

Notice:

Next general Meeting:

OCTOBER 11

2 p.m.

at

The Museum

*Black Diamond Historical Society*



Museum Hours

Saturday — 12 to 3

Sunday — 12 to 3

Thursday — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Special Tours call:

886-1168

August 1987

Black Diamond, Washington

Volume XII Issue III

B.D.H.S. Newsletter

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a Non-profit Corporation

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Family Lifetime ————— 75.00  
Annual Business ————— 15.00

Send dues to: Box 232  
Black Diamond, WA. 98010  
Editor: Ann Steiert 886-1168

IN MEMORIAM

William Petchnick — Longtime resident  
of Black Diamond.

John Dal Santo — Former resident  
of Black Diamond

Josephine Kinkade — Area Pioneer  
Carrie Miller — Mother of May Savicke

Tony Merlini — Lifetime resident of  
Black Diamond Area.

Memorials Received

Don Kuzaro from Walter & Pauline  
Niemczyk

Carrie Miller from Janet Eltz, Mr. &  
Mrs. Joe Dal Santo, Carl & Ann Steiert

George and Helen Manowski from Max & Sylvia Manowski, Carl & Ann Steiert

Tony Merlini from:

Marian DiPietro Leonard & Mary Lou Flothe Carl & Ann Steiert  
Margaret Vernarelli Pauline Kombol Rolling Romans Sons of Italy Lodge

William Petchnick From:

Charles Capponi Mr. & Mrs. James Trisel Eaton Service  
Gene & Charlotte Balint Mary Balint Stephen Balint  
Mary Christioncy Mary Michelic Carl & Ann Steiert  
Boeing Co-Workers Don & Lorraine Winsor Olga & Everett Swann  
Charles & Dorothy Corlett Genevieve Rossi Palmer Coking Coal Co,  
Leona Forler Pauline Kombol Norm & Norma Gumser

BLACK DIAMOND DAY

The weather during the week preceding June 14, had been rather questionable so everyone was thankful that it turned out to be sunny and not too warm. Black Diamond Day drew many people. We saw former residents, High School graduates and new citizens mingling and visiting.

There were things to interest everyone. The Sons of Italy, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Rebekahs and Senior Citizens sold delicious food. Gary Stolzig fired up his blacksmithing forge, Joaquin Quesada carved a huge log with his chain saw. We were once again treated to the wonderful hand carving done by a group from Enumclaw. A former Black Diamond resident, Beth VanBuskirk, nee Botts was doing a fine work on a carving of the Company store. There was a stained glass artist and a wood worker who made figures to put out in one's yard. There were old cars and gas engines.

BLACK DIAMOND DAY cont'd

The program consisted of an excellent group of fiddlers singing and playing familiar songs. Dan Palmer played his guitar and sang folk songs accompanied by Dave Vines. A very good chorus of male singers honored us with beautiful German music. They were really good! Folk singer Gilbert closed the program.

This year the spotlight was on graduates of the Black Diamond High School. There were at least 43 graduates present. Florence Thomas, 1915 and Elsie Upton 1916 were the oldest graduates. The class of 1932 had the most in attendance. They were:

<u>Patricia Earley</u>	<u>Frank Manowski</u>	<u>Emma Sigmund</u>	<u>Walter Sigmund</u>
<u>Anne Hawthorne</u>	<u>William Eltz.</u>		

Raffle

This year's raffle has been proclaimed a success! The drawing was held on Black Diamond Day. The prizes this year were:

<u>First Prize</u>	A large Afghan made and donated by Sylvia Manowski
<u>Second Prize</u>	A gift certificate to the Summit Inn.
<u>Third Prize</u>	A gift certificate to the Country Craft Mall.

The prizes were won by:

<u>First Prize:</u>	<u>Sandi Sonsteng</u> of Black Diamond
<u>Second Prize:</u>	<u>Amos Griffith</u> of Apache Junction, Arizona. Because of the distance he chose cash.
<u>Third Prize:</u>	<u>Lena Church</u> of Renton, because of ill health she chose cash, also.

