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Illustrations from Collier's Magazine, May 26, 1923.

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

THE  
CLAYTON ♦ DEER PARK  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Mortarboard

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### *A Home on Loon Lake.*

by

Chuck Stewart

My father, Charles Burton Stewart, enlisted in the Army in October 1942 and served as a radio repairman at the base in Chico, California. Before departing he bought a lot on Loon Lake at Sunnyside Beach roughly midway up the sunny east side of the lake below the western spur of Loon Lake Mountain.

Dad married Linda Lucille Kelso while home on leave in December 1944. After he was discharged in October 1945, they took up residence on the 160-acre Stewart family farm Northwest of Clayton on Williamson Road. My grandparents, Horace and Emma Stewart, had resided there from 1919 until 1940 when Horace died of a heart attack and Emma moved to California to live with her daughter.

The old farmhouse was poorly insulated, and its roof had begun to sag, so Dad set out to build a cabin on the lake property. To save money he did it all himself. It started out to be a log cabin from a book titled something like "*Sunset Cabin Plans*." But after painstakingly fitting the first seven rows of logs and discovering how difficult it would be to keep the walls square and true all the way up, he wisely decided to complete the walls in the normal stick-frame style. It was a small house with a combined kitchen-living room, one bedroom, and a kind of dressing room plus closet on the first floor. A steep, narrow stairway led up to the attic where my sister and I eventually had our bedrooms. We lived on the lake during the summers but moved back to

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*A View from the Beach.  
One of our last boats at Loon Lake.*

the farm in the fall so I could continue grade school in Clayton. For the first few years at the lake, Mom cooked on a wood stove and we used an outhouse up in the bushes by the driveway.

Our “beach” was originally covered with small willow bushes and cattails with a gray-green slimy muck covering the sandy bottom beyond. After a few years of hacking and hauling along with heavy summer traffic of barefoot kids swirling the muck off the

coarse granite sand we had a pretty good beach. But the sandy part went out only about 80 ft. Beyond that was really bottomless gray muck that kids’ bare feet, shovels, outboard motors, even a dragline at one point, could not remove. If so inclined, one could squish through it about 200 feet, feeling the slimy mud oozing between the toes, before it got too deep. Some preferred to start swimming high in the water at the end of the sand to avoid touching the muck altogether.

or need to breathe, just a wonderful, cool, quiet weightlessness. My eyes were open to see the beautiful sunlit silver surface above, the greenish bottom with yellow patches of sand with weeds in the far distance. I just wanted to stay down there and enjoy it but Dad must have totally panicked and rushed back to interrupt my reverie, lifting me back to the world of air and gravity in his strong arms. I must have been smiling as he hauled me out. Ever since I have always loved being around, on, in, and especially under the water.

We finally made the lake house our permanent residence in the summer of 1957 when my sister Susan started the first grade at Loon Lake, and I entered the 5<sup>th</sup> grade (I had done the 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grades at Clayton). By then we had an electric stove and indoor plumbing. During the summer of 1958 or ‘59 Dad hired Bob Herendeen, self-styled “*The Crazy Dane*,” to jack the house up about four feet to make space for a basement. It was a marvelous thing to watch stocky Mr. Herendeen wrestle heavy beams into position and crawl into impossibly tight places to shim his jacks, singing loudly all the while. With all finally in place, hydraulics raised the house slowly and gently in several lifts to the final height where it rested on stacks of timbers.

Later that summer Dad poured a

*Beginning Our Lake Home.  
Linda Stewart by the lake house  
then under construction.*

My first memory of the Lake was very pleasant but very wet. I must have been around 3 years old, able to navigate but not yet tuned to life’s hazards. Dad had built a wooden dock partway out into the lake. Sometime later he decided to extend it a little farther and was in a rowboat pounding posts into the sand to support the extension. I stood on the end of the existing dock, looking down through the water at the mud and sand two or three feet below. Leaning over to better peer into the wonderful clear liquid I either stepped or fell off the dock and went under!

