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THE  
CLAYTON/DEER PARK  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# Mortarboard

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## ARCHISTO ENTERPRISES REPORT TO STATE REGARDING THE SPOKANE ARMORY EAGLE FIGURE

By Stephen Emerson

Free — Take One

The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society was forwarded this report originally made to Rowena Valencia-Gica, Washington State Military Department by Stephen Emerson, Archisto Enterprises dated December 1, 2009. This report explains the history of the National Guard Eagle and some of the reasons the National Guard gave the Eagle to the Society. The report includes photos of the Eagle in its place at Geiger Field.

ARCHISTO ENTERPRISES  
Spokane, Washington

December 1, 2009

Rowena Valencia-Gica, Ph.D.  
Washington State Military Department  
Bldg. #36 Quartermaster Rd.  
Camp Murray, WA 98430

Re: Cultural Resources Evaluation of the  
Spokane Armory Eagle Figure

Archisto Enterprises Report 2009-15

Dear Ms. Valencia-Gica:

Archisto Enterprises was contracted by the Washington State Military Department to: 1) conduct a cultural resources evaluation of a terra cotta eagle figure that was once situated on the front cornice of the Washington State Armory building, located at 202 W. Second Avenue, in Spokane, Washington. For about the last thirty years, the figure has been located on a concrete pedestal at the former Geiger Field, now the Spokane Airport (Figure 1); 2) complete a Washington State Historic Property Inventory Form for the eagle figure; 3) provide a letter report of findings and recommendations, including an evaluation of the figure regarding national Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility; and, 4) provide suggestions for future disposition of the eagle figure.

The eagle figure is currently located on property that is leased by Spokane Airport, which is in the process of purchasing the property from the State of Washington. The figure is in the path of a public utility corridor (sanitary sewer, water, electrical, communications lines) scheduled for construction to begin in January, 2010. The utility corridor will allow for the relocation of infrastructure that enables

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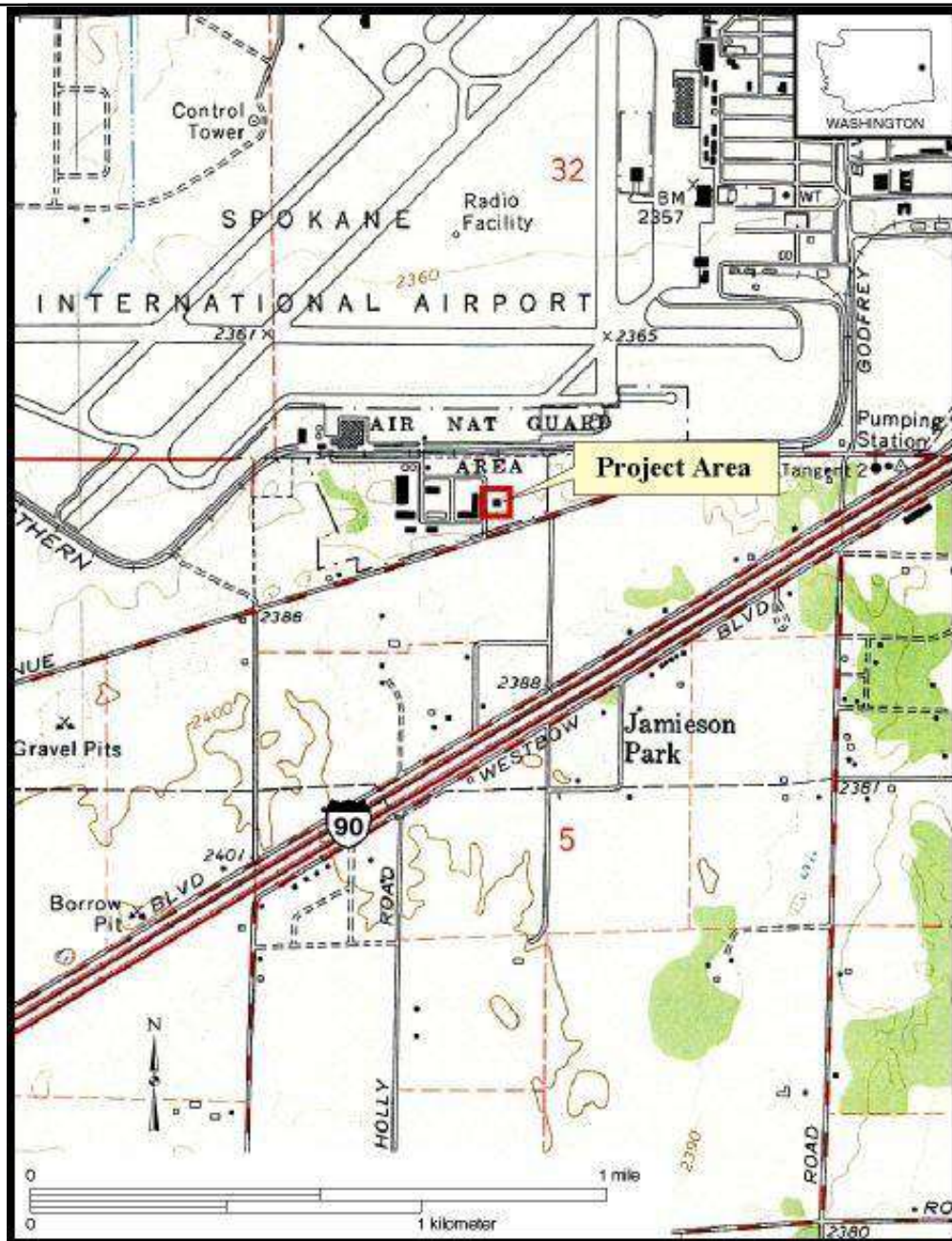