Income from the ticket sales was \$844.00 plus \$385.00 sent in as donations. Expenses: tickets, prizes and stamps were \$146.00 which left a balance of \$1083.00

The following people donated additional money when submitting their ticket money. We really appreciate their doing so and thank them very much,

<u>Mary Chilcott</u>	<u>Frank Callero</u>	<u>Ed Banchemo</u>	<u>Modesto Banchemo</u>
<u>Marlene Bortleson</u>	<u>Marie Freeman</u>	<u>James Carey</u>	<u>Nick DiJulio</u>
<u>Patricia Earley</u>	<u>Deno Mariotti</u>	<u>Ruth Ayers Hofto</u>	<u>Nellie Johnson</u>
<u>George Malatesta</u>	<u>Jennie Murphy</u>	<u>Audrey Mendenhall</u>	<u>George Manowski</u>
<u>Nat Pennacchi</u>	<u>Joe Potochnik</u>	<u>Sutherland McLean</u>	<u>Wm. Petchnick</u>
<u>Phil Raykovick</u>	<u>May Savicke</u>	<u>Pat Sternig</u>	<u>Bud Simmons</u>
<u>Sam Zinter</u>	<u>Regina Whitehill</u>	<u>Cecil Robinson</u>	<u>Jennie Johnson</u>
<u>Emil Rossi</u>	<u>Pat Sternig</u>	<u>Lennie Witt</u>	

The following was taken from the Lewis County Log, a great publication.

A SHORT COURSE IN HUMAN RELATIONS

The six most important words:

"I admit I made a mistake."

The five most important words:

"You did a good job."

The four most important words:

"What is your opinion?"

The three most important words:

"If you please."

The two most important words:

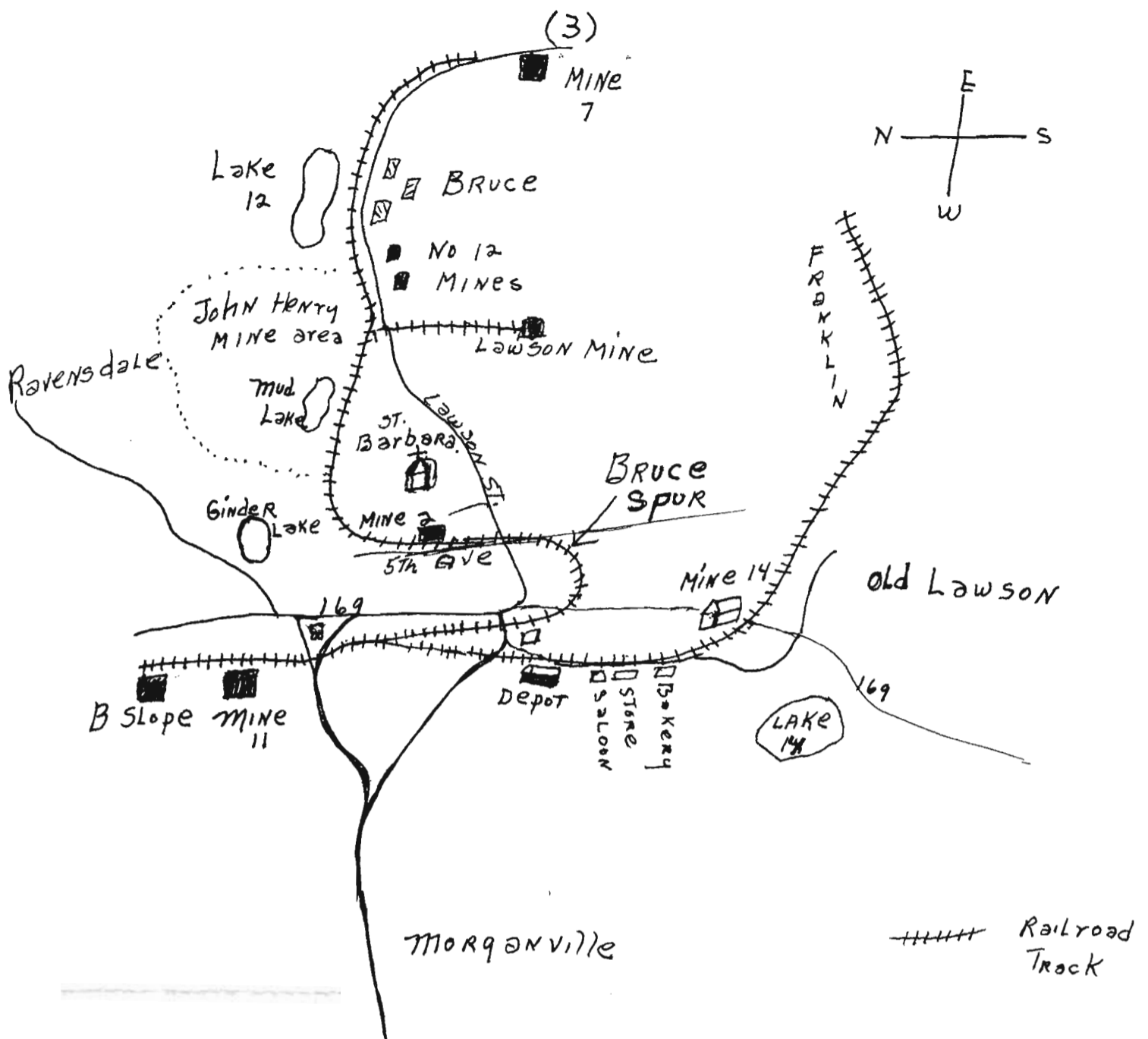
"Thank You."

