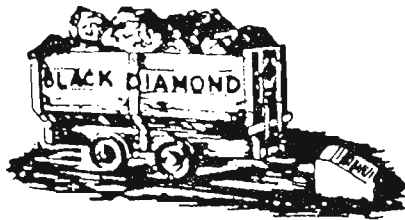


Black Diamond Historical Society



May 1986

Black Diamond, Washington

Volume XI Issue II

B.D.H.S. Newsletter

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

IN MEMORIUM

Stan Hubber _____ Longtime resident of
Black Diamond. Husband of Anne, father
of Richard.

Rene Banchemo _____ A member of the
pioneer Banchemo Family. Sister of Ed,
Modesto, Ralph, Helen and Edith.

John Koerner _____ Son of the pioneer
family who ran the first drug store.

John Maks _____ A native of Black
Diamond. Husband of Amelia, father of
Don and Betty.

Romeo Vernarelli _____ Born in Black Diamond.
Husband of Margaret, brother of Jim
Esther and Concelia.

Dorothy VanHoof _____ A native of Black

Diamond and member of the pioneer Kuzaro Family.

Audrey White _____ A member of the Black Diamond Quilters and a friend of the
Black Diamond Museum.

MEMORIALS

Stan Hubber _____	Joe & Eileen Zumek	Carl & Ann Steiert
Rene Banchemo _____	Patricia Barley	Mary Minaglia
Carl & Ann Steiert	Jane Loken	Lois Zumek
Nancy Baltazar	Mary Cross	Annie Brower
Edith Banchemo	Don, Jane, Charles, Cathy	Joe & Eileen Zumek
Rome Vernarelli _____	Lou & Rae Fagnon	Lois Zumek
	Carl & Ann Steiert	Esther Babb & Greg
	Gino Picini	Ralph Banchemo
John Maks _____	Sam & Beth Zinter	Carl & Ann Steiert
	Mary Keehner	

Meeting

The Black Diamond Historical Society held their second meeting of the year on
March 9. Several pieces of important business were discussed. The proposed
building of another room onto the back side of the depot was discussed. It was
decided to explore the project further both as to cost and design. The plans
for the Celebration on June 8 were also discussed. The meeting closed by
Diane Olson relating excerpts from a recent interview with Flora Flyzik.
Mrs. Flysik is our oldest member, having recently turned 100.

May Meeting

Because the second Sunday of May is Mother's Day the May meeting will be
held on May 4. at 2:00 p.m. at the Museum. This would be a good time to
bring any suggestions concerning the June 8 Celebration.

For the past month the Thursday Crew has been busy preparing the bank in front of the Museum for the planting of shrubs. A sprinkler system has been installed. The area has been outlined with railroad ties and the old sod grubbed off and replaced with a sand and loam mixture. The shrubs are now in place and promise great satisfaction in the future. The area has been specially designated as a Memorial Garden in memory of Frank Guidetti and other deceased members.

Whenever a project of this size is accomplished there are always many persons involved. The Thursday Crew, Bob Eaton, Norman Gumser, Ted Barner, Carl Steiert and Louis Zumek cleaned off the old grass and hauled many wheelbarrows full away from the site. Bob Eaton brought his grandchildren, Shelly, Kelly (twins) and Christopher. They really pitched in, helping to set the shrubs and later to spread the bark. These people deserve a big hand!!

A word of thanks is also extended to Evan Morris for contributing the soil which was put on top. This is only one of the many items and services that Evan and the Palmer Coking Coal Co have donated to the Museum Project.

More Thursday doings.....

Now that the landscaping is completed the men will be getting ready for the June 8 Celebration. One of the biggest jobs will be to put up the canopy over the platform. Anyone having nothing to do on any Thursday is welcome to join them.

There is always the prospect of a good lunch. Rose Guidetti has many good cooks bringing the lunches. Recent cooks have been:

<u>Betty Luke</u>	<u>Marlene Bortleson</u>	<u>Dorothy Botts</u>	<u>Lucille Barner</u>
<u>Rachel Fagnon</u>	<u>Rose Guidetti</u>	<u>Helen Darby</u>	

The lunch hour is a very delightful time. Stories and experiences are retold and the food much appreciated.