I still remember the next few seconds in full color detail. I felt no panic, discomfort,





***Completed Home on the Lake.***

***“We made the lake house our permanent residence in the summer of 1957.”***

foundation and laid concrete block walls up to the bottom course of logs. I think this is where I first learned the finer points of mixing mortar and carrying hod as his apprentice. After we got done, Dad called Bob Herendeen back in to shift the house from his timbers onto the new wall. Then it was my job all through the fall and winter to dig out the clay under the house to form the basement. There was three to four feet of hard packed, swampy, sweet-smelling clay to remove to get to floor level. I had to loosen it with a pick or mattock then toss it out a window hole with a shovel. When the pile got so high it started to trickle back in, I scooped it into a wheelbarrow and dumped it on the edge of a terrace expanding out toward the lake. I don't think I got paid for it, but the work was fun, and the exercise was certainly good for me.

Susan and I spent most of every sunny summer day on the beach and in the water. Though no dermatologist would approve, we naturally browned quickly without protective sunscreen after a bad sunburn or two in the

spring and the sun never bothered us from then on. We taught ourselves how to dogpaddle and move around under water, but Mom also got us into swimming lessons, so we'd know how to do the crawl, breaststroke, side stroke, etc. I even took a junior lifesaving class down at Cedar Beau Bay resort at about age 12. The main memory I took from the class was learning the technique to loosen the fatal embrace of a panicky drowning victim by jabbing your thumb into his temple. The instructor repeatedly had to be the “victim” and tolerate the painful procedure to evaluate how well we learned it.

We almost never did any serious swimming for its own sake. It was mostly just the way to get back to the dock for another fling off the diving board or the means to stay ahead of another in a short race or chase. But one calm morning there was a unique challenge that couldn't be avoided. Our Aunt Francis and Uncle Red Frazier from Kellogg, Idaho were visiting with my cousin Pat. My friend Jimmy Lewis (son of Hays Lewis) from

up the hill was also there for a swim. Uncle Red sat under the weeping willow on the beach watching us three in the water. On a rest break he posed the challenge, “Do you think you could swim across the lake?” I'm sure he wasn't serious, but we looked at each other and concluded, “Let's try it!” I don't know how much convincing the moms required to make it happen, but soon Pat, Jim and I (age 12 or 13) were in the water swimming after Uncle Red as he rowed our boat ahead of us for safety.

From our beach it is about a mile directly across the lake. None of us had ever tried to swim more than maybe 100 feet at the very farthest, and only because it was a requirement to pass swim lessons. We just kept up an easy stroke trying to conserve all the energy we could to make it all the way. We also stopped often to tread water or hang on to the boat and rest. Once we got out a ways, it was eerie to gaze down into the dark green with no bottom in sight, wondering if something big would come up and get us. It took about an hour to hit the other shore! I don't remember any of us suffering any pain or difficulty during the swim, but our legs and arms were almost useless when we tried to get into the boat. Nobody said much on the way back, but we each felt the euphoria of doing something big that adults would find difficult — the grandest thing a kid can feel.

Living on Loon Lake eventually requires a boat. Our first boats were supplied by others who moored them at our place in return for our own occasional use. In my case that use was much more than occasional. The first one was a 12-ft. steel “Can't Sink'em” with a 7 hp Martin outboard that we moored for Martin Keeny (this is the boat Uncle Red used to lead us in our swim across the lake). By sitting in the middle seat and steering the motor with an oar I could get up to maybe 10 mph.

Next was a 12 ft. Lowell aluminum runabout powered by my Uncle Kenneth Kelson's 20 hp Mercury outboard. It could easily do 20 mph and I could get it up to 25 mph or more by actually sitting on the transom beside



***At Sunnyside Beach.***

***Chuck Stewart with Lowell boat & motor,  
circa 1957.***

the motor. But this was a very unstable situation as I found out one day when a wave pushed the bow sideways where it caught the wind and whipped the boat a quick 90-degrees. Now doing 20 mph sideways, water sprayed over the side and half swamped the boat while the motor, still running at full throttle, tipped it sideways and almost turned the boat over before I could shut it down. After some deep breaths and fast bailing to keep the boat afloat, I re-positioned the motor and more sedately cruised back home and tied it up. I was now completely satisfied with the boat's speed without any heroic seating arrangement.

Sometime in the early 60's Deer Park barber Spud Zuchetto moored his boat with us. It was a handsome red and white 16-foot Crestliner with a 40 hp Mercury outboard that provided speeds approaching 30 mph and plenty of power for serious water skiing. I believe we later bought the boat from Spud.

It was an awesome privilege of being trusted to go untie a boat, then motor all over the lake alone or with friends in all seasons and in all weather. And all this without a life-jacket! I had only to mutter “I'm goin' in the boat” to Mom on the way out and the only restriction was to be back for in time for



lunch, dinner, or some other appointment that required my presence.

