



MUSEUM HOURS

Saturday and Sunday 12 noon-3:00
 Thursday 9 a.m. to 3:00
 Special Arrangement call:
 886-1168 886-2327 886-2663
 Volume VX Issue III

B.D.H.S.

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Annual Business	15.00

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

Editor: Ann Steiert 886-1168

IN MEMORIAM

Albert E. Fisher...a Railroad Man
Mary Ungherini...Wife of Bruno
Katherine Falgasi...An early
 Black Diamond resident.
Louis Rossi...Born in Black
 Diamond. A longtime resident.
Florence Porter Turner...a dearly
 beloved teacher of many.
Jeanette Gilbert...Born in
 Franklin. A member of the Willan
 Family. She was a personal friend
 of Regina Marchx Whitehill. They
 shared a life-long friendship.
Helen Harp...Mother of Donna
 Gauthier, Bill and George Harp.

MEMORIALS

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|--|
| Mary Jeanette Gilbert | _____ | Harold and Regina Whitehill |
| Jack Brady | _____ | Harold and Regina Whitehill |
| Nick DiJulio | _____ | Denny and Charlotte DiJulio |
| Michael Norton | _____ | Pat Sternig |
| Homer Norman | _____ | Jeane Norman...Carl & Ann Steiert |
| Albert Fisher | _____ | Ray Mills...Harold & Helen Presnall
Robert & Emma Eaton |
| Katherine Falgassi | _____ | Mr. & Mrs. Denny DiJulio |
| Mary Ungherini | _____ | Mr. & Mrs. Denny DiJulio |
| Louis Rosso | _____ | Lois Zumek |

LABOR DAY

It is only a few weeks until the annual Labor Day Celebration. We are wide open for suggestions as to how the Historical Society should participate. We hope to put together a float for the parade. The Museum will be open from 11:00 a.m. until about 6:00 p.m. It is always a good day to have some sort of a fund raiser but as yet no idea has presented itself. We'd appreciate any ideas any member might come up with.

BLACK DIAMOND "MINING THE MEMORIES!"

The wonderful book put together by Cory and Diane Olson has proved to be an outstanding success. Many copies have been sold and all comments we have heard are positive. We would like to thank the Countrycraft Mall, the Hardware Store at Four Corners and the Family Grocer in Black Diamond. These stores have been responsible for many sales. They are great stores to shop in and we really appreciate their cooperation in selling our book.

...DUES...DUES...DUES...

In looking through the dues ledger, we find that quite a few people are not up to date in their dues. If you have reached the age of 80, please let us know as we have no way of knowing unless you do. If you have a check in the box please contact us.

A remark was recently overheard concerning the "Thursday Crew". It was said that they were the "busiest bunch of old birds" in Town. This is a great understatement!! The whole past year saw them rebuild the caboose which draws a lot of great comments. They rebuilt a mine coal car. The wheels and metal came from the Draghi Mine and were given to us by Louis Draghi Jr. The experience of building it stood in good stead this last month. The Memorial Coal Car off highway 169 was completely demolished by a good sized trailer which came loose from an asphalt truck going north on 169. The men were asked by the City if they would tackle the job. Of course, they agreed. It was so badly damaged that all they had to work with was the under gear and some mangled straps of iron. They spent several days just getting the iron straightened out before they could replace the wood. It was done with Carl's cutting torch and the small forge which they fired up. When the iron was straightened they got treated lumber and built the body. Finally, it was painted and ready to go. Everyone in the crew had a hand in it. Al Shay, Don Botts, Martin Moore, Bob Eaton, Ted Barner, Carl Steiert did the rebuilding. Bob Burdick manned the paint brush with the help of Ann Steiert, who did the lettering. Everyone was very busy for a while. Many people were concerned that the car was not going to be replaced. Thus far, all comments have been positive.

This next few months promise to be equally busy if they accomplish all the things they have planned. The first order of business is to replace the very badly worn planks on the platform. It has been many years and much traffic has gone on the old platform. It has been a concern lest someone fall or something. Bill Brømmeyer had volunteered to supply some new planks. The first load has been delivered and are really great. This will take some time to complete. In the meantime ground work is being laid for building of another room on the back of the depot. It will have two floors and provide much needed exhibit space. It is planned to have a section with equipment to have Audio-visual shows for the people going through. That will be the last hurrah as far as that building is concerned. There is absolutely no more room on which to build. It will be a much needed addition to the Museum.

