

Black Diamond Historical Society



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Black Diamond, Washington

Vol IX Issue IV

B.D.H.S. Newsletter

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a non-profit corporation

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| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Annual Individual | \$ 5.00 |
| Annual Family | 7.00 |
| Lifetime | 50.00 |
| Family Lifetime | 75.00 |
| Business Annual | 15.00 |

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

Editor: Ann Steiert 886-1168

In Memorium

Matt McTurk—A former Black Diamond
resident

Florence Newlove—sister of Earl
Upton, B.D. pioneer

Arthur Bellack—Member of early
pioneer family

William E. Jones—member of the
Jones (Hotel) Family

Vernon Habenicht—member of early
pioneer Family

Ruth Smith—Wife of Clarence Smith

Pete Kobe—Ravensdale Pioneer

Sophie Kuzaro—sister of Joe, Robert
Frances and Dorothy

Memorials

William E. Jones _____ From _____ Joe and Hazel Mlachnik

Arthur Bellack _____ From _____ Carl and Ann Steiert

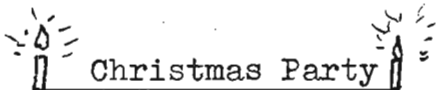
Florence Newlove _____ From _____ Mr. & Mrs. Earl Upton

Sophie Kuzaro _____ From _____ Tom and Lynda, Carl & Ann Steiert

Next Meeting

The next general meeting will be on November 11, at 2:00 at the Museum. There will be a short business meeting, followed by a slide presentation. Howard and Dorothy Botts will be showing some very interesting slides taken when they toured Europe. Howard is the son of "our" Dr. Botts. He and Dorothy are active in the Historical Society. Don't forget....circle your calendar now

Next Meeting is on November 11



Christmas Party

The annual Christmas party and raffle drawing will be held on December 9 at the Museum. It will begin at 1:00 o'clock. The raffle drawing will take place at 3:00. We would like to have a program during the afternoon and encourage each of you to make their talents known. We would welcome any suggestions that you have. Let's make it the best party ever!!



Depot Doings

As you have read in earlier Newsletters, the roof on the Depot has been a source of concern for a long time. Early in the summer a request for bids was sent out and only one company responded. The bid was for \$16,000 plus. The Grant that we were getting from HUD was for \$6,000, which made us considerably short. After negotiating with the company who had put in the bid, it was agreed that they would work with the Society's Crew. They would take off the old roof, and put on the new shingles. The Thursday Crew was to do the repair to the eaves and the soffits and replace bad timbers where necessary. They would then charge \$7130.30. After much letter writing and communicating our president, Bob Eaton was able to negotiate additional money from the County. It will be enough to cover the balance of the roofer's bill and pay for insulation to be installed in the attic. It has been a long and worrisome process and we have to thank Bob for the efficient way in which he handled the whole matter. Be sure to notice the roof when you are in the area.

The Crew built scaffolding at the back side of the building and worked from it to paint and restore any of the areas that needed it. They welcomed the help of Dennis Owens and Dave Vines, two slightly younger men, who helped them with the work. It involved quite a bit of climbing and reaching and really gave everyone a workout. We have to thank Louis Zumek, Ted Barner Frank Guidetti, Carl Steiert, Norman Gumser, Martin Moore and Bob Eaton for the time they spent on the project.

They, of course, were repaid by the delicious lunches served by hostesses which Rose Guidetti provided. They were:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Dorothy Botts</u> | <u>Patricia Early</u> | <u>Helen Manowski</u> | <u>Rachel Fagnon</u> |
| <u>Nancy Nicholas</u> | <u>Ann Steiert</u> | <u>Diane Olson</u> | <u>Norma Gumser</u> |
| <u>Marlene Bortleson</u> | <u>Rose Guidetti</u> | <u>Florence Garrett</u> | <u>Lucille Barner</u> |

Now that the roof is finished the Thursday Crew will be able to go on with other projects, which they have in mind. We will report on them as they begin to take shape. In the meantime, if there is anyone who would like to join them, the invitation is always out.

Collections

Bill Petchnick has been responsible for several items which we have added to our inventory. Not the least of which is the lovely parlor lamp now in the first room. It was once used by the Phythian Sisters in the old Masonic Hall around 1900.

We were, also, fortunate to have received a splendid collection of maps from the collection of Basil McHugh, who was an early Civil Engineer for the City of Enumclaw. They cover the coal fields in much of King and Pierce County. They were given to us by Maureen Carlile of Woodenville.

We are still trying to find someone who will be willing to reproduce some of our photos and make slides and negatives as Larry Hoffman has done in the past.

We would still like to find pictures of the water slide at Lake 12, the pavilion at Kummer, The Finn Hall on Lawson, The Union Hall at Morgansville and the original Company store which burned. It stood where the Bakery now stands.

A REMINDER: Annual membership fees are due in January 1985



The following letter was received recently. We would appreciate hearing from anyone who has knowledge of the incident mentioned in it.

