

MUSEUM HOURS

Saturday & Sunday Noon to 3 p.m.  
 Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 For special arrangements or tours  
 Call: 886-1168 886-2327  
 Museum: 886-2142

May 1994

Blaxk Diamond, Washington

XVII Issue II

B.D.H.S.

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 Family Lifetime \_\_\_\_\_ 75.00  
 Business, Annual \_\_\_\_\_ 15.00

Send dues to: Box 232

Black Diamond, WA 98010

Editor: Ann Steiert 886-1168

IN MEMORIAM

Charlotte Haliday (Poleski)  
Malcom E. Keehner, husband of  
 Mary Savicke  
Ruelle Morganti, Brother of  
 Margaret Vernarelli  
Mary Mariotti, wife of Deno  
Amos Griffith, Husband of  
 Thelma (Lapham)

Joseph Fosnik, former  
 resident of Franklin



Charlotte Haliday—Janet Eltz  
Ruelle Morganti—Margaret  
 Vernarelli and Gino & Ruth  
 Picini

MEMORIALS

Merritt Zeek — Ted & Lucille Barner  
Malcom Keehner — Janet Eltz  
Amos Griffith — Carl & Ann Steiert  
Nat Pennacchi — Betty Garbini, Esther  
 Birch & Carl & Ann Steiert.

JUNE 5

OPEN HOUSE

JUNE 5

Once again we come to that special time of the year when we celebrate the birthday of our Town. In order to have the festivities on Sunday we are having it a day early...on the 5th instead of the 6th.

We are planning an open house and ask all the members who can to come and see what has been done during the past year and to get acquainted with each other. We are hoping to have a good visiting day. If any of you have any suggestions which we might use to add to the Day, please feel free to let us know. We are anxious to make it a great day. This will be the 112th birthday of the Town. Festivities will begin at one o'clock. Don't forget.....June 5 at 1:00 p.m.

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SPECIAL NOTICE

In the last issue of the Newsletter I made an error in one of our cover ads. After recounting the change of owners at the former Family Grocer I did not get the present name correctly on the copy.

The store is now called the "RED APPLE" We find it a really nice place to shop. If you have never visited them, Please do so. You'll like it.

*Ann*

A Friendly Place to Shop

**Red Apple**  
~~Black Diamond Family Grocer~~

Black Diamond, WA

**JR 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.

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MUSEUM ATTENDANCE

We are having a very good attendance again this year. We have tours asked for into The Fall Months. We have people from all walks of life showing much interest in the place. We recently had a very nice group of Homeschoolers from Everett come through. On that same week there were a precious group of pre-schoolers from Kent. They were beautiful children and very well behaved for their ages. It is interesting to find that we are so integrated. There is very seldom a group going thru but what they have knowledge of someone who has been through before them. Our guest book already shows visitors from all over the United States. So far this year we have had over 2200 persons come through.

We are still in need of people to help those who have so faithfully been on duty for a long time. When we first began to open for visitors one person could easily handle the flow but now with there being so much more to see It is necessary to have more docents. I hope that some of you will be able to put in a few hours a month. Try it, you will like it!!! Call Don Botts at 886-2766.

THURSDAY GANG

The Thursday workers are still working on displays and building new ones. Right now the primary focus is on completing the "Country Store" that is being built downstairs. It is coming along very well. Gerald Bainton is the head carpenter on the project with Don Botts as his right hand man. Charles Corlett is kept busy doing intricate things whenever he has time in between running his Mine Exhibit for visitors upstairs. We are all kept busy most of the time. Each has his own job to do. Bob Burdick gets to do a lot of painting and upgrading some displays that come in. Ted Barner is our clean-up man. He keeps the garbage cans empty and things picked up. Carl Steiert in his role as host does an whole LOT of talking. Bob Eaton sees that they have supplies to work with.

