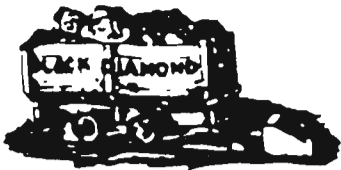


Black Diamond Historical Society



August 1993

Black Diamond, WA.

MUSEUM HOURS

Saturday & Sunday Noon 50 3:00 pm

Thursday 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Special arrangements & Tours

Call ; 886-1168 886-2327

Vol. XVI Issue III

B.D.H.S.

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

IN MEMORIAM

George Hazen: former teacher in the Black Diamond Grade school.

Inez Remolif: A member of the Lombardi Family

Joe Herrin : Born in Black Diamond.

Frances Johnson: Sister of Joe Kuzaro.

Nancy Lang: Wife of Pete Lang. Long time area resident.

Elsie Shay Wife of Al Shay. Mother of 8 sons and 3 daughters

Earl Upton: Husband of Elsie. Early resident of Black Diamond.

Jack Truman: Early resident of Black Diamond



Francis Cobb: He was the son of Frank & Gladys Cobb. They were both teachers and touched many of our lives as we went to school. Francis was a classmate and special to many of us.

According to his obituary he led a very busy and productive life. He spent a lot of time in the Navy and the Reserves. He was a teacher, carpenter and a contractor. When we knew him he was a shy and quiet boy. In his later years he is said to have enjoyed reading, carpentry, Ballroom dancing, gardening, golf, and history. He had four daughters.

NOTE: A special thank you to Clyde Johnson for sending us the notice of the death of Francis Cobb. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

MEMORIALS

Jack: From Mary Elder

Joe Kerkes: from Ruth Kerkes

Frances Johnson: From Joe &

Laurel Shute: From Mr. & Mrs. Bud Simmons

Farol Kuzaro

DONATIONS

Thank You..... Generous Donations were received from the following with their good wishes and desire to help:

Esther Van Der Heyden Marilyn Peterson, Clara Murphy Margaret Stanley

The Historical Society is grateful to them and to all others who have given donations which help a great deal.

LABOR DAY DRAWING



In spite of the City's changed plans for a celebration this year our plans will go on. We will be open the usual hours on Saturday and Sunday and will open at 10 a.m. on Labor Day. There will be a drawing of the raffle numbers at 2:00 p.m. on Monday.

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THURSDAY DOINGS

For the past several weeks, anyone coming down Baker St. toward the depot would be struck by all the people on the platform. The whole Thursday Gang have been hard at work painting and sprucing up the front part of the Museum and the caboose.

The first paint job on the caboose did not hold up as it should have. We took the word of a professional painter who had not prepared the unit properly. It should have had a good undercoat considering the lumber it had on it. It finally peeled and looked very bad for some time. The crew gave it a lot of time and work. It was scraped, sanded and treated to a special kind of undercoat. It was finished off with a heavy coat of color. It looks great now and should hold up for a long time.

The building had some very bad gutters. We were told tht they were supposed to remain the old type wooden gutters. They have been getting worse all the time giving visitors some unexpected showers. That has been taken care of now. We have continuous gutters made of aluminum. They are painted the same color as the building.

The whole building has been showing signs of wear. The men have been busy scraping, sanding and repairing places. They have been painting the whole outside. Each man seems to have some specialty which he prefers to do so that when they are finished every angle will be covered. Joe Kuzaro, Donald Botts and Gerald Bainton are the youngest of the Crew and they are often delegated to the higher climbing jobs. Bob Burdic and Phil Werle are good painters so theirs is the trim painting job. Ted Barner keeps the work clean by disposing of the papers and waste that are around because of the work being done. Martin Moore wears many hats and helps with whatever needs to be done. Bob Eaton is kept busy directing the work and seeing that the necessary supplies are on hand. Carl and Charles Corlett are kept busy showing the visitors around and fill-in wherever there is a need and they are free.

There is still work to be completed inside of the lower section of the building. We plan to make a small country store in the small room under the stairs. If anyone has anything that might fit in that theme we'd be glad to hear from you.

This past few months the visitors have been coming at a steady pace. Since the first of the year we have 4600 people go through. We know that that is a conservative number because they do slip past us once in a while. We have a lot of nice compliments. Many people tell us that they feel so much at home when they come here. They promise to bring others and many of them do it several times.

Special Note: Ever since we have been working on this project we have from time to time been given business machines and typewriters. Our problem now is to get more information and names on each one. If you have left one here we are asking ^{you} to drop us a line identifying the item. Anything that you know about it and your name will be greatly appreciated.

