

The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society is a group of individuals dedicated to the preservation of the history of the area just north of Spokane, Washington. The Society collects oral, literary, and pictorial history to publish and otherwise make accessible to the public.

The Clayton/Deer Park Historical Society meets on the second Saturday of each month at 9 AM. We gather at the Clayton Drive-In, located just off Highway 395 on Railroad Ave.

THE  
CLAYTON/DEER PARK  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
**Mortarboard**

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**RURAL POST OFFICES IN THE  
CLAYTON-DEER PARK AREA**  
PETER COFFIN

**INTRODUCTION**

The establishment of a post office in frontier America usually marked the end of the wilderness and the beginning of civilization. In the Clayton-Deer Park area the leading edge of civilization passed through Spokane prior to 1880. From Spokane it passed north along the Colville Military Road to Colville from Walla Walla and along the Cottonwood Road from Plante's Ferry to Chewelah. The

first post office on the Military Road between the Spokane River and Colville was at Walker's Prairie in 1873. The first formal post office in the Deer Park area was established at Hazard's store on Wild Rose Prairie in 1885. The first Deer Park area post office was informally located at Pete Meyer's homestead in the Lost Springs area on the Cottonwood Road north of Deer Park prior to 1890.

**RURAL POST OFFICES IN THE CLAYTON-DEER PARK AREA**

The following list of rural Spokane County post offices in the Deer Park area contains the date when the post office was opened, when it was closed, and to where the service was transferred.

Buckeye (old)	June 30, 1891 to February 12, 1892	Moved to Deer Park, was Coleta
Buckeye	March 6, 1903 to August 31, 1934	Moved to Colbert, was Hockspur
Chattaroy	April 19, 1888 to Present	Was Kidd
Colbert	October 17, 1902 to Present	Was Dragoon
Coleta	April 17, 1890 to June 30, 1891	Name changed to Buckeye (old)
Dartford	Sept. 7, 1898 to November 31, 1906	Moved to Buckeye
Deer Park (old)	June 7, 1890 to June 13, 1891	Moved to Deer Park Town

