



Museum Hours

Saturday & Sunday Noon to 3 p.m.
Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Special arrangements & Tours: Call: 886-1168 886-2327

IN MEMORIAM

- Harry Woods - Husband of Inez. A Black Diamond Native
Joe Wilsco - A longtime area resident. Lived in Ravensdale.
Hortense (Artie) Johnson - A native of Black Diamond.
Joseph Maks - member of an early Black Diamond family.
Cecil Gwilym Robinson - A Black Diamond Pioneer.
James (Bo) Williams - A longtime resident of Black Diamond.
Margaret (Peggy Larby) Hillis - Spent her girlhood in Black Diamond.
Robert Van Buskirk - Husband of Beth Botts a longtime area resident.
Frank Manowski - Husband of Helen, father of Frank Jr. Leaves 4 grandchildren and one great grandchild. Lived in the area all his life.
Cora Flyzik - B.D. Historical Society's oldest member. She was 104.
Ed Banchemo - A native of Black Diamond. Although he lived away, he never lost touch with his home town.

MEMORIALS

- Robert Van Buskirk: James Williams: Ernest D Santi
Donald Botts Ruby & Ethel Duncan Esther Birch
Carl & Ann Steiert
Cecil Robinson Peggy Hillis
Margaret Covey Pat Sternig Lynda Maks Robt. & Gail Kuzaro
Lennie & Samm Witt Carl & Ann Steiert
Lou & Rachel Fagnon
Frank Manowski: Ruby & Ethel Duncan Merna Hawk
Palmer Coking Coal Mr. & Mrs. Ted Barner Mr. & Mrs. George Morris
Donna Gouchenour Jessie Landis Pauline Kombol
Lois Zumek Lew & Glee McCauley Mary Chilcott
George & Kay Hazen Mr. & Mrs. Paul Botts George & May Savicke
Lou & Rachel Fagnon Mr. & Mrs. Joe Dal Santo Emma Sigmund
Mary Hope Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Carnino Richard & Ruby Knapp
Carl & Ann Steiert June Semprimoznik Robert & Gail Kuzaro
Ed Banchemo:
Fred Banchemo Margaret Vernarelli Michael & Larrain Gray
Mary Koutecky Henry DeLauro Carl & Ann Steiert
Denny DiJulio Mrs. Fred Kuphal Robert Miles
Joe & Viola Herrin Clara Breda Ray & Leslie Larson
Edith Green Enis & Jerry Remolif Tim Hill
Margaret Chamberlin Rose Guidetti Jennie Hovden
Mary Ballastrasse Brian Ballastrasse Miner & Northey
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Mrs. Charles Kravagna Wayne & Edie Johnson John O'Brien Co.
Charles & Irene Thompson Walter & Zita Clark Edith Banchemo
Seattle Disposal John & Connie Guavera Donald & Louise Eide
Jacki & Minnie Tacheyama Mission Pharmacy Louis & Rose Callero

Hortense Rossi
Robert & Gail Kuzaro

Harry Woods:
Robert & Gail Kuzaro



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STATISTICS

In conversations with the many persons who visit the Museum we are often asked the question, "How many people do you have in Black Diamond who were either born here or have lived most of their lives here?" The question intrigued us and we wrote down the names of as many as we could remember. After some pondering we found that at least 70 people still live here. Many of them were born here and lots of them came here as small children. There are quite a few senior citizens in the group. Last year we lost the two oldest people when Evan and Florence Thomas left us. They were in their 90's. At the present time Ruby Luncan, Mary Grgurich and Fred Banchemo are among the oldest with quite a few in their early 80's following right behind.

Right now the Society has 113 Lifetime members. A morbid statistic; since the Historical Society was formed in 1976 the records show that there have been 69 members who have died. The total membership now is 248.

THURSDAY ACTIVITIES

The Thursday Crew has been very busy these past months preparing the area where the new addition will be built. The weather has been against them much of the time. They are finally able to prepare the forms for the pouring of the concrete. Each workday they have been havint to fight water, mud and rocks. It is going to be a wonderful addition to the Museum. There will be space to display most of our artifacts which are now being shown in a very crowded manner. Plans for an audio visual section in the upper room are being made. It will then be possible to show our slides and give a narration about our early days.

We are getting new artifacts right along. A wonderful display of monkey wrenches was given to us by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Barry of Edmonds. They are all mounted on a board and ready to display. They range from a very small one to a huge tool. Along with the wrenches they brought an antique miter box patented in 18 , a lantern and a single open-end wrench about 4 ft. long. The Barrys are members who live in the Edmonds area. They are great collectors and own many articles. In fact, they could have a museum of their own. Bob and Catherine are a really great addition to our membership list. Their enthusiasm is great.

