



MUSEUM HOURS

Saturday & Sunday Noon to 3:00 p.m.
Thursday 9:00 to 3:00 p.m.
For Special Arrangements or Tours:
Call: 886-1168 886-2327
Museum No. 886-2142

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B.D.H.S.

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Send dues to: Box 232
Black Diamond, WA

Editor: Ann Steiert 886-1168

IN MEMORIAM

Evelyn Carnino—Many year resident of Black Diamond.
Doris Williams—Former resident of Black Diamond.
Nat Pennacchi—Early day resident of Black Diamond.
Merritt Zeek—Former resident of Black Diamond.

Note: We appreciate being informed when someone passes away.



MEMORIALS

Ardis Botts—from—Muriel Waldo, Judy Young Family, Don Laime Family.

Doris Williams—from—Mr. & Mrs Charles Corlett

Evelyn Carnino—from—Emma Sigmund

Merritt Zeek—from—Lynda Maks, Lucille & Jack Highlitt

GENERAL MEETING



There is going to be a General Meeting on March 6. It will be held at 1:00p.m. at the Museum. We urge as many as can to attend the meeting. We have not held these meetings as often as we would like to for the reason that they have been so poorly attended. It is time for everyone to get a recap on how things stand now and to help plan for the future. We have a good thing going and would hate to see it go down the tube because of lack of participation.

HOW FAR HAVE WE COME...

Since the Museum movement began in 1977 there has been a great deal of time and labor put into the old railroad depot. We began with 1000 sq. ft of space and have increased it to 7000 now. There have been four large rooms added. The old windows have been restored, and a new roof was added. The foundation was rebuilt and the whole building now stands on a solid base. The building was rewired. We have a heating system. There is a fire alarm system and a burglar alarm. The burglar alarm system is guaranteed to scare anyone who comes in and sets it off. It sounds off and a loud voice yells, "Burglary in progress, burglary in progress."

The jail has been restored and next to it is a shed housing an early hose cart used for fires. A flag pole was installed. The deck out in front has been rebuilt twice. An outdoor wash house was built with a tool shed next to it. A simulated coal mine work place has built under the north end of the building with a mine trip coming out of the ground(simulated).

These are only a few things that our Thursday Gang has been doing. The people who visit us are very pleased with what they see. This does not include

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"HOW FAR HAVE WE COME" Cont'd

The inside of the Museum is filled with artifacts which were used in times past. A very popular display is the mining town exhibit built by Charles Charles Corlett. It shows the style of houses that were built in the early days as well as a coal yard showing a tippie and mine car bringing up coal from under the ground.

There is an area with benches where people sit while watching some of the slides that have been acquired. The benches were built with the aid of the Tahoma High School.

We are attracting a great many people. This year even without the great Labor Day attendance we had just short of 10,000 visitors. We host a great many school groups, Home-Schoolers and Church and retirement groups.

"INTEREST IN FRANKLIN"

Carl Steiert, and Don Mason have been very busy dispensing information and researching the history of the town of Franklin. Many people call and ask many questions. Carl and Don have taken groups on walking tours of the area and showed them where the different buildings stood. Green River Community College has shown an interest in the site and done some explorative digging in the area. Cedar Heights Junior High on the Kent -Kangley Road has a class headed by Mike Paprist, who have been doing much on the Franklin area. Carl has visited their class many times to talk and show slides of the area. Many people say it would be just great if the Town could be restored. We call Don the "Mayor of Franklin" because of his great interest in the area.

"NEW ARTIFACTS"

Each workday it seems as though someone has found something that they feel should be in the Museum. The latest are:

Marshall Trover brought in a 2 man Titan Chain Saw. It is big and in good condition. It was made in Seattle by the Titan Company. Marshall tells us that he collects chain and drag saws. He has over 400 saws at the present time.

Dennis Boxx is in charge of the coin collection. He recently brought in a set of fractional Currency 1870 and \$5. series wood chopper 1907.

The three High School sweaters on the wall in the center room have been joined by a baseball suit donated by Mary Grgurich. It was used in the 1940's when her husband Frank, was a team manager.

We were given a big gold framed picture of the Tim Morgan Family. It is really elegant. It was donated by The Tim Morgan Grandchildren. It is a fine addition to our collection.

