

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 MEMORIAM

Tom Maks — Husband of Lynda, father of  
John, Tom and Cindy. A native of Black  
Diamond. A life long resident.

Myrtle Koerner mother of Jack Koerner,  
widow of Walter, son of former drug-  
store owners.

MEMORIALS RECEIVED

Tom Maks from: Joe & Eileen Zumek  
Mr. & Mrs. Bud Simmons  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter  
Niemczyk  
Carl & Ann Steiert  
Mary Keehner (Savicke)

Frank Zumek from: Frank Costi  
Frank Guidetti from: Frank Callero  
Andrew Callero from: Louis Callero

Lorraine Rogers from:

Muriel Wing                   Margaret White  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Zumek   Arlene Parkin  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Parkin Herb Burnside  
Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Luse Leone Lane  
Marge Scofield

Mr. & Mrs. Sam Zinter  
Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Mead  
Howard & Dorothy Botts  
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Speed

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party which was held on Dec. 8 was deemed a success. There was a real spirit of the Season throughout the Museum. The buffet table was well laden with "goodies" not the least of which was an enormous bowl of shrimp and dip brought by Bob Eaton. They were delicious and enjoyed by all. A quartet of grade school girls played the violin and sang. They were, Chelsey Sebastian, Symbolyn Sebastian, Cati Johnson and Becky Johnson. Their songs were so sweet and touching that when it came time for Community singing most of us had "lumps in our throats" and could not join! A good time was had by all.

JANUARY MEETING

The first meeting of 1986 was held on Jan. 12. Vice-president Rachel Fagnon called the meeting to order. A recap was held of the activities which have taken place during 1985. Plans for the Black Diamond Day celebration were discussed. Several good suggestions were offered and will be presented to the Board and incorporated into the plans. The need for more space in the Museum was talked about. Carl Steiert spoke of the Thursday Crew trying to figure out any possible way to build another room off the Doctor's display room. The meeting concluded with a slide show of the area. The next regular meeting will be held on March 9.

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MUSEUM DOINGS ETC.

The Thursday Crew has been much saddened by the departure of Martin Moore. Due to a crisis in his family, Martin is no longer able to work with us on Thursdays. He drove from Seattle each Thursday for the past five years and became an invaluable worker on the project. Most of all, we miss him for the companionship which we grew to feel for him. At last report we have heard from him from his former home in Alabama. We really miss him.

Robert Eaton, our Society's president, has spent several weeks in the hospital having more surgery on his hip. He is recovering nicely now and ready to go! We've missed him very much.

The wretched weather that we had during November and December really brought things down to a crawl. During the cold weather when the roads were icy, Bob and Carl spent much time in the Depot Bay watching the cars slide down the hill and bash the light pole above the bank. Other cars hit the railroad ties which the Crew had installed as part of the landscaping project. Everyone agreed that we were most fortunate that no vehicle had sailed into the Depot itself. One of the future projects is going to be to put cement posts along the road with some sort of cable to keep the situation from happening again.

Some time was spent in swabbing the platform with Clorox to prevent the build-up of moss and to keep it from becoming slippery and a hazard. The Crew did everything they could to winterize the building....such as building a door to enclose the simulated mine and repair the skirting to keep the wind from blowing through the foundation.

We were lucky to have been able to purchase a used multiplex from Boeing Surplus. It has five panels and is wall mounted. It will be used for documents and papers which require nearness to be read such as diplomas and news copies.

The windows in the center room have been boarded up on the west side in order to keep the sun and light off the pictures and artifacts. A light is being installed from the ceiling above the displays. The traffic light in the center of the room will be activated also.

We are very excited about the latest artifacts given to us from the estate of Dr. H.L. Botts by Howard and Dorothy Botts. They include more pieces to the x-ray equipment, some medical journals, an early Philco cabinet model radio, His medical diploma, many newspaper clippings dating back many years. A very old hot plate with an unusual switch. We want to thank Howard and Dorothy for sharing with us. Norma Gumser donated an unusual tabletop stove which belonged to her parents and looks to be a fore-runner of the modern toaster oven. Thank you, Norma for a very interesting contribution.

Shelves have been installed above the cider press and Still in our "Booze room". These will be used to display the many bottles which have been given to the Museum.

One thing that we are still looking for are Photos of the area, specifically the area behind the Pool Hall and the Depot. We do not have anything showing the Livery stable, the bowling Alley, the blacksmith shop, or the Krause Saloon from the front view. We'd like a picture of Harry McDowell and of the Superintendent's house lived in by Morgan Morgans. We are fortunate to have located a man who lives in the Hobart area, Terry Seeman, who is going to copy some of our photos and make slides. He does excellent work.

Mr. Seeman is researching the town of Taylor. If any of our members have any information about Taylor when it existed, he would really appreciate hearing from you.