Figure 1: Map showing location of the Armory Building eagle figure (adapted from Four Lakes, WA, 7.5' USGS topographic quadrangle, 1973).



**Figure 2: Spokane Armory Eagle Figure, view to the east.**

*(Continued from page 433)*

the construction of the Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance and Painting Hangar, a project that is to commence in March, 2010. The disposition of the eagle figure has not yet been decided upon, but suggestions have included restoration, relocation, or demolition.

**Description:** This object is a terra cotta figure of an eagle, about eight-feet-high. It is placed upon a semi-cubical poured concrete pedestal, about six-feet-high. The pedestal is flanked by concrete block wing walls that define a small concrete pavilion that contains sitting benches and two flag poles. The figure itself portrays an American bald eagle in a somewhat unnatural pose often described as the “Imperial Eagle,” familiar in ancient Roman architecture and on American currency (Figures 2-5). The

wings are out spread, the head is turned to one side, revealing the beak and one fierce eye in profile. The bird stands upright on its prominent talons. The figure is constructed of fired terra cotta, a mixture of sand and clay, meaning “baked earth” in Italian. The process of manufacture is described below. The eagle figure is constructed of 29 separate pieces that were manufactured separately, and then joined to create the completed figure. The figure was originally coated with a fired glaze, exhibiting primarily the earthen color

of fresh terra cotta. Subsequent to removal from its original location, it was painted its current dark brown, white, and yellow colors.



**Figure 3: Spokane Armory Eagle Figure, view to the northeast**

The figure is severely deteriorated at present. The junctures between the individual pieces are visible and cracked. Chunks of terra cotta have broken off, up to eight inches in length,

*(Continued on page 436)*

*(Continued from page 435)*

leaving patches of bare terra cotta exposed.

**Historical Background:** The eagle figure is a product of the Washington Brick and Lime Company (WBLC), formerly of Clayton, Washington. The WBLC was formed in 1889 by Henry Brook, a partner of early Spokane brick maker J.T. Davie. Brook had taken on Joseph H. Spear as his new business colleague. That year they opened a new plant at Freeman, Washington, east of Spokane. But the company's reputation would be established by its exploitation of vast clay deposits in the vicinity of Clayton, about 25 miles north of Spokane. The Clayton operation produced many kinds of brick as well as terra cotta. During the early years of the last century, the WBLC thrived under the leadership of Joseph Spear, who became the general manager. By the time Spears sold the company to A.B. Fosseen in 1919, the WBLC had become the premier brick making firm of the region, boasting six plants and 170 employees. In 1939, A.B. Fosseen's son, future Spokane Mayor Neal Fosseen, became president of the WBLC. Subsequently, in 1954, the company was sold to the California firm of Gladding and McBean, when most operations were transformed to a site at Mica, Washington. The Clayton works were then abandoned.

