

*Black Diamond Historical Society*



August 1986

Black Diamond, Washington

Volume XI Issue III

In the ten years that the Historical Society has been in existence there has been a big toll in the loss of friends and members. There are 76 names on the Memorial Plaque. The past two years seem to have been especially sorrowful in that we have lost many who worked very hard to get the Society established and to accomplish its' goals.

Since the May Newsletter we have lost:

Mary Lucchessi——— wife of Louis and mother of Judy

Louis Zumek——— Father of Gerri Pierce and John, brother of Tom, Joe & Frank and Frances.

Frank Costi——— Stepfather of Lucile Myrick

Edith Moroni Davies —— Mother of Joyce Duncan and Bill Davies

Arthur Winbeckler —— Husband of Alma

Muriel Evans Wing —— Sister of Debbie, Barbara, Lin, Margaret, Gomer, David and Tom.

Louis Capponi——— Father of Penny, Charles and Robert

Amos Ungherini——— Former station master at the Black Diamond Depot

MEMORIALS RECEIVED

Frank Guidetti—— from—— Rose Guidetti and Family

John Maks —— " —— Mary Darby, Mr. & Mrs. Bud Simmons, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kuzaro, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Niemczyk

Bill Sayer——— " —— Mr. & Mrs. Bud Simmons

Pat O'Brien —— " —— Ralph Banchemo

Mary Lucchessi—— " —— Don, Lucile and Sheri Myrick, Howard and Dorothy Botts Carl and Ann Steiert and Margaret Vernarelli.

Louis Zumek from:

Arthur Eltz	Lois Zumek	Louis Zumek Family
Ruby & Ethel Duncan	Carl & Ann Steiert	Jack & Joyce Duncan
Palmer Coking Coal	Mr. & Mrs. Lowell Hardison	Mr. & Mrs. Louis Matko
David & Flo. Garrett	James Vernarelli	Fitz Auto Rebuild
John E. Thomson	Mr. & Mrs. Everett Swann	Mr. & Mrs. Evan Thomas
Frank & Anne Brennan	Agnes Ranard	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kuzaro
Josephine Long	Helen Darby	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Potochnik
Annette Johnson	Joe & Evelyn Dal Santo	David & Beth Sprau
Anne F. Thorsett	Mr. & Mrs. Grant Griffin	Mr. & Mrs. Ken McGoff
Emery Hill Sr.	Ken & Genevieve Tasker	Mr. & Mrs. Don Mason
Evan & Joan Morris	George & Darlene Gillis	Jewel & Michael McCloud
Kathy Lang	Frank & Elizabeth Grgurich	Helen Harp
Robert Eaton	Miles & Shari Pierce	Bob Mary & Andi Campbell
Al & Beatrice Rossi	Mary Grgurich	Bruce & Betty Wheeler
Mr. & Mrs. Len. Flothe	Rose Guidetti	Black Diamond City
Mr. & Mrs. Norm Gumser	Frank & Helen Manowski	Employees
Lou & Rachel Fagnon	Mr. & Mrs. Louis Draghi Jr.	George & Kay Hazen.

MEMORIALS cont'dJack Darby \_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_ Mary DarbyArthur Winbeckler " " \_\_\_\_\_ Alma Winbeckler \_\_\_\_\_ Carl & Ann SteiertMuriel Wing From:

Jewell McCloud	Eve & Florence Thomas	Marie Newell
Lois Zumek	Ann Anderson	Marge Edera
Mary Higgins	Carl & Ann Steiert	Arthur Eltz
Helen Mislov	Albert & Beatrice Rossi	Elsie St. Luise
Lon Harvey	Selma Schweikel	Ann C. Nielson

Edith Davies From:

Lena Church	Margaret Vernarelli	Don Weston
Jane Loken	Lois Zumek	Mr. & Mrs Eve. Thomas
Mrs. Marion Sharitz	James Everham	Carl & Ann Steiert
Mrs. Vernal Church	May Duncalf	Tom & Georgie Zumek
Madelon Wake	Hazel & Dallas Severson	Frank & Anne Brennan
Louis & Rachel Fagnon		

