



February 1981

Black Diamond, Washington

Vol. V Issue 1

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  
Black Diamond, Wa 98010

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Black Diamond, Wa. 98010

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AND RAFFLE

Earlier in the week the weather had been very bad but on Sunday Dec. 7 it cleared and was beautiful. About 200 persons came and had a good time. The first Prize ticket was drawn by old-time Ticket Agent Amos Ungherini up from Auburn for the occasion.

Next, the Second Prize was drawn by Eyan Thomas. It was the beautiful quilt made for us by the Black Diamond Quilters. It was won by Gene Barnes of Enumclaw.

The Third Prize was drawn by Florence Thomas. W. J. Flink of Seattle had just driven out to

Black Diamond for the ride and stopped into the Depot to see what was going on.

The First Prize--a load of logs, donated by Bob Kuzaro, was won by Chris Zumek--a twelve year old boy in Hawaii, who, also, happens to be Frank and Lois Zumek's grandson. Frank and Lois returned the prize and the logs were bought by Deno Marriotti.

A table full of Christmas cookies and gallons of hot cider and coffee were served. Bouquets to all who baked and brought all those good things to eat.

Our profit after expenses from our First Raffle was \$1208.88. Not bad for beginners!!!

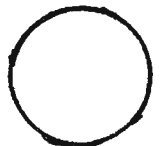
DUES TIME

The dues for 1981 are due and if a red check appears in the circle--yours are due. We'd appreciate hearing from you soon. We have tried to keep the dues the same for these 7 years in order to make it as easy as possible to join.

If you are a member and have turned 80, let us know so that you may be switched to Lifetime status. If you are a new member turned 80, the initial fee is \$2.00 and then the Honorary Life membership will apply.



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I would like to say a word of gratitude for our merchants who without their support--our costs for this Newsletter would be considerable. They kindly subscribed to these advertisements for the mailing cover. In return, we should look to them for goods and services in our Community. They are the good people who stand behind us and support the Society--that's a two-way street!! Our gratitude to all of them.

DEPOT PROGRESS

Work is beginning on the Waiting Room. The Telegrapher's Bay which was built last year is nearly completed inside. Our Mayor, Vivian Bainton surveyed the problem and is giving us support to go ahead and clear the area so that it can be worked on. There is not a great deal to do on that room--mostly clean up--small repairs and paint. We will need a regular Depot stove and benches. Plans are being made for a rest room when our city sewers are completed.

Ideas for heating the Depot when exhibits are on display to control the dampness and make it more comfortable for meetings and when it is open to the public. These ideas for heating and a Security System were discussed at the last Board meeting. Any ideas on sources of information would be welcomed.

Thanks to Burlington Northern we now have a Semaphore which is of the vintage of our Depot. The Semaphore was from the old depot in CleElum. Louis Zumek made arrangements with a trucker to bring it over the Pass. It was delivered on Jan 18.

The Jail has a new porch on the front and the heavy flooring is done inside. Elaine Griffin's father has volunteered to make the heavy hinges needed for the front door. It seems blacksmithing is one of his many accomplishments.

We would like to share with you a humorous incident concerning the Jail. We had no sooner moved it down near the depot than one day a sign was tacked on the door: For Rent-Burglar Proof-spacious living -inquire City Hall. Well, the sign had to be removed as there were so many inquires at the City Hall. That shows how hard it is to find anything to rent thesedays, even a run-down old jail! A little bird told us that it was Esther Babb who surreptitiously put up that sign. We all had a good laugh while it lasted.

Things that are needed:



A stove for the waiting room. A stove for the jail.

Photographs. It will soon be time to decide on the 1982 calendar. We use 13 each year and they must be of a quality to reprint. In order to keep them diversified and of interest we are using up our present supply rapidly.

Workers on Thursday. Luncheon is served and the company is congenial so come on down and join the crew. More results are being seen with a full day's work and time out for lunch. Volunteer hostess's would be appreciated also. The Board voted to reimburse for any money spend in preparing the lunch. Most of the work is inside at this time and we have had an extraordinarily mild winter--so the cold has not been a big problem (or an excuse)

A Program Chairman. Someone to help set up programs for the regular monthly meeting.

Artifacts. We would like to know if you are planning to donate anything for displaying in the Museum so that in planning the layout of the place, articles may be taken into consideration.

The following is an excerpt from a letter from Dr. Tate Mason of Seattle. He is the son of Dr. J. Tate Mason who was a doctor in this area in the early days.