The terra cotta plant at the Clayton WBLC works was reportedly completed in 1907. But the company was already producing terra cotta items, as explained by Joseph Spear in a 1905 Spokesman-Review article: "Architectural terra cotta is hand molded and requires highly skilled workmen. Where duplications of the same piece are made, a plaster of Paris mold is made and other pieces are made by machinery. Ordinary structural terra cotta is made by machinery." Clayton terra cotta was wildly popular among design architects during the early decades of the 20th century. It was chosen for

use on many landmark Spokane buildings, including the Davenport Hotel, which sports numerous terra cotta gargoyles and other details, the Spokane Club, Spokane City Hall (formerly the Montgomery Ward building), Lewis and Clark High School, the City Ramp Garage – the list goes virtually on and on, and is even longer if you include the entire Pacific Northwest. Easily the most famous creations of the Clayton terra cotta works are the human figures of well-known educators that adorn the façade of the Suzallo Library at the University of Washington, in Seattle. For these incredibly detailed works, the WBLC temporarily imported famous New York sculptor Allan Clark, who spent several months at the plant making the molds. His workmanship won national praise.

To accomplish the more ordinary terra cotta work at Clayton, the WBLC brought in skilled craftsmen from around the nation, including immigrants from Italy. Among these was Leno Prestini, perhaps the most renowned, but also Italians named Costa and Marconi. Other terra cotta craftsmen were not Italian, including Victor G. Schneider, the man credited with creating the eagle figure that was placed on the Armory. In a 1976 Spokesman-Review article, Schneider's former assistant, Oliver J. Olson, described the process of manufacturing the 29 sections that make up the eagle:

First we modeled figurines in clay. We put them on easels for support. Then we took plaster casts of sections of the work. When dry, we'd pack the plaster molds with wet terra cotta clay (a special type of clay and sand) by hand. The back is hollow and we put in partitions for strength. Then the clay would be taken from the plaster mold and left to dry in a curing room for two or three days. This created what we called green ware. This went

*(Continued on page 437)*



**Figure 4: Spokane Armory Eagle Figure, head detail, view to the east.**

tails were placed along the cornice as well, embellishing the striking fortress-like appearance of the battlements. Behind the eagle, an American flag flew from a pole. By the mid-1970s the Armory building lay vacant. Plans were made to tear down the seemingly obsolescent structure. In 1979, however, the building was saved when the Spokane City Council, objecting to a Park Department plan to remove the building to create green space, voted to buy it. Instead of destruction, it was leased to the

*(Continued from page 436)*

into a special steam room for six or seven days. Then we'd coat it with glaze, which is a liquid glass product. The piece would then be baked in a kiln until it was cherry red under intense heat. This melts the glaze to form a weather-proof surface like the coating on a dinner plate. When the pieces were put up, they were joined with mortar-like bricks. The large statues have holes in back or spaces which are used to attach them to buildings with rods and mortar [Young 1976].

In 1923, the Washington State Armory building was built. At that time the terra cotta eagle was placed at the center of the front cornice, perched atop a panel that had the words "State Armory" incised into it. Other terra cotta de-



**Figure 5: Spokane Armory Eagle Figure, rear, view to the northwest.**

River City Jaycees, who used it for club functions and negotiated for other tenants. Later occupants included the Spokane Table Tennis Club and the Spokane Underground, an all-ages pool hall. Currently, the building is occupied by Wild Walls and Laser Quest, both of

*(Continued on page 438)*

(Continued from page 437)

which are recreational facilities.

Despite the fact that the Armory building was never torn down, the eagle was removed in anticipation of such an event, probably in the later 1970s. It was placed at its current location, which at the time was home to a Washington Air National Guard Facility. It may have been at that time that the original glaze was covered with the present paint job.

**NRHP Eligibility:** The Armory Building Eagle Figure has been removed from its original location on the cornice of the former Washington State Armory building, where it had stood from 1923 to the late 1970s. It has therefore lost its integrity of original location. Furthermore, the figure has lost much of its original structural integrity as a result of weathering and damage suffered when it was dismantled into several pieces during the time it was relocated. Many chunks and chips have been lost over the years, and cracks have developed at original junction points. Due to the loss of integrity of place and original workmanship, the figure is not eligible for placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Future Disposition:** Because the eagle figure is not eligible for placement on the National Register of Historic Places, future disposition is at the discretion of whoever obtains ownership. Demolition is a viable option. It is likely that, upon disturbance, for whatever purpose, the eagle figure may fall apart. Faithful rehabilitation would probably require dismantlement into its original sections, removal of non-original paint coatings, replacement of missing pieces and chips, re-glazing, and reassembly. Such a treatment may not be economically feasible, or even physically possible. Donation to an interested organization, such as the Clayton and Deer Park Historical Society, as a sal-

vaged remnant, may be one alternative. Relocation to its original position on the Armory building is probably not possible. Whatever decision is made concerning the future of the figure, it will not constitute an adverse effect on an eligible object.

