



Black Diamond Historical Society



January 1983

Black Diamond, Washington

Volume VII - Issue I

In Memorium

Along with names mentioned in previous issues the following persons died in 1982:

Ed Winbeckler, brother of Lloyd and Arthur.

Joe Petsche, noted musician and member of pioneer German family.

Mary Lile, sister of Joe, Donald, Bob and Sophie Kuzaro, Frances Johnson and Dorothy Van Hoof.

Walter Morgans, grandson of Morgan Morgans, the first mining superintendent in Black Diamond when the town was formed in 1882.

James Marowski, son of Mary (Harrington) Marowski, husband of Julie and father of Tina and Lori.

Anton Grubisa, a long time resident of Black Diamond.

Joseph Bertelli, a Black Diamond pioneer

John Maragliano \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ Nick DiJulio

Duda Vennarelli \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ Gino Picini Family

Duda Vennarelli \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ Louis Zumek

Joe Bertelli \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ Louis Zumek

Casper and Mabel Erath \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ Amelia Kravagna, (corrected from November issue)

Christmas Party

On December 5, the annual Christmas party was held. There were over 75 persons attending. The afternoon was spent visiting and listening to the music provided by Enid Erickson and her accordion. Many delicious treats were brought in and enjoyed. At 3:00 the ticket for the winner of the Centennial quilt was drawn. The winner was B.C. Peterson of Lake 12. They were very pleased when informed of their good fortune. They are life members of the Society and have lived in the area for a number of years. We are grateful to the Black Diamond Quilters who designed and made the quilt. There were 350 tickets sold. After deducting the price of the tickets, \$4.61, there was a profit of \$315.39.

B.D.H.S. Newsletter

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Black Diamond Historical Society  
a Non-Profit Corporation  
Membership fees, which include a  
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are as follows:

Annual Individual.....\$ 5.00

Annual Family..... 7.00

Lifetime.....30.00

Family Lifetime.....40.00

Business Annual.....15.00

Send dues to: Box 232

Black Diamond, Wa. 98010

Editor.....Ann Steiert

Phone: 886-1168

Memorials received:

(2)

### Dues Due

Just a reminder that January is dues time. The schedule is on page one. If there is a check in the box on the right it means that they are due. If by chance there is a  question concerning them please feel free to ask about it. Don't forget to let us know when the 80th birthday is reached. There are now 36 Life members over 80 with the addition of Mary Bisom (Marche), John Maragliano, Verrn Habenicht, and Florence Upton Newlove.

### Ads renewed

You will notice that the cover page is a different color which means that the ads printed on them have been obtained for 1983. We greatly appreciate the support these advertisers give to us and ask each member in their service area to give consideration to them when in need of the services which they provide.

### Depot

The Thursday workers are going around with smiles now because the Water Department is finally moving their equipment out of the baggage room. They are eager to begin the project of making a good meeting room and providing storage space for the artifacts and materials not yet on display. There is much to be done. The first move will be to put down and insulate a new floor and then the walls. The plan now is to build a meeting room approximately 15x28 with storage cabinets, a work shop and shelves where artifacts can be safely stored. It is going to require a lot of work and money but will finish off the building with a super unit! Carl Steiert and Bob Eaton met with people from the Telephone Company concerning a donation of a working section of equipment. It is one of the oldest in the area and when it is set up will provide a display which will show just how messages are sent when the numbers are dialed. It will be installed and put into working order by the Telephone Company personnel. It should be an interesting and educational addition to the Museum.

December has been somewhat slower for the attendance on open days at the Museum. There is still much interest shown and the 3000 mark is in sight in the quest book. People are offering articles and asking questions. As soon as the new storage area is completed, we will be able to take more in and rotate the articles now on display.

With work on Thursdays getting into full swing again, we are still looking for volunteers to serve lunch for the workers. It is one way of repaying them for their tireless efforts.

