

*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 McFarlane—A longtime resident  
Forrest Danley—Father of Douglas  
 Danley and Robert Glackin.  
Mary Bisom—Sister of Francis, Ada  
 and Jack Marchant and Regina Whitehill  
Louis Chevalier—Father of Harold  
David Garrett—Husband of Florence,  
 Brother of Dwight Garrett.  
Donald Kuzaro—A Lifetime resident,  
 Husband of Barbara, brother of Joe.  
Margaret Wilso (Wetton)—a longtime  
 resident of the area.

MEMORIALS RECEIVED

<u>Tom McFarlane</u> from:	Joe & Farol Kuzaro	Carl & Ann Steiert	Lois Zumek
<u>Joe &amp; Evelyn Dal Santo</u>	Joe & Eileen Zumek	Michael Norton	Lynda Maks
<u>Pauline Kombol</u>	Joyce Dal Santo	Tom & Vi Campbell	Pat Sternig

Fannie Shute from: Mr. & Mrs. Bud Simmons, Carl & Ann Steiert, Laurel Shute

John Maragliano from: Mary Minaglia, Elvira Strickler.

Charles (Jazz) Kravagna from: Patricia Earley

Hubert Kravagna from: Patricia Earley

John Maks from: Amelia Maks

<u>David Garrett</u> from:	Pearl Klier	Frances Kincaid	Walter Anderson
<u>Rolf Gronvik</u>	Lois Zumek	Evan Thomas	Penny McGrew
<u>Carl &amp; Ann Steiert</u>	Garrett Andersons	Mr. & Mrs. Huotte	Clwan Jackson
<u>Dwight &amp; Doris Garrett</u>	Les & Elaine Griffin	Anna Mary Schick	Megan Rudes
<u>Betty Jane Anderson</u>	Bailey Anderson	Mr. & Mrs. C. Swain	

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Christmas party which was held the first Sunday in December was a big success. There was a good attendance. Everyone visited, enjoyed the many "goodies" and viewed a slide show.

A very good and prosperous New Year is wished to everyone.

MEETING

The next general meeting will be held on March 8 at 2:00 p.m., at the Depot. Everyone who can is urged to attend. There are many important things to discuss. We need all the ideas and help possible. Please circle the date on your calendar.....March 8.

Advertisers

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CALENDARS      CALENDARS      CALENDARS

This is the first year since the Society was founded that we did not have a historical calendar. The reason for that was the seeming apathy on the part of the membership. It was a decision not lightly made. Now that we don't have one, we are receiving inquiries about them. Dave Sprau was kind enough to share a few of his railroad calendars at his cost. The good news is this: We will have one for 1988. Dwight Garrett has made a substantial donation in memory of his brother, Dave and asks that it be earmarked for calendars. We appreciate it very much and look forward to once again producing one.

DEPOT DOINGS

The Thursday Crew is still hard at work. Since the last Newsletter, they have taken apart, mended, and painted a timber sleigh. It was used to bring logs out of the woods. Often the mine timbers were skidded out that way. It now stands at the north end of the Depot. It is painted red and green. A load of timber will be put on to complete the display.

Through the courtesy of the Renton Historical Society and Ernest Tonda, we were given a large metal reader board such as was used in Depots. The men dismantled it and repainted it. It will be used on the platform to display artifacts and give messages. We really appreciate receiving it.

Through all this working, the good and faithful cooks have provided lunches for the Crew. Martin Moore, who comes out from Seattle each week declares that the good food is the only reason he comes out! The following ladies have donated their time and effort:

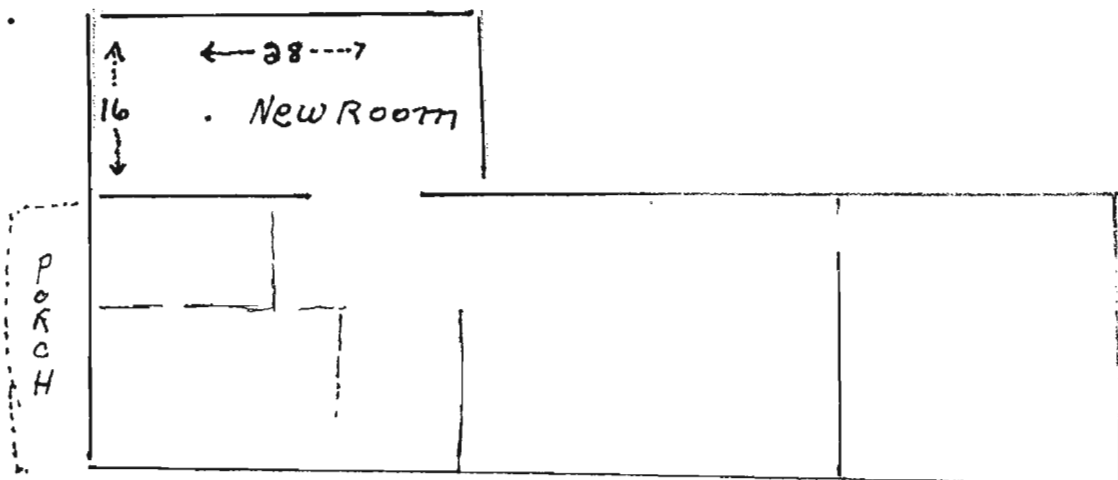
- |                      |                       |                      |                          |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Rachel Fagnon</u> | <u>Betty Luke</u>     | <u>Lucile Barner</u> | <u>Marlene Bortleson</u> |
| <u>Rose Guidetti</u> | <u>Frank Hanowski</u> | <u>Dorothy Botts</u> | <u>Gertrude Botts</u>    |

We would welcome any new volunteers to help spell them off from time to time. Please call Rose Guidetti if you are willing to help. 886-2825

NEW ROOM

For quite some time the need for more space has been felt. Now through the efforts of Gary Grant and the King County Council we are going to receive a Grant for \$10,0000 which is designated for display and storage areas. Bob Eaton with input from the rest of the Thursday Crew, has been drawing plans and studying the best way to proceed. It will consist of two rooms, one on top of the other, on the southwest side of the Depot. The rooms will be 16x28. There will be an opening into the present display area tying it all together. There will be stairs leading to the lower room where large pieces such as mine machinery and artifacts will be displayed. They plan on digging under the present building and making a dry storage area.

Everyone is very excited about and eager to proceed. It is hoped that there will be some Saturday work parties where persons working during the week can lend a hand.



FRANKLIN

A great deal of interest in the town of Franklin has been exhibited by the archeology and anthropology department at Green River Community College. It is spear-headed by Professor Jerry Hedlund. Learning about childhood memories of former Franklin residents is part of the detailed study of the Community by GRCC. Students the last two summers have made the former townsite an archeological "dig".

Little more than foundations of a few structures remain, but the students have turned up many artifacts, including three Springfield repeating rifles believed manufactured in the 1860's for the Union Army in the Civil War. They've found bits of English bone china and crockery, parts of a watch, remains of jars and bottles, nails and hinges. The oddities include one human tooth, two tiny porcelain arms from a child's doll, and a Chinese coin made into a belt buckle.

On January 15, many former residents of Franklin and others interested in the exploration met at GRCC for lunch and a discussion period. Don Mason, Corey and Diane Olson and Carl Steiert represented the Black Diamond Historical Society as did Harold and Regina Whitehill. A profitable and interesting time was had by all who attended.

Did you know that:

Franklin had a population of around 1000 people?

That the 1900 census figures show that there were 74 black people there?

1885—First Tunnels were dug. 7,500 tons of coal were shipped

1887—Railroad extended from Black Diamond.

1889 Bad year, Fire in mines & Oregon Imp. Co. docks in Seattle burned.

1891—May 17. Blacks arrived.

1894—370 miners died from smoke (Aug. 24) (11 blacks buried in 1 trench.

1902—Pacific Coast Coal Co bought mines from the Oregon Imp. Company

1953—Palmer Coking Coal bought mines from Pacific Coast Coal Company

1971—Mine No. 10 was closed. This was the last underground mine at Franklin.

ARTIFACTS

Cora Flyzik recently donated several valuable pieces to the Museum. A white pitcher and bowl, a pewter ware casserole, pitcher and tray which were used by her mother in a boarding house in Franklin. She, also, gave us some cast iron cooking ware.

