



P. O. Box 232
Black Diamond, Washington
98010

BBDHS Newsletter

IN MEMORIAM

Published quarterly by the Black Diamond Historical Society, a non-profit corporation.

Membership fees, which include a subscription to this newsletter, are as follows:

- Annual.....\$2.00
- Lifetime.....\$30.00
- Family Lifetime.....\$40.00
- Business Annual.....\$15.00
- Business Lifetime.....\$150.00

Send dues to:

Black Diamond Historical Society
P.O. Box 232
Black Diamond, Washington, 98010

Editor.....Chuck Holtz
32422 5th Ave. N.
Black Diamond, Washington, 98010
886-2964

Recollections, articles, questions, corrections, and comments are welcomed by the Editor.

Roll Call of pioneer area residents who have recently passed away include Kristena Turk (69) and Peter Tost (65) of Black Diamond, Mary J. Brudevold (66) of Krain, Amy Deane Burk (85) of Enumclaw-Krain, a former area teacher, Carl Omana (61) and Fannie T. Ramshak (70) of Cumberland, Cecil Hunter (74) of Selleck, Primo C. Vinci (55) of Ravensdale, Jalmar E. Johnson (71) of Burnett and Buckley, a retired employee of Palmer Coking Coal Company, and James W. Norman (95) of Kirkland, former teacher-principle of the Black Diamond Highschool.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

We've gotten more pictures copied and old photos continue to trickle in. We now have what many would classify as one of the finest local photo collections in existence. We're proud of this display; it will be a valuable part of our future museum display!

The Society has applied for a \$150 grant from the King County Arts Commission to produce a short public relations project on our local history. We will probably produce a short slide and tape presentation.

Elaine Griffin has been appointed to the King County Arts Commission. This is a great honor for her and we are all proud of her. Congratulations Elaine!!

Pictures for the 1978 Calendar has been selected, and from all indications this years calendar will be the best yet. We hope to have them ready for sale by Labor Day.

Black Diamond will definitely host a Labor Day Celebration this year. The Society plans to have a booth on the ball field where we will sell Calendars, 14" by 18" posters of the Bakery, and Black Diamond Coal Car stickers for your car windows. See you there!

"Coal Car" Stickers for your car windows, similar to the '77 Calendar Cover, with the words "Historical Black Diamond", are available for \$1.00. The stickers are quite attractive and can be purchased from Society officers or by writing the secretary at P.O. Box 232, Black Diamond.

About 140 ex-booters showed up recently at the Black Diamond Eagle's Hall for the first official outing of the Pacific Northwest Soccer Oldtimer's

Association. A royal feast was hosted by Ed Banchemo and several other old time Black Diamond soccer players. The main attraction was a collection of old photographs, trophies, and memorabilia which was enjoyed by all. Hughie Hughes won the "oldest present" prize; it was his 91st birthday.

"Old Timers" Picnic

The annual "old-timers" picnic will be held July 17th at the Lake Sawyer Resort. This newsletter will probably not reach you before the picnic..... so I hope information on the picnic reached you from other sources and you had a good time.

Thank you-Thank you-Thank you!

.....For the oak file cabinet for our growing collection of paper work, donated to the Society by Frank Costi. Mrs. Steiert has refinished it and it's a beautiful piece of furniture!-----and for the old school photos from Mr. & Mrs. Homer Norman.

County Arts, Historical Jobs to be Funded Through CETA.

CETA Title II Funds, supplemented by King County Funds have become available through the King County Arts Commission to hire personnel for two projects; an Historical inventory of sites in King County outside the city of Seattle, and an artists-in-residence program.

Eleven people will be hired to perform the historic inventory; seven researchers, three specialists and a coordinator/clerical assistant. They will work under the supervision of the Arts Commission's historical coordinator, Art Skolnik, to assemble a comprehensive inventory of significant historical, archeological and architectural sites in the county.

Reseachers will work in the field to describe potential sites for designation. Positions will pay \$700/month. Specilists will be sought in three areas: history, architecture and archeology. Each will develop general criteria with the historical coordinator as well as assist researchers to identify significant sites. This position will pay \$833/month. The coordinator/clerical assistant will assemble and type material gathered by the specialists and maintain day-to-day contact with the area workers. This position will pay \$700/month.

For details on these positions and to obtain applications forms, individuals may call or drop by the King County Arts Commission office, 400 King County Courthouse, or telephone 344-7580. Applicants must be eligible for the King County CETA program; reside in King County outside the city limits of Seattle, have been unemployed for at least 15 weeks, and have received a low family income during the previous year. If you are interested in one of the positions or know of someone who may be, pass along the information and/or contact the Arts Commission; it could lead to an enjoyable job!