### Franklin Research

Don Mason has volunteered to do some special research on the Town of Franklin and its' history. He is asking that anyone having any information contact him either through the Society's Box 232 on his home address 9805 S. 212, Kent, Wa. 98031 or phone: 852-6763. He would appreciate any history, experiences or photos of the Franklin Days.

### Meeting Dates:

March 13

May 15 .....the third Sunday because of Mother's Day  
All held at 2:00 p.m. at the Museum

Edythe Hall (Lewis) of Oakland, Ca. has donated a very beautiful afghan and pillow for the Society to use as a fund-raiser. It represents much labor and expense. We thank her for it and assure her that it will be put to good use.

Cash donations were received from:

<u>Gertude Menalia</u>	<u>Frank Callero</u>	<u>Mary Bisom</u>
<u>Nellie Johnson</u>	<u>Norma Gumser</u>	<u>Marian Langston</u>
<u>Gino Picini Family</u>	<u>John Maragliano</u>	
<u>Cookbook Project</u>		

We are planning on publishing a cookbook which will be unique in that it will contain both history and recipes of the area. We are asking our readers to pay special attention to the last page of this Newsletter and send us the information. It is just a guideline and we will be happy <sup>to</sup> receive any information available. Carl Steiert and Diane Olson are going to try and contact as many pioneers as possible and tape their stories. If there is anyone you feel has not been contacted and has information, please let us know either by phone or in writing. We would appreciate having the information sheet in this issue sent back as soon as possible.

#### January Meeting

The first meeting of 1983 was held on Jan. 9 with 21 members attending. Members were able to view the area in the baggage room which is going to be worked on and were given an idea as to what it should look like when completed. A surprise visit was paid by former area-resident, Ernest Moore. He told us about a book which he has just completed on the life of his family. It goes back to his grandfather's birth as a slave in 1846. His family later lived in the Franklin area. It is an interesting book. His book is called "The Coal Miner Who Came West." It may be obtained by writing Ernest Moore at 525 14th Ave. E., Seattle, Ph: 324-5735. There are copies for sale at the Museum. The price: \$5.95 + 3% tax

The meeting closed with a slide show which covered many subjects among which were slides taken on June 6 and some slides of groups of people in various activities. These were shown in the hope that some of the people shown might be identified.

Don't forget The next general meeting will be on March 13.

#### Things we will be needing:

During the renovation the Crew has been bringing their own equipment from their homes. One of the most used items has been an 8 ft. metal step-ladder. When the new area is completed it will be necessary to have one on the premises all the time. They plan to have a small work bench area which will need a bench vise. The meeting room will need more chairs. We would like to replace the miscellaneous kitchen chairs that we use now. In the interest of space conservation folding chairs would work great. We could use a card table. A desk and files could be used in the office area. It is not necessary that these items be new just safe and usable.

*Reminiscing with Jim Verrarelli**Pot Menders and Umbrella Fixers*

For pleasure and curiosity the umbrella fixers and pot menders would draw our attention when going from house to house to do a little work. They would carry by the handle with them a charcoal fire going, where they would have their long iron and tips heating so they could melt the solder when mending holes in pots and copper boilers. They, also, would carry with them, a suitcase-type container where they had all the tools they used to fix umbrellas. You must remember, many of the coal miners in those days could not afford to buy new utensils very often. So it was cheaper to have them repaired for 10 or 15¢. Sometimes you would see pots with as many as six or more repaired holes. The Umbrella menders and Pot fixers wore dark clothes and reminded us kids of chimney sweeps. And still the old timers lived a good life.....

*Runaways*

In the early days of the 1900's the kids in Black Diamond had a lot of excitement and pleasure along with the hard work. The runaway horses with their wagons were one of them. Also, the various repairmen, junk collectors and peddlers.

