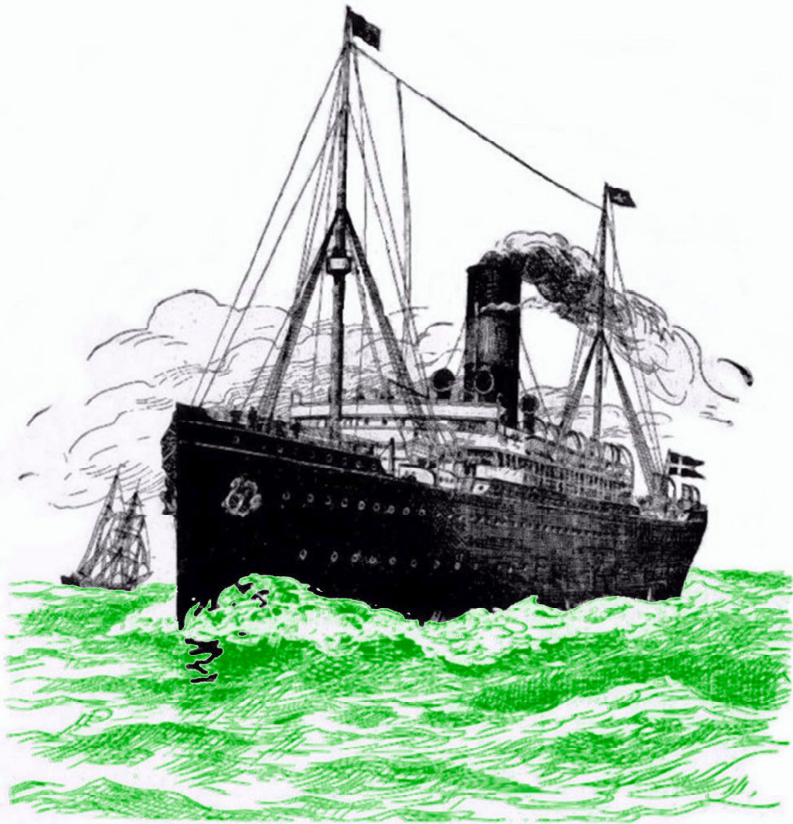


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Illustration from the "Fergus Falls Ugeblad," Fergus Falls, Minnesota, February 27, 1902.

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Mortarboard

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Deer Park's H. H. Slater Building

— The Rest of the Story —

by

Kenneth Westby

The April 2020 issue of the Mortarboard (#144) provides a detailed account of the tragic 1983 fire that destroyed one of Deer Park's historical landmarks, the Slater Building. The subsequent May and June issues of the Mortarboard's "Letters & Brickbats" column includes follow-up comments and speculation as to the building's history. As is often the case, "there's more to the story." All old buildings have a story to tell if you look for it. Sadly, no one is living today to give us a first-hand account of Dr. H. H. Slater's business venture in the building that bears his name. Fortunately, a few printed records remain to provide a glimpse — when reading between the lines — about relationships, hopes, dreams, and failures. May you find these as fascinating as I did. — K. W.

... the year was 1911 ...

It was a time of exhilaration, a time of optimism, a time of community pride in accomplishments of the past decade, a time of planning the future of a growing village. Citizens of Deer Park, a town that only 20 years earlier had sprung from among the dust and stumps along a newly constructed rail line, were excited about every aspect of it. Hydro-electric power, telephones, passenger trains, automobiles, a weekly newspaper, motion-

pictures, new churches and schools, a community water works, a productive saw mill, a promising apple orchard irrigated from nearby lakes and streams — all these things would bring jobs, growth, progress, and some degree of prosperity to the community.

Plays, concerts, a community band, a lending library, movies, a literary society and other social activities lent an air of sophistication one might not expect in a fledgling town.

Neighborhoods, such as Reed's Addition, were being platted and dedicated, and

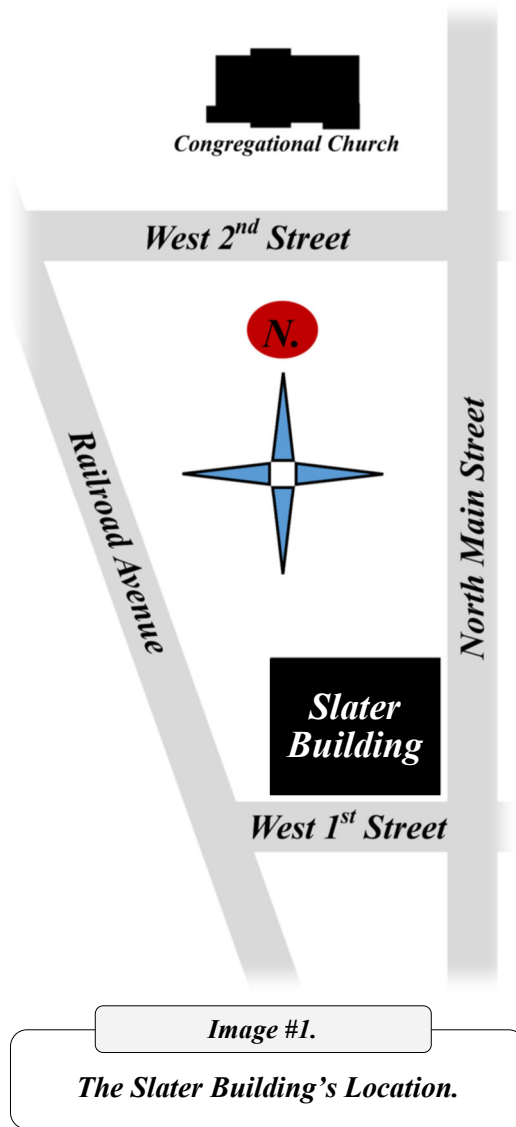
lots were selling quickly to prospective homeowners. A thriving downtown center with modern and well-appointed business structures built by local labor from locally sourced brick, concrete, and lumber were becoming established. Civic leaders were planning for future expansion, including concrete sidewalks along Main and Crawford streets and were calling for beautification efforts and improvements to existing structures to enhance the town's overall appearance for visitors and residents alike.

The year was 1911. Deer Park had two capable, resident doctors tending to the community's medical and surgical needs: Doctor H. H. Slater, and Doctor E. A. Way. Henry Herbert Slater immigrated at the age of five with his English parents in July 1874. By the time he graduated in 1902 from Chicago Medical School at the age of 32, he was married, with four children. He arrived in Deer Park that year to begin his medical practice. His remarkable story is told by his youngest son, Harold A. Slater, in the August 2010 issue of the *Mortarboard* (#28).

