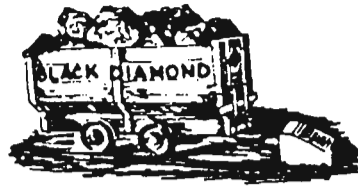


Black Diamond Historical Society



Museum Hours

Saturday——12 to 3
Sunday——12 to 3
Thursday——9 a.m. to
3 p.m.
Call 886-1168 for
special tours

May 1987

Black Diamond, Washington

Volume XII 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 MEMORIAM

William Franchini—Brother of George
Franchini and Esther Vander Heyden
Vernon Veal———Father of Stan, Joe
and Georgia
Morton Mann———Husband of Julia
Anne (Brennan) Murphy—Sister of Frank
Brennan

MEMORIALS

David Garrett from———T.A. Garrett
A.T. Garrett
Donna Coval from—Mr. & Mrs. Stuart
Murdock
Margaret Wilsco, from Joe & Eileen Zumeck

Doris Garner from—John & Lenore Stranz

Louis Chevalier from Rose Guidetti, and Gale & Arlene Hendricksen

Isabel Poalucci from Evelyn Nichol

Don Kuzaro from: Lennie Witt Jack Brady Stanley Celigoy
Joe & Eileen Zumeck Carl Steiert Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Romedo

Morton Mann from: John & Lenore Stranz Mrs. Arlo Hall Richard & Ellen Cook

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Domingo Mr. & Mrs. Phil Patterson Mr. & Mrs. Tom Lawson

Mr. & Mrs. Jim McKinley Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Durden Mr. & Mrs. Joe Zumeck

MAY MEETING



The May meeting will be held on Sunday the 17th. Due to the fact that the
second Sunday is Mother's Day, it was decided to have the meeting a week later.
A very special program will be presented. Jackie Cederholm, who has traveled
extensively in Wales will be showing her slides and narrating. She is the
granddaughter of Morgan Morgan the machinist. She is a member of the Historical
Society and has been very supportive in its activities. It should be a very
enjoyable and informative afternoon.

The meeting will be held at the Museum at 2:00 p.m. PLEASE mark the 17th of May
on your calendar.

RAFFLE NEWS

The raffle letters were sent out several weeks ago. The response thus far has
been good. Much interest has been shown. The drawing will be held on June 14
as stated in the letter which accompanied the tickets. If some of you have by
chance overlooked the tickets, there is still ample time to get them in.

Proceeds from the raffle will be used to help set up displays in the new room.
There are many items that come up in making the displays pleasing to the
viewers. Thus far comments have been most enthusiastic.

BLACK DIAMOND DAY

June 14 is the date set for the Black Diamond Day Celebration. It will open with the mine whistle blowing at noon. There will be food booths, craft demonstrations and a musical program. The Black Diamond Eagles Lodge will be serving dinners. Anyone who has a craft or knows someone else who does is asked to get in touch.

It is hoped to make it a "Coming Back Home" time. Everyone is welcome. We hope to have as many as possible of graduates of the Black Diamond High School attend and make it a Class Reunion time also.

If anyone has clothing worn in the last 100 years, we urge them to wear it, and add to the fun.

There will be some tables provided. It might be a good idea if you have an extra folding chair to bring it along....just in case.

For more information call: Bob Eaton, 886-2327, Carl, 886-1168 or Diane 886=1635

MUSEUM ATTENDANCE

Attendance at the Museum this past winter has been very gratifying. Elaine Griffin and the good people who man the week-end hours are to be commended. Because of the deaths of Frank Costi and Louis Zumek there are still a few days which need to be filled. If any of you are willing to give three hours a month to show people through the facility, Elaine would appreciate hearing from you. Most of the sitters enjoy visiting with people and say that most of the time the three hours go by quickly. If you don't want to commit to a regular time, we could use standby people to fill in when the regular sitters are not able. Call: Elaine 886-2663 or Carl 886-1168

People from all over the world have been in the last few months. The following addresses are noted on the Guest Book:

<u>Corvallis, OR.</u>	<u>Sprague, WA.</u>	<u>Waterloo, Iowa</u>	<u>Gasport, Ind.</u>
<u>Lake Oswego, OR</u>	<u>Vista, CA</u>	<u>Smithville, Tenn</u>	<u>Mesa, Ariz.</u>
<u>London, England</u>	<u>Anchorage, AK.</u>	<u>Aalsberg, Denmark</u>	<u>Bangor, Maine</u>

BLACK DIAMOND BOOK

Diane Olson is still hard at work transcribing tapes and compiling stories for the Black Diamond Book. A publishing Company has been contacted and it will be possible to print the book for a reasonable price. That will enable us to sell it for a reasonable price. Probably in the \$10.00 ball park. It is a very exciting project reliving the memories of so many people. Diane has been spending many hours each week on it.

FRANKLIN BUFFALOS

Don Mason, our Franklin Historian, has gathered a group of people who are also interested in the area and formed a hiking and exploring club. They felt the need of a name so decided to call themselves the Franklin Buffalos after a championship baseball team from Franklin called the Buffalos. They have been combing the area for artifacts. They have found pieces of very old mine cars and other artifacts. We consider them an Auxilliary Unit to the B.D.H.S. Several of the men have become members of the Society.

Much interest has been generated in the Old townsite. Don takes many people on tours of the area. Last month the local Fourth Grade class took a tour and really enjoyed it. Their teacher, Julie Weinbrecht, is a Society Member.

DEPOT DOINGS

The Thursday Crew has been somewhat frustrated because it has taken so much time to really dig in and get going on the new addition. First the paper work had to be done. Then equipment loaned by the City had to be brought in to dig the foundation. There has been much dirt removed from the area. The weather has been uncooperative choosing to rain each work day. Evan Morris had a load of gravel brought in. It helped to contend with the mud. Evan and Palmer Coking Coal also, donated several pieces of drain pipe for the ditch. They, also, allowed the Crew to use several huge boards to shore up the building while the foundation was being prepared.

While waiting for work on the room the Thursday Crew spent time working on the Memorial Garden. The area was weeded and additional bark was added. It looks as though the shrubs which were planted have all taken hold and look nice. In the last issue we asked if anyone had a kitchen range. Sue Capponi had a Monarch which she was willing to part with. The stove was brought down and now awaits some attention. While getting out the stove, it was noticed that there were a couple of cute first grade size desks in her basement. We got those, also. They were taken apart and refinished and look great.

The Black Diamond Post Office donated a blackboard which will go well with the little desks. Florence Garrett brought over a world globe which will be used in a school display. She, also, has the metal parts for several larger desks which will be used to reconstruct the larger size.

The men built a stand such as was used to hold two tubs and a wringer for washing clothes. They cut a barrel in two and made 2 wash tubs such as were used in the very early days.

The next few weeks should see more progress on the new rooms. The contractors to finish the cement and lay the cement blocks have been contacted and are just waiting for the dirt removal and basic work to be done.

CEMETERY VANDALIZED

On April 8 it was discovered that someone had gone into the Old Black Diamond Cemetery and pushed over tomb stones and really did damage. When the final count was taken there had been 47 stones disturbed. The damage was mostly confined to the oldest part of the Cemetery. It was a very disturbing sight to say the least. It looked like a war zone. The damage has all been repaired by City workers and volunteers. The stones which were pushed off their bases were re-attached with bonding material. It was an act of utter insanity. We are happy to report that the culprits have been caught. They are two boys 13 and 14 living in the houses right next to the Cemetery. They will be sent to juvenile court and made to do public service work. It is hoped that they will get counseling also.

MEDICINE =1904

- Acute Bronchitis: Make a hot cornmeal poultice containing 2 T. red pepper and 1 T. ground mustard. Apply to chest and change every 6 hours.
- Bleeding gums: Use a dogwood twig to clean your teeth or rinse your mouth daily with water and a bit of Quinine.
- Black Eye: Use a poultice of slippery elm bark mixed with milk. Put it on while warm.
- Baldness: Sickness, worry, excessive study, free exercise of passions all help to produce baldness. An onion cut in two and rubbed over the scalp day and night, also, proves successful.
- Chilblains: Soak affected part in liquid which unpeeled potatoes have been boiled.