The Renton Historical Society has given us a really different showcase. It is about six ft. long and oval shaped. It has plastic sides and a cover. We have congregated all our miners lamps and lighting related articles in it.

Ed Chris of Springville, UT, gave us a genuine bird cage in which they used to carry canaries down into the mine for gas detection. It is small and of wood construction.

Please take note of the advertising on our cover page. These people have been a good source of support for us and we really appreciate it. When you have need for their merchandise please give them a chance.

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^{STORY}
In almost every that is written about early Company Towns such as coal and lumbering Towns there is a mention of the Company Store. The one in Black Diamond was a very real part of the life of its' citizens. The first store was located near where the Bakery stands now. It was unlucky enough to burn down in 1907. Duda Vernarelli told us of the excitement on the day that came to pass. He said people went into the burning building and grabbed anything they could. He said that for weeks after it was over, people would be asking one another if they had a mate to a shoe that they had picked up and trying to match goods.

After a couple of years the Company decided to move a large building from the top of Lawson Hill down to the spot on Railroad Avenue. This was a big task considering the narrow road and the equipment available in those times. They used horses and a windlass and rollers to bring it down to its resting place. Here it was set on its foundation and eventually a portion was added on to be used as a storage space.

The following is taken from our "Mining the Memories" book as told to us by Mary Minaglia:

" I went to work at the store around 1916 when I was 16. I think one reason I was offered the job was because I could speak Italian. There were a lot of Italians that didn't know English. They would come to me when they needed things. I worked there about a year or a year and a half.

Dave Botting was in charge and McGowell later. Dave Porter was the book-keeper. Jardine was in charge of the warehouse. Charlie Barkley worked there in the summer. He was the delivery boy. Dave Garrett and his sister Mae worked there as did Sis Upton.

We used to have a cubicle in the front of the Store and the cashier stayed there. Of course, everything was charged in there little books. If there was any cash you sent it over to the cubical. Each customer had their own little charge book. They never lost anything because, you see, they had your pay check. Most people charged. They didn't have coupons yet.

In those days they delivered everything you wanted. The customers were always on one side of the counter. It wasn't like it is today where you help yourself to groceries. We clerks had to get everything. We'd stick it on the counter, bag it and write in the little book. "

" There were three floors to the store. The main floor had all the canned goods and groceries. They, also, had a place where you sliced your ham. They had a candy counter there. The only meat ^{they} had was lunch meat or cold-cuts

" Toward the back of the main floor were the nails and all the building and hardware supplies. On another wall were the dry goods, materials, threads

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COMPANY STORE Cont'd

In the middle were the shoes---clear to the ceiling. The walls were 12 feet high to the ceiling. They had one of those sliding ladders to get to the shoe. We never measured anyone's feet. They told us their size and they would try them on for fit. There were a couple of chairs there.

In the very back was the lavatory with flush toilets and the bookkeeping office. There was a door and a window in the office and you paid once a month for your purchases.

There was an island counter right inside the front door for all your medication, you know, home remedies. That was their drug store. At Christmas time all these counters were filled with hundreds of dolls and toys. Oh! that was heaven to us. I used to haunt that at Christmas time. You could walk around it. Oh! did I love that!

Every season a milliner from Seattle would come and she would have dozens and dozens of hats. That's where we bought our hats.

One of the warehouses was on the main floor. In the basement was another warehouse where they stored the hay and oats and the chicken feed. Upstairs on the second floor they had some furniture.

MORE MEMORIES AS TOLD BY PAUL BOTTS:

"Down at the Company Store you had credit or coupons. Very few families had any cash but you could get all the credit you wanted. If they cut you off you were really over-extended. You generally got in debt in the summer time when the mine was only working part time then in the winter you would catch up. There wasn't the demand for coal in the summertime as there was in the winter. They didn't store coal then like they do now days. Nobody starved. We just didn't have any money."


The Black Diamond Store saw many persons go through its doors. The first manager was David Botting. Later Harry McDowell took it over. He had many persons work for him. We can recall Frank Bergman, Vi Campbell, Lila Allen, Dave Garrett Sr., Tom Jardine, Mrs. Whipple, Mary Grgurich, Bill Morgan and Frank Cross are just a few who come to mind and we are sure that there are some who are being overlooked.