The most important word:

"We."

The least important word:

"I"



### BLACK DIAMOND AREA MINES

When the coal explorers came to the Green River Coal fields in 1880 they had no way of knowing actually how great the extent of the coal was. People ask many questions about the mines...where were they?...how long did they last? ...is there more coal left?...were there disasters? ....how much coal was mined?

The Green River Coal Fields covered some 80 sq. miles. It is estimated that between 40 & 50 million tons of coal was mined. Constant reading and research has brought many things to light but much is still to be learned.

#### Mine 14

Mine 14 was the first mine started by the Black Diamond Mining Company when the move was made from Nortonville, CA. to this area in 1882. It was on what was called the McKay vein. It was reported to be the best vein in the area. It <sup>was</sup> bituminous with low sulphur content.

A mining engineer named Victor Tull shipped 800 lbs of coal to California when he was directing the original prospect. Morgan Morgan and Company President Cornwall came up to inspect the prospect and declared it good. This was down at a 100<sup>ft</sup> level. They were greatly impressed by the beautiful stands of timber which they could use in developing the mine. It was slow going at first because they had no way of getting their product to market. The first thing they did was to build a railroad to Seattle. The first load of coal left Black Diamond in 1884. With the train running they could bring in supplies to the mine and machinery to cut the timber. The Town immediately began to grow. At first, 100 men and one woman had come north. Now the rest

MINES (cont'd)

of their people came north, built homes and settled the new town called Black Diamond.

They mined Mine 14 until 1917 and went down ten levels.

The railroad that they built served the people for much of their needs. We are told that the railroad had the first telephone dispatch in the United States at that time.

Mine 2

Usually the name of the mine when it was a number referred to the section of land on which it was located. Mine No. 2 was an exception. It merely meant that it was the second mine of the Black Diamond Mining Company.

It was located below the Catholic Church in the area where the present First Presbyterian Church is now located. In fact, the Church is located on top of its slag dump.