We are still in need of people to help sit the Museum on the week-end open days. As mentioned earlier issues the facility has grown too large for one person to be on duty. Carl and Don Botts have been doing the best they can to try and help those on duty. They spend a lot of their time doing things about the place all week. It is not a hard job and is interesting because one meets people from all over the world. Please consider trying it out. Call Don Botts, 886-2766 or Carl 886-1168.

Those who have been on the job since the last Issue are:

Donna Gauchenour Florence Garrett Ethel Duncan Don Mason
Verna Thompson Mary Chilcott Carl & Betty Falk Chas & Dorothy Corlett

AUG 1993

Gino Picini was born at home on May 3, 1922 in Morganville, to Thomas and Concelia (Vernarelli) Picini. Concelia was the oldest daughter of Stefano and Lisabeta Vernarelli., ong time residents of Black Diamond. Dr. Smith assisted in the delivery. Esther Babb is his aunt and Jim, Duda and Rome were his uncles.

After a short time the family moved from Morganville to Tacoma then to Seattle. Gino, along with 2 brothers and 1 sister attended Brighton Elementary and Franklin High School.

Gino served in the Armed Forces in World War II as a radio Operator in India, Burma and China.

In 1950 he married Ruth Knight and they have 4 children and 9 grandchildren

Gino started in the heating business by building fireboxes for apartment houses. For a few years he had his own heating servicing business. Later he worked as a sales and parts man in several heating companies. He specialized in hot water heating.

Gino retired in 1983 at age 62.

Gino loves airplanes, loves to read hike, fix cars, and is a true mechanic at heart. He can fix most anything... just ask his wife!

He has been a church elder and most recently a deacon in his church. He, also taught Sunday School for many years. Each summer he spent a week at the Bible Camp counseling and doing hand crafts.

Gino has been coming to The Museum periodically and working on the grounds around the place. He doesn't come each week but when he does he puts in a very long day. H has a real flair for doing gardening. Since everyone else is very busy, the gardening end of things sometim don't get done when they should. Everyone is most grateful for his help.

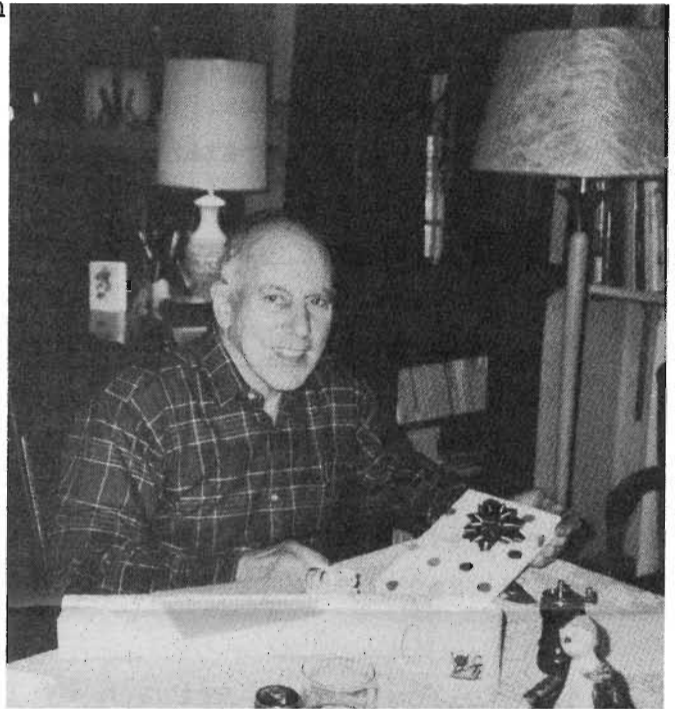
It is so great to have someone who was born here, come back and lend a hand and take an interest in what is being done. Thank you, Gino, from all of us. By the way,....we have some aphid visitors!;

Gino tells of visiting his relatives when he was a boy and enjoying himself. Carl remembers him watching him work on cars and being very bright and interested.

LABOR DAY

Things are going to seem different in Black Diamond this Labor Day. It has been decided not to have the usual big celebration. The last time this happened was in 1976. The group of people who have been most active had meetings and became sure that there just weren't enough people willing to work in order to keep up the quality of the celebration. The activities have expanded so much from what they were in the beginning that it takes more of everything to put it on. The cost of insurance has gone up. With the economy as it is generous donors have had to cut back on their contributions.

The idea of the Labor Day Celebration is not being abandoned. There are plans to meet in January '94 and see what can be done.



AUG 1993

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CHARLIE'S TOWN

One of the most popular exhibits at the Museum is the Coal Town and mining exhibit which Carles Corlett has produced. Whenever it is possible for him to be at the Museum he is asked many times to run the "Show" for the visitors. They are all very interested. It creates a lot of questions and the kids like it a lot. He is teaching Carl how to run it and they put on quite a show. We have to keep our eyes on some of the kids because the "No Touch" rule is very important with this display. Most of them are ok for the most part.



