



MUSEUM HOURS

Saturday & Sunday Noon to 3 p.m.  
 Thursday 9 a.m. to 4p.m.  
 For special arrangements and Tours  
 call: 886-1168 886-2327  
 Volume XV Issue III

August 1992

Black Diamond, Washington

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

Charles Thielken, a long time resident.

Al Lind Lived in Black Diamond for  
 Many years.

Sam Zinter Lived in Black Diamond for  
 most of his life. He attended school and  
 graduated from the High School. His  
 parents lived here for many years.

Francis Marchx A member of a pioneer  
 Family, brother of Regina Whitehill and  
 Elna Baker.

MEMORIALS

Carol Moore The Thursday Gang

Ed Suhovernick Helen Darby

Francis Marchx Rose Guidetti, Harold  
 and Regina Whitehill, Carl & Ann Steiert

Harold Parkinson Helen Darby Tom Campbell Mr. & Mrs. Charles Corlett  
DiJulio Family Mr. & Mrs Denny DiJulio

Special Donations: On June 6 while attending the Celebration we received a  
 special donation from Esther Vander Heyen of Arlington. She is a sister of  
 the late George Franchini. We, also, received a donation from Margaret Stanley a  
 member who lives in San Francisco. They both asked that the money be used for  
 work on the Museum. We thank them for their thoughtfulness.

GENERAL FALL MEETING

Everyone is invited to attend the Fall Meeting of the Historical Society.  
 We hope to have the rest of the work on the Museum finished and we would like to  
 have everyone brought up to date on plans and finances. The meeting will be held  
 on Sept. 13, at the Museum at 1:00 p.m. Attendance at some of our other General  
 Meetings has had a lot to be desired. We hope more people will take part in this  
 one.

"MUSEUM DOINGS"

Attendance at the Museum has been very brisk since the first of the year.  
 Before school dismissed for the summer we had a steady stream of school kids.  
 We have a yearly tour from the Holy Rosary School in Tacoma. There are schools  
 from all over the area. We really enjoy having them. Attendance is not confined  
 to children though. We have had people from almost every state so far. One of  
 our Society members who lives in Fairdale Kentucky, Robert Glackin paid us a  
 visit. We had a group of ladies from Wales who came out with Jackie Cedarholm  
 a Society member. They held a meeting in the multipurpose room. One lady came  
 from Black Diamond, Alberta Can. We have had over 6000 persons through since  
 the first of the year.

In response to our plea for more sitters on open days, Charles and Betty  
Falk are going to be helping out. We want to thank Don Botts for getting  
 people to help.

Aug 1992

(2)

" GETTING READY FOR JUNE 6 "

The month of May was the busiest month that the Thursday Crew has ever worked. They were doing double time in order to get everything finished for the "Big Day". They worked many extra days and longer hours. They tried to do their jobs in proper sequence so that nothing would be left undone. That of course, is some times easier said than done. They really did some sweating.

When painting time came in the basement addition we were lucky to have a new member by the name of Scott Sena who is a painter by trade and knew how to make a big job a lot easier. The Crew Painters helped fill in and with Scott's help the room looked very nice. We had a lot of good comments.

Charles Corlett spent many hours setting up his Mine and Company Town display. It has proven to be a hit. Many people spend time looking at it.

Rose Guidetti gave of her time to help Ann do some of the scrubbing and polishing that was needed. When the men worked in the upstairs room they had to do some sanding and pounding which dislodged a lot of dust which had been there for a long time. There are so many nooks and crannies that it is a constant battle to just look reasonably clean much less spic and span as wanted it to look for the party.

In response to our request for help in the landscaping area Olga Swann came down and spent many hours pulling weeds and grooming the place. Another person who gave of his time was Gino Picini. He lives in Seattle and is a Society member. He is related to the Vernarelli Family. He took up where Olga left off and spent two days with a shovel and rake chopping out all the tall weeds around the jail. He did a great job trimming the roses. Between the two of them they made the place look much better than it had for a long time.

