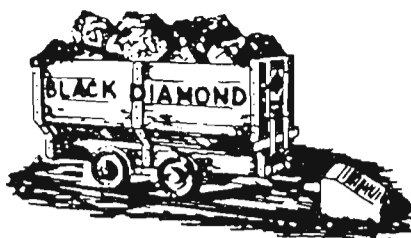


Black Diamond Historical Society



September 1984

Black Diamond, Washington

Vol IX Issue III

B.D.H.S. Newsletter

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Family Lifetime	75.00
Business Annual	15.00

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

Editor Ann Steiert 886-1168

In Memorium

Elvira Peterson—Sister of
Walter Riverside
John Plano—Early Black
Diamond resident

Memorials received in Memory of:

Harry Rossi—from—Albert Rossi
Thomas and Elizabeth Spaight—from
Margaret Covey, daughter
Charles and Lena Moroni from—
Edith Davies, daughter
Peter Deardan—from—Louis Zumek
William Petchnick and
Joe and Eileen Zumek

A Birthday Memorial for:
Frank Grgurich from Mary Grgurich

SEPTEMBER MEETING NOTICE

The next regular meeting of the Historical Society will be held on Sept 9 at 2:00 p.m. at the Museum. Plans are being made for a program. We urge everyone to attend and view the changes and work that has been done since the June meeting.

OLD TIMERS' PICNIC

This was the second year that the Picnic was held at the Museum area. This year the Depot sported a large green awning over the platform which shielded the picknickers from the hot sun. There were about 100 people who joined in the visiting and reminiscing. Most expressed pleasure at having it in this location. There were some familiar faces missing and we'd be interested in knowing whether another place would be preferable. We are interested in hearing any suggestions so that they may be considered for next year's picnic. Please feel free to give an opinion since that is the only way we have of knowing how everyone feels.

MUSEUM ATTENDANCE

This summer has seen many visitors through the Museum. There have been people from all over the world represented, such as:

<u>Kiel, Germany</u>	<u>St. Nom, France</u>	<u>Birmingham, Ala</u>
<u>Rodentel, W. Germany</u>	<u>Backwey, England</u>	<u>Orlando Florida</u>
<u>Hickory, N.C.</u>	<u>Peoria, Ill.</u>	<u>Danbury</u>

They have all expressed favorable comments about the Museum and Black Diamond. Mount Rainier has been out with all its' glory on most of the days and that leaves a lasting impression of the area. Elaine Griffin and her staff have been doing a fine job of manning the Museum.

MUSEUM DOINGS

The major reconstruction on the inside of the building is now completed. The workshop is done and has cupboards and shelves for tools and equipment. A cupboard with a lock on it was built in the office to house reading materials which need to be monitored. The men spent quite some time constructing the framework for the awning which was completed for the Old Timers' Picnic. It will be a valuable asset, helping in rain or shine. Special thanks go to Robert and Joe Kuzaro for providing the poles for both the awning and the scaffolding which was built in the back of the building to do the roof repairing.

There has been a picnic table next to the jail. It, too, was built by the Thursday Crew along with a hitching post in front of the jail. They felt the table would serve as a hospitality spot for people passing through and needing a table to picnic.

They are planning to build an old "Wash House" such as most homes had in the days before indoor plumbing. It will be built at the north end of the Platform. It is hoped to make it a realistic structure so that people can see "how it was".

In the near future they will be laying tracks in front alongside of the platform just as they were in the past. It is hoped that in the future there might be a train car available to add to the atmosphere.

!!!!NEW ROOF!!!!

