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May 1988

Black Diamond, WA.

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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

Helen Gustin Moisiu—Wife of Walter Moisi
 Modesto Tonda—Early resident of B.D.
 Jennie Edwards—Born in Franklin, age 99
 Ruth Cross—Wife of Frank Cross who
 worked at Company Store
 Margaret Hoffman—Wife of Larry, daughter
 of Doctor Hiram Smith.


MEMORIALS

Ed Niles from:

- Mr. & Mrs. Bud Simmons
- Mr. & Mrs. Albert Wesley
- Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Morgan

March Meeting

The March general meeting was held at the
 Black Diamond Grade School Multi-~~purpose~~ room. Gerry Hedland and John Hanscomb
 professors from Green River College presented a program which consisted of
 slides of Franklin and information concerning the archeological "Digs" which
 have been taking place for the past two summers. There were about 150 in
 attendance. Many former Franklin residents and offspring of Franklin residents
 Attended. It was a thoroughly enjoyable meeting with a lot of information
 exchanged and visiting done. The guests were served cookies and coffee which
 was provided by Society members. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

May 22 Next General Meeting May 22 

The next meeting of the Society will be held on May 22, at the Museum at 2:00
 Much more progress will have taken place on the new addition and it will be
 a good chance for members to view the addition and make suggestions. There
 will be a short slide show. Please mark your calendars.

July 17 BLACK DIAMOND PICNIC July 17

If you will recall in the last Newsletter it was stated that there would not
 be a Black Diamond Day as has been held the past three years. Instead it has
 been hoped to revive the old-fashioned picnic at which people could come and
 visit and get reacquainted. Since that time, the Palmer Coking Coal So. has
 offered the Society the use of their lovely grounds on the Green River. It is
 a very beautiful spot and will be the perfect setting for the kind of picnic
 we hope to have.

Because the Green River Gorge bridge is closed, it will necessitate us to
 drive to the Gorge turn-off on the Enumclaw-Black Diamond Road and approach
 it from the east. The site is located not far from the Gorge resort on the
 old Enumclaw-Gorge road. For those of you coming from the north, Just keep

PICNIC Cont'd

on Highway 169 towards Enumclaw, turn left on the Gorge road. We will have signs posted. There will be coffee provided. There are tables. A lawn chair or two might be appreciated.

Remember: July 17 is the date for the picnic. For more information call any of the following numbers: 886-2327, 886-1168, 886-2858

MEMBERSHIP

Gerry Hedlund, from Green River College joined the Historical Society. We, also, welcomed Julie Weinbrecht and Henry Jones as Lifetime members. There are still a few who have not sent in their dues for last year. In fairness to the other members, this will be their last Newsletter. If there happens to be an error on our part, please, let us know so that we may correct it.

CABOOSE

Bob Eaton and Carl Steiert went to Snoqualamie to check on our caboose. It is planned to bring down the undercarriage first and then the cabin. It will take some arranging to transport it. All avenues are being explored at this time. Any suggestions will be welcomed. In the meantime Harold Hoyt has joined the ranks of those who have contributed to the Caboose fund.

BOOK

Diane Olson reports progress on the Centennial book. It is scheduled to go to press in August. We hope to have it for the start of the Centennial year in November and for Christmas giving.

An application has been made to the Washington State Centennial Commission for help in funding the book. Julie Weinbrecht recently made a generous donation towards paying for the book.

Remember when.....

Remember when "hippie" meant: big in the hips
and a "trip" involved travel in cars, planes and ships?
When "pot" was a vessel for cooking things in
and "hooked" was what Grandmother's rug may have been?
When "fix" was a verb that meant mend and repair
and "be-in" meant merely existing somewhere?
When "neat" meant well-organized and tidy and clean
and "grass" was a ground cover, normally green?
When "groovy" meant furrowed with channels and hollows
and "bird" were winged creatures like robins and swallows?
When "fuzz" was a substance, real fluffy, like lint,
and "bread" came from bakeries and not from a mint.
When "roll" meant a bun and "rock" was a stone,
and "hang-up" was something you did with a phone.
It's groovey, man, groovy; but English It's not!
Methinks that our language is going to pot!

Recently found in the Jail some business cards from:

C.J. Johnson Baker-Johnson-Agency 620 So 11th Tacoma, WA.98405 Specialty: Bail Bonds.
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MUSEUM ATTENDANCE

The attendance at the Museum has really been great this winter. The guest register shows some 732 signatures. If the gauge of 40% signing the book is correct this would mean that 1800 people have gone through the facility. The visitor from Hiroshima, Japan was the farthest away, next was London, England. It is great to watch the people as they express pleasure with what they are viewing. The count was taken from January 1 to April 24.