OH! THE GOOD OLD DAYS!!

At a recent meeting a group of people were talking about the "Good Old Days" as compared to modern times. When asked whether they'd like to go back to them they answered, almost with one voice, "NO WAY!!"


Everyone spoke of the elation when indoor plumbing was introduced. Everyone agreed that they did not miss carrying and heating water for washing dishes and clothes, taking baths. It meant no more carrying water to fill the wash boiler on the stove or filling the reservoir on the kitchen range, if you were lucky enough to own one.

Most of all, each one said what they didn't miss was the trip out to the little house when Mother Nature called. Gertrude Weston recalled the many times she had to carry out buckets of hot water laced with lye to scrub out the facility. She, also, recalled the hours spent with her sister, Helen, shopping the Sears Roebuck catalogue. Louis Zumeck told of the time that he and his brother, Frank, brought a cow home in a trailer. While jockeying the trailer around they upset their privy. He said his Father yelled at them more than if they had upset the family dwelling. Another recollection was the trek out just before going to bed. It was sometimes known as going out to "count the stars". Really scary at night depending on its location.

And then...came electricity...even greater changes took place. No one missed the following:

<u>Washing Lamp chimneys</u>	<u>Beating rugs</u>	<u>filling the lamps</u>
<u>Carrying out ashes</u>	<u>Bringing in coal</u>	<u>washing clothes by hand</u>
<u>Ironing with the stove iron</u>	<u>keeping food cold in a screened cooler.</u>	

Later we enjoyed listening to the radio and now the television. Those were the Good Old Days but we decided that these are the GOOD OLD NOW DAYS!!!

CALENDARS 

A recap as to how the sales of the 1986 calendars are going reveals this year there is a slow down. There have not been as many requests from members as in past years. Unless more are sold, there will be serious consideration given to abandoning publishing another one. We'd like an opinion from the members. Do you not want a calendar published? If you have a gripe concerning them we'd like to have that too. As it now stands, we are just taking in enough to pay for the printing and very little profit. There is too much work involved to keep going in this manner.

MUSEUM VISITORS

The past year saw many visitors to the Museum. There were many school tours and Senior Citizen groups which went through. Each one is given a guided tour and the children are given a small sack of coal to take home. Since we opened in 1982 nearly 40,000 people have gone through. Late in October we were honored by having Governor Gardner spend some time with us. The names in the visitors' Log tell us that they have come from all over the world, for example:

<u>Union City ,CA.</u>	<u>Sidney, Aust.</u>	<u>Huntington, N.Y.</u>	<u>Holland</u>
<u>Lake Arrowhead</u>	<u>Baton Rouge, LA.</u>	<u>Wales</u>	<u>Tokyo, Japan</u>
<u>Oakridge, Tenn.</u>	<u>St. Louis, MO.</u>	<u>Hampton, MA.</u>	<u>San Diego, CA.</u>
<u>Edmonton, Alberta</u>	<u>Kent England</u>	<u>Apache Junction, AZ.</u>	<u>Sarasota, FA.</u>
<u>Essen, Germany</u>	<u>Honolulu, HA</u>	<u>Fairbanks, AK</u>	<u>Austin, Texas</u>

Museum hours: 12 noon to 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. 9 a.m. to 3: Thursdays  
For special tours or visits on other days, call Carl Steiert --886-1168 or  
Elaine Griffin at 886-2663.

While researching the history of Black Diamond we often run into stories which in turn recall to mind other persons and places.

Did you know that:

During the 1921 Strike the strike breakers and their families lived in the fenced-in area near the mine. It was called the Bull Pen. The track from the mine area into Black Diamond had barbed wire strung on each side of it. Armed guards would march the children to school each day along the track. They would also, guard the men who stayed at the hotel and march them to work. These people later occupied the houses vacated by the strikers who moved to Morgansville.

That the first automobile in town was owned by Bill Hahn.

That the first train into Black Diamond was in 1884 and the first load of coal went out in 1885.

The Pacific Coast Coal Company owned a big red barn in the area right behind the company store. It housed the wagons and teams of horses, later their Model-T delivery trucks.

The favorite spot for the men to loaf was the rail between the Pool Hall and the Depot. There they mined coal, swapped tall tales, and solved the problems of the world. Some mothers cautioned their daughters to walk on the far side of the street when passing that area because some of the men were not to be trusted!!


At one time the area we know as "Old Lawson" once had 50 houses. They had a small school and store. The settlers were mostly of German, Austrian French and Belgian backgrounds.

\*\*\*\*\*

SUCH IS LIFE!

