

Black Diamond Historical Society



May 1985

Black Diamond, Washington

Volume X, Issue 2

B.D.H.S. Newsletter

Published by the
Black Diamond Historical Society
a non-profit Corporation

Membership fees, which include a
subscription to this Newsletter
are as follows:

Annual Individual _____ \$ 5.00
Annual Family _____ 7.00
Lifetime _____ 50.00
Family Lifetime _____ 75.00
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Send Dues to: Box 232
Black Diamond, WA. 98010

Editor: Ann Steiert 886-1168

In Memorium

Jules Dal Santo—Long time resident
Charter Member of BDHS
Frank Guidetti—Long time resident and
Charter member of BDHS.
Joe Paglia—Born in Black Diamond
Tom Irons —A long time resident of B.D.
Gladys Benedetti—wife of Clarence
Joe (Molly) Malatesta—Brother of Mary
Mariotti

Memorials Received

Ruth Smith from:—Mr. & Mrs. Bud Simmons
Tom Irons " Margaret Blanchard
Gladys Benedetti—Mr. & Mrs. Joe Zumek
Marie B. Roberts—Margaret Blanchard
Charles Petchnick—William Petchnick
Sophie Kuzaro—Pauline Kombol

Gladys Cobb from: B.C. Peterson Family
Mr. & Mrs. Herb Johnson
Margaret Blanchard
Dorthea McCrae
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Paxon
Mr. & Mrs. Bud Simmons
Cindy Neitzel
Nancy Nicholas

Frank Zumek from: Margaret Blanchard
Mr. & Mrs. Herb Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Grgurich
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Unick
Pauline Kombol
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Drury

Jules Dal Santo from:
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Zumek
Ethel and Ruby Duncan
Margaret Blanchard
Palmer Coking Coal
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Campbell

Carl & Ann Steiert
Mary Grgurich
Pauline Kombol
William Petchnick

Frank Guidetti from:

Jane Loken
Mr. & Mrs. William Eltz
Helen Harp
Mary Grgurich
Lois Zumek
Mr. & Mrs. Deno Mariotti
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Di Julio
Carl & Ann Steiert
Emma Collecchi
Larry Collecchi
Mr. & Mrs. Roland Collecchi
Mrs. Vern Church
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Dal Santo
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Bianchi
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Parkinson
Mr. & Mrs. B.C. Peterson
Helen Darby
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Callero
Joe & Eileen Zumek
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Thompson

Louis Zumek Mr. & Mrs. Harold Whitehill
Lena Church
Mr. & Mrs. Nat Pennacchi
Mr. & Mrs. John Maks
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Eaton
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Maks
Black Diamond Grade School
Margaret Blanchard
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Flothe
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Callero
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Parkinson
Esther Birch
Mr. & Mrs. Denny Di Julio
Fern Musiolo
White River Welfare Fund
R.E. & Donna Renner
Del & Sue Renner
Leo Garbini
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Campbell
Anton & Betty Fritz

FRANK--Our Gardner

How does one say goodbye to someone with whom you have been working closely for many years? This is what the "Thursday Crew" has had to find out with the death of one of their members, Frank Guidetti. Things have not been quite the same. His spot will never be filled. He was a charter member of the Historical Society. Along with his wife, Rose, he worked diligently to help the whole historical movement in Black Diamond.

He was the "resident gardner" and tended the transplanted roses and helped Ted Barner fight the weeds around the building. Because of his love of gardening both at the Museum and around his home, it has been decided to use the memorial donations which were given in his name, to landscape around the Museum. Jim Kuzaro will lend his landscaping expertise and buy the plants. It is hoped to have a work party soon to help prepare the area. It will consist of railroad ties and low maintenance plantings.

Frank was often heard to say, "Piano, Piano." Whenever we hear that phrase we will think of him and his contribution to the Museum.

Frank--Our Butch

Many memorial donations have been made in the name of Frank Zumek. Our gratitude goes to those who chose to honor him through the Historical Society.