Any cook willing to take a turn can do so by calling Rose at 886-2858



FRANKLIN

For sometime now Carl and Don Mason have been trying to figure out a way to take people up to Franklin on tours and show them what it was like in its heyday. The problem was that the walking was poor because of poor trails, the winter storms had left fallen trees and access to some to the most interesting spots was poor. Like an answer to their prayers, a group from Tukwila, known as R.E.I. or Recreational Equipment Inc. through Ranger Dennis Meyers of Kanasket Park, offered to come and clean out the brush, make trails and clear the trails.

On Saturday April 5, a group of about 30 people came with their tools and equipment. They met at the Museum and Bob Eaton, Don Mason, Ted Barner and Carl Steiert led them to the Franklin area. They worked all day and made great improvements. With very little more to be done, the area is now a pleasure to explore.

Black Heritage Visit

On April 19 a few members of the Black Heritage Society paid a visit to the Black Diamond-Franklin area. Arrangements were made by Esther Mumford, who is a BDHS member. Everyone was much interested in the roll that the black people played in the history of Franklin. After viewing the Museum and a brown bag lunch the group went to Franklin where Don Mason and Carl Steiert explained as much as they were able about the area and the roll their early ancestors played in its history. It was a rewarding day.

June 8 Black Diamond Day

BLACK DIAMOND DAY

June 8 has been chosen as Black Diamond Day. It will be a celebration of Black Diamond's 104th birthday, the Old Timers' Picnic and this year the Historical Society celebrates its 10th year since it was founded in 1976.

Plans are being made for craft exhibits, food booths, and entertainment. The formal ceremonies will be at 12 noon with continuing musical and dancing performances the rest of the afternoon.

There will be some picnic tables. Every attempt is being made to make everyone feel comfortable and enjoy the day.

Tell your friends, call a friend and offer him a ride. This is a day dedicated to meeting old friends, making new ones and everyone having a good time.

If there are any questions....call: R. Eaton, 886-2327 or Carl S. 886-1168

RAFFLE

The response to the raffle tickets has been very good. There are a few that have not been heard from. It would help if all tickets were returned by June 1. The drawing will be at 3:00 p.m. on Black Diamond Day.

MUSEUM

In the last issue of the Newsletter, we told of the many visitors to the Museum and of the many places from which they came. It goes without saying that in order to be open so that the visitors can go through the facility, it takes quite a few people giving time to keep it open. First of all, we want to give our thanks to Elaine Griffin, who as chairperson, has done a great job of getting people to serve as docents. She, also, accepts calls about special tours and often conducts them. Right now the following people have pledged one day a month to "sitting" the Museum:

Howard Botts

Louis Zumek

Lois Zumek

Sharon Sand

Verna Thompson

Don Mason

Nancy Nicholas

Florence & Dave Garrett

Substitutes: Ted Barner, Frank Costi, Sue Capponi, Diane Olson, Marlene Bortleson

Carl Steiert spends much time conducting tours on days when the Museum is not officially open. School tours are an especial treat.

If anyone would be willing to help Elaine by volunteering some time, please, call her at 886-2663

Museum Hours are: Sat & Sun. 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. Thursdays 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

I Remember Black Diamond

By

Jack Reeves

Although I have never lived in Black Diamond, I do have many pleasant memories of Black Diamond during my High School days at Vashon High School. We were in the same athletic league as Black Diamond and we journeyed to your interesting Town several times to play basketball and baseball. I, also remember the fine athletes and the enthusiastic supporters that came to back their favorite team. The most outstanding athlete who I remember was a young man named Joe Paglia. He seemed to be the one who sparked the team and spoiled our chances of winning. One evening when we were playing in the Black Diamond Gym, we were having a rough time making points because we weren't used to the low ceiling in the gym. But our real problem was Joe Paglia. Nobody could stop him. I heard one of our "subs" say to the coach, "Put me in, I'll stop him." He couldn't stop him any better than anyone else and ,of course, Black Diamond won the game easily.

