



MUSEUM HOURS

Saturday & Sunday 12 to 3
 Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Special Arrangments call:
 886-1168 886-2663

February 1990

Black Diamond, Washington

Volume XV Issue I

B.D.H.S.

Published by the:

Black Diamond Historical Society
 a non-profit Corporation.

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

Annual Individual _____ \$ 5.00
 Annual Family _____ 7.00
 Lifetime _____ 50.00
 Family Lifetime _____ 75.00
 Annual Business _____ 15.00

Send dues to: Box 232
 Black Diamond, WA. 98010

Editor: Ann Steiert 886-1168

IN MEMORIUM

Ned Chilcott—Longtime resident
Walter Wilson—Resident of Black Diamond
Edna Kneimeyer—Active in the Rebekahs.
Katherina Falgasi—Related to the
 DiJulio family former residents.
Juanita Romedo—Wife of Ernest Romedo
 mother of two daughters. A long
 time resident of Black Diamond.
George Franchini—Husband of Irma and
 father of George Jr. and Steve.
 George was born in Black Diamond
 and leaves a lot of friends.
Ralph Beers Husband of Clara. Brother
 -in-law of Verna Thompson, Merle
 Romedo and Evelyn Harte

MEMORIALS

Walter Wilson—from—Mary Grgurich
Katherina Falgazi—from—Mr. & Mrs. Denny DiJulio
Edna Kneimeyer—from, Betty Hougardy, Ethel Duncan, Merna Hawk & Donna
 Gauchenour
Juanita Romedo—from—Sylvia Manowski, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Thompson
 Carl and Ann Steiert Mr & Mrs. Charles Corlett
George Franchini—from—Palmer Coking Coal Robert & Gail Kuzaro
 Pauline Kombol Carl & Ann Steiert
James Vernarelli—from—The Sons of Italy Lodge

GENERAL MEETING



There will be a meeting of the Historical Society on Sunday, March 11
 The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. We hope to have a good turnout of members.
 It is really necessary for all members to get acquainted with what has been
 done thus far and to let us know what they would like to have done. Let's
 make it a "get acquainted again" meeting. Remember MARCH 11

SPECIAL MEETING

AKOHO means association of King County Historical Organizations. This group
 meets monthly at the different Historical Societies. We will be hosting a
 meeting of the Group on April 24, from 9:00 to 3:00. The meeting will be held
 in the Eagles Hall with Open House at the Museum. All members are welcome to
 attend. It has been several years since we had the honor of having them attend
 a meeting at Black Diamond. Many changes have been made and we want to show
 them to our visitors. More later....