When he's little, the big girls kiss him.  
When he's big, the little girls kiss him.  
If he's poor, he's a bad manager.  
If he's rich, he's dishonest  
If he needs credit, he can't get it.  
If he's prosperous, everyone wants to do him a favor.  
If he's affectionate, he's a soft specimen.  
If he cares for no one, he's cold-blooded.  
If he dies young, there was a great future before him.  
If he lives to an old age, he missed his calling.  
If he saves his money, he's an old miser.  
If he spends, he's a waster.  
If he gets it, he's a grafter.  
If he doesn't, he's a bum.  
Such is Life.....

Note: The above verse was found in some of the papers from the Dr. Botts estate. A special Thank you to Alvin Morgan, Joe Potochnik and Ken for their articles and verse which they contributed. They will be used in the future.

 DUES DUES DUES

This is time of the year that dues are due. There are a few who missed last year. Unless we hear from them soon, in fairness to the members who keep current, this will be their last Newsletter.

Due:

MARY MINAGLIA REMEMBERS:

Mary Minaglia, who was born at the turn of the century in Black Diamond, was interviewed recently by Carl Steiert and Diane Olson. Mary's parents immigrated from Genoa, Italy in the early 1890's. In the following excerpts from her interview Mary recalls childhood memories of "Italian Food".

"My father built the oven and he always cooked the turkey. My mother was an excellent cook, and on those big Holidays, we always had the ravioli. But they weren't like the ravioli you get in the restaurants, they were wonderful! Ravioli and we'd have the turkey and, as I say, my father would cook it out in the oven out there.

You know, my Father was awfully handy. I have the original grater which my Father made. You know, the regular box. He made the grating part with a nail, to make it rough. He made the drawer it sat in. It was for grating cheese for the Macaroni. He always said he couldn't go to Church, because he had to grate the cheese for the Macaroni!

We never had pizza and to this day, I don't like pizza. There were lots of Southern Italians up there (Black Diamond) but never do I remember having pizza. You know the nearest thing to pizza, though---you know when my mother would make lasagne she always made her own hand made noodles. One of my father's favorite pasta was lasagne. They were squares. They weren't like what you buy now, they were squares. And my mother would give us some. We'd put it on the stove to brown---on top of the stove. So it would be cooked. But even so it was chewy. We ate Italian food, because we ate more vegetables than the English-speaking

people. You take broccoli and brussel sprouts and all that---and savoy cabbage-- we had savoy cabbage. That is comparatively new here----maybe the last 20-30-40 years. Of course, every night we had soup. And my Father always wanted soup that you could stand the spoon straight up in. Minestrone---it was thick with lots of vegetables and macaroni.

We stored the vegetables in the basement. Of course, that was before frozen vegetables. The vegetables that we had in the winter were mostly cabbage, carrots, and rutabagas---stuff that you could even leave in the ground. We had potatoes all year round. They were in the cellar.

I didn't know about food coming in cans until I worked at the Company Store. Of course, they had peas and things like that. I think in the early days they buried their garbage (from the cans) and of course, they always had a compost. There was only one garbage that went into our toilet. My mother never believed in pickles. She said, "That ruins your stomach". So my sister bought a jar of pickles, because she was crazy for pickles. My mother found it. She had hidden it but my mother found it and it went in the toilet. She said, "I know she won't get it down there!" You don't want to fill that up with garbage because you had to dig your own outhouse.

I remember once we went to a picnic. I think Black Diamond went with the people of Franklin. It was held at Franklin. It was at the Knights of Pythias Hall. They had a big supper. They had these big, long tables. One of my favorite foods ---we never had potato salad at home the way this potato salad is. I remember they had this potato salad, that was one of my favorite foods. To this day it is. Our potato salad was hot. Sometimes my mother would put green beans in it or other vegetables. Hot potato salad! Oh! isn't it good though? But the way it is now---I never knew what mayonaise was until I worked in the Store. So it was different foods like that. It's funny what attracts kids."

Thank you, Mary for sharing your memories with the Black Diamond Historical

Society. We have printed just a portion of the information she gave us. The Black Diamond Historical Society has interviewed around 40 people who lived in the area in the early days. The interviews will be used to compile an Oral History of this rich, coal Mining country. This book, which will present our history using the very words of those who helped make it, will respect each person's point of view and perspective of what happened.

We are interested in listening to anyone who has a story to share about any topic relating to this area's history---mining, disaster, churches, bootlegging, family life, the Strike, schools, ethnic culture, or anything that helps paint a picture about this exciting mining camp where so many immigrants got their foothold in America.

Submitted by: Diane Olson

### THE SHOW HALL

This building was the center of activities in Black Diamond for many years. It is remembered by most people who lived here before 1966. It was built in 1898. We are told that it was built partly of redwood. When the Black Diamond Coal Company would bring their supplies from their former site in California, they would bring some large redwood timbers at the same time. The reason for this was that they did not have the tools to cut the huge trees which were growing in the local area. They were so busy developing the mine that they brought mining machinery first.