After nearly two years the depot is finally getting a new roof. We will be able to retrieve the washtubs and pans now keeping the water off the display areas. There has been a great deal of work put into getting the money for the roof. The HUD Grant had so many stipulations and rules that the most contractors didn't even bother to answer our bid requests. After sending out requests again we were able to get one who would work out part of the job and our Thursday Crew has been doing the structural repairs. They will be able to buy lumber and necessary items through an additional Grant received through King County. The men have been replacing and patching portions of the roof so that the shingles once put on will have a solid foundation. It is hot and dirty work and the men have done a great job. Bob Eaton, Louis Zumek, Martin Moore, Frank Guidetti, Carl Steiert and Norman Gumser have put in some long and productive days. Dennis Phillips, one of the restorers of the Old Saloon, has been a great help also.

OLD SALOON

Everyone has been watching with interest the progress being made in the restoration of the old pool hall. The inside has been restored while still keeping the atmosphere of the early days. It now sports a sign declaring it the "Black Diamond Saloon". The opening date will be soon and awaited with much interest. Jim McCray, John Foster and Dennis Phillips are the men responsible for the interesting restoration. They will be going on with their building and making it into a restaurant featuring Pizza.

DON't FORGET TO SHOP WITH OUR ADVERTIZERS.....

COLLEGE SEMINAR

If you had happened to pass the Museum on July 18, 19 or 20 you might have wondered what all the activity was that was taking place. It was the second year that Seattle Pacific University held a seminar on the history of the area. It was once again put together and taught by Diane Olson. There were 21 people from all over the State and Oregon who took part in learning about our history. It was a credit course. Many of those who took part were teachers. It was a rewarding day for all who took part. It even swelled the Society's coffers by \$170. The following is an account of what took place written by Diane:

"This is the first history class I have ever taken where the whole town was involved," laughed one person after completing the recent seminar on Black Diamond's history. This is the second time the class has been offered through Northwest Travel Studies with credit from Seattle Pacific University.

The 21 members of the class met for three days at the Black Diamond Museum for lectures and slides. They went from there to tour the town, the Green River Coal Fields, and to see our special sights, such as the Bakery, the Old Confectionary Art Gallery, the New Black Diamond Saloon, The Jewel McCloud Rose Garden, The Cemetery, The Green River Gorge and Palmer Coking Coal Processing Plant. They heard a debate between Mark Abernathy and Pam Thiel about the proposed John Henry Coal Mine. They learned of Black History, Franklin from Esther Mumford. They enjoyed the delicious food of the Bread Plus Sandwich Shop and the Dinner House. And they loved it all.

But, they all agreed their favorite part was the oral history shared by members of the Historical Society. Carl and Ann Steiert were available the entire time as resource persons for the group. On the last day, nine additional members joined the class, to tell stories and eat lunch with them.

Regina Marchx Whitehill told about her Mother; Rose Callero Guidetti told about life as a young girl; Frank Guidetti shared memories about the Strike; Bill Petchnick kept them laughing with Halloween Prank stories; Ted Barner told of a couple of mine accidents he experienced; Verna Davies Thompson told about her parents, Eve Thomas told of his early days in the mines; Jenny Edwards told about the Diptheria epidemic. Later Louis Zumek, Ted and Regina accompanied the group on a hike to Franklin Hill.

Every class member was fascinated with the people and their stories. They felt our history "come alive" for them. I want to thank all the people in the Historical Society and the Town of Black Diamond who once again made the class successful. It is an unusual opportunity for people to learn of our history and we are one of the few Museums to offer such a class.

I had very able support and assistance from Carl and Ann Steiert, my husband, Cory and Daughter Karin.

Sincerely,
Diane Olson,
Class Instructor

By this time most of the members will have received their annual raffle books. We are very fortunate to have such talented members who are so willing to let us benefit from their talents.

Esther Van Der Heyden is a native of Black Diamond. She was born Esther Franchini and is the sister of George, William and Katherine. She is now living in Arlington, Wa and has been painting for a short time. Her portrayal of Mt. Shuksan near Bellingham, is excellent. It is framed in an appropriate frame. The next two prizes are certificates for two to the newly restored Black Diamond Saloon, featuring Pizza and the very popular Dinner House in Morgansville. Both places are interesting and fun. As noted in your enclosed letter the drawing will be on Dec. 9 at the Christmas Party.