The flagpole needed a new rope so Brad Anderson, Emerald City Pool Builder, came up with his small Tractor and helped the men lower the pole so that the repairs could be made. It was good to see the flag flying again. The tractor made the repair job easier and safer.

We want to thank all the men who worked so hard to get everything ready. It is impossible to do it right. The following contributed much:

- |                   |                      |                       |                   |                     |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Bob Eaton</u>  | <u>Donald Botts,</u> | <u>Gerald Bainton</u> | <u>Joe Kuzaro</u> | <u>Phil Werle</u>   |
| <u>Bob Burdic</u> | <u>Carl Steiert</u>  | <u>Martin Moore</u>   | <u>Ted Barner</u> | <u>JoeJDalSanto</u> |

"A BUS DRIVER'S PRAYER"

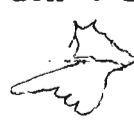
Please, Lord, watch over me this day. Please help me remember to watch all five mirrors, two dozen windows, eight gauges, six warning lights, six dozen faces, three lanes of traffic and to keep a third eye open for wobbling bicycles and daydreaming pedestrians, especially teenagers with head sets who wre in another world.

Please lord, help me hear all train whistles, truck and auto horns police sirens and the two-way radios.

Please, Lord, give me a hand for the gear lever, the steering wheel the route book and the radio Microphone.

And, Lord, please grant me the self control to keep my hands away from Johnny's neck and one more thing, dear Lord, please don't let Mary be sick all over the bus.

"HELP" "HELP" "HELP" "HELP"



Labor Day will soon be upon us. The Committee is planning for a parade and other events. We need some ideas as to what to put in the parade. We can get trucks but we need something different to put on them for a float. If you have any ideas please call Bob at 886-2327, Carl 886-1168, All ideas will be considered.

AUG 1992

"BLACK DIAMOND DAY"

At last!!! It was June 6!! By 7 o'clock in the morning Railroad Ave. was a very busy place. The plans called for a Street Fair along with the viewing of the Museum and other businesses on the Avenue. Cindi Lampson and Kara Fotheringham were two ladies who each run a Day Care Center. They responded to our invitation for businesses to take part in the Celebration. They attended one of the first meetings which we held and suggested that a Street Fair might be a good idea. They were filled with a lot of enthusiasm and volunteered to chair the project. They worked very hard and produced a very good showing of vendors who added so much to the "Day" We are grateful to the young ladies for suggesting the Fair.

People began arriving early in the day and kept coming until late in the afternoon. It has been estimated that around 1500 people showed up. At the Museum we tried to keep a head count but it was impossible since they were coming in all the doors.

Everyone who attended seemed pleased with what they saw. It was very good to see people whom we haven't seen for a long time and catch up on events in their lives. It would be hard to name many of the people who were in attendance without omitting someone. Here are a few that come to mind:

Margaret Stanley, San Francisco

Elsie Marchetti, Hemet, CA.

Esther Vander Heyden, Arlington

Ior Davies & wife from The Dalles, OR.

Margaret Covey & Her son Don

Regina & Harold Whitehill,

also: Shirley Mead, Pat Walsh, Bill McLoughry, Gino & Ruth Picini, Jack Cartwright, Dwight & Doris Garrett and Elizabeth Pennacchi.

We hope that all who attended had a good time. We are being asked as to whether we plan to make it a yearly event. Right now we feel that it should be a unanimous decision by the membership. We hope to discuss it at the upcoming meeting in September.

"A MINER'S LEGEND"

Most of us who were raised around the Mines have from time to time heard of the friendship of the miners with rats who lived in the mine. Stories have been told of rats warning the miners about pending disasters. We had heard these stories but had dismissed them as just that "stories". Recently we had a man visit the Museum from Pennsylvania. He worked in the mines. Carl was interested in talking to him because their mines are worked differently than those in the West. We have slope mines and they have shafts. The conversation got around to talking about the rats and this is the story he told:

He and two other men were working when they noticed that one of their rat friends came into the work place and seemed very agitated...running in and out several times. He would come in and tug at their pant legs and run down the opening toward where the men had put their lunch pails. After a bit they got to be a nuisance so the men decided to take a break and give them something to eat. They went out of that area and over to their lunch boxes. Just a few minutes later the roof over the area where they had been working caved in. Had they remained there they would all have been killed. Needless to say the men were really grateful to their small friends.

