



MUSEUM HOURS

Sunday 12 noon to 3 p.m.
Saturday 12 noon to 3 p.m.
Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
By Special Arrangement &
Tours call:
886-1168 886-2327

B.D.H.S.

Published by the
Black Diamond Historical Society
a non-profit organization.

Membership Fees: which include a
subscription to this 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 MEMORIAM

Frank Stebly A lifetime member of the
Community

Ethel Deardan A prominent citizen of
Black Diamond with many friends.

Maxine Bryant Wife of Bill Bryant.

Ella Zeek She lived in Black
Diamond for many years. A member of the
Jazbec Family.

Mike Klepack Brother of Anne Donati

Bernice Kochevar The former Bernice
Gibson

MEMORIALS

Ed Banchemo _____ Palmer Coking Coal

Joe Wilsco _____ Mr. & Mrs. Bud Simmons

Ella Zeek _____ Lynda Maks, Frank Hulst

Maxine Bryant _____ Robt. & Gail Kuzaro

Pat Sternig and Palmer Coking Coal

Ethel Feardan _____ Joe & Eileen Zumeck, Jessie Landis, Jewell McCloud,
Carl & Ann Steiert

Ned Chilcott _____ Ethel Chilcott

Note: Since record keeping began in 1979 we have lost 219 people. Many memorials
have been sent in in their memories. We have a name plate made for each person
named. It is mounted on a large board for everyone to see. Right now we are in
the process of making a second board.

CHRISTMAS



The Happy Holidays are once again upon us. The annual Christmas Party will
be held on December 8 beginning at 1:00 p.m. We hope that everyone one will try
and attend. A lot more progress will have been made on the new rooms and it will
be a good chance for members to see what is being done. It will be the usual
"Goodies" Buffet.

There is now a good supply of our book, "Mining the Memories" which will make
great Christmas presents. They can be obtained by calling us at 886-1168 or
886-2327 or writing to Box 232. Everyone who has gotten one has reported great
things about them. Many people who received them as gifts have now ordered one
for friends or relatives.

VISITORS

Through the years that the Black Diamond Historical Society has been in
existence we have been in touch with people from the East Bay Regional Park area
where Black Diamond has its' roots. We were recently pleasantly surprised by a
visit from Traci Parent and her husband. Traci is a Supervising Naturalist in
the Park. They were much impressed with what had been done since they last were
here. We received a nice thank you letter in which she extended an open invitator
to all persons from Black Diamond, who might be in their area to visit them. We
really enjoyed comparing notes and hearing of the things being done in their park.

Nov 1991

(2)
THURSDAY CREW DOINGS

The new addition is really shaping up now. The men are working on the rafters and the roof will be put on soon. They have been hampered by the first autumn rains but are progressing just the same. Soon the outer walls will be in place and work inside can begin.

This has been a very big job for so few workers. We have much to be grateful for in that they have stuck it out in spite of some very hot and now very wet weather. President Bob Eaton has been working hard to coordinate all steps so that things would flow smoothly. Others who have been working hard are:

<u>Martin Moore</u>	<u>Donald Botts</u>	<u>Carl Steiert</u>	<u>Joe Kuzaro</u>
<u>Al Shay</u>	<u>Robert Burdic</u>	<u>Gerald Bainton</u>	<u>Joe Dal Santo</u>
<u>Ted Barner</u>	<u>Phil Werle</u>		

The work on the rafters has taken longer than they expected because the whole building is so crooked that each piece had to be cut separately and installed. As they get into finishing the side walls things should progress more rapidly.

When it is completed there will be a large room downstairs and a slightly smaller room upstairs. In the upper room there will be space where we will be having an audio-visual section where we will be able to show slides and give narrations.

Until now the building was heated with a Heat Pump system. It proved to be very unsatisfactory and expensive. It has been replaced with Natural Gas and is proving to be 100% better. Through the years the men have tried to make the building as air-tight as possible but there are still a lot of places which let the cold air in. More work is planned on that score.

Along with the work done by the men they are supported by the great work being done by the cooks who bring the lunches. Eileen Zumek responded to our plea in the last Newsletter and we thank her. Since the last Newsletter the following have served lunch:

<u>Elsie Parkin</u>	<u>Dorothy Botts</u>	<u>Rose Guidetti</u>	<u>Jewell McCloud</u>
<u>Evelyn Dal Santo</u>	<u>Rachel Fagnon</u>	<u>Eileen Zumek</u>	<u>Ann Steiert</u>
<u>Marlene Bortleson</u>			

Because the weeks roll around so quickly we would still invite any of you good cooks to join us in this program. Please call Rose Guidetti at 886-2858 and share with us.

