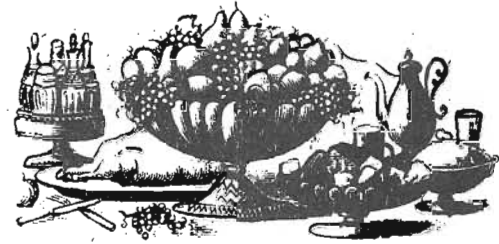




Black Diamond Historical Society



November 1983

Black Diamond, Washington

Volume VII Issue IV

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	—————	\$ 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

In Memorium

Darwin Bainton Husband of Irene Frederickson
Margaret Henry, a long time resident
Alice Mae Evans, mother of eight, grand-
mother of 25, great-grandmother of 36
Adalio, Vanni, brother of Edo,
Royce Murkowski, a longtime resident of
Black Diamond
Ivy Adams, daughter of the "Candy Store
man" John Davies.

Memorials Received:

In Memory of Alice Mae Evans:

<u>Nancy Nicholas</u>	<u>Jewel McCloud</u>
<u>Rachel Fagnon</u>	<u>Carl Steiert</u>
<u>Irene Bainton</u>	<u>Norene Lindberg</u>

Muriel Wing

In Memory of Royce Murkowski:

<u>Jewel McCloud</u>	<u>Carl & Ann Steiert</u>	<u>Mt. Rainier Rebekah Lodge</u>
<u>Merna Hawks</u>	<u>Tom & Linda Maks</u>	<u>Ladies Auxilliary F.O.E.</u>
<u>Angeline Goldsberry</u>	<u>Herman Brutke</u>	

A Special Birthday Present

Amy Shay, granddaughter of Rose Guidetti, made a Happy Birthday donation to the Museum in honor of her Grandmother's Birthday. It is a lovely and thoughtful gift and much appreciated.

November Meeting

The next meeting of the Historical Society will be on November 13, at the Museum at 2:00 p.m. Everyone is urged to attend and see what is being done on the building. A special video show featuring the Callero Family will be shown. Since they are all members of a well-known pioneer family, they have a lot to contribute to Black Diamond's history.

Christmas Party

We will be able to exchange Merry Christmas wishes at our Christmas party which will be held on December 4 at 1:00 p.m. There will be the usual table of goodies and a program. Please make a big circle around the date....Dec. 4 If anyone has any ideas as to how the party can be improved we are happy to receive any suggestions.