ARTIFACTS AND INFORMATION NEEDED

In our picture collection we have a photo of a train wreck which occurred near the "Y" coming down from Franklin. We would be interested in knowing more about it...such as what caused it and how many injured.

We are told that there was another train accident right in Town near the home of Evan Thomas' parents. It was on the Bruce Spur coming down from New Lawson. We'd appreciate any information that anyone has on both of these accidents.

We were recently told that many depot Bays had a Captain's chair at the desk. They would put glass insulators on the feet as a sort of coasters. We would like to have a chair to put in our Bay. We are, also, in need of a phone. We'd like to have the type known as a scissors phone. It had an extension on the bottom.

Another item which we have not been able to locate is an old-fashioned butter churn. We've seen them in antique stores but the prices were beyond our budget. If anyone has one and is willing to part with it, we promise to cherish it and treat it with much TLC.

With the opening up of more space we are once again able to accept artifacts which until now we hesitated to take. The articles which are on display now bring many comments and are much appreciated by the people who visit the Museum.

IF YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH.....READ THIS

It is said there are three ages of woman: Youth, middle age and "You haven't changed." But change is the name of the game. Consider:

We were before frozen foods, penicillin, polio shots, radar, credit cards and ball point pens. For us, time-sharing meant togetherness, a chip meant a piece of wood, hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word.

We were before panty hose and drip-dry clothes, before icemakers and dish washers, clothes driers and electric blankets.

We got married first and then lived together. How quaint can you be?

Women wore Peter Pan collars and thought a deep cleavage was something the butcher did.

In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mowed and coke was something you drank, and pot was something you cooked in. We were before Day-care centers, house husbands, baby sitters, and the term "making out" referred to how you did on an exam.

There were five and ten cent stores where you could buy things for five and ten cents. For just one nickel you could ride the subway, or the street car or the ferry or make a phone call, or buy a coke, or buy enough stamps to mail one letter and two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy coupe for \$659.00 but who could afford that in 1938? Nobody! A pity, too, because gas was 11¢ a gallon.

We were not before difference between the sexes was discovered but we were before sex change. We just had to make do with what we had. And we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think you needed a husband to have a baby.

Now consider what we did have in 1938 that college students today do not have. We had housemothers and big sisters....We had daily chapel and required courses in Bible, speech and English co-op. We had hats and white gloves, white table cloths, linen napkins and candles.....all long gone.

We, also, had girdles with garters on them and petticoats and serge bloomers for gym. We mailed our laundry home in cardboard boxes and it came back with

IF YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH (cont')

Brownies. We had fountain pens and bottles of real ink. We had stockings made of real silk with seams up the back.....that were never straight.

In the Springtime of my senility, I am a misfit. I don't like to jog. I don't like pesto sauce. I don't know how to pump my own gas. I'm not "into vegies" or yoga, zen or punk. My idea of a good time is to walk with a man ~~not~~ jog with a walkman. The man I live with is my husband and after 42 years he is the same one

How embarrassing!!!

Note: The above article was given to us by Bob Eaton. He says author anonymous

THE COMPANY STORE

Whenever Mining and Coal Towns are discussed the subject of the Company Store is always brought up. It has been memorialized in both song and verse. It was a very real part of all the lives of people who lived in those mining towns. There one bought not only the necessities of life but a few of the extras too. They were in a sense the first mini-malls in that their inventories carried a wide scope of materials. The one in Black Diamond carried clothing, food, tools, food for animals, medicines and sundries. The Coal Company issued coupons which were redeemed for merchandise. During slack times many people never saw any money. They used the coupons which were deducted from their wages. They came in books of \$2.00/5.00/ 10. Although the Company is sometimes portrayed as gouging their workers, they, also, were the salvation of many families in hard times.

The first Company store in Black Diamond was located in the area near the Bakery. It burned down in 1907 in a spectacular fire. We are told that an attempt was made to pull the building down using a locomotive but was not successful. People got inside and threw merchandise out of the windows and doors. Duda Vernarelli told of people going around for days after the fire trying to find the mates for the shoes they had salvaged.

