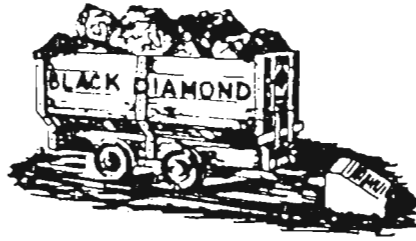


Black Diamond Historical Society



November 1985

Black Diamond, Washington

Volume X Issue III

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

Paul Bunker _____ Father of Pauline Babic

William Kramer _____ Father of Audrey

Mendenhall

Mae Rosso _____ wife of Louis Rosso

Memorials Received

Paul Bunker from: Mr. & Mrs. John Maks
Carl & Ann Steiert

William & Cora Kramer from:

Audrey Mendenhall

Carl & Ann Steiert

Roberta Dodds

John & Ellen Vieg

Lois Zumek

Mae Rosso from: Mr. & Mrs. Sam Zinter

Carl & Ann Steiert

Labor Day

As in the past, this year's celebration turned out to be a gala affair with large crowds attending. There was the usual parade and activities for all, for the whole week-end. The B.D.H.S. entered a float extolling coal. A coal car, made by Robert Eaton and Carl Steiert, was mounted on the back of Carl's Model T truck. It bore the sign "When Coal was King". It won the first prize for Organizational Floats. The Museum was very busy. There were several hundred visitors on the two days, Sunday and Monday. Many good comments were received from persons visiting it for the first time.

Meeting

Meeting

Meeting



The next general meeting will be held on November 10, at the Museum, at 2:00 p.m. There are several matters that need input from the membership so it is important that as many attend as possible. Lou and Rachel Fagnon will be showing their slides taken while they lived in Nepal.

Correction

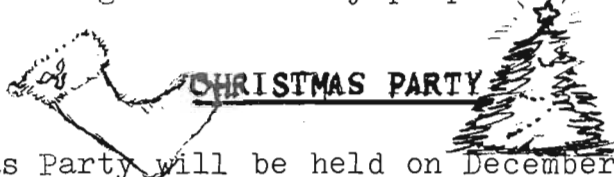
In the September issue under memorials listed, the name of Lewis Gwilym was incorrectly listed as Lewis Robinson. The donation was made by Cecil Gwilym Robinson.

Membership Statistics

There are 278 members in the Historical Society. There are 135 Lifetime members. We have lost 16 Lifetime members during the past five years. The rest are annual members. Our organization is unique in that the membership is spread so far and wide. We have some of the following data:

61 Seattle	73 Black Diamond	20 Renton	12 Auburn
8 Maple Valley	22 Enumclaw	21 California	18 Kent
4 Oregon	1 ea. Idaho, Colorado, Virginia, Kentucky, Montana, Wyoming		
6 Tacoma	30 Bellevue	2 ea, Kirkland, Federal Way, Bothell	
3 Olympia	Ravensdale, Mercer Island		
Mountlake Terrace	Summer	Camano Island	Spanaway, Edmonds
Kenniwick	Sequim	Bremerton	Issaquah
Centralia	Fall City	Lowell	Bellingham
Chehalis	Lynnwood	Stanwood	Mount Vernon
Shelton	Palmer	Arlington	Bonney Lake
Tukwila	Port Townsend	Puyallup	Snohomish

It is great corresponding with so many people from different places.



The annual Christmas Party will be held on December 8, at 1:00 p.m. at the Museum. It will be a good time to get into the Holiday mood. As usual there will be a Christmas treat Buffet and a program. Everyone is invited to come and share the day with their friends.

Depot Doings

The Thursday Gang has been doing mundane chores, getting ready for the winter weather. They have worked on the gutters, and the drainage system around the platform. Bob Eaton made doors for one of the last showcases which we had purchased. It is being filled with artifacts. Work is being done on the garden in front of the Depot and will soon be planted.

