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Illustration from "Collier's Magazine," June 2nd, 1923.

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#151

November

2020

The C/DPHS is an association of individuals dedicated to the preservation of the history of our community. To the preservation of the region's oral history, literary history, social history, graphic and pictorial history, and our history as represented by the region's artifacts and structures. To the preservation of this history for future generations. To the art of making this common heritage accessible to the public. And to the act of collaborating with other individuals and organizations sharing similar goals.

THE
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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mortarboard

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Buildings of the Arcadia Fruit Growers Association.

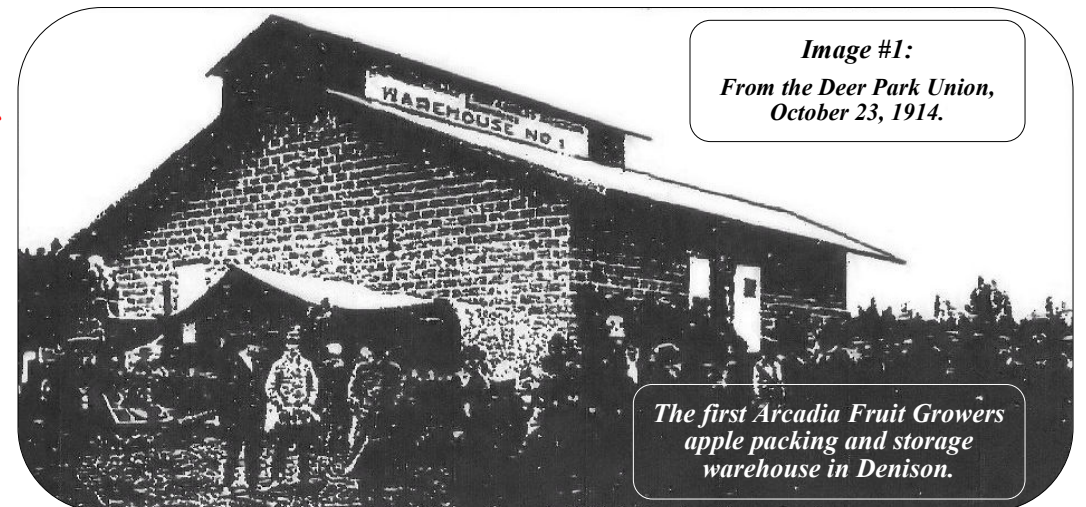
by

Peter Coffin

The Arcadia Fruit Growers Association was formed before 1912 as the marketing branch of the Arcadia Orchards Company. At first they had been associated with the Spokane Fruit Growers Company with the objective of having them build an apple packing plant at Denison, Washington. After the Ar-

cadia Orchards began to produce commercial quantities of fruit the need for packing and storage buildings became critical. The 1911 Arcadia Orchards Company promotional film that the Historical Society digitized has scenes

... text continued on page 2184 ...



*Image #1:
From the Deer Park Union,
October 23, 1914.*

*The first Arcadia Fruit Growers
apple packing and storage
warehouse in Denison.*

Image #2:



Image #2:

*Denison packing and sorting warehouse
in October of 1919. The original 1914
building is on the left.
(Photograph source unknown.)*

Image #3:

*Workers at the Arcadia Fruit Growers
Association's Denison warehouse in
1917.
(Lawrence Owens photograph.)*

Image #4:

*Pictured here in the early 1990s, the
Arcadia Fruit Growers Association
warehouse at Deer Park later became the
Deer Park Fair's main building.
(Spokane City/County Preservation Office.)*



Image #3:

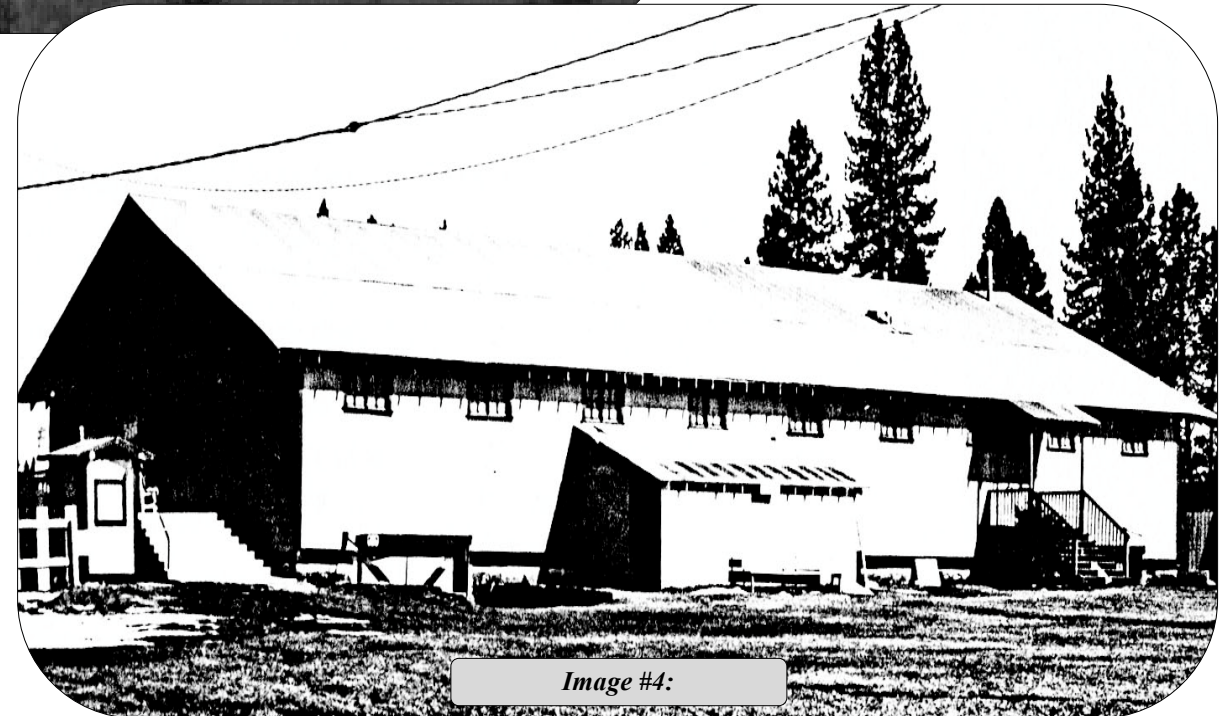


Image #4:

... text continued from page 2181 ...

of apples being sorted and packed outside.

Part of the association with the Spokane Fruit Growers Company was their promise to build a sorting and storage building in Denison. Apparently, the Spokane Fruit Growers reneged on their promise and when F. E. Parks — Arcadia Fruit Growers representative to and board member of the Spokane Fruit Growers Company — tried to make them keep their promise, they unseated him. This action resulted in Arcadia Orchards Company President E. N. Robinson offering to build a suitable packing and storage building. The Arcadia Fruit Growers Association would have the option to take over the building when it became financially able (see note #1 below).

Plans for the Denison building were submitted to the Arcadia Fruit Growers Association by the Deer Park Artificial Stone Company. The site chosen was between the new north south highway and the Spokane Falls and Northern railroad tracks. The plans accepted by the Arcadia Fruit Growers were for a 50x50 foot concrete block building. Several more buildings were planned for the future.

In late October a crowd of over 500 people celebrated the opening of the new warehouse. At that time the warehouse was filled with nearly 6,000 boxes of Wagener apples (see note #2 below). This building was only the first of the Arcadia Fruit Growers Association's plans. In the summer 1916 the Association decided to build a large fruit warehouse in Denison, adding to the structure already there (see note #3 below). The building was to be constructed of reinforced concrete and 100 feet square. The cost to construct

this building was given as \$8,000. By October 1919 the Denison plant had been expanded to nearly three times the size of its first warehouse (see Image #2 — prior pages).

About 9 PM on December 26, 1925, a fire began in the roof of the Denison packing house and in a very short time the whole building was burning. There was no water to help fight the fire and the building and its contents were lost. The entire town of Denison would have been in danger of burning had not there been a northeast wind blowing the flames in the opposite direction. The building's owner, the Netherlands-American Bank of Spokane, who had taken over the ownership of the building in the late teens, indicated that their loss of approximately \$18,000 was well covered. Other operators who had been using the warehouse also lost their apples. The total estimated loss amounted to over \$3,000 (see note #4 below). The Denison packing house was never rebuilt, probably due to the financial losses the Netherlands American Bank was suffering in their investments in the Arcadia Orchards Company.

At approximately the same time as the warehouse building in Denison was being finished plans were being made to build a packing-warehouse in Deer Park. In the spring of 1916 W. H. Horner donated a new warehouse site to the Arcadia Fruit Growers Association (see note #5 below). The site was about one-half mile south of Deer Park along the Spokane Falls and Northern railroad tracks and contained four and one-half acres. Mr. Horner was president of the W. H. Horner Orchards Company of Seattle who owned about 170 acres of Arcadia Orchard land.