Frank Costi From:

Ethel & Ruby Duncan	Lois Zumek	Edith Tost
Carl & Ann Steiert	Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Murdock	Andrew & Carol Cairnes
Everett & Olga Swann	George & Sandra Bradley	Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Flothe
Doris Rogers	Mr. & Mrs. Joe Dal Santo	Garth & Dorothy Trockesett

Louis Zumek

The Thursday Crew really mourn the death of Louis. He had worked with the Group since the Museum project first started. The whole Society benefited greatly by his efforts. He worked with the many maps and charts which were donated to the Society. His many years as a surveyor stood him in good stead in deciphering the old documents.

We miss him as an individual and special friend. His wry sense of humor furnished many a good laugh and happy time. We were always able to count on him as a "Good Buddy". We'll always miss him.

Frank Costi

Frank was a charter member of the Society. He spent many hours "sitting" the Museum. He was one-of-a-kind and constantly kept us on our toes. He was a Board member for many years. We will miss him for he helped make the whole project better.

Thursday Blues

The Thursday Crew of volunteers has been hard hit this past two years in the loss of Frank Guidetti and Louis Zumek. Their numbers have never been big therefore losing two members is a very significant loss of man power.

Much has been accomplished since the first of the year. The landscaping which was done on the front bank is bringing many complimentary comments. During this past month work has been done in the area adjacent to the platform. The railroad bed was worked on. ties have been put down with rails on top. It has been very hard work. Each man was quick to say "I'm d---glad it is a one time only job!!" It really looks great.

We are trying to locate an early caboose. Several leads which we had proved fruitless. We'd appreciate it if any of the members have any ideas or connections which might help us get one..

Thursday Cont'd

A project as large as the laying of the ties and tracks involves more than the efforts of a few people. The rails were obtained through the efforts of Ole Una, a member who lives at Bayne. The ties were purchased. Palmer Coking Coal donated gravel and ballast rock. They, also, helped in leveling the railroad bed before the tracks were laid. The following men have contributed both their time and efforts to complete the job:

<u>Joe Romedo</u>	<u>Joe Kuzaro</u>	<u>Don Mason</u>	<u>Bill Harshfield</u>	<u>Robert Eaton</u>
<u>Martin Moore</u>	<u>Carl Steiert</u>	<u>Ray Mihelack</u>	<u>Ted Barner</u>	<u>Norman Gumser</u>
<u>Evan Morris</u>				

MEMORIAL TIES

Purchasing the railroad ties for both the landscaping and the new track section has taken quite a bit of funding. Lois Zumek suggested that we might sell memorial ties much in the manner of the Memorial Tiles being sold by the Pike Place Market. The Board liked the idea and has decided to put it to the membership. The ties will be sold for \$10.00 each. There will be a number put on each tie with a matching number on a plaque on the wall. It will be outside of the building where it can be seen at any time. The name of the donor and the individual in whose memory it was donated will be on the plaque. Thus far we have had eleven ties sold.

We hope that the membership approves. If you want to purchase a tie...send a check to Box 232 Black Diamond, WA. 98010.

Black Diamond Day

Black Diamond Day has to be one of the happiest attended celebrations on record. Although it is held but for a few short hours those who took part seemed to be really enjoying themselves. At twelve o'clock noon the mine whistle was blown to signal the start of the festivities. The crowd had been gathering much earlier. On the stage there were musicians and speakers entertaining the crowd for the afternoon. The Fraternal Organizations, the Black Diamond Quilters, wood carvers and a blacksmith provided both food and instructions as they displayed their wares. A Ballet Group from Enumclaw danced in the street and drew much applause for their performance. Much time was spent in visiting and getting reacquainted. Many people toured the Museum for the first time. A good time was had by all.

We would welcome letters from those of you who attended giving us your opinion as to how you enjoyed yourselves and how the Day can be improved. A word of thanks to Evan Morris, Norman Gumser and Robert Eaton for providing the platform, the sound equipment and getting the musicians.