Cordially,

Stephen Emerson  
Director, Archisto Enterprises

Enc: A Washington State Historic Property Inventory Form for the Armory Building Eagle Figure is attached to this report.

**References:**

- Craig, John 1979 Parks Planning Loses, Armory Project Wins. *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, June 19, 1979:3.
- Emerson, Stephen 1992 Hendrickson Flats. Spokane Register of Historic Places nomination.
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- Spokesman-Review* 1905 Make 135,000 Bricks Daily. October 29, 1905:7.
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- Young, Larry 1976 Giant Eagle Reflects Era. *Spokesman-Review*, March 14, 1976:n.p.

## The Washington Army National Guard Eagle By Bob Clouse

### Chapter 1

Once upon a time, on a Sunday morning during the dog days of the summer of 2008 while searching the internet for photos of Old Spokane for my current project: Terra Cotta. I came up with the idea that vintage postcards would be a good source. I stumbled across a company called Card Cow, typed in Spokane WA. and voila!, just like magic, vintage cards from all walks of life. After getting acquainted with the site, I came across an old postcard, vintage about 1922, of the Washington State Armory that still sits on W Second Avenue, displaying unpaved roads with a couple of very early model cars. And there for all to see was that big beautiful Eagle sitting majestically on the apex with the words engraved on his perch: STATE ARMORY.

It dawned on me that I hadn't noticed it sitting up there in years, so after lunch we decided to venture down and snap some photos because I figured it



State Armory, Spokane, Washington, Post card  
by CardCow.Com

came from our own Clayton terra cotta plant. As I neared the Armory coming in on a side street from the south, I turned broadside in the road to take a few pictures. I glanced up and stopped cold. The Eagle wasn't there. I recovered sufficiently to take some photos, all the while going through my mind: "where and who high-jacked that monster?"

I was aware, of course, that the Building was sold years ago so the thing to do was to locate the new State Armory, so I headed out to find a phone book. We located one at one of our favorite Restaurants, Molly's.

Theresa (Also a favorite) got a phone book for me and I started searching. Five or ten minutes later, she stopped and asked what in the world was taking so long, so I said, "Have you ever tried finding a Government listing in this critter?" I told her what the name was and she said, walk this way. I told her there is no way in God's world I could walk that way. She led me to a man having dinner with his family. He was a Spokane City Policeman, and Theresa said he really knew his "onions." I told my story, and he said, "I'll draw you a map," which he did. The Armory is now located in the Spokane Valley somewhere in the Industrial Park. We found it and got the proper information to phone them the next morning.

Upon reaching them by phone Monday morning, the soldier that answered, a 17 year veteran, knew exactly what I wanted almost before I asked, and he said, "If I want to see the Eagle, here's what you do. Go out to Geiger Field and locate the new Airport Tower." Even I can find that 'cause its the only building one can see from High Drive in Spokane. We drove past the Tower and one-quarter mile later on our right stood the Eagle, behind a 8ft chain link fence with the gate wide open, eye level for all to see. It was indeed a majestic specimen.

### Chapter 2

We took a multitude of photos from every angle then proceeded home to begin a new webpage on the CDPHS Website entitled TERRA COTTA, a very fortunate title, as it turned out. Fast forward to Dec. 9th 2009. Our President, Bill Sebright, received an E-mail from Rowena Valencia-Gica of the Washington National Guard out of Camp  
*(Continued on page 440)*



(Continued from page 439)