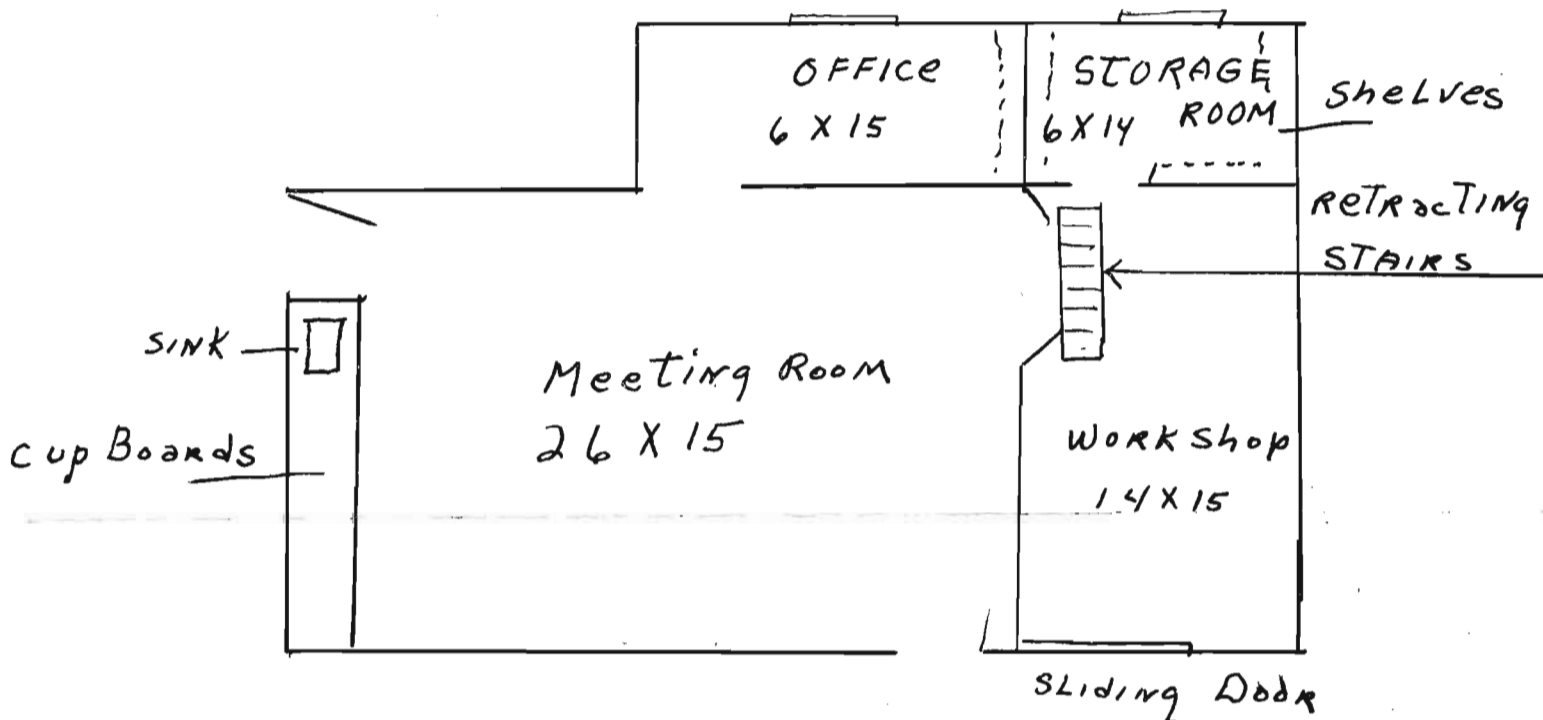
Museum Doings

The past few months have seen many people going through the Museum. The out-of-state patronage has lessened but now we are getting school tours. In October there were 150 children from the Lake Wilderness School who visited the Museum. They were very interested. Each child is given a small sack of coal to take home.

(2)

Depot Doings

For the past two weeks, Elaine Griffin has been helping your editor to assemble and mount the photos in the Multiplex which Dwight Garrett has so generously donated. There is work to be done still but at this writing we have captioned and mounted over 200 pictures. It makes us very concerned that there are quite a number of pictures which have been given to us with no information on them. It is our intention, in the near future, to make a method whereby people can look at them and perhaps identify some of them for us. We are always soliciting more photos and information but would ask each donor to try and get as much information as possible about the picture. The sketch below will show the placement of rooms in the old baggage area. Our Thursday Crew has had a real challenge. Everything has been so crooked ~~that~~ each item has had to be tailored to space. It is still a bit akilter but that can't be helped.



A folding attic stairs has been installed in the workshop area. It will give access to the attic where a floor has been built of old lumber. It will provide much storage for items which must be kept dry. Our "Miner-in-Charge of Excavating" Ted Barner is working under the building, digging out and making space for larger items which do not need special storage care.

On Saturday Oct. 29 a group got together and started the work on the bank in front of the Museum. Hoes and shovels were flying for a while and before the day was done much of the old sod and weeds were grubbed out and a sheet of black plastic installed. They then pokes holes into the plastic and inserted the Ivy. More work is still needed but a great step has been taken. A Pot Luck lunch was enjoyed by: Diane & Corey Olson, Louis Zumek, Bob Eaton, Ted Barner, Elaine Griffin, Howard & Dorothy Botts, Sheila Drury and Carl and Ann Steiert.

After much communicating and exchange, the money for the new roof has finally been approved. Bids will be let out soon. The rules require that there be three bids, one has to be either a woman or minority. The big question now is whether to proceed with the work now or wait 'til Spring. The money can be held until next year. In the meantime, the present roof is causing concern. We had hoped to have this all done long before now but it does seem that the wheels gring slowly in the Grant procedure. Our administrator Grant Griffin has put in a lot of time on paperwork.

Raffle

The response to the letters concerning the annual raffle has been very good. Many have sent in sums as donations over and above the ticket price. We hope that all members will be able to come to the Museum and view the work that is being done with their funds. With any luck, the major portion of expenditures should be over by the end of this year. A complete recap on the income of the raffle and a statement of finances will be published in the January Newsletter. Some of the members who have made donations are:

<u>Martin Moore</u>	<u>Thomas Hyde</u>	<u>Margaret Blanchard</u>	<u>Ernest Eltz</u>
<u>Evegen Lushing</u>	<u>Sam Zinters</u>	<u>Tom & Vi Campbell</u>	<u>Jennie Johnson</u>
<u>Arthur Jones</u>	<u>George Malatesta</u>	<u>Lennie Witt</u>	<u>Bill Petchnick</u>
<u>Joe Potochnik</u>	<u>Audrey Mendenhall</u>	<u>Bud Simmons</u>	<u>B.C. Peterson</u>

Gertrude Weston has donated a 55-cup coffeemaker to the Society. We are in good shape for coffeetime!!

