

Black Diamond Historical Society



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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:            Ann Steiert      886-1168

In Memorium

Bennett C. Peterson—Husband of Edith  
a long time resident of Black Diamond.  
Andrew Callero—Brother of Louis,  
Frank, Rose and Roy. A native of the  
Black Diamond area having been born  
here.

Jack Chilcott—Husband of Mary. A  
long time resident of Black Diamond.

Memorials Received

Jack Chilcott—from—Robert Kuzaro Family  
Carl & Ann Steiert  
Lewis Robinson—from—Cecil Gwilym  
Angie & Tom Erath—from—Mary Jo Carlson  
Andrew Callero from:

Robert Kuzaro Family

Joe DalSanto Family

Carl & Ann Steiert

Linda & Tom Maks

Tom & Vi Campbell

Charles & Irene Thompson

Jack & Elsie Marchetti

Joe Bertelli from: Mrs. Thomas Wieltschnig and Lawson Hill Sewer Club

Joseph Malatesta from: Mr. & Mrs. Sam Zinter and Jack Brady

Next Meeting

The next general meeting of the Historical Society will be held on September 8  
at 2:00 p.m. at the Depot. Everyone is invited to come and see what has been  
accomplished since we last met. Please bring any ideas and suggestions as to  
what may be done in the future to further the on-going program.

Celebration

The first Annual Black Diamond Day has been deemed a huge success. The  
weatherman co-operated and all who attended seemed to have a good time.  
Since this was the first time that we have had a Black Diamond Day per se,  
the whole committee and everyone gained much experience. There is no reason  
why it should not just get better each year.

It was great to see so many familiar faces and to see everyone visiting  
and exchanging memories. The committee is asking all who attended to give  
their opinion and to tell us what they think might be done to make it even  
more enjoyable.

We are on the alert for craftsmen, especially those who demonstrate some of  
the crafts popular in olden times. If anyone knows of such people, please,  
let us know how we might get in touch with them. If any of the local groups  
want to have a booth, they are welcome too. It has been decided to begin  
holding meetings after the Christmas Holidays and to organize earlier.  
More in the next issue.....

Thursday Crew Activities

Those of you who have visited the Museum lately will note that the Wash House is completed and the Tool Shed is almost furnished. Additional artifacts will be put into the Tool Shed and each will be given a label stating pertinent facts.

The two weeks before Black Diamond Day were really a challenge to the Crew. They wanted to have the mining display at the north end of the building completed and the two new buildings also.

The simulation of a car being pulled from the mine took much work. The Power Company dug a hole into which a huge pole donated by Dan and Nancy Nicholas was to be placed. The wheel on top was obtained from the Mine 12 area where it was uncovered by the big "Blow-out" on the Green River Gorge Road. It was extremely heavy to handle. Archie Eltz manned the backhoe and guided the pole into the hole. It had been raining and the hole kept filling with water making it an uncertain situation!! Evan Morris helped the regular Crew to maneuver it into place. The whole area was a muddy mess. At one point Evan was heard to say, "How the heck did I get mixed up with you guys?" He was standing over his shoe tops in mud! Palmer Coking Coal Company donated cinders and Chuck Capponi paid for a load of gravel which was delivered in a truck donated by Bowen Construction Co. Larry Capps lent his expertise in leveling and spreading the materials on the railroad bed.

During the past very warm days the Crew has kept on working. They have put in a water line into the workshop area. It will provide a line which will activate a sprinkler system in the new area being landscaped.

There is work going on now on the bank in front of the depot. It will be a Memorial Garden in memory of Frank Guidetti. The whole area is being outlined with railroad ties. Jim Kuzaro is going to supervise planting of shrubs and low maintenance growth. Special pipe was laid at the base of the bank which will drain some of the abundance of water which comes from the hillside.

