



*Black Diamond Historical Society*



September 1980

Black Diamond, Washington

Vol. IV Issue 3

*B.D.H.S. Newsletter*

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- Business Lifetime.....150.00

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

IN MEMORIAM

The past three months have brought the loss  
of three Lifetime members.

James Earley, husband of Pat (Kravogna) Earley  
Ruth Zumek, wife of Louis Zumek  
Maria Poalucci, mother of James, Olga, Evelyn,  
Abramo and Geno. She was a long time resident  
of Black Diamond. She was 92

WHAT'S HAPPENING

The electrical wiring has been completed and  
approved at the Depot. No more frayed wires  
dangling from the ceiling and plenty of outlets  
for whatever we will use in the future. The  
good work was all done for us by Grant Griffin  
free of charge. For his efforts the BDHS  
Board voted to give him a Life Membership.

The Old Jail was moved from where it had been "visiting" in Mrs. Harp's backyard. With a professional house mover and Dwight Garrett's low-bed truck, it was moved to its permanent resting place between King's Tavern and the Depot. The move was made quickly and smoothly due in large part to the expert driving of Donald Garrett. A foundation was put under by the mover and the old floor was removed by the Thursday Work Crew. There is still much to be done on it's restoration. Heavy planks are being cut for the floor and porch. It needs a new front door, with a heavy padlock, iron doors for the two cells inside and bars for the windows. Does anyone have a photo of the jail at its original site? Or a picture of Tracy the Bandit? A Thundermug? a small wood stove--old handcuffs or "Wanted" posters on anything else that might have been used in an old-time jail.

A word of thanks to Dwight for letting us have his truck and driver free of charge!!

Three rooms on the inside of the Depot are nearly ready for painting. It is hoped that by the time the newsletter is mailed this much more will have been accomplished.

BDHS HOSTS AT DEPOT

On Sept. 23, BDHS will host a 9:30 a.m. meeting of the Association of Historical Societies of King County. The meeting will be held in the Art Gallery across the street as it has more space. Members and guests will be invited to inspect the Depot and view the progress that has been made. This is a very important ~~Association~~ because by banding together the Historical Societies are making their voices heard and recognized for the important work each group is doing both in their immediate communities and for the State as a whole. All members are welcome to attend this meeting....

(2)

On Monday Sept. 8 the Society held their first meeting of the Fall season. After a short business meeting a slide show of varied subjects was shown. It was especially interesting because several members who were in Black Diamond in the early 1900's were able to give much missing information about different events and areas depicted. Many persons on the slides were identified. This led to many very interesting stories being told from their memories. Those who didn't attend really missed a great evening.

During the evening Gertrude Weston presented the Society with her husband's grandfather's family Bible. It is dated 1866 and is truly a priceless treasure. She said that she knew Vic would want the Historical Society to have it. Many thanks, Gert!

### 1981 CALENDARS

The new 1981 calendars will be off the press by Oct. 1. So order now by sending \$5.00 plus \$1.00 for mailing. Think ahead about some for Christmas gifts. Remember we count on the sale of these calendars as our major fund-raiser of the year. This is our 6th annual calendar.

Reprints of the 1976 calendar are still on their way. It seems the printer got bogged down with political pamphlets and is finally getting around to our "job". They have promised to get them to us within the month. Thank you for your patience.

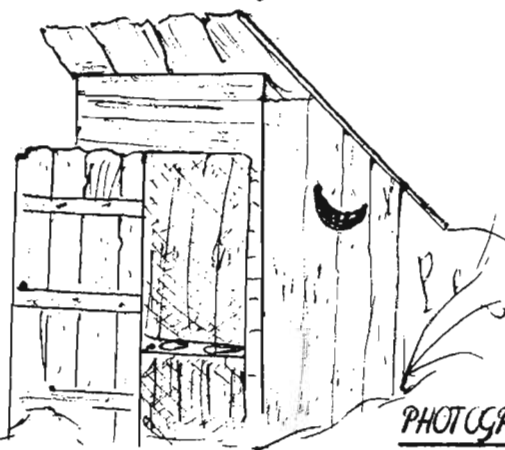
### RAFFLE-TIME

Between now and the Holidays we are planning to conduct a raffle. One of the things we have to raffle will be a lovely quilt made by the Black Diamond Quilters. They use the Depot as their meeting place and in turn made this quilt for us to use in a raffle. Bouquets Ladies!! We, also, have a load of logs for your winter fires, donated by Bob Kuzaro. They will be delivered within a 10-mile radius of Black Diamond. Otherwise, arrangements can be made. In case the winners are in Kentucky (too far away) or Hawaii (don't need a fire) equal amounts of cash will be given.