In July of 1917 it was reported that

Notes:

- #1: Deer Park Union: September 4, 1914.
- #2: Deer Park Union: October 23, 1914.
- #3: Deer Park Union: July 14, 1916.
- #4: Deer Park Union: December 31, 1925.
- #5: Deer Park Union: April 14, 1916.

CITY ACQUIRES OLD ARACADIA WAREHOUSE

Deed Given On Friday By Netherlands American Bank—Fair Association Promoters

After a campaign for funds which was started by President J. E. Olson, of the Community Fair Association, and his helpers, the Netherlands American Bank of Spokane deeded to the Town of Deer Park the portion of the Arcadia warehouse property owned by it, and the warehouse now is in the possession of the city for use for civic purposes. The deed was granted to the city because the fair association was not incorporated

and could not hold property. It will have the use of the building as a permanent home for its exhibits. It is understood that the county will cancel outstanding taxes against the property.

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

There is considerable land connected with the purchase, which can be landscaped, and it will make a good WPA project during the coming year.

Image #5:

The Deer Park Union — November 25, 1937.

excavation for the new building and storage warehouse had begun (see note #6 below). The building was to be 60 by 100 feet with a ten-foot-deep basement. The basement was to be constructed of concrete with wooden construction above ground level. Future building plans included storage buildings on each side of this building. At this time the Association had obtained 535 feet of land for a railroad spur.

Apparently work on this building was delayed for several years as another newspaper

article reported that excavation had begun in the week of July 20, 1920 (see note #7 below).

The Netherlands American Mortgage Company had formed the Arcadia Holding Company prior 1919 to consolidate and possibly preserve some value in their interest in the Arcadia Orchard Company. The officers of the Arcadia Orchard Company had convinced the Holding Company to finance the building to ensure the future of the orchard operation and help to preserve the value of their invest-

Notes:

- #6: Deer Park Union: July 13, 1917.
- #7: Deer Park Union: July 20, 1929.

ments. The Holding Company had begun to advertise orchard lands for sale in the newspapers and the officers of the Arcadia Orchard Company became mere salesmen (*see note #8 below*).

By the fall of 1921 a new 100 by 34-foot storage house was being built by Louis Olson Jr. adjoining the present warehouse. (*see note #9 below*). The addition was planned to hold 15,000 boxes of apples. From this time forward the financial condition of both the Arcadia Orchard Company and the Arcadia Fruit Growers Association declined until the Deer Park packing house complex and land had been foreclosed by Spokane County

for taxes and finally was deeded over to the city of Deer Park in 1937. The original intent was to deed the complex to the Community Fair Association but as it was not incorporated at that time the Association could not hold property (*see Image #5 prior page*).

The story of the Fair Association has been recorded by Wally Parker in *Mortarboard* issues #139 and #140 (*see links below*). The Deer Park warehouse building was razed and the fairground tract was subdivided and sold by the city of Deer Park for commercial use in the late 1990s.

— end —

Notes:

#8: *Fahey, John, 1993, Selling the Watered West: The Pacific Historic Review, Vol. 62, No. 4. (Nov. 1993, pg. 458-474).*

#9: *Deer Park Union: September 29, 1921.*

Special Notation Regarding Source of Image #4, page 2183.

_____, 1991(?), *Historic Resources Inventory: Deer Park, WA: Spokane City/9. County Historic Preservation Office, not paginated.*

Further Reading:

“A History of the Deer Park Fair: 1931 through 1946 (part 1),” by Wally Lee Parker. *Mortarboard* #139, November, 2019 — page 1957 — *Collected Newsletters, Volume 40.*
http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_139_web_.pdf

“A History of the Deer Park Fair: 1931 through 1946 (part 2)” by Wally Lee Parker. *Mortarboard* #140, December, 2019 — page 1973 — *Collected Newsletters, Volume 41.*
http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_140_web_.pdf

All 150 prior issues of the *Mortarboard*

are available

as free PDFs on the Society's website.

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

For print editions of archival issues, contact the society.



In Search Of Wagener's Apple: One Among the Arcadia Orchards' Original Varietal Plantings.

by

Wally Lee Parker

... east of the high school ...

As I recall, it was an afternoon in the fall of 1960. Our physical education class was being held outside, along the old Deer Park High School's outdoors track — that when the high school was located on South Colville Road (currently the now enlarged complex is being used as the district's middle school). A few of us had managed to escape up the rise to the east of the school's track, where we spent those minutes until our absence was noticed plucking wormy apples off the scrubby grove of apple trees standing along the ridge's crest to throw at each other. While not particularly educational, it was at least physical.