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Free — Take One

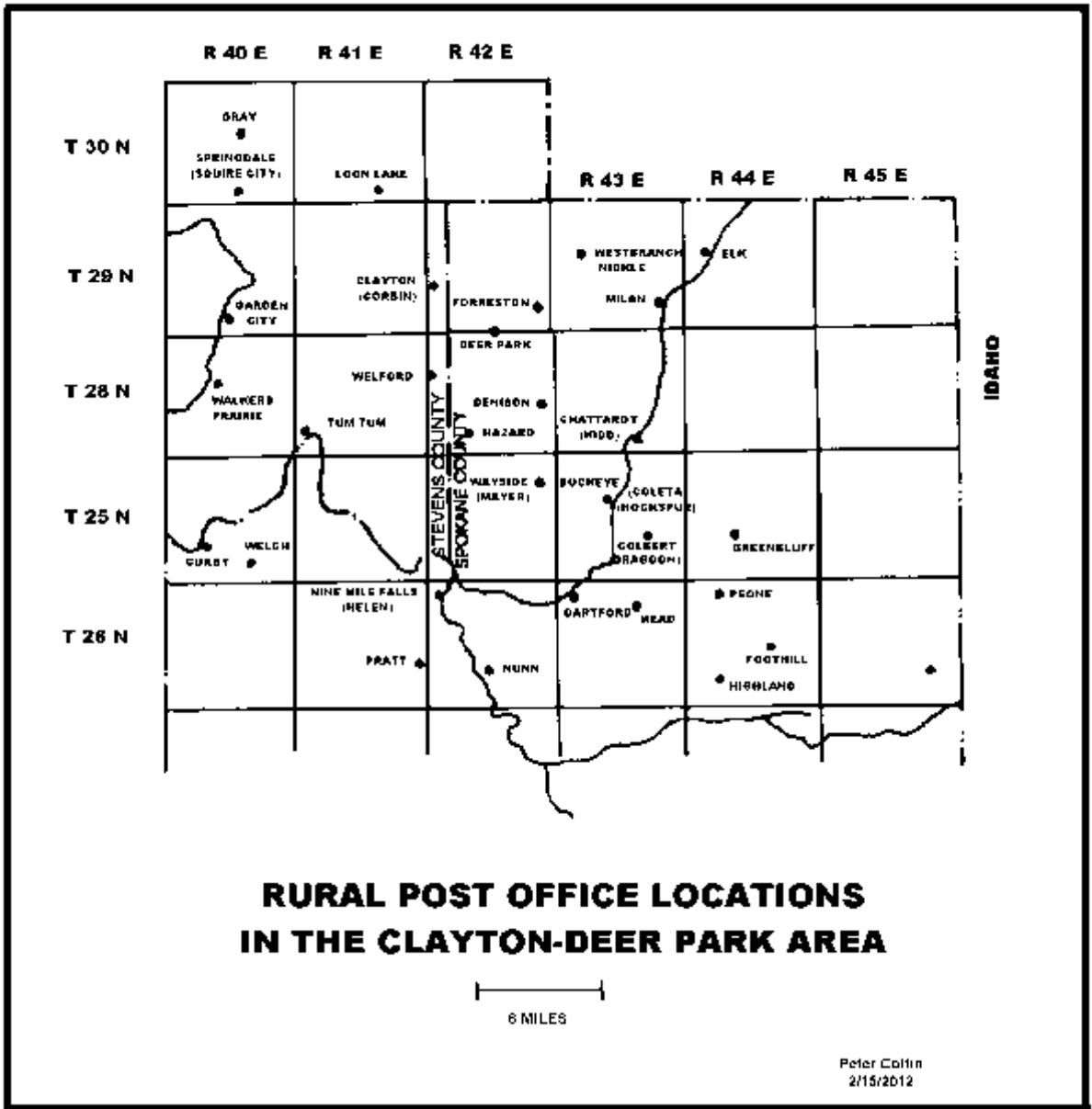


Figure 1: Map showing locations of rural post offices in the Clayton-Deer Park area

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Deer Park (new)	June 13, 1891 to Present	
Denison	September 23, 1908 to April 21, 1967	Moved to Deer Park
Dragoon	September 19, 1890 to October 17, 1902	Name changed to Colbert
Elk	February 8, 1892 to Present	
Forreston	June 23, 1886 to September 30, 1890	Moved to Deer Park
Hazard	February 16, 1885 to October 31, 1904	Moved to Deer Park
Hockspur	January 14, 1901 to March 6, 1903	Name changed to Buckeye
Kidd	October 10, 1882 to April 10, 1888	Name changed to Chattaroy
Mayer	June 23, 1886 to March 10, 1892	Name changed to Wayside
Mead	December 11, 1889 to Present	
Milan	August 16, 1892 to June 22, 1893	Moved to Chattaroy
Nickle	January 14, 1889 to October 7, 1891	Name Changed to West Branch
Peone (1)	December 19, 1893 to August 13, 1906	Moved to Mead
Peone (2)	May 19, 1924 to July 31, 1933	Moved to Mead
Wayside	April 10, 1895 to October 14, 1904	Moved to Buckeye
West Branch	October 7, 1891 to September 5, 1895	Was Nickle

**The following list is of rural Stevens County post offices in the Clayton-Deer Park area:**

Clayton	May 1, 1894 to Present	
Corbin	May 21, 1891 to March 15, 1892	Moved to Deer Park
Garden City	July 12, 1911 to May 15, 1912	Moved to Springdale
Gray	October 23, 1901 to July 15, 1935	Moved to Valley
Springdale	August 22, 1921 to Present	
Tum Tum	January 10, 1900 to December 29, 1966	Moved to Nine Mile Falls
Welford	March 3, 1893 to May 31, 1895	Moved to Deer Park
Walkers Prairie	April 10, 1873 to February 29, 1896	Moved to Springdale

**BUCKEYE POST OFFICE**

The first Buckeye post office was located at the same place as the later Denison post office in the office of the Buckeye Lumber Company on the Spokane Falls and Northern Railroad. The name was changed from Coleta to conform with the lumber company name change to Buckeye (Webber

1987, p. 64). The post office was located here for less than one year.