Charles Corlett is presently working on a diaorama of a mine yard and scenes in Black Diamond. It is going to be a really outstanding display when he is completed. It has many buildings, and machinery and lights. We have all been very impressed with what he is doing.

Attendance continued to climb during the open hours. There is hardly a week goes by that it is not opened up on other days for tours. Everyone has very nice comments to make about everything. The month of June had 687 visitors. The guest book shows persons from all over the world. The most recent are:

<u>Tuscaloosa, Ala.</u>	<u>Titusville, PA.</u>	<u>Destin, Fla.</u>	<u>Dowlingport, Mass.</u>
<u>Soquel, CA,</u>	<u>Kilauea, Hawaii</u>	<u>Langley, Can.</u>	<u>Wilson, North, Carolina</u>
<u>West Monroe, LA</u>	<u>Quitman, Texas</u>	<u>Sunset, Utah.</u>	

We get tours of all ages. We had many children as school came to a close. They vary in their attention span but most of them absorb a lot. One day we opened up special for a group of Boy Scouts. When they left we felt a real sense of failure. We would have bet anything that they didn't get anything out of the whole tour. This was on Wednesday. On Saturday we were down there again when one of the Scouts came in with about 7 members of his family. He began at the front of the displays and gave them a guided tour, repeating almost word for word the tour that we had given them. He even waved his arms around the way that Carl is inclined to do. We felt that if we reached even one child it was well worth it. Another group sent a nice thank you poster saying that their very favorite part was going through the Camboose, (Caboose)

LEARNING THE THREE R'S

The first settlers coming from California had many things to establish. One of the first concern was establishing schools and educating their children. At first the classes were held in private homes some of which are still standing. The house where Janet Dodd lives behind the Service Station on Baker St. is one of the first classrooms. The other was in the houses where the Chilcott Families live. As the classes grew classes were, also, held in the Masonic Hall. The first Grade School building was built in 1909. It was a large wooden structure. It had cement sidewalks leading to the front door. The children would line up according to their grades and march to their rooms, keeping step to a triangle which was sometimes beaten by the janitor. They were graded for their marching. An early report card revealed that Little Carl Steiert received an "F" in marching. His family got a charge out of that!

The teachers in those days didn't have to go to school as long as teachers do today. Many of them just went to "Normals" for a couple of years before getting their teaching certifivate. They, too, had challenges to meet. A lot of the population of that time was from foreign countries. Many of the parents spoke no English and children would come to school not able to converse. Not only did they have to teach them the 3 R's but they had to teach them to speak the language first. Many of the teaching books and devices which are available today were not even invented then. The teachers all left their mark on the students. There were no lunch programs. If you were within walking distance you went home or brought your own lunch.

The High School building was built in 1920-21. Up until then the High School classes were held in the Grade School building. The first H.S. class to graduate was in 1915. The principal was a Mr. Griffith. Albert Weatherbee was the principal most remembered by most former students. He was a very big man who ruled with an iron hand.....and a very big paddle under his arm.! Many are the students who felt it's sting. He was replaced by Otto Eidol in 1928. The school offered traditional classes plus manual training and music. Mr. Bowen, King, Bigley and Cobb, Shop. Miss Williams is remembered for Home Economics Alice West taught business English, Short Hand and Typing.

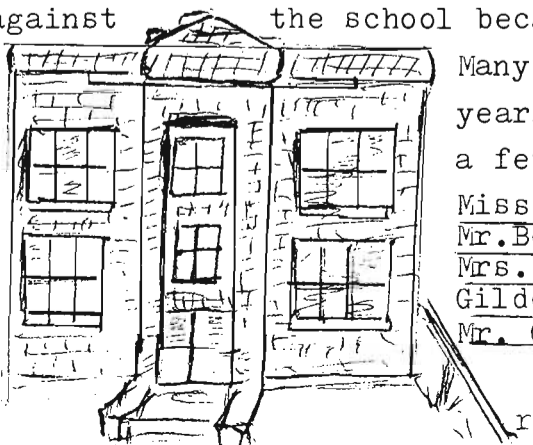
The heating plant in the Grade School was under the building. In thinking back, it was a terrible fire hazard with all the oiled floors and wood inside. When the High School was built, a separate building was built for a heating plant. Some of the janitors who served the school were: William Lewis, who was, also, a truant officer. Arthur Jones, Luther Mills, David Garrett, Louis Carnino and Frank Grgurich. The first bus was a 1926 GMC which brought the kids from Clay Mine. It was followed by a 34 Ford, a White and on International.