"THURSDAY COOKS"

We want to thank Rose Guidetti for the fine job she is doing in getting the ladies to provide lunches for the Thursday Crew. No where in the world will you find a more grateful bunch of men. They declare loud and clear that they have never had a bad meal yet!! We are still looking for volunteers to help ease the load on the ones who have been doing it thus far. It was decided to double their wages which helps some. Thanks to all the faithful cooks.

Aug 1992

(4)  
SMOKERS

One of the first and greatly used buildings in Black Diamond was known as the "Show Hall". It was located on the road that goes past the Countrycraft Mall and the Telephone Building. It first served as a Town Hall. Here the different lodges and clubs held their meetings. There were musicals put on. Different organizations put on plays. Christmas time was especially busy. It was a meeting place for most everybody in town. As time progressed and new things came into being additions were made within it. It had a stage and after movies became popular they were held several times a week. Prices were something like 10¢ and 25¢ for kids and adults. The early Cowboy shows really went over. There was a time when the seats were movable and the floor was used for roller skating and dancing.

During the 20's and 30's one of the popular events was amateur boxing. These events were called "Smokers" and drew a good audience. The participants were all amateurs ranging in age from small boys to older men who should have known better. Jimmy and Harry Woods were a couple of cute twins who often would entertain the people.

At one time we had a professional boxer called Vern Stewart. He used to spar with the young fellows in the old Hotel Annex building which stood in back of the Depot. One of our sheriffs named Bob Hodge was, also, a pro-boxer. He fought often in special fights in Seattle. At which time the train to Seattle was often a special one carrying men from here to take in the fight and root for their "Champ". Gomer Evans Sr. and Ben Mercer were known to square off from time to time. Many names come to mind as one recalls the "Good Old Boxing Days". The following are some of the names of men who liked to fight:

Toby Legee      George Ayres      Cougar Coutcher      Louis Parenta  
Chick Thompson      Gus Paglia      Ernie Bahr      Cut Kravagna Emmett McIntyre

Carl tells tales of boxing with the different boxers. They would find any house or building with rooms where they would be allowed to square off. He tells of one little fellow who was asked "Why don't you box?" The little boy answered, "Because I want to be cute."

#### THE BLACK DIAMOND SMOKER

This was published in the Black Diamond Bulletin 1923:

Hurrah for the Black Diamond Smoker, that's the place to have real fun. Oh! Boy! they have real music besides all the boxing that's done. You watch for the big fellows uppercut that knocks the other one cold. You see the big fellow get a surprise--he didn't know "Shorty" was so bold. We've a Dempsey the second also, Carpentier when it comes to boxing you bet. And Caruso the second between acts the best singing that I have heard yet. O never forget that the motto is this, "Where there's a will a way, yes, you bet. And when Diamond says she'll do a thing it's the best the world has yet. Some people may think because Diamond is small, her smokers are not worth a cent. But you go to the City and pay five dollars or more and I'll bet you will regret that you went.

Note: Many of us who are working on Black Diamond's Historical background are very sad that we didn't have the foresight to save the old "Show Hall". It could be a real treasure for the Town what with many traveling shows and exhibits available. It could be a pleasure and money-maker too.

*Don't Forget Sept 13*

AUG 1992

The following article was written in the Enumclaw Courier Herald 10/12/53

Mike Babchonick's story about the time he and Andrew Chirnik were buried alive in the Cannon Mine near Franklin. It was February 1914. He told how he and Chirnik, his partner, were working far back in the Cannon mine when the accident happened. They had gone in 1600 feet along a horizontal tunnel which had its entrance on a level with Green River. Then the shaft sloped upward at 45 degree angle under the mountain.