Raffle

At three o'clock on Black Diamond Day the names of the winners in this year's raffle were drawn. The following were the winners:

1st. Margaret Spaight Covey won the Wishing Well

2nd. Earl and Elsie Upton chose the \$25.00 in place of the Dinner House tickets.

3rd. Roland Day won the Lamp made by Esther Van Der Heyden

<u>Raffle Statistics:</u>	<u>Cost</u>		
ticket printing	\$37.81	ticket money ret'd	\$937.00
enclosure letters	13.25	less expenses	<u>-136.06</u>
Stamps & envelopes	60.00	Profit	\$800.94
2nd prize	<u>25.00</u>		
	\$136.06		

Raffle cont'd

We would like to thank all of the members who took part in the raffle. We really appreciate it. A special word of thanks to the following who sent in extra money along with their ticket return:

<u>Douglas Danley</u>	<u>Joe Potochnik</u>	<u>Frank Callero</u>	<u>Harold Hoyt</u>
<u>Clarence Smith</u>	<u>Sutherland McLean</u>	<u>Lennie Witt</u>	<u>Clara Murphy</u>
<u>George Malatesta</u>	<u>Bill Petchnick</u>	<u>Elna Baker</u>	<u>Sam Zinter</u>
<u>Robert Glackin</u>	<u>Emil Rossi</u>	<u>Jennie Johnson</u>	<u>George Savicke</u>
<u>Ruth Hofto</u>	<u>Margaret Stanley</u>	<u>Marie Freeman</u>	<u>Cleo Balsley</u>

?? CALENDARS ??

For the past 2 years the sales of the Historical calendar have been lagging. This past year we barely broke even. Costs of publishing have escalated to the point that in order to publish a quality calendar the price is great. There was not the usual membership response this year as had been in the past. The Board decided not to publish one this year. We hope that we can get some input from the members on this matter. Perhaps next year some better way will be found to publish one.

Help! Help! Help! help! help!

Both Rose Guidetti and Elaine Griffin need help in their individual areas. Rose needs more Thursday Cooks and Elaine needs more sitters for the weekends for the Museum. The recent loss of Frank Costi and Louis has left her short. The Thursday Gang has been treated to good lunches by:

<u>Marlene Bortleson</u>	<u>Dorothy Botts</u>	<u>Lucile Barner</u>	<u>Rose Guidetti</u>
<u>Frank Manowski</u>	<u>Helen Darby</u>	<u>Betty Luke</u>	<u>Ann Steiert</u>
<u>Nancy Nicholas</u>	<u>Gertrude Weston</u>	<u>Norma Gumser</u>	

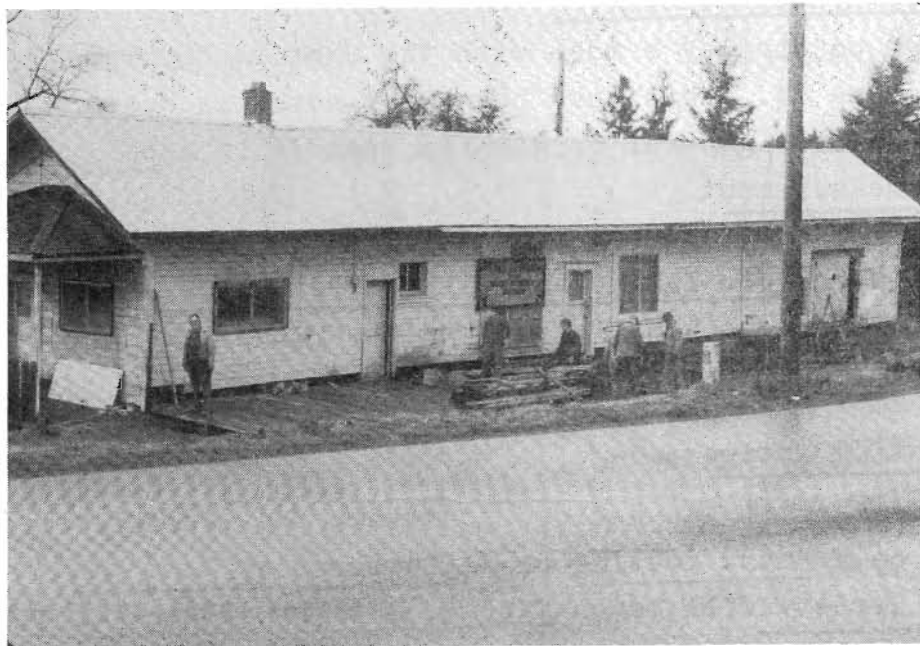
If you are called, please consider giving them a hand. If everyone does it once in a while, nobody will have to do it all the time. The men really enjoy it!