THE FLYING FINGERS



One Wednesday in June Carl & I were working at the Museum while waiting for an arranged for Tour. When the Tour arrived there were 16 women and two men. We had not been told that the tourists were a group of people who were completely deaf. They all spoke fluently in sign language. It was a strange feeling to have so many persons in the Museum and the only voices heard were our own. They really enjoyed being there and showed their enthusiasm by many handshakes and hugs. We actually got so that by carefully watching them we were able to understand what they were saying. We wrote notes and they answered

We found out from the driver that they were a group of ladies who had formed a sewing club. They called themselves the "Flying Fingers" They would get together and work on projects for different charities, The Children's Hospital and many good causes. Each month they would schedule a trip to some place that most of them had never visited. We were happy that they had chosen our Town for their trip. They were truly an inspiration because these were't young ladies. Each one had had some sort of problem besides the hearing loss. They didn't let it stop them for contributing to other needy people. They were from Tacoma and promised to come back again.

OUR LITTLE TOWN

The following was written by Paul Harvey after he gave some thought to a small Town.....

A small town is where everybody knows what everybody else is doing....but they read the weekly newspaper to see who got caught at it!

In a little Town everybody knows every neighbor's car by sight and sound and also knows when it comes and where it goes.

In a small Town there's no use anybody lyin' about his age or his ailments or exagerating about his ancestors or his offspring.

A little Town is where you get the wrong number and you can talk for fifteen minutes anyway.....if you want to.

A little town is where there's hardly anything to do and never enough time to do it.

In any little town the ratio of good people to bad people is a hundred to one.

A little town is where businessmen struggle for survival against suburban shopping centers.

Small Town Policeman has a first name.

The small Town teacher has the last name.

The small Town firemen ...take turns.

Why would anybody want to live in one of these tiny "blink and you miss it towns?"

I don't know. Maybe because in the class play, there's a part for everyone.

In the jail there's rarely anybody.

In the Town Cemetery You're still among friends.

Whenever one picks up a newspaper or turns on the television set a great deal of space is given to the big sports events of the today. There is great coverage made and a large amount of money spent on promotions, salaries and sites to hold these various games. While this is going on we tend to forget that these events had their beginnings many years ago. Mankind has always had the desire to compete.

When the first settlers came to the Green River Coalfield there was much work that the new settlers had to do just to make suitable places for their families to live. Even at that they kept their minds on games and as the area opened up games came to life. In Black Diamond they had the problem of making a place where they could play games. At first there was a space in Morganville where the Sorci property, Library and the Dinner House now stand. People would use that space for a playground and picnic ground. At that time the area that is now the ballpark was just a bog. It had a lot of logs on it. The Coal Company gave the men their permission to fill it in and get rid of the debris. This the men did using wheel barrows and horses to clear it. It was a very big job succeeded in giving them the place to play their sports. They built a large grand stand and later a Band stand, too.

The Pacific Coast Coal Co. was very supportive of the games. They, also, supported band Music. We are told that if one needed a job the Company was sure to hire any man who could play sports or play a musical instrument. During the 1920's and 30's Black Diamond had a championship Band. They competed State wide and won many prizes. Frank Carroll was the name of the director. They had uniforms and the whole bit. When there was a ballgame they would get into the Bandstand and provide lively music for all the fans to enjoy.

The Italian people had a game called Bocci Ball. It was like Lawn Bowling. They, also, would take a large wheel of very hard cheese which they would roll on a narrow trail. Once in a while they would do a poor throw and the wheel would hit a tree and shatter. They quite often would not be able to find the cheese because kids would anticipate the "accident" and grab the cheese and run. Big John Lucchessi was reported to be the champion cheese roller.

Each ethnic group had some sort of game. Old Lawson had a small Bowling Alley. It was located in a private yard. In the early 1900's there was a two lane Bowling Alley located next to the Krause Saloon behind the Depot.

We have been given many ball team pictures which tell us how very great the interest was in the games. They played baseball, soccer, basket ball and some football. All the mining towns had teams and would compete with one another. Carbonado, Burnett, Auburn, Newcastle, Ravensdale, Enumclaw, Wilkeson were the names of some of the early teams. Franklin had a team which was known as the Franklin Buffalos.

The games were said to have two entertainments. One was the actual game and second was the fights that would quite often round off the day. They were very vocal and active when they disagreed with the call of the game.

