

Black Diamond Historical Society



April 1982

Black Diamond, Washington

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B.D.H.S. Newsletter

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Send dues to Box 232
Black Diamond, Wa. 98010

Editor.....Norma Gumsen

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Black Diamond, Wa. 98010

In Memorium

Helen Spaight Miller, sister of Margaret
Covey and Thomas Spaight

Agnes Richter, mother of Agnes Renard and a
long time resident of Black Diamond.

Roy Darby husband of Helen Moks Darby and a
member of a prominent Black Diamond family.

Esther Loscar A lifetime member of the
Black Diamond Historical Society.

May Meeting

The next meeting of the Historical Society
will be held on May 2 at the Depot at 2:00 p.m.

It was changed to the first Sunday instead of

the second Sunday because it was felt that it might conflict with Mother's Day activities.
Everyone is invited to attend. A program is being planned.

◆ Black Diamond High School Reunion ◆

The Black Diamond Alumni cordially invites all who attended the Black Diamond High School
to a reunion on May 15, at the Meridian Valley Country Club, Kent, Wa. It is hoped that all
who attend BDHS will attend whether they graduated or not. It is planned to be a completely
informal evening with a good time for all. There will be a No Host cocktail hour to begin at
6:30. A Buffet dinner will be served from 8:00 to 9:30 with socializing thereafter. The cost
this year is \$14.50 per person. Contact John Margarini at 226-4870 or 633-4949 for information.

Calendars

Each year the publishing of the Historical calendar becomes more of a challenge. For a while
this year it looked as though we would have to abandon the publishing. Prices have gone out
of sight. Peg Griffin is working on a method by which we may be able to go ahead and make
up the calendar by doing some of the work ourselves. Right now it is in the planning stage
and looks extremely hopeful. We are grateful to Ruth Ayres Hofto for some excellent pictures
for the calendar. Thus far we have used 91 pictures in our calendars. Some pictures which
might be used, are passed up because the donor has not identified either himself or the subject
in the picture. We urge everyone who gives a picture to put as much information on as
possible.

The following verse was given to the Newsletter by Vienna Thompson.

A Little Mixed Up!

Just a line to say I'm living, that I'm not among the dead.

Though I'm getting more forgetful and more mixed up in the head.

For sometimes I can't remember when I stand at the foot of the stairs,

If I must go up for something or if I've just come down from there.

And before the frig so often, My poor mind is full of doubts.

Have I just put food away or have I come to take it out?

And there's time when it's dark out, with my night cap on my head

I don't know if I'm retiring or just getting out of bed.

So if it's my turn to write you there's no need for getting sore.

I may think that I have written and don't want to be a bore.

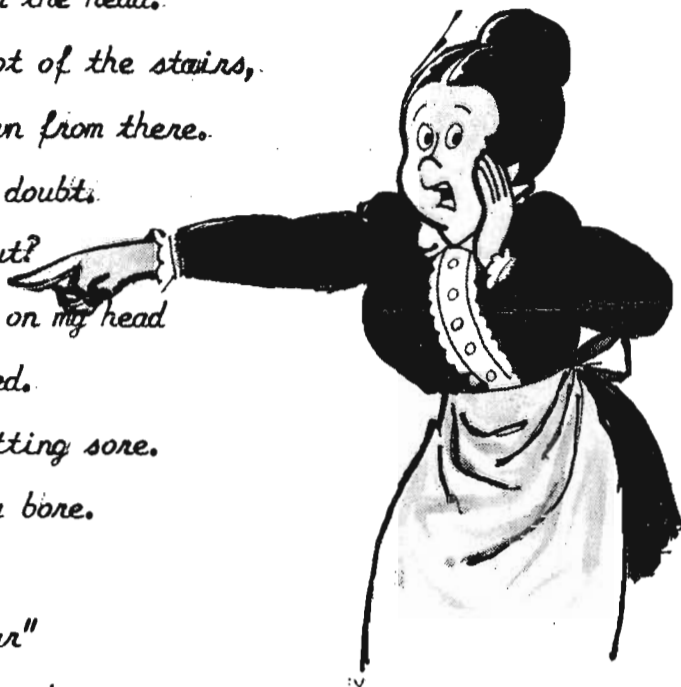
So remember, I do love you and wish you were here

But now it's nearly mail time so must say "Good Bye Dear"

There I stood beside the mail box with a face so very red.