ADVERTISERS

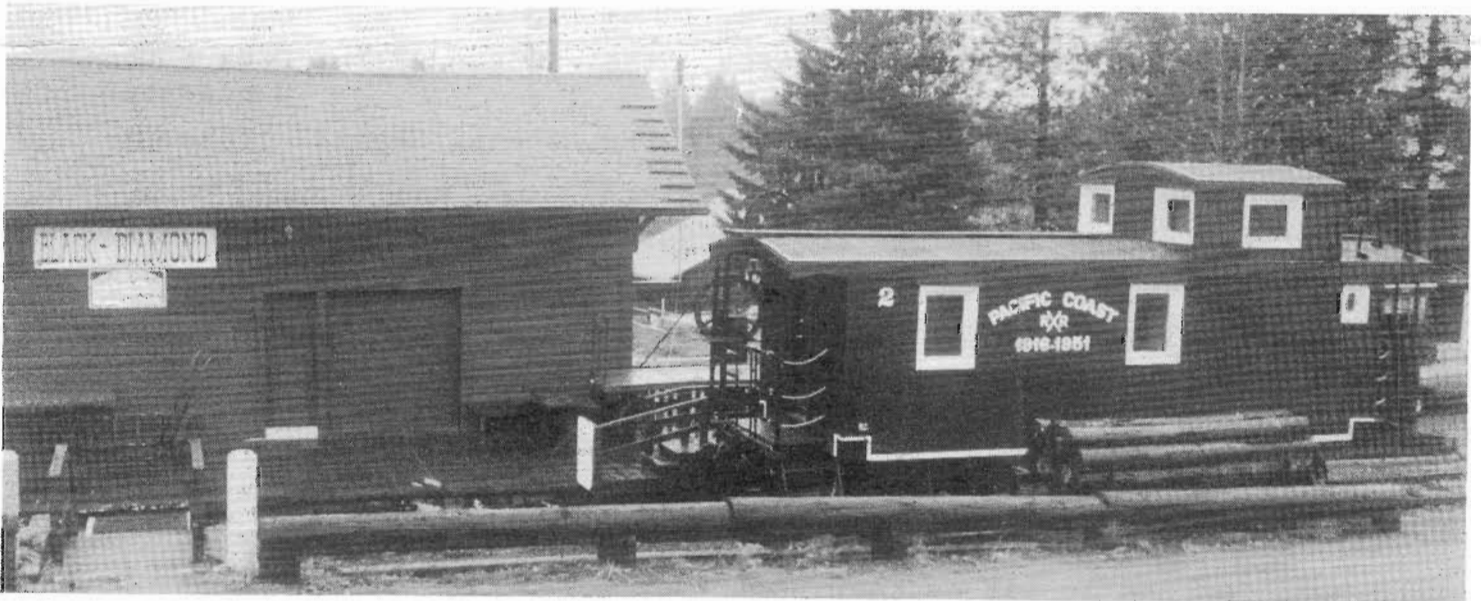
We'd like to call your attention to our cover page and ask you once again
 to be supportive of all the firms who have helped us in this Historical effort.
 We feel very grateful to all who havd helped with our book sales and have
 given help when we needed it in the caboose reconstruction. Please remember
them when you need any of their products.

PRESIDENT BOB

There has been an empty chair at the table at Thursday lunch. Our president, Bob Eaton, has had the misfortune of having to go to the hospital for some surgery. He is home now and doing fine. We are looking forward to the time when he again fills that chair. Bob has spent a very busy year supervising the rebuilding of the caboose and other projects around the Museum. He is never happier than when he is busy so we are looking forward to having him back on the job. Our best wishes to him always.

CABOOSE

When we first started to work on the Depot many a person said to us, "What you need on the tracks is a caboose." It was a dream of all of us. Over the years we looked at many only to find out that there was always a reason for not taking that particular one. We all had visions of what we wanted. Most of them were not the vintage we wanted, were made out of metal, and most of all were too much money. Money was something we didn't have much of. When the caboose at Snoqualamie was located we were pretty excited because it was the vintage we wanted. When we agreed to purchase it we didn't know that it was in such poor shape structurally. The truck ride and the loading and unloading showed us that it needed more work than we anticipated. The Thursday Crew decided to tear off the entire body of the caboose and rebuild it from "scratch". That is what they did and now we have a beautiful new caboose! It is receiving much attention and praise. Many people watched the entire progress of the rebuilding. There was much cheering as the structure took form. The men are justifiably proud of their "Masterpiece". It is now open for viewing on our open days.




PEOPLE ON THE JOB

We were very fortunate during 1989 to have had so many visitors to the Museum. There were just a few short of 10,000 who visited us. In order to accomodate that many people were grateful for the faithfulness of those who "sat" the Museum on each open day. Elaine Griffin, who is in charge of manning the open hours has done a great job.

The following is a list of persons who have willingly served:

- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Donna Gauchenour | Ethel Duncan | Florence Garrett | Merna Hawk |
| Donald Botts | Elaine Mead | Verna Thompson | Don Mason |
| Dewey Sullivan | Gwen Sebastian | Marlene Bortleson | Jewel McCloud |
| Julie Weinbrecht | | | |

WANTED 

Carl would like to have a blacksmith's Anvil for a shop he hopes to set up.

ARTICLES RECEIVED

A great collection of buttons was given to the Museum by Gale Kuzaro. It has hundreds of buttons of all sorts. We are planning to build a wall cabinet in which to display them. Buttons counted thus far 1994 with two boxes to go!

