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*Illustration from The Inland Printer, February, 1913.*

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## *The Arcadia Orchards*

by

*Peter Coffin*

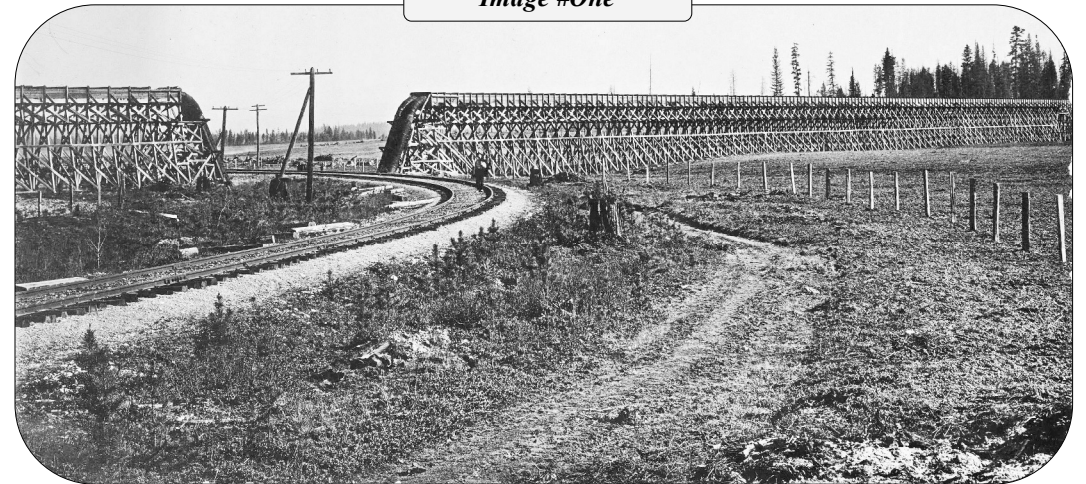
The Arcadia Orchards concept grew out of an increasing public desire in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to own an irrigated tract of land. An ex-mayor of Spokane and insurance salesman, Floyd L. Daggett, and his

engineer brother-in-law, John McIntyre, saw potential in the lakes and logged off lands north of Spokane in the Deer Park area to become an irrigated apple orchard from which five to ten-acre tracts could be sold to people.

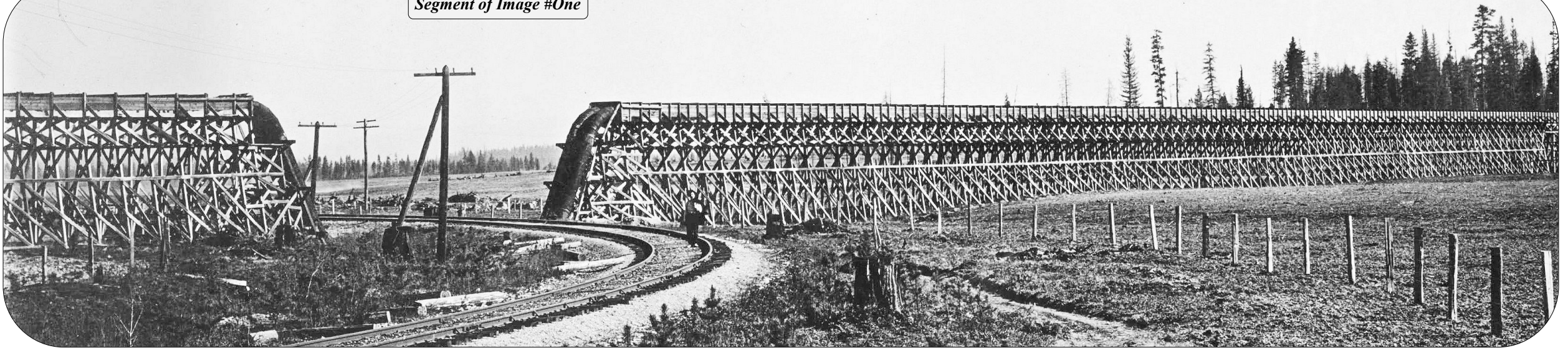
*A Segment of the Arcadia Orchards Company's Low-Line Canal Trestle in 1908.*

*Photo taken southeast of Deer Park along present-day Dalton Road.  
(Image from the Gordon Daggett collection, Northwest Room, Spokane Public Library.)*

*Image #One*



Segment of Image #One



**Above and Right:**

*As illustrated here, the water being transported in the elevated portion of the Arcadia Orchards' Low-Line flume crossed under the railroad tracks south of Deer Park via an inverted siphon — often referred to simply as a siphon in the company's literature. In that era such siphons were often constructed of wooden planks, their chamfered, tongue and grooved lineal edges being assembled into a continuous length of hollow pipe compressed by metal hoops. Such pipes could be woven in a variety of diameters — measured from inches to yards. In certain circumstances the outside of these pipes would be coated with a tarlike substance to prevent the wood from drying out, shrinking, and leaking. It's believed a good portion of the wood used in the Arcadia's flumes and siphons was scavenged for use in area homes, barns and fences after the company collapsed.*

Segment of Image #One



In 1906 the Arcadia Irrigation Association was organized, and a loan was obtained from various investors and the Netherlands American Mortgage Company to purchase land and begin construction of an irrigation system. Upon re-incorporation in 1909 the Irrigation Association name was changed to the Arcadia Orchards Company. At first 4,473 acres of logged off land southeast of Deer Park was purchased.

Daggett and McIntyre's business plan promised to clear the buyer's acreage, plant it to apple trees, and cultivate it for four years. At the end of this time Arcadia turned over to the buyer a completed orchard tract with a perpetual water right. The buyer was expected to pay off the purchase price of \$120 per acre on terms of one dollar down and one dollar per month to be paid from orchard profits. This concept of finished orchard tracts was the answer to many peoples' dreams and almost as soon as they were advertised the response was overwhelming and the staff was unable to keep up with the demand. To finance the irrigation system in 1907 Arcadia floated a \$100,000 bond issue and borrowed on the security of some of its land. Before the first year

was out the price per acre was raised to \$300 per acre and a year later raised to \$400 per acre. In 1909 Saint Louis lawyer Edward N. Robinson and Deer Park businessman Olaf L. Olsen had joined the company and forced Daggett and McIntyre out. Robinson became President and Olsen Secretary of the company. Sales of Arcadia Orchards tracts were advertised and sold in the eastern United States, Canada, and England. By 1911 the company had assembled over 18,000 acres of land, planted over 8,000 acres of apple trees, and advertised itself as one of the largest orchards in the world. In the same year Loon Lake water was opened into the highline irrigation canal with a ceremony including the attendance of a trainload of eighty Spokane dignitaries. This was recorded in a promotional film that the Historical Society has digitized.