There has been considerable confusion about the Buckeye name. The original Hockspur post office which was located about 2 miles northwest of Col-

*(Continued on page 628)*

bert and over 4 miles southwest of Chattaroy was renamed Buckeye on March 6, 1903 (Webber 1987, p. 64). At Hockspur the sack of mail was pushed from the moving train twice a day for this post office which was located in a corner of a general store. Both Dartford and Wayside had mail delivered to them from the Buckeye post office.

## DENISON

The Denison village had first been named Pratt Siding but that name could not be used because another Pratt Siding post office already existed. The name Denison was chosen by the first Post Master William F. Siers as it was his wife's maiden name (Webber, 1987, p. 78). Webber's description of the store building is colorful and he includes a picture of Owen in front of the store (Webber 1987, p. 79). Denison's post office was always in a general store and for many years Lawrence C. Owen was the post master. Mr. Owen was the

local historian and collected pictures and historical artifacts of the Denison area and displayed them in buildings on his family's farm. Because of relatively recent vandalism public access to this treasure trove of material has been denied.

## THE HAZARD POST OFFICE

Rowland Hazard opened a store on his Wild Rose Prairie homestead at the corner of Spotted Road and Wild Rose road in the SW/4 of Section 33-T28N-R42EWM in 1864. In 1885 a post office was opened in the store to deliver mail to local farmers. Mr. Hazard would drive to Spokane once a week on Friday to pick up store supplies and the mail (Milner, 1970, p. 17). The Hazard post office was very important to settlers for miles around and Society member Lynn (Fackenthal) Wells tells of how the Fackenthal family had to travel a long distance up the Little Spokane River from near its  
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**Figure 2: A picture of the Hazard store taken in the 1930s as part of a Works Project Administration project.**

confluence with the Spokane Rivers and then north to Hazard to get their mail before the Tum Tum post office was opened. The original log building was replaced with a frame building in 1898. The Hazard store was considered a historic building and pictures of it were taken during the Depression to record what remained of it.

### **KIDD POST OFFICE**

Kidd post office was one of the earliest in the Little Spokane River valley being located in Pea Vine Jimmy's (James Walton) cabin about a mile down river from present day Chattaroy. Ringo (1977, p.58) indicates that Pea Vine Jimmy was the first post master of this post office. Pea Vine Jimmy was an early settler of the area and had built stores at Fort Spokane and a Government Forage Station at the confluence of Dragoon Creek and the Little Spokane River in the 1880s. This location was on the historic Cottonwood Road leading from Spokane to Colville (Coffin, 2010). Kidd was renamed Chattaroy in 1888 and supplied mail to Mayer (later Wayside) for a time.

### **MAYER POST OFFICE**

Mayer post office was established in 1886 on the west side of Half Moon Prairie on a road leading from Dartford and Spokane north to Deer Park. Apparently this post office was named for a Frank Mayer who was a mail carrier in the area. It was renamed Wayside in the early 1890s. The town outlasted the post office as the post office was transferred to Buckeye in 1904 until 1924 when it burned down (Coffin, 2011).

### **MILAN POST OFFICE**

Milan Post Office began with the establishment of a saw mill along the tracks of the Great Northern Railroad. In 1901 a large capacity Spokane Lumber Company saw mill was opened in Milan. This mill left in the early thirties but post office lasted for another forty years (Webber, 1986, p. 136). Because each postmaster could put the post office

where he wanted it the Milan Post Office bounced from location to location.