William Petchnick donated some Model-T coils and valve grinding tool. He, also, made a generous cash donation to the memorial fund.

Florence Garrett donated a very old wash machine with a copper tumbler barrel inside. She, also, is giving us three showcases and a kitchen table to be used in the new addition.

We feel good about accepting donations now that we know there will be a good place to display them. We are very anxious to get an old style cooking range. If anyone knows where there is one we'd appreciate knowing about it.

We are trying to locate photographs of Harry McDowell and Henry Babb. Any photos of New Lawson would, also, be welcome.

BLACK DIAMOND DAY

The annual Black Diamond Day Celebration will be held on June 14. It is hoped that many old-timers will put that on their calendar and plan to attend. The purpose of the day is to bring the old and young together and share memories. Don't forget-----JUNE 14.

(4)  
NURSES' DUTIES IN 1887

The following job description was given floor nurses by a hospital in 1887:

In addition to caring for your 50 patients, each nurse will follow these regulations:

1. Daily sweep and mop the floors of your ward, dust patient's furniture and window sills.

2. Maintain an even temperature in your ward by bringing in a scuttle of coal for the day's business.

3. Light is important to observe the patient's condition. Therefore, each day fill kerosene lamps, clean chimneys and trim wicks. Wash the windows once a week.

4. The nurses's notes are important in aiding the physician's work. Make your pens carefully; you may whittle nibs to your individual tastes.

5. Each nurse on day duty will report every day at 7 a.m. and leave at 8 p.m. except on the Sabbath on which day you will be off from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

6. Graduate nurses in good standing with the director of nurses will be given an evening off each week for courting purposes or two evenings a if you go regularly to church.

7. Each nurse should lay aside from each pay day a goodly sum of her earnings for her benefit during her declining years so that she will not become a burden. For example if you earn \$30 a month you should set aside at least \$15.

8. Any nurse who smokes, uses liquor in any form, gets her hair done at a Beauty shop or frequents dance halls will give the director of nurses good reason to suspect her worth, intentions and integrity.

9. The nurse who performs her labors and serves her patients and doctors without fault for five years will be given an increase of 5 cents a day providing there are no hospital debts outstanding.

MEMBERS

There are 276 members in the Historical Society. There are 213 Life Members of that number there are 60 members 80 years old or older.

One of our members, Cora Flysik reached the grand age of 100 years this past August. Cora has been a great supporter of our efforts in Black Diamond. Not only has she donated many valuable artifacts but she has added to our knowledge of our history. She is especially well-versed on the history of Franklin.

At the other end of the age scale, Shelley and Kelly Throop, twin granddaughters of our president, Bob Eaton are our youngest members at age 16. They have spent much time working around the Depot. During their summer vacation they worked on the landscaping and did much painting around the building.

DUES DUES DUES DUES ARE DUE 

It is that time of the year again. Those of you who are not life members and have not paid your \$87 dues.....now is the time. Please send them to Box 232 Black Diamond, WA. 98010. A very few forgot to pay their '86 dues we really appreciate a catch-up.

Black Diamond Book

Diane Olson and Carl Steiert are hard at work compiling the information which they have collected on tape with the goal of publishing a book on the History of Black Diamond and its people. Their aim is to have it printed so it can be the Centennial Project for 1989.

## A TALE OF TWO CITIES

BLACK DIAMOND

In the hills east of San Francisco there is an area known as the Mount Diablo region. In 1880 there were several mining towns where coal had been mined for many years. In the town of Nortonville the Black Diamond Mining Company was beginning to see the end of their coal and knew that soon they would have to relocate or close down completely. They had been told that there were rich coal fields in the Green River area in Washington Territory. They sent prospectors to the area and after much exploring Morgan Morgan, their superintendent and chief engineer, declared that they would move their operation north.