This poem was found on the counter at the Black Diamond Pharmacy. Mary Shigaya kindly gave us a copy.

Old Age is Hell

Your body gets stiff, you get cramps in your legs.  
 Grns on your feet as big as hen's eggs  
 Gas in your stomach, elimination is poor,  
 Take Ex-Lax at nite, even then your're not sure.  
 you soak in the tub or the body will smell  
 Just like I said "Old Age is Hell".  
 The teeth start decaying, eyesight is poor  
 Hair falling out all over the floor.  
 Sex life is shot. It's a thing of the past  
 Don't kid yourself, friends, even that doesm't last.  
 Can't go to parties, don't dance anymore.  
 Just putting it mildly,---you're a hell of a bore.  
 Liquor is out, can't take a chance.  
 Bladder is weak, might wet my pants.  
 Nothing to plan for, nothing to expect  
 Just the mailman bringing your social security check.  
 Now be sure your affairs are in order and Will is made right  
 Or on the way to your grave there'll be a hell of a fight.  
 So if this year you feel fairly well.  
 Thank God your alive. Old Age is Hell

Louis Sonazzaro



### Before

In 1976 the Black Diamond Historical Society was established. Its aim was to preserve and collect as much of the area's history as was still available, also, to make a Museum of the Depot. It was in a deplorable state, mountains of debris to be disposed of. The new members worked long and hard...now ten years later.....

### After

The interior has been made into a pleasant viewing area for the many articles which have been received. The Bay and platform were rebuilt, the exterior got a coat of paint. A new roof was added. A mining exhibit and buildings were built in the north end. Many people have visited the facility and many have complimented the Society on what has been accomplished.



*Black Diamond Historical Museum, Black Diamond, Wa.*

Vital Statistics: There are 272 members in the Society. 212 Lifetime members There are 60 members over eighty years old. They reside in Alaska, Virginia, California, Montana, Oregon, Canada, and Washington.

### NEW ARTIFACTS

Recently received from:

Frank Mañowski an excellent history of the town of Roslyn

Bill Kombol and Palmer Coking Coal several volumes of State mine inspector reports dated 1889.

Ray Mihelak, a toy steam engine and a early N.P. train blanket

Jerry Pierce, a canteen belonging to her father, Louis Zumek.

Regina Whitehill, early report cards and certificates, and a dress which was worn at the turn of the century.

Wm. Ashbury Family. Pie Safe, a cabinet which came around the Horn and was used by the Tim Morgan Family.

Verna Thompson, a Blacksmith's vise used in the early years of Black Diamond.

Jerry Fee, a light off of a locomotive and a Caboose lamp.

Joe Kuzaro, a new "mystery tool" and an old car wheel.

Lawrence Stoffel, a laminated wood wheel used to drive big belts.

Gary Ott, A detectives kit complete with blackjack and gun.

William Irwin, an early electric mixer.

Frank Costi Estate, Post Office sorting table with pigeon holes for general delivery, also mine tools.

?????Mystery Tool?????

For several months there has been on display a tool with the Caption "Mystery Tool" and challenges viewers to name it. There have been many somewhat heated discussions as to what it might be. The general opinion is that it is a caliper used by Blacksmiths for a fixed measurement.

This has sparked the fun of guessing so that soon there will be two new and very hard to guess articles displayed. Joe Kuzaro and William Petchnick are responsible for these two items. We are looking forward to the guessing. Our thanks to them and to all who have been contributing artifacts.