Later we had our own boats for water activities. Each one always had a little more horsepower than the last one, which was great for our water skiing. My last water skiing on the lake was in 1995.

My parents lived at the lake place until their deaths. Mom died in 1987. And Dad lived there for 8 more years, passing in 1995. My sister and I sold the lake house in the autumn of 1995.

— end —

## *The Spokane Harvester Company.*

### *Research into the Company Shown in the Last Several Minutes of the Arcadia Orchards Film.*

by

*Wally Lee Parker*

*... near the end of the film ....*

On August 13<sup>th</sup> 2011, Don and Mary Jo Reiter donated two reels of vintage 35mm movie film to the Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society. The story of how Don obtained these irreplaceable artifacts was recorded in the May 2014 edition of the *Mortarboard* ([link to online version provided on page 2248](#)). When presenting them to the society, Don's suspicion was that they contained images related to Deer Park's historic Arcadia Orchards project. As it turns out, they did — and a significant bit more.

For example, the reels contain various scenes of vintage Spokane, including sev-

eral minutes shot from the front of a streetcar as it negotiated downtown streets. Those scenes, possibly dating to as early as 1911, seem to have generated surprisingly less interest within the region's historical community than expected. Part of that may be due to the fact that the images are degraded — as might be expected of pictures projected through strips of century-old 35mm nitrocellulose film.

It seems likely certain portions of the film might be amenable to significant improvement with proper digital remastering — the cost of which would be far beyond the society's means. As for what we can do to halt further degradation, thanks to society member Peter Coffin the film was profession-

#### *YouTube Videos: Arcadia Orchards Film.*

*Complete original film with enhancements by Mike Reiter.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFZEd-XBedw>

*KSPS Television's Northwest Profiles: Apples & Orchards.*

*Peter Coffin explains the importance of the Arcadia Orchards film.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7i8Hd5NU8jg&t=7s>

ally cleansed of a hundred-plus years of accumulated grime, and afterwards a digital copy was made to ensure the images would survive despite any further deterioration of the increasingly fragile and flammable film, and to minimize further handling that might increase the film's rate of deterioration. All this was done through Pete's intervention, and at Pete's own expense.

The film is a collection of scenes produced to promote the Arcadia Orchards Company. It begins with a view of the Spokane River as it cascades under a long metal bridge — this image is preceded by an intertitle card reading "*Spokane Water Power.*" We've some idea of the age of this bit of imagery, since the metal girder bridge seen crossing the river in the foreground was subsequently replaced by the concrete arches of the iconic Monroe Street Bridge — that bridge first opened to traffic in late November, 1911.

Regarding the above noted "*intertitle card,*" such cards were what film historians now call "*expository intertitles*" — lines of explanatory text printed on decorative cards, then filmed and spliced into a silent movie. These cards were often used to insert lines spoken by the actors as well, such quotes referred to as "*dialog intertitles.*"

With silent films, intertitle cards provided those necessary bits of narration needed to frame a story otherwise being told in what was essentially pantomime. Since the Arcadia film was a promotional device, we can assume there was an intent that any showing be accompanied by scripted explanations and elaborations voiced by a narrator/salesman. This is not a certainty, but the brevity of the film's few intertitle cards leaves a fair amount of important information to guesswork. Since this film may have been shown in locations as far away as Europe, without such accompany-



#### *An Intertitle.*

*Leading to the scenes showing the Spokane Harvester Company, this intertitle is located at minute 13:53 of the Arcadia film.*

ing narration a degree of bewilderment among viewers was as probable back then as it's proving now.

Uncertainty aside, one piece of film we're confident we've dated follows the intertitle "*Arrival of Guest at the Official Opening of the Arcadia Orchards Co's Main Irrigation Canal.*" Comparing that very specific intertitle with a descriptive article found in the September 8<sup>th</sup> 1911 edition of the *Deer Park Union* gives the prior day, September 7<sup>th</sup>, as the day those sequences were shot. Along with a discussion of that day's events, scenes clipped from the movie can be found in the January 2019 *Mortarboard* (#129). (*For a link to Mortarboard #129, see the Further Reading box below.*)

The digitized version of the Arcadia Orchards film is just a few seconds over 16 minutes in length. One segment of the film that seems somewhat out of place falls directly behind a less-than-informative intertitle card

#### **Further Reading — History of the Arcadia Orchards.**

**"Opening Loon Lake Water ... the Arcadia Orchards Irrigation System," by Peter Coffin.**

Mortarboard #129, January, 2019 — page 1785 — Collected Newsletters, Volume 37.