Dragoon Creek had been dammed to form Dragoon Lake as a water reservoir to supply the low line canal system. By appropriating Loon Lake water for a beneficial use, the Arcadia Company had senior water rights there and had previously purchased water rights to Deer Lake. A canal was dug connecting Deer Lake to Loon Lake and a flume was



*An Arcadia Orchards Map — Circa 1914.*

*The flow of irrigation water begins at the southern end of Loon Lake, extracted through a ditch, tunnel, and then a flume. As seen, the irrigation water then uses the streambed of Beaver Creek for approximately a mile before being raised by a dam and diverted into a flume for its passage north of Clayton then eastward. This upper segment is called the High Line Canal. As the High Line's flow descends into an inverted siphon, part of the water is diverted into the south flowing streambed of Dragoon Creek. At the Dragoon Creek Reservoir dam — also known as Deer Park's millpond — the water level is raised and a portion of the creek's flow diverted into the southern trending Low Line Canal.*

constructed to bring Grouse Creek water to Deer Lake. In 1913 the original Dragoon Creek dam was replaced by the concrete one seen today. By this time, the orchards were producing commercial quantities of apples and the monthly labor payroll amount seasonally exceeded that of the sawmill.  
 During the first ten years of operation

the area's short growing season and periodic hard summer frosts hurt apple production. One Spokane financial company that had been approached for start-up funds had refused to loan the money based on their recognition of this problem. Another problem was in the Wagner, Jonathan and Rome Beauty varieties of apple trees that they had planted. Sales

*Special thanks to Karen Meyer and the Loon Lake Historical Society for permission to use this image from that group's extensive Arcadia Orchards Company collection.*

Image #Two

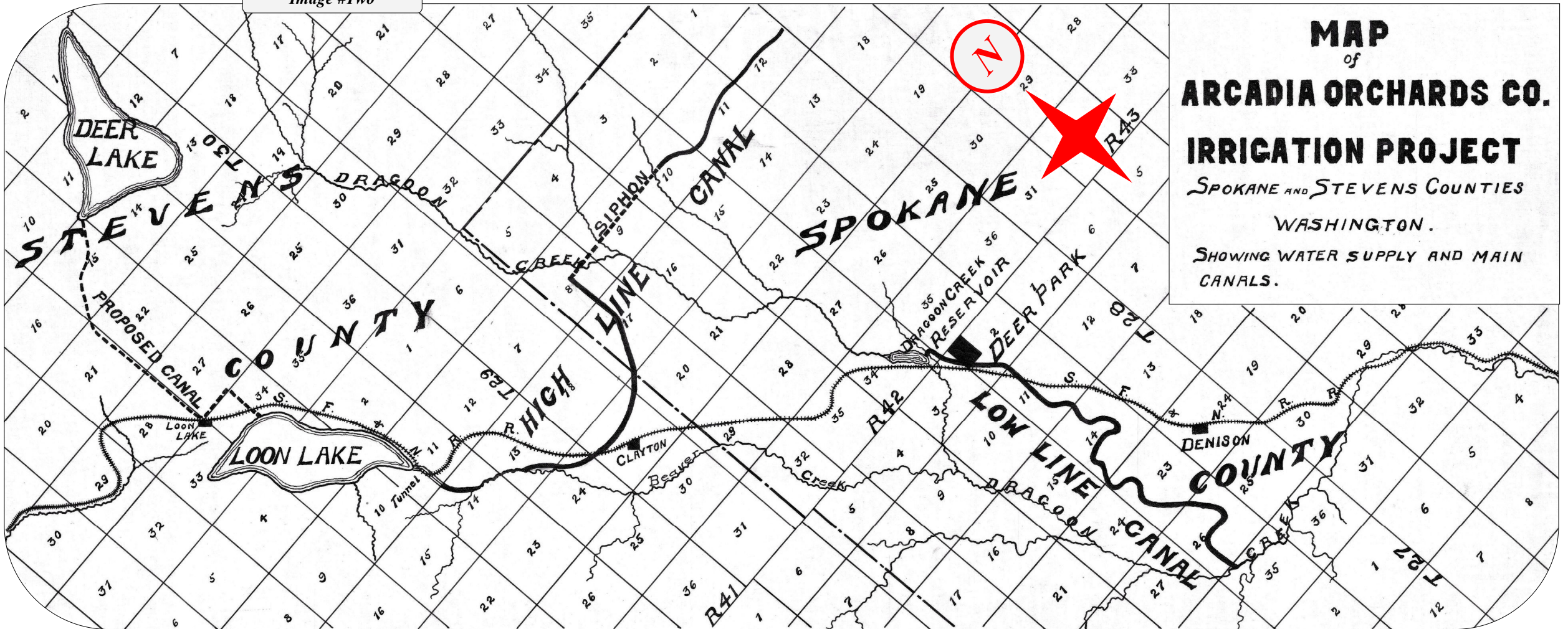






Image #Three

**The Arcadia Orchards Company's Dragoon Creek Reservoir.**  
(Also known as Deer Park's millpond.)

*The original (prior to 1913) dirt-filled wooden dam and flood spillway. The objective appears to have been to raise the level of Loon Lake water spilled by the High Line Canal into the upper reach of Dragoon Creek enough to direct such by flume and underground siphon through Deer Park to the point at which it was pumped upward into the Low Line Canal's south flowing flume.*

*(Image from the Gordon Daggett collection, Northwest Room, Spokane Public Library.)*

declined because of competition with the Red Delicious variety grown in the Yakima Valley. The onset of World War I saw the largest apple production, but this was affected by the shortage of railroad cars available to ship the apples to market.

Financial problems arose when the company failed to pay either interest or principal on the loans they had obtained from the Netherlands American Mortgage Company, as well as other organizations. An arrangement with these companies managed to delay the company's failure into the 1920s.

After World War I sales of the Arcadia apple crop declined along with the slow national economic conditions and the reces-

sion of the early 1920s. These hard times affected the tract owner's ability to make payments on their loans and the newspapers were filled with foreclosure notices. Apparently, the contracts the tract owners had signed contained a no-recourse clause and as a result many lost everything they had invested in their orchard. At the same time the Netherlands American Mortgage Company took control of the Arcadia Orchards Company and began selling off orchard lands in direct competition with company management.