Instead of mailing you my letter I have opened it instead!

('nuff said!!)



Depot

Things are really moving at the Depot now as the date for opening draws near. Showcases are still being worked on. Floors are being sanded and painted. The waiting room has been painted in the shade of green that we are told was prevalent in early depots. We are especially grateful to Ed Gokey of Black Diamond Rentals for donating time and labor in spray painting the walls of the waiting room. Ray Drury did a fine job of scraping off the old paint. Some of the things that we would still like to have are:

1. Old picture frames

2. Pictures of Drs. McCormick, Bowles, Mason Smith.

John Davis, Doc Mallory, Harry McDowell

Finn Hall on Lawson, Morganville Hall

3. An old kitchen range

4. A whiskey Still or articles used with one.

5. Any artifacts relative to B.D.

6. Showcases

Recently received: From Evan and Florence Thomas an early Parlor Organ and Stool.

Graduation diploma from 1915. 2 pair of ladies' high-top shoes

From Frank and Lois Zemek: The Charge Register used in their first Shop

From James Vennarelli: A framed certificate of his father's when he joined the Union. An excellent book of the Klondike News 1898.

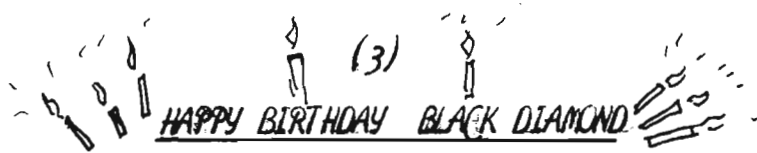
From Les & Elaine Griffin: A 1906 Window Register Book from the early Post Office

From Dwight & Doris Garrett: A 40-100 cup coffeemaker.

From John Malgarini: Excellent paper cutter

Albert Wesley: Mirrors for rest rooms

Ray and Shiela Drury: Mirror frames, towel and T Paper holders



JUNE 6 is the day to keep in mind. The Centennial Committee has been busy working on the program and co-ordinating activities for that important day. There will be a meeting for everyone interested in taking part in the Day's events, on April 27 and May 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the Depot. Everyone interested in making this day a success is urged to attend.

Activities scheduled thus far are: At 12:00 noon a formal program by the Society which will open the Museum and start the Centennial Celebration. The program will include speeches, Music by a Welsh Choir, songs by the Lady Eagles Kitchen Band, Erid Erickson and other ethnic entertainment. There will be a special birthday cake baked by Dorothy Botts. For those who have not seen it, the Slide Show is scheduled.

St. Barbara's Parish will be conducting hourly tours of the Church with historical dialogue and music. The Church bell will signal the start of the tours.

The Eastern Star Order will hold an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social at the Masonic Hall.

The Rebekah Ladies will have a food booth as will the Phythian Sisters Order.

Fred Drossart will have a doughnut concession.

These are the plans that have been made known. Plans are to publish the schedule of the Day's events therefore it is necessary that all taking part make their plans known to the Committee by the April 27 meeting. It is hoped that everyone will take part in some manner.

How to Save With a Wood Stove

Those who use wood for heating can compare their costs with the following:

<u>Item</u>	
Stove, Pipe, Installation, etc	\$ 458.00
Chain Saw	149.95
Gas and Maintenance of Chain Saw	44.60
4-Wheel Drive Pickup, Stripped	6,372.04
4-Wheel Drive Pickup Maintenance	438.00
Replace Rear Window of Pickup (Twice)	310.00
Fine for Cutting unmarked tree in State Forest	500.00
Fine for Littering	50.00
Fourteen Cases Michelob	126.00
Tow charge from Creek	80.00
Doctor's Fee for Removing Splinter from Eye	45.00
Safety Glasses	29.50
Emergency Room Treatment (Log Drop Broken Toes)	125.00
Safety Shoes	49.95
New Living Room Carpet, Paint Walls and Ceiling	910.00
Log Splitter	150.00
Fifteen Acre Wood Lot, Taxes on Wood Lot	9,310.00
Divorce Settlement	33,678.22
Total Costs, First Year	54,878.76
Savings in "Conventional" fuel, 1st year	72.17
Net Cost of First Year's Woodburning	54,805.89

(Wait 'til Next Year)

Author anonymous

The following article is from Thorndale's Thesis a continuation of conditions in Black Diamond in the late 1890's and 1900.