#####

PEOPLE AND TOWN GROWTH

Black Diamond shows a promise of almost doubling its' size in the near future. There are several spots in Town where construction is already well on its way. Over on the Chub Lake road near where the Bainton Family has lived<sup>lived</sup> for many years there are houses being built. On top of Lawson Hill where the Johnson family there is a settlement going up. In Morganville across the street from the Guidetti families there is more construction going on. On the Ravensdale Road across from Ginder Lake a lot more are going up. On the North end of Town on the left side of the road is the site of the first ones built. It is called "Diamond Glen".

There are scarcely any vacant houses. There are many new faces around these days. We are most anxious to let them feel welcome and to get acquainted.

In a discussion of the changes we wondered, "How many people are still living here who have ties to the days before 1925?" We put down the names of a few we would think of:

Rose Guidetti

Verna Thompson

Inez Aden

Arthur Eltz

Esther Vernarelli

Anne Hawthorne

Agnes Eltz

Vi Thompson Campbell

George Savicke

Paul Botts

Mary Harrington Manowski

Albert Rossi

Harry Hawthorne

Evegen Lushing

Charles Thompson

Merle Romedo

Joe Dal Santo

Carl Steiert

Lois Zumek

Dino Mariotti

James Poalucci

If you read these names and know of someone we have left out please give us a call so that they me added to this list.

MAY 1994

The past several years have seen a revived interest in the Town of Franklin and the Green River Gorge area. Many people have read the items that have been printed in the local papers and they ask us many questions about it. What we tell them is that it was a typical coal mining town with about 1000 population at its' peak. The town began around 1885. There were several mines in the vicinity and their workers settle together on the top of the hill which overlooks the Gorge. They had a store, church, saloon, meat market. They had a Finnish Hall and a Hotel. They had a school which we are told held 200 kids and was supervised by one teacher. It was a busy town as all small towns were in the early days.

The Oregon Improvement Co. was the owner. There was a lot of hard luck that went with the mines. Mine No. 1 had a fire inside in which 37 miners were trapped and smothered because someone accidentally turned off the air fan. They seemed to have many accidents and it is thought that the management was not doing what it should. They had a very serious Strike in 1891. The Company sent some men to the midwest where they recruited some black men to come and work here. They misrepresented the situation and told them that they would be working in a new mine and did not tell them that they would be strikebreakers. When they got here they were angry and unhappy about the situation they found themselves in. There was much hard feelings on both sides and much fighting. At times it got so bad that the Governor had to send out the National Guard to get things calmed down.

The animosity gradually calmed down and many people, both white and black decided to go to work elsewhere. Many black people went to Seattle and formed their own Community. The closing of the Cannon Mine in 1924 saw the end of the mining era in Franklin as it had been before.

There were many interesting people who lived there and contributed to its history. Many people remember a big black man named Henry Edwards. He was known to most people as "Big Krit". He was an outside maintenance man and watchman. He was about the biggest man around at the time. He is buried in the cemetery at Franklin.

One of the Family names of the early settlers in Franklin is Moore. Some of the "Old Timers" still surviving remember Ernest and Alfred Moore. They attended school in Black Diamond. They recall many pleasant things about them. Alfred died many years ago but Ernest still lives in Seattle.

The Town has become alive again through the efforts of many people and interest shown by students of the Green River College under Gerald Hedlin. Students of Cedar Heights under Mike Papritz have also been studying the days when Franklin was in its' heyday. Don Mason and Carl Steiert of the Black Diamond Historical Society have been exploring the area for many years now and have pinpointed where the different buildings and foundations are located. Don just recently took up a group of 29 persons on a tour.

NOTE: In order to give the regular Thursday people, the week-end docents and the faithful cooks a bit of a rest we would like any of you who can spare a few hours to let us know. With vacations upon us it is only fair to give them some time off.

I can help with lunch  
 I can sit the Museum  
 I can help on Thursday.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

May 1994

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COAL USE TODAY

People ask us many times about what is coal used for today. The idea of it being used for heating is deeply imbedded in our minds to the point that it is hard to visualize what else we might use it for. Barry Kombol recently gave us a book called, "Facts about Coal." The following paragraph is taken from this book and is most informative. We thank Barry for sharing it with us.