The time during the big Strike, beginning in 1921, was particularly stressful for the children. In many cases, they reflected their parents attitudes and took sides. Many kids were hurt. At one time they even went out on Strike against the school because the coal they were using was mined by "Scabs"

Many names come to mind as one reflects on the many years the school has been in existence. Here are just a few of them:

Miss Wilden
Mr. Bowen
Mrs. Mallough
Gildo Rey
Mr. Cobb

Miss Light
Mr. Norman
Sylvia Stubbs
Ruth Simmons
Margaret Covey
Mary McCormick
Mr. Edson
Alice West
Helen Hathaway
Mary Trainik



LEARNING 3 R'S Cont'd

More names remembered: Gwendolyn McDowell, Mrs. Stokes, Ruth Avery and Professor Thomas. Gladys Cobb was a substitute teacher for many years. One of the best remembered teachers was Florence Porter. She was very active in things that brought joy to children when she put on plays and departed from the regular routine. We recently read the following account of her death a few weeks ago:

The former teacher, who became a much honored amateur photographer and lecturer died at the age of 87 in a Seattle convalescent center after a prolonged illness.

A native of Seattle, Florence Porter grew up in Black Diamond and graduated from the Black Diamond High School in 1920.

After two years at the Bellingham Normal School she began teaching elementary school in Black Diamond in 1922 and for the next four summers taught in the Bellingham Normal srt department. She went to Seattle to teach and spent 41 years in that System. When she retired from teaching she snapped on her 35 mm camera, traveled the world and snapped scenes that were starred in exhibits from coast to coast and Canada. She traveled to Greece, Morocco, New Zealand, Nepal and Mexico producing travelogs of her tours to show to church groups, senior citizens, and students.

++++++

The last High School class in Black Diamond was 1943. When we lost the brick school building the Town lost something special. Many former students still mourn its loss.

ACQUISITIONS

We would like to thank the following persons for their generous donations:

Roberta Falk.....A sturdy, neat shaped office desk chair.

Dennis Boxx.....For more coins for the money display.

Palmer Coking Coal.....A very old stapler.

Merna Hawk.....A new gas can which will be used for fuel for the Weed-eater.

Clarence Masters.....An early tire gauge

Henry Tyreman.....Many blacksmith's tools,

Virgil Adams.....Framed photo of the John Davies family

Olga Swann.....An old-fashioned pudding steamer pan. Belonged to Florence Thomas

WHAT DO YOU THINK??

If you could see your ancestors, all standing in a row, would you be proud of them or don't you really know?

Some strange discoveries are made in climbing family trees.

And some of them, you know, do not particularly please.

If you could see your ancestors, all standing in a row,

There might be some of them, perhaps, you wouldn't care to know.

But there's another question which requires a different view.

If you could meet your ancestors, would they be proud of you?

Thank you, Ted Barner.....

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

Sunday October 7 will be the date of the next general meeting of the Historical Society. It will begin at 2:00 p.m. We hope that many members will attend, look at what is being done and offer any suggestions that they might have. We always appreciate suggestions and comments.

Courtesy: Palmer Coking Coal Company

OUR RED CINDERS

Two of the most frequently asked questions about redcinders is what are they and where do they come from. The story began nearly a century ago when the miners came to Black Diamond in search of coal. They found millions of tons of the black colored "diamonds" needed by the growing cities of Seattle and San Francisco. In the early days, the miners sought only the highest quality, purest coal and discarded everything else. Unfortunately, the coal seams were not pure but contained veins of inferior quality coal shale, sandstone siltstone, clays and other minerals. These other materials were often referred to as slag. From the underground mines, small rail cars brought the coal and slag to the surface. There a number of workers separated the good clean coal from the inferior quality coal and slag. The top quality coal was sold while the waste slag was dumped in large piles adjacent to the mine. Through a process known as spontaneous combustion these piles caught fire and burned for years. Once burning they were impossible to extinguish and the slag piles smoldered for years at temperatures exceeding 2,000 F, The intense heat from the burning coal fused the shale, sandstone,clat and silt together while iron pyrites found in coal caused the burned slag to turn red. This giant "oven" has been compared to the brick making process as our red cinders are often referred to as nature's brick.