Dear Sir or Madam,

This letter may be puzzling to you, but I hope you can make heads or tails of it. This all began in the year 1909 sometime between July and September of that year. My parents first settlement as immigrants from Italy was Black Diamond. Dad worked in the coal mine there at that time. It seems that my mother was ill one day and I was given to the neighbor for care. Somehow I got out of the gate and wandered onto the railroad track. I was less than 2 years old at the time. The coal train was approaching and bearing down on me. I was oblivious of the train and sat in between the rails playing with pebbles. The train engineer whistled to no avail. The fireman saw that I was not moving so he got out of the cab and around the catwalk to the front of the train. Standing on the cowcatcher, holding on with one hand and reaching forward with the other, he reached out and snatched me from an untimely end. We have tried in the past to locate this brave fireman but without success, as near as we could ascertain his name was Williams.

Now this is my question, are there any old timers still living in Black Diamond that would remember that event? I imagine they would have to be in their 80's as I am 76. Or is there anything chronicled in the newspaper of that time. At least, I would surely like a little history of your community for my biography. Any help in that direction will be appreciated. I hope this will not cause too much inconvenience.

Sincerely,
Silvio A. DeBoni
 Portland, Oregon

Museum Attendance

This summer saw many people going through the Museum. They came from all over the world. We recently had visitors from Israel. One couple came first and later in the day more people from Israel came. When Carl told them of the first visitors, they looked at their signatures in the guest book and by coincidence they were acquainted, yet neither knew the other was in the United States,. That same day, there were visitors from Norway. Everyone seems to enjoy what they see and without exception remark about the beauty of our countryside, especially when Mount Rainier choses to favor them with its beauty.

Early High School Graduation Classes

| 1915 | 1916 | 1917 | 1918 |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Charles Barclay | George Allen | Leo Jensen | Andrew Callero |
| Florence Harris Thomas | Florence Rodway | Cecil Gwilym | Mona Simmons |
| Ann Davis | Elsie Swanson | John Troyer | |
| Ivy Davies | Pearl Lewis | Florence Upton | |
| | Earl Upton | | |

From the Auburn Shopper, Thursday July 21, 1938:

Safeway Ad

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 lb. Bacon—\$.25 | 4 cans Soup—4 for 25¢ | Weiners—25¢ lb |
| 9 lb. bag Rolled Oats—35¢ | Bread—1 loaf—13¢ | Coffee—15¢ lb |
| 100 lb. sugar—\$4.79 | Rinso-lge.pkg—19¢ | Onions—4 lb. 10¢ |
| Potatoes 10 lbs.—17¢ | Toilet Tissue—6½¢ | Wheaties—2-PKG 19¢ |

RecollectionsWe are told:

That Laurel Shute and nine of his friends used to pile into a Model T and go to the Barn Dance at Hobart. It was pretty tricky sitting!

That

When father would send his kids to the Saloon to bring home a pail of beer they would grease the sides of the lunch bucket so that the foam would not rise and they would get more beer. Modesto Tonda recalls that a water bucket of beer cost 50¢.

That

Archie Eltz and Ray Smith, the Pacific Coast Coal Co. engineer once encountered a bear in the woods who was drunk from eating "mash" that has been left in the woods by some home brewer.

that

The first motion pictures at the "Show Hall" cost 5¢ a ticket. Later they charged 10¢.

Do you remember.....

The beautiful Christmas scene in St. Barbara's Catholic Church when Frank Bergman and his friends would make a simulated hillside and set the nativity set in a realistic cave at the bottom. At midnight Mass it was a truly beautiful sight with the candles glowing.

Do you remember.....

The night the houses burned on the Main Road around 1928. It was wintertime. The night was freezing. The only fire protection was the hose cart and the pipes were all frozen. There was real panic lest the whole street burn. Fortunately the wind shifted to the west and blew over the Ball Park. This alone save the other houses.

Do you remember.....

The food trucks coming to town during the Strike bringing supplies to the men on strike. Carl remembers pulling his little wagon with flour and beans in it.

Do you remember.....

The first time you walked across the trestle which stood behind Banchero's house. It seemed so long and high. It was a challenge to cross without falling down. Everyone listened for the train.

Mulligan Behind Joe Krause's SaloonByJames Vernarelli

They built a fire in a secluded wooded area behind not far from Joe Krause's Saloon. It stood behind the Depot. They placed a large galvanized wash tub on the wood fire, poured a couple of water buckets of water in the tub. The water taken from an outdoor water faucet near Bagby' and Flemmings' Livery Stable. They would use the top of a sawed off tree trunk to chop the chicken into pieces with a hatchet. Throw the pieces of chicken in to the tub with chunks of spuds, onions, carrots etc. add salt and pepper. They would use a clean limb of a tree to stir the mulligan with, cook for a couple of hours and with a keg of beer setting on top of a stump and any kind of utensils to eat out of with their handkerchiefs for napkins, a way they would go at it! The party sometimes lasting all night. No one got sick or had a bellyache. They were tough Black Diamond characters!!!