Dr. Mason wrote:

I am enclosing a brief second hand story I heard about Black Diamond in the early 1900's related by my Father, Dr. Tate Mason Sr. who was a physician in the coal mines about 1905-06-07. I can not prove the authenticity of the story, but perhaps some of your people may know of it, or perhaps it is "old Hat" to any historian interested in the history of Black Diamond.

About 1906 there came into Black Diamond an obviously English nobleman. He brought with him his own butler and moved into the largest hotel in town, and ordered the finest suite. His butler was with him all the time and took care of him, standing behind him at meals to be sure he was served properly, etc.

On several occasions the visiting Englishman was nicknamed "the Duke" by the local populace received large batches of letters from England which were delivered to him by his butler and apparently were made very conspicuous at the table where he ate with the other people in the hotel as was the custom in those days.

One day the butler, who had found out the names of some of the men who had been replaced in their jobs in the local mine, which, incidentally, at the time was almost the sole source of employment in Black Diamond, confided in one of these people that "the Duke" was in town for the sole purpose of buying the mine, and that the word from him in the right place and proper treatment for "the Duke" would assure him of return of his job. The person to whom the butler spoke was advised not to tell anybody in town that "the Duke" was there for the sole purpose in mind of buying the mine. He, also, told the town person that "the Duke" had mining interests in Australia and in Canada, and if a leak got out, sale of the mine in Black Diamond would not be finished. Of course, the news was broadcasted around town by the man told, everybody promising not to tell anybody else.

The result of the news was the fact that everyone bent over backwards to be able to do something for the obviously rich "Duke", visiting this country to buy the mine.

From here the various versions of the story this many years later, differ. However, the end result was the same. One version states that "the Duke" offered sales of shares of the mine which he was going to buy and sold shares to the people in Black Diamond to whom he promised jobs. The second version states "the Duke's" butler went to the local business men who had lost their jobs in the mine and told them in all confidence that "the Duke's" honorarium from the British Government had not arrived and would put everybody in a very embarrassing light unless they could raise a little money for "the Duke" to get down to Seattle to pay off his bills and make final payment on the mine, and also to pay off the people for his hotel bills, etc. in Black Diamond. Both versions end the same in that "the Duke" and his butler left by train with the necessary money for Seattle to return the following Saturday night, the deal by that time had been consummated and the "Duke"

being the sole owner of the mine.

Saturday night came and the local populace literally rolled out the red carpet from the station to the entrance of the hotel. They had a large banquet planned and the sale was the talk of the town. A large celebration and parade planned. The train came and went, and no "Duke" and from that day to this "the Duke" has not been heard of, although it is my understanding the local populace did remember this story very well.

The story of "the Duke" was told many times by my Father. I have never seen it written up anywhere and perhaps the Black Diamond Historical Society would be interested in checking on the facts as they feel indicated.

#### Note:

We are grateful to Dr. Mason for sharing this story with us and ... if there are any members who have anything to add to his story we will be happy to publish any further information that may be known.

#### POEM

Jim Vernarelli has kindly shared the following poem with us:

#### The Old Depot

Sometimes when the day is ending and I happen to pass by,  
 The old depot there on Main Street will just sort of catch my eye  
 The memories that cross my mind I can close my eyes and see  
 The luggage wagons all lined up and folks waitin' patiently.  
 There was a certain kind of feelin that you just can't quite explain  
 When you heard the whistle blowin just before you saw the train  
 Then with big white light a-shinin searching all along the track.  
 You could see the locomotive lookin' mighty big and black.  
 There would be the mixed emotions as the train was drawing near:  
 Some were waiting for their loved ones, others leaving someone dear.  
 You would see the fond embraces and then each would go their way:  
 as the old train left the station to return some other day.  
 The old depot is still standing but it seems that there should be  
 A light burning in the window and some folks lookin' out to see  
 the flickering of a headlight still brightening up the track  
 and a steaming locomotive lookin' mighty big and black.

#### MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are still held on the 2nd Monday of each month at the City Hall at 7:30 p.m. We are sorry to find that in spite of a large local membership there is a very small attendance. Our meetings are very informal with everyone urged to take part. We try at each meeting to have a speaker, a slide show or something that relates to the history of the area. Because the business transacted is usually at a minimum it is mostly and evening of getting together and exchanging information. We urge more of you to come.

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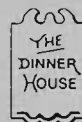
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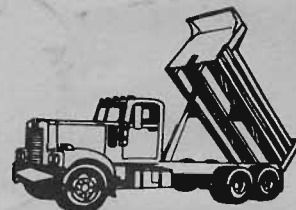
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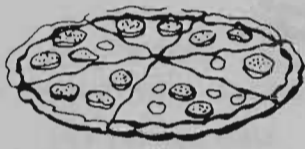
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