We remember the time when the Coal Company Store delivery wagon team had a runaway. They were parked in front of the Company Store when for some reason they decided to run away. They were a frisky, fast team. From the store, they came "like a Bat out of Hell" down the road between the Butcher Shop and the Bakery towards Italian Town below the tracks. They ran down the hill, then decided to turn right on the road behind the Company Store. When they went to make the sharp turn to the right, they were going so fast that the lines fastened onto the front of the long wagon tongue broke loose and of all things the wagon tongue went str aight through the center of a Wash House. In those days, the coal miners did not have shower facilities at the coal mines for the miners to use as they do now. Instead some of the coal miners' homes had a little one-room shed with a little coal stove in it to heat water so the miners could take a bath in galvanized tubs. The shed was called their Wash House. Well, anyway, the tongue of the wagon went straight through to the other end of the Wash House. Of all things, there were four bachelors of the home in there taking a-bath. You should have seen them come running out of the Wash House!! Stark naked!! Not a one of them was hurt but you should have heard them yelling and cursing in Italian! You can imagine how surprised and dumbfounded they were. They thought the world had come to an end. The little home is still standing, although the Wash House is long gone. It was the h house into which Carl and Ann Steiert moved and spent the first seven years of their married life. Grant and Peggy Griffin have remodeled it and live there now.



More reminiscing with Jim:Black Diamond's Early Day Judge

The people of today would not believe that in the early days of the 1900's the Town of Black Diamond had a very typical Judge of the Law who resembled a character of a judge of the early 1800's as seen on Television in old Western movies.

His name was Judge Davis. He would hold court in a small shed or building the size about 12 x 20 which was located behind his home on the now Baker St. and First Ave. Many times the people attending the court trial would be standing outside as it would be an overflow trial...standing room only and that was outside. We "kids" would stop and listen from the outside for a few minutes and we could hear his squeaky voice giving the poor culprit the law in his oral manner.

To the surprise of everyone when he pronounced sentence, it would always end up such as \$10.00 fine and \$15.00 cost. The cost would always be more than the fine. Pretty Smart!! He owned the small court shed and so he had to collect for the cost of the building. We have wondered many times how often the little court shed had been paid for! If the poor victim did not have the money to pay the fine he would have to spend a day or two in the Black Diamond two-cell jail. It is the one which has been restored near the Museum. Poor Judge Davis would then lose his "cost". When the victims were in jail his meals were brought to him by the Town's constable from one of the hotels. His friends would supply him with booze by lowering it down through the stove heater chimney. All in all they were mostly minor crimes. A very good record for a rough and tough mining town!!

Dr. Smith Babies

How about it? In the last issue we asked that all Dr. Smith delivered babies stand up and be counted. To date the only response has been from Sophie Holly. We had hoped to make the March Meeting a Dr. Smith Baby Day. We'd still like to do it but need your help.

From the Editor: I would like to thank everyone who has extended kind remarks about the Newsletter. I am happy that it is well received but it takes many people to make it an interesting paper to which we can all relate. I appreciate the help that Jim Vennarelli has been and hope that it will inspire others with favorite memories to share them with us. If anyone has any suggestions they will be welcome.

Ann Steiert

Wanted for the Mine Exhibit: A round double-decker lunch bucket.

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Pioneer Register Form Black Diamond Historical Society

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date you arrived in the Black Diamond area Year \_\_\_\_\_

Present address: Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

My father's name \_\_\_\_\_

Date he arrived in the Black Diamond area \_\_\_\_\_

My mother's maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Date she arrived in the Black Diamond area \_\_\_\_\_

Family History. Any interesting facts you would like to record such as occupation, Community activities, Church, Lodge or musical groups. We would like any photos available. Please be sure and write any information concerning the pictures on them.

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Favorite Family Recipe (If there is something special about its' origin please put that in)

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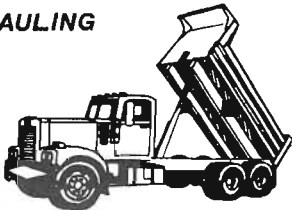
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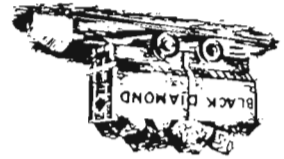


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