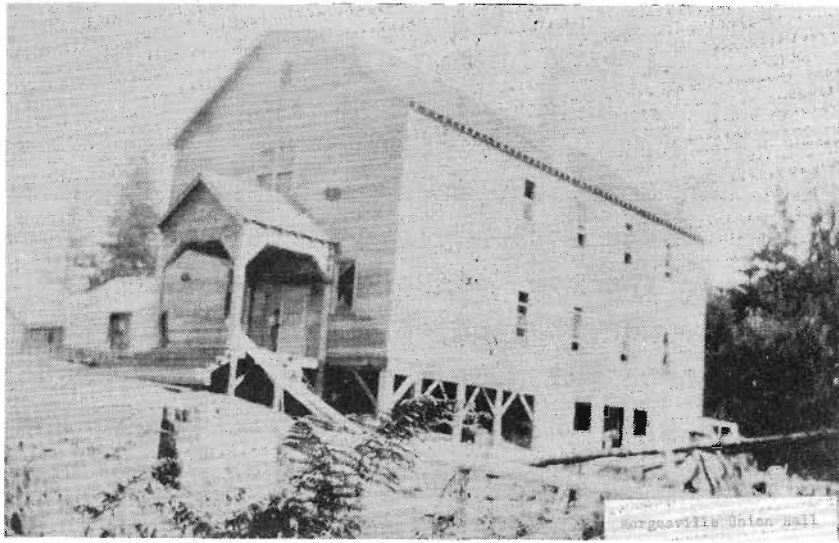
This was a very drastic move for both the Company and the people when in 1882 the decision to move was made. The new area was completely different from the one they were accustomed to. In California the hills were gentle and rolling with small scrubby trees. In Washington they encountered forest such as few of them had ever seen. We are told that the trees were so big and thick that they could not fall them. They had to burn out sections in order for the trees to fall. The only entrance was a horse trail from Renton. They soon saw that something would have to be done in order to get their coal to market. They immediately began building a railroad to Seattle. The first load of coal went out in 1885. The railroad made it possible for them to bring in machinery and equipment to cut the trees and to begin to build their homes. The first group that came up consisted of 100 men and one woman. They constructed a tent town in the area of the depot and Railroad Ave. Gradually they built cabins and homes for the rest of the Nortonville people. One can only imagine the trauma of these hardy people. Here they had to begin from scratch to build homes, schools, churches, and stores. That along with the change in climate and terrain was a real challenge and a tribute to their bravery.

Black Diamond grew and prospered until in 1900 it had a population of 3500 people. It was one of the largest towns in the State. The population consisted of many ethnic groups. There were Welsh, Italian, Finn, Austrian, German and many European nations represented. The people for the most part lived good and happy lives.

However, in 1921 there began to be signs of labor unrest. It seems that during World War I the Coal Company gave the men a raise and now wanted to Rescind it. Feelings ran high. A Union was formed. Strike breakers were brought in.

When the Black Diamond Mining Company first thought about moving north they had sent several families to grab onto land and homestead. The agreement was that later it was to be sold to the Company. All the people involved sold as per agreement but one, Tim Morgan, decided he didn't want to sell. The story goes that Tim had a weakness for alcohol and the Company preyed on that weakness, getting most of his land at a lesser price.

When the miners went on strike in Black Diamond, many of them owned houses which stood on Company land. The Company told them they had to vacate them. They were offered what was thought a fair price for their homes. Then they had to decide where to move to. Here is where Tim Morgan played the important part. He sold some of his remaining acres to the strikers for \$2,000. The Coal Company had offered him \$30,000. Thus Morganville was born.