PHOTO REPRO

For the past few years we have been fortunate in getting our pictures copied and slides made from the pictures turned in by members. We are very sorry to say that Larry Hoffman, who has done such an outstanding job for us, is no longer able to do so. We are in need of another source. The Commercial Photographers charge a big price and will force us to cut back on the reproduction. We are open to any suggestions that anyone has.

BURMA SHAVE

Almost everyone can remember driving down the road and reading the signs telling of the wonders of Burma Shave. It helped distract from the chuck holes and dust that were so much a part of the roads in those days. Did you know that the first signs were printed in 1927 and the last in 1963? How about.....

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But She Felt his Chin
And That Was That
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From the Pacific Coast Bulletin March 1923: OWN CATTLE NOW

Realizing the desirability of owning milch cows that they might supply themselves and neighbors with plenty of pure, fresh milk, a number of Black Diamond residents have recently acquired cows. With plenty of range readily available the keeping of a cow or two is an easy matter, and in many cases quite profitable. Consequently a number in camp have expressed themselves as opposed to any form of herd law being enforced, as was at one time proposed. According to Councilman A. Booth the fact that most of the cows now grazing in and around the camp, the necessity for a herd law has passed.

Editor's reflection on the above article:

I remember a beautiful black and white cow owned by Mrs. Paglia who made my father's life miserable by her intelligence. She could open any lock or device he put on the back gate. Many a morning we awoke to find her up to her ankles in my parent's lovely garden patch, placidly chomping away and no doubt giving my Dad a horse laugh. It became almost a game with them. We'd be interested in hearing from our readers if they have any "cow" stories to share



MEMORIES OF BLACK DIAMOND

by
Margaret Spaight Covey

Our father, Thomas G. Spaight came to Black Diamond from Lancaster, Wisconsin in 1882, soon after his graduation from High School. Within a short time he established a meat market in a log cabin. A few years later he built a new building on the corner lot directly across Railroad Ave. from the Depot where the present Museum is located. There are many pictures today of this same market. He, also, had a large lumber yard next to the depot. I recall my father saying how difficult it was to hire anyone who could figure board feet. My Uncle, Dave Gribbon, had a livery stable near by.

My mother and father were married in Seattle at the Butler Hotel which was the elite one of its time. Rev. Major was the officiating minister. The chimes at Mt. Baker Presbyterian Church were dedicated in memory of its former pastor, Rev. Major. For over 40 years I have been an active member of this same Church.

We lived in a seven room house just north of what is now Railroad Ave. This was the home in which all four of us children were born. Dr. Stone was our physician. We had the first bathroom in Black Diamond. I recall many happy memories in this house particularly at Christmas time, a festive tree with lighted candles clipped to each branch. Under the tree Father placed a mirror to simulate a pond and around it he built a split rail fence of small sticks. Miniature deer and wild animals graced the edge of the pond.

Mother was an accomplished dressmaker and milliner, teaching sewing to many young ladies in town. She rode horseback, sidesaddle, as most young women did for there were no roads at that time. Both she and her mother were afraid of the Indians. When they saw them approaching, they would draw the shades and remain perfectly quiet until the Indians had passed by.

MEMORIES cont'd

My Grandmother Gibbon ran a boarding house. Among her favorite boarders was the train conductor, Mr. Curtis. She often referred to him as a perfect gentleman. Mother often recalled the way Grandmother collected her money. On pay day she held out her apron and passed around the table at dinner time. Each guest dropped his money in the out-stretched apron. No books, No taxes, and no difficulty!!

Since there was only the Company Store selling general merchandise, the presence of peddlers with their valises crammed with a variety of wares were a common sight. One such man was named "Cheyenne".