MUSEUM ATTENDANCE

The Museum attendance has been good. Since the first of the year there have been 2368 people come through. This count is taken at the desk. We feel sure thhat there are more since it is easy for people to slip by unrecorded. There have been several school tours and more scheduled in June. One week in April there were 11 tours. Most people seem to enjoy what they see and are very complimentary.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: GENERAK MCARTHUR'S CREDO

The following was from a speech made by Gen. Douglas McArthur in 1955:

Youth is not entirely a time of life....it is a state of mind. Is is not wholly a metter of ripe cheeks, red lips or supple knees. It is a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotions, a freshness of the deep springs of life. It means a tempermental predominance of courage over timidity, of an appetite for adventure over love of ease.

Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years. People grow old only by deserting their ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin but to give up interest wrinkles the soul. Worry, doubt, self-distrust and despair---these are the long long years that bow the head and turn growing spirit to dust. Whatever your years, there is in every being's heart the love of wonder. The undaunted challenge of events. The un&iling child-like appetite for what comes next and the joy of the

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game of life. You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt; as old as your self-confidence, as old as your fear and as young as your hope. In the central place of every heart there is a recording chamber; so long as it gets a message of beauty, hope, cheer and courage, so long are you young. When the wires are all down and your heart is covered with the snows of pessimism and the ice of cynicism then and then only are you grown old.

BLACK DIAMOND (1924)

This is an appraisal report prepared for the Pacific Coast Coal Co in 1924.

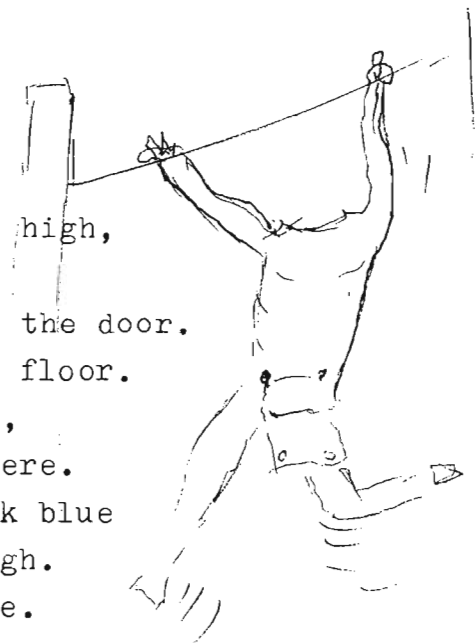
The Town of Black Diamond is thirty-five miles from Seattle by highway and thirty-three by railroad. The State highway is and has been paved for upwards of ten years to Renton. On the route via Maple Valley, and to Auburn on the route which is about 12 miles from Black Diamond. Auburn is a thriving industrial center, a division point of one of the transcontinental railroads and served by all the railroads. Population of Auburn and the immediate vicinity as of March 1, 1913 about 6000.

Reference to the State Mine Inspector's report shows the number of workers employed by this Company at Black Diamond as of 3/1/13 as 714 and on this basis the population was in excess of 3000. It is now approximately 1500, the decrease due to abandonment of two mines. There being three operating on March 1 and now one. Also, prolonged strike depopulating the town and the gradual buildup of it with new residents.

Black Diamond was a very well established community center with a large General Store, a Drug Store, Moving picture theatre and Boarding Houses, a Meat Market, Billiard and Card Room, good Grade School and splendid High School. There were three churches, two Sawmills, and the incidental shops such as Auto Repair shop, a hospital, barber and tailor shop. The Town has a splendid water system, electric current for all uses, cheap fuel approximately 400 gooddwellingings and has an extremely favorable climate for residences and farming purposes with no extremes in weather.

PAW'S LONG UNDERWEAR

Of all the childhood memories that come to me, I swear there's none that even equals my father's underwear. In winter when the winds were cold and heat was kept on high, my mother hung Pa's underwear behind the stove to dry. The steaming garment flapped about each time we slammed the door. It guarded well the cooking pots and wood sticks on the floor. and if the preacher came to call or family members dear, They witnessed in mute silence, the patch on Pa's derriere. The knees of Pa's old underwear were stained a deep dark blue With rings of faded indigo where Levi dyes soaked through. The drooping flap hung low behind a banner in the breeze. Above the patches old and new on elbow and the knees. Hanging on the outside line when temperatures were low My Pa's old underwear froze there, a master sargeant in the snow. Half up by the military ice in Pa's old underwear. In the end St. Peter bade Pa welcome as he climbed the Golden Stairs Clad in the raiment of the earth, his designer underwear.



"MINING THE MEMORIES"

We are happy to report that the book Black Diamond, "Mining the Memories" is still selling. We get nothing but good reports on it. One of our very best Outlets is the B.D. Family Grocer. They have sold many and we thank them.