Milan Post office had experienced several robberies. In August of 1902 a man was shot in the leg and arrested in Spokane carrying a large bundle of United States stamps and some jewelry stolen earlier from the Milan store. In another incident the postmaster and the storekeeper returned after hours on December 13, 1903, to check if the doors had been locked and surprised a masked man with a gun. The masked man robbed the storekeeper of the cash in his pockets and forced the postmaster to walk down the railroad tracks toward Chattaroy. In Chattaroy the masked man locked the postmaster in an empty box car. The postmaster was released when rescuers followed two sets of tracks in the snow to the box car and saw that only one set of tracks left the car.

### **THE WELFORD POST OFFICE**

Grace Milner (1970, p. 17) describes the opening of the Wellford post office in T28N-R42EWM in Williams Valley that made the trip to get family mail much shorter. From the map location in Boardman (1986, p. 127) (in approximately Section 7 T28N-R42EWM) it would seem that the Wellford Post Office was located at the present Williams Valley Grange Hall at the intersection of Burroughs and Swenson Roads. Society member Don Ball indicates that the post office building was located somewhat north of the Williams Valley Grange Hall and that the name combined "well" and "ford" for the creek crossing area at that point.

### **CONCLUSION**

There are probably an innumerable number of stories associated with rural post offices that have not been recorded. Unfortunately only a few have been recorded. The book edited by Bert Webber indicates that it is volume I of three volumes but it seems to be the only one published.

*(Continued on page 630)*

## REFERENCES

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- Ringo, K. S., 1977, The mill town Buckeye, Washington and surrounding area 1899-1912: Spokane, WA, Privately Printed, 71 p.
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## FRANK C. YOUNG

### EDITORS NOTE:

**This is one of a series of articles about people of the Deer Park district. It is published to better acquaint you with those who help to make Deer Park.**

An old timer? Well, he graded the first street in Deer Park.

Frank C. Young, ex-farmer, grocer, lineman, livery stable operator, and councilman, really qualifies when you come to discussing old timers whose lives have been closely tied in with the development of this community.

Frank Young was born January 8, 1870, in Attica, Wisconsin, as he expresses it, one of those wide spots in the road. He moved to Evansville and attended school there. At the age of 21, he entered the livery business and followed this for a number of years. While he was in the east he also worked for a telephone company, building lines from town to town.

In 1903 he came west to Spokane where he went to work for the telephone company but three weeks later landed a better job with the old Powell-Sanders wholesale grocery concern and after worked for Greenoughs. Three years of that was enough, and in 1906 he came to Deer Park and bought a stump ranch.

The property was known as Lost Springs Ranch and was located north of town on the old

Colville road. He cleared the land, built new buildings, and developed one of the finest places in the country. He built a house of concrete blocks that he made himself, and his dairy barn was lathed and plastered and had a concrete floor. Such things were almost unheard of in those days.

While living on the farm, he was a member of the school board, and for a number of years served as township road supervisor. They combined five road districts into one and turned them over to him to care for. It was while on this job that he graded Main Street for the first time. A little later he also graded Crawford. In 1928 he sold the farm after having been there continuously since 1906 except for three years that he worked in the grange warehouse in town.

After coming to town, he purchased the grocery store owned by Jim Daniels, and worked there until his health failed four years ago. His son now actively operates the business.

Frank Young has seen a great portion of Deer Park's development. When he came, only  
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three buildings in town were painted, the streets were not graded and there were no sidewalks. He was here to witness the Arcadia boom, and saw his taxes go from \$17 to over one hundred dollars. He saw the building of the hotel, the present newspaper office, and many other buildings now in use.

Three times he was elected by his fellow townsmen to serve on the city council. Twice he served, the other time he declined. It was during his terms that sidewalks were laid on Main Street, and many other advancements made.

He is married and has two children, a boy and a girl. Both are grown and are respected members of the community. In September of this year Frank Young and his wife will celebrate 50 years of married life.