We all knew these sad looking trees were remnants of the Arcadia Orchards vast plantings — or at least everyone assumed they were. At that time little had been done to research the company's history, so most of what we heard was hearsay drawn from the dusty recollections of the area's old-timers. But seeing the condition of the stunted, gnarled, long neglected and half dead plantings, it was

easy to believe they were close to a half century old (subjectively to us back then, anything that old seemed absolutely ancient — though not so much anymore).

... an “apple detective” ...

On the 20th of October, 2012 — just over a half century after that dimly recalled physical education class — members of the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society hosted Chattaroy resident David Bencoter on an investigative tour of still standing examples of the Arcadia's trees. Mr. Bencoter was characterized as an “apple detective” in a March 2nd, 2017 *Spokesman-Review* article about recovering otherwise lost varieties of apple trees. Since we're talking about exact genetic duplicates of these vintage apples, we're talking about identifying and snipping viable cuttings from surviving trees for grafting. Everything considered, a knowledgeable detective is exactly what would be needed for such an exacting task.

In an article showcasing the nation-

Further Reading:

“Chasing Apples,” by David Bencoter. *Mortarboard* #55, November, 2012 — page 678 — *Collected Newsletters, Volume 15.*
http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_55_downsinglesinglepageweb.pdf

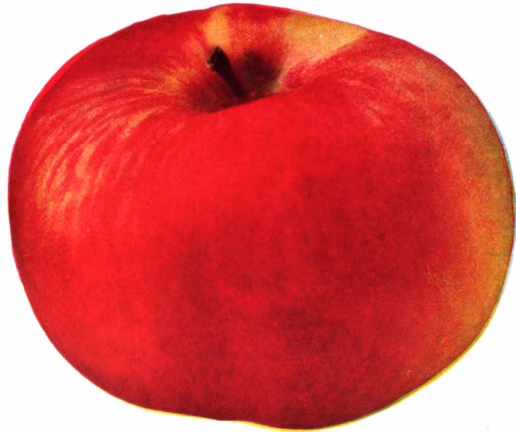


Image #1:

The Wagener Apple.

*Color plate from 1905's
"The Apples of New York,"
a publication of the State of New York's
Department of Agriculture.*

wide effort to preserve these historic apples, the May 29th, 2017 issue of the *New York Times* noted that before retirement Mr. Benscoter was an investigator for both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Treasury. According to that article, Mr. Benscoter felt "cornering corrupt politicians and tax evaders" wasn't that much different than rooting out the identities of vintage apples. It's just a matter of knowing "how and where to look."

As for the findings the gentleman derived from the society-hosted fieldtrip, those have been detailed in his own words in the November 2012 issue (#55) of the *Mortarboard*.

Though it would be best to read Mr. Benscoter's original report — a link to such provided in the "Further Reading" sidebar on page 2187 of this issue — in general summation his prior research into the Arcadia's records suggest the top nine apple varieties planted in the local orchards were Wagener, Jona-

thon, Rome Beauty, Gano, King of Tompkins County, McIntosh, King David, Ben Davis, and Rhode Island Greening — the last apple being green in color, all the prior named being red. This was significant in Mr. Benscoter's findings in that the majority of the still standing trees were producing yellow apples, suggesting they represented the rootstock on which the named varieties were grafted — the grafted portions having succumbed for one reason or another.

Mr. Benscoter did tentatively recognize one standing Wagener — the identities of most other likely prospects were hidden beneath a century of stress and neglect. He felt identifying those trees that might be original varieties would require a return to health by exercising standard orchard practices such as pruning, watering, and thinning excess fruit during the growing season. Over time that would improve the chances of identification, the art of doing so in large part determined by the size, shape, color and taste of the apples themselves.

... Wagener apples in the Arcadia ...

To quote from an article referencing the "Arcadia near Spokane" that appeared in the October 1908 issue of *The Fruit-Grower* — a nationally distributed magazine published in Saint Joseph, Missouri — "The plan of this company is to plant apple trees about 28 feet apart and sell five and ten acre tracts — or larger if desired — and to care for the trees for four years, at which time the orchard is turned over to the purchaser with a tree in every place. In this way one can have an orchard growing and not take charge of it until it is ready to begin bearing." Later on the article noted, "Wagner [sic] apple is one of the popular sorts and does well here."