FROM THE "SPARKLER" (Black Diamond School Paper) March 1939.

Senior News (taken from the sparkler four years ago)

We all wonder what Margaret Evans meant when she asked Mr. Edson for the twenty tooth (22nd) question.

"Freshmen enjoy the initiation Party"

We all wonder how Gordon Robert's permanent wave came out? We presume not good, because Anna Remshe, who administered the operation, used gloss starch as wave set.

Didn't the boys look ducky in girls regalia, especially Zerald Laurine and Leonard Kuzaro who tried to imitate Mae West? We do think, though, the boys could take a few lessons on make-up. How about it girls?

"Seen About Town"

Frank Stebly annoying the girls as usual.

When ever you see Georgia you see Lyda, both doing nothing, it must be the nice weather that causes such moods.

Pat all dressed up fit to kill, no wonder all the girls on the front porch turned to take a second look.

Zerald telling why he had to stay 30 minutes after school for Mr. Cobb.

Walter Gibson kidding the girls along. Shame on you.

Carroll taking rides home in a Model T.

Junior News

Isabelle had a fit of coughing one bright spring day during U. S. History that ended in Mr. Cobb calling her down. After a little arguing, Mr. Cobb said, "How do you expect me to sleep?" This statement is not fictitious but any similarity to Jokes, living or dead is purely coincidental. (Taken from the March 28th happenings of the Junior U. S. History Class)

Glenn F. didn't get the joke, Jeanette explained, "Too deep for the shallow mind."

Freshman News

Mondell M is back to school after spending two weeks at home with chicken pox.

An amusing incident came about one day when Mr. Hogle asked Dick Martin what some of his bad habits were, quickly Dick piped up with, "Going to school."

Local News

Mrs. A. Eltz and infant daughter, Janet Mary, returned from the hospital and are both reported doing nicely.

Mr. Walter Siegmund is confined to his home from an injury received at the Strain mine when a rock fell and severed his little toe.

Sports

Trophy Captured In Post-Season Tournament! The Black Diamond Bronchos were invited to the Washington Prep Invitational Tournament, and after much deliberation the invitation was accepted and the Broncho's began preparing for the games. The games were played in the Y M C A Gym in Seattle. The trips to Seattle were made in Mr. Hogle's and Mr. Carnino's cars. The Broncho's took second place in the tournament.

Feature Question of the month: What do you think of going steady?????

Pat W.--I'm not an authority but they say variety is the spice of life.

Anne B.--Better to be friends with them all.

Glen F.--With lack of experience I can't say--but give me a week.

Elsie R.--It's O.K. if your mother doesn't care. (Mine doesn't)

Anne C.--O.K. if he lives in your home town so you can keep tab on him.

Harry W.--It's a racket with the dames, they get all your rings and money then find another sucker.

La Berta--It's too much like prison.

Styles

Have you noticed Margaret Evans breezing around in a new pink dress? In spite of Margarets red hair pink looks splendid on her. Something in common with Jeanette MacDonald.

Grade News

2nd.--Jerry Thompson, Bobby Thompson, Fred Thomas and Joan Malgarini have had a 100 in Spelling every day this year.

3rd & 4th.--Monday morning, March 27, when we came back to our room at 11:35 after our rest period outside, we found a big surprise. Miss Arnold had brought her six little first grade girls to read for us. The girls were: Barbara Lee Wilson, Barbara Evans, Rosemary Rogers, Shirly Mead, and Dorothy Neiswonger. When they had finished reading we told them how much we enjoyed it.

8th---- Our trip to Mud Lake. We left the school and took a short cut up through the woods. We arrived at the lake about thirty-five minutes later. When we reached there, some of the people went to the other side of the lake and some went on the side where the road is. I was in that group. The children on the other side started to shout the Indian yells so we did it, too. Miss Chase started to yodel but couldn't for a while, but finally she succeeded. We all met on the road and went back to the school. We got back in time to play around and get to our rooms in time for the bell.....Merna Jean McLoughry.

LETTERS FROM THE PACIFIC COAST COMPANY PAPERS

Dec. 14, 1906

Mr. H. W. Cannon, PRESIDENT,
No. 10 Wall Street, New York.

Dear Sir:

We had quite a wind storm here on the night of the 10th-11th, which blew down a large number of trees in the vicinity of Lake Wilderness. Three of them fell across our track; the one farthest South being about four feet in diameter. A coal extra, Conductor Watkins, engine 12, Engineer Major, with thirty-six loaded coal cars coming down the hill from Black Diamond, ran into the large one at 3:30 a.m. on the 11th. The coupler of the engine struck the tree square, breaking a piece the width of the track out and throwing it in to the clear. The engine and the first seven cars went over the kinked rail where the tree had struck the track but the eighth car dropped off and it and the next six cars piled up. The ends of two other cars were completely smashed in by the sudden stop and about two hundred tons of coal was lost. Six of our coal cars were completely wrecked and three others very badly damaged. We will send a gang of coal sackers up and save as much of the coal as possible; perhaps about two-thirds.