We have a child's toy called a Bloogle for sale for \$1.00. It is a plastic corrugated tube which makes all kinds of musical tones when whirled around in the air. Recently 5 ladies from London, England bought one for each of their grandchildren. As they left the Museum and headed down the street towards the Bakery, they were twirling their Bloogles over their heads and had a mini parade of their own! The best part of the Bloogle is that they were given to us and they are pure profit.

While the subject of attendance is thought about, it is time to think of and thank the persons responsible for taking care of the Museum on its "open" days. First of all we must thank Elaine Griffin for being the coordinator and seeing that it is manned. The following people have put in many hours:

<u>Howard Botts</u>	<u>Julie Weinbrecht</u>	<u>Florence Garrett</u>	<u>Vi Campbell</u>
<u>Merna Hawks</u>	<u>Verna Thompson</u>	<u>Dwight Garrett</u>	<u>Don Mason</u>

Substitutes: Ted Barner, Marlene Bortleson, Diane Olson, Ethel Duncan

Our thanks to each one of our docents.

NEW ADDITION

Much progress has been made since the last Newsletter. The exterior has been finished complete with a paint job. It was painted by Don McEniry, a new resident in Black Diamond. He donated his time and equipment. Many hands are credited with work on the addition thus far. John Guffey, Joe Dal Santo, Tom Zumek, Delbert Garrett, and Don Mason have all helped the Thursday Crew. Bob Eaton, Martin Moore, Joe Kuzaro, Carl Steiert, Ted Barner and Norm Gumser, in many long hours of labor.

The interior walls have been insulated and work will be proceeding with the finishing and painting. Plans are being made to use the display area to its best advantage. All suggestions are being considered.

We have been looking for mannequins to wear some of the donated clothing. We were able to purchase two ladies and a man's torso thanks to the efforts of Rachel Fagnon. She has been calling the stores in the Southcenter area and reports that the mannequins are next to impossible to find. We thank her for her efforts. If any of our members has a source whereby we might obtain these figures, we would certainly appreciate hearing from you.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Memorial Garden on the bank in front of the Museum has gotten many nice compliments. Louise and Rachel Fagnon recently brought and planted 20 Geraniums. We are hoping to plant some more annuals to brighten the display. Jim Kuzaro lent his expertise and pruned the tree roses. Any interested gardeners will be welcomed.

DON'T FORGET

May 22 - General Meeting
 July 17 - Black Diamond Picnic

WAY BACK WHEN

We hear a great deal about waste disposal these days. It makes one remember what it was like in the early days. There were no Glad bags, no garbage cans or garbage men, no disposals and certainly no trash compactors. Mother managed to have little rubbish. There was a wastebasket under the sink and Father would take it out and burn the contents on a blackened ashy spot in the vacant lot. We didn't have many magazines. We were most of us too poor to be able to buy them. Table scraps were fed to the chickens. Wax paper wrappings were smoothed out, carefully folded and stowed away in a kitchen drawer to be used to wrap Father's sandwiches in. There were no bottles or glass jars that were not washed and reused for jam, jelly, catsup or chili sauce which Mother put up every year. Most people didn't buy store eggs since they had their own chickens. There were very few tin cans since most food was canned at home. Once in a while we would have a can of salmon or tuna fish. These cans were not thrown away but always made use of.

As for all those big brown super-market bags that pile up in our kitchens today since they are far too good to be thrown out, well, they didn't exist during those days at all. Most of the time we shopped often, running to the store to buy fresh meat for supper or maybe a pound of sugar. These items were wrapped "brown paper packages tied up in string". and were carried home without benefit of a big double strength bag. Mother saved each piece of string, winding it into a fat ball. It was mighty handy for sewing up roasting chickens and for kite flying.

We didn't have wrappings from bread or rolls. Mostly Mother baked her own bread. However, a Bread Man came around several times a week and when she wanted some "Company Bread" she would buy from him. Milk was also delivered to the door. Black Diamond had many venders of all kinds of wares. One of the favorite sounds was the ringing of the bell on Steve Vernarelli's vegetable wagon. The Museum is fortunate to be able to display the bell and umbrella from his wagon. None of these peddlers used paper bags so we had none to dispose of. It would see that in some ways Life was much simpler years ago.....

