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Black Diamond Historical Society



Black Diamond, Washington



Vol. V Issue IV

B.D.H.S. Newsletter

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- Family Lifetime.....40.00
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- Business Lifetime.....150.00

Send dues to: Box 232
Black Diamond, Wa. 98010

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Black Diamond, Wa. 98010

In Memorium

Alice West, aged 96. Remembered by Black Diamond High School graduates as their Business Course teacher.

Cut Kravagna, born in Black Diamond and lived in El Segundo, Calif. He was a brother of Patricia Earley, Enumclaw, Mary Cross, Seattle and Anton (Chic) Kravagna of Edmonds.

Cut was a faithful Society member contributing many valuable articles and information.

Calendars

The 1982 Centennial calendars have arrived and are now being distributed. It was decided to keep the price the same as last year although

the escalating prices dictate otherwise. They will still sell for \$5.00 and \$6.00 if they have to be mailed. We will immediately start in collecting pictures for next year's issue. We are getting to the bottom of the barrel for reprintable pictures and would appreciate any that may be available. We are always open for suggestions and help which will lead to a better calendar. Some of the pictures in the Society's file now, cannot be used because of poor quality for printing and others because of no accurate information concerning them.

Dues



1982 Dues are due on January 1. The inflation crunch is hitting us and we are hoping with the help of the members to keep from raising the dues. Right now it is the biggest bargain on the market. We feel certain that in 1983 dues will have to be raised but in the meantime there are some things to be done to get us through 1982. In previous issues, we have asked that members send a self-addressed stamped envelope when requesting information or an answer from the secretary. Only three people have heeded the request. Several have sent in donations earmarked for postage and we are very grateful to them. A stamp is now 10% of the dues and makes quite a difference. Right now the dues do not cover the cost of the paper so we must rely on the advertisers to make up the difference. Please help us on this score. When sending in dues, if you want your card mailed to you don't forget the postage!!!!

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(2)

It's June 6, 1982 on Bust!!!!

Work at the Deopt is going at an accelerated pace now that an actual deadline has been set for the opening of the Depot Museum. The Heating and Alarm systems are installed and paid for. The men are trying to do as much as possible outdoors as long as the weather permits. Later they will be working inside where insulating of the attic and installation of the rest rooms will be first on the agenda. These are two of the most expensive items left to do before actual work on showcases and other display factors are dealt with. We are still asking for information on any articles which members plan on letting us use to tell the Black Diamond Story. Thus far there has been very little response, making us wonder if there is to be no more submitted. Please let us know. We need artifacts and photos.

Christmas Party

The Christmas Get-together will be held on Dec. 6 at the Depot. The hours are from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We hope many will come and get re-acquainted with old friends and see what progress has been made on the building.

The drawing for the Annual raffle will be held. We hope that everyone will remember to turn in their tickets by Nov. 30 so that nobody is left out.

Please call Rose Guidetti at 886-2858 or Verna Thompson at 886-2830 if you can bring some "Goodies" for the Party.

See you all Dec. 6

Do you remember.....

Having a toothache and going to Dr. Mallory's torture chamber....

or

Going into Miss Light's grade school class and learning the three R's. She later married Grover Kentis and is the sole survivor of the family which included two sons.

or

When the light bill cost 50¢ a drop and the maze of extension cords that went into service!!!

or

Getting ready to take part in the school operettas under the direction of Florence Porter

or

The terrible fear that was felt by everyone when the mine whistle blew signaling an accident