Each Thursday noon the men are still treated by a nice lunch provided by our good cooks. The following served recently:

<u>Marlene Bortleson</u>	<u>Rachel Fagnon</u>	<u>Dorothy Botts</u>	<u>Florence Garrett</u>
<u>Helen Manowski</u>	<u>Helen Darby</u>	<u>Lucille Barner</u>	<u>Ann Steiert</u>

If you would care to volunteer to serve lunch please call Rose Guidetti and let her know. Her number is 886-2858

Donation of Artifacts

Helen Manowski recently donated a photograph album which she compiled of Labor Day photos going back to the beginning of this last group of Labor Day celebrations. It is a very valuable record of the event and much appreciated.

Tom Erath, son of Casper, brought pictures of the Erath Family

Harold Anderson brought a photo of the Union Hall in Morgansville.

Hanne Gwilym brought in three dress<sup>s</sup> for ladies, a doll and a child's dress worn by Herald Gwylm in 1899.

We are very excited about all these additions and want to thank the donors for their thoughtfulness in giving them to the Museum.

Eva Litras donated a baker's coat and hat which belonged to George Eipper and a miner's belt which had belonged to Louis Draghi Sr.

Elsa and Orville Trover presented us with a ornate Union badge and a napkin which they purchased from the Andrew Callero estate.

Still Needed Items

Much interest is shown in the old wagon on display at this time. The tale that goes with it is that it was used to deliver milk around town and was pulled by a huge dog. We would like to find a picture, even if it isn't of our wagon, which shows a dog pulling such a wagon. Do any of our readers know of such a photo?

Also, now that we have some new dresses to show we will be needing more models on which to display them. We can always use wig forms too. We will need a male form in order to display a baker's coat & hat which belonged to our baker, George Eipper at the Black Diamond Bakery.

The Thursday Crew could use a good ditch diggers pick...not a miner's pick

What's In a Name?

by

Ann Steiert

During our recent Black Diamond Day Celebration I had several people ask me why I was Ann to most people and Annabelle to others. I decided to clear up the matter.

When I was ready to begin school, I lived in a small town in Colorado called Bowie. In those days your parents did not take you to school to enroll you if you had an older brother or sister. I was taken by my sister, Frances (later Fannie Tonkin). The area in which we lived was much like the Black Diamond area in that there were many ethnic cultures represented. We were Slovenian as were many others. For some reason or other they seemed to be partial to the names of Mary, Agnes, Frances and Annie for their daughters. When my sister went to enroll me there were several other girls with the name Annie. She took it upon herself to enroll me as Annabelle, a name which stuck for the next 12 years. I always accused her of having read a romantic novel or something. I disliked the name intensely but had no choice in the matter. I determined to shed the name as soon as I left High School. I did just that and became the Ann that most people know me by now. So if you hear anyone call me "Annabelle" you know that our acquaintance goes back to 1935 or earlier.

Labor Day

Labor Day is almost upon us once again. Plans are being made to enter a float in the Annual Parade. This year the theme will center around a small coal car which the Thursday Crew is going to construct. The Museum will be open from noon on all three days. The Quilters will be having a working display on the platform.

Did You Know.....

Have you heard the expression "Mind your P's & Q's" It is said that in early times miners would charge their beer at the Saloon and buy it by the pint or quart. It is said that the person who gave them their pay check would remind them to pay their Saloon bill by saying, "Mind your P's and Q's"

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32 in.	17½ in.	20¼ in.	41 lbs.	3.00
34 in.	18½ in.	21¼ in.	46 lbs.	3.25
36 in.	19½ in.	22¼ in.	50 lbs.	3.50



He was the Law West of the Cascades

Some say that by the early 1920's the wild, wild West was done except for a 700-square-mile area in our own Cascades

There were new railroads in and a building throughout this all but trackless forest, of course. There was a ring of new mining towns on the western outpost.

There were stickups, beatings and railroad workers killed and robbed of pay. There were six murders in the little town of Ravensdale in one year, to get down to cases, and some with little or no motive at all. Ten to 20 fights there every single day.