Black Diamond Days in California

Several members of the B.D.H.S. received invitations to take part in the celebration held in the Nortonville, Ca. It is held each year and is called "Black Diamond Days". It is held in the area where our Black Diamond has its roots. Carl & Ann Steiert and Howard and Dorothy Botts were able to attend. The celebration is held out in the open under some of the old trees. We had a table assigned to us and displayed photos of the present Black Diamond. The celebration is held for two days. This year it was Sept 24 & 25. We were treated royally and met many interested and interesting people. We came away convinced that it was the sort of doings that we should think about having. There is an open invitation to our group to attend next years gala. They even suggested that perhaps a caravan of rec vehicles might come and they would have a place for everyone to park. Something to think about!!!!

Calendars, Calendars, Calendars

Our 1984 calendars are here! As we have said in previous Newsletters the process of getting the calendars done is getting more difficult each year. This year Dave Sprau offered to take charge of getting them. He knew a printer who was willing to give us a good price when working with other groups to get their calendars done. We worked with Monroe and Index and were able to come up with an affordable price. We are anxious to have your input on them. You will find them different from the past but infinitely superior to the one published last year. The pictures came out very good. They will still sell for \$5.00 or \$6.00 when mailed.



Still searching

We are still looking for some pictures. We do not have a photo of the Finn Hall on Lawson, the Union Hall in Morgansville, the Franklin school or business buildings, The original store which stood on the site of the Bakery and burned down in 1907. Was there a pavilion at Clay Mine? Why did they call the High School the Union High School in 1916? If you have any information on any of the above we'd sure appreciate hearing from you.

THE GARRETT FAMILY

Fred Garrett and Susannah Hughes were married on Oct. 5, 1885, in Pontypridd, South Wales. They had four children. They had made plans to emigrate to South Africa in 1900. After they had already purchased their tickets, their plans were changed by the start of the Boer War. They sailed for America instead. They decided to come to Washington State. Mrs. Garrett had relatives in the Covington area and they settled near Hughes Lake. Fred worked in the mines at Black Diamond and walked 12 miles to work each day. They ^{Later} lived in a house which stood on the spot where the telephone building now stands in Black Diamond. After that they moved onto a farm in Wabash. Fred was an active member of the Wabash Community Church for 52 years. This month a new hall, which has been added onto the Church, will be named after him.



Fred Garrett was born in England and orphaned as a child. Apprenticed while very young he ran away to Wales. He didn't know his birth date so he chose New Year's Day as his birthday.

Their two sons and two daughters, David, Albert, Maud Anderson and May Hayes were talented singers, reflecting their mother's Welsh heritage. Their voices formed a natural mixed quartette and were known throughout the Northwest. Son, David, worked in the coal mines in Wales as a pit boy at the age of nine, briefly in the Black Diamond mines as a young man. He worked for the Company Store doing clerking and driving the delivery wagon. Later he lived in Morgansville and ran a small grocery store and gas station. He, also, sold Rawleigh products for over 50 years---whistling all the time!!!

His wife, Lilly, nee Steiert, was organist in the Black Diamond Congregational and later Presbyterian Church. She accompanied her husband when he sang. They in turn had three sons, David, Dwight, and Harold. Harold died at the age of 13 in 1938.

After the death of his wife in 1959, David Sr. made two trips to Wales. The first nearly 60 years after he left there.

David and Dwight still live in the Enumclaw area. They have a very rich heritage of many fine people. Each one in his own way contributing to the wonderful history of Black Diamond.

Note: The above photo is the wedding photograph of David Charles Garrett and Lillian Steiert taken in June of 1908. The new Multiplex which was donated by Dwight Garrett, is in memory of these two people.

DEATH AT NOON, THE FRANKLIN MINE DISASTER OF 1894 AND REACTIONS

By Esther Mumford

Part II

The first public expression of dissatisfaction regarding the coroners' inquest as to the cause of the fatal blaze was that of the Seattle-based Western Central Labor Union. At its September 5 meeting the membership unanimously passed a resolution which stated that the inquest was not thorough and determined enough to ascertain the cause of the accident. It further declared that there was strong evidence that the dead miners were killed through the carelessness of the Company's employees and that it was the duty of the Company authorities to carefully examine the cause of such carelessness, so that the guilty persons might be prosecuted and as nearly as possible, made responsible for the support of the surviving family members.