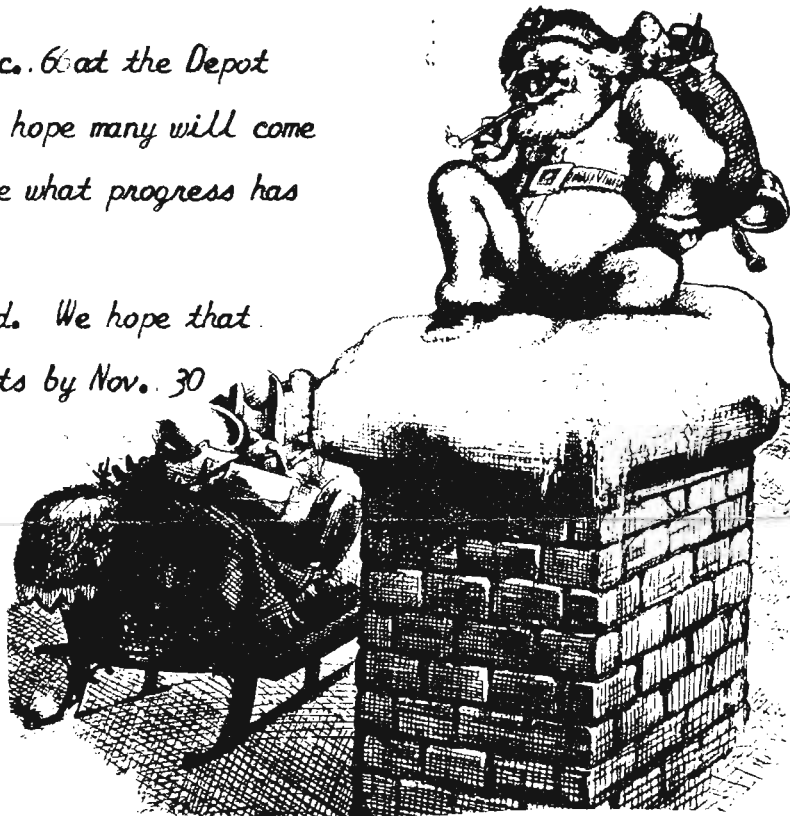
or

The excitement when the prohibition officers paid a visit to town. The "pirates" that were on the prowl to pilfer the hidden "Goods"

or

Vanchance the town's beggar in front of the Company store.

or



Do you remember con't'd....

Who put the Limburger cheese on the manifold of the Company truck. Bill Jones and Ed Banchemo were seen in the vicinity..

or

The smokers put on at the Show Hall featuring local talent. The Woods twins were often seen.

or

The friendly rivalry between the Towns when baseball and soccer teams met...and the not-so-friendly encounters depending on who lost or won.

Note: What do you remember? We'd love to hear from members so that we can all share out memories of the "Good Old Days". Perhaps if we all contribute we can cover more years.

Tracy The Bandit

With the restoration of the jail, many stories are being told about jail-related incidents.

Many people remember Tracy and the following information may be of interest.

Although Harry Tracy died 80 years ago- his name still brings a chill. He was the most notorious outlaw in the Northwest. The following is a chronicle of his life and shows how close the cold-blooded killer came to Black Diamond. His life ended one hot summer day in a grain field near Spokane.

1875--Born Harry Severynns in Redfern, Wisconsin

1896--Known to Seattle Police as Tom Bliss, hotel room prowler.

1897--Escapes after 2 months of prison in Utah for burglary. His base was the notorious "Hole-in-the-wall" near Thermopolis, Wyoming, where he and gunmen robbed banks and raided ranches. He was held in Aspen, Colo. for killing a rancher. He escaped and was recaptured and escaped again before the trial.

1898--Moves to Portland, Ore. and joins his wife's brother, David Merrill in armed robberies.

1902--Sent to penitentiary. Before escaping on June 9, killed 4 guards, Tracy and Merrill headed north pursued by a posse of 500 men, a company of Oregon National Guardsmen and bloodhounds brought in from Washington State Penitentiary at Walla Walla. They eluded their captors, forcing farmers to hide and feed them. They stole horses and guns, finally forced a farmer to row them across the Columbia River on June 23 into Washington.

June 28--They are sighted at a farmhouse having breakfast with a farmer in Chehalis--once more a posse surrounds them--again they vanish.