It was not as large a mine as Mine 14. It went down 6 levels. They tell us that there was a connecting tunnel between it and Mine 14 through which they **took coal out.**

It was the site of a mine Rescue accident in 1920 in which three men lost their lives. The mine had already been closed but was sometimes used to practice mine rescue. Henry DeWinter, Hughie Hughes, and James Hudson were the the men who died. Also involved with the rescue were Fred Ponkin, James Murphy and Guilio Tonda. The year before this disaster a young man named Joseph Dernac went down into the shaft to retrieve a ball and was overcome by gas and died.

Lawson Mine

The Lawson mine was located at the top of the hill above Black Diamond in the area still known as New Lawson. It was named after and **engineer** named Eugene Lawson. It opened in 1895.

It was purchased by the Pacific Coast Coal Company in 1898.

A small community developed around the site of the mine. We are told that there was a predominately Finnish population. They had a large store building which was later moved down the hill to become the PCCC store on Railroad Ave. They had a post office. We have seen a letter with the postal stamp McKay on it. At that time the area was known as McKay.

It was the site of a terrible explosion in 1910. The explosion occurred on Sunday or more people would have been killed. As it was, 16 died. We are told that 5 men were never retrieved. The mine was closed. During World War II Bill Hahn mined some of the coal above the 6th level.

Mine 11

Mine 11 was located west of Hwy. 169 in back of the now Shopping Center. It was started in 1896 and operated until 1927.

It was referred to as the New Mine and Morgan Slope also. It was a very deep mine going down 6000 ft when it was closed. It was reputed to be the deepest slope coal mine in the world. It had a 20 degree pitch. It was 2200 ft. to the surface at the 12th level and 1500 ft below sea level.

It was a dangerous mine to work in. There was a condition called "Bumps" which was when the floor raised and the roof came down. It was like a small earthquake. It was caused by atmospheric pressure and became worse as they went deeper. Whenever a Bump occurred it was felt in Town. Everyone who had a relative at work was very concerned until they found out what happened.

Special fear was felt when the mine whistle blew which was the signal that meant a casualty. It was alleged that during the strike inexperienced miners

Mine 11 (Cont'd)

were brought in and the seams robbed without taking precautions to timber properly. This added to the instability of the workings. Many men were injured. There were many miners working at Mine 11. At times its main shift had as many as 500 men when it was at its peak.

It covered quite a bit of ground. It had 8 steam boilers which produced electricity for the Town. The charge to the miners was 50¢ a drop. Some of the old-timers still laugh about the number of extension cords that were purchased. The Black Diamond Mining Company sold the mine to the Pacific Coast Coal Co. in 1904. It was reputed to have been the best producer of coal that the PCCC ever owned. The best in King County.

B Slope

The B Slope Mine was located near the Mine 11. It was sometimes known as the Skunk Cabbage Mine. It was not a good producer. After a short life it was closed in 1914. The coal market was poor at that time.

No. 12 mines and No. 7 Mine

There were two No. 12 mines. They were located on the right side of the road going to Lake 12. They were located in the area called Bruce. A little bit further up the road was located Mine 7. These mines were served by a spur of track which took off from Mine 11 track up the area which is now First Ave. to Fifth Ave. toward Mud Lake and up toward Lawson Hill and Lake 12. The little settlement of Bruce was just above Lake 12. It had several houses, a hotel and the house which the John Henry family owned was a railroad depot.

The biggest mine which the Pacific Coast Coal Co. owned was the Indian Mine or New Mine. It was located on Hwy. 169, 5 miles south of Renton. There were many small mines operated independantly during this same time period.

Note: By way of explanation... the first railroad was built by the Oregon Improvement Company in order to haul the coal being mined at Mine 14.

New Addition

We are happy to report that the cement foundation is completed. It involved much hard work. Even though some work was done by machinery there still was a lot of hand digging and wheelbarrow work done. The Thursday Crew really put in some strenuous days. Each one had his own private opinion as to what it was like. Martin Moore likened it to being on the "Georgia Chain Gang". Joe Kuzaro, Delbert Garrett, Ole Una and Don Mason have been a real help. Delbert drives each day from his home in Redondo.

