

Black Diamond Historical Society



November, 1980

Black Diamond, Washington

Vol. IV Issue 4

B.D.H.S. Newsletter

Published by the  
Black Diamond Historical Society  
a non-profit corporation  
Membership fees, which include a  
subscription to this newsletter  
are as follows:

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

Send dues to: Box 232  
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In Memorium

A donation was received for the Memorial Fund  
in memory of Amanda Becker who died recently  
at the age of 91. She was the mother of  
Emma Sigmund, Mary Allen and Ethel Salvin.

Raffle

The response to our first Raffle is very  
gratifying. Every day letters come in from  
members with a donation for their tickets and  
more often than not--a note expressing the fact  
that they are more than pleased to support the  
effort. We wish you could all be winners, but  
in a sense we are all winners as our cause is

a good one. Inflation has made money what it is all about and there is never enough to go  
around. The drawing of the Lucky Raffle Tickets will take place at the Christmas Open  
House. It will be held on Sunday, December 7. The Depot will be dressed up for the  
occasion for this special time of the year.

There will be goodies as yummy as last year... coffee and cider to warm the insides and our  
pot-bellied stove to warm you outside. We hope you will all plan to come that Sunday and  
meet old and new friends. This will be instead of the regular monthly meeting.

Place.....Black Diamond Depot      Time.....11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Drawing.....2:00 p.m.

Calendars

The 1981 calendars are now available. They are \$5.00 this year plus \$1.00 for mailing.  
This is our 6th annual calendar. What nicer gift for giving at Christmastime could you  
find for \$5.00? Send your names and we will mail your Christmas gift right to the recipient.  
For those members in and around Black Diamond, calendars are available at most of the  
business houses, City Hall, and in Enumclaw, at the Courier-Herald and from Totsie Bellack.  
The 1976 reprints are still on their way. We thank all who are so patiently waiting for  
them. At this time they are supposed to arrive by the November meeting.

Annual Dues

A reminder that as the year draws to a close--dues are due. We are trying to keep from raising the dues and in order to help with this effort we are asking that a self-addressed envelope --stamped--be enclosed with correspondence which needs a reply.

The cost of postage becomes a big factor. The yearly dues are still \$2.00 per individual membership. If you know of anyone who hasn't received their newsletter or other mail from us, have them check to see if we have their correct address or if they have moved.

Also--remember that anyone who reaches that 80th birthday is welcomed into the Historical Society as an Honorary Lifetime member.

Nicknames!!!!

When listening to conversations about the early days in Black Diamond, one can't help but notice the abundance of nicknames. This led us to compiling a few. A list was published in one of our earlier issues and this is an updated version. Do you know who these were:

Boots	Shorty	Buller	Monk	Cherry Nose	Chink
Beans	Flick	Knobby	Red	Strangler	Rip
Stumps	Cougar	Lefty	Tug	Andy Gump	Billy the Butch
Peanuts	Kaiser	Flying Frog	Bull Frog	Andy Gump	Montana Bill
Moose	Beefsteak	Husky	Conspicles	Butch	Poleagon
Jazz	Comanach	Handsome Bibl	Molly	Fitter	P'Ching
Cut	Gosh	Bluejay	Duda	Mouse	Frenchy Babe
T.R.	Gorney	Diddie	Chick	Splash	Scottie Big Mary
Bones	Pug	Sheik	Punky	Dutch	NayNay Big Krit
Catfish	Tuffy	Squirrel Tail	Goofy	Hoss	Grandpa Blackie
Stiffy	Skinny	Skeeks	Figs	Rip & Slash	Automobile Snussie
Sonny	Teenie	Lumpcoal Bill	Deno	California	Cigarette' Googie
Big Arturo	Big Chris	Tots	Fat	Two-Gun	Sport
Chopa	Curley	Winkie	Zuke	Cheyenne	Big John

Things we need

As we get nearer to the time where the actual display planning can begin we need to know if there are any items which members have and are willing and planning to donate to the Society. There is an ongoing search for pictures. We are in desperate need for more workers. Much very necessary work is not getting done because there are just too few hands willing to do everything. We are especially concerned because our taping program is at a standstill. Much oral history is going to be lost because of our not being able to cover all areas. Please think about it and if there is any way that you can help we'd be glad to hear from you.