Another time when Joe spoiled our chances of winning was a Baseball game we played on the B.D. baseball field. The score was 9 to 7 favor of Black Diamond going into the first half of the ninth inning and our turn to bat. We had the bases loaded but there were two outs. Bill Smith, our heavy hitter, came to bat and all eyes were focused on him because we knew he was capable of knocking the ball over the fence. Bill took a hefty swing and hit the ball deadcenter. It headed straight for the center field but guesss what... Joe Paglia was playing center field. He took off after the ball, caught it in the web of his glove and the game was over. It was a spectacular catch that no one else could have made.

Joe Paglia went on to Santa Clara College where he played on the football team. He became known throughout the country for his spectacular kicking game. He could punt the ball and make it land just about anywhere he wanted, most of the time inside the five-yard line! He earned the nickname of "Coffin Corner Joe" and was,also, known as "Diamond Joe". Truly a star athlete.

Editor's Note: Jack Reeves is a Life Member of the Historical Society, He lives in the Renton area. He has contributed several artifacts to the Museum. We thank him for his interest and contributions.

DID YOU KNOW THAT.....

At one time school was held in the old Masonic Hall, in the two houses on "Main" st. owned by the Chilcott Family and In the John Dodd house?

or

That there were 2 Barber shops on Railroad Ave. and one next to the Show Hall.....

or

That the first proper house was built by Henry Thomas, a shoemaker in 1885. It had a shop underneath.

or

That there was a saloon up the tracks from the Depot near the Section house. It was run by German people. It is reported that there was, also, a store.

or

At one time there were the Barcley Hotel, the Jones Hotel, the Davies Hotel, The Habenicht Hotel. There were 2 more in the group of businesses across from the Depot which burned down. Later that area was occupied by the large hotel built by the Pacific Coast Coal Co.

Bakery Recollections

"I was born in the Bakery.", laughed Victor Evans in a recent interview with Diane Olson for the Black Diamond Historical Society. "I grew up in the bakery. I used to crawl around picking up the raisins that fell on the floor."

Victor's parents, Jack and Aurelia Evans worked and lived at the Bakery when Victor and his twin were born in 1915. Jack's aunt, Mary Minaglia, went to help her sister with the babies and the Bakery work.

Victor, now a Seattle resident, is retired as a chemist for 40 years, ironically, for a flour company---Fisher Flour Mills. He was chief chemist in charge of the laboratory for 20 years.

In the following excerpt Victor and Mary describe life at the Bakery 70 yrs. ago

Victor: The Bakery was owned by the Lapham Brothers at the time that my father was there. He'd been working here in Seattle and there was a job advertised for Black Diamond and he kind of got interested to find out. What was up ~~there~~ ~~was~~ a mining town.

He had been from England. He went to Canada and then to San Francisco. He worked in some large bakeries in San Francisco during the earthquake. He came to Black Diamond during the latter part of 1910 and worked the bakery there as a baker.

There's a picture that's hanging in the bakery now. Its a picture in front of the bakery with *John Lapham in front by the horse and then my mother and father were there. That's Jack Evans and at the time she wasn't married---that was Aurelia Minaglia---who became Mrs. Jack Evans.

Its kind of funny. I was born in the Bakery. Being a twin, they thought I was rather puny, although I weighed five pounds. To keep me warm---there were no incubators available---they laid me up near the baking oven. That old baking oven served as my incubator. I grew up in the Bakery. I used to crawl around picking up the raisins that fell on the floor.

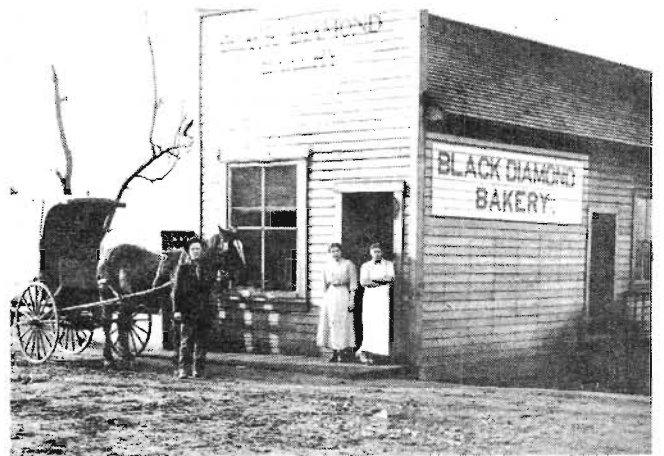
The oven is the same oven. Pop used to say, "There's a regular routine." He'd fire the oven about 4 o'clock in the morning. And then after the fire burned down, he'd sort of rake it to the side. Then the bread would bake first. And then, I think it was the pies, and then the cakes, and the cookies came last. Gradually the oven would tend to cool down. The fire in there would heat the bricks. The heated bricks---that's what did the actual baking.