The trucks and irons of the six cars will be gathered up and the wood work burned. Total damage, approximately \$4500.00. The track was clear by 8 a.m. on the morning of the 12th.

This crew went over the road, south bound, about five hours previous. The engineer is one of the best we have and, as a general rule, uses very good judgment. They were running slow as it had been blowing some around Black

(next page)

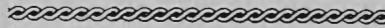
P.C.C. letter cont.,

Diamond. They were only making about twelve to fifteen miles an hour but were unable to stop the heavy train in time. It is very fortunate for us that the tree was large enough so that the draw head struck it. Had it been a trifle smaller so as to have gone under the draw head, it would have badly wrecked the engine.

May we ask you to keep after the American Locomotive Works, so we will get the two new engines at the earliest possible moment.

Yours truly,

J.C. Ford
Vice-President & Gen'l Manager



August 6, 1919

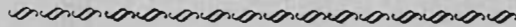
Mr. Wm. M. Barnum, President,
The Pacific Coast Company
10 Wall Street, New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

The Franklin hotel, a building of about 28 rooms, was destroyed by fire in the early morning of the 28th ultimo. Investigation disclosed that without doubt the building caught fire from the kitchen range. The insurance covering is \$3600.00, which is the approximate value of the building, depreciated. It has not as yet been determined whether we could get along at Franklin without a boarding house, but this will be done if at all possible.

Yours truly,

E.C. Ward
Vice Pres't & Genl Mgr.



FORMER TEACHER-PRINCIPLE DIES

On May 24th, '77, word reached Black Diamond that James W. Norman of Kirkland had died the night previously, following several light strokes and an attack of pneumonia. Many middle aged residents will remember him, as he taught the eighth grade from 1928 through 1936, and was principle of the B.D. grammar school during that time.

Mr. J. W. Norman was born in Kansas on Oct. 24, 1881. He was 95 1/2 years of age at the time of death. As a youngster he came with his parents to Oregon, then to Washington state in 1882.

In 1907 he married Miss Hattie Goff and in 1973 they observed their 66th wedding anniversary. Two days after the celebration, she died of a heart attack. They were living in a nursing home and he has been in a Bellevue nursing home since that time.

Mr. Norman taught school in various towns in this state before coming to B.D. He was an accomplished pianist and made good use of his musical education. In his schoolroom, when occasionally there was noise and confusion, as there often is, he did not scold or use severe discipline. Instead, he sat down at the piano and played a few numbers, often classical music. This had the desired effect---pupils became quiet and studied their lessons. A poet has said, "Music hath charm to sooth the savage beast."

Mr. Norman took up painting in his 70's and produced many fine canvasses. He also took organ lessons during these years.

Following his retirement from teaching, he worked on the Washington State Ferries on the Kirkland-Madison Park run. Then he worked in the Lake Washington Shipyards during World War II.

In 1976 he attended the Reunion of the Class of 1946 at the Lake Sawyer home of Joè Kuzaro. One of the class members, when she heard of his death, said "Isn't it lucky we had the Reunion last year?"

Mr. and Mrs. Norman had three children. The daughter was killed in an automobile accident more than 30 years ago. Two sons are living, Walter in Centralia and Homer in Kirkland.

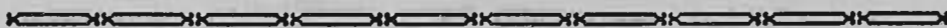
The author of this article is indebted to Homer and his wife for the facts related.

Mr. Norman is no longer numbered with the old timers, but will long be lovingly remembered.-----Mrs. F. W. Cobb----

(See following page for pictures)



"HISTORY IS TIME CONSUMING"-Just ask the Editor!



Mr. James W. Norman-Teacher-Principle
of Black Diamond Grammar School,
1928-1936. Picture taken 1938.



Teachers-Black Diamond School, '32-'33

Front row-left to right-----Helen
Hatheway, Gwendolyn McDowell, Ellen
Brodie, Alice West, Mary Tratnik,
Ruth Avery, and Sylvia Stub.

Back Row-left to right---J.K. Edson,
O.E. Eidal, Francis Cobb, Gildo Rey,
and James W. Norman



☆ HISTORY ☆

The following article will be carried in the newsletter as a series until complete. This section on Franklin is part of a large thesis submitted at the University of Washington as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts, 1965. The unpublished thesis is titled "Washington's Green River Coal Company: 1880-1930, by C. William Thorndale, and is the finest piece of work on the Green River coal industry that this editor has had the pleasure to read.....