Murray, Washington, adjacent to Fort Lewis on the west side of the State. In essence, she stated that due to circumstances, the Adjutant General, Major General Timothy J. Lowenberg had issued orders to either find a home for the Eagle or destroy it. Rowena Valencia-Gica told Bill Sebright, "If you want the Eagle, it's yours." Bill immediately fired the message to me knowing I was quite familiar with the Terra Cotta Eagle. I soon recovered from shock. Mary and I jumped in the "Crimson Cadie" and high tailed it for Geiger Field to try to find the proper Authorities to see what the requirements and details were. We pulled up to the Eagle, and there was an 18-wheeler lowboy parked in front of it with a D8 Cat dozer on it. I saw two fellows and introduced myself as Webmaster of the Clayton Deer Park Historical Society. They said, we are both from Deer Park, and after I explained the details, they said to get in touch with Mr. Jim Knight of Knight Construction in Deer Park. He and his company are more than capable of moving the Eagle and often times do benefits at no charge. Our timing was perfect as the boys pulled out within five minutes after this exchange and left us standing there with the key to success which MR. Jim Knight was.

### Chapter 3

I phoned Jim Knight pronto. We hit it off from the very start. One of the very first things he said was there would be no charge for moving, but CDPHS would have to pay for cutting the Eagle loose from the concrete stand, crating it up and miscellaneous totaling \$5,200.00. I told him, I'd get back to him.

I called Bill. Bill said he would poll the Executive Board for authorization to spend \$5,200.00. The response was 5 no 0 yes. Bear in mind, this was

totally out of the blue to the board. I was the only one in the Society that had ever seen the Eagle in person. I called Jim back and told him the results and then said, "Jim, perhaps we better consider just cutting the Eagle loose from the stand rather than including a large piece of concrete." Jim said "I'll have no part of that. I have no intention of spending all that money and pull into Clayton and just have a pile of rubble." He was very firm so I piped up and said, "OK Jim, here's what let's do. Do it your way and Mary and I will guarantee payment." Without hesitation, Jim said "You're on. What is



**Bob Clouse watching the progress of Pro-Cut sawing the Eagle off its base. Photo by Sharon Clark**

the dead line?" I said, "Dec. 31st" Jim said "I'll put that in my long range plan" and hung up. On Dec.21st, Jim, myself, Sgt Lonnie Beatty, Washington National Guard and Shane Thompson of Pro-Cut Concrete met at the base of the Eagle. Plans and a schedule were

set. On Dec. 28th, Pro-Cut started the concrete saws, and by the night of the 29th, the Eagle was free. The morning of the 30th, Knight Construction invaded with an 18-wheeler lowboy, a huge Hyster forklift, a Gradall fork lift, a one-ton truck and trailer loaded with building materials and three men. A little after dark, with the Eagle all crated up, bolted and strapped to the lowboy, Dave Knight, Gary and Dan headed for home base where they stored the Eagle undercover at their Deer Park site until spring.

### Chapter 4

Securing the County Building Permit was a cake-

(Continued on page 441)





**The National Guard Eagle home in Clayton in August 2010. C/DPHS Photo**

walk as Randy Long of the Clayton Drive-In greased the skids and the two ladies at the Stevens County Office were very congenial. Pete Coffin took over responsibility for Terra Cotta restoration and the final painting, while Jeff Lilly took charge of the new Bronze Plaque wording and Knight Construction built the all-steel pedestal, got it powder coated, built the concrete reinforced rebar forms and poured the base.

Upon completion, Gary, heavy duty operator with the Gradall Forklift, came to Clayton. Gary gently removed the totally, professionally, restored masterpiece from the Rehm's shop and placed it on the crest of the pedestal where it will reside forever more.

At this point, Knight Construction and CDPHS stepped back, and Randy and Taffy Long took charge, put in landscaping equal to any and all

decorative installations, a lighted flag pole with both the American and POW and MIA flag that brings tears to the most hardened of hearts.

All of these extensive proceedings went off without a hitch. Smooth does not adequately do it justice. Our Military Dedication was absolutely nothing short of spectacular. The presence of Lt. Col. McMahan, Rowena Valencia-Gica, the Honor Guard and our Parade Grand Marshals served ample notice of the dedication of Clayton and its citizens, to all that America stands for.

There are some thoughts that constantly flow through the author's mind that beg for answers:

1. What possessed me on a hot Sunday morning to search for antique post cards and out of thousands, stumble across a picture of an old Armory taken in 1922?

