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Black Diamond, WA.

Volume XX Issue I

B.D.H.S.

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Send dues to: Box 232

Black Diamond, WA, 98010

Editor: Ann Steiert 886-1168

IN MEMORIAM

Henry Bainton early B.B. resident

Elsie Upton, wife of Earl. An early  
 Black Diamond pioneer.

Jeanette Rodway, member of early  
 Black Diamond Family

Jean Welch Member of Laurel Chapter of  
 Eastern Star.

Wayne Johnson Born in Franklin. Husband  
 of Effie, father of Jack  
 Marlene and Wayne



MEMORIALS

Florence Thomas from Laurel Chapter Order of Eastern Star

Jeanette Rodway from Louis and Rachel Fagnon

Nancy Nicholas from Carl & Ann Steiert

Jean Welch from Laurel Chapter, Order of Eastern Stars

Wayne Johnson from Carl & Ann Steiert

Walter Sigmund from Carl & Ann Steiert and Pat Sternig

Evan Thomas From Frank & Elizabeth Grgurich and Connie & Roger  
 Griffith

Florence & Evan Thomas From Audrey Mendenhall  
 Ted & Lucille Barner.

MEETINGS

The Historical Society's Board held a meeting on January 7. All but three members were present. Many things were discussed. One was whether to order more books. It was decided to investigate further and come to a decision at the next meeting. It is hard to make some decisions since the attendance has been very poor at our general meetings and there is no way of knowing what the will of the membership is. Our Treasurer Myrna Hawk had an accident during the last storm and has been ill. We have a Treasurer Pro Tem Shelley Throop who is helping out until Myrna is able to resume her duties. Bob announced that we would be getting a Grant from the Hotel-Motel Tax Fund for \$6,000. which is to be used in the new addition to help construct an Audeo-Video section. We will then be able to show slides of the area to people going through the Museum. It will be a big help when we have school children going through.

It was decided to have a General Meeting on April 7, the first Sunday in April. We hope that many of our members will decide to attend.

Elaine Griffin has been our volunteer sitter chairman for many years. She has done a fine job. She will no longer be able to do it. Donald Botts has agreed to do the job now. He knows what has to be done. We would like to thank Elaine for the many times she has seen that the Museum was opened.

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MUSEUM DOINGS

The building project on the back of the Museum came to a halt when the cold weather struck. The rains which came first really soaked the ground. It made it hard for the workers to make any headway. At times the mud was knee deep. One rock which was taken out weighed many tons and left a huge hole. When it filled with water the men called it Lake 13. It was necessary to get a pump to drain it. One day Carl hit a spot in which he sank to his knees.

When it snowed and froze there were other problems which presented themselves. The biggest one was when the pipes in the building froze and many burst. It took several work sessions to correct the conditions. The pipes had been wrapped and appeared ok but the cold wind blew in under the building in the section which is being worked on for the new rooms. They all worked very hard in the miserable cold.

Since it is still pretty muddy in the back they decided to do some of the chores which would have been neglected had they been able to work on the new section. They fixed an area right next to the simulated mine entrance which held odds and ends of materials not readily available when needed. They have made a good storage room with a floor on it. They, also, took inventory and were able to dispose of somethings which would never be used and were taking up valuable space. Now there is a door through the mine entrance and they know what they have to work with.

Martin built a small showcase to use in the Museum. The men worked on the guard rail up by the road where a car slid down the hill and broke it.

The amount of people going through the Museum has been spotty during the bad weather. Things have been picking up again now. We recently had a very nice write up by Hilda Anderson in the Seattle Papers. We have had quite a few who said they became interested after reading the article. We'd like to thank Her for the nice article. The coming season promised to be a busy one. Many groups have already made reservations several months ahead.

WILL THERE BE A BLACK DIAMOND DAY? 

This is the question that is being asked. Black Diamond will have its' 109th birthday on June 6. Many seem to think we should resume the celebration. What do you think? We would really like to have the membership's opinion. If we are to resume it this year we must get going soon. Please write and let us know what to do. Send your letters to Box 232, B.D. 98010

What's in a Name?