... the first pharmacy ...

When the young Doctor Slater arrived in Deer Park in 1902 there was no pharmacy nearer than Spokane to serve patients in this area. So, when he moved his family into the small wood frame house and office at the corner of First Street and North Main, he quickly established the town's first drug store in a 10-foot by 11-foot space in that house. It was likely known as Slater's Drug Company at first. After many remodels and additions, a much larger, 2-story, brick-and-mortar business building took its place sometime between 1903 and 1908 and was known as the Slater Building (see *Image #1*). A certified pharmacist, F.A. Brown, managed the drug store, which remained in the house next door. The pharmacy was later named the Temple Pharmacy after the Masonic Temple that occupied space in the new building.

By 1909 Slater had already moved his family and medical practice to a house (the



present-day Lauer Funeral Home) directly opposite the Congregational Church at North 2nd and Main Street.

... the rival pharmacy ...

Dr. Slater's 1902 pharmacy operated without local competition until about 1905

when a competing pharmacy operated by a W. H. Akie was established in the town. The March 30, 1905, issue of the *Spokane Press* reported the following. "Dr. H. H. Slater who conducts a drug store at Deer Park, Wash. declares he has been made the victim of business jealousy. He informed Judge Stocker this morning that W. H. Akie of Deer Park had sworn out a warrant for his arrest out of spite work. Akie is said to run the rival drug store in Deer Park.

"Yesterday Akie preferred charges against Dr. Slater upon which Judge Stocker issued a warrant for the doctor's arrest. He charged that neither the doctor nor his prescription clerk was a registered pharmacist and that this was a violation of the state law.

Akie brought with him to Spokane affidavits from people who had purchased drugs in the Slater store.

"Sheriff Doak telephoned to the doctor last night that he held a warrant for the physician's arrest, and the latter came to Spokane on the first train this morning to surrender himself and save the Sheriff a trip to Deer Park.

"Dr. Slater went before Judge Stocker this morning and produced a telegram from the secretary of the state board, announcing that the prescription clerk at the Slater drug store is a registered pharmacist.

"Based on this information Judge Stocker dismissed the case and released Dr. Slater from custody."

By 1911 all of Slater's drugstore ads in the newspaper were appearing with the name(s) of the registered pharmacists employed at the store. Lesson learned!

No other mention can be found regarding the pharmacy operated by W. H. Akie in 1905. The *Era Druggist's Directory*, published yearly, lists US pharmacies, including one or two stores for Deer Park, where it is apparent that Akie was no longer operating by 1911.

In 1909 Virgil R. Smith had graduated with a pharmacology degree from Washington State College at Pullman. Thereafter

Pharmacies by the Year.

1905:

"Slater and Cook"

1906:

"H.H. Slater"

1908:

"H.H. Slater" and "Gerald Tuttle"

1910:

"H.H. Slater" and "Gerald Tuttle"

1911:

"Virgil Smith" and "Temple Pharmacy (H. H. Slater)"

1912:

"Virgil Smith" and "Temple Pharmacy (H. H. Slater)"

1913-14:

"Smith's Pharmacy"

(Virgil Smith closed Smith's Pharmacy during the week of Oct. 13, 1913, and relocated to Spangle, Washington. Deer Park Drug Company is not listed, but is operating under owner A. M. Wood)

1916:

"The Deer Park Drug Co., A.M. Wood, Proprietor"

(Smith's Pharmacy is operating but not listed)

1921:

"Smith's Pharmacy"

Image #2.

he began work at Deer Park's second drug store, indeed perhaps the one previously operated by the rival, W. H. Akie and/or Gerald Tuttle, a Spokane druggist. By 1911 Smith is doing business as "Smith's Pharmacy" as seen in this January 5, 1911, *Deer Park Union* article. "The new electric sign of Smith's Pharmacy is attracting considerable attention. It can be seen from every part of Main Street. Virgil wants it understood that if it is the latest, he has it."

Beneath the above article, a W. L. Lush is mentioned as a pharmacist at Smith's store. At the time of that article, Smith's Phar-

macy, with its new electric sign, was located in the Kelly Block on Main Street. That was about to change.

Every issue of the *Deer Park Union* from that point forward carried equal-size advertisements for the two pharmacies, often on the same page of the newspaper. It was not unusual for an ad to imply that one store offered a better price or better quality than the other. Smith's flair for the best and latest, as seen above, was a recurrent theme.

The July 7, 1911 issue of the *Union* carried an ad (see *Image #3*) for Slater's pharmacy business under two names: The Temple Pharmacy, and the Deer Park Pharmacy. Research fails to turn up the reason for this, and whether there was one pharmacy operating under two names or two pharmacies with separate names under Slater's ownership. Two pharmacists are named in the advertisement. Quite possibly the Temple Pharmacy was always located in the adjacent wood-frame building immediately north, which likely began as the Slater home, office & pharmacy in 1902. The Deer Park Pharmacy was likely housed in Slater's brick building. The July 7 advertisement seems to imply these are two separate stores, not necessarily under one roof, but under a common ownership.

... competition tightens ...

Around 1908, the local businessman and entrepreneur Louis Olson Sr. had constructed the Olson Hotel at Main & Crawford. By 1911, he was pursuing a plan to develop the southwest corner of First and Main with the construction of a two-story business complex with stores on the main floor, professional offices on the second floor and a fully equipped performing arts auditorium also on the second floor. This development was directly across the street south from Slater's building, which was built and used for similar purposes.

By August 1911, pharmacist Virgil Smith had signed a lease with Olson to relocate his Smith Pharmacy from the Kelly Block

IT'S UP TO YOU!

Our latest venture, the Deer Park Pharmacy has "made good" from the start and on the 4th when only three days old did 60 per cent as much business as the Temple Pharmacy established over eight years ago and which did its usual 4th of July business. It's up to you at which store you trade and you will receive the same courteous treatment at either place.

As to phonographs—The leader in cylinder machines THE EDISON, will be handled at the Temple Pharmacy together with a complete stock of records. The best disc machine, THE COLUMBIA, will be sold at the Deer Park Pharmacy. See the GRAFONOLA HORN-LESS the best \$50.00 machine on the market. Both makes sold on the easy payment plan.

By the way, although we started in the 4th with over fifty gallons of HAZELWOOD ice cream we had to telephone that night for a new supply for the following day and on the 5th were serving our patrons with ice cream received on that day instead of "left over" stock.