Mr. McDowell sold to the Zumek Brothers, Frank, Joe and Tom. It remained the same friendly store. They later closed the business there and opened up a store on Highway 169. When they decided to retire they sold to Rod Adler and Fred Fredericksen. They kept up the friendly traditions that former owners had maintained in our only grocery in Town. As is the custom today Grocery Stores stick to the wide variety of foods and needs of the people. It was known as the Family Grocer.


Fred and Rod sold to "Jr" Pennell who now has it under the banner of the "Red Apple". It still goes on to maintain its atmosphere and is a pleasant

place to shop

Words of wisdom written by Ken Thim, a member from California:




I stayed awake again last night and wondered, if you please
Why as a child I wasn't taught about the birds and bees.
Now I'm looked at with disdain, With ridicule and scorn----
Because I know not how birds fly nor how bees are born.
And yet my kids have learned it all; There's little they don't know.
They think of me as dumb, a square, and frankly tell me so.
It's nice to know the facts of life, but I admit some concern
When on one's seventh birthday there's nothing left to Learn.



"CHINESE AND THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR"

Besides the difficulties of railroad construction and land ownership the Green River Coal Company faced labor trouble. In the nation, the twenty years after 1875 were years of violence and disorder, representing the clash of management and labor each newly aware of their power in an industrial system stressing economic power. The 1877 strikes, The great growth of the Knights of Labor spotlighted the labor difficulties. The Green River region events and tactss reflected the national turmoil.

The poor economic position of the King County in the San Francisco Market increased the antagonism between the men and managment. The wheat ships entering San Francisco with coal as profitable ballast thus flooding the market with superior coal at low prices. Further, the British Columbia coals equal in quality and superior to Newcastle coals was being mined by Chinese Labor permitting a new low price on the foreign market. In that market sales could be made but the profit margin bordered on the vanishing point. Usually the Green River mines operated sporadically, running well in the Fall and Winter and being idle during the summer trade. In such times neither men or Company received their imagined due and both were quick to anger.



After the Black Diamond miners had parleyed a week's strike into a pay increase, something the Franklin miners had desired. their attention was turned to driving the Chinese from the field. A majority of the railroad gangs building to Black Diamond had been Chinese and some stayed in the area as common laborers. The Chinese were single which is characteristic of the first year of development in that young man's Country of tents, checks, and tough saloons. With whites temporarily without women the Chinese did women's work washing and cooking. The miners sent for their families and the Chinese became dispensable. Of the April population of 345, sixty were Chinese and like their fellows were

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"KNIGHTS OF LABOR" Cont'd

cheap labor. The depression of the mid 1880's heightened the usual racial suspicions of the whites and demand rose that the Chinese go. Americans, had first call on American jobs and if they needed them they sent the Chinese home.

NOTE: The problem with the miners and the Chinese were never truly solved. For many years their animosity caused many problems for both the miners and the Companies.

"AIN" T IT THE TRUTH!!!

It has been said: Man is like an automobile. As it gets older, the differential starts slipping and the u-joints get worn causing the drive shaft to go bad. The transmission won't go into high gear and sometimes it has difficulty getting out of low. The cylinders get worn and lose compression making it hard to climb the slightest incline.

When it is climbing, the tappets clatter and ping to the point one wonders if the old bus will make it to the top. The carburetor gets fouled up with pollutants and other matters making it hard to start in the morning. It is hard to keep the radiator fill because of the leaking hose. The thermostat goes out, making it hard to reach operating temp. The headlights grow dim and the horn is weaker. The memory chip drops a few bytes and the battery needs constant charging. If the body looks good with no bangs, dents or chopping paint. Maybe we can make one more trip before the head gasket blows.

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FOR SALE



We still have T shirts for Sale. They are white with Black Diamond Historical Society emblazened on the front. They sell for \$6.00 for kids and \$8.00 for adults. Sizes S.M.L. XL

We, also, have a good supply of books. They have been a great seller. Most people who buy one have come back and bought more. The Red Apple Store and The Summit Inn have been really helpful in selling them.

"NEW PRINCIPAL"

The children at the B.D. Elementary School are very happy this year. They have a new Principal. He is a young man with a great personality who really cares for the kids and they know it. His name is Chris Beals. It reminds us that in earlier years there was a Beals Family. Chester Beals graduated from High School with Carl in 1930. We wonder if anyone knows whatever has become of him. The Beals we have now is most welcome and a great addition to our school.

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