So...we have a hand-made quilt and a winter's worth of wood all for the price of a lucky ticket. More information will be sent in the mail as final plans are formulated.

### Does this bring back memories???

Taken from: *Muddled Meanderings in an Outhouse* by Bob Ross



### Those were the Good Old Days

You have to go awful bad and be mighty bold  
When the snow piles up and the wind blows cold.  
One thing about it--there's no lost motion  
You don't go out 'til you get the notion  
You don't sit and read or linger long  
You do the job and then move right along.

### PHOTOGRAPHS

If you have any photos relating to this area, please see to it that they are not destroyed or lost but stored carefully by the Society. We need to accumulate a vast collection of photos to preserve a visual record of the way it was in Black Diamond since the late 19th century. More than 90 years have passed and that is more than most of us can recall--- so we do need those photos. These acquired photos are made into slides for our shows and enlarged and mounted on matboard so that they can be safely handled. Each year we use 13 in our calendar. So keep them coming.

Gertrude Menalia has given us some priceless slides of houses and buildings that are no longer in existence. Our thanks are boundless..

Christmas Open House

Tentative plans for a Christmas Open House have been discussed. In our next Newsletter we will have more information. Last year at the Open House the Depot was visited by so many and was a wonderful get-together at our favorite time of the year. How can we forget all those delicious things to eat!!!

From the Editor:

We are very anxious to have some of your ideas as to what you want in the Newsletter. Any suggestions or comments will be appreciated.

Echoes From California

During the past year we have become acquainted with several people from the part of California where Black Diamond originated. Jacqueline Dial has written a thesis on the "Move of the Miners from Nortonville to Black Diamond, Washington Territory 1885". She has been kind enough to send us a copy of her book and we will attempt to share portions of it with you.

IX Black Diamond Territory- 1885

The town of Black Diamond, Washington, unlike Nortonville, still exists. It is located about thirty miles southeast of Seattle, in a forested area close to the Green River. This area is very different from that of Nortonville. Rather than being hot and dry the weather is damp and cool. In his letter, Morgan Morgans mentioned that the new mine is "surrounded by a forest of as fine timber as a man could wish to see" Clark's informants said that new settlers "found a wilderness of timber...where every foot of ground had to be cleared" The Nortonville people were coming to something entirely new.

The Black Diamond Company secured property here between 1881 and 1883. From that time on they slowly developed the site until the railroad was completed in Dec. 1884. In April, 1885, they shipped their first commercial shipment of coal to Seattle. The Green River Coal Field was to become one of the most productive in Washington Territory, and the Black Diamond Company would become one of the dominant forces in its development.

This chapter explores the beginning of the growth of Black Diamond as a town.

The 1885 King County Census is the first on in which Black Diamond is delineated as a separate entity. It was taken in April of that year, and is very interesting in a number of ways. Unlike the census of 1887 which will show a definite "town" pattern, with families, the census of 1885 shows a just as definite a "camp" pattern, as outlined below.

Out of 42 people, there are seven couples, and only three families with children. All the rest are men. Only nine of these men offer services, such as cook, shoemaker, etc. The others are all mine-connected or are carpenters. There are thirty-eight carpenters, one contractor, one mason, and one millman. Obviously, there is a lot of work for carpenters here which is what one would expect with a new mine and a new town. There are sixty Chinese laborers, no doubt the construction crew for the railroad.

It seems probable that this census represents the "tent town" that is spoken of in the Washington version of the legend. The men came first, "the narrative goes, and lived in tents until the houses were built."

\*\*\*\*\*

Carl and Ann Steiert were visited by Andrea Wray of Tiburon, Ca. who is also working on the information gathering in the Nortonville area. She reported that there is a "dig" going on and many interesting artifacts are being unearthed. Both ladies from California have invited any members of the Black Diamond Historical Society to contact them if they are in their area and they will be given a tour of the site.



# STRIKE NOTICE

Local No 1 of the Associated Thursday Workers hereby gives notice that unless the following conditions are met by the Black Diamond Historical Society they will go on strike as of November 1, 1980

\*\*\*\*\*

1. More member participation. Being ERA supporters both sexes will be welcome.
2. 100% wage increase.  $2 \times 0 = 0$
3. More interest displayed and suggestions made.
4. Longer hours by more people.

Meetings are held each Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. at the Depot



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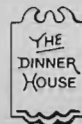
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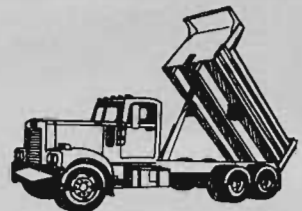
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N. GUMSER

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*Thomas Shelton*



Black Diamond Historical Society  
Box 232 Black Diamond, Wa. 98010