By 1925 the Arcadia Orchards Company was failing to maintain the irrigation system as well as the orchards it supervised, and the company managers had become mere

salesmen. As a result, the orchards declined and only those solvent individual tract owners continued to grow and sell apples.

The Arcadia Orchards did not fail because of a lack of irrigation water as the grade school grounds sign states. The compa-

ny failed because of poor financial planning, a short growing season accompanied by killing midsummer frosts, uncompetitive apple varieties, and poor national economic conditions.

— end —

**Select Articles for Further Reading: The Arcadia Orchards**

**"Construction of the Arcadia Orchards Irrigation System,"** by Peter Coffin.  
Mortarboard #25, May 2010 — page 313 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 7.  
[http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter\\_25\\_downsizedsinglepageweb.pdf](http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_25_downsizedsinglepageweb.pdf)

**"Arcadia Orchards and the Smudge Pot,"** by Peter Coffin.  
Mortarboard #55, November 2012 — page 673 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 15.  
[http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter\\_55\\_downsizedsinglepageweb.pdf](http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_55_downsizedsinglepageweb.pdf)

**"Arcadia Orchards and Irrigation Water,"** by Peter Coffin.  
Mortarboard #56, December 2012 — page 685 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 15.  
[http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter\\_56\\_downsizedsinglepageweb.pdf](http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_56_downsizedsinglepageweb.pdf)

**"Edward Nelson Robinson, President Arcadia Orchards Company,"** Peter Coffin.  
Mortarboard #90, October 2015 — page 1149 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 24.  
[http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard\\_issue\\_90\\_doublepage\\_web.pdf](http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard_issue_90_doublepage_web.pdf)

**"Origin of the Arcadia Orchards Company's Low Line Canal,"** Peter Coffin.  
Mortarboard #96, April 2016 — page 1249 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 26.  
[http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard\\_issue\\_96\\_doublepage\\_web.pdf](http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard_issue_96_doublepage_web.pdf)

**"Opening Loon Lake Water into the Arcadia Orchards System,"** Peter Coffin.  
Mortarboard #129, January 2019 — page 1785 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 37.  
[http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter\\_129\\_web\\_pdf](http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_129_web_pdf)

**YouTube Video: Arcadia Orchards Film.**

**Complete vintage film with modern enhancements by Mike Reiter.**  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFZEd-XBedw>)

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# *A Dark Reflection:*

## *1918's Pandemic*

### *in the Clayton ♦ Deer Park Community.*

#### *(Part One)*

by  
**Wally Lee Parker**

*When reviewing the history of 1918's pandemic, it's clear that the medicine of that period had little to offer the stricken. Due to poor or incomplete record keeping, the exact death rate among the infected — though doubtless high — isn't known. The primary reason for this high rate, antibiotics that would knock down the bacterially induced pneumonic suffocation that rose secondary to the virus had yet to be discovered — as did the majority of the other medical intervention now routinely used to support recovery from severe infections. Unlike most influenzas, 1918's version didn't induce the majority of its mayhem among the very young and very old. Rather, for reasons poorly understood, it tended to attack those in the prime of life. And during wartime, with young men clustered in military camps, the virus often found an environment seemingly designed for its spread. One of the most pressing concerns of that era's medical community was that the overwhelming numbers of infected would simply crush their ability to respond. Sad to say, the most striking lesson drawn from reading newspaper accounts of 1918's pandemic is how often they darkly reflect the same political, economic, and social concerns being expressed during our current influenza crisis.*

... a struggle to understand ...

It was about 1970. I was attending an evening class in biology at Spokane Falls Community College. Someone had asked an extremely specific question regarding the structure and chemical nature of living cells, and the instructor — Mr. Peck — replied, "Look, people. What we're studying right now is on the very frontier of human knowledge. In maybe twenty or thirty years we'll have an answer to that question. But right now, we just don't know."

In the fifty years since, the substance of the question asked in that dimly recalled

lecture hall has completely vaporized from my memory. But my suspicion is Mr. Peck would have been astounded at the ever-accelerating pace at which knowledge about the structure and chemical nature of living cells has been accumulating. Probably the two innovations most responsible for that acceleration are the ability of computers to remove much of the drudgery from incredibly complex scientific problems, and a series of heretofore inconceivable advances in our ability to image the incredibly small. Both of these tools, singularly and combined, have opened new windows into the complexity of living organisms. And in the case of viruses, the complexity of a vast

world of almost living organisms.

The first known use of the word influenza in reference to a disease process occurred in 1580 when the Italian historian Pietro Buoninsegni (I've yet to discover a birth and death date for this gentleman) used it to describe an epidemic that had occurred in Florence, Italy, in 1386 — or so claims Doctor Richard Sisley (1856—1904), then of London's Royal College of Physicians, in his 1891 book *Epidemic Influenza: Notes on Its Origin and Method of Spread*. Once again according to Doctor Sisley, somewhere around the year 1750 the word, as presently understood, moved into the English language.

The literal meaning of the Italian word "influenza" is "influence" — this stated meaning being just as nebulous as the actual understanding of the disease process was in Buoninsegni's time. Since Buoninsegni's work predates the development of the microscope by several decades, when he was researching Florence's epidemic the existence of microorganisms was speculation at best. And the occasional suggestion that creatures too small to be seen might be a factor in dis-

ease processes was largely discounted for the first several centuries after the existence of living microbes was revealed. Instead, non-corporeal influences such as malevolent odors or obnoxious spirits continued to be considered the causative source of disease. The transition to a general acceptance of the modern era's germ theory didn't begin until the latter half of the nineteenth century and doesn't appear to have been fully accepted as fact within the medical community until the beginning of the twentieth.

***"The disease is here and the situation is almost certain to become worse. ... The public must be brought to realize that we are facing a serious situation and that it is a patriotic duty to render every aid possible."***

— **Dr. Thomas Tuttle, Washington State Health Commissioner.**

One of the contentions put forward in Doctor Sisley's epidemic influenzas book was that "influenza is contagious" — something still being argued as of 1891. To bolster his view, Sisley included the following passage drawn out of a letter penned to him by the highly regarded bacteriologist Edward Emanuel Klein.