MUSEUM ATTENDANCE

The attendance at the Museum has been good all year. We had several good articles in the Newspapers and on TV and that let many people know that we did exist. The last was over the opening of the Green River Gorge Bridge. The local papers had nice write-ups and the Tacoma News Tribune gave front page coverage. That weekend, there were almost 200 people in the museum between noon and 3 o'clock which are the open hours. Don Botts was docent on Sunday and had 105 with many of them mentioning the bridge article.

We, also, have a need for persons willing to give three hours on either Saturday or Sunday and sit the Museum. If you are interested call Don Botts at 886-2766 or Carl Steiert 8861168

We are often asked about people who formerly lived here and where are they now. The following are some who have been inquired about.....

<u>Dick & Betty Allen, Renton</u>	<u>Frank & Anne Brennan, Seattle</u>
<u>Cleo Bryant Balsley, Enumclaw</u>	<u>Lena Moroni Church, Renton</u>
<u>Stan Celigoy, Seattle</u>	<u>Ior Davies, The Dalles, OR.</u>
<u>Ernest Eltz, Paradise, CA.</u>	<u>Clyde Johnson, Tumwater, WA.</u>
<u>Ardis Botts Lessard, Sebastapol, CA.</u>	<u>Audrey Kramer Mendenhall, Seattle</u>
<u>Jeanette Johnson Otis, Monterey, CA</u>	<u>Meg Pierotti, Renton</u>

Nov 1991

For the past three years people in the area have been very annoyed by the closure of the Green River Gorge Bridge. The County inspectors deemed the bridge unsafe for traffic. Finally on Sept. 16 it has been replaced with a new and very substantial bridge. The area is very historic in nature and goes back into local history a long way.

The first bridge was build lower in the Gorge and had very steep sloped approaches on either side. It took two teams of horses to climb the banks when they would be hauling lumber or other heavy supplies. In 1915 the current bridge was built to straddle the beautiful Gorge. It was named the Franklin Bridge by the Pacific Coast Coal Co. after Benjamin Franklin. It's opening made traveling easier from this end of the county both ways.

Because roads were not very good and neither were the new autos people tended to stay nearer to home. All the Lakes in the area built resorts. There were dance pavilions, camping spots, and picnic areas. At the Gorge there was a resort by the Treathaways. There was a dance pavilion where the bands had to play loudly to be heard over the din of the Falls.

She served great chicken dinners and the place was always crowded. It was at that time that the Motorcycle Climb at Franklin was popular. People came from all over the County to try their cycles on the steep slag dump. Not too far from the slag dump there was a ball field where many games were played.

As the roads got better and the cars improved interest in resorts waned and gradually the resorts closed.

The new bridge has a concrete deck with 14 foot section for the cars to travel on and 5 ft. wide sidewalks on each side for pedestrians. It is 428 ft. long with signals at each end. It is said to stand 155 ft. above the river.

There was a short dedication Ceremony on Sept. 16 featuring Black Diamond Mayor Howard Botts, Enumclaw Mayor Keith Blackburn. County Councilman Kent Pullen called the bridge "Pedestrian Friendly." "Now you can look out over the edge and get a great view without risking life and limb," he said. Carl Steiert and Bob Eaton drove Carl's Model T truck over it....the first car to cross the new bridge. People on both sides of the river are rejoicing now that they no longer have to detour either way.

AMAZING FACTS ABOUT AMAZING AUNTS

The following was given to us by Rose Guidetti:

What do you call the study of Aunts?-----	<u>Aunthropology</u>
Where do thr world's coldest Aunts live-----	<u>Aunt Artica</u>
Where do Aunts ski down?-----	<u>Aunt Hills</u>
How do you get to meet an Aunt through an	<u>Auntroduction</u>
What is an elite group?-----	<u>Auntie Intelligence</u>
Where do the world's shortest live?-----	<u>Aunt Twerp</u>
Favorite Salad?-----	<u>Auntie Pasto</u>
What do you call an Aunt who starts a business?-----	<u>Auntrepeneur</u>
Best thing about picnics?-----	<u>The Aunts</u>
What do Aunts use on their TV sets?-----	<u>Aunttenne</u>

Heard at the lunch table,.....

Joe Kuzaro said that he recently decided to plant a fruit tree. He told one of his relatives who said, "At your age! Good Heavens we hardly ever buy green bananas any more."

