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Black Diamond Historical Society



February 1982

Black Diamond, Washington

Vol. VI Issue I

B.D.H.S. Newsletter

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- Business Annual..... 15.00

Send dues to: Box 232  
Black Diamond, Wa. 98010  
Editor.....Norma Gumser  
Ph: 886-2789 Box 288  
Black Diamond, Wa. 98010

In Memorium

Griff Davies; A native son of Black Diamond.

Agnes Bissig; A Life member of the BDHS

Al Donati; A long time resident of Black Diamond and a Lifetime member of BDHS

Darrel McCloud; A long time resident of Black Diamond, a member of the Society. He is remembered for his gentle ways and his roses.

Bill Santi; Born in Black Diamond of a pioneer family.

Fred Pettersen; He served as principal of the B.D. Grade School for many years.

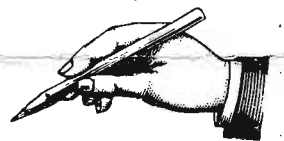
Freddie Shaw; A very active lady. She was a member of the City Council at the time of her death at the age of 82.



Christmas Party

The Christmas tree which was decorated by the Black Diamond Grade School children was much admired by the 150 persons who attended the annual Christmas Get-together held on Dec. 6 at the Depot. It was a time for reminiscing and sharing ideas. The Society is grateful to Ruth Ayres Hofto for a valuable set of photographs. A slide show was held and many pictures identified in it. A special thanks to the many who contributed the goodies that graced the buffet table. The surplus was carefully put into freezers and is used for meetings and other occasions.

Dues are Due for '82



This is the time of the year when we have to mention dues. Many have already paid the 1982 dues but if you find a check in the little circle, this means that we have not heard from you. Dues are still \$2.00 per person. If by chance you have already paid and a check appears let us know as an error is easy to come by with so many names to record.

Don't forget to inform us if you reach the age of 80 when you are automatically a Life member. We now have 31 Honorary Life members. Ruby Duncan, Nancy Lang, Mary Grgurich and W.J. Kramer are the latest additions. There are 89 regular Life members, making a total of 120.

(2)

### Membership cont'd

The Society has a very scattered membership with members living all over the United States. At the present time there are 276 members. This includes all Life and regular members.

The farthest away are: James Carey Springfield, Va. Robert Glackin Fairdale, Kentucky Mary Bisom Anchorage, Alaska

### Thursday Work Parties



Work is going on at a fast pace now at the Depot in order to meet the June 6 deadline. We have been fortunate to have the help of Charles Rayton from the Museum of History and Industry to help us put the whole museum together. The past few work sessions have been spent renovating the showcases and refitting doors. Much is still to be done in order to properly display artifacts and pictures. We want to especially stress the need for anyone who has anything which they plan on letting the Society use in the Museum to let us know or better yet bring it in. We have to know in order to plan space and relevance to the displays. We would like to know by March 1. A security system has been installed and every measure is being taken to guard articles submitted. Please help us in this effort. It is a first time effort for most of people working on it and we really do need your help!!!

### What a Grandmother is. (by a third grader)

A Grandmother is a lady who has no children of her own.

She likes other peoples' little girls and boys.

A Grandfather is a man Grandmother.

He goes for walks with the boys and they talk about fishing and tractors and things like that.

Grandmas don't have to do anything except be there.

They are old, so they shouldn't play hard or run

It is enough if they drive us to the market where the "pretend horses" are and have lots of dimes ready.

Then they take us for walks.

They should slow down past pretty leaves or caterpillars.

They should never say "hurry up."

Usually they are fat but not too fat to tie your shoes.

They wear glasses and funny underwear.

They can take their teeth out and their gums off.

It is better if they don't typewrite or play cards except with us.

They don't have to be smart, only answer our questions like: Why dogs hate cats? Howcome God isn't married?

They don't talk baby talk like visitors because it is hard to understand.

When they read to us, they don't skip or mind if it is the same story over again.

Everybody should try to have one, especially if you don't have T.!

Because Grandmothers are the only grownups who have time.

Don't Forget To Patronize

Our Sponsors



Calendars

Calendar sales for the 1982 calendar are not up to par. In view of the continued rise in prices some very serious consideration is going to have to be given as to whether we want to continue printing more. Each year our profit margin has become smaller and the cost of printing higher. It will be up to the general membership and the Board to make this decision in the very near future. It is a great deal of expended labor for the small amount of profit realized. Again...Please let us hear from you on this most important function.

Raffle

The annual raffle which was held during the last part of 1981 was declared a success.