*"That a microbe must be the primary cause of the disease (influenza) is suggested by the epidemic character and by the infectiousness of the disorder. No other theory, as for instance that of peculiar atmospheric conditions, can for a moment be considered as*

#### **Germ Theory:**

***"In no department of medicine is there a greater separation between our present knowledge and the views of our ancestors than in Aetiology (the study of causes). In most other branches of medical science, we stand upon the shoulders of those who preceded us. ... But the knowledge of the causes of disease is an acquisition of the most recent times, is the work only of the present generation. ... It is only within the last twenty years or less that evidence is accumulating showing that many elements to which flesh is heir are due to the invasion of the organism by microscopic parasites or their germs. Daily, almost, new facts are discovered which substantiate more and more this germ theory of disease. In light of the germ theory, diseases are to be considered as a struggle between the organism and the parasites invading it. As far as the germ theory is applicable, it eliminated the factor "accident" from the consideration of disease and assigns disease a place in the Darwinian programme of nature."***

— **Doctor Henry Gradle, "Bacteria and the Germ Theory," 1883.**



*compatible with the fundamental and well ascertained fact that the disease is in a high degree an infectious disease. ... In all epidemic diseases the spread from person to person cannot be explained by any but a living and self-multiplying essence. The particular specific microbes find entrance into the system of one or more susceptible bodies; herein they multiply and set up the particular disease."*

According to my *Random House Dictionary*, the term virus is a Latin word that entered the English language sometime between the year 1590 and 1600. I haven't found the specific meaning attached to it at that time, though such was likely similar to its Latin meaning, that being descriptive of a "venomous or poisonous secretion."

The evolution of the word virus into its current meaning is generally credited to Martinus Beijerinck (1851—1931), a Dutch microbiologist and botanist. In 1898 the doctor published a paper translated as "Concerning a Contagium Vivum Fluidum as Cause of the Spot Disease of Tobacco Leaves." Most internet translation programs convert the Latin part of the title — "contagium vivum fluidum" — into "living fluid contamination." When referencing this "living fluid" in his paper, Doctor Beijerinck used the word "virus" — marking that term in future scientific literature as indicative of a disease agent.

Six years before Beijerinck's paper, Russian botanist Dmitri Ivanousky (1864—1920) published several papers regarding his efforts to filter the agent responsible for the above noted tobacco mosaic disease out of emulsified samples. Dmitri used unglazed porcelain filters — a type developed to remove particles down to the size of then known bacteria. Since the liquid passing through Dmitri's filters could still infect previously disease-free tobacco plants, it suggested the unseen infectious agent was smaller than microscopes of the day could resolve.

After Martinus Beijerinck's above noted 1898 papers appeared, Ivanousky began an even more complex set of experiments us-

ing the seaweed extract agar as a second-stage filtering media to ascertain whether tobacco mosaic's infectious agent was a particle or a liquid — the latter as Beijerinck hypothesized. The results strongly suggested the causative agent in tobacco mosaic was not a "living fluid," but rather an exceedingly small organism of some type. In Ivanousky's words, his later experiments proved "the completely untenable hypothesis" of a "living fluid" could be discounted.

By the time 1918's global pandemic erupted, it was generally assumed viruses were something akin to bacteria, but a class apart. In 1926 that understanding was modified to describe them as "obligate parasites," meaning they, as a class of biological matter, could "only" copy themselves by entering into and using the internal working of more complex host cells.

It wasn't until 1939 that the electron microscope had developed sufficiently to visualize viruses directly — that being a necessary part of discovering their true nature.

During my lifetime scientists have reduced the chemical description of viruses to that of protein shells filled with strands of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) or ribonucleic acid (RNA). (The strands inside 1918's virus were RNA.) Whether these structures constitute something living or not is an ongoing debate. What we do know is that they — as sometimes helpful, sometimes harmful, but most often benign biological structures — are a necessary underpinning within the self-replicating portion of the organic world. And medical science suggests understanding them fully is the only chance we humans have of gaining a permanent advantage over those among them able to do us damage.

... a forensic challenge ...

In early March of 1918 reports of a late winter bloom of influenza striking various military camps within the United States began to circulate. It's now assumed this was the first wave of 1918's pandemic. Apparently

based on this March bloom, one modern-era theory places the geographic as well as biological origin of the pandemic within the central United States — specifically a rural area of Haskell County, Kansas. From there it reportedly jumped to Camp Funston on the Fort Riley military reservation. While an interesting theory with just enough documentation to make it worth some mild interest, credentialed scientists require a much higher evidentiary threshold before such musings can be seriously reviewed.

Nowadays we know the flu virus is in constant circulation among the planet's creatures, with the various intraspecies forms constantly mutating within their host through a process called "antigenic drift." Since these changes are generally small, humans having been infected by the last season's flu usually have at least a partial immunity to the next season's outbreak. But new influenza strains can occasionally cross to humans from a different species (and probably the same in reverse). For example, evidence suggests 1918's influenza had at some point prior to becoming a human disease used birds as its host — this being the reason humans had little if any "herd immunity" when 1918's virus, fairly new among humans, struck.

As well as across their various mutations, current technologies give us at least a partial ability to chronologically trace viruses along their geospatial movements. However, this ability to make detailed examinations of viral genetics is a recent development. Trying to apply such to the few remaining traces of hundred-year-old RNA strands presents challenges — meaning the scientific arguments arising amid this kind of research continue.

Though not immediately recognized at the time, when the virus's second-wave struck the eastern United States in August of 1918 something within the virus appears to have changed — almost as if the influenza's biological corrosiveness had been significantly upgraded from what had been seen in the spring. At the time, some were suspicious that the filth and carnage of the European war's

## MADE IN GERMANY

### Spanish Influenza Germs Transmitted by Hun Agents

Washington, Sept. 20—That the outbreaks of Spanish influenza, which have given army officials some concern, may have been started by German agents who were put ashore from a submarine, is the belief expressed by Lieut.-Col. Phillip S. Doane, head of the health and sanitation section of the Emergency Fleet Corporation.

"It is quite possible that the epidemic was started by Huns sent ashore by Boche submarine commanders," he said. "We know that men have been ashore from German submarine boats, for they have been in New York and other places. It would be quite easy for one of these German agents to turn loose Spanish influenza germs in a theatre or some other place where large numbers of persons are assembled.

"The Germans have started epidemics in Europe, and there is no reason why they should be particularly gentle with America. Of course, there is no way of proving that the disease was started here by German submarine agents, but it is well within the range of possibility."