The men still get their good lunches. The past weeks have seen the following ladies prepare them: Lucille Barner, Betty Luke, Nancy Nicholas, Ray Fagnon, Rose Guidetti, Ann Steiert, Dorothy Botts, Marlene Bortleson. We are very grateful to them for their dedication. Rachel Fagnon drives from Normandy Park each 2nd Thursday to bring the lunch. Anyone willing to take part can let us know by calling Chairman Rose Guidetti at 886-2858.

Donations

Esther Van Der Heyden has donated two beautiful hanging lamps which she made to be used for our raffle or whatever need we have. Thank you, Esther
Ruth Ayres Hofto donated 4 folding chairs. They are in super shape. Our Thanks to you, too, Ruth. They are coming in handy.

George Manowski has submitted several valuable photos for which we are grateful

CALENDARS

The 1986 calendars are now available. Once again they feature thirteen photographs concerning the early days of the area. The price will be the same as last year..\$5.50 which includes tax or \$6.50 when mailed. Thus far the response has been good. We would appreciate all the help we can get in selling them.

BOOK

Plans are being made to publish a book on the history of Black Diamond as our part in the Washington State Centennial Celebration. For many years now interviews have been taped and history recorded with this eventual idea in mind. Diane Olson has been working on the compiling of the information and reports good progress. The publishing of a book is costly if one wants to do a good job. Recently the Society was awarded a \$500. Grant from the Pacific Northwest Bell Co. This money is being put aside as a beginning of a fund to pay for printing etc. Any donations from now on will be added so that when the time arrives we will have something to work with. We have been going to workshops and asking others who have already published what problems they encountered and seeking their advice.

MY FATHER'S HANDS

I used to be embarassed by my father's hands
 I wondered why he never tried to hide them when other people were
 around. I would, had I been him.
 I would have tried to keep from sight the thick and stubby fingers.
 The nails and knuckles torn and skinned and stained
 His hands weren't shaped and tapered like Doc Mason's
 Or like my music teacher's Mr. Coutier
 And so, I thought them clumsy, never thinking that in these dark,
 thick hands there was a magic, a talent less dramatic, still as
 surely as in the hands of surgeons and musicians.
 For with these hands, my Dad could delve into the earth to bring out
 its treasure, come home to spade a garden, mend my toys, and hold
 me in my childhood sorrows.
 My Father's hands wrought wonders which seldom were extolled.

Don't forget to: Come to the meeting on November 10.

Buy a calendar

Come to the Christmas Party--Dec. 8,

Patronize our advertizers

Donate your artifacts, memories and Photographs

Help your editor by contributing articles.

Citizen

of
the
Year



Citizen

of
the
Year

Alice Davies with plaque awarded at 1961 Labor Day Celebration

Alice Davies

Our studies of the 1882 migration from Nortonville, CA show that there were many ethnic groups represented. The Welsh and the Italians predominated. Research shows that amongst the Welsh there were many people bearing the same family name. Morgan, Evans, Davis and Davies were very common.

To the people who lived in Black Diamond during the period from 1930 until 1960, the name Davies immediately belongs to a wonderful woman named Alice Davies, affectionately called "Grandma Davies" by many. She was the good, kindly lady who ran the Confectionary. She had much patience with all the children who came to her store and shopped for "penny candy." Often they had only a penny to spend. Oh what a decision that was to decide which of the sixty varieties to choose!

Alice S. Davies was born in Maidens, Ayrshire, Scotland on Dec. 23, 1887.

She came to Newark, N.J. about 1910 and worked as a governess for a William Hiram Foulks, a Presbyterian minister for about 3 years. On the ship coming over, she met Yanto Davies and during the 3 years they corresponded. On her return to Scotland she became reacquainted with him. He had returned to Wales. He came to Black Diamond shortly after where with Tom James built their home at the end of the Ball Park. He sent for her one year later and they were married on June 1, 1914 in Seattle. During the miners' strike they had to move and bought their home in Morgansville. They had two children, Hannah Love born May 31, 1915 and Ior W. Davies born Sept. 19, 1917.

