



Black Diamond Historical Society



May 1980

Black Diamond, Washington

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Send dues to: Box 232
 Black Diamond, Wa. 98010
 Editor.....Norma Gumser
 Box 288
 Black Diamond, Wa. 98010

The Red Coats have Really Come to Town!!!

How could you miss that? Our Depot has been restored to its original glorious red color. The work was done by a painter from Enumclaw, Louis Gerlach. We used the rest of our HUD grant funds and had it professionally painted. It took 30 gal. of paint--but it does look grand now! There is no trim as it did not originally have trim as we see on buildings today. We hope to move inside with volunteer painters now and begin painting those 12' high rooms. Don Mason removed the last of the old felt and wallpaper from the ceilings and that was a hard job well-done. Please volunteer if you have some time to help with the interior. We have scaffolding and everything is waiting for those helping hands. Plans are being made to have work parties on weekends--how about it, ladies?

New Acquisitions

Burlington Northern Railroad has donated a train order signal, a semaphore and a Railroad Highway Crossing Warning Light. We greatly appreciated the courtesy with which they were donated and delivered. The Railroad Baggage Cart which had been donated to the Depot by Florence and Dave Garrett was restored by the Thursday regulars. (These are the men who regularly meet at the Depot on Thursday--rain or shine and are responsible for all the hours of work that have gone into the Depot) Thanks a lot, Frank Guidetti, Ted Barner and Carl Steiert. Well, the Baggage Cart was pulled out onto the platform during the Appraisal for all to admire. It had been painted regulation dark green with bright red wheels--beautiful!!!

Antique Appraisal

The response to our 3rd Antique Appraisal was poor. It has been decided to drop it as a fund-raiser. Our thanks go to all those who contributed good things to eat and to the Committee Florence Garrett, Elaine Griffin, Verna Thompson and Norma Gumser. We especially appreciate the time donated to us by the Appraiser who donated their own time to help us with this project. Right now we are open to suggestions for any sort of fund raiser to replace the Appraisal.

Old Timers Picnic

Don't forget to reserve July 20 for the Annual picnic. It will be held again at the Lake Sawyer Resort. Come and spend the day and renew old friendships and memories.

Searching for Photos

Does anyone know

where we can get the following:

Outside Krause Saloon
 Old Union Hall in
 Morganville
 Finn Hall on Lawson
 Any Old Lawson pictures
 Bowling Alley
 Rudge's Place at Green
 River Gorge



Livery Stable
 Dance Pavillion at Clay Mine
 Old Lawson Trestle
 Harry McDowell
 Henry Babb
 Lumber Yard at Depot
 Photographer's Studio
 Shoemaker Bill Murphy

Graduates Hold Reunion

The Meridian Valley Country Club was the scene of happy confusion as the graduates from the Black Diamond High School met once again. The group included not only the graduates themselves but also others who had attended BDHS but were not "Lucky" enough to graduate. The classes included persons from 1915 thru 1943. Florence Thomas was a representative of the first graduating class in 1915. It included 2 boys and two girls. A good time was had by all and another and no doubt larger one is planned in two years.

Bouquets for Bulldozing

Our thanks to Doug Vaughn of W.D. Vaughn Construction Co., Ravensdale, for bulldozing around the Depot. The area at the north end is ready for tracks and mine machinery for the portal under the depot representing a tunnel into a mine. Also, the area beside the platform for the regular train tracks. Some very old wooden water pipes were exposed. The left-over dirt was used as a fill on the south end of the Depot where the Jail will sit. The membership voted to present Mr. Vaughn with a lifetime membership to express our thanks for this work.

Second Printing

It has been decided to reprint 100 copies only of our 1976 Calendar. They will be sold at \$4.00 plus \$1.00 for mailing on a first come first served basis. It was decided to print on these "Second Printing" as our initial Calendar was not printed in the quantity we now order, and there have been so many requests. This will be the only year reprinted. So put in your order NOW and don't be disappointed when these few are gone. Next year's calendar 1981 will cost \$5.00 plus \$1.00 for mailing. The pictures for it have been chosen. It will be our 6th calendar.

A Jail is a Jail is a Jail

Also- a Slammer, a Jug, the Clink, the Cooler, the Calaboose, and the Hoosgow and Black Diamond has it's original two-cell jail. It is to be moved from its present resting place in Mrs. Harp's back yard to a spot next to the Depot. It is very old and perhaps in bad shape. It is such an interesting old building we could not resist bringing it down to the Depot area and going to work on restoring it. Now is the time for all of you who aren't too turned on by Depots-but are fascinated by old jails to lend a hand. The iron doors are gone but for some reason Carl Steiert remembers exactly how they looked so we will have some facsimiles made, according to his recollections. It will be moved by a professional housemover as it is too heavy and cumbersome for amateurs to do. It will be put on a foundation and be a permanent part of our historical section--between the Depot and King's Tavern.