[http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter\\_129\\_\\_web\\_\\_pdf](http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_129__web__pdf)

reading “*Combined Harvester Spokane County*.” Taking up fractionally more than a minute’s worth of the film, this segment appears between time-marker 13:53 and 14:58 of the film’s digital version. The segment shows what appears to be a vintage-style combine being towed by a steam-tractor across the grounds of the Spokane Harvester Company — the company’s identification being assumed since the name Spokane Harvester Company is clearly visible on the buildings in the background, and also, with some effort, discernable as print on the machine being towed. Knowing the company’s name opens the possibility that at least a rough bracketing of when the film was shot could be gleaned through further research.

... *the Modern Manufacturing Company* ...

The history of the Spokane Harvester Company begins to condense with an article appearing in the October 19<sup>th</sup>, 1904 edition of the *Spokesman-Review*. In said edition a representative of Spokane’s Chamber of Commerce reported that a company “*incorporated Monday in Spokane*” under the name Modern Manufacturing Company “*has secured a location just east of the city limits on the Northern Pacific tracks. The 15 acres selected are bound by the railroad on the south, by Louisiana Avenue on the north, E Street on the east and a line a half block west of Regal Street on the west.*”

Regarding the above noted Louisiana Avenue, in early October, 1912, the following proposal was put before Spokane’s commissioners. Since “*Front, Olive and Louisiana Avenues form a continuous thoroughfare leading from downtown to the east city limits,*” it was suggested their names be consolidated into Trent Avenue — as per the Trent Road already designated in that area. It appears that proposal was accepted, suggesting earlier references to Louisiana Avenue — such as noted with the incorporation of the Modern Manufacturing Company — likely indicate a portion of today’s Trent Avenue.

As my best guess, the Modern Manufacturing Company’s property began at or around the present 2800 block of East Trent. It’s likely to have then continued east along the south side of said avenue an unknown distance beyond the current 3000 block. Though it appears some street names as well as the layouts of such throughout the area have changed over the years, the several farm machinery companies that have since owned the Modern Manufacturing site appear to share the East 3036 postal address — first as on Louisiana Avenue, then continuing when the facing street’s name was changed to Trent Avenue.

That current address falls within a triangular wedge between Trent Avenue and the railroad tracks further south. This fits well with the description of Modern Manufacturing’s campus from 1904’s *Spokesman-Review*.

One of said company’s early objec-

tives was to expedite shipping by stringing a railroad spur from the Northern Pacific tracks and down the backside — the southside — of the company’s shops. That appears to have been at least partially accomplished before the enterprise undid itself.

An article in the *Chronicle’s* February 10<sup>th</sup>, 1905 issue explained the new company intended to manufacture “*harvesters, threshers, combined harvesters, steam and gasoline engines, mechanical hoedowns and fork spooling device, harrows, grain drills and some mining machinery.*” This seemed quite ambitious considering the same article stated the company would “*employ between 20 and 25 men in their factory.*” But then, after just one summer’s worth of apparent growth, the three buildings first constructed were already too small for the business. In November of 1905 the new company responded to the need for more factory space by taking out a \$100,000 mortgage.

As for how well things went from that point forward, we know two things occurred in November of the following year. First, the company missed “*the semiannual interest of \$3,500*” it owed on the above mortgage. Then later in the month it was reported that the company was being sued on the allegation that “*the patent rights of an improvement on draft equalizers ... had been infringed upon.*”

In January, 1907, notice was given that the bondholders on the above \$100,000 mortgage were foreclosing. Early in February announcements of an impending Sheriff’s Sale of Modern Manufacturing’s holdings began appearing in the *Spokesman-Review* — said sale to occur on March 2<sup>nd</sup> “*before the east courthouse door.*” In said notice the real-estate involved was described as “*All of blocks 126, 127, 128 and 134 of East Side Syndicate addition to Spokane Falls — now Spokane — Washington, together with the streets adjoining said blocks which have heretofore been vacated by the county of Spokane, and the title of which is vested in said manufacturing company.*”

When the Modern Manufacturing Company first purchased the individual blocks mentioned in the Sheriff’s sale, they were exactly that, platted blocks. At some prior point the area in question had been subdivided by a real-estate concern called the East Side Syndicate. (The origin of this syndicate appears to be somewhere in the mid-1880s — predating Spokane Falls’ great fire.) Since Modern Manufacturing doubtless wanted to integrate its entire campus into one unit, legally dissolving the public streets drawn into the real-estate company’s original layout would have been a necessary step.