July 2--Tracy alone arrives by tugboat in Ballard from Olympia. He tells the tugboat captain's son that he had a falling out with Merrill. He said he settled an old argument with a duel while hiding in a forest near Olympia. Merrill's body was found weeks later with bullet holes in the back!

July 3--King County Sheriff Cudihee trails Tracy to Bothell and 2 men were killed and 2 wounded by Tracy before he doubles back to Seattle. A force of 150 men surround the Woodland Park area. Tracy takes 2 hostages and shoots 1 man, wounds another but escapes to Bothell.

July 4--He forces his way into a home--takes time to bounce the family's baby on his knee.

July 6--Commandeers a boat from Ballard--heads south into the Sound.

Tracy Cont'd

July 9-- Appears at the Gerrell home in Renton. Sheriff Cudihee is sure the outlaw is doomed this time. While they stake out the house, famous photographer Asahel Curtis sets up his big 14 inch view camera in the front yard. But the famous photograph of the capture could not be taken--Tracy escapes out the back door, crawls through the Blackberry bushes and crosses the Cedar River.

July 11--Hounds lead posse to his hiding place in South King County, but as usual he gets away. First to Auburn, then Kent and then a shoot-out in Covington. Tracy enters the Ginder Lake Swamp, northeast of Black Diamond, Police predict a final bloody battle.

July 13--A report spreads that Tracy is badly wounded near Ravensdale but officers surround fugitive near Enumclaw and once again he escapes and heads for Seattle. On a tip-off Sheriff Cudihee surrounds an abandoned shack but finds it empty. Nothing is heard from Tracy for two weeks.

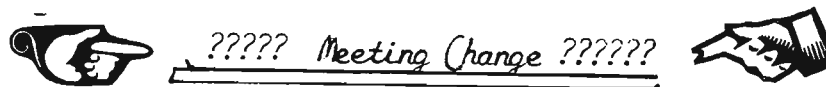
July 31--Shows up in Wenatchee.

August 4--Posse surrounds a farm house near Spokane. Shots are exchanged and Tracy makes a run for freedom. He hides in a barley field seriously wounded. And this time there will be no escape and no surrender. He puts his revolver to his right eye and pulls the trigger. He became the ninth victim since his prison escape in June. He was just 27 years old. They say he was a gallant with the women and very polite and charming to his captives, yet he was a depraved and ruthless villain.

Note: Some old timers tell us that he was seen many times in the Black Diamond area. It was reported that he lived in a cabin around Lake Sawyer. He came to the Pool Hall and mingled with the men and was well liked. If any of our readers have any personal knowledge that we can add to this narrative, please, let us know and we will publish it.

Mystery Lady

The mystery lady from the last issue is still unknown. Several persons confirm that the picture is taken at Franklin but as yet no undisputed name has been given to her.

Meeting Change

How would you feel about changing the meetings to Sunday afternoon and holding them every other month? Serious consideration is being given to this issue. Although the business transacted is not huge, much thought is put into the programs. Attendance has been scant and hardly warrants the effort required. Everyone who has attended seems to enjoy the time spent.

The last two meetings had especially interesting programs. At the October meeting, Alice and Joe Koch of Auburn showed their "Magic Lantern Slides." At the November meeting, the Orville Trovers brought their hatpin collection and told of their origins. Both shows were very good.

Please let us hear from you concerning this change.....write box 232, B.D.

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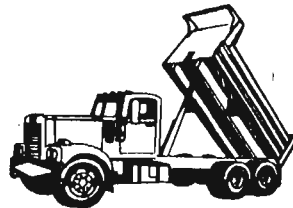
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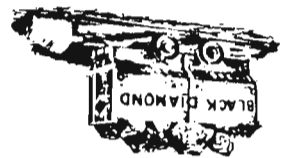
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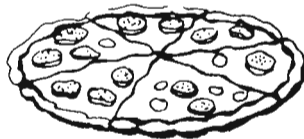
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