### World War I Conspiracy Theory.

The above article appeared in the September 20, 1918 issue of *The Evening Caledonian*, a newspaper published in St. Johnsbury, Vermont. The Emergency Fleet Corporation mentioned above was a federal agency charged with operating the government's merchant marine fleet.

killing fields was the petri dish in which these changes occurred. That still seems a reasonable observation

... a second wave comes ashore ...

In its August 4<sup>th</sup> 1918 edition, the magazine section of the *Sun* (a New York City newspaper) carried the lengthy, multipart headline “Spanish Influenza Widespread, but Not Severe: Present Epidemic in Europe Believed to Have Had Its Origin in Abnormal Weather Conditions.” The article that followed began, “The epidemic of the disease popularly termed Spanish Influenza appears to be general over a considerable part of Europe. While attention was particularly directed to it after its outbreak in Spain a few weeks ago, there can be no doubt that it has been epidemic in a very severe form in Germany, Austria, and the territories occupied by the Central Powers during the last two years.”

That said, by mid-August the pandemic’s late summer wave appears to have splashed into at least several maritime cities along America’s eastern seaboard. One well documented arrival was in New York City’s harbor. Previously alerted by wireless that 11 crewmembers and 10 passengers were severely symptomatic of influenza, on August 11<sup>th</sup> city health officials were waiting on the dock when the Norwegian ocean liner Bergensfjord arrived. From available reports it appears only passengers and crew showing symptoms were quarantined. How adequate that may have been on a ship capable of carrying 1,200 souls — many of whom may have been infected but not yet showing signs — is questionable.

Just over a month later, under the headline “Spanish Influenza to Sweep Country, Surgeon Blue Fears,” the September 17, 1918 edition of the *New York Tribune* attributed the following quote to United States Surgeon General, Rupert Blue — the “Surgeon Blue” noted in the headline. “The only way to prevent the spread of the influenza is a complete stopping of travel and this is impossible. The epidemic can be lessened, however, if

those having the ailment will desist from mingling with others and will place themselves in the hands of competent physicians for home treatment.”

It should be noted that finding a “competent physician” was becoming something of a problem. For example, Deer Park’s Dr. H. H. Slater received his induction notice by telegram on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1918. Within a few weeks he’d joined the large number of doctors and nurses serving in the military, leaving one less doctor in northern Spokane County.

The article added, “Surgeon General Blue declared that the mortality from the disease was extremely light and that it responded readily to treatment in the case of persons who ordinarily are of good health. He said that only the aged and infirm are likely to succumb to the ailment.” As the epidemic advanced and the data accumulated, Dr. Blue’s last assertions proved in grievous error.

In the same September 17<sup>th</sup> issue of the *New York Tribune*, under the lead “13 New Influenza Cases Reported Here Yesterday,” the newspaper stated that New York City’s Health Commissioner, Royal S. Copeland, “is convinced that this so-called new disease is not a new disease at all, but simply a recurrence of what he describes as the old-fashion influenza.” This also proved an error.

This following news-blip was found on page eight of the *Seattle Star*’s September 23<sup>rd</sup> issue. Regarding the Army’s large Camp Lewis training center some thirty-five miles southwest of Seattle, the newspaper reported, “Influenza cases treated by army doctors during the past month total 173. according to the weekly health report. The majority of cases developed among new draft men.”

As to the murkiness surrounding the pandemic’s first appearance in Washington State, an article clipped from the September 27<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Weston Leader* suggests a plausible reason. Under the bold heading “Epidemic at Camp Lewis Declared Not Spanish Influenza,” the small-town weekly located in Umatilla County, Oregon, carried this wire report, “Camp Lewis, Tacoma. — ‘Influenza

has assumed the proportions of a mild epidemic, especially among recruits,’ according to the weekly summary of communicable diseases issued by the camp sanitary inspector, Captain V. L. Bishop.

“One hundred and fifteen cases of influenza were reported during the week.

“The influenza here is not the Spanish Influenza which has been found in some eastern camps and cities, according to Camp Lewis officers. The Spanish type, they say, develops pneumonia among many sufferers while this rarely occurs with influenza patients here. The disease here is usually checked and patients discharged from the hospital in three days.”

Despite the hypothesis that influenza was only the “Spanish” type if it resulted in pneumonia, several days prior to the above report Dr. Thomas Tuttle, Washington State’s increasingly concerned health commissioner, exchanged telegrams with Surgeon General Rupert Blue. This exchange was preserved in Washington State’s *Twelfth Biennial Report of the State Board of Health for the Years Ending September 30, 1917 and September 30, 1918*.

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1918.  
Blue, Washington, D.C.:

Intrastate quarantine Spanish Influenza under consideration. What period of quarantine if any do you recommend? Answer.  
Tuttle.

Washington, D.C., Sept. 25, 1918.  
Tuttle, Seattle, Wash.:

Service does not recommend quarantine against influenza.  
Blue.

The September 26<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Washington (D.C.) Herald* placed the epidemic on its front page with an article that, in just its first three paragraphs, gives the deepening outbreak a new perspective.

“Spanish Influenza in the army camps yesterday took toll of 5,324 new cases, with an

additional 644 new cases of pneumonia, frequently a complication of Spanish Influenza. The total number of influenza cases in the camps to date is 29,002.

“The total for the civilian population is not yet known. Surgeon General Rupert Blue, of the United States Public Health Service, explained that the disease was not reportable by law, but that twenty-six states thus far are included in the epidemic.

“Yesterday for the first-time cases were reported from the Pacific Coast, epidemic in the State of Washington and sporadic in California.”

The article also noted the strain the outbreak was placing on existing medical resources, stating, “The alarming spread of the world epidemic so quickly in the United States and the overcrowding of hospitals in epidemic centers brought about a hasty meeting today of the medical chiefs of the army, navy, Red Cross and United States Public Health Service to discuss means of aiding the civilian medical authorities.”

Later on the article mentioned the development by the Red Cross of a “germ mask” consisting of “four layers of thin clean gauze, arranged so as to cover the mouth and nose of the wearer and designed to act as a filter against germs.”

An even starker picture of the true nature of the enveloping epidemic was painted that same day in a bylined article appearing in the *Seattle Sun*. “Boston, Mass., Sept. 26. — Boston is panic-stricken by the epidemic of Spanish Influenza which is seeping toward the west and south like a medieval plague and threatens to overwhelm the whole country.

“With the city depleted of doctors and nurses by the war, those remaining are staggering under the work of trying to keep the epidemic under control.