The Sheriff’s posting went on to state that all “*machinery, tools, implements and appliances of every name, nature and kind used in the conduct of the business,*” were to be included in the sale. Within this “*name*” and “*nature*” were “*all patterns for the purpose of the manufacture of machinery, also all patent rights and all interest in patent rights which said manufacturing company owns or in which it has an interest.*”

When the listing was done, it was clear that every smidgin of the prior company’s property was to be included in the sale.

... *the Spokane Harvester Company* ...

On the afternoon following the sale, the *Chronicle* announced that the factory had been purchased for \$100,000 — the stated purchaser being Gilbert Hunt of Walla Walla. Mr. Hunt was not a newcomer to the farm implement business — a company bearing his name having been a major manufacturer of agricultural equipment within the Pacific Northwest for the prior several decades.

It should be noted that Mr. Hunt was well acquainted with the Modern Manufacturing Company, having purchased 480 of the company’s 1,750 shares for a reported \$48,000 just a year prior to that company’s demise. Assumedly that investment would have been lost during the company’s dissolution.

On an upbeat note, the *Chronicle*

**Further Reading — Arcadia Orchards Film**

“*Is this a Rauch & Lang Electric Automobile,*” by Wally Lee Parker.  
Mortarboard #71, March, 2014 — page 864 — *Collected Newsletters, Volume 18.*  
[http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/issue\\_71\\_singlepage.pdf](http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/issue_71_singlepage.pdf)

“*The Arcadia Orchards Film,*” by Wally Lee Parker.  
Mortarboard #73, May, 2014 — page 885 — *Collected Newsletters, Volume 19.*  
[http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard\\_issue\\_73\\_singlepage.pdf](http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/mortarboard_issue_73_singlepage.pdf)

“*Spokane Streetcars Seen in Arcadia Orchards Film,*” by Wally Lee Parker.  
Mortarboard #79, November, 2014 — page 969 — *Collected Newsletters, Volume 21.*  
[http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter\\_079\\_web\\_doublepage\\_w-8.pdf](http://cdphs.org/uploads/3/4/2/0/34204235/newsletter_079_web_doublepage_w-8.pdf)



article concluded “It is definitely announced that the company will be reorganized.”

In that regard, the March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1907 issue of the *Spokesman-Review* carried this. “The Spokane Harvester Company was incorporated yesterday. It has taken over the plant of the Modern Manufacturing Company and will start at once to manufacture a general line of harvesting machinery. The handling of any kind of iron work will be a special feature of the new works. The output will be shipped all over the northwestern country and up to Alberta. Two hundred men will be employed. The capacity of the plant will be doubled at a cost of \$20,000.”

To handle said increase in capacity, on November 18<sup>th</sup> the *Chronicle* noted, “In place of the short spur laid two years ago, a spur one-half mile long is nearly complete in grading and ties leading west to the Spokane Harvester Company’s works.”

Mention of the company’s name in Spokane’s newspapers was relatively scant over the next few months. Then on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1908, under the headline “Harvester Plant Booms,” the following appeared in the *Spokesman-Review*.

“Sixty men are at work in the plant of the Spokane Harvester Company,” said Gilbert Hunt, one of the large stockholders in the firm, who is in the city from Walla Walla.

“We are making the McRae harvester for sidehill work, and the Smith disk harrow. Our plant has a capacity for employing 500 to 1,000 men, and with the steady increase in business it is only a matter of time until they will be employed.”

It seems likely the above optimism for growth is related to the company having obtained the rights to manufacture the then revolutionary McRae harvester. As for what made this machine revolutionary, we can find part of that story in the August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1903 edition of Umatilla County, Oregon’s *Athena Press*. Under the headline “McRae’s Combine,” the newspaper reported, “Alex McRae, of the Umatilla Implement Company, has designed a new combined harvester and has it

now in the field at work, which, if it proves to be a success, will revolutionize the combine business in this part of the country.”

“For more than a year the inventor has been at work on the plans of this machine and has at last perfected it.”

The *Athena Press* article continued with a detailed description of the machine and its capabilities.