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BLACK DIAMOND LIBRARY

When Black Diamond started its growth in 1882 the people who came to the area were very busy just laying the foundations for the new Town. They had to really start from scratch. The Green River Coal Fields was the name of the area on which they decided to settle. It encompassed 80 sq. miles of land which included Black Diamond and the areas up around Selleck and the towns east of Black Diamond. The land was virgin timber and presented a mixed blessing. They were excited about having all this wonderful timber for their use. However, they had to learn to use it. The woods were so thick that they had to "learn" to cut and use the lumber. Gradually they overcame their problems and the Town grew. "The first contingent of men numbered 100 men and one woman came with them. This was in 1882. By 1900 the population had grown to 3500 people. This made Black Diamond one of the largest cities in the State at that time.

With the influx of people, the need for schools and more learning was felt. Many people liked to read and exchange information. As time went on the Pacific Coast Coal Company built a large hotel on the area which now holds the Fraternal Order of Eagles and their parking lot. This was around 1918. The hotel was a large building. It had 67 rooms. The Company allowed the towns people to use one of the rooms for a Library. It was a rather small room. The books were gathered by the PTA and donations by many people. This was in the 1920's and 30's. It was during the time of Zane Gray, Rex Beach and many authors that are still being read. It was a bit scary for girls to go into the Library alone since the Hotel was like a glorified boarding house and the people living there were mainly men. Many girls went to get their books accompanied by an adult family member.



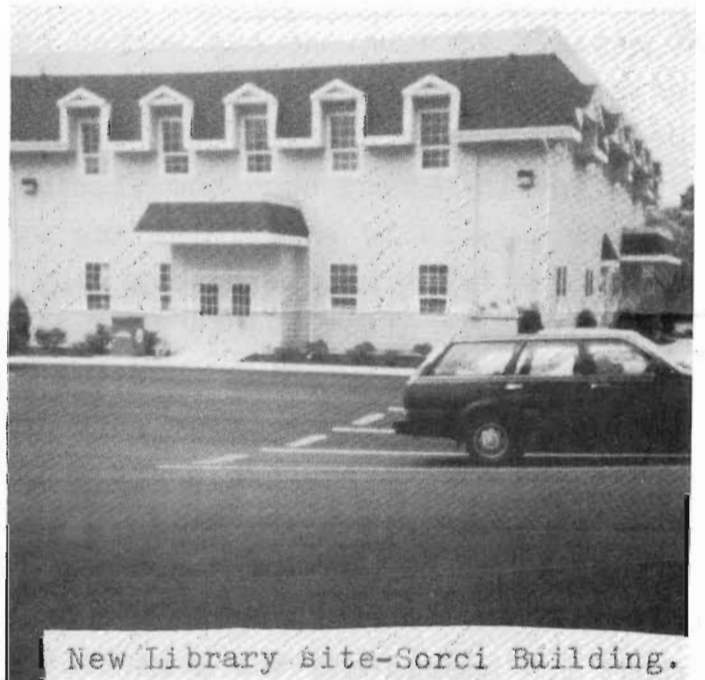
Gladys Cobb was responsible for getting the association with the King County Library started. In 1945 the Library was relocated in a room in the Depot. The room was prepared by several women who papered and cleaned the place. They had shelves put up and made a nice place of it. Jewell McCloud was one of the women who worked at the Library beginning in 1956. She has worked in the Library system ever since. She is supposed to have officially retired in 1975 but she is still active, serving on the "Friends of the Library Board" for over 40 years. In 1956 it was decided that the Depot facility was no longer large enough to hold all the books that were needed. The School Board allowed the Library to be put into the "Teachers' Cottage" a small house which stood where the City Hall parking lot now stands. It was a small house and made a very cozy Library. Much work was done on it before it could be used. The PTA and others townspeople pitched in and made it a workable place. During this time Ruth Zumek joined Jewell as Librarian. She, too, retired in 1975.

The cottage Library served for many years. Jewell remembers when serving at the Depot, a car came down Baker St. lost its' brakes and landed against the building. She says the books were knocked off the shelves by the impact. She also remembers when working at the Cottage Library and an earthquake hit the area. Then, too, they had to pick up books which had been knocked down from the shelves. They always kidded about the cottage saying that it was the only library in the State

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with a bathtub! It held a special place in the hearts of many people. When the Town was incorporated, a new City Hall was built and space was made for the Library. It was moved to City Hall in 1968. Many thousands of books have been checked out since then and much appreciated.