“People are being stricken down in the street, offices, subway, theaters and ship-yards. The hospitals are crowded to the limit, and under strict quarantine to visitors.

“As many as 100 victims have died in one night in Boston alone. Whole families

have been wiped out.”

The article outlined the nature of the disease in blunt terms.

*“Inclined at first to regard the epidemic as nothing worse than a visitation of bad colds, Boston has now bitterly learned that Spanish Influenza is something far different. In medical terms, it is an infectious febrile (fever inducing) disorder, due to a specific (as hypothesized at the time) bacillus. Its chief danger is the risk of relapse with serious complications — generally pneumonia. It often stimulates other diseases. Heart attacks, for instance, are common, not from organic disease but from direct poisoning of the heart muscles by the influenza.”*

*“Having been aroused to the danger, Boston is now taking extraordinary precautions against further spread of the disease. Big placards posted all over the city threaten dire penalties to spitters. Telephone transmitters are being disinfected. Visiting at the prisons has been prohibited. Public schools are being closed down, over 500 pupils having been stricken.”*

The article finishes with a radical revision of medical thought — said revision based on the accumulating epidemiological statistics. Inexplicably, the age group most likely to suffer fatal consequences from infection were those twenty to forty years old, and otherwise in good health.

The article states, *“Spanish Influenza respects only extreme youth and those over middle age. The invasion of the disease is apparently sudden. The victim may one minute feel well, and the next be stricken with acute pains all over, while on the street walking or at work. Then follows vertigo and nausea and shivering. The temperature is high at the very onset of the disease. During the first 24 hours it ranges from 100 degrees, in mild cases, to 105 in severe.”*

With all this the delusion that the

disease was just the seasonal flu finally began to dissolve.

**... Spokesman-Review says influenza here ...**

If there was any question, the frontpage headline in the *Spokesman-Review*'s September 29<sup>th</sup> 1918 issue made it clear. *“Influenza Here; Public Warned.”* Lower bold-print lines added, *“State Board of Health Says Outlook is Serious.”*

The article's lead paragraph read, *“Vigorous measures to combat the so-called Spanish Influenza were outlined at the regular semi-annual meeting of the State Board of Health held at (Spokane's) Davenport (Hotel) Friday and yesterday and attended by (health board members) Dr. J. R. Brown, Tacoma, president; Dr. T. E. Hedges, Everett; Mrs. R. C. McCready, Sunnyside; Dr. T. D. Tuttle, Seattle, State Health Commissioner.”*

As outlined in the article, the board did make the mistake of stating the *“so called Spanish Influenza”* was simply a re-visitiation by the same influenza causing a worldwide pandemic beginning in 1889 and recurring for several years after — an understandable error considering the science of the time. But then their forecast as to what was to be expected over the course of current epidemic proved fairly sound.

To quote the *Spokesman-Review*'s report *“Successive waves of the malady may be expected in the next six weeks to two months, they assert, and if the situation becomes serious it may be necessary to prevent all public gatherings, close theaters, churches and Sunday schools and, perhaps, even the public schools throughout the state.”*

The expectation that the disease was already in Spokane County was outlined as follows. *“We have been informed unofficially that of about 1,600 men recently sent to naval stations on Puget Sound fully 10 percent were*

*afflicted with the disease, and we have every reason to believe that it has reached Spokane. It is a disorder that spreads rapidly in a community, being transmitted through the secretions of the nose and throat, and we know that it is spread rapidly by large gatherings of people.”*

Doctor Tuttle noted, *“These are war times and the most stringent measures must be adopted to conserve and protect the public health. The disease is here. and the situation is almost certain to become worse.”* As a final thought he added, *“The public must be brought to realize that we are facing a serious situation and that it is a patriotic duty to render every aid possible.”*

The next day the *Spokane Chronicle*, under the subheading *“Health Officer Prepares to Meet the Epidemic if It Heads This Way,”* quoted Doctor J. B. Anderson, the

city's health officer, as stating, *“So far as I know there is yet no sign of an epidemic of Spanish Influenza in Spokane, but if an epidemic does come, all places of public gathering will be immediately and tightly closed until the danger is passed.”*

**... taking notice ...**

Since the pandemic's mid-August arrival on the east coast, things had changed. For example, the *New York Tribune*'s newspaper for Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, headlined *“2,503 Influenza Cases for Day,”* that among the city's approximately five million residents. Another front-page article noted *“Ninety-three more soldiers died at Camp Sherman (Ohio) from Spanish Influenza between 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon and 11 o'clock this morning, according to reports made by military authori-*

**Dr. John Birkhead Anderson — Spokane's City Health Officer, circa 1918.**

*Regarding Dr. Anderson, the 1913 edition of Who's Who on the Pacific Coast states he was born in Missouri in 1868 — Birkhead being his mother's surname. In 1892 he was degreed by the Saint Louis Medical College, Washington University, Missouri. The April 1900 issue of the Medical Sentinel newsletter noted that “Dr. J. B. Anderson of St. Louis, Missouri, has located in Rosalia, Washington.” The April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1902 edition of the Colfax Gazette followed up with, “Dr. J. B. Anderson has been employed as health officer at Rosalia for one year for \$100.” He appears to have continued there for the next eight years. He was a member of the Spokane Medical Society, American Medical Association, American Public Health Association as of 1913. In February of 1919 Doctor Anderson became the successor of Doctor Thomas D. Tuttle as Washington State's Commissioner of Health.*

**Dr. Albert Ernest Stuht — Spokane County Health Officer, circa 1918.**

*According to the 1912-1913 edition of Polk's Medical Directory, Albert E. Stuht graduated from the John A. Creighton Medical Collage in Omaha, Nebraska in 1896. He appears to have arrived in Washington State's Whitman County shortly after, marrying Norma Hamilton there 1897. Between settling into the Colfax area and the date of the Polk's Directory's publication, he was a member and trustee of the Washington State Board of Medical Examiners, 1904-11, United States Pension Examiner, Colfax, Washington, the American Medical Association, the Washington State Medical Association, the Washington State Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis and the Spokane Medical Society.*



ties.

“A total of 576 soldiers have now died from the disease at the camp ...”

The deteriorating national situation caused the same day’s issue of the *Spokane Chronicle* to headline “City Acts to Stop Spread of Influenza: All Places of Public Gathering Are Closed by Municipal and County Authorities — Similar Order May Hit Whole State.”