A 1930 coal stoker belonging to the Norvell Family in Seattle was picked up recently. It is one that had been used on a coal furnace.

A stove for the caboose was donated by Dave Sprau.

Al Shay donated a toilet such as was used in a caboose.

Lou & Rachel Fagnon donated a lamp for the desk in the caboose.

A Thermos bottle used by George Fulford was donated by Chick & Irene Thompson. George used to carry tea in it when he worked on the road circa 1918.

SPITBALLS

The following story was taken from the Good Old Days Magazine. Most of us knew a boy named "David" when we went to school in our Good Old Days.....

In the one room school with grades one through eight, there was a sixth grade boy named David. He was a bright good-looking lad who had a mania for shooting spitballs---always hitting their mark, too, everytime. Sometimes during a class session, a child in the room would grab a part of his anatomy, and utter a disruptive word or phrase. David had struck again.

All remedies failed after-school assignments (I won't throw spitballs) written 100 times, discussions with both students and parents, everything. Something had to be done. "But what?", the teacher asked herself. After much thought and prayer she felt she had an idea worth trying.

"David," she said the next afternoon just before closing time. "I want you to stay after school. Two times today you broke your promise about shooting spitballs and we are going to work out something that will help you remember!"

After all the other children had gone the teacher called David to her desk.

"David" she said, "I know you must enjoy throwing spitballs. And I am going to give you the chance to shoot a lot of them right now." Handing him some paper she continued, "I want you to make 50 spitballs out of this paper. When you have finished, we will count them."

David's surprise showed on his face. "What fun!!Nothing to it!!" It seemed to say. In a short time 50 spitballs were made and counted.

"Now," said the teacher, "you will shoot these spitballs anywhere in this room that you want to. When you have shot them all, let me know. I have some work to do at my desk."

David finally announced he had shot all 50. He stood with his cap in hand ready to leave. Spitballs dotted everything.

Noticing the cap, the teacher said, "David, you may as well hand your cap back on the rack. You aren't through yet. You see, she continued, "you aren't going until you collect all 50 spitballs and put them on my desk. Fifty! we'll count them together.

The medicine was bitter but it worked. The cure was final. Not only for David but any other aspiring spitball throwers.

)*****((

Recipe from the Key to Good Cooking published early 1900's

Swedish Meat Balls

25¢ worth of round steak ground, 1 egg, 1 tsp. flour, 1 pint milk added slowly a little at a time, beat until light and fluffy. fry in butter to which a bit of onion has been added. Make a thick gravy, drop in meat balls and simmer for half hour on back of stove.

MRS. GOLDSMITH

ENTRADA SALAMENTE ENPLIDOSYAZAK 3A6PAH3HNIEKAM HEYALE IETTVLAZAK SAMO ZA RADNINEVIETATO LUNGRESSTILOSA BEMENETDANGER, KEEP OUT-EMPLOYEES ONLY

One of the artifacts in the Museum which brings about much discussion and many questions is a metal sign which reads "Danger" and is written in sixteen different languages. A few of the words are printed above. Some of the words are hard to read due to the toll time has taken on the sign. Many questions are asked about the ethnic make-up of the Town and its roots.

The first settlers in Black Diamond were predominately Welsh and Italian with a very few other nationalities present. These were the people from Nortonville in 1882. They worked at getting the mines started, making the area fit for homes and planting the roots of the Town. Soon the area opened up to more people when the railroad was built and more roads built. Then there was the beginning of other nationalities coming into the area.

Word got around that there were jobs available. Some people from other lands were finding their way to Washington. Almost everyone who came had an uncle or brother who needed a job and they were sent for. They all seemed to have large families. As the population grew so did the ethnic mix. From the first group of 101 people who came from California in 1882, the population grew to 3500 people in 1900, making Black Diamond one of the largest cities in the State of Washington.

When the new people came to Black Diamond they tended to cluster in groups speaking their native tongues. Of course, this was because most of them knew very little English.