Matt Starwich, was born in Austria. He came to this country with his parents when he was four, and he was appointed deputy sheriff and the law in this area in 1902.

His qualifications were few and ample.....

He spoke six languages--loudly and firmly. He was afraid of no man on earth or any several men, broad-shouldered, armed with pick handles or pointing six guns.

Shortly after he was appointed, a young tough shot down two brothers in a Ravensdale saloon, then retreated through the dusk to a nearby miner's house.

Along came Matt Starwich.....

He walked right up to the front door, opened same and stood facing the killer over the sill. That worthy beat him to the draw. The story might have ended there---except that the hammer fell on a defective cartridge.

Starwich disarmed the man. He put cuffs on him and then he had to stand firmly before a couple hundred irate citizens who were all for hanging the killer on the spot.

Matt Starwich captured the last of the old time hoss thieves called "Cayuse Harry". He was said to have been one of the leaders of the "Hole in the Wall Gang", a band of stickups and killers that included Harry Tracy. He was wanted for stealing horses in North Dakota, Wyoming and Montana.

Matt Starwich had his suspicions. Not that, that he was sure and this man was mean quick on the draw and on the alert every second.

Starwich hired a horse and buggy. He borrowed a paste pot, a long-handled brush and some hand bills. He drove to a certain intersection, unlimbered the gear and waited.

Drove up as expected Cayuse Harry. He stopped his team, tied the reins to the brake handle and offered a few suggestions. The next thing he knew he was minus his six-gun and on the way to the bucket.

On a bitter night of Dec. 1908, three holdup suspects shot and killed Harry Miller, the town marshal of Kent. They fled and presently made the Milwaukee right-of-way, then under construction.

Starwich and another deputy shot it out with these men near North Bend. All five in the open and no more than twenty feet apart. One of the three was shot down. The other two headed for higher Passes.

Starwich lead a small posse on up through the snow. The end came at a trapper's cabin near Lake Keechelus.

There were men of all nationalities in the coal mine country/ Some brought the ancient traditions and hatreds with them. Starwich's best-known exploit concerned a riot at Bayne.

He went after 28 Russians--arrested them and put them in the pokey single-

Matt Starwich Cont'd

-handed.

Matt Starwich served as a fearless and able Sheriff in the local area for many years. It is said that he was one of the few men who would brave the less desirable areas and seek out culprits. Many stories are told of his exploits. Some pro and others con, just depending to whom you might be talking.

Matt Starwich went on to become King County Sheriff for two terms. He died on the eve of Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 1941

Note: Taken from the April 27, 1961 issue of Seattle Scene by Frank Lynch. He wrote it for Matt Starwich's Granddaughters.

GRANDMOTHER'S BROOM

Grandma's broom was very useful in so many different ways,  
And so much more when she was young than in these modern days.  
While its place was in the closet, it was seldom there at all  
But standing by the kitchen door to be ready for a call.

It chased the neighbor's chickens home, settled fighting dogs or cats  
And sometimes at the open door sent out unwelcome bats.

Cobwebs were brushed from ceilings with cloth to cover her broom,  
And woe to a wasp or spider that ventured in a room.

It swept the snow from porch and walk and from the children's feet.  
And for dislodging icicles her broom could not be beat.

The floors were swept by Grandma's broom (no vacuum cleaners yet)  
It got the parlor rug as bright as it could possibly get.

Bits of paper Grandma dampened were scattered about the room,  
Then these papers caught the dust raised up by Grandma's broom.  
When it became too old to use and it had had its day.

The handle still had uses too and was never thrown away.