The Temple Pharmacy
The Deer Park Pharmacy
F. A. Brown and Miss Genevieve Starké, Pharmacists.

Image #3.

to the new Olson Block, which was nearing completion. This would place the town's two drugstores directly across 1st Street from one another. The August 8 issue of the *Union* carried the following advertisement:

"MOVING! We are moving into our new location in the new Olsen Block. We are spending several hundred dollars in order to make this one of the finest and most complete drug stores in this section. Watch for announcements of our formal opening on August 12. We have some surprises in store for you.

SMITH'S PHARMACY
Virgil R. Smith, Manager
Kelly Block, Deer Park, Wash."

Clipping from the Deer Park Union, July 7, 1911.

Elsewhere in the same issue an article appeared, describing the new Olsen business block in detail. Part of this description reads, "The building has all the latest improvements in every way. Two large stores on the first floor, and on the second floor, he has put in a large theatre, with the largest and smoothest dance floor in the city; this theatre is fully-equipped with a stage, footlights, scenery, etc.; In fact, everything belonging to a first-class theatre. In the front on the second floor are elegant business offices facing Main Street. These offices are fitted with every convenience needed by professional people, who have rented the same. The building is lighted throughout with electricity, surrounded with cement walks and presents a handsome appearance.

"Beard and Meyers, and Smith's Pharmacy occupy the two stores, and the business offices on the second floor are being taken rapidly. A.M. Wood has engaged the first suite for a real estate and loan office." (Note: Beard and Meyers was doing business as the Deer Park Mercantile.)

The August 25, 1911 issue of the *Union* carried the following notice. "A. M. Wood has opened up a Real Estate and Insurance office in the Olsen Block; he is a Notary Public and can take care of all kinds of legal work. Mr. Alva Sherlock, our city attorney, has opened offices there with him."

The September 1, 1911 issue of the *Union* stated the following: "Dr. Edwin R. Tiffin is going to locate here in Deer Park. He has leased offices in the Olsen Block and is preparing to open same on September 1."

Meanwhile, Jones and R. L. Turner have assumed management of the theater in the Slater building, with films showing every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings at 10-15 cents admission.

... decision time ...

By September 1911, Dr. H. H. Slater had been watching Olson's new business block developing virtually in his own back

yard for several months. Clearly it offered newer, larger and better equipped rental space for all the same kinds of businesses that occupied the Slater Building: pharmacy, retail store, professional offices, and theater. Slater's one unique tenant was Pacific Telephone, which had invested heavily in placing its infrastructure there and which was enjoying Slater's services as its local business manager for free.

Facing the new competition across the street, Dr. Slater pondered how he might respond. His options for expanding and upgrading his existing building were limited, yet possible, albeit at considerable cost. But increasing available space would offer more opportunities for rental revenues.

Slater believed his building could be expanded in size to equal the Olsen facility by extending its East wall forward several feet and outfitting it with a new facade, and extending the North wall to encompass the adjoining lot, giving the building a width of approximately 75 feet. This would require removal of the adjacent building to the north, the Temple Pharmacy, which Slater owned and could sell to a buyer who could move it off-site. Once cleared, that space would allow for a basement beneath the building expansion, space that could house a bowling alley. These improvements would about double the useable space for the building.

Whether Slater could afford such an investment was uncertain. With his patients often unable to pay for medical services rendered, he lacked capital and would have to mortgage everything and hope to pay it off with expected rental revenues. It would be risky.

What happened next is recorded in these *Deer Park Union* articles and notices.

"Last Monday, Frank Horton moved the old Temple Pharmacy building onto his own lot." — *Deer Park Union*, September 22, 1911.

"Work has commenced on Dr. Slater's new building. The dirt is being removed to make room for the basement." — *Deer Park*

Union, September 22, 1911.

“The work on Slater’s new building is going merrily on. The Concrete Company has commenced to lay the foundation.” — Deer Park Union, September 29, 1911.

Many were skeptical about the project and spoke about it publicly. With rumors flying, Slater was prompted to post the following notice in the *Union* on September 29.

“During the last few days there has been more or less talk on the street that we have no money to build, that we have mortgaged everything we have for that purpose, and other such things. Disregarding all this we figure that by building we will improve the town making it more attractive to visitors and prospective home seekers, provide room for businessmen who are in too cramped quarters, or who have to vacate their present locations, and furnish work to those who are already here. ... We are not certain yet that we will build, but if our debtors will pay half (of what) they owe us we will put up a building that will be a credit to this end of Spokane County and clear up an existing mortgage. Everyone that owes me is therefore most urgently requested to come in at once and settle either by cash or bankable note. Also patronize the institutions that use home labor and home material. You will thereby get your money back.”

Slater concedes with some hesitation that if the project moves forward to completion it will depend greatly on people paying money owed to him. Yet many of his patients have only been able to pay for his services in fruit, vegetables, eggs, milk, and chickens.

Ultimately, the construction work continues: *“Work is progressing nicely on Dr. Slater’s new building; the carpenters are up to the second floor already. The doctor is certainly a hustler.” — Deer Park Union, October 20, 1911.*

Once again, on October 27, Dr. Slater renewed his plea for money owed to him, *“All those owing me are requested to come in at once and settle by cash or bankable note as I need my money in my business. Very respectfully, Dr. H. H. Slater.”*

The October 27 issue of the *Union* announced the closing of the Temple Pharmacy. (The Temple Pharmacy was housed in the building that was moved elsewhere by Frank Horton in late September.) *“When this issue of the Union reaches you the Temple Pharmacy will be out of business for all time as far as we are concerned. The stock has been combined with that of the Deer Park Pharmacy and you who have failed to take advantage of the low prices before moving will be able to get the lowest prices made anywhere consistent with strength and purity and also a discount of 10% for cash. We are going to close out our stock of New Home sewing machines regardless of cost and this is your last chance for a bargain. The Deer Park Pharmacy.”*

By December the building expansion was nearly completed. Pacific Telephone was expanding into the much-needed new space. To quote, *“The Pacific Telephone Co.’s office in the new Slater Block will be installed beginning next Monday. It will be the most complete exchange of its size for any town in the Inland Empire. Their business has more than doubled the past year and the Company considers this one of the fastest growing towns in the state.” — Deer Park Union, October 8, 1911.*

On December 22 the *Deer Park Union* reported that Pacific Telephone executives had visited the enlarged space. To quote, *“C. H. Hickman, Com. Supt, H. J. Tickhorn, Supt. of Plant, and F. H. Shea, Supt. of traffic, spent Tuesday in the city looking over the local phone plant. They expressed themselves highly pleased with the prospects and the way the local phone business is growing. The new telephone office in the Slater Block is nearly completed and will be a credit to the city.”*

Elsewhere in the December 22 issue was the following announcement, *“Nine years ago Deer Park’s first drug store was established on this corner, the floor space being ten feet by eleven feet in extent. This was the fifth time that we have enlarged our quarters, so watch this paper for our Re-opening an-*

nouncement. The Deer Park Pharmacy.”