Reporting on the opening of the new Arcadia Valley Fruit Growers Association warehouse in the community of Denison — just south of Deer Park — the October 23rd, 1914 edition of the *Deer Park Union* stated, "Not the least interesting feature was the ex-

hibit of nearly 6000 boxes of Wagener apples stored in the new warehouse by the Arcadia Orchards Company and individual tract owners."

The available literature suggests Wagener apple trees were popular orchard plantings throughout the Inland empire. One oddity of the promotional-gimmickry sort that arose from this popularity was found in the September 25th, 1915 issue of the *California Fruit News*. To quote, "The movement to change the name of the Wagener apple grown in the Spokane district, Washington, has ended in a compromise. This year it will be sold as the Miss Spokane Wagener, according to the *Spokesman-Review*, to distinguish it from the Wagener grown in other sections." Though we've yet to find further confirmation of this story, considering their support of promotional campaigns, it's hard to believe the Arcadia's board of directors wouldn't have been involved in some way.

... regarding the apple's origin ...

Inside a volume titled *Transactions of the New York State Agricultural Society* published in 1848, this is the history of the Wagener apple.

"In the spring of 1791, a Mr. George Wheeler brought with him from Dover, Dutchess (not Duchess) County, New York, a bag of apple seeds, which he planted upon his farm which he was reclaiming from a wilderness. In 1796, Abram Wagener, the gentleman from whom the name of the apple is derived, purchased of Lewis Birdsall his interest in the nursery produced from the seeds referred to above, he having previously purchased of the original owner, George Wheeler. Among those which were subsequently taken and planted upon his premises, was the tree which is the subject of this memoir. It now stands and occupies a position in the business part of the thriving village of Penn Yan. The premises are now owned by the Hon. Ezekiel Foster, who says, 'the old tree continues to produce a bountiful yield of delicious fruit'."

MIS-NAMING FRUITS

By the way, the name of this apple is very frequently mis-spelled—it is not Wagner but Wagener. It was named for Abraham Wagener of Penn Yan, Yates county, N. Y. It originated in 1791 but was not brought to public notice till 1847. I suppose that no injury is done the apple in mis-spelling the name or to those who grow it but I do like to see things right.

Image #2:

Wagener not Wagner.

The above clipping is from the November 15th, 1910 issue of The Ranch, a semimonthly newspaper printed in the Seattle area from 1902 through mid-1914. After that date publication was moved to Spokane and rebranded the Washington Farmer. The above quote was taken from the newspaper's horticultural column, that being written by the Reverend Freeman Walden (1830 — 1913), a widely known and highly respected farmer, horticulturist and nurseryman then living in the Zillah portion of the Yakima Valley.

Just over half a century later, this assessment of the apple's advantages and disadvantages appeared in *The Apples of New York*, a book-length report from the "New York Agricultural Experiment Station for the Year 1903."

"Wagener, at its best, is an apple of superior excellence. The color is a beautiful bright red with some contrasting pale yellow; it has fine texture, high flavor and excellent quality. It is very desirable for culinary uses but is especially esteemed for dessert. ... Its commercial limit is December, or, in cold storage, about February 1st. ... Often there is

some loss from drops, especially if the crop is not picked as soon as it is well colored, and many times there is a rather high percentage of loss in fruit that is unmarketable because it is undersized or misshapen. ... In the nursery Wagener is a pretty good grower, upright and well-formed. In the orchard it is quite vigorous at first, but as it advances to it's maturity it usually becomes a rather weak grower, with branches full of fruit spurs. It comes into bearing at an early age and so long as it remains healthy it is a reliable cropper, yielding moderate to rather heavy crops biennially or nearly annually. In many cases it overbears so that the fruit does not all develop properly in size and color. Under such circumstances it is a great advantage to thin the fruit. ... Under favorable conditions the crop is pretty uniform in size, color and quality."

The report's summation begins with this sentence. "The tree is often short-lived, but some report that it is longer lived when top-worked (assumed to mean grafted) upon harder and more vigorous stock such as Northern Spy, Baldwin and Tolman Sweet."

Though no definitive conclusion should be drawn, it's interesting to note that online sources describe the above mentioned "Tolman Sweet" as having a "butter yellow" skin. Such is of special interest when considering that the society's guest "apple detective," David Bencoter, wrote that the majority of the Arcadia's still standing trees were producing yellow apples, possibly representing shoots growing from the rootstock on which the Arcadia's more commercial apples had been grafted — the grafted portions assumed to have died away due to age and neglect.