One area which has caused concern in the Museum has been the one which has the lovely wedding dress and the old bibles. It was decided to have a special case built which will enclose the dress in glass and give better space in which to display the other artifacts. Frank's memorial fund will be spent for it's construction. It will be of oak and glass.

Museum Doings

Several weeks ago we were visited by Charles Payton from the Historic Preservation Office in Seattle. He has been of great help to us in giving advice and when the main construction work was going on before the opening, he scraped and painted along with the rest of the workers. He suggested some ways in which we could move displays and maximize the use of our space. Working on his ideas several changes have been brought about. The Still and Wine Press now occupy the small new room which was recently built off the meeting room. We call it our "Booze Room." We'd really appreciate getting more artifacts pertaining to that very interesting time in our history.

Two new showcases have been purchased with memorial funds and are now being filled.

The construction of the Wash House and the other display building is coming along at a good rate. We still need to hear from those of you who remember just what was in the Wash House in the way of furnishings. We are looking for a copper boiler. We will even settle for one that is not copper!! The new buildings will have walks around them so that they may be viewed easily. Thus far we have a round wash tub and a stove. William Petchnick has donated a small kitchen range.

Our Thursday Crew is still enjoying good food provided by the following good

cooks:	<u>Rachel Fagnon</u>	<u>Lucille Barner</u>	<u>Dorothy Botts</u>
	<u>Marlene Bortleson</u>	<u>Diane Olson</u>	<u>Helen Manowski</u>
	<u>Florence Garrett</u>	<u>Nancy Nicholas</u>	<u>Ann Steiert</u>

The men are unanimous in saying that they have yet to get a poor meal! Anyone willing to ~~serve~~ serve is urged to call Rose Guidetti at 886-2858.

Depot Doings Cont'd

Blue Prints

Carl Steiert, Don Mason, Cory Olson and Louis Zumek have been excitedly reading and sorting out a collection of blueprints which have been given to the Historical Society by the Palmer Coking Coal Co. They are finding plans for many holdings which the Pacific Coast Coal Co built. Blueprints for remodeling the Depot in 1915 show plans which included living quarters for the depot agent. Also included were plans when the Confectionary building was remodeled in 1922. The "Historians" are segregating and cataloguing them so that they may be shared with other Historical Societies when any are found that relate to them. Louis Zumek has donated a surveying instrument used by the Pacific Coast Coal Co. engineers. It is a valuable addition to our mine collection.

Jerry Steiert has given the Museum His collection of Dr. Hiram Smith's medical library books. There are 105 volumes containing many signatures and footnotes dating from 1892 to 1915. Book shelves have been built to hold the volumes.

Don Mason has donated an elegantly framed document which lists the precepts of the Odd Fellows Lodge. It is dated 1891. The Odd Fellows Lodge was very active in this area during the turn of the century.

Cora Flyzik, 99, has donated a quilt which was started by her mother in the early 1800's. Mrs. Flysik has finished quilting it into a masterpiece. She has had it appraised and it is valued at \$1,000. She has generously offered it and says it may be used in anyway most beneficial to the Museum. We surely do thank her.

Black Diamond Days-CaliforniaDiane Olson

My Husband, Cory and I have just returned from attending the Seventh Annual Black Diamond Days at the Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve in Contra Costa County, near Antioch. CA. Located about 50 miles east of San Francisco, at the foot of Mt. Diablo, it celebrates the history of the only coal mining site in California and is the source of our own town's beginnings.

Several thousand people attended the two day celebration, which included ethnic music, an underground mining museum, on stage interviews with old timers, blacksmithing, quilting, games of Bocci and Horseshoes, and many other mining and historical displays. One former Black Diamond person, George Costanich was there as a representative for the Mine Safety and Health Administration. He sent a "Big Hello" to you all.

There were five mining communities in that dry hilly area. Two of them, Nortonville and Somervill, were where the families of the Black Diamond Mines lived. Then between 1882 and 1885 the company closed down the California sites and moved the equipment, the miners and their families to the new mine --- Black Diamond, Washington.