So, by the end of the year 1911, the newly remodeled and greatly expanded Slater Block was ready for occupancy and was enjoying the return of its faithful tenants.

The *Deer Park Union* included an article in the December 22, 1911 issue, listing the area’s new structures erected or expanded during the year, and reporting the cost of the Slater Building expansion at \$15,000. That is about \$405,000 in today’s money.

... success ...

The grand re-opening was announced in the *Union* on January 5:

“When Dr. Slater throws open the doors of his new drug store January 13th, quite a surprise will be in store for those who attend. Everything in the store is new and up-to-the-minute; the only feature that will be retained is the soda fountain. The doctor has spared neither time nor money in furnishing his store with every convenience known. In fact it will be a veritable fairyland and one of the show places of Deer Park. Free show[s] in the theater adjoining. Beautiful souvenirs given away. Music by one of Spokane’s famous orchestras.”

... Slater as proprietor/landlord ...

The January 19, 1912 issue of the *Union* carried a lengthy article reporting on the January 13 re-opening celebration at the store as described in the January 5 article. Also in the January 19 issue, a notice was posted by Dr. Slater listing the tenants in his new building (see *Image #4*), as well as spaces available for rent.

In the January 26 issue, Slater explained the design of his Trade-Mark logo (see *Image #5, page 2168*). He also explains the meaning of the term “independent” when referring to his pharmacy. It means that he will not entertain requests from other pharmacies to join with them in price-fixing to maximize profits, choosing instead to price his products

Clipping from the Deer Park Union, January 19, 1912.

Notice.

The following have rented quarters in the new Slater building and are either occupying the same or will in the near future.

Pacific Telephone Co.
A. F. Winkelman, Electric Light Fixtures.

Deer Park Pharmacy.
Deer Park Jewelry Store, J. Linder, Prop.

Deer Park Opera House, Shinault & Winkelman, Managers.

Deer Park Millinery store, Miss Bessie DeVoe, Proprietor.

Dr. R. Y. Hunt, Dentist.
Dr. H. H. Slater, Physician and Surgeon.

Birch & Warner, Bowling Alleys.

Still for rent—

One front office room, upstairs.
One front office room, upstairs, with joint use of adjoining reception room.

One upstairs suit of three rooms facing west and south, with both front and rear stairways.

H. H. Slater, Owner.

Image #4.

at a rate that benefits both the store and the customer.

In the February 9 issue of the *Union*, a lengthy article describes the business plan put forth by Shinault and Winkelman who are the new tenants for the Playhouse/Opera House/Theater in the Slater Building. They plan to offer high-class, family entertainment, including enhanced features for their movies. Souvenirs, treats and discounts will be given away to attendees.

The "WHY" of Our Trade Mark

Many times since our opening day have we been asked about the origin of our trade-mark and the phrase, "The Independent Store."

The proprietor established a drug store nine years ago to secure for himself and other physicians the best and purest drugs in the filling of their prescriptions and to prevent substitution. The name "The Temple Pharmacy" was used so as to prevent any accusation or suspicion of advertising his profession in connection with the drug business.

Notwithstanding this, the people have been in the habit of sending to "Slaters" for their drugs and for the want of that name being on the store some have gotten in the wrong pew. In looking for a suitable device for advertising our new store which is styled The Deer Park Pharmacy in exemplification of Deer Park's larger growth, it was finally decided to include that name in the device that was finally worked out by the proprietor at 3 o'clock one morning about a month ago. It is an imitation of nothing, but the star in the circle used by Gunst and Co., cigar distributors to advertise their business, served as a suggestion.

The words "The Independent Store" mean that from the first we have always fixed the prices on our goods as far as we were able at a fair profit to ourselves and have always rejected all offers by competitors to fix uniform prices and thus secure for both of us larger profits to the detriment of the consumer.

**F. A. BROWN and
J. M. P. REED, Pharmacists**



Special Notice:--The sound proof telephone booth in our store is our own private property and is for the use of ourselves and other persons who wish to phone anywhere and not be troubled by noise or listeners. You are welcome

to use it at any time and will find it a better one than the one in the telephone office.

Image #5.

Clipping from the Deer Park Union, January 26, 1912.

Pocket Billiards Open to the Public Saturday Eve'g, Mch. 16

Arcadia



Bowling Alleys

BIRCH & WARNER, Props.

Cigars and Tobaccos

SLATER BUILDING

ENTRANCE OPERA HOUSE LOBBY

Image #6.

Clipping from the Deer Park Union, March 16, 1912.

In January, Slater had resigned his post as deputy district health officer for the County. Then in the February 9 issue, Slater revealed that he had offered his resignation as interim manager of the Pacific Telephone exchange in Deer Park, a position he has held from the outset without salary, all the while expecting the company to name a permanent salaried manager. Clearly, while remaining active in civic and church activities, he was trying to limit his obligations to his private medical practice and proprietorship. Perhaps in an effort to maximize rental space in his building, Dr. Slater kept his medical practice at his residence, as evidenced in a commercial ad placed each week in the *Deer Park Union*.

The Slater Block retained its prior tenants and gained a new tenant, Birch and Warner's Arcadia Bowling Alley and Billiard Parlor opening for business on March 16, 1912 (see Image #6). The *Deer Park Union* reported the following on March 22. "Another Place of Recreation Opened. Last Saturday evening the new Arcadia pocket billiard and bowling alley was opened by two popular young men of Deer Park, Messrs. Birch and

Warner, in the new Slater Building on Main Ave.

"In the matter of fixtures and appointments, this place is furnished far ahead of any similar place in Spokane County. The exterior is built in old mission style and electric fixtures to match. One side is given over to pocket billiards and cigar stand, and the other half is taken up with the bowling alleys.

"All the paraphernalia is furnished by the celebrated firm of Brunswick-Balke-Collender Co. and is the most expensive they carry. Two first-class regulation bowling alleys and three pocket billiard tables are at the public's service."