During the year 1927 there were small coal mines operated in King County by independent owners. Their total output for 1927 was only 177,00 tons

Following is a list of them:

Carbon Coal & Clay Company; Bayne      Caroline Coal Co., Tiger Mountain  
Continental Coal Co. Black River      Dale Coal Company, Ravensdale  
Elk Coal Co., Palmer, Harris Coal Co. Issaquah, California Alaska Coal Corp.  
Snoqualmie, Morris Brothers Coal Co., Durham, Parkin Kangley Coal Co., Palmer  
Renton Subbeam Coal Co., Renton, Strain Coal Co., Renton, Tulloch Coal Co.,  
Ravensdale, Enumclaw Coal Mfg. Co., Enumclaw, Occidental Coal Co., Cumberland,  
Cumberland Navy Mine, Cumberland, Diamond Coal Company, Black River Junction  
Danville Coal Co. Ravensdale, Denny-Renton Clay & Coal mines Kummer and  
Taylor.

*Dont' Forget April 7  
2:00 P.M*

(3)  
THE WAY IT WAS

FEB 1991

Ann Steiert

I came to Black Diamond in 1926. I was nine years old. We lived on the "Main" road where Baker St. joins Highway 169. Alice Norton now owns the lot where our house stood. It was a typical miner's cottage with two bedrooms a living-dining room and kitchen. When we first moved in there was a minimum of indoor plumbing. It looked alright to my folks and they soon made a home of it. My father had a sizable garden and a couple fruit trees. Looking back now, I am sure that the garden was a big help in getting by during the very depressed times. The mines were not working steady. Some weeks as few as 3 days a week. wages were very low. I don't remember seeing much money around. Not in the way children now see it. My mother was a good seamstress and made most of the clothes that my two sisters and I wore. She worked hard putting up fruit and vegetables for winter.

When we moved to our new home, I was delighted to find that there were other kids in the neighborhood. Muriel Evans lived with her Aunt and Uncle Dave and Deborah Jenkins. Anna Becker (Eddy) lived with her three sisters and brother. There was a family named Bahr who had several children. A couple of years later the Arthur Kelly family moved in right next door. Eileen is now Mrs. Joe Zurek. We quickly became acquainted.

We all played together and had fun. In the evening we'd all gather in the alley behind us under the street light and play games. We'd play such games as, Run, Sheep, Run, Red Rover, Kick the Can, and Tag. The girls would find places to play house, school and make believe games. A favorite spot was in a portion of a woodshed my Dad cleaned out for us. The boys spent a lot of time playing ball and went to the Ball Park a lot. Some would go to Lake 12 and swim.

One of the Bahr boys, named Ernie was a real trouble maker to the girls. He would mess up things that we were playing with, break our toys and was a general pest. Once in a while when we had had enough, some of us would chase him down and "beat up on him". Many years later when he became an adult we found out that he was the first person to jump off the then new Aurora Bridge in Seattle and committed suicide. Immediately upon reading the P.I. Muriel called me and wanted my opinion as to whether we had beat him up once too often.

We were always busy. I liked to color and draw. My most prized possession was a box of 12 crayons which my sister, Fran gave me after she got her first job upon finishing Business School. I colored everything that would stand still. I especially liked the Sears Roebuck catalogue. There I got into trouble because it served an important function in the little house which still stood in the backyard.

I recall the day that Eileen Zurek was born. All the ladies in the area were so excited. "Effie Kelly had her baby!" Muriel and I had a discussion as to where babies came from. At this point nobody had bothered to tell us. "I'm going home and ask my Auntie Deb." said Muriel. She did just that and received a clap on the head and was told to "Stop talking dirty!" So much for sex education in that day.

Anyway, we all survived. We didn't miss what we didn't know about. We later got into radio and then television and reacted just like every other kid. Radio made us use our imaginations more than the TV. That was certainly a plus factor. Those were the days.....

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MORGAN MORGANS

Contributed by: Marian H. Damiano, Turlock, California.

I have been unable to determine what brought Morgan Morgans to Calif. to Sutter Creek, whether it was simply the lure of the gold mines or whether he was hired in Pennsylvania and specifically brought to California. He must have had an unusual knowledge of mining.

He made the "pay strike" at this Eureka mine at Sutter Creek and was promptly made foreman at the mine. When the Eureka was sold and the coal mines at Black Diamond, Calif. were purchased and developed, Morgan Morgans was sent there as Superintendent.