The 1903 report on the Wagener cultivar from New York's Agricultural Experiment Station continues, "On account of its dwarfish form and habit of coming into bearing at an early age, it is recommended by some fruit growers as a filler to plant between the rows of longer-lived apple trees. Some fruit growers consider it a profitable variety, but many do not."

And lastly there's this from a book titled *The Commercial Apple Industry of North America*. Printed in 1923, the following excerpt places some historical perspective of the region's apple orchard craze so prominent in the first several decades of the 20th century.

"The third most important apple district in Washington is in Spokane County and is commonly spoken of as the Spokane apple district. Acreage of this county at one time was nearly as great as that in Yakima, but the production has never approached that of the latter. The region was developed after the Yakima and Wenatchee districts and considerable acreage of unsuited land was set in trees. The most intensive plantings are in the Spokane Valley west of Spokane, extending along the river for a distance of twenty-five miles to the east. Production from the county reached about 1,400 cars in 1920. A considerable increase in production may be expected, although it seems probable that much of the acreage originally set to trees, and particularly the trees on non-irrigated land, will never attain full commercial bearing. The principal varieties are Jonathan, Rome Beauty and Wagener."

— 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.

Letters, Email, Bouquets & Brickbats

— or —

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

... Rory Vinson finds two fobs ...

Via email, this last August 10th the society's president, Bill Sebright, sent the *Mortarboard's* editor the following note with photos attached.

"I received a call from Rory Vinson today and met him at Delores Hutchison's house. Delores lives on the south side of Crawford Street, just west of the roundabout — her home being the old Edward Robinson place."

As Bill explained, Mr. Vinson, using "a really expensive metal detector," had located a metal Arcadia Orchards Company tag/fob on the Hutchinson property, the only difference between it and a near duplicate discovered by Robert Wiese (once again via metal detector) just off downtown Deer Park's Railroad Avenue in the late Autumn of 2019 being the numbers stamped on the face — 882 for Rory's, 588 for Robert's. A report on Mr. Wiese's discovery can be found in the February 2020 *Mortarboard* (#142) ([see link below](#)).

Though probably just coincidence, it's interesting to note that Mrs. Hutchison's house was constructed in 1913 by the Arcadia Orchards Company's then president, Edward



Rory Vinson's Arcadia Tag/Fob.

Robinson. Mr. Robinson's history with the company and with Deer Park can be found in the society's October 2015 newsletter — *Mortarboard* (#90) ([see link below](#)).

Further afield, Mr. Vinson discovered a second artifact, a square watch fob ([pictured on page 2193](#)) — this on a lot west of Craw-

Further Reading.

"Letters/Brickbats: Arcadia Orchards Company tag," by Wally Lee Parker. *Mortarboard* #142, February, 2020 — page 2016 — *Collected Newsletters, Volume 41*.
http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_142_web_.pdf

"Edward Robinson: President Arcadia Orchards Company," by 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



Above: The Edward Robinson house under construction, circa 1913. The house, somewhat modified is still standing — current address, 1302 East Crawford St.
Right: Rory Vinson during his recent visit to Deer Park. Note he's holding the two found objects in his hands.

ford Street's Zion Lutheran Church. Various online collectors of election memorabilia describe this thin, stamped brass fob as being approximately an inch and a half square.

The lettering on the found fob indicate a preference for candidate Teddy Roosevelt and his running mate, Charles Fairbanks, in 1904's presidential campaign. While the "Washington" stamped on the bottom of the tag could imply Washington State, the lack of other state names on other campaign fobs of the same type suggest it's actually referring to Washington D. C.

The definition of the word fob is complex. My *Random House Dictionary* has two listings for the word. The first listing is in three-parts: One suggesting that the pocket in your Levi jeans meant to hold your pocket watch is



Photo above from the Susanne Keith collection.
Photo to the left by Bill Sebright.

Photo by Bill Sebright.



Rory Vinson's 1904 Election Fob.

the fob; the second defining the chain or ribbon attached to the watch and allowed to dangle from the above pocket for easy removal of the attached watch is the fob; and lastly that the fob is a medallion or ornament of some type attached to the above chain or ribbon. Let the arguments begin.

Personally, I like *Random House's* definition under its second listing for the word fob — to cheat by deception or trickery.

Be that as it may, men's use of pocket watches began to decline during the First World War as variations of the wartime trench watch — intended to be worn on the wrist, thus being quickly observable while leaving the hands free for other things — gained in popularity.