By early April 1912, Pacific Telephone had completed its work on the telephone exchange and, at long last, named Dr. Slater's successor as manager for the Deer Park exchange, Clara Morris.

The April 5 issue of the *Union* reported it thus. "The workmen of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company have completed the job of removing the exchange into the new handsome quarters in the Slater building. There are over 237 phones in the local exchange, of which 97 are within the city limits and 140 are farmers' phones within a radius of 15 miles. This represents a growth of more than 50% for the past year. This necessitated a salaried manager and Dr. H. H. Slater, who for 10 years has acted in that capacity, without pay, resigned in favor of Miss Morris who immediately took charge last Monday. Miss Clara Morris is one of the most popular young ladies in Deer Park, and competent in every way. We wish her success."

... bankruptcy ...

While it is true that during the year 1912 the newly enlarged Slater Block had been filling its expanded space with old and new tenants, it appears that revenue from rentals alone was not sufficient for Slater to keep current with mortgage payments. Readers likely were surprised when the following article appeared in the January 31, 1913, issue of

the Deer Park Union.

“F.A. Reed Appointed. At the meeting of the creditors of H. H. Slater, held in the office of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Washington, in referee Sidney H. Wentworth’s office, January 27th, F.A. Reed, cashier of the First State Bank, Deer Park, was appointed trustee and immediately took charge of all property involved. Mr. Reed is very busy getting a final inventory of the drug store, when that is finished, it will be sold at either public or private sale, which will be announced later. The real estate consisting of the Slater Block is included in the bankruptcy proceedings and will also be sold as soon as suitable arrangements can be made.”

In the same issue the following was reported. “Our local attorneys, Messrs. A. R. E. Crothers and F. S. Ford, were in Spokane last Monday appearing before the federal referee in bankruptcy in the Slater case.”

Then on February 7, “N. E. Bershing of Spokane has been very busy the past few days taking inventory of the Slater drug store for F.A. Reed, trustee. After his work is finished and approved by the Court, the entire stock will be sold.”

And on February 14, “N. E. Bershing finished taking inventory of the H. H. Slater drug store, Wednesday, and now the trustee will receive sealed bids for the drug store and fixtures, up to March 14th.”

This public notice of sale appeared in the February 14, 1913 issue.

“NOTICE – FOR SALE. F. A. Reed, trustee for H. H. Slater, bankrupt, will receive sealed bids for the following described property. The south 75 feet of Block 2, First Addition to Deer Park, with brick building thereon. A stock of drugs, complete with soda fountain and fixtures. Bids will be received up to March 14, 1913. Terms cash. Certified check for 10% of bid must accompany same. The trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids. F. A. Reed, Trustee. H. H. Slater, bankrupt”

Bids were opened on March 24th in

Drug Store Changes Hands

The trustee in bankruptcy, Sidney R. Wentworth, last Monday, sold to the highest bidder the stock and fixtures of the Deer Park pharmacy. A. M. Wood, a well known business man here, was the successful bidder. The store will re-open under the new management Saturday, March 29, entirely renovated and well stocked with the latest and best in both the drug and sundry lines. F. A. Brown has been retained as the registered pharmacist, and will be on the job as heretofore. See opening announcement on the last page. Beautiful souvenirs will be given each lady making a purchase on Saturday. The name Deer Park Drug Co. will soon become well known to this community.

Image #7.

the office of referee Sidney R. Wentworth in US district court. The trustee chose to accept the bid of A. M. Wood, the Deer Park realtor occupying the 2nd floor business suites of the Olsen Block. This was reported by the Deer Park Union on March 28 (see Image #7).

On March 29, 1913, A. M. Wood as new owner of the Slater Block took over and held a re-opening celebration for the Deer Park Drug Co.

In early January 1913, three weeks

Clippings from the Deer Park Union, March 28, 1913.

DR. H. H. SLATER
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON
OFFICE—Ground Floor, Slater Building
Phone, Main 123
RESIDENCE—Opposite Congregational Church
Phone, Main 125
DEER PARK, WASH.

Change of Telephone Number
Dr. H. H. Slater, Main 123
Office, ground floor Slater Building. Main 125
Residence, opposite Congregational church. adv.-c

Images #8 & #9.

Clippings from the Deer Park Union, January 3, 1913.

before bankruptcy proceedings were underway, Dr. Slater had moved his medical office from his residence to the ground floor of the new Slater Block (see Images #8 and #9).

Dr. Slater kept his medical office at the Slater Block from January 3 through November 21, 1913, but then moved the practice back to his residence at 2nd and Main St., where he practiced medicine until November 30, 1942. He then moved to Clarkston, WA and began a new practice there until illness

forced him to retire. He passed away on February 1, 1946 and was interred at Riverside Park Cemetery in Spokane.

Occupancies and ownerships of the Slater Block at 1st and Main Street changed many times in the following seventy years, until the entire structure was destroyed by fire on December 27, 1983.

— end —

Research into a Vintage Photo Associated with the Olsen Opera House’s 1913 Presentation of *The Princess Kiku: A Japanese Romance.*

by

Wally Lee Parker

... inherently intriguing ...

History is littered with orphaned photographs; images set adrift when the underlying information such as dates, locations, or the identity of the people or events being exposed to the film’s chemical emulsion are misplaced or forgotten. While often poignant or inherently intriguing in themselves, once these images are separated from their accompanying stories they tend to remain that way unless

someone finds a clue leading to the missing data. Such reunions rarely happen, but on occasion luck does fall an historian’s way — even when said historian is very much amateur.

Early in 2013 the society was contacted by Alexander Pope, a resident of Mountlake Terrace — a community just north of Seattle. Mr. Pope wanted to know if we had any information regarding an early resident of Deer Park named Brayton Alexander

Hopkins (September 4, 1869 — December 30, 1916). The reason for Mr. Pope's interest, his mother, Lucy (Hopkins) Pope, was one of the above noted Brayton's six children (five of which survived infancy).

Bill placed Mr. Pope in contact with society member Pete Coffin. Pete had been collecting data on the Hopkins family for a pending *Mortarboard* article. That article was published in June, 2013 (*see link below*).

Those early conversations led to Mr. Pope sending society president Bill Sebright a package of Hopkins family photographs. Bill scanned the pictures and returned the originals. Among those images was a professional quality photo of a group of twelve young girls in what appeared to be Japanese costumes arrayed across a small stage. No date, description or names were attached to the photo, but there was one possible clue as to the location. The woodwork adorning the leading edge of the small stage seemed familiar. And with that, the game was afoot.