The Welsh people tended to live in the area of the "Main Road". The Italian people lived in two sections. One directly behind Railroad Ave and **the other on land** east of Lawson Hill. They were known as Upper and Lower Dago Town. The land down by Lake 14 was occupied by the Slavs, Germans and the Ukranian people. There were around 50 houses in the area we know as Old Lawson. There was a large Finnish settlement on the top of Lawson Hill. There were some Polish people living there too. As time went on and they became more fluent in English they mingled more. However, there were some people who came over from Europe and clung to their "Mother Tongue" to the point that many of the children could scarcely speak English when they started school.

These were very brave people. The journey from their homeland was often a great ordeal. Imagine these people embarking into the unknown expecting to find streets paved with gold and everything wonderful. We have been told many stories in our taped interviews of the hardships encountered. That was not the day of the luxury liner and jet airplane. Many came over on small boats which took many weeks. They came to Ellis Island and were met by unkind officials, people who took advantage of their "greenhorn status." They had to learn to survive without being able to speak the language. Coming across America was a long and harrowing trip. Most of them had to learn to survive by their wits. When they got to Black Diamond, it was wonderful to find others who spoke the same language and had, also, survived the journey from their homelands.

Each culture has its own wisdom, crafts and charm. As time went on there were many good features when these abilities were mingled. The Welsh liked to sing as did the Italians. They, however, were known for their great wines and good breads that they baked. The Town was pretty much dependant on its own ability to create its own social life. That was before the movies, TV and the many things we take for granted in this day. Therefore any knowledge or skill that each group had was very important to everyone.

LOU AND RACHEL

It takes many hands, doing many things to accomplish what has been done during the past few years in building the Museum and collecting all the articles which we are displaying.

Two people who have been very much in the whole process have been Lou and Rachel Fagnon. Rachel is a native Black Diamonite. Her parents were among the early settlers of the area. The name of Reece comes up often in articles written about the early days. Her mother was Beatrice Reece. She raised her family and for many years worked at the Company Store. Rachel's father, Pete Frederickson, ran the local Meat Market for many years.

Ever since the Thursday lunch program began several years ago, Lou and Rachel drive from their home in Normandy Park on each second Thursday with a lunch for the Crew. We all look forward to seeing them. They have had ideas, bought articles for the displays and are generally supportive. Rachel is vice-president of the Society:

We asked their children, Jim and Mary to give us a recap of their activities during their lifetime. They submitted the following:

Rachel was born December 3, 1917 in a small house still standing just around the corner from the Museum. Mrs. Reynolds was the nurse assisting in in a difficult birth. Growing up in Black Diamond her best friends were Jenny Parkinson, Lois Thomas, Frances Zumek, Vera Malgarini and Annabelle Milautz.

She graduated from Black Diamond High School in 1935 and moved to the Women's Hotel in downtown Seattle with Vera Malagarini as roommate. She worked as a switchboard operator at several firms including the Seattle General Hospital. She began her lifelong series of volunteer work with the USO where she met and married a dashing MP, Louis Fagnon. They were married in 1945 and have two children, James Fagnon of Enumclaw and Mary Clayton of Seattle. They have two grandchildren Josh 16 and Beatrice Fagnon 10.

Lou was a High School English teacher in Enumclaw from 1954 to 1962 while Rachel was receptionist/switchboard operator for Rainier State School. She was, also, an active member of the PTA and a cub scout Den Mother. In 1965 Lou accepted a position with Random House Books in Syracuse, N.Y. and moved the family there.

In 1967 Lou and Rae packed their bags and moved to Kathmandu, Nepal in the Himalaya Mountains. Lou was employed by the U.S. Agency for International Development. They lived there for 5 years and were able to take many wonderful trips throughout the East. These visits included Hong Kong, Bangkok, Taipei and Singapore. Jim and Mary visited them for several months in 1968 and the whole family was able to visit Kashmir, New Dehli and the Taj Mahal.

Since Lou's retirement they have lived in Normandy Park. Rae has kept busy with her involvement in a variety of volunteer activities including Airport Travelers' Aid voting poll worker, Census Bureau and, of course, the



Lou & Rachel Fagnon with Granddaughter Beatrice

LOU AND RACHEL Cont'd

Museum . They constantly are aware of articles needed and are on the lookout for them. The most recent piece is a lamp for the desk in the caboose.