Where Coal is used

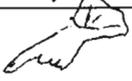
No matter where you live, chances are coal use affects your life in some way, shape or form. That is because coal is used in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

In some regions coal provides the vast majority of electricity. In other it is used directly by Industries and Manufacturing plants. Especially those who make chemicals, cement, paper, certain ceramics and various metal products. Even residential use of coal for heating is still evident in some parts of the country. Although not as prevalent as when coal was primary heating fuel of 50 years ago.

Coal by-products serve as the basis for many useful items used by millions of Americans each day. Some of these include Linoleum for floors, counters and wall coverings: Creosote a wood preservative: Phenol a compound used in medications, detergents, perfumes, flavorings, varnishes, insecticides and disinfectants creosylic acid used for powerful adhesives and some plastics. Benzene used in the production of synthetic rubber, nylon, photography plastics and dyes as in solvent, fuel, oil, gasoline. Pitch a substance widely used in highway paving and roof construction. Naphthalene used to make moth balls fungicides plastics and explosives. Toluene a basic ingredient in common Aspirin and saccharine also found in paints and lacquers. Tylenol used in the production of autos and boats and tough surgical sutures. Ammonia nitrate a chemical indispensable to the manufacture of explosives and fertilizers. Anhydrous ammonia essential in petroleum refining and production of certain kinds of steel textiles and processing of gold and silver. Sulphur used in fungicides and insecticides for sulfuric acid,

 ROBERT BARRY 

A question that we are very often asked is, "Where do you get all of these wonderful things?" We explain to them that they are all given to us for many reasons. These reasons range from just enjoying seeing their article on display to keep the memory of a dear one alive. We have a very special man who is a member of the Black Diamond Historical Society and he is a very generous man. Robert Barry and his wife live in Edmonds, Wash. Several years ago he stopped in just by chance and has been coming back ever since. He almost always brings us something for the collection. He brought a full set of monkey wrenches which he mounted so they could be hung and crescent wrenches too. These are only a few of the great things he has brought. We always enjoy visiting with him and sharing his wisdom. Robert is about 86 and still spry as can be. It's always a good day when Bob comes to see us. Thank you very much, Bob.

 Membership Survey 

It has been 18 years since the Historical Society was formed and the first Newsletter published. During those years there has been a lot of activity in our membership rolls. We are trying to do a recap and find out more about our members. We feel certain that some of the older ones have left us and we would like that information. Are you getting a Newsletter or do you know someone who is being skipped? Please drop us a note and tell us,

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The Town of Franklin was reached by going up the railroad track from Black Diamond. The track ran in front of the Black Diamond Depot and went on past the Bakery and crossed a trestle on the John Banchemo property. There was a gully there which seemed very deep to the people having to walk across to get on the otherside. This piece of track served as a recreation area for a lot of the folks living here at that time. Families would take a picnic basket and walk up the track and a an outing. During the berry season many people got their winter's jelly supply from the berries they picked. Some of them used the abundant berries to make wine. It was a great walk for "sparking couples" When this happened you could bet that there was a kid or two following them just to <sup>see</sup> what they would do. They were able to see deer and other animals too.

Franklin had a lot of interest in sports, especially baseball. They had a good team called the Franklin Buffalos.

There was an old coal dump which challenged the men riding motorcycles. Each Sunday there would be a crowd there to see who was going to make it over the top. Very few ever did.

"PRESIDENT CLINTON'S DICTIONARY"



All Americans are condered with the proposed medical care program. According to our findings the following is a list of his medical terma:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Artery_____The study of paintings          | Hang Nail_____Coat Hook                   |
| Bacteria_____The Back door of a cafeteria  | Impotent_____Distinguished and well known |
| Barium_____What they do when one dies      | Medical Staff_____Doctor's cane           |
| Bowel_____Its a letter like a-e-i-o-u      | Labor Pain_____Getting hurt at work       |
| Caesarian Section_____a Roman neighborhood | Rectum_____Dang near killed 'em           |
| Colon_____A sheep dog                      | Urine_____You're out                      |
| Fester_____Quicker                         | Varicose_____Nearby                       |
| Gental_____Not a Jew.                      | Weak_____Seven Days                       |
| G.I.Series_____Military Ballgame           |   |
| Node_____Was Aware of                      |   |

"THE MOUNTAIN"

Those of us living in Western Washington, especially in King and Pierce County are especially blessed by having Mount Rainier in our area of vision. Those of us in Black Diamond have a special view from almost anywhere you may be in Town. Our home has an 8 ft. kitchen window which faced the Mountain and gives us a constant changing picture. This is true of other homes in the area.