... *Olsen's Opera House* ...

In 2008 the society membership was invited to tour a vintage two story brick structure on the southwest corner of downtown Deer Park's intersection of Main and 1st Street. As part of the tour, Gordon Grove, then a co-owner of the structure, opened the building's seldom visited upper story to our group, thereby granting access to one of the town's largely forgotten venues; an auditorium first called Olsen's Opera House, then later simply Olsen's Hall. Perhaps the most striking feature in the auditorium was what appeared to be

the small elevated stage's original and still hanging curtain. In a style consistent with World War I era vaudeville houses, the painted linen drop was decorated with advertisements for nineteen of the town's businesses — all of which current research suggests were existent in Deer Park at the Olsen Building's 1911 opening. In order to ensure a continuation of the benign neglect likely responsible for the curtain's preservation up to that point, the society was sworn to secrecy. That prohibition was removed with this year's announcement that the curtain had been taken down, then donated to the society — the circumstance of such revealed in the *Mortarboard's* August 2020 issue (*see link below*).

Alexander Pope's photo collection was first circulated among the society's membership in 2013. Specific to the image of the young girls in oriental costume, several people commented that the stage on which the twelve were arranged seemed very much like the one we'd seen in our 2008 tour of the Olsen Building. Vintage issues of the *Deer Park Union* indicate the first performances at the auditorium began in the late summer of 1911. If the event pictured was of any note, it should have been recorded in that newspaper. This summer's donation of Olsen Opera House's stage curtain brought the long simmering mystery of that photograph to mind and prompted a detailed search of the *Union's* surviving copies for any mentions.

... *and there it was* ...

The first item found was this, from the *Union's* November 7th, 1913 edition.

Further Reading:

"The Brayton Hopkins Family," by Peter Coffin.
Mortarboard #62, June, 2013 — page 753 — *Collected Newsletters, Volume 16.*
<http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/june.pdf>

"Notes from the Office: The Olsen Opera House's Stage Curtain," by Wally Lee Parker.
Mortarboard #148, August, 2020 — page 2131 — *Collected Newsletters, Volume 43.*
http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_148_web_.pdf

"Last Thursday the Willing Workers of the Congregational Church spent the day at the home of Miss Alice Chapman. The day was spent on work for the play that will be given by the class the latter part of November. Those present were Mabel Hunt, Myrtle and Helen DeVoe, Florence Reetz, Olive Baughn, Edith Reed, Pauline Pluym, Ruby Sharp and Stella Shonkwiler."

The next week's *Union*, under the boldface intro "*Princess Kiku*," reported, "*The above is the title of a dainty little Japanese play, which will be presented by the Willing Workers at Olsen's Hall on Friday evening, November 21st. Miss Pearl Collamore has charge of the little tots, and is very busy drilling them in marches, tableaux, etc., and Miss Rove is looking after the costumes. There is no doubt in our mind but that Olsen's Hall will be filled to overflowing on that evening as the Willing Workers of the Congregational Church always present something worthwhile. A complete program will appear next week (see right)."*

The original screenplay for '*The Princess Kiku: A Japanese Romance* — *A play for Girls*' is available online without charge, courtesy of the 'Internet Archive' project's digital library (*see link below*). Bearing a 1903 copyright, the play was scripted by M. F. Hutchinson. So far we've been unable to find any personal information on the playwright, other than the fact that he or she primarily

... *text continued on page 2176* ...

To the Right:
Program for "The Princess Kiku"
From the November 21st, 1913, issue of
The Deer Park Union.

The Princess Kiku
A Japanese Romance.
by M. F. Hutchinson
<https://archive.org/details/princesskiku00hut>

TO-NIGHT
The Princess Kiku

A JAPANESE ROMANCE

Olsen's Hall Friday, Nov. 21, 1913

Cast of Characters

Princess Kiku.....	Helen Slater
Favorite niece of the Emperor	
O Mimosa San.....	Stella Shonkwiler
O Yuki San.....	Ladies { Ruth Sturman
O Totmai San.....	in Waiting { Ruby Sharp
O Haru San.....	{ Pauline Pluym
Sakara.....	Edith Reed
The Wise Woman	
Ito.....	Luella McFadden
Little Japanese Boy	
Lady Cecil Cavendish.....	Ruth Garver
Miss Prendergast.....	Gertrude Alberthal

Girls in Brill

Gertrude Short	Alma Turben
Mabel Turben	Emily Reed
Mary Kellar	Cleo Markwick
Helen Gates	Lucy Hopkins
Augusta Pluym	Alice Mayeroft
Vena Shonkwiler	Dorothy DeVoe

Synopsis

SCENE I

The Chrysanthemum Garden and Summer House. Princess Kiku and her ladies-in-waiting. Intrusion of Lady Cecil. Story of the shipwrecked baby.

SCENE II

Same as before. Sakara bribes little Ito to bring misfortune on the Princess by a play-act, which the Princess believes is reality. Mimosa's description of the Emperor's reception. The working of Sakara's spell. "March of the Lanterns."

SCENE III

Room in a Japanese hotel. Miss Prendergast's solicitude for Arthur, Cecil's brother.

SCENE IV

Room in the house of Sakara. Sakara gives Ito further instructions. Mimosa's fruitless mission. Sakara's curse.

SCENE V

Room in Kiku's Country House. Kiku's hallucination, "What I touch, withers." Lady Cecil's and companions' interview with Japanese girls.

SCENE VI

The Chrysanthemum Garden. Ito repents. Kiku supposed she had struck Ito blind. He confesses it was play-acting. The story of the shipwreck. The heiress is found.



Cast photo for 'The March of the Lanterns,' a bit of pageantry added to the Congregational Church's Willing Workers production of 'The Princess Kiku: A Japanese Romance.' The single performance was given on November 21st, 1913, at Olsen's Opera House, Deer Park, Washington.

Image from the Alexander Pope / Brayton Hopkins collection.

... text continued from page 2173 ...

wrote plays, novels, and short stories for young people.

“Princess Kiku Scored a Hit” was the headline on the front page of the *Union*’s November 28th issue. The secondary headline read, “This Dainty Japanese Play Was Well Presented by Willing Workers.”

