor Collection." The Letters/Brickbats column discusses how Deer Park got its name; a bit of history regarding the posting of street names in Deer Park; and a proposal for several more administrative positions that need to be created and occupied if the society has any hope of obtaining its mission goals. 3) You might notice a smudge on the current print copies of the *Mortarboard*. This appears to be an omen that the time for a printer replacement is nigh. If I can't discover a no-cost means of outing the damn spot, I'll wash my hands of it and go shopping for a next generation Brother HL-L6200DW. 4) Just a reminder that the Society currently needs volunteers for the following positions: vice-president, secretary, and webmaster. The position of vice-president has been vacant since January of 2018, and that of secretary since October of 2015 – Treasurer Mark Wagner having filled the secretary's duties in the intervening years. Since Mark is no longer able to attend monthly meetings, the secretary position is once again in need. It's also noted that Marie Morrill has been the Society's webmaster since February of 2014. She has indicated she needs to be released from that obligation at some point in the near future. These are all core positions within the Society, and especially important at a time when the society is taking on greater and greater responsibilities. It shouldn't be necessary to point out that expecting fewer and fewer people to take on an ever-increasing workload will eventually result in breakage (meaning we'll become smudgy and unreliable, like the society's

printer). 5) In that vein, the Editor of Print Publications wishes to remind everyone that now would be a good time for one or more volunteers to begin learning the ins and outs of Print Publications in anticipation of the given that at some point the current editor won't be able to carry out those functions on either a temporary or permanent basis. 6) The society has in its possession a framed, poster size World War 2 era honor roll listing active service members from the community of Clayton. This honor roll once hung in a Clayton storefront. It appears Deer Park had a similar device hanging in its post office during the war years. And reportedly both communities also had large, multi-star service flags representing all active service members in the community – one at Clayton, one at Deer Park's post office, and one in Deer Park's high school for serving attendees and graduates of that school – all said flags similar in intent to the blue and gold star service banners hanging in the windows of private homes. We're wondering if any of these other community devices have survived. We'd also appreciated any 'firsthand' information on how these large community service flags were laid out and displayed.

Webmaster Marie Morrill reported by email: 1) I have uploaded the January *Mortarboard* onto our web site. I also updated Pete's *Mortarboard* index (Thanks Pete!). 2) I put the You Tube link on the website for the KPBS Prestini video — in two places. It is on Page 3 of Prestini and in the Videos under Publications. 3) I will not be at the Saturday meeting. I'll be in Okinawa visiting our son.

Pete Coffin reported: 1) He reviewed the Nancy Fisher donated written material and photographs. The Doris Schaub manuscript is an early draft of an April 2001 Nostalgia magazine article. Most of the photographs in her package are already in my files. One photograph that is not is of the Deer Park Methodist Church and it is the only one I have seen. I would like to know where the picture identified as "Smith's Store" is located. The Hazard Store picture is also of interest. 2) The 1982 Deer Park High School Antler Annual

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.

has been digitized. 3) An update of the *Mortarboard* index (through December 2019) has been sent to Web Master M. Morrill. 4) President Sebright directed a Melissa Silvio to contact me about the source of the Spokane Falls and Northern Railroad's "Snake" nickname. Along with providing her a source reference for this nickname I scanned and sent her eight other reference sources including several Valley and Springdale photographs. 5) I am finishing a possible *Mortarboard* photo essay titled "Deer Park's Lumber Sawmill" utilizing many of the 1910-1912 Short/Congregational Church photographs of the mill taken shortly after its 1910 construction along with a description of the activity documented by the photographs.

Mike Reiter reported: 1) Mike purchased shelves at Bi-Mart for our storeroom.

Twelve people reserved t-shirts. He ordered 20, so there are 8 to sell to anyone who wants one or more. They are \$20 each.

Marilyn Reilly reported that Tom Costigan is no longer with the *Tribune*.

Nancy Fisher reported by email that she found the Leuthold house and grounds pictures. She wasn't able to attend today's meeting because of weather.

It's dues time again, \$20 per household.

Does anyone have ideas for the field trip to Chuck Lyons Challenge Hill after the May Society meeting?

Next meeting Saturday, February 8, 2020, at 10:00 AM at our new building.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.

— end —

### 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.

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

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.