The finder of the pictured objects (*see photo facing page*), retiree Rory Vinson, currently lives in the Lewiston/Clarkston area. He's been an avid metal detectorist for almost four decades and is currently associated with The Ring Finders Metal Detecting Service — an online database of individuals offering to find lost objects. Each independent member is free to set their own terms, meaning recovery fees and so forth, for any services provided.

(Special thanks to Pete Coffin and Bill Sebright for their assistance with this tag/fob article.)

... a Congregational Church for Clayton ...

Dateline "Clayton, Wash., March 13." the following appeared in the March 15th, 1894 edition of the *Spokane Weekly Review*.

"Revs. T. W. Walters, general missionary, A. W. Curtis and E. J. Singer, Sunday School missionary, met Sunday with the people of Clayton and assisted in the organization of a Congregational Church. The church starts with 11 members. Clayton is the new name for Allen Siding on the Spokane Falls & Northern, between Loon Lake and Deer Park. It is here that the Washington Brick and Lime Company has established its plant for making dry pressed brick of the finest quality, of which the new (Spokane) courthouse is to be built.

Two kilns have been burned and have come out a most beautiful creamy white and with the granite imitation brick for trimming will make an imposing structure. This company has also made a successful attempt to manufacture pottery from this clay. The jugs and jars made are of the most excellent quality. The clay is inexhaustible in quantity, consequently it seems that Clayton is destined to be something more than a mere sidetrack. There is a new sawmill owned by the Hoare brothers, one store and another talked of to come soon, a schoolhouse, not large enough for the place, that will be replaced by one that is, and now a church organization and Sunday school."

Under the lead "New Incorporations," the July 7th, 1895 edition of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* carried this. "First Congregational Church of Clayton, Stevens County; trustees, John Lewis, Frank Hutchison, Edward Evans."

And then, the January 16th, 1896 edition of the *Spokesman-Review*, under the headline "The New Church at Clayton," reported, "The new and commodious edifice of the Congregational Church at Clayton was opened for service on Sunday, January 12. Rev. E. J.

Singer, missionary of the Congregational Sunday School Publishing Society, organized a Sunday school there two years ago. In a few months a Congregational church was organized and was supplied for a season by Rev. Curtis, then by J. M. Lewis, now a student at the Pacific Theological Seminary. Rev. J. J. Hancock has been the pastor during the last year.

“Early last fall preparations were made for the erection of a building. The people donated the logs and hauled them to the mill. The land was the gift of the Washington Brick and Lime Company, which did much else in helping on the work. The church having no convenient place of meeting, it was thought best to open the building for worship before it was completed.

“The opening service was held on Sunday afternoon. The choir had been well trained by Benjamin Lewis, once a leading choir conductor in Wales, ‘Gwalla lan gwlad y gan.’ The duet by Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Williams, and the quartet by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis and Mr. and Mrs. Hutchings were well rendered, and Mrs. Evans’ solo.

“Rev. Jonathan Edwards of Spokane preached on ‘The Word of God,’ and Rev. T. W. Walters, general missionary, delivered the opening address. He succeeded in getting enough subscriptions so that with the aid of the Congregational Building Society the church will be dedicated free of debt in about a month. The pastor, and deacon John Lewis, have been untiring in their labors, and the people of Clayton are to be congratulated in having succeeded through their united efforts in erecting such a convenient and comfortable place of worship.

“The building is 26 by 40 feet, 16 feet high, with a tower 50 feet high. It is well seated through the kindness of the Washington Mill Company.”

I tried to get a translation of the above assumed-to-be-Welch phrase “*Gwalla lan gwlad y gan.*” If I substitute the first word, “*Gwalla,*” with “*Cymru,*” the translation comes back, “*Wales county of the song.*”

Online machine translators for both Welch to English and Old Welch to English didn’t recognize “*Gwalla*” as a word — or several arrangements substituting the letter ‘i’ for either or both the letters ‘l’ — as a word. It’s a puzzle I’ll have to leave for others to solve.

As for this new (to us) bit of Clayton history, we’d be interested in hearing from anyone who might be able to fill in the rest of the story.

... Deer Park’s “public telephone” ...

The following email was recently received from society member Ken Westby. Over the years Ken has contributed some significant articles to the *Mortarboard* — the subject of his letter touching on several.