SCHOOL TOURS

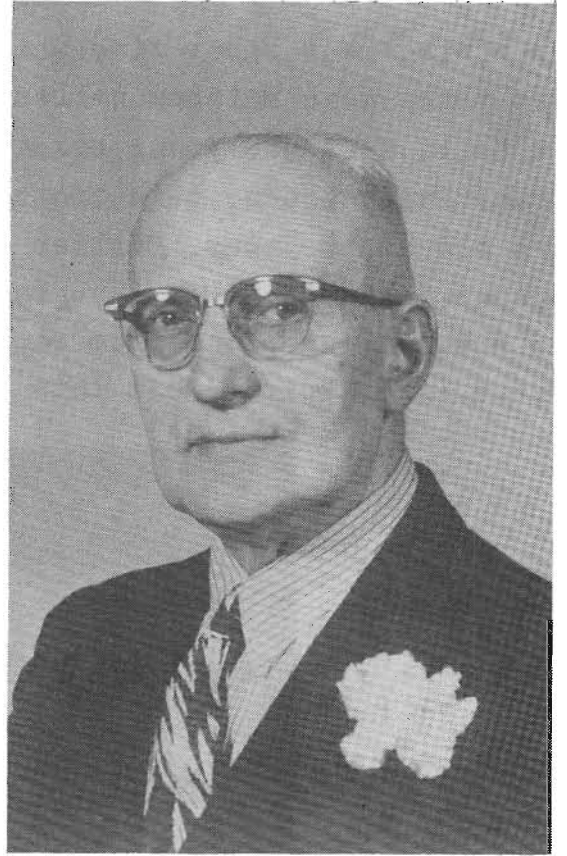
One of the special services that those of us working at the Museum perform is to guide children through the facility on tours. Recent Mrs. Weinbrecht's fourth Grade Class from the B.D. Elementary visited us. This particular visit was to learn about how people used to live, about their homes, and their foods. We always begin by asking them to pretend that they are a boy or girl living in the year 1882. We talk about the migration from California, We ask them to imagine coming from the somewhat barren California area to the huge forest of virgin timber in this area.

When talking about home conditions we asked them to imagine a giant coming into our 1988 homes and taking out everything that is electrical. Everyone was very amazed at the amount of things we would have to give up. They ate their sack lunches and discussed history. The visit was concluded after they all had a chance to wash clothes on a washboard and round tub. They were later given a small sack of coal courtesy of Palmer Coking Coal.

Note: After going home that night Carl and I discusses the amount of electrical equipment in our home collected in 53 years of housekeeping. Curiosity made me write each article down. We were amazed to find that we had 61 articles.

Henry J. Babb

Black Diamond has been fortunate to have had some very fine and unusual people living here. One such man was Henry Babb. He was Maintenance Supervisor for the Pacific Coast Coal Co. He and a small crew of men were responsible for utilities, cleanliness and general maintaining the properties. He was a very outspoken man and it was not unusual to hear him "reaming" out one of his men who had not done as he was told. At that time the Company took care of the garbage. They used a Model TT dump truck. A man who was always called Lundy and Rome Vernarelli were part of his Crew. In spite of his sometimes volatile way he was genuinely interested in Black Diamond and its people. He worked with all the ball teams, both soccer and baseball. He helped start kids teams. He was on the School Board and was Community Club president. He helped with the Christmas programs for the kids which were held at the Showhall. Everyone living in Black Diamond during Babb's Day benefited. He married Esther Vernarelli. He and his step-grandson, Greg Sambrano were great friends. He went to work at Boeing during World War II. He retired in 1962. He died in 1966. All of us are richer for having known him.

"THE SQUARED CIRCLE"

It seems that in the nature of man there is always a spirit of combat. This spirit is expressed in many ways. of this spirit wars have been waged. Battles fought. This spirit is seen in combat sports. In the early days of Black Diamond one of the favorite sports for the men to take part in was boxing. Bob Hodges was the sheriff around the turn of the century, circa 1900. He was, also, a professional heavyweight boxer. He would go into Seattle to box. They tell us that special trains were run into Seattle for the people who wanted to go and see him fight. He later became a County sheriff. He ran for Governor and is said to have lost because his wife opposed the move. Since boxing was highly frowned upon by the more elite, his activity in that sport was held against him. It is said that his opponents used a pair of boxing shorts in their campaign against him. Needless to say he lost the bid for the office.

In reviewing the boxing activities in Black Diamond many names come to mind. George Ayers, Gomer Evans, and Ben Mercer all boxed. Vern Stewart was a very good boxer. He later went to Seattle and became a policeman. He later boxed with Max Baer in some of Baer's early fights in California. Carl Steiert recalls boxing with him and really getting pounded.