The company, through the obvious hand of Morgan Morgans, retained the ultimate social control by its power to hire and rent, but it had no direct interest in the retail and service trades. The small number of stores probably stemmed from two causes. First, a miner's pay forbade many luxuries and even the necessities were usually bought on credit. The erratic work schedules of the mines put an added strain on his finances, already suffering from low pay. Many times he found his paycheck could not cover the bills run up the previous month and if he continued going into debt he would find his "peg in". Second the Black Diamond families journeyed to Seattle for their large purchases, such as bulk sugar and flour and furniture, clothes, and dishes. Those factors operated in the special case of a newspaper, the limited local advertising and rapid delivery of the Seattle papers forbade a Black Diamond Newspaper.

The rather limited supply of goods and services invited many outside salesmen. Door-to-door peddlers made the rounds, especially the jewelry peddler, and fresh milk was sold by farmers from the Green River Valley east of Auburn. Sometimes Indians from nearby Muckleshoot Reservation sold salmon at 25¢ a fish. Once a land salesman offered the town some farm land around Chehalis and Jack Mills bought some. The practice of trusting outside salesmen sometimes was dangerous. The town had no bank and one confidence man had bilked some of the citizens into depositing in his fly-by-night operation. Like many, Jack Mills did not trust banks and hid his money in bonds and gold coins around his house. The distrust continued until his death, when his hidden savings were never found. Another operator, a self-styled Duke, used to good advantage the poor hotel service. The Duke landed in town around 1905, dashingy dressed and spending freely. He promised to build a real hotel that would do the town justice, one with a baby grand. Investment opportunities were limited but perhaps some prudent man might like to contribute? The Duke shortly left with some easy money.

In one striking way Black Diamond did not fit the American ideal: There was little local government and no hallowed town meeting. Not incorporated before the late 1950's and under county control, the town did elect the road boss and the school board. The government, was present in the persons of the postmaster, the local election officials and occasionally the County health board. Liquor, electric lights, medical care, public relief and even political rallies were controlled by the superintendent. Morgan Morgans, who ran the company mines in California and Washington since 1868, held the power of his position and the authority of a patriarch. He okayed house sales, ~~donated~~ the town cemetery, went to state conventions determined the mine holidays, permitted the collection of relief funds, and in one extreme case refused to hire three rabid Democrats. The power of the superintendent even extended to the church. Following the sale of Black Diamond in 1904 and the revelation that the new super's religious affiliation was different from Morgan's a noticeable number of people suddenly were converted. (to be continued)

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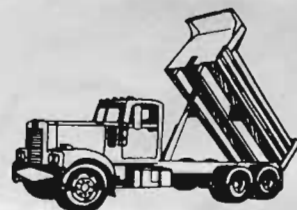
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Next to Boots' Tavern



The Greenery
indoor plants - pots - soils
dried flowers

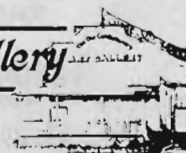
Next to Black Diamond Bakery

32721 RAILROAD AVENUE
BLACK DIAMOND, WA 98010

N. GUMSER

The Old Confectionery Art Gallery

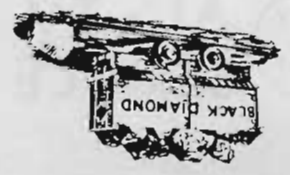
- PAINTINGS
- DRAWINGS
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- POTTERY
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- JEWELRY
- WEAVINGS
- NOTE PAPERS
- BATIKS
- BLOWN GLASS



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