It must have been quite a change for those people to leave the hot barren and scarred hills to come to the chilly, damp Northwest where the results of mining were quickly covered by blackberries and alder.

Their oral historians reveal details that we know to be true of our own Black Diamond. It was a Company town, predominantly Welsh and Italian, but there were also Chinese, Cornish, German, Irish Mexican, Scottish, and Swedish. They all immigrated to seek a better life. The Welsh were experience miners, and so they were usually the ones in charge of the mines.

People didn't have much but they took care of each other through their lodges and churches. The women worked very long days. Italian women had outside ovens

California, Cont'd

for baking. The boys went into the mines at about 13 or 14. They had Community celebrations on the Fourth of July. At Christmas there was always a special program, a tree with candles, Santa and a bag of candy and nuts for each child. The Rose Hill Cemetery, which sits on a hill between the two communities, adds to the familiar story. The miners are always there. If there had been a mine tragedy, they might share a headstone. Their stones often carried the symbol of the Odd Fellows or Masons. The graves of many small children, sometimes two or three in the same family, were sad reminders of epidemics. Several young women, who left behind husbands, children and parents, were, also, resting there. It appeared as though most of the graves were no longer marked due to vandalism. At many sites, the 4 to 6 inch thick headstone had actually been knocked over leaving a jagged edge jutting up where it had broken off. The Park District has "mended" those, by laying them flat in cement over the grave.

As we waited to take the van up to Rose Hill, one woman told a story of a young man who had been directed to go to the cemetery at night and dig up a grave as part of an initiation ceremony. He was caught. His punishment was to take care of that grave and several others for a whole year.

The most fascinating part of our visit was the underground mining museum. It is a reconstruction of a 1930 silica sand mine which provided glassmaking material for the Hazel-Atlas Glass Co. Some of you may still have old Atlas canning jars. We donned our hard hats, were given a flashlight and walked along the narrow gauge rail through the gangway. (Finally, after hearing about mining for years, I was able to get a tiny glimpse of it!!) We saw timbering, chutes, the underground office a supply room, and a brattice cloth over a doorway. (I have to admit that the brattice cloth was made of black plastic!!) and signs of the mine squeezing back together. I never got to turn out all the lights though. I wanted it to be "so dark I couldn't even see my eyelashes."

I took our greetings to those in charge of the celebration, along with a collection of our calendars. They sent their greetings back to us. They remember with fondness, the past visits of Carl and Ann Steirt and Dorothy and Howard Botts.

BLACK DIAMOND DAY

JUNE 2

After much thought and discussion it has been decided to have a celebration on June 2, calling it Black Diamond Day. All persons who have an interest in Black Diamond are invited. Whether you are a pioneer or a new-comer, it is important that we will get together in sharing experiences and memories. It will be an opportunity for friends to become reacquainted and to make new friends. It will, also, be the 103rd birthday of Black Diamond.

This is new territory for this first year but we are trying to anticipate as

as much as we are able. There will be picnic tables, music, and are getting people to demonstrate different crafts.

The gathering will begin around 11:00 a.m. with the official starting whistle blowing at noon.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME Suggestions and help are always welcome Let's make this a wonderful, happy occasion which can become an annual event. A committee chaired by Diane Olson has been working on the plans for the day. It is suggested that anyone having a small portable table might consider bringing it along.

AKCHO

AKCHO stands for Association of King County Historical Organizations. This is a well-organized group within our County representing Museums and Historical organizations. They meet each month with different groups being hosts. It is the turn of the B.D. Historical Society to be their host on June 25. They will be meeting at the Museum at 9:30 a.m. It is a good chance for members to get acquainted with the functions of AKCHO and to appreciate their work. You are all invited to attend.

Carl Steirt has been informed that the Black Diamond Museum is going to be the recipient of an award given each year by AKCHO for outstanding project effort. More information will be given in our next newsletter because the awarding date is after we have gone to press.

Did You Know.....