The Showhall. Formerly located in the business section of Black Diamond, it was built in the early 1890's as a community hall. It was partially built with redwood timbers brought up from California. It was later closed in the late 1960's.

The building was known as the Town Hall at first. It was the center of civic activities. It was two stories high. The Fraternal Organizations and Union meetings were held upstairs. Verna Thompson tells us that her mother went to school for a short time in classes held there. Most civic events took place here. There were programs, plays and the Children's Christmas Party. It was resplendant with its decorated tree with candles on it. There were boxing matches called "Smokers".

We are told that at first the floor was flat. When there were activities on the stage the audience used benches. In between events the benches were taken out and the area was used for roller-skating. Later as movies came in the floor was remodeled to the slanting position most of us knew.

The earliest names we can find of men who ran it were two called Crooks and Belore. Later Mr. Glenn, who would stand on the front porch and tell all that the show was to begin by calling "Let's Go". Henry Babb and the Black Diamond Community Club took charge. Carl and Beatrice Unick and Wayne Johnson worked there under a Dwight Spracker who was a salesman for Paramount Films. Beatrice tells us that he put down a new carpet through the center and refurbished the place. Carl Steiert recalls the curtain with a center picture of Green River Gorge and different business's advertising around it. Chick and Hazel O'Connell ran it for several years. It was finally purchased and torn down by Al Lynch in 1966. Many of us now using our hind-sight regret it being taken down in view of the interest in quaint little theatres that exists.

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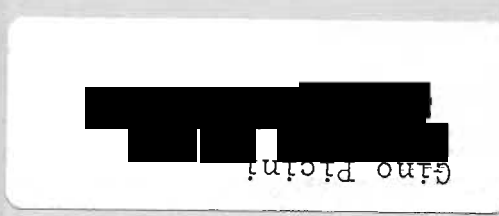
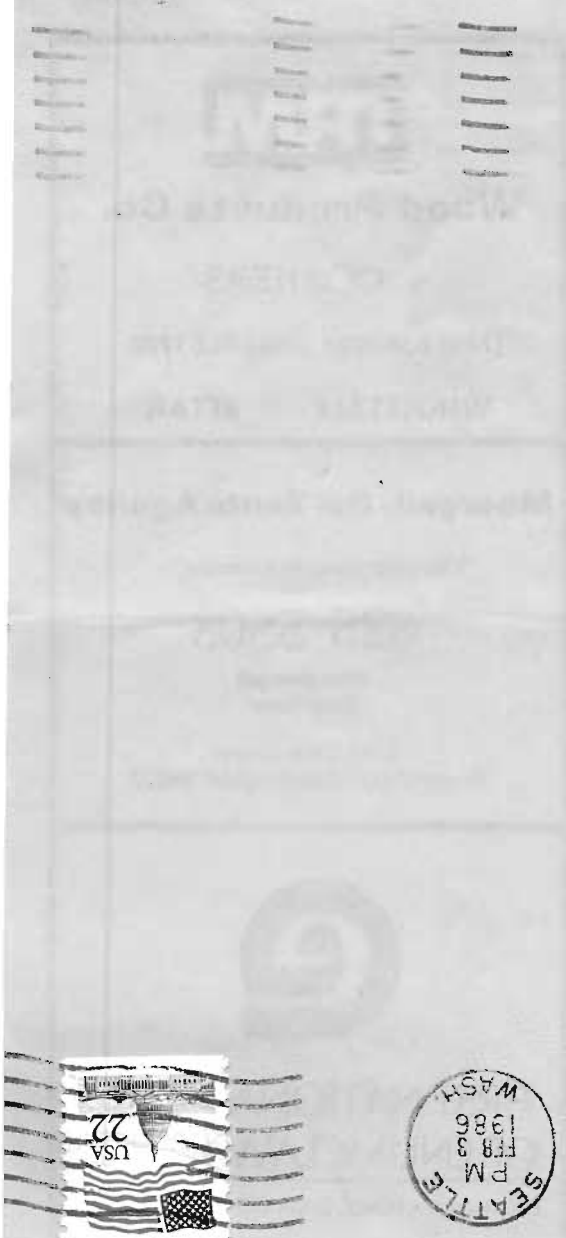
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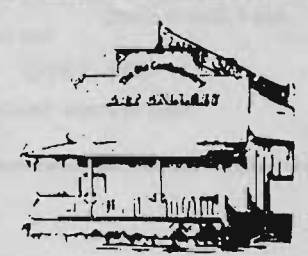
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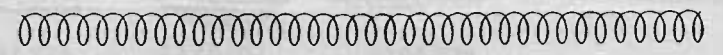
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