We all look forward to the Second Thursday of each month. They are truly appreciated.

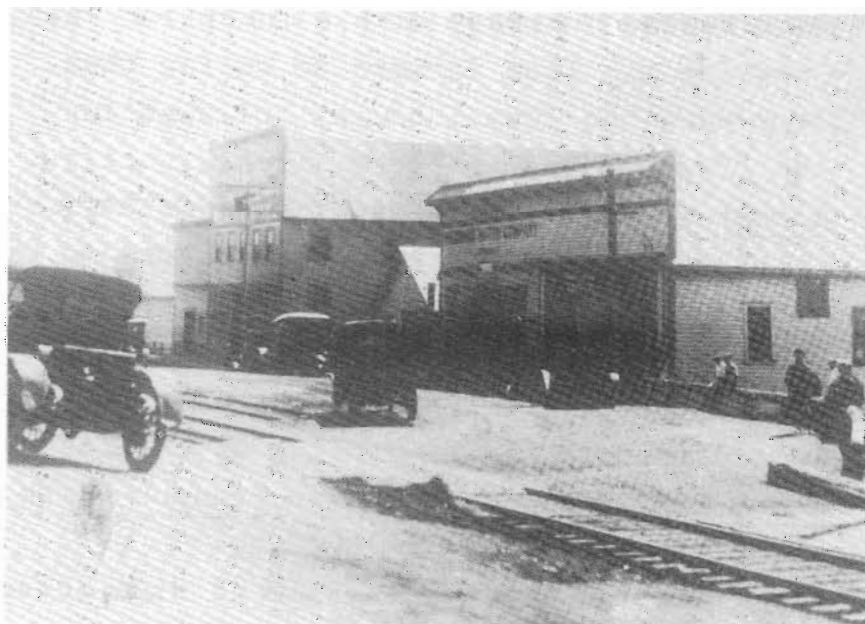
INITIAL CONFUSION

Current bureaucratic yarn tells of a fellow who doesn't have a first or or middle name, only the initials R.B. This unusual arrangement never was a problem until R.B. went to work for an agency of the U.S. Government. The government is not accustomed to initialed but nameless employees. So R.B. had a lot of explaining to do. Finally he was given official forms to fill out for the payroll and personnel departments and his name was entered as R(only) B (Only) Jones.

Sure enough when R.B. got his pay check it was made out to Ronly Bonly Jones.

YE OLD LOAFING RAIL

In the 1920's and 30's one of the favorite spots in Town where the men got together was the loafing rail next to the Pool Hall. It extended towards the Depot. Here the men would come to talk about their work their problems, get glad news and sometimes sad news. There were several shifts at the mines and as each shift changed so,too, would the crowd on the rail change. It was a favorite spot for sales people to stop and display their wares. Car salesmen were especially fond of stopping there.



Every once in a while there would be a bit of excitement when a car would come sailing down the hill and its brakes would not hold. There would be some scrambling. Needless to say there always followed a heated discussion on the merits of the braking system.

In looking back on the Loafing Rail we sometimes think that every town needs one . Here friends were made, issues discussed and sometimes solved. Ideas exchanged and worldwide problems taken care of.

FUTURE PLANS

Now that the caboose is finished the Thursday Crew is doing an assessment and looking at the other things that need doing. The following are some of the things that were left on hold during the caboose rebuild:

They plan to build a building to store & display a fire hose cart which is being given to us by the Fire Dept. It is a 1930's vintage....before the fire trucks.

The planks on the platform are showing wear & need replacing.

The area behind the depot needs to have the ditch covered and landscaped.

**THE
Hardware Store, Inc.**
Coast to Coast

We now have more room
and merchandise to meet
your hardware needs.