The review read, “The large audience which completely filled every available nook and corner of Olsen’s Hall last Friday evening to witness the production of ‘Princess Kiku,’ presented by members of the Willing Workers of the Congregational Church, was amply repaid for their trouble in coming. We doubt very much whether this dainty little Japanese play could have been played any better by professionals. Not a hitch, no stage fright, no forgotten lines, nothing in fact occurred to mar the production in the slightest, from the minute the curtain rose on the first scene until it was lowered on the last, everyone taking part was on the job, and it was a real pleasure to note the enthusiasm displayed by the players. Great credit is due to the promoters and others who had charge of this entertainment. Mrs. Levi Clark, who had charge of the musical numbers; Mrs. Charles Renshaw, who had charge of the advertising, etc.; Madame Kato, of Spokane, and Miss Rowe, who superintended the costumes; the children in the ‘March of the Lanterns’ — all did their work well and deserved unstinted praise.

“It is hard to describe here which one of the performers was the best, as they were all very good. Miss Helen Slater took the part of Princess Kiku, favorite niece of the emperor. Miss Edith Reed was the Wise Woman. The big hit of the evening was scored by little Luella McFadden as Ito, the little Japanese boy. Miss Ruth Garver represented Lady Cecil Cavendish and Miss Gertrude Alberthal took the part of Miss Prendergast. The Ladies in Waiting were represented by the Misses Stella Shonkwiler, Ruth Sturman, Ruby Sharp and Pauline Plumy.

“Miss Nora Sturman sang ‘A Japa-

nese Love Song’ during the intermission in a most pleasing manner.

“The ‘March of the Lanterns’ during Scene II was presented by the Misses Gertrude Short, Mabel Turben, Mary Kellar, Helen Gates, Augusta Plumy, Vena Shonkwiler, Alma Turben, Adell Hunt, Cleo Markwick, Lucy Hopkins, Alice Maycroft, Dorothy DeVoe.

“The stage settings and costumes were as near perfect as possible with the materials at hand. The scenic effects were beautiful. Post cards of the scenes in the play were sold during the intermissions by little girls and were in great demand. They were flash-light photos taken by Durst Bros.”

This is the last reference to the above described “Japanese Romance” so far located in Deer Park’s newspaper.

... connecting the clues ...

So, we have limited but precise materials from the *Union*, and we have the photograph. How do we go about tying them together?

The *Union*’s November 21st review states “The ‘March of the Lanterns’ during Scene II was presented by,” then goes on to list twelve girls. Among the six we were able to find biographical data on, the oldest was born in October of 1889, the youngest July, 1901. At the time of the play, the oldest, Alma May Turben, was half a year shy of fifteen, while Vena Shonkwiler was just twelve and a half years old. If that pattern holds true for all the listed participants, it’s likely most if not all would have fallen in the twelve to fourteen-year-old range. Looking at the photograph, that seems consistent — especially considering the generally smaller, thinner stature of young people of that era.

As for the above noted “March of the Lanterns,” the play as presented in the original 1903 edition of *Princess Kiku* is divided into six parts — each part followed by a curtain. Part two has the following footnote: “Here may be introduced the ‘March of the Chinese Lanterns,’ a very effective series of evolutions.

Illustrated description of the march can be furnished by the publishers, Dick & Fitzgerald, 18 Ann Street, New York, on receipt of 15 cents.”

Chasing that footnote down, we uncovered a 1895 tome titled “Wilson’s Book of Drills and Marches for Young People and Small Children of Both Sexes” — this authored by Bertha May Wilson, characterized on internet sources as being a “dramatist, critic and actress.”

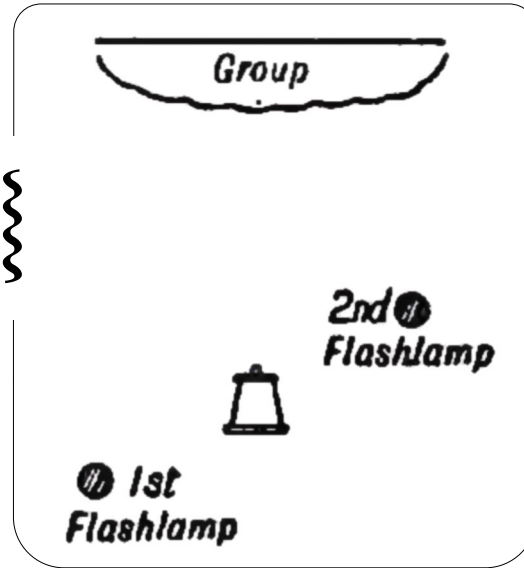
At the beginning of the nine pages Wilson’s book devotes to “The March of the Chinese Lanterns,” Bertha Wilson writes, “This is a spectacular novelty drill arranged for twenty-for girls, — fewer or more, as may be convenient. No scenery is needed in the representation, which can be made on any platform.”

So, do we have a photo from the play *Princess Kiku* as presented at Olsen’s Opera house in November of 1913? What we see is twelve girls in what seems traditional Japanese dress. One is holding a paper parasol, the other eleven holding paper lanterns. I suspect the evidence is close enough to state with scant hesitation that the image is of the participants in the Willing Workers presentation of the “March of the Lanterns” — the word “Chinese,” as used in the source material, having been removed simply because *Princess Kiku* was set in Japan, not China.

... Flash-Lighting the Stage ...

Regarding the photo itself, the *Union*’s November 28th review of the play reported, “Post cards of the scenes in the play were sold during the intermissions ...” That seems to indicate said photos, allowing time for developing and printing the negatives, were staged a day or days prior to the performance — likely during a dress rehearsal.

Regarding the photographers, the May 16th, 1913 issue of the *Union* reported that the, “Durst Brothers (Walter and Howard) have purchased the photograph gallery formerly owned by James Raymond and have



Typical Flashlight Setup for a Group.

Sketch from 1911’s edition of
Cassell’s Cyclopaedia of Photography.

been fitting it out the past few days with new materials preparatory to opening a first class studio. Both of these young men are experts in the photo business, and we bespeak success for them as there is a good field here for their business.” Since the younger brother, Howard, moved to Wisconsin in March, 1917, the lack of advertisements in the *Union* after implies the Durst Brothers Studio dissolved at that point — though such is yet to be confirmed.

The means by which the image was captured was described in the last line of the *Union*’s November 28th review. “They were flash-light photos.” Dated 1911, an accessible description of the process can be found under the term “flashlight photography” in *Cassell’s Cyclopaedia* (or *Cyclopaedia*) of *Photography* under “flashlight photography.” In this case the term “flashlight” refers to exactly that, a chemical mixture that produces a explosive flash for photographic illumination.