In 1930 they bought the Confectionary from Grover Curtis and she ran it until 1960, when she retired. She passed away in Black Diamond in 1966 at the age of 78. She left the world a better place for having been here.

Franklin Memories

Franklin in the last years of the 1880's represented a typical coal camp: a company town connected to the outside world by a railroad and telegraph line. Lying two miles east of the larger Black Diamond, it had an estimated one thousand persons in 1888 composed mostly of Welsh, English and Scotch, with some Irish, Italians and Belgians. The year before the territorial census had reported only 167 people in the precinct and perhaps the reporter overestimated the 1888 population, but Franklin did boom that year. Due to an Australian coal strike that sent San Francisco prices soaring, the mine, which had produced only 7500 tons in 1885, shipped 187,000 tons in 1888, the best year until the twentieth century. Since miners flocked to a booming coal town as fast as they could abandon a dying one, perhaps Franklin did increase sixfold in fifteen months.

The town literally hung over the north side of Green River several hundred feet above the churning water. Swirling over rapids and eddying around giant glacial boulders, the snowfed mountain water dropped four hundred feet in six miles as it carved its way through tower walls of sandstone and coal. From the water's edge a fisherman standing in the gorge looked up to a wild scene of dense forests covering the surrounding hills and crowding the narrow canyon floor, while numerous waterfalls fell over the cliffs high above and added their spray to the cool air.

With space at a premium and often bought by carving shelves into the hill, the main part of town was strung out along the edge of the railroad track. There the combined shops, blacksmith shop, coal bunker, and mine hoist vied for space with the eight-room houses for rent at \$10.00 a month. Scattered back around the hill were more houses and wall tents, as well as the five-room \$5.00 a month houses. The school lay further on the town's largest flat area and in 1888 had 229 pupils and one teacher. Two saloons slunk in exile far below the main section of town down many flights of stairs or zigzagging road near the county's new \$10,000. cantilever bridge. The company retained title to all the land.