So it is only fitting that in paying tribute to these outstanding individuals of our community, that we should say a special word for one who has served so long and so well.

**This article was published on the front page of the June 22, 1939, Deer Park Union under the column name “Who’s Who In Our District.” The writer of this column is not named.)**



**Porter (Port) Young, son of Frank Young, and Omar Keith in front of Frank Young’s Deer Park store. Port was Manager of the store per the 1940 Census. Photo Courtesy of Don and Mary Jo Reiter**

**More about Frank Young**  
**Sharon Clark**

Don Reiter volunteered information that he knew Frank Young and had sorted potatoes in his grocery store. He found a jack knife in the potatoes and Frank allowed him to keep it.

It was only when I started interviewing Don that I learn that Frank Young was his grandfather.



**Frank Young with his granddaughter Joyce Reiter (right) and friend on Main Street in Deer Park. Courtesy of Don and Mary Jo Reiter.**



**Frank Young as a young man. Courtesy of Don and Mary Jo Reiter**

Don said that during his childhood there were numerous trips to Deer Park to visit his grandparents.

Frank Young was born in Wisconsin as was his wife Elizabeth (Lizzie) Nelms. When they were ten and eleven years old, both lived in Brooklyn, Green County, Wisconsin. They would have gone to school together. They were married in Wisconsin September 15, 1889.

There first child, Porter C. Young was born  
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August 28, 1893, in Evansville, Wisconsin. Their daughter, Esther was born April 29, 1905 in Washington.

Porter, called Port, helped his father by managing the grocery store. He married first, Mary Myers. They divorced and I found no evidence of children. He later married Alva Johnson on May 8, 1930 and again, no children.

Esther married Herbert Reiter, a local farmer and businessman. They had four children, Joyce, Harold, Don and Jerry. Joyce graduated from Deer Park High School in 1946 and in August 1960 was married and living in Portland, Oregon. Harold, also known as Pete, is a local resident. Don is a member of our society and attends meetings with his wife Mary Jo. Jerry was a friend of mine. He was in Mr. Densen's class as an eighth grader when I was a seventh grader in the same mixed classroom. He died a tragic accidental death in May 1954 when his own rifle discharged while he and a friend were playing. We were all dismayed.

Back to Frank Young. The following is taken from the obituary in the *Deer Park Union* newspaper in November 1951:

*Frank C. Young, 81, pioneer Deer Park resident, passed away at his home here Tuesday, November 6. He has been in poor health for several years.*

*Born in Wisconsin, Mr. Young came west in 1901. He worked in Spokane for a short time before settling on a farm in the Lost Springs district in 1906. He later gave up farming to enter the grocery business in Deer Park, retiring in 1946.*

*Funeral Services were held Friday, Nov 9, from the Deer Park Methodist church with Rev. Eugene Ford officiating. Interment was in Woodland cemetery with the Lauer Funeral Home in charge of the arrangements.*

*Mr. Young is survived by his widow, Elizabeth, at the home; one daughter, Esther Reiter of Deer Park; one son, Porter Young of Priest Lake, Idaho and two brothers, Jerry and Willard Young, both of Deer Park.*

### Letters to the Editor

I received two letters from Peter Coffin which may be of interest to our readers.

**First Letter:**

*Dear Sharon:*

*There has been some question about the types of apples grown in the Arcadia Orchards. The remnants of the apple orchards do not seem to reflect the types expected to be found in a commercial orchard. Mr. Bill Sebright has indicated to me that the present day trees are bearing fruit like crab apples which he attributes to the original root stock being a crab apple to which commercial apple branches were grafted.*

*During my review of the digital Deer Park Union I have found a list of what types, and approximately*

*how much of each variety, of apples were shipped out from the 1916 Arcadia Orchard Company crop. The grades of the apples in each category were also mentioned. The front page of the January 26, 1917, Deer Park Union contains the following list of apples shipped out under the "Big A" brand:*