Water loosening fine gravel caused the cave-in. There was a roar as it started to come down,"said Babchonick. "I yelled to Chirnik and we both started to run. He fell, gravel and water poured down all around us. Poor Chirnik was buried under tons of it."

"The gravel came down all around me until it was up to my neck. I kept waving my arms fighting it."

"When it stopped falling I was held motionless. There was gravel packed tight all around me. Only my arms were free. I could reach out in any direction and get trickling water., that was all."

There in the inky darkness he stood, unable to move. The minutes , the hours, the days dragged by. There was no sound except the incessant noise of trickling water--water which dripped down the sides of his prison, water which swept through the gravel drenching his body.

All feeling left his limbs. He lost track of time and he thought he was going to die.

"Afraid? No, I was not afraid." he said,almost positively. "I am a miner but I thought I was going to die. I was sure of it. When I finally heard men working, I thought they are the regular mine crew. I did not think they were looking for me. I believed they all thought I was dead."

But outside the mine there was frenzied activity. William Hann who still is at Black Diamond was in charge of the mine which had sixty employees. He put them to work digging furiously at the wet loose gravel, far back in the shaft shifts of men worked day and night."

The one person who never lost hope was Babchonick's wife. Two and three times a day she walked the long uphill mile and a half to the Cannon mine to spur the workers. Sometimes she stayed until late at night leaving her children in the care of a neighbor woman.

Then two days before Babchanik was rescu ed she had a dream. "" saw Mike alive, . She ran nearly all the way to the mine the next morning to tell the workers. Her sincerety, her absolute belief in the dream spurred them on. The work was speeded. Forty hours later they reached Babchonick.

Starved and with limbs useless from being held immovable for eight days he was carried from the mine. For many days he could not walk but it was five months before his legs were back to normal. Then, apparently none the worse for his experience, he went back to work.

Note: As we research accidents and happenings in the mine we almost always come up with the same ending. Those who survive go right back and work some more  
\*\*\*\*\*

A Note from the Editor: I want to thank all the folks who have given some nice strokes about the Newsletter. I have been doing it for fourteen years now and am sort of running out of ideas. I would love to hear any suggestions or any material that you would like us to cover. Are there any areas that you would like to hear about? We are willing to research and print for everyone's benefit? I'm wide open for suggestions.

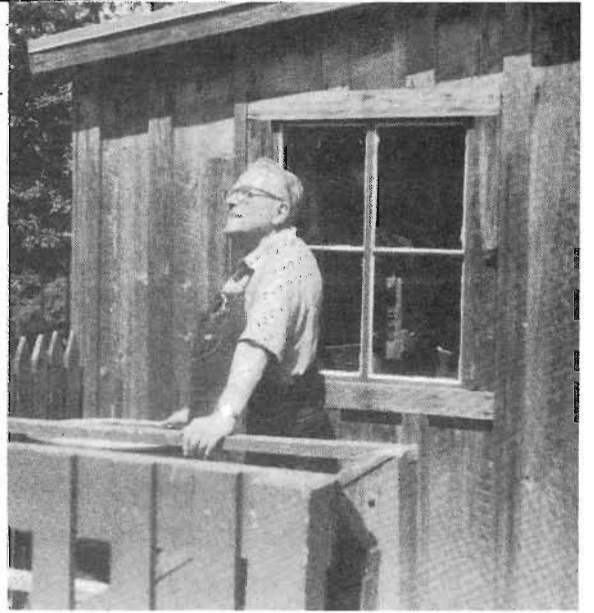
*Ann*

Aug 1992

"CARL"

The one person who has been in the Historical Movement the longest is without doubt Carl Steiert. Since the Historical Movement was begun in 1976 by the forming of the Historical Society he has been the Town's No.1 salesman. The project has dominated his thought and his life.