New Members:

Gerald & Vivian Bainton.....	B.D.	Beatrice Unick.....	Lynnwood
Dr. David Botting	Bellevue	Flora Musolf.....	Seattle
Vernice Conrad	Tacoma	Lena Parks (Paglia).....	Seattle
Jacqueline Dial	Lafayette, Ca.	Meg Pierotti.....	Renton
Vern Fielder.....	Bellevue	John Rowe.....	Enumclaw
Rachel Fagnon(Frederickson).....	Seattle	Emil Rossi.....	Enumclaw
Vivian Hofts.....	Tacoma	Julie Scouten (Savicke).....	Danville, Ca.
Harold Hoyt.....	Seattle	Herman Trover.....	Enumclaw
Jennie Johnson(Parkinson).....	Seattle	Angie Toczek (Santi).....	Maple Valley
Nellie Johnson(Parkinson).....	Enumclaw	John Vieg.....	Seattle
Anne Murphy (Brennan).....	Seattle	Gary Williamson.....	Buckley
		Helen Harp.....	B.D.

New Lifetime Members

Tom & Lynda Maks.....	B.D.	Ernest Romedo.....	B.D.
James Earley.....	Enumclaw	Mr & Mrs. Leo Merlini.....	Seattle
Don Mason.....	Kent	Mr. & Mrs. C.F. Freeman.....	B.D.
Tom Hawthorne.....	Enumclaw	Gene Robinson.....	Conrad, Mont.
Edythe Hall (Lewis).....	Oakland, Ca.	Angeline Goldsberry.....	B.D.
George Savicke.....	B.D.		

At the present time there are 238 members. This includes 69 Lifetime members and 16 Honorary Lifetime members. We want to remind all those who reach the age of 80 that they automatically become Honorary members. Please let us know at box 232 if you are 80 or know someone who qualifies.

From time to time we hear that someone is no longer getting their newsletter. The reason for this may be that their dues have been overlooked or that we do not have their correct address. Last time we published several were returned with various postal reasons such as "moved left no address" or "incorrect address". Please help us in this matter.

Do You remember when.....

The school bell rang each morning and everyone lined up to march to the rhythm of the triangle.

or

Waking up in the morning to find the neighbor's cow had opened the gate and stood in the middle of your garden.

or

Of the excitement of a visit from "Cheyenne" and his packs of clothing.

or

Going to the "Show Hall" and hearing Mr. Glenn call out "Let's go!"

or

The ringing of the bell announcing the visit of Steve Vernarelli and his horse drawn wagon. He was the father of Steve, Esther, Jim and Duda, and Rome. The Society has the umbrella which was used on the wagon. Such good vegetables!!!

Summer Vacation Time

The meeting which was held on May 12 was the last meeting until September. It has not been decided as to what participation will be taken in the Labor Day Festivities. We all felt that we should be represented in some manner. We are open to any suggestions.

History

This is an excerpt from "Washington's Green River Coal Company" by C. Wm. Thorndale.

Ravensdale

Ravensdale had the usual general store, hotel, and other smaller businesses as well as a number of saloons. The mine, also experienced the usual troubles-- faults closing gangways, spontaneous combustion starting fires, small accidents killing men. In 1907 two hundred men lost weeks of work while a mine was flooded with water from a nearby lake to drown a persistent fire. But Ravensdale was unique among Green River towns in one respect--it was incorporated. Under the auspices of the NP, which laid out and incorporated the town in 1913-1914, the town organized its local government, headed by a mayor and five councilmen. Ironically, for 15 years the town had grown and thrived without the blessings of government and when it did come, the town almost died.

On November 16th 1915, a dust explosion destroyed the mine forever. Over the years the Ravensdale mine had been remarkably free of gas and at the time of the explosion "mixed lights" were used. That permitted naked lights in the gangways and safety lamps on the pitch. For the last two weeks the dust had been heavy and the company installed a sprinkler system, but in some unknown manner the gas and dust exploded. All night the crowd stood at the mouth hoping for good news and knowing there was no hope. The men handed in their identifying brass checks--thirty four were missing. Three injured had been brought out of the mine, leaving thirty-one unaccounted for. While the flickering lights and rain combined with the town's grief to make the night seem unreal, below in the mine rescue crews dug through the rubble. Canaries, used to test the air, indicated after damp. More men, including teams from Black Diamond and other coal towns, went down with oxygen helmets. But there were no survivors. Thirty-one had died, leaving fifty-five dependents.

Among the dead were a former justice of the peace, a school board director, a councilman, and the president of the local union. In a coal town many of the prominent citizens go down in the mines, and like the town itself, they live and die there. For Ravensdale the explosion killed the major industry, although a few small mines operated during the war and the late 1920's. Eventually it recovered some of its former prosperity, but not before disincorporation came in the twenties.

A Special Request

Jacqueline B. Dial of 3181 Teigland Road, Lafayette, Ca. 94549 is doing an indepth research into the migration of people from the California area to Black Diamond. She is very anxious to receive any memories or information which the rest of the members might have access to. Please write to her in care of the above address if you know of any facts or sources of information.

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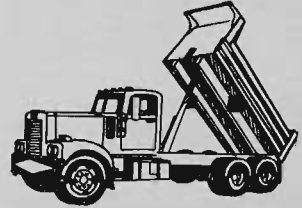
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