We wonder what the early settlers thought as they came here and made their homes. There are few areas where a beautiful mountain presides over the landscape in such a great way. The Mountain and the surrounding park offers much in the way of recreation such as hikes, skiing camping and just plain taking a good look at a beautiful area.

It was popular as an area for overnight camping and exploring for the young people of the 1920's and 30's. There was a copper mine called Starbo's near the area which is now Sunrise Park. Carl Steiert tells of a trip he and Ernest Eltz, Gino Poalucci, Steve Vernarelli and William Eltz decided to go and look around the area. This was in 1928. They went in Carl's 1915 Model T. It was a touring converted into a pickup. Louis Carnino gave them a large army tent to use. They recall that it was huge and gave them some real problems getting it up. They walked to the Starbo Mine area and found a hotel a Blacksmith's Shop and and old tractor. The hotel had been abandoned but was well stocked with provisi ons. They borrowed a few items to supplement the supplies they had brought with them. They spent several very special

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"MOUNT RAINIER CONT'D"

days there which none of them has forgotten.

The Starbo Mine was a copper mine, one of the few in the area. They sent their ore to Tacoma. They got involved in some legal problems which finally resulted in closure of the mine.

As the years passed by, there were many improvements made on the highway going towards the Mountain. Chinook Pass was built which gave a good road into eastern Washington. The resorts on both side of the Mountain Sunrise and Paradise provided sleeping and dining facilities. With the opening of Crystal Mountain Resort for skiers the highway is much used today.

"EVEN IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS"

The following account was told to Diane Olson by Jeanette Rodway from the "Mining the Memories" book:

As far as I know, my uncle, Charles McKinnon was one of the first postmasters in Black Diamond. He was postmaster ther and my mother's youngest sister, Edith Williams, came out from Pennsylvania and she got a job Book-keeping at the store. That was before Pacific Coast came. There was no Company Store then.

So my uncle and my aunt got married and she helped him in the Post Office. He ,also, established the first bank in Black Diamond. This bank operated prior to(Fournier's time) He had a partner in that bank. My aunt was very good there too. My uncle had Asthma so he had to go to Palm Springs and spend the winter brcause he would get sick. While he was gone, his partner bought an unseaworthy ship. with bank funds. Most of the people were going to lose their shirts. My aunt got in touch with my uncle and he came home as fast as he could. My Father and my aunt threw all their assets into helping out. They paid every depositor. None of them lost a dime because my uncle was an honest man.

"CHUCKLE FOR THE DAY"

Remember, old folks are worth a fortune,  
with silver in their hair, gold in their teeth,  
stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet  
and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a little older since I saw you last  
and a few changes have come into my life since then.

Frankly, I have become quite a frivolous old gal.

I am seeing five gentlemen every day.

As soon as I wake up, Will Power helps me get out of bed.

Then I go see John. Then Charlie comes along and when  
he is here he takes a lot of my time and attention.

When he leaves Arthur Ritis shows up and stays the  
rest of the day. He doesn't like to stay in one place  
very long so he takes me from joint to joint.

After such a busy day. I'm really tired and glad to go  
to bed with Ben Gay. What a life!!!

P.S. The preacher came to call the other day. He said at my  
age I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him, Oh, I  
do it all the time. No matter where I am, in the parlor  
upstairs, in the kitchen or down the basement, I ask myself,  
"What am I here after?"

( Ain't it the Truth)

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MAY 1994

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MARJIE R. KARI,  
General Manager\*\*\*

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