He was evidently a valued "Company Man." When it was decided to close the California Black Diamond Coal mines because of problems with other Coal Companies in the area relative to the pumping of water from the mines, he was sent north to the Seattle-Renton area to check on the coal mining in that area. Evidently the results were favorable for the Black Diamond W.T. mines were set up, and Morgan Morgans was named the Superintendent of the new operations. He and many of the miners of the California mine moved north in 1882.

Morgan Morgans was a stern but just man with his employees. Most of the homes in Black Diamond were owned by the Company and rented to the employees for a nominal sum. I believe there were also, the Company stores. Payment to the miners was made in gold and silver, never paper money or checks. It was the rise of labor problems, plus his poor health that finally brought about his resignation from the Mine and the Mines were sold.

He was a wealthy man although he was hurt badly by the San Francisco earthquake, or rather his heirs were so hurt. He owned considerable amount of land in the Bellingham area. It is possible he also held an interest in the Black Diamond Mine although we have not proved this one way or the other. One of the slopes was known as the "Morgans slope". He owned a home in Oakland, California.

Morgan Morgans retired in May of 1904, as noted earlier, the mines were to be sold, his health was poor and the labor troubles were starting. Wife, Sarah had died in 1899. After retirement he traveled to California and then went to Spokane to live with daughter, Maggie Phillips.

Morgan Morgans died in Spokane. His body was brought back to Seattle for burial. The Black Diamond Mines shut down that day and a special train was run for the employees to attend the funeral.

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A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR:

Dear Members:

It was with surprise that I counted the years since I first began to write this Newsletter. This will be the 13th year. I am beginning to run out of ideas and material and am asking for your help. If any of you have subjects that we have not covered and would like to explore them, please, let us know. I've enjoyed doing the Newsletter but am feeling that I am getting repetitious and need new ideas. I'm wide open for suggestions.

I hope 1991 will be a great year for each one of you.

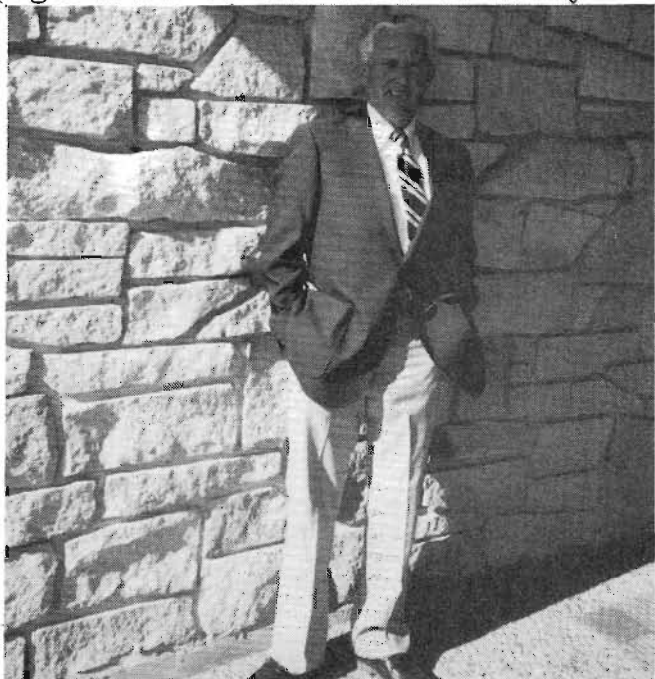
Sincerely,

*Ann Steiert*

WHAT'S UP DOC?

Whenever people visit the Museum on Thursday they are apt to hear someone say, "What's up Doc?" In this case they will be talking to Donald Botts, a member of the Thursday Crew. Don has been working with the Crew for several years. He is a real asset to the group. Because he is the youngest of the Gang he may have felt ill at ease at first but has now become one of the staunchest workers. He is not afraid to tackle any job regardless of how hard or heavy it might be. His rapport with the men is great.

Donald is a member of a family whose name has been part of Black Diamond for over 70 years. His Uncle, Dr. H.L. Botts came in early 1920. His brother, Elton, Don's father came in 1922. Don was born August 18, 1923. Ten days after he was born his mother became very ill and had to spend thirty days in the Providence Hospital. This left her husband to take care of three small children. He was helped by Mrs. Harry Hammond and his sister-in-law Phrania. His mother was very ill and for a while they thought they would lose her. It is said that a Nun even made arrangements for last rites but Mrs. Botts was determined to live and succeeded in doing so. She lived to a ripe old age.