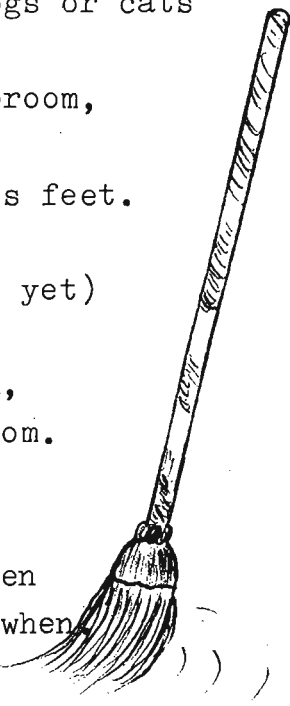
One portion made a handy stick for stirring white clothes then  
These were boiled on the kitchen stove in a boiler way back when.

The other part still left of it had another use you see  
It held weak tomato plants or braced a spindly tree.

There were times a little grandson got astride his grandma's broom  
to pretend he was on horseback and ride about the room.

Grandmother said it took awhile for new brooms to pass a test

The old one, she explained to me, always knew the corners best.



Calendars   Calendars   Calendars



Calendar Chairman Dave Sprau has been working on the 1986 calendar. He reports that it is at the printer's shop right now. He is hoping for an early delivery. At the very latest, the first of October.

\*\*\*\*\*

Taken from the Auburn Shopper July 21, 1938:

3 lbs. Crisco _____\$.49	Jello, 2 pkg. —\$.09	Miracle Whip _____\$.32
5 lbs. Honey _____ .39	6 pkg jar rubbers —\$.25	Bacon Squares _____ .19
2 lbs. Margarine _____ .39	Pot Roast, per lb. — .15	10 lbs. sugar _____ .49
3 pkg. paper towels —.25	Stew meat, per lb. — 11	3 tall cans milk _____ .19
49 lb. Fisher Flour —1.49	3 pkg. Cornflakes —.15	Pork & Beans _____ .05

Pacific Coast Coal Co. Hotel

The property across the street from the Depot has played a real role in the history of Black Diamond. In the early 1900's it was the site of several businesses such as two Hotels, a Meat Market, a Bakery, the Town Mortuary and a Tailor Shop. The Hotels, Meat Market and Bakery burned down on 1914. The Pacific Coast Coal Company decided to build a hotel to house the many men who had no families with them.

It was a large building occupying the area which now belongs to the F.O.E. According to information in the State Archives records, it had 67 rooms. It was two stories with a 75% basement. It had the following features:

<u>13 plumbing fixtures</u>	<u>1 tub on legs</u>	<u>1 Shower</u>
<u>3 toilets</u>	<u>7 Wash basins</u>	<u>1 sink, partially wood</u>
<u>1 steam boiler for heat.</u>	<u>No tile work</u>	

It had 6 ft. 6 ceilings in the basement and 9 ft. in the rest of the building. We are told that it had a restaurant when it was first built for people such as salesmen to stop at. The men were fed in a very large dining room. It is said that the PCCC prided itself on the good table that was set for their men. The Holiday meals were said to be outstanding.

The Hotel was the home of the first telephone exchange. The first operator was Maggie Gallagher, daughter of Paul Gallagher.

It was, also, the first place to house a Library room. It provided books for the men staying there and for the rest of the Town's readers. Because it was filled with so many men, the young ladies were usually not allowed by their parents to go for a book unless they went in pairs. That was the era when Zane Grey was very popular and the only place in Town where his books were available.

In later years the Hotel was managed under the supervision of Ella Sizemore. May McCarthy was the first waitress. Others who worked at various tasks were: Evelyn Niles, Mrs. Dernac, Lottie Poleski and Harriet Manowski.

Frank McCrae was the handyman. Many of us remember him for the unusual pet which he owned. It was a huge goose which followed him about like a dog. It was known to have taken a swipe at many a kid and dog! It had a fierce hiss.

Emil Rossi is said to have gotten his nickname "Ash Can" after working at the Hotel, helping to remove the ashes. He used a wheelbarrow and the cans would rattle in it.

It was torn down in 1943 after the decline of mining in the area.



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