Nov 1991

(4)
BLACK DIAMOND HISTORICAL FACT SHEET

The following is a fact sheet handed to Museum visitors if they want them:

Black Diamond has its roots in California. In 1880 the Black Diamond Coal Co. which was mining in Nortonville, CA. sent explorers to the Green River Coal Fields to determine the coal potential. In 1882 they decided to begin mining in this area and gradually moved the Town of Nortonville to this area. The first settlers were predominately Welsh and Italian. As time went on other nationalities were represented. They tended to settle in clusters of their own language-speaking people. The map by the front door of the Museum helps explain their locations. A sign in the center room shows 16 different languages say the word; "Danger". As time went on more people moved in. In 1900 the population was 3500. The first railroad was a narrow gauge line until 1894 then it went to standard gauge. It was the Columbia and Puget Sound. It was sold to the Pacific Coast Coal Company in 1916.

There were 7 mines operating at that time. The largest mine was Mine 11. It was reported to be the deepest slope mine in the world. Going down on a slope of 6000 ft. It was 12 levels, 500 ft. apart. The Indian Mine north of Maple Valley on HWY 169 was the last mine operated in this area by the Pacific Coast Coal Company. It ran from 1926 until 1941. The passenger train quit in 1925. Men were hauled to the Indian Mine until 1931. The railroad ran into Seattle to the waterfront where they had bunkers for the coal until it was shipped out. Much of the early coal went to San Francisco.

There were 613 million tons of coal mined at that time. It is said that there is still 613 million tons left above 600 ft. and 5 billion below that. The coal is Bituminous, soft and low in sulphur. Other kinds of coal are Lignite and Peat very soft and poor grade. Anthracite is very hard. It is found mostly in Pennsylvania and Virginia. Coal veins varied from 5 ft. to 60 ft.

The big Labor Strike was started in 1921. The striking miners moved to Tim Morgans' property west of Black Diamond. They built over 200 homes and named the area Morganville. The Labor dispute was never truly resolved. It hurt both the Company and the workers. It ust sort of faded away with some miners going back to work and others seeking jobs elsewhere.

At the present time the only mine operating is the John Henry surface mine. It is located on the Green River Gorge Road near Lake 12. It is shipping much coal overseas to Japan. It has markets in the area such as the University of Wash. and the Bangor Naval Base. Because of the way coal is now burned it is becoming more attractive to other industries. It is made into a powder called a slurry and blown into the burning unit. More and more interest is being shown. The mine is being operated by the Pacific Coast Co, and the Mitsubishi Co.

The present population of Black Diamond is about 1500 people. It is a bedroom and retirement Community. Many people work in outlying businesses. There are many working at Boeing and many retired people living here.

The Black Diamond School District has incorporated with Enumclaw Schools. There is a large K thru 6 attendance going to the school. The first church in Black Diamond was the Congregational. It stood in the area where the present Fire Station now stands. Morgan Morgans the mine superintendant declared that no town need more than one church. For quite a while it served the needs of all denominations. Finally the Catholics decided they wanted their own building and built St. Barbara's in 1911. The Presbyterians built one in 1915 where the City Hall now stands. It burned down in in 1958.

The above information is as accurate as we can get it. Because history is so controversial we sometimes are corrected.

Nov 1991

The name Mason has had a very profound place in the history of Black Diamond. Until this past summer had not been privileged to meet any of the family in person. One day Dr. Tate Mason, Jr. came to visit the Museum. We had a very delightful visit with him and he promised to send us more about his family. The following is information which we have received:



Dr. Tate Mason Jr.

Dr. Tate Mason, one of the early physicians in Black Diamond was originally from Lahore, Virginia. He grew up on a farm in that vicinity, later attending the University of Virginia College and Medical School. After medical school he spent two years in postgraduate training in Philadelphia. Wanderlust apparently being a Mason tradition he like his cousins, moved West. His cousins, however, never went too far West. Some stopped in Kentucky and others in Tennessee. All would eventually make their mark in²finance, construction and in Dr. Mason's case medicine.

Leaving Philadelphia, Dr. Mason signed on as a ship's surgeon in a sailing ship bound for the West Coast around Cape Horn. He was paid \$100.00 and a ticket home from the West Coast. The first stop was San Francisco where Dr. Mason then 24 years old, borrowed money from the captain to "see the town". He spent all his earnings plus the small loan from the captain. The Captain made a deal with Dr. Mason that if he stayed with the ship to Seattle the loan was considered paid. Arriving in Seattle in 1907 with \$50.00 in his pocket, knowing no one and no friends upon whom he could call he took a job as a coal company doctor in Black Diamond, Wa. at a very nominal salary (said to be \$125. a month) He was practising medicine on a temporary permit (license) as he had joined the coal company only 2 weeks after coming to Seattle and the Licensing Board did not meet to license practitioners for several months. In the meantime Mr. George Williams, in a thesis presented to the faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Southern Californiam (Jan 1953) reports as follows, "While waiting for the Licensing Board to meet he used all his personal income caring for friends, the coal miners, and it was necessary for him to borrow the \$60.00 for the license and a trip to Spokane, some 300 miles away."