Labeled “a dispatch from Pendleton, Oregon,” the September 29<sup>th</sup>, 1903 edition of Minnesota’s nationally distributed *Farm Implements* magazine carried a similar though more compact report. In part this article said, “Alex McRae ... has designed a new model for a combined harvester that is expected to do great things for the farmer, and incidentally for the inventor. By a new arrangement of the gearing and the internal mechanism of the machine, he has made a combine that is of much lighter draft and increased threshing capacity. ... The model that has been at work in the fields around Pendleton for the last week is a 12-foot machine and has been worked with from 10 to 12 horses. The standard 14-foot combine that has been in use here for the past several years is a good load for from 18 to 20 horses, so that it can be seen from that alone that the machine put out by McRae ought to be a success. ...”

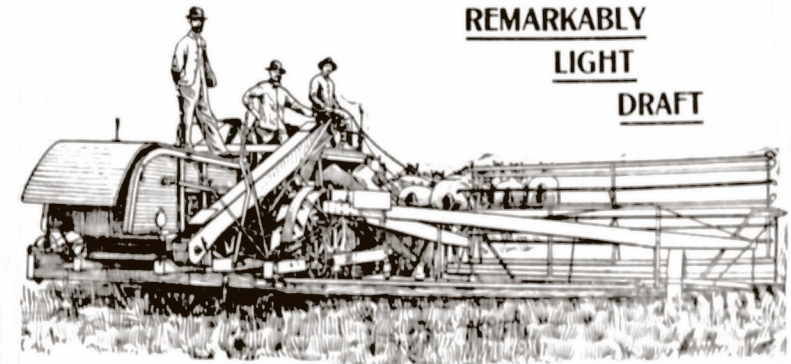
As to how successful this particular machine may have been, the June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1908 edition of *Commercial West* magazine reported, “The Spokane Harvester Company has shipped a trainload of eight cars of combined harvesters, representing a value of \$125,000, for distribution in the territory south of the Spokane River and tributary to Walla Walla, Pomeroy, and Athena, Oregon. This is about one-fifth of the firm’s season’s output, and the demand has been so heavy that the company is planning to largely increase its output next season. The company expects to have a \$1,000,000 plant, employing 450 men in three or four years. The Spokane Harvester Company is owned by Gilbert Hunt, of Walla Walla, and M. Walters, of Spokane, and is at present capitalized at \$300,000.”

# Spokane Combine

## Harvester

(McRae Patent)

REMARKABLY  
LIGHT  
DRAFT



### Proved Wonderfully Successful

GREAT SAVING OF POWER—From six to ten horses less required on this machine than on any other combine on the market.

GREAT SAVING OF GRAIN—By patented devices we are able to save practically all the grain in light or heavy crops.

WRITE FOR CIRCULAR

### Spokane Harvester Company

Telephone Main 2156

Spokane, Wash.

A Spokane Harvester Company Advertisement — April 21, 1908.

*This advertisement was clipped from the Spokesman-Review. It describes the machine shown as a “combine harvester.” This term is usually reserved for a device that combines four grain-harvesting processes into one machine — said processes being reaping, threshing, gathering, and winnowing.*

Both Modern Manufacturing and Spokane Harvester's predictions of the size of their future workforces proved wildly inflated.

... *history repeats itself* ...

Just a month later the July 10<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Spokesman-Review* printed the following.

*"Claiming the Spokane Harvester Company is infringing on its patents, the Holt Manufacturing Company of Stockton, California, has brought suit against the Spokane company to recover \$70,000. Melancthon Walters, manager of the harvester company, says that the Holt people have been waiting for months to see whether the Spokane machines were a success before bringing suit, and that the suit is in fact a compliment to the merits of the harvester.*

*"The Spokane combined harvester is built under patents issued to Alex McCrae of Walla Walla, and the making of it was commenced here three years ago by the Modern Manufacturing Company. The early machines proved troublesome because of mechanical defects in manufacture, but last year, when the plant was taken over by Gilbert Hunt and Melancthon Walters of the Gilbert Hunt Company of Walla Walla, the plant was overhauled, and the harvesters were put out under a new standard of workmanship which resulted in the successful operation of the machines. Last year six machines were put out and proved their value in the wheat fields. As a result of their good work 30 machines, having a value of \$50,000, have been sold for this year's delivery, and recently a trainload was shipped to the Athena country, Oregon.*

*"Mr. Walters, manager of the Spokane Harvester Company, said last night; 'The Spokane Harvester Company holds basic patents for the manufacture of combined harvesters and also has patents on eight points of improvement covering the construction of the harvester itself. ...'"*

The collecting of patents and manufacturing technology through aggressive tac-

tics such as lawsuits and/or the absorption of rival companies was nothing new for California's Holt Manufacturing. At the time of this legal action, Holt was already the largest manufacturer of agricultural machinery on the west coast. That said, the Holt group was destined to become even larger. In fact, after a mid-1920s merger with a rival company possessing patents it needed, Holt Manufacturing reinvented itself as the Caterpillar Tractor Company.