Our usual conception is a tray held aloft by the photographer that, when detonated, produces a huge cloud of smoke. While not far off, the methods, mixtures and mechanics of producing the illuminating flash were varied and sometimes quite complicated. Doubtless something along these lines was used to illuminate the opera house's stage in 1913, though we'd need to talk to the Durst brothers themselves to know exactly how they went about it.

That said, the very slight shadow patterns seen in the Olsen Opera House photo suggest the flashlight setup used was very similar to the one for group photography sketched in Cassell's Cyclopedia (*see illustration prior page*) — with at least two flash sources situated to the sides and slightly above the heads of

the group being illuminated. Printed tables would have been used to determine how much flashlight powder of a given type would be needed to adequately light the subjects at a given distance from the camera. And of course, the opera house windows would have been opened after each exposure to allow the smoke to clear.

Various sources suggest the Durst family arrived in Washington State around 1906. Available data indicates they settled in Deer Park in late 1912 or early 1913. The parents, John and Betsey, and two of their three children — Ada and Walter — are buried at Deer Park's Kelly Cemetery. The youngest, Howard, passed away in Wisconsin.

— end —

Help Wanted!

The society has a number of positions that need to be filled by creative ladies and gentlemen — those duties being that of Vice-President, Secretary, Publicist, Director of Fundraising, Curator, Archivist, Subscriptions Coordinator, and one or more people willing to learn the ins and outs of Print Publications and take over as editor when the need inevitably arises. If you'd be interested in any of these positions, contact the society.

Minutes of the Clayton ♦ Deer Park Historical Society — September 12, 2020 —

I'm not sure when we will be able to meet in person. It sounds like restrictions will be in place for a while! I'm not confident that we'll even meet in October. (Normally the meetings are held at the society's museum/office, 300 Block East 'A' Street, Deer Park. Look for the sign.) The following were reports sent by email.

Society President Bill Sebright reported that: 1) Sue Spomer let us know that her father, Bob Warner, had passed away.

There's a link to Bob's *Tri-County Herald* obituary on the next page. Sue also sent the society a generous check in his memory. Also, on the next page is a link to Pete Coffin and Ken Westby's *Mortarboard* article about Bob's Deer Park business, the Electric Service Station. 2) Sammy Hanson from Loon Lake phoned Bill asking about a cookbook from the 1970s, *Return to Sourdough Cooking*. Sammy said her friend bought it about 1975 at the Clayton Drive-In. Bill phoned Don Ball. Don

said it was written by Marcella Grady. Marcella is the older sister of Nancy Sanders and Shirley Agar. Bill called Nancy Sanders. Nancy said she still had about a dozen copies. Sammy had a nice visit with Nancy and got copies for her family and dropped off six at Bill's. If anyone wants a copy, let Bill know. (*With one set aside for the museum, all were spoken for by the time the Mortarboard went to press.*) 3) Roxanne Camp emailed Bill to let him know that Ed and Phyllis Zimmerer gave her a framed set of pictures from the 50th class reunion of Lawrence Zimmerer, DPHS class of 1927.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported the main checking account ended the month at \$8,847.80. A check was written to Wally Parker for \$138.29. The web hosting account ended the month at \$916.78 with a withdrawal of \$11.84 for web hosting. There were deposits of \$1,080. 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 September *Mortarboard* (#149) have been printed for distribution and the online version has been submitted for uploading. The Heritage Network and the Loon Lake Library have each received a PDF enabling hardcopy reprinting of this issue as desired. 2) The September *Mortarboard* features the concluding part of your editor's "*A Dark Reflection: 1918's Pandemic in the Clayton/Deer Park Community (Part Three)*." The Letters/Brickbats segment begins with bit titled "*regarding Clayton's Conrad Lindh*." This piece investigates a pho-

to of Mr. Lindh and an unusual piece of machinery. Next is a piece about Deer Park's Doctor Slater. Following that is a discussion of some newly recovered evidence impacting the history of Loon Lake's drowned boat — an artifact often discussed in these pages. That's followed by a few musings from the *Mortarboard's* editor regarding what's involved when it comes to putting the society's monthly newsletter together. 3) From its first issue the *Mortarboard* has attempted to be more than a newsletter. It has attempted to be a magazine archiving the greater community's history — in part by capturing the nuance of daily life through recollections of things such as attending school, farm chores, workdays, first loves, and last loves as well — all the uniquely human things we do. Most such stories need to be personal to strike true. And that requires our readers pick up a pencil or address a keyboard and begin to write about themselves, their family, their friends, their experiences. As someone who writes for publication most every day, I know writing can be hard — at least for those of us who want to get it right. That said, only through first-person eyes can a community's essence be accurately captured. Another form of first person recollection that truly resonates are those bits copied from family letters, journals, and memoirs. Some of the best articles we've printed contain such. This is all to say; when casting about for something to do, consider the above.

Webmaster Damon Smathers reported: 1) The September issue of the *Mortarboard* has been uploaded to the website. 2) A note on the front page has been added letting members know our September meeting has

Link to the Tri-City Herald obituary for Robert E. Warner

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/tricityherald/obituary.aspx?n=robert-e-warner&pid=196757685>

Further Reading — Robert E. Warner.

"The Electric Service Station," by Peter Coffin & Kenneth Westby.
Mortarboard #101, September, 2016 — page 1337 — *Collected Newsletters, Volume 28.*
http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard_issue_101_doublepage_web.pdf

been cancelled. 3) A small section was also added on the front page directing viewers to our last three issues of the *Mortarboard* as it pertains to 1918's pandemic in the Clayton/Deer Park community.

Mike Reiter's submission included the following: 1) Rachelle Fletcher from DP Printing printed 100 of the Deer Park Historical Tour maps. Deron Schroeder from 'Bicycles By Deron' paid the \$75 for printing and paid dues to become a C/DPHS member. Mike left 10 of the maps with Deron and 10 with the Chamber of Commerce. They had already had a request for one. 2) He picked up the framed *Artistry in Space* poster and NASA book from the library and Roberta and he hung up the poster and a T shirt. Rachelle scanned a full-page *Tribune* regarding that

event. Her scanner couldn't fit the whole page in one swipe, so she will have to do some of her magic and stitch the segments together. Thanks to Mike Brock from the *Tribune* for lending us the hardbound *Tribunes*.

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.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2020, at 10:00 AM at our new building. This is certainly subject to change due to the Washington State COVID-19 reopening guidelines.

Minutes compiled by society president Bill Sebright, acting as secretary.

— end —

Volunteer proofreaders for this issue: Paul Erickson, Rick Hodges, Chuck Stewart, Lina Swain, and Ken Wesley.

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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.

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.