Stan & J Johnson

432-3384

AT FOUR CORNERS
MAPLE VALLEY

BLACK DIAMOND AUTO PARTS

886-1133

Open 7 Days a Week

COMPLETE MACHINE SHOP
SERVICE

3rd & Larson

**Black Diamond Automotive
ARCO**

Jim Kemmer - Darwin Glaser

Complete Auto Repair
Tires - Batteries

Arc & Gas Welding

Hot Tank Service

886-2800

Next to Boots Tavern

THE
**DINNER
HOUSE**

in Black Diamond

A Fine Dining Establishment

*One of Black Diamonds'
Historical Landmarks*

886-2524

Tuesday thru Saturday
11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Sunday Brunch
10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Sunday Dinner
2:30 - 8:00 p.m.

*Serving
Cocktails and Wine*

*Specializing in
Banquets and Wedding Receptions*

Black **DIAMOND
Pharmacy, Inc.**



CARDS & GIFTS

Four Corners Village

26923 Maple Valley Hwy. S.E.
Maple Valley, WA 98038
Phone: (206) 432-6002



Wood Products Co.

4 CORNERS

(206) 886-2804 (206) 432-1222

WHOLESALE RETAIL

Moergeli-Vesey Agency

Home • Auto • Business • Life

825-5508

Miles Moergeli
Greg Vesey

1612 Cole Street
Enumclaw, Washington 98022



**FIRST NATIONAL BANK
OF ENUMCLAW**
MEMBER FDIC
*Your Home-Owned
Independent Bank*

24-Hour

Quickbank™ services at Main Office,
Black Diamond Branch
& Four Corners Branch

Main Office 1212 Cole St., Enumclaw, WA 98022 (206) 825-1651
Central Branch 1609 Cole St., Enumclaw, WA 98022 (206) 825-1651
Chinook Branch 747 Watson St. N., Enumclaw, WA 98022 (206) 825-1651
Black Diamond 31605-3rd Ave., Black Diamond, WA 98010 (206) 886-2812
Four Corners 26866 Maple Valley-Black Diamond Rd. S.E. (206) 432-7077

PALMER COKING COAL CO.

**COAL
FIREWOOD**

886-2841



GRAVEL

**GRAVEL
RED CINDERS**

432-3542

P.O. BOX 10, 31407 HIGHWAY 169
BLACK DIAMOND, WA 98010

Duane and Fay Weeks

ENUMCLAW
FUNERAL
HOME



825-3548

Nearest Service to
Black Diamond



FLOTHE'S INSURANCE AGENCY

Len Flothe

Marilyn Pedersen

"INSURANCE OF ALL KINDS"

26909 Maple Valley Rd. S.E.
Maple Valley, WA 98038

886-2772

BLACK DIAMOND RENTAL
EQUIPMENT RENTALS

"HARD TO FIND BUT PRICES ARE GOOD"

886-1545

EQUIPMENT FOR HOMEOWNERS
AND CONTRACTORS

STEIRT ST., BLACK DIAMOND, WA

Frank Manowski
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Law, WA. 98022



Black Diamond Historical Society
Box 232 Black Diamond, WA 98010

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BLACK DIAMOND, WA
PERMIT NO. 19

10 Shops...

... 1 Roof



Phone
886-2663

*Crystal, Pewter, China, Collector glass, Flo-Blue,
Antique Jewelry, Antique Prints, Wood toys, Dolls,
Antique Linens, Crochets, Roseville, Fostoria, Bauer Letton,
Tole work, David Winter cottages, Hummel and more...*

MARJIE R. KARI,
General Manager***

FRANK'S MEAT MARKET & SAUSAGE COMPANY

"Sering This Area Since 1936"

Market 432-2685
Evenings 886-2685

FRANK ZUMER, JR.
Black Diamond, Wash.

A Friendly Place to Shop

Black Diamond Family Grocer

Black Diamond, WA

**Rod, Fred and the Gang
Welcome You!**

STORE HOURS:
Monday thru Saturday
7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Sunday
7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Black Diamond Hair Design

886-1448

Open Monday through Saturday

MARGE

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.

SUZIE

Wed., Sat.

We have service for the whole family.

Senior Discounts

32621 3rd Ave.

Diamond Auto Rebuild

All types of Glass and Body Work
Free Estimates

886-2200

Larry Romine
32619 3rd Avenue

Black Diamond