Don's Dad had gone to school to become a Veterinarian but lost his hearing and decided it was a handicap that would prevent him from doing the kind of work he wanted to do. He was known as "Doc" and his little son was called "Little Doc". To this day, he is still called Doc by most of his friends. Before his family came to Black Diamond, they lived in Idaho where his father farmed and raised beans. It became a difficult life when the depression set in. His brother, Dr. Botts, persuaded him to come to Black Diamond where he got a job as night watchman at the Mine Eleven.

Don went to school in Black Diamond and graduated from High School. He went to work for Western Gear Company as a machinist. In 1943 he joined the Navy where he served as an Aviation Machinists Mate. When his Navy days were over, he returned and went to work for Stetson Ross Machinery Co. as a machinist. They subsequently sold their business and in order to keep his job he would have had to move to Oregon. Instead he chose to take an early retirement.

The name "Botts" has had a special place in the history of Black Diamond. Don's family has been respected by all who knew them. His mother was an active member of the Presbyterian Church. His brother, Paul, and sisters, Ardis, Muriel and Beth all took part in school and Community affairs. Paul's wife, Gertrude, has been active in affairs at St. Barbara's Catholic Church.

Dr. Botts is remembered by most people who lived here during the depression. Everyone loved him and thanked him for his wonderful cold cure package. He had unsurpassed cough syrup. His wife, Phrania, was a kind and gentle woman. Their son, Howard, is carrying on the family tradition of service by now serving as Mayor of Black Diamond. This is his second term. His wife, Dorothy, has been largely responsible for getting a new Community Center for the Town. After long months of hard work the Town now has a great Community Center serving Seniors and Youth equally. The Botts name has much meaning in Black Diamond.

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"AIN'T IT THE TRUTH!!!"

You know you're over the hill when:

You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.  
Your knees buckle but your belt won't.  
Your back goes out more than you do.  
You realize that when Errol Flynn was your age he had been dead 8 years.  
Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.  
Your little black book contains only names that end in MD.  
You can't wait for Baskin-Robbins to come out with Oat-Bran Ice Cream.  
A dripping faucet causes an uncontrollable bladder urge.  
You know all the answers but nobody asks you the questions.  
Your children look middle-aged.  
You get winded playing cards.  
The gleam in your eye is from the sun hitting your bifocals.  
You turn out the lights for economic reasons rather than romantic.  
You have too much room in your house but not enough in the medicine chest.  
You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.  
You need glasses to find your glasses.  
You can no longer recall your true hair color.  
And so it is,.....

#### EARLY RAILROADS

An excerpt from The History of King County telling about the early railroad.

The first railway excursion ever run in the Puget Sound Country was conducted over the line from the Pike Street bunkers to Lake Union. The locomotive, called "The Bodie" was brought up from San Francisco in the year 1872. Upon its arrival the company issued an invitation to everybody to come and take a ride. Nearly everybody in Seattle had worked to build the road and now they were to have a free ride behind the first locomotive to toot its whistle amid the dark recesses of King County's forests. In reporting the excursion the Intelligencer of March 25, 1872 says:

"Friday last was decidedly a holiday in this city, owing to the chance afforded everyone to indulge in the novelty of a free ride behind the first locomotive that ever whistled and snorted and dashed through the dense forests surrounding the waters of Puget Sound. Business in town was not exactly but it might very well have been, as an excursion on Dinsmore's Railroad connecting Union Lake with the Sound with its constantly departing and returning train of cars during the day seemed uppermost in the minds of all and pretty much monopolized every other consideration. The locomotive and its eight new coal cars were kept moving from 11 A.M. until everybody in town had had a ride at about 5 P.M. the round trip being made in about a half hour. NOTE: With transportation being what it is in this Day one can only guess the excitement and expectations that went with the first railroad in the area. It was the beginning of great growth for the Northwest region.

#### MUSIC

Music played a big part in the life of Black Diamond in the early days.' There was a State Champion Band led by Frank Carroll who took many prizes. Jane Gallagher Loken played at St. Barbafa's Church and accompanied many people who did solo performances at various times around town. Another pianist who played a big part was Muriel Evans Wing. Many people enjoyed her. Do you remember Always, Blue Hawaii, Dinah, Four Leaf Clover, Five Foot Two?

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