Paul Medica was the first child born in Black Diamond

that

Morgan Davies and Paul Medica were the first owners of the Pool Hall

that

That there was a lady who sold corsets and another who sold hats. They would rent a room and their customers would go there for selection and fittings.

that

Eve Thomas remembers a man named Hayes who sold candy in front of the Krause Saloon. He says, "It was sure good candy!"

that

At one time, the top of Lawson Hill was known as McKay. They had their own store Post Office and school. Eugene Lawson founded the Lawson mine. He was a prospector. The Pacific Coast Coal Company acquired it in 1898.

that

"Going out to count the stars at bedtime" was not a study of astrology but a bedtime function.

that

Lake Twelve resort area was first owned by Dr. Mallory (dentist) Morgan Davies Pete Frederickson and Mr. Jensen. Mike Bassinger acquired the Mallory and Frederickson shares. Verna and John Thompson purchased Mr. Jensen's share and proceeded to make the lovely resort area which we all knew. It was later sold to Ridell and sold as building lots.

that

During the big Strike, High School students walked out of class because the school was burning so-called scab coal.

(6)

Dr. James Tate Mason

When James Tate Mason arrived in Seattle in 1907, he had \$50. in his pocket and a sense of great adventure in his soul. He was 25, a graduate of the University of Virginia Medical School and before his trip west, had been furthering his medical education in Philadelphia hospitals for two years.

The chance to see the Pacific Northwest presented itself in the form of the S.S. President, a new ship about to make its' maiden voyage from Philadelphia to Seattle. He signed on as ship's surgeon with a salary of \$100 and a return ticket to the East Coast.

He never used the ticket, informing a new acquaintance shortly after his arrival that "I'm going to live here," even though he had no prospects and was nearly broke.

Just as the remains of his steamship salary were running out, he managed to find a job as a coal company doctor in Black Diamond. He worked under Dr. D.M. Stone, who later recalled that Dr. Mason came to the job "dead broke."

Dr. Stone lent his young colleague the \$60 he needed to travel to Spokane to take the state board of health exams for doctors. Dr. Mason passed the exam and paid Dr. Stone back with his second month's paycheck.

"That was like him," Dr. Stone said in a 1930 interview. "He always had a purpose. His first aim was to repay my small loan. He did--promptly. And all through his life, Dr. Mason kept that quality, a singleness of purpose. After Dr. Stone retired, Dr. Mason was given the choice by the Coal Company to remain in Black Diamond as assistant under a new doctor or to take sole charge of the medical practice in Franklin, a smaller mining town down the road. True to his adventurous spirit he took the Franklin job and stayed there two years, developing many loyal patients among the miners before he moved back to Seattle.

He became the personal doctor of the County sheriff during this time and was offered the job of jail physician, which he took.

In 1911, he married Laura DeWolfe Wittlesey, daughter of a pioneer Seattle family. They had three children, two sons and a daughter.

Dr. James Tate Mason Jr. still practices in Seattle, remembers his father as an extremely personable humanitarian-like person.

He said his father brought out a loyalty in his friends that was "totally unexplainable to me. His friends would stand behind him in thick and thin and the loyalty of his patients was legion."

After serving as County coroner and superintendant of the King County Hospital now Harborview, Dr. Mason along with other specialists started the Mason Clinic. He died at the age of 54. He lived a full, rich and dedicated life.



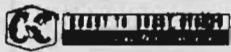
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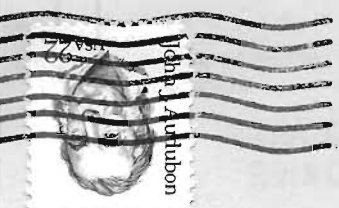
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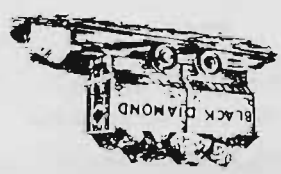
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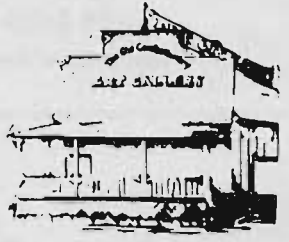
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