Meeting Notice



At the last Board of Directors meeting it was decided to revamp the meeting schedules this Fall. There will be a Board meeting on September 8 at 7:00 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Society will be on Sunday, October 12 at 2:00 p.m. We are hoping to have Jackie Cedarholm present her excellent slides of a trip she took to Wales. Since this will be the last Newsletter before the meeting, Please write it on your calendar and watch for announcements as the date draws near. Because this Society belongs to all the members we feel that everyone should take part in the meetings.

What's in a name?

Did you know:

that Auburn was once called "Slaughter"

Kent was once called Titusville?

Renton was named in honor o Capt.Wm.Renton, a founder of the Renton Coal Co.

Black Diamond was named after the Black Diamond Mining Company,

Enumclaw was named in 1885 for a mountain six miles north of town. The Indians named the mountain Enumclaw, "Home of Evil Spirits" because of a lightning storm which crashed upon an Indian Encampment at the base of the mountain.

Tukwila an Indian name meaning "Land of the Hazelnuts."

Maple Valley, shortened from Vine-Maple Valley. One of the town founders C.O.Russell argued that it should be Maple Ridge. He lost the argument.

White River, a descriptive name referring to the glacial "milk" which colors it chalky. The Indian name was Smalocho.

Green River, a descriptive name given by early mapmakers apparently referring to the foliage. The Indian name was Nooscope.

\*\*\*\*\*

Taken from the St. Barbara's Cookbook "These Thy Gifts. Published in 1940s

30-Wine or Instant Vino

Phyllis Kelly

- |                     |                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 empty gallon Jug. | 3 6-oz cans frozen grape juice        |
| 10 2/3 cups water   | 1 pkg dry yeast                       |
| 4 c. sugar          | 1 heavy balloon (the former 10¢ kind) |

Pour thawed juice into jug. Dissolve sugar in 10c. near boiling water. Add to juice. Dissolve yeast in 2/3 c. warm water, add to juice. Put into jug. Stir well. Put balloon on jug and secure with rubber band--tightly. Balloon will inflate as mixture ferments. It will deflate whe wine is ready.

Note: This recipe works as a great conversation pi<sup>e</sup>ce if placed in a spot where it can readily be seen. The last batch made by your Editor was used to marinate some steaks and it nearly dissolved them....They were soooo tender!!

History Seminar

An interesting history Seminar was held at the Museum on July 23 thru 25. It was put on by Seattle Pacific University and Northwest Travel Studies. Diane Olson was in charge of the Curriculum. The class was attended by teachers and educators who are interested in the history of the area. There were fifteen who attended. They earn college credits for attending.

Each day was filled to capacity with oral, visual and physical activities. Wednesday was dedicated to local town history with slides, discussions and a tour around town and to the Palmer Coking Coal yard where Evan Morris told them about the processing of the coal. On Thursday more slides on mining, a trip to Wilkeson, dinner at the Dinner House and a tour of the John Henry Mine. Friday was a day of oral history given by old timers invited to take part in the Seminar. Ted Barner, Jim Vernarelli, Regina Whitehill, Rose Guidetti, Vera Kidd, Matt Paschich, Victor Evans, Mary Minaglia and Ernest Moore shared their memories of the early days in Black Diamond and Franklin. Cory, Karen, and Todd Olson, Carl and Ann Steiert served as hosts and go-fers for the group. It was a great three days!!

"Way Back When"

As part of their on-going taping program of interviews with people who are willing to share their memories, Diane Olson and Carl Steiert had the good fortune to be able to interview Albert Garrett. He is 94 years old and was a real fount of information.

Albert Garrett came to the United States from Wales in 1900 at the age of eight. He had two sisters, Maude and May. His brother was David Garrett who many people got to know as the "Rawleigh Man". They came to the Covington area first where they lived on a small lake called Hughes Lake. His father worked at the Black Diamond Mine and walked to work each day. They later moved to Black Diamond and lived in a house next to the Post Office which was in the building now occupied by the Old Confectionary Art Gallery. Because of the location of their house they were able to see a lot of activity on Railroad Ave.