Carl was born in Leland, Idaho in 1911. He came to Black Diamond when he was less than a year old. His parents, Joseph and Rosa Steiert came here in 1888, built their home and lived here all their lives. Carl was adopted by the Steiers when his parents Mary & Karl Senft separated and the Steiers who were very good friends of his birth mother took care of Carl and her while she had some necessary surgery. They became so attached to Carl that they asked her to be allowed to keep him. Because of the dire straits in which she found herself she consented but only with the provision that he be allowed to know who she was. As a result he grew up with two wonderful women for his mothers. It all worked out well. We have been told that from the time he was a very small boy he loved mechanical things especially automobiles. This interest grew as he got older. He spent much of his boyhood hanging around the Diamond Stage Co and the Garage. When he was through with High School the Garage hired him. His interest grew until he was a very good mechanic. He worked for the Stage Company for many years and as Arvid Larson and Evan Thomas, the owners decided to retire he bought them out and owned the Garage for the last 25 years before he retired.



Much concern was felt by his family as to what he was going to do after he quit the Garage. He and Ann traveled for a couple of years and had a good time. Then in 1976 Mayor Evans asked Ann to get a group of people together to decide on how Black Diamond was going to honor our Country. The only thing the people could agree on that we weren't doing anything about our own local history. They then decided to start the Historical Society. He's been going ever since!!

Carl and Ann just celebrated their 57th wedding Anniversary. They have lived in the same house on Lawson Hill for 50 years. They have a son, Jerry, who is a doctor at Group Health in Redmond. Their Daughter, Carol, She is a teacher working at Green River College now. They have three granddaughters.

Many people who were customers of the Diamond Garage remark that they do not believe that this is the same quiet guy who sold them gas and had hardly a word to say.

The Thursday Gang is sort of an extension of the family. Each person who has been working so hard is very special to the Steiert Family. He does feel sad sometimes and doesn't understand why there are people in Town who have lived most of their lives here don't want to share their experiences. He reads, studies, interviews and tries to learn all that he can. We tell people who are going through the Museum that if you push the right button he will talk all night!!

He still keeps his hand in the automotive picture. He has a small workshop in his basement at home where he bores motors. Since he retired he has worked on over 1,000 motors.

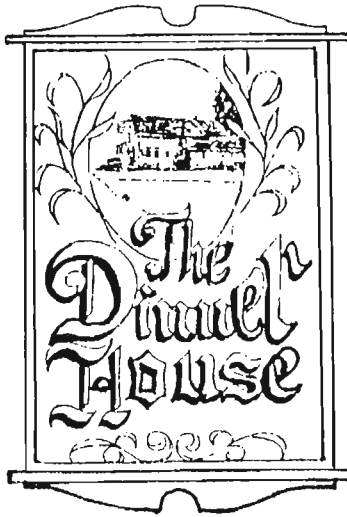
**THE  
Hardware Store, Inc.**  
Coast to Coast

**Do-it  
center.**

Stan & J Johnson

**432-3384**

AT FOUR CORNERS  
MAPLE VALLEY



**in Black Diamond**

A Fine Dining Establishment

*One of Black Diamonds'  
Historical Landmarks*

**886-2524**

*Reservations are recommended  
Mon.-Sat. 4 pm - 10 pm  
Sunday 2 pm - 9 pm*

*Serving  
Cocktails and Wine*

*Specializing in  
Banquets and Wedding Receptions*

**TRM**

**Wood Products Co., Inc.**

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

**BLACK DIAMOND AUTO PARTS**

**886-1133**

Mon. - Fri. 8 - 6

Sat. 9 - 5

3rd & Lawson



**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

CRAFTS • COLLECTIBLES • ANTIQUES • AMERICANA

HOURS:  
10 AM-5PM  
Tues thru Sun

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

**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**

WEEKS'  
ENUMCLAW  
FUNERAL  
HOME

**WEEKS'  
ENUMCLAW  
FUNERAL HOME**

**825-3548**

Local Family Owned  
Funeral Home



**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

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

William Luke Family  
Black Diamond, WA.  
98010



Black Diamond Historical Society  
Box 232 Black Diamond, WA 98010

Aug 1992

### 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 9:00 p.m.

### Black Diamond Hair Design

**886-1448**

MARGE - MARILYN  
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