I have often been impressed by the human touch of love and concern these pioneers had for each other. Social life centered around the Church and Lodge affiliations. There were the Masonic Lodges and its counterpart the Order of the Eastern Stars, the Knights of Pythias and the Pythian Sisters, the Odd Fellows and the Rebeccas. Each had the Bible as its guiding light. Perhaps this early orientation is responsible for some of us still continuing our loving relationships three generations later.

Mother often talked about taking the train from Black Diamond to Renton where they boarded a boat to Seattle. She liked to walk down the boardwalk on Second Ave. and watch the running water below through the spaces between the boards.

When it was announced that the first escalators were being installed in the Bon Marche she said, "Oh, No!" I remember the Old Lace House on First Ave. had an escalator years ago."

Years later, in 1923, I returned to Black Diamond to teach. During 1924 there was an epidemic of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever. Children in the classroom collapsed like ten pins. I carried several to the Nurse's room on the second floor and withing a short time, I, too, became a victim of Scarlet Fever.

Although I've lived in Seattle for almost 60 years my roots are deeply imbeded in the Town of Black Diamond. These roots have been nourished by the loving care of family and friends for the past 100 years. Rich in culture and concern for others.

A Quote which hung for many years in y father's office is a reflection of this concern:

"Jolly the fellow who is down today
and give him a smile for his sorrow.
This world sometimes has a funny way
and you may be down tomorrow."

Editor's Note: Our thanks to Margaret for sharing her memories with all of us. We invite and encourage all members to do the same. Each person has a precious store of memories and we appreciate having them shared with us.

THE PERFECT ANSWER

An old man was sitting on the porch of the country store when he was approached by a couple of men who said, "Hi, Pop, How long has this Town been dead?"

The old man replied, "I dunno, it can't have been very long. You are the first buzzards I've seen!"



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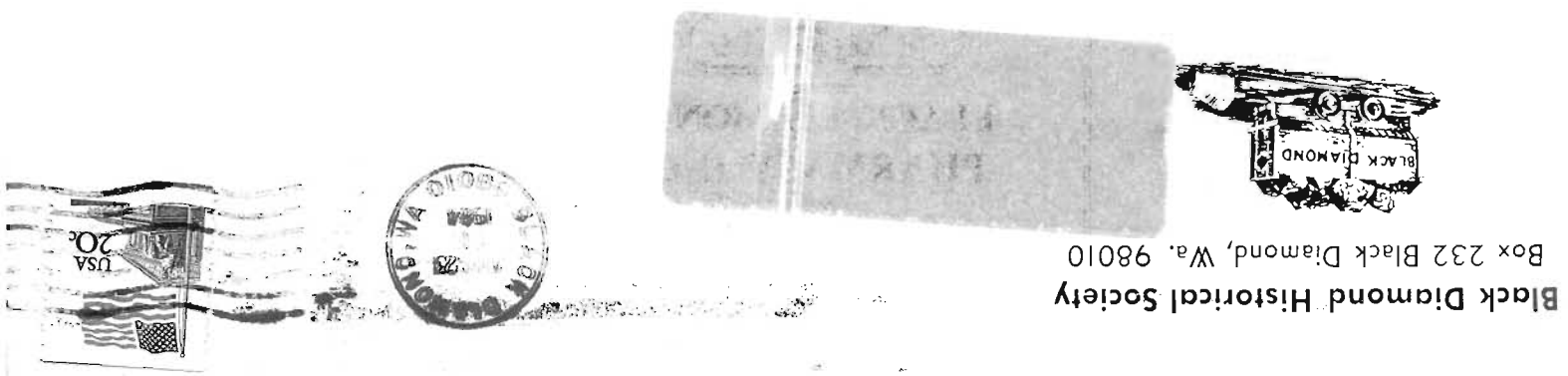
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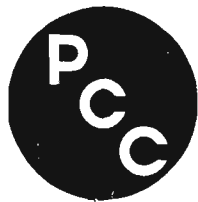
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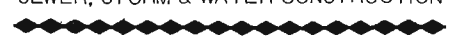
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