## MORGANVILLE

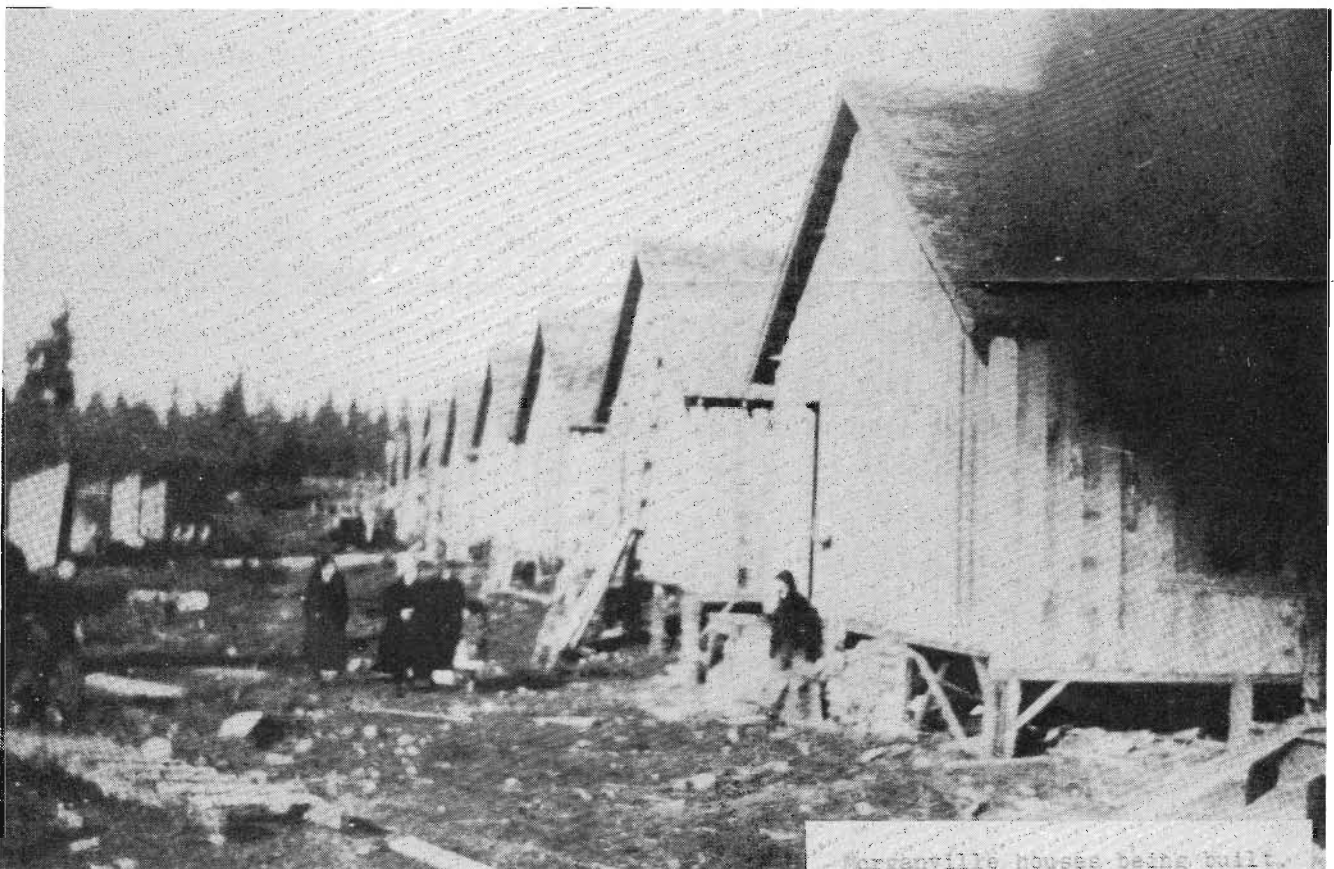
Up to that time it consisted of homes of Tim Morgan and his family. He had many children. It was, also, known as the "Prairie". Here in the open fields sports were played, races run and picnics held.

The Union men worked out an assembly line system where, led by carpenters each man was assigned to do certain portions of a house such as laying the foundation, roofing, siding etc. They worked in groups and soon had over 200 houses built.

Victor Gattavara first built a small store next to the cemetery and soon built a larger building which now houses the Dinner house. The Weston family had a gas and service station. Dr. Hiram Smith was in sympathy with the miners and moved to Morganville also. The need for a meeting place was felt so they also built a big hall.

The families settled in their new homes and life went on. The children went to Black Diamond to school. Many of them walked home during the noon hour for their lunch.

The Strike which brought about the Town of Morganville was never settled. Gradually the miners found other employment such as logging etc. Some left the area for other type of work. As time went on many went back to the mines. The two Towns remained separated until 1959 when Black Diamond became incorporated and included Morganville in the incorporation.



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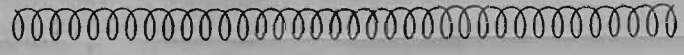
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