He told of the location of a flag pole in front of the Depot. It was the place where the children gathered to play. "Mostly boys, he added, the girls were not allowed to play in the street." He said they played all the usual childrens' games such as Run, Sheep, Run, Red Rover and Hide and seek. They would tie a five-gallon kerosene can onto the end of a rope and whirl it around. Each boy would take a swat at it. It was much like the modern tether ball.

His mother would come out onto their porch and call him to come home and that usually broke up the play session for the day.

He told of their being two trains a day...one, a passenger and the other a freight. The passenger train would come in the evening and go up to Franklin. Where it would stay overnight and leave Black Diamond for Seattle in the morning. It was always exciting when the train came in. Everyone flocked down to see who has been to Seattle and who was coming to town. Some nights the crowd would be so big that passengers had difficulty getting off the train.

Albert was a paper boy at that time and had extra privileges in that he was able to enter the train to get his papers. This, he said really made him feel very important. He recalled the time that President McKinley was shot. He was almost mobbed by the people trying to get a paper to get the latest news. He was sent a limited number of papers...he was in trouble! He was saved by the school Principal, David Thomas who helped organize the dispersal of the papers. He delivered the Post-Intelligencer. The PI was then considered a rich man's paper. The Seattle Star was the most popular amongst the working people.

Albert Garrett, Cont'd

Albert told of activities on Railroad Ave. He said the Saloon was a very busy place. On Saturday nights and paydays it was especially so.

The Saloon would get shipments of beer on the train. The boys would help roll the kegs down to the Saloon and would be rewarded by treats of Soda Pop. He said that once in a while a Saloon patron would overindulge and stagger up onto the tracks. He would fall asleep on the rails and there were several instances where men were killed by the train.

He was asked if he had a nickname. He said, "Yes, I was called Tag. It stood for Thomas Albert Garrett! The first letters of his name.

One of his best friends was known as "Buckshot". He was Arthur Reese, a member of the pioneer Reese family. When he was 15, he and Albert were down near the mine bunker picking up scrap coal. Buckshot was not paying close attention and got run over by a railroad coal car. It resulted in him losing a foot. He was not destined to live a long life for he died of other causes by the age of 18. Albert had looked up his grave just before the interview.

He told of going swimming in Lake 14. At that time it was surrounded by large trees with a small beach for swimmers. In those days, it was a rare boy who owned a swimming suit or even knew about their existence. The boys would skinny-dip. A lady coming from Kummer reported them to the Sheriff, who in turn scolded the boys. Never daunted, they got flour sacks, cut holes in the sewed-up end and put their legs through the holes, cinched them up to their waists and fastened them with a belt. "Of course, he said, that lasted a short while. They found it easier to post a guard and to jump into the water up to their chins when warned of someone approaching."

He spoke again of the previously mentioned David Thomas as being a very strict man as school principal. In fact, his nickname was Slivers because of the slivers he got from the switches he used on the kids. He would lay the culprit across a chair and have at it. Mr. Thomas was his teacher in the 7th & 8th grade. The school year didn't end until after the July 4th Holiday. He recalled the boredom of the children having to listen to all the political candidates who chose to give their platform speeches on that day. They were mollified by being given a bag of candy!

Albert told of the vacant lot between their house and the Barber Shop. He said it was used by the Medicine Man Shows. He noted that at one time he saw one of the operators buying a large can of Kerosene and wondered if it was part of the liniment Cure-all which he sold that night! He also, remembered the Candy-Man who sold candy in front of the Saloon. His sales pitch was, "It splits like wood and chews like gum."

We asked him what he remembered about Henry Switch. He covered his face with his hands and said, coyly, "We aren't supposed to talk about them things." This is what their mothers told them. However, since boys will be boys, they would sneak down towards Henry Switch and hide in the bushes in the hope that they might get a glimpse of one of "the Girls" They were disappointed because they didn't look too much different than other women they knew.

Note:

Albert Garrett is living in Fort Meyers, Florida since his retirement. The anecdotes just repeated a small portion of a delightful three hour visit with Albert and his son, Delbert Garrett.

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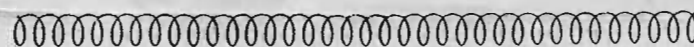
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