The last Company store was located next to the Pool Hall. It was brought down from New Lawson in 1912. It was quite a feat to haul that large structure down Lawson Hill on the primitive road that existed. We are told that it was brought by horse and windlass. Jockeying it into place must have taken real talent. An addition was added to it where hay and feed was stored. It, also, had an upstairs. There was a section where there were living quarters. These were occupied by Sheriff Polley. They, also, had used furniture for sale upstairs. Some of the people who worked in the Store in the early days were: Bill Jones, Dave Garrett, Jim Brody, Dave Botting, Bill Kramer and Alice Davies (aunt of Verna Thompson.) and Oscar Bailey.

The main floor of the store consisted of a huge counter on each side and merchandise area in the center. There was an office area in the back. Here people bought their coupons, cashed their payroll checks, paid their rent and their charged bills. Vi Campbell (then Thompson) tells of working from 8 to 5 for six days a week. She had 4 days a month when she worked out in the merchandise helping to stock shelves. She recalls the following persons as having worked in the office: Fred Strange, Frank Bergman, Amos Ungherini, Lila Allen, Ruth Cross, Loretta Berry, Mary Moroni, Hilda Wilkinson and Hazel Carey.

Much of their merchandise was purchased from Schwabacker Hardware in Seattle. Popular brands on the shelves were S & W, Happy Home, Royal, Calumet, Fels

Store cont'd

Naptha soap and Gold Shield. They had yard goods, much oil cloth and shoes which could be reached from a sliding ladder on the high walls. They had a drug and sundries department where they sold Lydia Pinkham's Tonic, Caster Oil, Cuticura Soap and Castoria.


If the walls of the Store could have talked, they would tell of Beatrice Frederickson, Mary Grgurich, Mrs. Whipple, Mary Ann Mills, Olive Greer, Dawn Wake, Marcella Williams, and Muriel Wing helping with the yardage, fitting shoes, skinning the big wheel of yellow cheese. We are told that it was covered with a wax impregnated cloth which was a real challenge to peel off. The eggs came in large cartons and had to be packaged. They sold large slabs of bacon. The chores of all the clerks consisted of not only waiting on customers but helping out with the janitorial duties also. This included both men and women clerks.

In the store room you might find Bill Morgan, Frank Cross, Herman Trover, Jim Poalucci, or Douglas Tyler helping a customer to sacks of Chicken Scratch, bales of hay or measuring out some nails. They might have been helping Tom Jardine load his Model T Ford truck with groceries to be delivered. Eileen Zumek (then Kelly) was one of the younger clerks and helped the other clerks when they needed an extra pair of hands along with her own duties.

During the time that the Pacific Coast Coal Company owned the Store it was a prime target for a few looters. They went into the basement and located a hole in the floor which had a small showcase covering it. They learned to move the showcase and get into the main floor of the building. Early risers living in the houses behind the store would often be treated to seeing the coal chute door fly open, a flour sack tossed out and a body following. The culprit would brazenly walk up the road toward Lawson Hill or wherever. It is speculated that many families ate better during the Depression because of that practice. The culprits boasted of going into the building while the then Sheriff Bill Cushing was napping near the safe and helping themselves. The big slabs of bacon and candy were favorite targets for stealing.

The PCCC eventually sold out to Harry McDowell. Mr. Mac as he was known was many things to many people. We have been told of extreme acts of kindness on his part and others have given an opposite picture of him. He was a small man in stature but wielded much power. He died in November of 1946. In January of 1947 Joe and Tom Zumek purchased it from his widow. They operated it until 1962.

Editor's Note: The above information has been gathered from several sources as well as personal memories. I am sure that we have not gotten the names of all people who worked there etc. If anyone has any more information we would be glad to add it to what we have.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND 

May 17 is the next general meeting. Special slide show on Wales.

June 14 is Black Diamond Day Let's make it a big success

Call Elaine Griffin and volunteer to give three hours of your time.

Call Rose Guidetti our lunch chairman, and offer to help. 886-2858
To the men especially, drop down on Thursday and see what is going on. With the new building project more hands will be appreciated.

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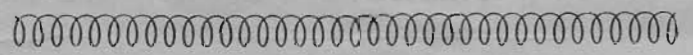
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