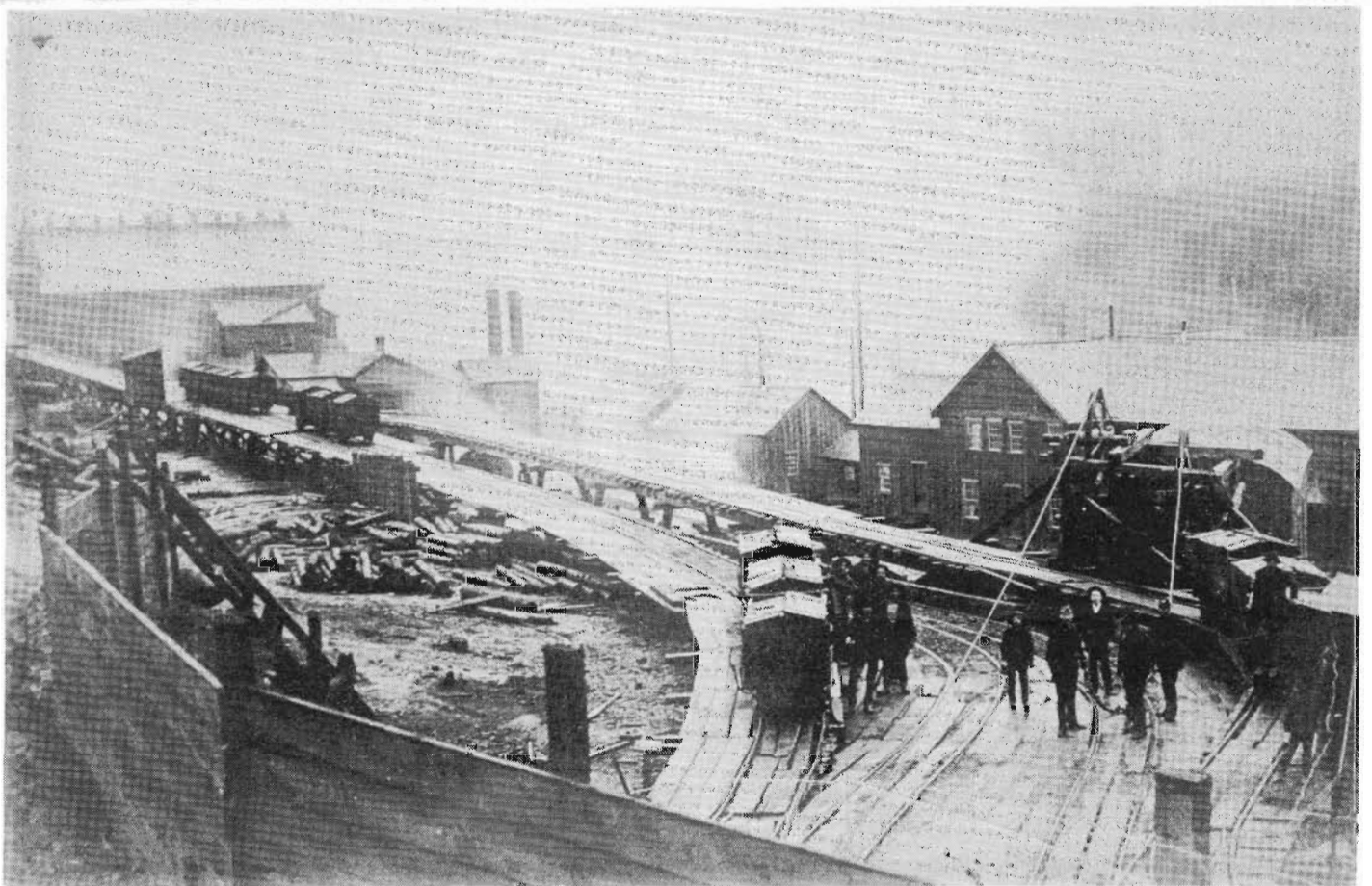
The mine lay in section 18, sunk in 1887 after the Northern Pacific refused to sell the old mine site, and it experienced no end of trouble. Sinking a new mine required innumerable judgements of location, railroad sidings, slope design, ventilation techniques, and mining methods. Only operation could determine the success of the design. Franklin mine suffered its full share of such man-made and natural ills.

Franklin Cont'd

The Historical Society has been fortunate to have a member who is dedicated to the collecting of the history of Franklin. Don Mason lives near Kent. He first became interested in this area after visiting a very old cemetery and becoming curious about the story behind a headstone which listed the miner killed in Franklin. His curiosity brought him to Black Diamond where he met Ted Barner. Ted took him into the Franklin area and he has been hooked ever since! Carl and Don have spent many hours exploring the Franklin area. They have taken many hiking parties and shown them the site. Recently Don went to the Renton Historical Museum and obtained six excellent photos which we did not know existed. He is very anxious to talk to anyone who has any information or pictures of Franklin.

As one drives toward Green River Gorge bridge, it is hard to realize that the hillside on the right once held a bustling town, mines and many people. It is history worth exploring.

The following photograph is one from the Renton Museum:

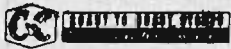


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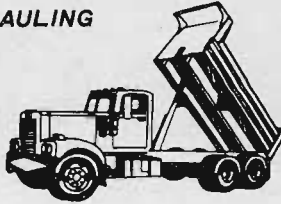
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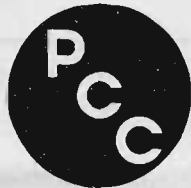


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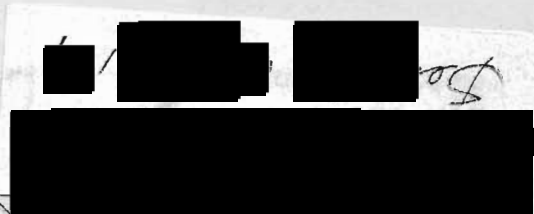


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