The extensive article following noted, “All places of public gathering in Spokane, including schools, churches, theaters, dances, lodges and conventions are closed today by order of Dr. J. B. Anderson (see sidebar prior page), city health officer ...” As for the parts of Spokane County beyond the town’s city limits, the article reported, “Schools and public gatherings throughout the county were also closed by order of Dr. A. E. Stuht (see sidebar prior page), county physician.”

This action appears to have been in response to “a long-distance telephone conversation with Dr. Anderson late last night” in which “Dr. T. D. Tuttle, state health commissioner, stated that alarming reports of the spread of the disease throughout the state were received yesterday and that, if reports were of the same nature today, a rigid closing order would be issued.”

The October 10<sup>th</sup> issue of Spokane’s *Chronicle* reported “Every hospital in this city is at present crowded to capacity ...” And in response to the possibility that “present accommodations are likely to be swamped ... a large building in which several hundred beds may be placed is being sought by the health authorities for a temporary hospital should the Spanish Influenza epidemic grow greater than can be handled with present hospital accommodations.”

The newspaper also stated, “The Red Cross has mobilized every possible graduate nurse and woman who has had a course in practical nursing to meet any eventuality. ... Every nurse has signed an agreement to leave private practice and take up epidemic work immediately, if called upon.”

The *Spokesman-Review*’s contribution for October 10<sup>th</sup> included, “Thirty cases of suspected Spanish Influenza in Spokane were reported yesterday to the city health office ...” It was pointed out that some of the above “thirty cases” were “believed to be included in the hundred cases mentioned at the meeting of physicians Tuesday night, leaving the exact number of cases still unsettled yesterday.”

The simple fact was most districts across the United States did not require common influenza — the everyday flu — be reported to health authorities. As a result, early on the suspected cases of what might have been Spanish Influenza went largely unreported. Regarding this, the *Spokesman-Review*’s article stated “Dr. T. D. Tuttle, state commissioner of health at Seattle, yesterday sent Dr. Anderson a copy of a telegram from Surgeon General Blue of the United States Public Health service asking,” among other things, that “health officers ... make the disease reportable by the doctors.” In response, Dr. Tuttle “requested the Spokane Health Department ... call upon doctors to report all cases of Spanish Influenza immediately.”

To all this the article added, “Reports which reached the courthouse yesterday indicated that the quarantine order of County Health Officer Dr. A. E. Stuht was being observed in all parts of the county.”

With the prior Wednesday’s county-wide “all places of public gathering are closed” order, the *Deer Park Union*’s essential silence on news related to the influenza epidemic ended. This article, one of several such from the newspaper’s Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> issue, made clear the town’s intention to comply with the county’s dictate — though reading said article requires some creative guesswork since that specific area of the paper was at some point damaged during the last one hundred and one years.

“Mr. H. H. Evans, city health officer, is the busiest man in town (illegible) cooperating with the state health officers in preparing to meet the threatened epidemic of (illegible) so-called Spanish Flu by the (city?). He has

matters well in hand, and if the citizens will comply with his orders, there is very little to fear in Deer Park from the disease. The schools closed Wednesday night, as well as the moving picture (theaters?). The churches

will observe the (county’s?) order as well. The (way to?) prevent the disease from (becoming?) epidemic is to obey (illegible).”

... to be continued ...

## Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

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

... moving Loon Lake into Idaho ...

Cruising around the internet — as editors are wont to do — I ran across the following article on the front page of the February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1892 edition of the *Washington Standard*. Founded at Olympia in 1860, this newspaper covered a good portion of our state’s territorial and-then-some history before ceasing publication in 1921. The article in question was puzzling, as many stories are when the reader isn’t aware of the context surrounding — said context assumed to be known by those readers who were around when the story was first published.

To quote the article in its entirety, “Senator McConnell feels confident that he can secure from the Secretary of the Interior

an order for its resurvey and that the results will be to add largely to the width of the Idaho panhandle. If he should succeed in his scheme and his idea should prove correct, Spokane would be in Idaho instead of Washington. Medical Lake would be very near the boundary, though in Washington, but Cheney, Marshall, and all the towns along the line of the Spokane and Palouse (Railroad) would belong to the panhandle. Colfax and Almota would be Idaho towns, and continuing north from Spokane the new addition would include all the Calispel (Calispell) Valley, Loon Lake, but not Chewelah or Colville, though a stone could be thrown from the former town across the new line.”

Well ... that didn’t happen.  
The most likely hatcher of this legis-

All 146 prior issues of the  
**Mortarboard**  
are available  
as free PDFs on the Society’s website.  
If you prefer paper, volumes in the Society’s archival  
**Collected Newsletters**  
are available for a small, cost defraying donation.



lative skullduggery was the above-mentioned Senator William John McConnell, one of the two senators originally chosen by the Idaho legislature to represent that newly minted state at the nation's capital. Probably due to the structural turmoil in trying to bootstrap a state government, he only held that office from December 18<sup>th</sup> 1890, till March 4<sup>th</sup> of the next year. According to the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*, the reason for ending his 76-day term was that he "was not a candidate for renomination."

What all this boils down to is that the senator had been out of office for just shy a year when the *Washington Standard's* article was published. As for the former senator's political ambitions, all ended well. On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1893, he began his first (then two year) term as Idaho's third governor. So, apparently having little better political mischief to get into between his two-and-a-half-month term as senator and his four years as governor, this Moscow, Idaho resident decided to try to steal a fair slice of Eastern Washington.

#### ... aiming for Newport, hitting Scotia ...

Irritated when your mail arrives sopping wet? This is from the December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1909 edition of the *Newport Miner*.

"Mail clerks on the Great Northern fast mail train do not seem to improve with practice in the throwing off of sacks of mail at this point. Monday evening the postmaster at Scotia sent up a sack of second-class mail, destined for Newport, which had been picked up along the railroad track near Scotia. It had either fallen under the train when thrown out at this station and was carried on the trucks until it fell off, or the mail clerk come to a realization of having passed the town and hastily threw it out when near Scotia, eight miles away. The sack was all cut to pieces and there is no way of telling to whom the mail matter was addressed. A continuation of the practice may tend to discourage the practice of sending orders to big concerns in the east to be forwarded by mail.

"Postmaster Towle makes complaint to the postal authorities each time the mail is destroyed, but so far nothing has been done in the matter, except to give the clerks a caution, which seems to be as promptly disregarded. On several occasions sacks thrown out for this station when the train went through after dark were found next morning, some of them as much as 600 feet from the station."

#### ... Yoke's Grocery Store ...

From the *Deer Park Union*, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1946.