DON'T FORGET TO PATRONIZE OUR SPONSORS

More from the Thesis sent to us by Jacqueline Dial of LaFayette, Ga.:

THE EARLY GROWTH OF A TOWN ---1887

Black Diamond, Washington in 1887, according to the census taken that year, was a town of 632 people. The presence of a "camp" described in earlier chapters is completely gone. There are women and children here now. A school has already been started in the living room of Lizzie Jones' home, with Miss Jones doing the teaching. The church was set up in Henry Thomas' shoe shop on Sunday mornings. Henry has come from Nortonville in 1885 and built the first "proper" residence in town, with his shop on the ground floor and living quarters above.

Building on those identifications made from the 1885 census, 155 more persons are identified on the records of 1887 as being from Nortonville. This is a total of 169 by 1887. These people comprise, then, over one quarter of the population of this new little town. It is interesting to look at this town in comparison with the one these people have just left.

The census shows that Black Diamond, like Nortonville, was racially homogeneous. Every person in town is white. The ethnic mix too, was similar to that of Nortonville, but there are differences. There are only eleven Italians recorded to Nortonville's sixty-one.

There are many more Canadians, no doubt due to the proximity of the Canadian border. There is a considerable difference in the relative numbers of the Welsh and persons of Welsh extraction. Judged on the same criteria as in Nortonville seven years earlier, the number comes to 193. This is a little less than thirty percent as against the more than fifty percent that constituted the Nortonville Population. Again this number is probably low. (Of the 193 Welsh, 124 are known to be from Nortonville at this time) Through the years, this percentage must have continued to diminish. As informants reflect on their childhood, they do not speak of Black Diamond as a Welsh town.

The relative numbers of men to women is a bit higher than in Nortonville, with ninety-eight more men than women. About 106 households are living in kinship relationships. That cannot be a precise figure since families and households are often difficult to discern from the census records in Washington.

Employment: Miners 82                  Laborers 44

Only thirty-six of these miners are Welsh or of Welsh extraction, which represents Forty-three percent of the total. This percentage in Nortonville was 67 percent. Also, there are six Italians listed as miners here; there were none in Nortonville, although the base was three times as large (33 to 11)

Occupations are quite limited. Many mine-connected and there are few services. Note that the carpenters are down to two from thirty-eight just two years ago. Probably much of the building rush is over. It must be noted here that Franklin was a nearby mining town about three miles away. It may have provided some of the services lacking here.

(4)

Depot and Jail Report

We are sorry to say that our Strike Notice was responsible for only one new worker on the Thursday Detail. Joe Romedo has been welcomed by Carl Steiert, Frank Guidetti, Ted Banner and last but not least Robert Eaton of Lake Sawyer. Bob has volunteered his services for several months and is most welcome. The hours have now been extended to a full day's work. They start at 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. with an hour's lunch break. So far Merle Romedo, Rose Guidetti and Ann Steiert have provided the meal. Thanks to Woodrow Gauthier, who donated over \$200. worth of lumber the jail now has a new floor. Joe Andrasko donated his truck and Labor to haul cinders which were donated by Palmer Coking Coal Co. We think them in behalf of the Society. As the restoration of the jail progresses we would like to put up a plaque with the legend of the building on it. We would appreciate any information that our members might have as the history of it is not too clear. When built etc.???

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Do you remember.....

Going to the Company Store and getting groceries with coupons. How about Harry McDowell?

or

Skating on Mud Lake and visiting around the fire!

or

Waiting for someone to get married so you could go to the shivaree. Carl recalls getting doused with a garden hose and later being given a dime.

or

Watching Mr. Weatherbee going into the basement of the school with a student under his arm and the HUGE paddle in his hand.

or

The fear when the fire siren blew and volunteers ran for the hose carts. Incidentally, we are trying to get more information on the time the store which stood near the Bakery site burned down. A picture would be just great.

or

Sitting around the pot-bellied stove in John Davies Candy store and listening to his stories of the early days. And Shopping for penny candy...remember...jaw breakers, Black Sambos and Bacon Strips and Auburn ice cream. Also, John calling all the boys Johnny and the girls Mary.



Don't forget that we still hold our meetings on the second Monday of each month at the City Hall at 7:30 p.m.