<i>Wagner</i>	<i>27,175 boxes</i>
<i>Jonathan</i>	<i>11,421 boxes</i>
<i>Rome Beauty</i>	<i>2,414 boxes</i>
<i>Gano</i>	<i>622 boxes</i>
<i>King Tompkins</i>	<i>41 boxes</i>
<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>35 boxes</i>
<i>King David</i>	<i>29 boxes</i>
<i>Ben Davis</i>	<i>17 boxes</i>
<i>Greening</i>	<i>13 boxes</i>

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Letters to the Editor (Continued)

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*The largest amount of apples shipped was Wagners. These apples are not the type of apple that sells like the Delicious variety being shipped to the luxury markets of Chicago or New York City by the competing Yakima orchards. This lack of apple salability was a partial cause for the demise of the Arcadia Orchards.*

*Sincerely,  
Peter Coffin*

**Second Letter:**

*May 28, 2012*

*Dear Sharon:*

*The July 18, 1913, Deer Park Union front page has a letter from an O. C. Carey of Toronto titled "O. C. Carey, of Toronto Visits Arcadia" on his earlier*

*visit to the Arcadia Orchard. Mr. Carey wrote another letter printed on the front page of the December 8, 1916, Deer Park Union headlined as "Well Pleased with Deer Park".*

*The Arcadia Orchard Company made a concerted effort to establish owners groups or clubs in distant cities and Toronto, Ontario, Canada, was one of them. The leaders of these groups generally received a commission for convincing new investors to buy Arcadia Lands.*

*It is possible that a member of this Toronto group, possible Mr. Carey himself, took the pictures in the scrapbook that Mrs. Keith sent the society. Perhaps Mrs. Keith could be asked if she knows of an O. C. Carey.*

*Sincerely,  
Peter Coffin*

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**Clayton/ Deer Park Historical Society Minutes — June 9, 2012**

In attendance: Pat Parker, Wally Parker, Don Reiter, Mary Jo Reiter, Kay Parkin, Warren Nord, Lorraine Nord, Mark Wagner, Pete Coffin, Judy Coffin, Bill Sebright, Bob Gibson, Bob Clouse, Sharon Clark, Roxanne Camp, Allan Fackenthall, Lynn Wells, Betty Burdette, Marilyn Reilly, Oresimo Garcia Jr.

Society President, Bill Sebright called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. 1) Our display is over at the Loon Lake Historical Society. There weren't many visitors, but we received contributions for 26 Reports and Collected Newsletters and 1 Tuffy's War. At total of \$105 was taken in. Thank you Loon Lake Historical Society for the chance to have our displays at your beautiful Old School House. 2) Dee Kennedy requested informa-

tion about Bill Wetzler. She bought a 1994 painting by him.

Treasurer, Mark Wagner reported that there is \$3,197.67 in the main checking account. There was \$100.00 in deposits. The web hosting account had \$346.66 with a \$25.94 withdrawal for web hosting (an extra 14.99 was charged for web hosting this month – need to find out what this was for).

Secretary, Grace Hubal reported by email: Did anyone respond to the Tribune advertisement? Should we continue to place the ad? I paid for the first two months. Will the Society pay \$13 a month to continue placing the ad? Is it something that we want to do? Grace got Art Stelting's Christmas card back this month. She sent it out before she knew  
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his Loon Lake address was undeliverable. His correct address is on the Society directory.