“A reader of my October 2020 Mortarboard (#150) story about the Slater building asked me what the population of Deer Park was in 1911-12. A Wikipedia article about Deer Park shows the 1910 census at 875 and the 1920 census at 1103. We know there were 97 telephones in homes and businesses within the city limits in 1912. Probably one-quarter to one-third of homes had a telephone, and most businesses had at least one phone. Residents without a phone would run to a neighbor’s phone in case of emergency. Interestingly, it was customary for drugstores across the U.S. to have a ‘public telephone’ that could be used by the general public as a courtesy to customers during business hours. I’m sure these drugstore phones were a precursor to the pay-telephone. The ‘honor system’ applied, meaning users were asked to keep such calls brief out of respect for others who might be waiting. To allow some degree of privacy during such calls, small rooms with a door were added. Hence the first phone booths, found in many drugstores everywhere at the time, including Dr. Slaters Deer Park Pharmacy.”

One of the technological changes impacting the first decades of the 20th century was the growing ability of private citizens to communicate at a distance via telephone.

How this was accomplished in the rural areas of northwest Spokane County and southeast Stevens County is a fascination and ongoing study — with the work of Ken Westby and Peter Coffin being among the best the society

has published to date. For more on the subject follow the links provided in the “*Further Reading*” box below.

———— Wally Lee Parker ————

Further Reading — Deer Park’s Telephones:

“Telephone Service Comes to Deer Park (part 1),” by Ken Westby & Peter Coffin. Mortarboard #94, February, 2016 — page 1217 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 26.
http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard_issue_94_doublepage_web.pdf

“Telephone Service Comes to Deer Park (part 2)” by Ken Westby & Peter Coffin. Mortarboard #95, March, 2016 — page 1233 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 26.
http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard_issue_95_doublepage_web.pdf

Minutes of the Clayton ♦ Deer Park Historical Society ———— October 10, 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! (Normally the meetings are held at the society’s museum/office, 300 Block East ‘A’ Street, Deer Park. Look for the sign.) The following reports were sent by email.

Society President Bill Sebright reported that: 1) He received a phone call from Steve Schmidt in Portland, Oregon. Steve’s dad, Stan, and grandparents, Otto and Ella lived “about a block” from the Prestini home in the 1930s. His grandparents owned the Brickyard Tavern when it was called Schmidt’s Lunch. He has a Schmidt’s Lunch calendar from 1934. He will talk to his 93-year-old dad to get more information. He hopes to get pictures of some of Leno’s sculptures that his dad has. Steve still has property in Hayden, Idaho, and plans to come up this fall.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported: The main checking account ended the month at \$8,967.80. The web hosting account ended the month at \$904.94, with a withdraw-

al of \$11.84 for web hosting. There were deposits of \$120. The Brickyard Day account is at \$1,945.33. 2) He filed our income tax report, and it was accepted. 3) He took *Mortarboards* to Gardenspot Health Foods and Odynski’s Accounting.

Society Vice President: No one has stepped forward to become Vice President.

Print editor Wally Parker reported: 1) The standard 120 copies of the October *Mortarboard* (#150) have been printed for distribution and the online version has been submitted for uploading to the website. The Heritage Network and the Loon Lake Library have received files enabling hardcopy reproduction of this issue whenever desired. 2) The October *Mortarboard* features Ken Westby’s “*Deer Park’s H. H. Slater Building — the rest of the story.*” Following is a piece by the *Mortarboard*’s editor titled “*Research into a Vintage Photo Associated with the Olsen Opera House’s 1913 Presentation of The Princess Kiku: A Japanese Romance.*” 3) And now an invitation for anyone so inclined to join the editor’s volunteer proofreading group. While

your editor has gotten at least marginally better at this job over the years, when scanning past issues of the *Mortarboard*, I still occasionally find wince-able errors — charitably called typos. When possible I'll go back and fix them. But that doesn't help for materials already released. The simple fact is, the more eyes perusing each pre-print copy of the *Mortarboard* the more likely such problems will be identified for correction. Once a month my volunteers receive a proofing copy of the *Mortarboard* via email. They scan it and report any problems they see. They do a remarkably good job, but even professional proofers miss things on occasion. If helping sounds like something you'd be willing to do, email me. My address is in the "Society Contacts" box below.

Webmaster Damon Smathers reported: The October issue of the *Mortarboard* has been uploaded to the website. President Bill Sebright added Pete Coffin's captions to the Keith 1913 Album — thank you to Bill and Pete for updating the album. The Keith album has been added to the front page as a slideshow, including a link to the full album with captions.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 14, 2020, at 10:00 AM at our new building. This is certainly subject to change due to the State's COVID-19 reopening guidelines.

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

— end —

Society Contacts

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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.