Winter Holidays in Old Black DiamondByDiane Olson

As the fall winds blow and the rains come down, we slowly prepare ourselves for the long dark winter months. However the stormy weather also signals the coming of the winter holidays, which bring so much happiness to us all.

Jim Paolucci, Cecil Robinson and Jenny Edwards have described those savored childhood memories of Thanksgiving and Christmas--the kindness of family and friends--the precious traditions of programs, toys and Santa.

We're all familiar with the first Thanksgiving of the Pilgrims, America's first immigrants. Two hundred years later, the people arriving here, also, experienced their own "first" Thanksgiving.

Jim Paolucci was the first child of an Italian coal miner. His parents had lived in the United States for about a dozen years. They had heard about Thanksgiving but no one had ever explained its significance.

"My first Thanksgiving---I must have been about eighth grade." explained Jim. "Remember Ronald McLaine? His Dad was connected down in Olympia. He was in the same class. Ron was in the 8th grade. He invited me to come down for Thanksgiving Dinner at their house. Never had been to one.

"I went down there to Claymine. His Mom put on a NICE dinner. She had a big goose and all the trimmings. I still remember that. His Dad was there."

"Italians celebrated Christmas, New Year's and , of course, Easter--that was a big one. Fourth of July was American---that's about it. Of course, in Italy they celebrate some Saint Days, which you don't celebrate here. Later on, we did have Thanksgiving.

Cecil Robinson can remember one Italian tradition that she enjoyed. "Whenever you said Merry Christmas to the Italians," explained Cecil, they always gave you some money!!"

The annual church Christmas program was, also, a source of joy and anticipation for Cecil. " My Dad was always the Santa Clause at the Church Christmas program. Every child got a gift. Everybody had to say a recitation. It was great."

"You know what my Dad used to do at night? We had a stove--something like those Franklin stoves--that had eising glass windows. They wouldn't light the stove that heated the livingroom. The night that Santa Claus came across our roof, we'd talk to him. My Dad would be up on the roof talking to us. We'd open the stove door and tell him what we wanted for Christmas. AND WE BELIEVED IT!."

"Iremember the year that I wanted a cradle and a doll...and I wanted it S000 bad. Mother was there and she was doing a bit of sewing on the sewing machine. We didn't have a very large house. So, we had our Christmas tree in what they called the front bedroom.

I kept sneaking in there to see if there was anything under the tree. All of a sudden something came in through the window. I screamed bloody murder---ran to my Mother. It was Santa Claus coming in through the window.

Christmas Memories Cont'd

"After a while, Mom said, "Let's go in and see if he left anything." And there was my doll and cradle. It was my Dad. He came in through the window.

Ninety-six year old Jenny Edwards also experienced those Christmas programs. Even then they were a treasured community tradition.

"The Christmas program was by the Sunday School," said Jenny. "We had just one church building. On Sunday, the Baptists held their meeting, the next Sunday the Congregationalists had theirs. Everybody came to the same church. Sunday School would be at 2:00 p.m.

Our Christmas program was held in the old Town Hall. Now all these children on that platform--on that stage--you can just imagine--a great big Christmas tree on each side of the stage--lit with candles. There was plenty of men, of course, to watch that. But there were all these children on the stage. Mother said, "I'm sure the Lord was with us because there never was ONE time that we had to make for the doors."

The man who would always be in charge of that was Richard Lewis. He really was from Wilkeson, but he was the fire boss. He was a good director of choral singing. Of course, children's voices are always very nice to listen to. We had to mind Richard Lewis. You were told that by your parents. "Mind Mr. Lewis as much as you mind your teacher--it is the same thing". And so he would direct these programs and they were always very lovely.

You looked up and you saw from one side of the stage to the other was a great big string of dolls. People brought their gifts to be given by Santa Claus.

My mother would say to us, "Now you are not going to get one of those dolls because we have our Christmas tree at home and I'm not packing things down. Santa Claus will leave your things in the house."

You know if we weren't told that, we would look up at that string of dolls and say, "Which one is mine? Which one is mine?" But we knew ours wasn't going to be there---my sister and I."

That was all such a delightful program, well attended, because everybody in the town went. That was one of the entertaining things was that Christmas program."

Raffle Report

The response to the raffle books has been very gratifying. Many have sent in their ticket money and added more to help the Society. We would like to thank the following people for their generosity:

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Bill Petchnick | Sam & Beth Zinter | Frank Callero | Edythe Hall |
| George Malatesta | Harold Hoyt | Henry Holltuum | Sutherland McLean |
| A.T. Kravagna | Arthur Jones | Bud Simmons | Margaret Blanchard |
| Clarence Smith | Thomas Hyde | Emil Rossi | Jane Loken |
| Jennie Johnson | Gino Picini | Cleo Balsley | Pauline Kombol |

DATES TO REMEMBER

General Meeting _____ Novemver 11 _____ at 2:00 o'clock

Christmas Party _____ December 9 _____ at 1:00 o'clock



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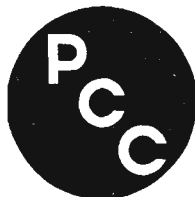


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