It went as follows:	Tickets sold	\$1055.00
	Coal sold	80.00
		<u>\$1135.00</u>
Expense:	tickets printed	80.63
	stamps	42.00
	Prizes given	60.00
	Total profit	<u>\$952.37</u>

Prizes were won by: 1st. Hazel Norvell, Seattle      3rd: Jennie Parkinson Johnson Seattle  
2nd Joe Potochnick, Enumclaw      4th: Karl Sebastian, B.U.

Jennie Johnson thanked the Society and returned the prize money and coal offer to the Group  
Thank you very much, Jennie.

Meeting Day

After some discussion it has been decided to change the general meeting day. On a trial basis it will be held on March 14 which is a Sunday beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Depot. The reason for the change is so that more members can take part. An evening meeting has proved to be a hardship for those of us who do not like to drive in the dark and it also, interferes with previously established meetings. It is hoped that this will prove to be a means of communication for all the members and a real get-together. The meetings will be held every other month with the exception of the summer vacation time. The Board will be meeting on the alternate months. Meetings now will be scheduled on March 14 and May 9.

The following menu was submitted by Gertrude Weston, taken from a scrapbook kept by her sister, Betty (Manowski) Kippen:

Armstrong's Cafe---1934  
Auburn, Washington

Bacon and Eggs	.35	Hamburger Sandwich, De-Luxe	.10
Ham and Eggs	.35	Fried Ham Sandwich	.15
Two fried eggs	.20	Ham and egg Sandwich	.15
Two poached eggs	.25	Ham and cheese	.15
Ham Omelette	.30	Cold Beef Sandwich	.15
Plain Omelette	.25	Swiss Cheese Sandwich	.10
<u>Salads</u>		<u>Steaks</u>	
Combination	.35	T-Bone Steak, Hash Brown Spuds	.45
Potato	.15	Hamburger Steak, Brown Spuds	.25

Centennial

Serious consideration is being given as to the activities to be initiated for the Grand Celebration. A committee has been formed. It was decided to send letters to all the Organizations in Town and to enlist their aid and to suggest that they use the Centennial theme in their individual activities. A meeting will be held on Feb. 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the Depot. Anyone who is interested is urged to attend.

The following article was taken from Thorndale's Thesis and relates to the time after Morgan Morgans came to Black Diamond in 1882:

When Nortonville closed and a minority of perhaps two or three hundred people sailed the long trip north and settled in the isolated Green River country, the sense of common experience and common history was strengthened. In the hearts of those who made the journey was kindled a pride of having been a part of an unique event. They were Black Diamond's Old Timers; they had come up together from Nortonville and many had even known each other in the Old Country. Living in isolation where a trip to Seattle was a remembered excursion, the people again turned to their own heritage and out of their own culture fashioned a distinctive town life that continued for over twenty years.

When Jack Mills took his family to Black Diamond, it was still mostly a tent town. He soon had a two-room house built near the depot, and later added three more rooms. The company kept Ownership of the land, renting it for a dollar a month. Morgan Morgans had the last say about who bought and sold whose house, because the Company owned the land, and sometimes he was known to be arbitrary over what was the proper price. Some said a Democrat would expect a poorer price than a good Republican. Behind the house Jack kept a few rabbits but no garden, although some people did. Mainly the back yard was for the outhouse and the open well.

Black Diamond sat on a point of land surrounded to the south and west by Jones Lake and low marshy ground. The main street curved around the west end of town above the swampy land, thus forming a general western boundary. The houses were scattered up the hill in a haphazard fashion, while the coal bunkers and mine slope lay to the northwest. The stores with false fronts and covered porches lined the main street, separated from each other by open spaces and connected by wooden sidewalks that were often defeated by the wide dusty or muddy street--- the weather determined which. At the turn of the century the town of a thousand had 2 general stores, three hotels, three barber shops, two meat markets and the Black Diamond Saloon. The Dutchman's Saloon actually named by two Germans, lay just north of the Town. Considering the size of the town, Black Diamond lacked the wide range of public and private services of even smaller towns. There was a Congregational Church and three school buildings, but no jail or police, no bank, no furniture store, no newspaper and no local government. As a coal town it had to have a doctor and by the 1910' had an eight-bed hospital. In fact, the town had no middle class.

Note: This article will be continued in the next Newsletter.

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Dinner - 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Sunday

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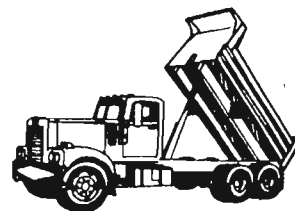
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## The Old Confectionery Art Gallery

- PAINTINGS
- DRAWINGS
- SCULPTURE
- POTTERY
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- JEWELRY
- WEAVINGS
- NOTE PAPERS
- BATIKS
- BLOWN GLASS

**886-2663**

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



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