(Continued from page 441)

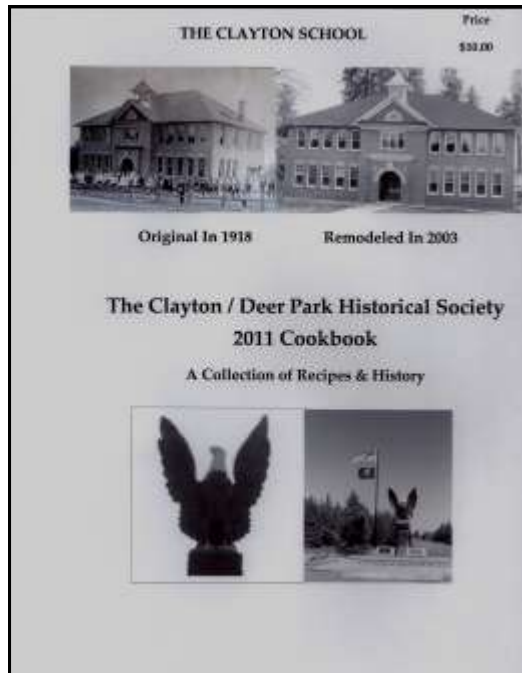
2. Why did I decide to go take a picture on that very hot afternoon?
3. Why did Theresa at Molly's restaurant guide me to a police officer who was able to guide me to my desired destination?
4. Why did a 17 year veteran answer the phone and tell me exactly where the Eagle rested in the maze of Geiger field?
5. Why did I title the webpage "Terra Cotta" rather than "Eagle" or "WB&L" which enabled Rowena Valencia-Gica to track CDPHS down nearly 2 years later?
6. The timeliness of the e-mail from Rowena to Bill Sebright to me, so we could arrive at the Eagle five minutes before the two men from Deer Park departed, having given key information about Jim Knight. Without him, this endeavor would not have survived.
7. So if you are wondering what I'm driving at, its plain and simple, only God himself could have been the driving force.

One final note, we at CDPHS have received accolades from all corners, but here is one from a total stranger in another unusual circumstance. A neighbor, who I had informed of Clayton Day and the Eagle dedication, received this e-mail from a lawyer friend from Prosser, Washington who with a band of motorcycle friends traveled to Clayton for the ceremonies. I call this Jo Ann's own little Gettysburg Address.

*The Eagle as described by Joanne C.R. and her husband Bruce. "It is an impressive piece; the restoration is incredible and the layout of the memorial is nothing short of amazing, particularly for such a little hole-in-the-wall town. It's humbling as to what can be done when people are determined and dedicated."*



The 2011 Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society **Cookbook, "A Collection of Recipes and Stories"** is now available ... pick up your copy from two locations in Clayton---The Pizza Shoppe and the Clayton Drive-In, both on Railroad Avenue and three locations in Deer Park--- GardenSpot Floral on First Street, and **Odynski's Accounting** on Main Street, and the Salty Dog on South Main Street. This 60-page cookbook has over 200 recipes and is full of historical information. The purchase price is \$10.00. Cookbooks will also be on sale at Winterfest, **Settlers' Day**, Brickyard Days, and the Clayton Fair. All profits go to the C/DPHS, a non-profit organization.



**Clayton/ Deer Park Historical Society Minutes, February 12, 2011**

In attendance: Grace Hubal, Pete Coffin, Bill Sebright, Mark Wagner, Sharon Clark, Lorraine Nord, Kay Parkin, Marilyn Reilly, Lonnie Jenkins, Ella Jenkins, Bob Gibson, Betty Burdette, Penny Hutten, Roxanne Camp, Eleanor Ball, Lorraine Ball, Donald Ball, and Sue Rehms.

Society president, Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

Treasurer, Mark Wagner reported that there is \$2,698.45 in checking. Activity included \$1,249.33 in deposit s. Checks written: \$1,000.00 cookbook printing, \$113.58 Mortarboard supplies

Print Editor, Sharon Clark handed Mortarboard #34. Volume 9 of Collected Newsletter is now available.

Pete Coffin and Bob Gibson had visited Bob Clouse this week and said he is doing better than last week.

Lorraine Nord reported that Warren had elbow surgery and is doing well.

Lorraine Nord reported on the raffle. Over \$100 in raffle tickets have been sold. Other Eagle blankets, "quillows," and neck rests are on sale. We will have another Eagle blanket raffle this summer, selling tickets at Settlers, Clayton Day, and Clayton Fair. The drawing will probably be at our September meeting.

Fund raising ideas- An auction was discussed. Fund raising ideas will be discussed again next month.