Franklin in the last years of the 1880's represented a typical coal camp: a company town connected to the outside world by a railroad and telegraph line. Lying four miles east of the larger Black Diamond, it had an estimated one thousand persons in 1888 composed mostly of Welsh, English, and Scotch, with some Irish, Italians, and Belgians. The year before the territorial census reported only 167 people in the precinct and perhaps the reporter over-estimated the 1888 population, but Franklin did boom that year. Due to an Australian coal strike that sent San Francisco prices soaring, the mine, which

History, Franklin, cont.,

had produced only 7500 tons in 1885, shipped 187,000 tons in 1888, the best year until the twentieth century. Since miners flocked to a booming coal town as fast as they could abandon a dying one, perhaps Franklin did increase sixfold in fifteen months.

The town literally hung over the north side of the Green River, four hundred feet above the churning water. Swirling over rapids and eddying around giant glacial boulders, the snow-fed mountain water dropped four hundred feet in six miles as it carved its way through towering walls of sandstone and coal. From the water's edge a fisherman standing in the gorge looked up to a wild scene of dense forests covering the surrounding hills and crowding the narrow canyon floor, while numerous waterfalls fell over the cliffs high above and added their spray to the cool air.

With space at a premium and often bought by carving shelves into the hill, the main part of town was strung out along the edge of the railroad track. There the combined shops, blacksmith shop, coal bunker, and mine hoist vied for space with the eight-room houses for rent at \$10.00 a month. Scattered back around the hill were more houses and wall tents, as well as the five-room, \$5.00 a month houses. The school lay further on the town's largest flat area and in 1888 had 229 pupils and one teacher. Two saloons slunk in exile far below the main section of town down many flights of stairs or the zigzagging road near the county's new \$10,000 cantilever bridge. The company retained title to all the land.

The mine lay in section 18, sunk in 1887 after the NP refused to sell the old mine site, and it experienced no end of trouble. Sinking a new mine required innumerable judgements of location, railroad sidings, slope design, ventilation techniques, and mining methods, only operation could determine the success of the design. Unexpected breaks in the coal beds, excessive gas, a weak roof, or local weather conditions could hamper all operations and drive costs beyond the point of profitability. Franklin mine suffered its full share of such man-made and natural ills.

A bad fire in December 1888 had finally forced the flooding of the mine and still the fire continued to hamper production. The territorial mine inspector often noted the poor ventilation in the mine and throughout 1889 he forced various levels to stop operations. Both miners and the management resumed the old ways when he left, causing him to consider a court injunction to halt the unsafe practices, but he finally decided against such an action. Then in June the Seattle fire destroyed the Oregon Improvement Company (OIC) shipping facilities and idled the mine for a month; the June payroll ran \$12,000 on an output of 3000 tons. By summer a brick archway was driven through the fire zone, adding to the cost but promising a solution and still the intermittent trouble plagued the mine, driving the exasperated superintendent to claim that the mine was "bad to the core" and had never shown a net profit. Production fell to 73,000 tons for the year because in September a new fire permanently closed the mine. A slope would be sunk during the winter.

Thus by 1890 both labor and management were on edge over the chaotic conditions at both Franklin and Newcastle. The repeated attempts by the OIC to destroy the Knights of Labor by blacklist, lockouts, discriminatory hiring, company spies, and Pinkertons had effectively alienated the union men. On the company side, the anti-Chinese riots, the continual wage demands, the militant nature of the Knights, and the inter-union violence gave management equal grounds for bitterness. Yet, in 1890 the Knights and the OIC made a major attempt to resolve their differences.

In March, T.B. Corey, the head of the Seattle coal operations for the OIC, offered the Newcastle miners an ironclad contract. The company desired a set wage, guarantees on production quotas for miners, and the right to withhold wages until a fired miner vacated his company house. The key phrase required of the miner the pledge "that he will not stop work, join in any 'strike' or combination for the purpose of obtaining or causing the company to pay their miners an advance of wages, or pay beyond what is specified in this contract." If the contract were violated, the miner lost his back pay. In short, Corey wanted the miners to exempt the strike. Clearly the response of the Newcastle miners would set a precedent, especially for Franklin.

On March 30 at a mass meeting the miners unanimously rejected the contract. Within the next few days the two sides exchanged a number of proposals and clarifications that reflect the positions of labor and management in 1890. The ironclad contract stated the company position: the company should have complete control over hiring and firing; the pay scale should be set and left unchanged, and the miners should cease staying home on working days except from sickness. In short, the men should take what the company offered or get out.

(Next issue cont.---OIC imports Negro Strike Breakers)



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