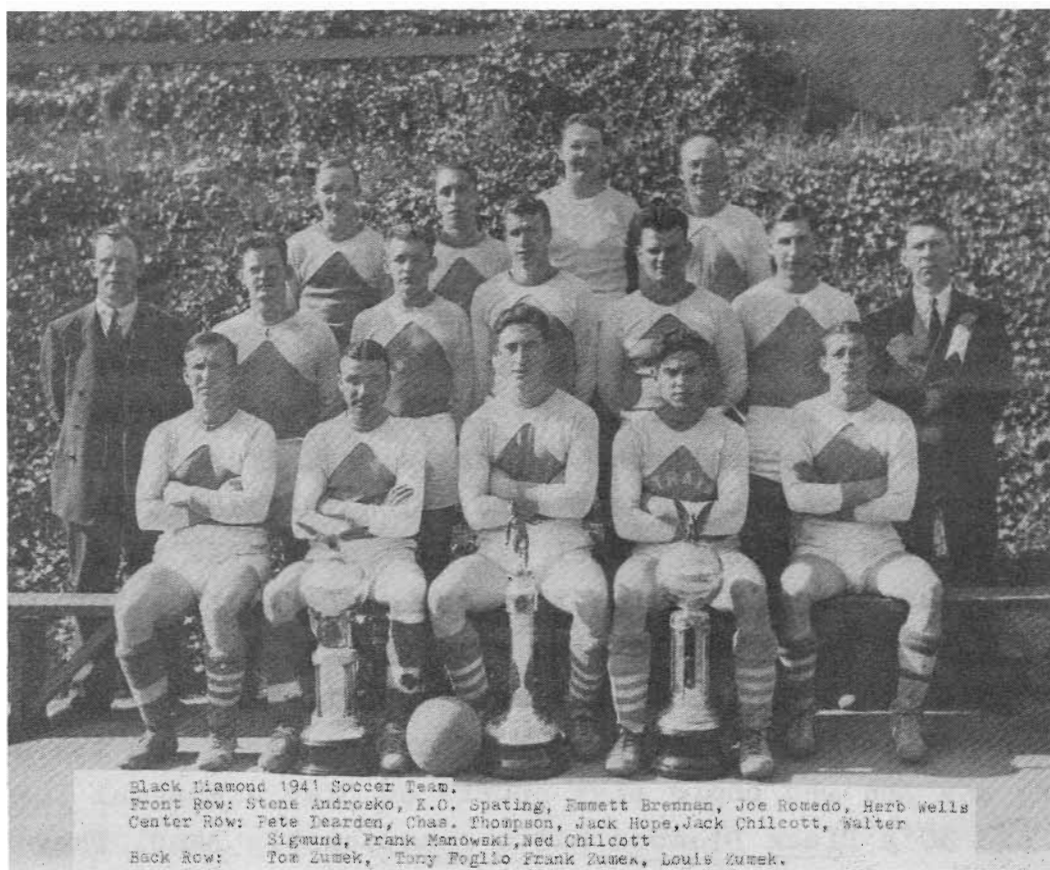
There was a certain amount of boxing which took place in the Show Hall. In the early days a man name Bob Hodge was not only our Town marshall but he was a professional heavyweight boxer. They would run a special train To Seattle when he was having a special fight. They would hold what they called "Smokers" They were held at the show Hall and man and boys would challenge each other. They drew big crowds.

The following page will have a picture of a 1941 soccer team. It is just one of many pictures which we have on display at the museum. It is hard to believe that the game today is as personal as in the early days when each

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GAMES (Cont'd)

player was someone you knew. Often it was a relative or a neighbor's child, The High School had teams so interest began early. People felt a real feeling for their hometown players.



JUNIOR JANITOR

For the past several weeks we have had a young man come in each Thursday and do chores. He is well acquainted with the vacuum system and does a good job. His name is Mattheau Jarvis. He will be in the sixth grade this year. We really do thank him a lot for coming. He is a very bright boy and notices things that need to be done. He goes to Black Diamond Elementary.

VISITORS

We recently had a visitor from Santa Ysabel, CA. Her name is Clara Murphy and she is a daughter of Joseph and Margaret Metzler. Her childhood years were spent mostly in this area. Her sister, Pearl Klier lives in Maple Valley. She is a member of the Society so we keep in touch by mail but have not had the privilege of seeing her in person for a very long time. We had a very nice visit and did a lot of reminiscing. We thank her for the generous contribution.

****and****

In an earlier issue it was asked if anyone knew where Walter Gibson was now. We were very pleased to look up and see him coming in the door. He is now living in Roswell, N.M. He is retired from the U.S. Air Force. He has a nice wife named Jane. He's tall, a little gray, and handsome. We had a very nice visit with him.

DONATIONS

Linda Maks was kind enough to bring a lovely framed picture of her mother. It's fair size with a silver ornate frame. She has, also, given us a desk which was made by her husband, Tom, when he was still in High School. The downstairs level was given an anvil and a forge. We hit the jackpot!!!

Hazell Peterson has donated a miner's hard hat and light and a container of carbide. They are in good condition and we appreciate the donation.

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