The foundation looks great. Now the woodworking will begin in earnest. Ole Una has expertise in building and will be working with Bob Eaton and the rest of the crew to plan the next step.

Shelley and Kelly Throop, our youngest members have spent the last few Thursdays painting the outside of the Depot. They have been diligently scraping the old paint and applying new. They are doing a very good job. We are grateful to them. Thank You Thank You Thank You

Don Glen Local Auto Parts Store for donating some rope.

Al Rossi for the loan of Jacks used on the foundation.

TRM Lumber Products and Evan Morris for the truck used as a stage, for the log used by the chainsaw carver.

Evan Morris for his PA system.

Bill Bremmeyer for the logs for the logging sled.

Palmer Coking Coal for the Sand and Gravel used in the new foundation.

California Visitors

The Black Diamond Day Celebration was attended by two young women from the Nortonville area in California. Kim Heveron and Mora Rogers were guests. They work with the Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve in the area where our Town has its roots. Carl & Ann Steiert spent some time visiting with them and exchanging information about their respective areas. It was interesting and informative. They followed their visit with a letter stating their visit had been pleasant.

Thursday Lunch

The Thursday lunch program has continued. The men appreciate the lunch break very much. We feel that a good lunch is small pay for all the work that has been accomplished at no cost to the Society.

The following people have brought lunch during the past weeks:

<u>Dorothy Botts</u>	<u>Marlene Bortleson</u>	<u>Rose Guidetti</u>	<u>Gertrude Botts</u>
<u>Lucille Barner</u>	<u>Frank &amp; Helen Manowski</u>	<u>Rachel Fagnon</u>	<u>Nancy Nicholas</u>
<u>Norma Gumser</u>	<u>Ann Steiert</u>		

Please give some consideration to joining our cooking ranks. The more people volunteering the easier it is on everyone. Call Rose Guidetti 886-2858

Roses

Norma Gumser spent several hours trimming and spraying the rose bushes. They look much better now. The rose bushes in the memorial Garden are much admired. The shrubs which were planted have all taken hold except two. That is a very good average considering that 100 shrubs were planted!

Franklin Dig

Once again students under the guidance of Jerry Hedlund of Green River College have taken part in digging for artifacts at the site of the town of Franklin. They have found quite a few articles which serve to pinpoint where the many buildings were located. The Black Diamond Museum will be a recipient of some of them in the future. Right now we have a Civil war Spenser rifle. It was the first repeating rifle that the army had. It uses a 52 caliber bullet.

Articles Acquired

A beautiful Edison phonograph and records from Donna Connot

A milk can to be used in the dog-drawn wagon from Delbert Garrett.

A brass spittoon from Wells Fargo, a portable wine tasters kit, and industrial eyeglasses from William Petchnick Family.

A coin collection from Dennis Boxx

a 1906 Sewing Machine from Edith Rosso

A mine safety lamp from Louis Rosso

Two books on blacksmithing from Jim Vernarelli.

A square butter churn and wooden bowl from Pat Sternig.

A 1930's beaded gown from Frances Owens.

A Saw with three blades from Vi Campbell.

Norma Gumser has given us a child's shoe last, a 1930's cocktail shaker, a pitcher & mugs. A very old sewing machine. She, also, donated a clock which now hangs in the general purpose room. A book named "Picturesque America" dated 1872 was also donated.

Many Dues are Due

Have you paid your 1987 dues? Please check. In fairness to those who have paid we must issue this reminder.

Calendars.

The 1988 calendar is now being printed. Dave Sprau is in charge of them.

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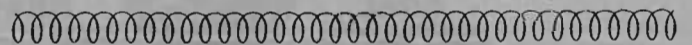
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