At home (when they later moved to Seattle) we just had a wood and coal stove. The oven didn't have any thermostat or heat indicator on it. He used to make the fire and then he used to put his hand in the oven and he could tell when it was about right.

At the Bakery, he did all the main part of the baking. My mother used to help with some of the chores. She used to help with a lot of the details---icing cakes. Didn't they have someone else helping in the store part time?

Mary: Me! then later on, after I went to Seattle, they had others.

Victor: He used to produce several hundred loaves (each day) by hand. He had



a very unusual technique. You know in molding the bread you take a chunk of the dough and most of the bakers used two hands to mold it. He could mold two loaves at a time. He was so strong. He was sort of muscle bound from mixing dough.

They mixed in what they call the trough. They dumped the flour in there and other ingredients and they had a technique that gradually mixed it in to form the dough. Of course, they had to knead the dough to form the gluten. I guess they used to bake several kinds.

Mary: They had what we call Italian bread---round loaves. And of course, the pan bread. And then he'd make different twists of bread. Certain times of the year, he would have specials for holidays---fruit cakes. Cookies were 10¢ doz. He had many kinds of pies. You know, I have difficulty even with a regular flopper to dish out a piece of cake. He'd take these pies from the pie pan and flip them on to a paper plate---'cause we never sent out pans like they do now. I don't know how he did it. Our pie pans were regular pie pans, they weren't made of aluminum. He made apple, peach, pear. They got the fruit in gallon cans. Holidays he'd have mince meat and pumpkin.

Victor: Pop tells a story, when the first mixers(machines) came out, they came up to demonstrate. Evidently, the fellow wasn't sure about the strength of the thing to turn it on. Here came this batter all over the bakery. He had it on high speed. Pop said he couldn't stop laughing. He was so used to mixing by hand. They didn't buy one---at least, they didn't while Pop was there.

They used to deliver in Enumclaw and Buckley from Black Diamond. I think some went to Ravensdale too. There were a couple of boarding houses that were running at that time. Lapham did the delivering. They owned the place but they were not bakers.

Also, kind of interesting. Pop played some soccer and there were a number of people who worked in the mines from Wales and England. They all played soccer at one time or another. So he bought a soccer ball and brought the first soccer ball to Black Diamond. They formed a team and the first year they won the State Championship. They won several yearly championships. He played on a couple of those teams.

* Others think it could have been Eldon Lapham.

Thank you, Victor and Mary for sharing your memories of the Bakery with the Black Diamond Historical Society.

The BDHS has interviewed around 40 people who lived in the area in the early days. The interviews will be used to compile an Oral History on this rich coal mining country. This book, which will present our history using the very words of those who helped make it, will respect each person's point of view and perspective of what happened. It will be the Historical Society's project to celebrate the Washington State Centennial.

Please contact Carl Steiert, 886-1168, Diane Olson, 886-1635 or Don Mason at 852-6763. We will arrange a time to meet with you at your convenience. We are interested in listening to anyone who has any stories about this area's history.

DON'T FORGET

DON'T FORGET

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May meeting -----May 4-----2:p.m.-----at Museum

June 8-----Black Diamond Day-----Come early and enjoy yourself.

To send in your raffle tickets.

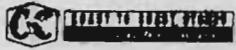
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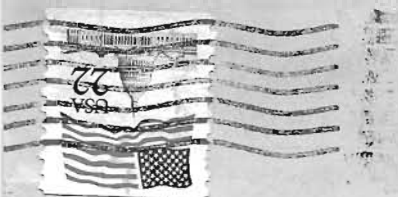
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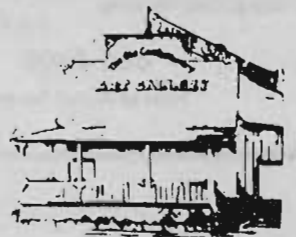
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