As many CDPHS members who want to, will be going to the Williams Valley Grange after our

**Secretary, Grace Hubal reported**

300 COOKBOOKS PRINTED

179 COOKBOOKS (13 Free, 110 @ ½ price, 56 @ full price)

121 COOKBOOKS ON HAND

\$ 00.00	13 FREE COOKBOOKS (RECIPE SUBMISSIONS AND ADVERTISING)
330.00	65 PAID ADVERTISEMENTS @ \$5 EACH
550.00	110 COOKBOOKS SOLD @ \$5 EACH
140.00	28 SOCIETY MEMBERS COOKBOOKS @ \$5 EACH
560.00	56 COOKBOOKS SOLD @ \$10 EACH
443.33	MEMBER DONATIONS
\$2,023.33	TOTAL
-\$1,000.00	PRINTING COST
-11.08	MEDIA MAILING COST
\$1,012.33	PROFIT

Vice President, Pete Coffin reported on Wintertfest. Pete talked to Bob Koch, a relative of Magdalene Reidt. She is buried in DP's "oldest cemetery." Mr. Koch loaned many pictures for Pete to scan. Four outstanding pictures were: a picture of the Open Door Church with the parsonage in the background, a family portrait of Steve, Magdalene Reidt and family, a 1920's picture of DP's Main Street, and an early picture of DP High School. Pete also handed out a draft of an article he is doing on Herbert Mason and the first DP Airport. Most Granges in this area will be celebrating their 100th anniversary this year.

meeting. Potluck follows. Don, Lorraine, and Eleanor Ball; Marilyn Reilly; Kay Parkin, Betty Burdette, Grace Hubal, Sharon Clark, Pete Coffin, and Bill Sebright all went to WV Grange.

Next meeting- March 12, 2011

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 AM

Respectfully submitted by Grace Hubal, Secretary



**Bob Clouse wrote on the Website before his surgery.**

Following a heart attack & with extensive heart surgery looming, enjoyment abounds. L-R. Mary Clouse, Bob Clouse, Lorraine Nord, Dorothy Lindh, Violet Zimmerer. They presented this Eagle Quilt to Bob. It is a gorgeous piece of workmanship. *Copied from C/DPHS website*

A twin of this blanket and pillow will be raffled at our March 12 meeting and plans for other such money-making projects are in the works.

## Editorial Policy Regarding Correcting Errors and/or Omissions

Information published here is compiled from many sources, including personal memories. It is often difficult or impossible to verify such recollections through outside documentation. Our editorial policy toward the veracity of personal recollections tends toward the casual – since little harm is normally done by such errors. But our editorial process also invites public review and input regarding the accuracy of the information we publish, and when such review either suggests or reveals errors or items open to dispute our “Letters” department will act as a forum allowing the airing of such disagreements in an effort to ascertain the truth and correct any probable or demonstrated errors. We also believe it’s important that such disagreements be recorded, even if they can’t be settled to the satisfaction of all parties.

We encourage everyone to submit any arguments as to fact to the editor in writing — since the written form reduces the chance of further misunderstandings. As is standard policy, all letters will be edited for spelling, word usage, clarity, and — if necessary — contents. If advisable, the editor will confer directly with the letter writers to insure that everyone’s comments and corrections are submitted in a literate, polite, and compelling manner — as best suits the editorial image of this Society’s publications.

## Society Want Ads

**WANTED:** Information and photos regarding the history of Trysil/Zion Lutheran Church.

**WANTED:** Any stories and photos from Williams Valley #452 and Gardenspot #278 Granges

**WANTED:** Any stories, photos, or examples of traditional methods of quilt making.

**WANTED:** Any stories and photos of your family’s history in connection with their occupations and settlement in the Clayton/Deer Park Area.

**WANTED:** Any information on the Williams Valley Grange Orchestra  
Contact: Ann Fackenthall, WVG (Rollosdotter@gmail.com)  
466-3564.

**FOR SALE:** The 2011 Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society Cookbook, “A Collection of Recipes and Stories” (see our ad on page 430 for details.)

## Society Contacts

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Bill Sebright, president — (sebrightba@wildblue.net)  
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Sharon Clark, editor — (sharonclark@centurytel.net)  
Grace Hubal, secretary — (hubals@msn.com)

Special Thanks to this month’s volunteer proofreader(s) — Bill Sebright