Vice President, Pete Coffin reported: 1) Submitted a short biography manuscript of William Hopkins Short the founder of Deer Park to Editor Sharon Clark. 2) Researching the origin of the name of Dragoon Creek starting with a March 5, 1925, Deer Park Union article which indicated the Washington State Historical Society had asked for information on the naming of the creek. A letter was sent to them asking what information they may have gotten from this inquiry. 3) Researching information of Blue Grouse Mountain Tungsten mines. 4) Reviewing all the Deer Park Union front pages from 1911 to 1921 for significant historic material. 5) Sent a letter to Tom Costigan, the Editor of the Deer Park Tribune, inquiring about the validity of the failure of the Arcadia Orchard Company being due to a lack of irrigation water. I can find no documentation for this assertion! 6) Determined from a July 25, 1913, Deer Park Union article that an O. C. Carey of Toronto probably took the 1913 pictures that Suzanne Keith donated to the Society. He was apparently close to Ms. Keith. The following is a quote from a Suzanne Keith email. "The man that was like my grandfather (close family friend) died in the early 1970's and he was just over eighty years old then. Carey was his wife's maiden name. It would appear that these pictures were taken by his in-laws. I wasn't familiar with them at all except for the surname."

During the June 2 display at the LLHS a Jerry Morris (244-6730) indicated that the Loon Lake shirts were printed by the Airway Heights Prison printing operation. He said a Tim Babcock was in charge of this print shop and that the price was \$5.00 cheaper than the competition and the quality was higher.

Print Editor, Sharon Clark reported: 1) The June Mortarboard was distributed. It includes a college history paper written by Marie Morrill about the old Deer Park High School, now the City

Hall. The Collected Newsletters #13 has been produced and is ready for sale. Sharon received a copy from Susan Dechant, NEWGS in Colville of an index by name of all CDPHS publications through Volume 12 of "Collected Newsletters."

Webmaster Penny Hutten reported by email: Jake Wilson sent a thank you to the Clayton Deer Park Historical Society, by email. She looked into the meaning of the statistics page. When she returns from vacation she will call again and ask for a list of the IP addresses of the hits.

Wally Parker is looking further into Pete's article about oil wells. The 1901 Wild Rose Prairie oil well drilling went on for 40 years. The three factors were the alleged; 1) Discovery of gas in the Rosalia Area. 2) Lewis in the Wild Rose Prairie had observed an oil sheen on the pond from the pine trees. This was mistaken for petroleum. 3) A professor Augie (geologist) reported you could dip into this pond and get oil. This is how the speculation on oil in the Wild Rose Prairie started. All oil speculation in the area (including Clayton and Spokane) will be in Wally's report – about 10,000 words when finished. It should be done in a couple months.

The Tribune classified ad was discussed and passed around – the cost is \$13.00 per month. Marilyn Reilly suggested sending the Tribune a historical picture every week. A question would be asked about the picture. The next week the answer to the question and a short description of the picture would be given. Pete Coffin will talk to Tom Costigan about using a picture of the Arcadia dignitaries riding in an open car from the 1913 Keith album for the first week.

Betty Burdette brought in an article about Clyde and Florence Krick. Sharon may use it in a future Mortarboard. Betty also brought in pictures of Art and Clara Milner, the 1939 Deer Park Football Team (in color), and a Tribune article about Mike Burdette cutting a "Centennial" tree down on Crawford Street. Karen Meyer gave us some  
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Washington Brick and Lime sealing tape which will be put on display at the Clayton Drive-In display case.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00am

Next meeting is Saturday, July 14, 9 AM, Clayton Drive-In.

The meeting minutes submitted by Mark Wagner, Treasurer and acting secretary.

### 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 the Brickyard/Ramble In Tavern

tion with their occupations and settlement in the Clayton/Deer Park Area

Gardenspot #278 Granges

**WANTED:** Any stories and photos of your family’s history in connec-

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

**WANTED:** Any information on the Williams Valley Grange Orchestra  
Contact: Ann Fackenthall, WVG

#### Society Contacts

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Grace Hubal, secretary — (hubals@msn.com)

**Visit our New Web Site: [cdphs.org](http://cdphs.org)**

**Our old web site was discontinued as of January 15, 2012**

*Special Thanks to this month's volunteer proofreaders — Florene Moore, Grace Hubal, Pete Coffin*