Some of the other names of men interested in the sport were:

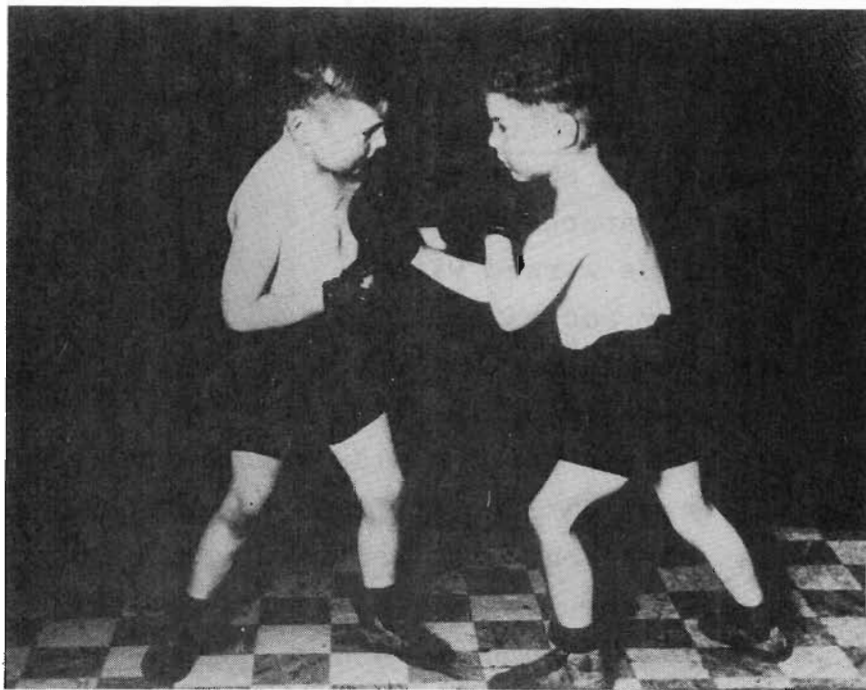
<u>Charles Thompson</u>	<u>John Babchonick</u>	<u>Emmett McIntyre</u>	<u>Casper Erath</u>
<u>Cut(John) Kravagna</u>	<u>Louis Santi</u>	<u>Jack Jackson</u>	<u>John Richter</u>
<u>Alfred Moore</u>	<u>Rome Vernarelli</u>	<u>John Maks</u>	

Brenmauer Emmanuel

The boxing matches were held in many places in town. A favorite spot was in front of the Saloon. Here all sort of feelings were worked out by way of fisticuffs. They also, fought in the Hotels, such as the Davies Annex. Matches were held in the Finnish Hall on Lawson Hill. It is said that during the big strike in 1921

SQUARED CIRCLE, Cont'd

some of the ment spent time while idle, amusing themselves boxing. For many years there were matches called "Smokers". These were usually held at the Show Hall. Here the young boxers had a chance to compete. The picture shows Jim and Harry Woods, twin brothers showing their skills. They were about 9 years old at the time. Earlier in the century it was not uncommon to have a ring set up in front of the grandstand at the ball park. There were matches held between champions from each mining camp such as Carbonado, Newcastle and Burnett. Much spirit went into watching these matches.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Karl Sebastian and Bud Simmons for donating insulation which has been used in the new addition.

The Charles Falk family for an excellent map of the Franklin area. It has been valuable in pinpointing areas in Franklin.

We are trying to find:

Pictures of the area behind the depot when it was in its heyday. There was the Krause Saloon, a Bowling Alley, Livery Stable, the jail and a Blacksmith's shop. A picture of any one of them or more would be greatly appreciated.

We have been trying to find a picture of the Finn Hall up on Lawson Hill. Also, any other buildings such as the school and post office location.

Family Stew

Take one large pot. Mix together assorted sizes, shapes and temperments of Mom and Dad. Add children gradually with care and love.

Sprinkle on dreams, encouragement, patience, honesty and pride. Stir in work, friends, pets, schools, church picnics, parents, grandparents, brothers, sister, nuts and bolts. Don't forget some craziness, kisses and hugs, fanny pats and more patience, Tooth fairies, Santa Claus, and angels.

Take a large scoop of luck and an abundance of energy. Bring to a boil and simmer for 20 years or more. All stews are original and need generous amounts of imagination, fortitude and tolerance to keep from turning rancid. The magic of tis incredible stew is that after 50 years the aroma still lingers. The pot never empties although the flavor may vary depending on taste, preference and seasonings. Bon appetit!!

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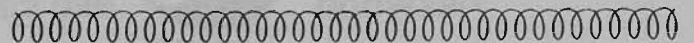
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