During all these years of moving and changing locations, many fine people have given of their time and interest, amongst the names that come to mind are: Victoria Niemczyk, and Bonnie Merrill both dedicated Librarians. Jewell McCloud and Ruth Zumek worked very hard as has Alice Norton the present Librarian. At the first of this year the Library made yet another move. A big building has been built in Morgansville across the street from the Dinner House (formerly Gattavarra's Store) Mario Sorci who conducts a business called Anesthesia Equipment Supply has agreed to let the Library use part of his new building. The City Fathers needed the space in City Hall. The response to the move has been very good. More people seem to be using the Library than had done so before. The property which is owned by Mr. Sorci has a place of its own in local history. When Black Diamond was in its first stages this property was owned by Tim Morgan. For some reason it had less growth of trees on it than the rest of the area. He allowed the settlers to clear off more trees and growth and make it into a place where they could gather and have fun. It is said that they had all kinds of races. The Muckleshoot Indians would come from their reservation and race their ponies. Picnics were held and everyone enjoyed the area. It was known as the prairie. Later the miners were given permission to work on the area which is the present ballpark. At that time it was a bog. They used horses and scoops, wheelbarrows and the tools available at the time to bring in dirt and clear out debris. It gradually took the place of the Prairie as a place to hold their competitive events.



New Library Site-Sorci Building.

A group called the Friends of the Library works hard at making money and doing things for the Library. They just recently held a rummage and plant sale. They plan on getting some special programs for the children. Jewell McCloud and Ann Steiert are perennial members. They have been on the Board for 40 plus years.

#### PICNIC

Due to lack of interest, the annual old-timers Picnic will not take place this year. There were not enough in attendance at the last meeting to make any kind of good judgment on the picnic. It was decided to shelve the matter.

+++++

#### You were rich if:

Your house had gas lights  
 Mother put starch in your clothes  
 Your family had a car  
 Ate oranges more often than Xmas  
 You had two pairs of shoes  
 Rode on the train  
 Your parents bought you new shoes

If your front yard had a lawn  
 Children in the family had store bought clothes  
 You used wash clothes instead of rags.  
 The men in the family went to a barber  
 Bought bread at the store  
 Had tablecloths of linen instead of oil cloth.

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(6)

The history of Black Diamond tells of the immigration of the people from California and discusses the different nationalities of the immigrants. The first group of people were mainly Welsh and Italian with a scattering of others. One of these nationalities were the Polish people. One Polish family whose name has been a prominent part of our history is the Kuzaro Family. The Thursday Crew is fortunate to have had Joe Kuzaro join them in the many projects they have been doing..

Joe Kuzaro was born in Black Diamond on August 5, 1918. He lived in Black Diamond most of his life. He now lives on Lake Sawyer. He went through school here and graduated from the Black Diamond High School. He came from a large family of five girls and four boys. They were a busy happy family. He has always been interested in sports. He loves to go out into the woods and hunt for mushrooms. He has been a fisherman all of his life. The outdoors has always been special to him.

He went to work as a meat cutter for his uncle in 1936. The market was in the Pike Place market in Seattle.

He met and married Farol Lanphere. They were married in 1941. They have two Girls. Joe is a veteran of W.W.II.

He retired in 1984. He has worked occasionally for E & E Meats during his retirement.

Joe fills a very special spot on the "Work Crew". He is a very hard and willing worker.

The men especially enjoy visiting with him during the lunch hour when everyone lets down and tells about events in their lives.

The air gets really thick sometimes with stories, jokes, and special occasion stories. All the cooks bring good food and add to the good times. They tease, insult and kid each other about an assortment of subjects. The ladies often threaten to go get a shovel!!

We want to thank Joe for taking an interest in the projects. We appreciate his help very much. Visitors to the Museum have nothing but good things to say about the Museum and the work that has been done by the Thursday Crew.

#### COOKS

The following ladies have been responsible for the good lunches mentioned in the previous article. The men are very grateful and pleased with their lunches. They are:

Rachel Fagnon who comes from Normandy Park each 2nd Thursday.

Jewell McCloud, May Savicke, Dorothy Botts, Rose Guidetti, Marlene Bortleson, Lucile Barner, Elsie Parkin, Evelyn Dal Santo and Ann Steiert.

The work being done is going to be going on for some time. We would ask any of you who can to please give some thought to taking a turn. If each one who could would take a turn it would not be necessary for so few to do so much. Most of the cooks seem to enjoy their visits with the "Crew". Someone asked, "what do they serve?" We encourage each one to keep the meals as simple as possible. A pot of soup or a casserole and a simple dessert are adequate. Our men will tell you that they have as yet to get a poor meal. They are most grateful.

Note from the Editor: I'm still waiting for suggestions and comments on things to write about.....

*Ann*



<u>Membership Fees</u>	
Annual Individual	\$ 5.00
Annual Family	7.00
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Send due to:	Box 232
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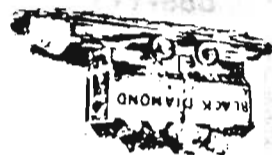
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