"Marshall Yoke, former Deer Park mail carrier, this week purchased Young's grocery from Frank Young and G. F. Schonfeld. The transaction took place as of Monday, January 7, but Mr. Yoke didn't take over active management until Thursday.

"The store will be known in the future as Yoke's Grocery and will be operated along the same general lines as it was under the management of Bud Schonfeld.

"Frank Young, proprietor of the store since its opening 18 years ago, has not taken an active part in the management of the business for several years. He says that he has no plans for the future except that he is sure he is going to continue to make Deer Park his home.

"G. F. (Bud) Schonfeld, manager of Young's, says he is going to take a good and much needed rest before making any plans for the future."

#### ... Lauer's Funeral Home ...

From the *Deer Park Union*, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1943, this clipping details a bit of the history of one of Deer Park's most iconic landmarks

"The Lauer Funeral Home was moved this week to the old Dr. H. H. Slater residence. Mr. and Mrs. Lauer and family will make their residence in the rear of the building, which is being completely remodeled."

———— Wally Lee Parker ————

## Minutes of the Clayton ♦ Deer Park Historical Society — June 13, 2020 —

This is the third month the society's monthly meeting has been cancelled. President Bill Sebright noted, "I certainly hope this will be the last month that the COVID-19 pandemic will force us to cancel our meeting at the Deer Park museum. We are planning to meet outside in July if necessary. The following were reports collected and sent by email."

Society President Bill Sebright reported that: 1) He received a phone call from Delia (Dee) Kennedy saying how much she enjoys our *Mortarboards*. She officially joined the Society and sent a generous check. 2) We received an invoice from the Chamber of Commerce saying that the yearly dues are now \$100. We will have to discuss if we want to stay a member at that price. 3) He received a phone call from Deb Cromer. She was looking for information about a cabin that once was a stage stop near Republic. He gave her Sue Richart's email. Sue is with the Stevens County Historical Society. 4) He received great pictures from Marilyn Reilly. There are pictures of the old creamery, the Lasswell mill being torn down, and of Marilyn when she taught Junior High at Crawford School.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported the main checking account ended the month at \$7,806.09. The web hosting account ended the month at \$971.75 with a withdrawal of \$11.84 for web hosting. 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) The standard 120 copies of the June *Mortarboard* (#146) have been printed for distribution. Printable files of same have been forwarded to the Loon Lake Library and The Heritage Network. An online version has

been forwarded to the Society's webmaster for posting on the website. 2) An apparent glitch of unknown origin during the conversion of the June *Mortarboard's* color version from Microsoft Publisher to PDF resulted in an overly large PDF file. This was managed by restructuring Publisher's color file to grayscale during the PDF conversion process. We hope to resolve this problem going forward by further processing of certain color images prior to paste-up. 3) The June issue features an article by Pete Coffin titled "*W. H. Short's 1911 Sawmill*," and a "*Notes from the Office*" segment with photos of the vintage Chandler & Price paper cutter being moved from the *Deer Park Tribune's* office into storage at Deer Park Printing's shop. This month's "*Letter's/Brickbats*" column includes more materials related to the history of Deer Park's Slater Building and an article clipped from a 1903 issue of the *Spokane Press* mentioning Short Road and suggesting democracy is never easy.

Webmaster Damon Smathers reported: The June issue of the *Mortarboard* has been uploaded to the website. A note on the front page has been added letting viewers/members know the June meeting has been canceled. There is also a note letting viewers know that Brickyard Day is cancelled and Settlers activities in Mix Park are canceled for 2020. The Settlers Parade is still happening.

Pete Coffin reported that: 1) He submitted several possible *Mortarboard* manuscripts to Editor Parker including: "*Jefferson M. Moore, Early Deer Park Businessman*" and "*A Little History of Early Days*" which is an excerpt of Tom Irish's two newspaper articles of the same name. 2) He is still working on a draft of a manuscript describing the development of Deer Park's water system. 3) He is



planning to visit Washington State University's Library/Archives and scan all 150 photographs of the 1910-1915 construction of Long Lake dam when health/travel restrictions end.

Mike Reiter reported that: 1) He talked to Winnie Moore this week. She was looking for the Museum. Mike showed her where it was but didn't have his key — so he couldn't show her inside. Winnie is a Deer Park High School grad, lives in Spokane, and is a member of the Society. She is hoping to make it to the July meeting. 2) Regarding Deer Park's proposed historic bicycle trip; Mike talked to Danielle Holstine with the Chamber of Commerce. She is picturing a ride to local businesses. Ree West with the library district is picturing a ride to historic places. It sounds like we are going to all sit

down and discuss the ride. He also talked to Deron Schroeder about the ride. They have the same idea as Ree.

Our field trip to tour Chuck's tractor collection at Challenge Hill is still postponed. We are trying to figure out when we can reschedule it.

Brickyard Day has been cancelled for 2020.

Settlers Parade is still on. However, there will be no official activities in Mix Park.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, July 11, 2020, at 10:00 AM at our new building.

Minutes submitted by Bill Sebright, acting secretary.

— end —

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

From "The Coast" magazine, April, 1907



**See Yourself in Print.**

*The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society's department of Print Publications is always looking for original writings, classic photos, properly aged documents and the like that may be of interest to our readers. These materials should be rooted within, though not limited to, northern Spokane County, southeastern Stevens County, and southern Pend Oreille County. As for types of materials, family or personal remembrances are always considered. Articles of general historical interest — including pieces on natural history, archeology, geology and such — are likely to prove useful. In other words, we are always searching for things that will increase our readers' understanding and appreciation of this region's past. As for historical perspective; to us history begins whenever the past is dusty enough to have become noteworthy — which is always open to interpretation. From there it extends back as deep as we can see, can research, or even speculate upon.*

*Copyright considerations for any materials submitted are stated in the "Editorial, Copyright, and Reprint Concerns" dialog box found in this issue. For any clarifications regarding said policy, or any discussions of possible story ideas or the appropriateness of certain types of material and so on, please contact the editor via the email address supplied on the same page.*

— the editor —

**About our Group:**

*The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society was incorporated as a nonprofit association in the winter of 2002 under the title Clayton Historical Society. Our mission statement is found on the first page (upper left corner) of each issue of our newsletter, the Mortarboard.*

*Our yearly dues are \$20 dollars per family/household.*

*We are open to any and all that share an interest in the history of our region — said region, in both a geographic and historic sense, not limited to the communities in our group's name.*

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**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.*