A set of resolutions bearing 152 signatures of nonunion Franklin miners, and mine laborers, some of them relatives of the dead, declared their satisfaction with the inquest and sternly rebuked those parties complaining of fraud in the investigation. It decried the "agitation" by some newspapers and labor organizations as calculated to promote "selfish aims and sinister motives" The statement asked that a new investigation not be pursued as it would only "serve to wound and rekindle afresh the sorrow and grief of our unfortunate friends and relatives."

Although some of the signatories of the resolution were fathers who had lost sons in the disaster, it did not express the feelings of all the survivors. Five damage suits, of \$10,000 each, the first in a series, were filed by ~~the~~ ~~widows~~ the widows and orphans of the dead miners against the Oregon Improvement Company and five of its' employees. They charged the Company with negligence in allowing the accumulation of slack and gasses in the mines and of failing to furnish adequate ventilation. The other cases included those of widows and family members of miners, one of whom was a sixteen year old boy who lost his life while trying to save his fellow workers. The cases were tried over several months in courtrooms filled with interested spectators, Only one family, a Black Diamond widow and her six children, won a suit. They had asked \$20,000 for damages and were awarded \$4,0000. This decision was immediately challenged by the OIC. At this writing it is not known whether the Company was successful in this challenge. The rest of the cases were dismissed.

Mine safety continued to be a major issue in King County mines throughout the nineteenth century and early into the twentieth century. Company measures seemed based as much on economic considerations as on the desire to save lives but a more direct involvement by the State appeared to be necessary to assure maximum safety. Action by the State generally fell short of what was needed, but some attempts at improvements were made over the years. After considering the Franklin disaster in August of 1894, a fire in Newcastle that October resulting in the loss of three lives and an earlier explosion in Roslyn in 1892 which caused the deaths of 48 miners, the 1895 legislature passed a bill which amended the law on coal mines. In substance the measure provided that each level of a coal mine should have separate splits of pure air, increasing the number of cubic feet per minute up to that time.

The grief subsided and the townspeople resumed their usual activities in time. Franklin continued its existence as a small mining town until the strike in the early twenties. Ironically, of the few tangible indications of the life that once existed there, reminders of the disaster of 1894-- entrance to the mine slope, and still-~~erect~~ tombstones bearing inscriptions and the date of death in the disaster-are among the most prominent.

Editor's Note: We would like to express our gratitude to Esther Mumford for sharing her reasearch with us. We hope everyone has found it informative.

Leave it to the Miners

Down the slope the miner goes with a million-dollar smile
and a well-filled lunch kit on his arm, to his work that's well worth while.
The bell rings forth from down below, the cable gives a pull,
and up like a flash the coal trip comes with every car quite full.
Each man works on from hour to hour, the time flys quickly by,
While up and down the coal trips move as the coal cars swiftly fly
then like a monster in a rage the whistle loudly blows
And out from the hole the miner comes singing as he goes.
"My arm may have a little ache, my back may be quite sore:
But here we work, we never shirk, we do our share and more."
" We may not all be rich with gold nor hold the wealth of Fords
But when it comes to digging coal we mine it out in hordes."

Note: Taken from the March 8, 1923 issue of the
Pacific Coast Bulletin

Did you know that in Black Diamond at one time there were the following
groups: Womens' Club B.D. Niners (!) Syncopated Jazz Birds
Mine Safety Comm. B.D. Athletic Club Rhododendron Club
Black Diamond Dramatic Club.

Did you know that John Davies gave candy to all the children at Christmas time?

Did you know that Chick Thompson and Kid Porenta each weighed only 100 lbs
when they boxed?

Did you know that one of the features of the Saturday night smoker was
"Little Jackie Koerner" aged 3, who sang. It was said that he
was better ^{than} many 30 year olds. 2/21/23

From the Editor's Desk:

Once again I am asking for all members who have stories that they would like to share, to please do so. I am always anxious to cover all areas of the past be they funny or sad. Any anecdotes which we can all relate to mine stories, school stories and just people stories are very much needed. How about nicknames? Do you know how some of them came about? We'd sure appreciate hearing from you.

Ann Steiert

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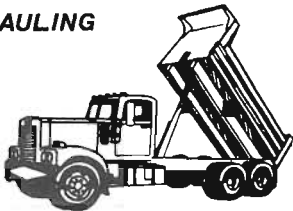
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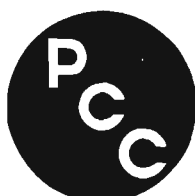
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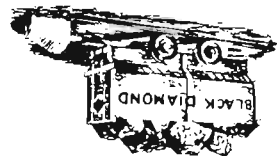
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