Other than occasional advertisements and minor news blips in the local newspapers, little was written specific to Spokane Harvester for the next sixteen months. As for why, that was somewhat clarified in a small notation in the November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1909 issue of *The Spokane Press*. To quote, *"A deed was filed this morning by the Spokane Harvester Company, transferring their property to the Northwest Harvester Company for a consideration named at \$150,000. Five thousand dollars of this has been paid in cash, the remainder to apply on the debts of the Spokane Harvester people."*

This leaves the appearance that Spokane Harvester, like its predecessor, the Modern Manufacturing Company, was better at spending money than making it.

The November 18<sup>th</sup>, 1909 issue of the *Spokesman-Review* clarified the situation somewhat when it reported, *"With the capital stock listed as \$150,000, and under a temporary organization headed by Gilbert Hunt of Walla Walla, president, and Benjamin Holt of Stockton, California, secretary, the Spokane Harvester Company, reorganized and under the name of the Northwestern Harvester Company, enters the Holt Manufacturing combine of Stockton, California, and becomes a part of the only corporation now manufacturing combined harvesters and threshers."*

It isn't clear whether any decisions had been made by the courts regarding the patent infringement case Holt Manufacturing had pressed against Spokane Harvester 16 months prior to the announced merger, or what effect said legal action may have had on



*The Spokane Harvester Company.*

*The above image of a steam tractor pulling a combine harvester was clipped from a scene found near the end of the vintage Arcadia Orchards film. It dates that portion of the film to 1907, '08, or '09 — those being the years the company existed under that name.*

creating the financial straits the Spokane company ultimately found itself in — that suggested when the November 18<sup>th</sup> article noted, *"The Northwestern Harvester Company will continue to operate in Spokane and throughout the year will employ steadily about 100 men. The old Spokane company operated only a part of the year and with about 50 men."*

As for what Holt Manufacturing gained by its takeover of the Spokane company, the November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1909 issue of *Farm Implements* summed it nicely when the magazine pointed out that due to this merger Holt Manufacturing *"owns or controls practically all of the patents on combined harvester and threshing machines manufactured at the present time,"* including *"the McCrae machine,*

*which had been the product of the Spokane Harvester Company until that company became a part of the organization controlled by the Holt People."*

As for the images taken at the Spokane Harvester Company's Trent Avenue campus and added to the last few minutes of the Arcadia Orchards film, the date of incorporation and ultimate dissolution through merger of the Spokane Harvester Company allows us to suggest with a degree of certainty that the film was exposed somewhere within a two-year, eight-month window between early March, 1907 and mid-November, 1909.

As for the harvester factory's life under Holt management, this appeared in the December 29<sup>th</sup>, 1925 issue of the *Spokane*



*Chronicle.* “The Western Harvester Corporation of Stockton, California, a newly organized company, has taken over the Northwestern Harvester Company’s half-million-dollar manufacturing plant, E3036 Trent Avenue, according to word received from Harry H. Fair of the Peirce-Fair & Company of California. The new corporation has been formed and is part of the Caterpillar Tractor Company, which recently took over the Holt Manufacturing interests in this city.

“In the information received, it is understood that the Northwestern Harvester Company here will be utilized as a distributing depot for the service of this district, while the manufacturing headquarters of the new firm

will be at Stockton. The manufacture of the Holt combined harvesters will be continued by the Western Harvester Company, which has already launched its sales activities for the coming year, it was announced by Mr. Fair.

“No operations have been conducted at the local plant since April 1 of this year.”

And with that, the history of harvester manufacturing in Spokane ended.

In the spring of 1927, the Western Harvester Company moved its operations to another Spokane location, and the site of the former East Trent factory took a new — though no less complicated — direction.

— end —

## Who, What, When, Where, Why!

... Mike wants to know ...