The circumstances which led to the creation of red cinders will almost certainly never be repeated. Today,all the coal mined is valuable, hence very little burnable coal is discarded with the slag. Strict mining laws prohibit the creation of large waste piles in order to prevent spontaneous combustion of the slag.The red color was provided by a special bed of coal known as the McKay and this seam has been fairly well depleted. The red cinders we have today, though a wonder to behold and a great landscaping material, will last many more years but eventually be exhausted. Our durable red cinder rock has a unique history,yet found a second life in running tracks, driveways, flower beds and landscapes throughout the Puget Sound.

*Note below...

??? LAWS ???

We grumble about the laws that we have....Did you know that:

It's illegal in Kentucky for a woman to move furniture without her husband's consent and that she can't buy a hat unless her husband tried it on first!
These are just a few of the wacky laws that are still on the books throughout the Unktd States.

In Kentucky, it is illegal for a woman to marry the same man four times.

In Alabama, a husband can beat his wife with a stick as long as it's no thicker than his thumb.

In Lebanon, Tennessee, a husband cannot throw his wife out of bed for having cold feet though a wife can boot out her husband.

In Cleveland, Ohio, It is against the law to get married while wearing a bathing suit..

In Toledo, it is illegal to throw a reptile.

In Atlanta residents are forbidden to tie a giraffe to a lampost.

NOTE The above article was submitted by Martin Moore, who has his roots in Alabama

NOTE: MORE CINDERS...The road to Ravensdale was once paved with red cinders. It was known as the Red Road and refered to as such when giving directions.

JEWELL McCLOUD

A very special person in Black Diamond is Jewell McCloud. She has been very supportive of the Historical Society, She has been a Museum "sitter" and has joined the Ladies in bringing the work crew their lunch. Most of all she has been willing to share a real spot of beauty with our tourists and with the people of Black Diamond. We thank her son, Mike for sharing the following with us

Jewell was born in Sarcoxie, a small town in Missouri. She was sent to live with relatives in Ellensburg because the family moved to ranch in Oklahoma. At age 6, she would have had to ride a horse 5 miles each way to school and it was felt that this was too dangerous. The rest of the family soon followed and settled in Preston where her father worked in a sawmill.

Every summer she would visit her grandparents in Ellensburg and would play sometimes with Darrel McCloud who was visiting his grandparents on the same block. After graduating from Issaquah High School, she attended Ellensburg Normal, planning to teach. There she met Darrel again. They were married in 1937. Near the end of World War II they moved to Black Diamond so that Darrel could work at a mine in Ravensdale. They bought their house in 1946 where Jewell still lives.

In 1953 Jewell started working for the King County Library System. The Library was located in the front end of the Depot. She was assistant to Victoria Niemczyk who was the Librarian. The Library was later moved up into a small house called the "Teacher's Cottage." It stood next to the Presbyterian Church on the property where the City Hall now stands. It provided much more space but during the winter it could be very cold. Jewell and Ruth Zumek used to heat large rocks on the stove and place them on mats under the desk to keep their feet warm. The building had one record that was never equalled by any other King County Library--it was the only library with it's own bath tub.

When the new City Hall was completed the library was moved to its present location. Jewell continued as librarian until 1974 when she retired. Even after retirement, she continued working in the Library as a substitute for another 6 years. She is still an active member of the Friends of the Library.

Jewell's major hobby has always been gardening. For many years, Darrel and Jewell had a large vegetable garden but Jewell always managed to have flowers. When their son, Mike, started going back to college in the summers, he became involved with the 100 or so roses that Jewell had collected over the years. With cooperation of the whole family, the roses started increasing as other flowers and finally the vegetable garden disappeared. Even after Darrel's death in 1981 Jewell continued the gardens enjoying the beauty and the work. The garden has evolved to become one of the largest private rose gardens in Washington with over 1000 roses. Jewell tends them most of the year by herself with help from Mike on weekends. During the summer, Mike returns to assist. The Garden is open to visitors from late June through Labor Day.

NOTE: If you haven't already visited the Garden don't fail to do so. The great variety of colors and the way they are displayed is an unforgettable sight.

Things to remember.....

The general meeting to be held on October 7.

The Labor Day Celebration

Check on dues....

Volunteers still needed for Thursday Lunches and Sunday Museum Sitters.

Did you know that there was a small pond behind the Dave Morgan house in Morgansville on which there was turtle racing held when it froze over....

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