Mr. Art Lafromboise of Enumclaw, WA. told Dr. Mason's family that while he was in Black Diamond and Franklin Dr. Mason roomed with Mr. William Weimer. It was Mr. Weimer who convinced Dr. Mason he should move to Seattle which he did in 1909. His rise in medical circles after leaving the coal company was meteoric. He never forgot Black Diamond. Much of the early practice of the Mason Clinic which he helped found, was made up of friends and acquaintances from that area. Patients are of course still seen from the Black Diamond Area.

Nov 1991

THE DOCTORS MASON Cont;d

In many ways, Dr. Tate Mason Jr. followed in his Father's footsteps. Although born and raised in Seattle, he chose to attend the University of Virginia Medical School as had his Father before him. Unfortunately, his Father died in 1936 so did not live to see his son become a Physcian. Following graduation from Medical School in 1940, Tate Jr. entered into years of post graduate training as well as serving in the U.S. Navy. He met and married Elizabeth Thomas a native West Virginian, saddened her parents when he brought her out to the "Wild West" in 1949.

In 1949, Dr. Mason returned to his beloved Northwest and has never left. He joined the staff at the Mason Clinic and in 1952 became chief of Urology, a position he kept until 1973. In 1978 at the age of 65 he had to retire from the Mason Clinic. He then became Chief of Urology at Harborview Medical Center and was on the Staff at the University of Washington Medical School for a number of years. He has served his profession and community in many different capacities, from being president of the PTA of his children's Elementary School to being president of the American Urological Society in 1984.

Dr. Mason and his wife, Beth, have five children. None has chosen to become a physician. The two oldest (daughters) live in the suburbs of Boston and Chicago while two sons and a daughter live in Seattle. Dr. Mason continues to reside in Seattle. His favorite activities are fishing and boating though he doesn't have all the energy he once had! He loves people and family lore, so visiting the Black Diamond Museum earlier this summer was a true joy for him. Note: We would like to thank Mary Mason for sharing some of their family history with us. We are proud to have had a part in the history.

COMPANY STORE

The Company Store has always been a part of Community Life in this area. The has always been names associated with each managment during the years. One of the first names was Botting. Later Harry McDowell, then the Zumek Bros. Frank, Joe and Tom. Today the store is called Family Grocer and is owned by Rod Adler and Fred Frederickson. The store is a very pleasant place to shop.

The Black Diamond Family Grocer came into being in April 1987. This was a partnership of Rod and Fred formed after the Company that both men had been working, closed its doors.

Rod Adler started in the grocery business at the age of 14 as a box boy and has been working in this field for the past 40 years. Fred, also, worked in the grocery business as a young man in Germany. Fred came to the United States when he was 22 years of age and at that time worked for the same company that Rod worked for.

Fred and Rod formed a friendship during their early years as grocery men while competing with each other to move ahead within the company and, also, because of their nationality. Both Rod and Fred are of German descent and when Rod's parents were still living, Fred was a frequent visitor at the family home.

Note: The Family Grocer has been very supportive of Community affairs. They have been one of our good outlets for the sale of the book, "Mining the Memories" Whenever we have needed help or a favor they have always been there.

Don't Forget

Dec. 8 1:00 p.m.

**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

Mon. - Fri. 8 - 6

Sat. 9 - 5

3rd & Lawson

**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*



Wood Products Co.

4 CORNERS

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

WHOLESALE RETAIL

Vesey Insurance Agency

Home • Auto • Business • Life

825-5508

Greg Vesey

1612 Cole Street
Enumclaw, WA 98022



D & H Creations

*Porcelain Doll Classes & Supplies
Antique Clock Repair*

Dorothy & Howard Botts

P.O. Box 261
Black Diamond, WA 98010

(206) 886-2692

10 Shops...

... 1 Roof




Phone
886-2663

*Crystal, Pewter, China, Collector glass, Flo-Blue,
Antique Linens, Crochets, Roseville, Fostoria,
Tole Work, and more...*

PALMER COKING COAL CO.

COAL GRAVEL
FIREWOOD RED CINDERS

886-2841 GRAVEL 432-3542



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

Duane and Fay Weeks

**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

Black Diamond, WA 98010
William Luke



Black Diamond Historical Society
Box 232 Black Diamond, WA 98010

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

Nov 1991

Black Diamond Automotive

32607 - 3rd Ave.

Jim Kemmer - Darwin Glaser

Custom Exhaust
Complete Auto Repair
Tires - Batteries
Arc & Gas Welding

886-2800

MARJIE R. KARI,
General Manager***

FRANK'S MEAT MARKET & SAUSAGE COMPANY

"Sering This Area Since 1936"

Market 432-2685
Evenings 886-2685

FRANK ZUMEK, 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