Mike Reiter recently found the snapshot below — the photo’s margin stamped April, 1957. Carolyn Knapp-Nelson thinks it may have been taken in the basement of the Gardenspot Grange. Mike’s identified “Herb

Reiter on the left, Mark Jones in the middle, and my grandpa Louie on the right.” Mike’s curious about the other two gentlemen and the nature of the event. If you have any thoughts, please contact the society.

— end —



## Minutes of the Clayton ♦ Deer Park Historical Society — January 9, 2021 —

With no improvement in the COVID-19 pandemic we are cancelling one more meeting. I’m hopeful some of us may get a dose of the vaccine by next meeting. The following were reports sent by email.

Society President Bill Sebright reported that: 1) We received a \$100 check from Avista, thanks to Barry Pasicznyk. 2) I hope you were able to see our name on the Rotary Christmas sign. 3) There was a “blurb” about the Society in this month’s *DP Gazette*, because our business card was drawn at the grand opening. Pete, Damon and Wally helped Bill write it. *The Gazette* also mentioned us in their article about the Grand Opening of the Hot Spot. Mike did the talking, not Bill like the article stated. 4) We received an email from Christen and Kyle Ayotte asking for information about their house at 822 N. North Ave. in Deer Park. Pete writes about it in his report.

Society Treasurer Mark Wagner reported: The main checking account ended the month at \$9,067.80. There were deposits of \$125. The web hosting account ended the month at \$827.28 with a withdrawal of \$53.98 for web hosting. The Brickyard Day account is at \$1,945.33. Mark will be filing incorporation papers with the State. Mark took *Mortarboards* to the Hot Spot, 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 January 2021 *Mortarboard* (#153) have been printed for free distribution, and the online version has been submitted to the webmaster for uploading. A printable PDF has been forwarded to the Loon

Lake Library, allowing reprints on request for that institution’s patrons. Also, The Heritage Network has been sent PDFs of the current issue for distribution to its membership. 2) January is a single-topic issue, said topic being the construction of Long Lake Dam. Due to the number of photos and amount of text included, it was necessary to expand the issue to 24 pages. Tucked into the January issue’s minutes is an update — photos included — on the hanging of the Olsen Opera House curtain (technically a “drop” or more specifically an “*Oleo drop*”). Said curtain is now on display inside the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce’s “*Hot Spot*” storefront on Main Street. When able, check this bit of Deer Park’s history out. 3) Print Publications has quite a few projects under consideration for the coming year. Most of these plans are still a bit nebulous, and dependent on sufficient time and energy to complete the necessary research and writing. We could use some help when it comes to keeping our current standard of 16 to 20 pages of newsletter per month filled. If you’re able to contribute stories, letters to the editor, or other constructive materials, please do so. Each page of copy we don’t have to write ourselves frees up hours for new and ongoing research as well as other projects.

Webmaster Damon Smathers reported: I uploaded the January *Mortarboard* issue to the website and added a new 2021 section to that page. I am also currently working on a few changes to the front of the page to keep it fresh looking.

Pete Coffin reported: I provided information about a 133-year-old house on North Road and outlined the large industries in Deer Park at that time for the new owners.



Mike Reiter reported: 1) I checked on the Society building on the 30th of December. The heat was on but after running just a little water the high-water alarm for the pump station went off. The building did not have an elevation that would allow the sewer gravity flow into the street sewer line so a tank with a pump was installed underneath the building. When the level rises high enough the pump kicks on and empties the tank uphill to the street line. If the pump fails and the level rises an alarm sets off. I notified Roger but when I checked on the situation a few days later the alarm had cleared, and I ran the water for several minutes with no problems. Not sure if the 8-degree morning temperature could have played a part since the tank is underneath the building and in the ground, but it

seems to be working now. 2) I also found a 1923 annual, the Evergreen. The Society already has a copy, but this one is in good shape other than the cover is missing. Interesting reading the sponsorship ads in the back.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 13, 2021, at 10:00 AM at our building. This is certainly subject to change due to the COVID-19 State reopening guidelines.

Minutes submitted by Bill Sebright, acting as secretary.

*(Editor's Note)* We'd be very appreciative of someone stepping forward to fill this very necessary function. The society's president should be concentrating on other things.

— 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.

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

From "The Coast" magazine,  
April, 1907



### See Yourself in Print.

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

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

— the editor —

### About our Group:

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

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

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