

Black Diamond Historical Society



MUSEUM HOURS

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For special arrangements or tours  
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Black Diamond, WN.

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B.D.H.S.

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

Send dues to : Box 232

Black Diamond, WA. 98010

Editor: Ann Steiert 886-1168

IN MEMORIAM

Vivian Lucchessi—Long time resident of  
Black Diamond.

Lisa Malovotte—Granddaughter of Howard  
and Dorothy Botts

Robert Kuzaro—Husband of Gail

Henry Konoske—Husband of Rosemary  
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MEMORIALS

Mary Grgurich: James Kuzaro

Lisa Malovotte: Palmer Coking Coal

Vivian Lucchessi: Palmer Coking Coal

Robert Kuzaro: Mr & Mrs. Al Rossi,  
Donald Botts Mrs. Tom Campbell, Lynda  
Maks, Joe & Evelyn Dal Santo, Palmer  
Coking Coal, Diane & Andy Williamson,  
Jerine Hope, Carl & Ann Steiert, James  
Kuzaro, Beth VanBuskirk, Pauline Kombol

Henry Konoske: Bill & Elsie Parkin,  
Charles & Irene Thompson, Everett & Olga  
Swann, Carl & Ann Steiert

MERRY CHRISTMAS

There will be a Christmas Open House on December 4, Beginning at 1:00 p.m.  
We hope that everyone will make plans to attend. It is a great chance to come  
and meet old friends and make new ones. Please tell anyone who might not be  
getting the Newsletter.

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MARTIN MOORE

The Thursday Crew is very sad to have gotten a report from the family of  
Martin Moore saying that he has been very ill. Martin lives in Seattle and for  
more than 10 years he has been coming out on workdays and helping the Crew. We  
are told that he is in a convalescent Home now and may never return. We miss him  
It is like losing a special friend or brother.

" NEED A GIFT IDEA??"



"Mining the Memories" our great book is still very popular. With Christmas  
fast approaching we hope to remind you that it is still a good present. It  
seems that almost everyone who buys a copy comes back for another.

Nov 1994

It is hard to believe that another <sup>year</sup> is coming to a close. When the working crew meets on Thursdays they're always seems to be something to do. It is hard to list each project that has been done. One of the outside jobs has been to build the steps going to the road behind the building. This helps the people living behind us and those visitors who want to go and see what is on the back side of the Museum. They poured several slabs of cement around the door to make it easier to use because the place was really wet when it rained. They revised the sidewalk around the Caboose and the tool sheds. The many little jobs are too many to be listed. They are working on a neat area which is going to be like a Country Store.

We are grateful to all of the men : Bob Eaton for spearheading the jobs and seeing that supplies are on hand. Gerald Bainton and Donald Botts with the help of Joe Kuzaro get to do the heavy work. We tell them it is because they are the youngest. Bob Burdic is our official painter. That's because he's good at it. Charles Corlett is a man of many talents who always gets a job. Ted Barner is our official clean-up man. He gets rid of all the papers etc. that are such a nuisance to contend with. Carl helps anyone who needs help, greets visitors does a lot of research and talks quite a bit. He also, argues with his wife!! Why not!! After 59 yrs. of wedded Bliss they really do a good job!!

The men have a great incentive to do their best because they really do appreciate the great lunches that the volunteers bring them. Rose Guidetti has been doing a great job getting the ladies to serve. It would be very nice if a few more would volunteer and take some of the burden off of those who have been so gracious to help. The following have been doing it:

- |                          |                         |                       |                       |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Cindy Jarvis</u>      | <u>Diane Olson</u>      | <u>Jewell McCloud</u> | <u>Vivian Bainton</u> |
| <u>Hazel Werle</u>       | <u>Rose Guidetti</u>    | <u>Elsie Parkin</u>   | <u>Ann Steiert</u>    |
| <u>Marlene Bortleson</u> | <u>Beth Van Buskirk</u> | <u>Eileen Zumek</u>   | <u>Had Rossi</u>      |

When I tell visitors how we have been getting work done they often remark that we are like a big family . That is exactly the word that explains how we are. Like one big family. Please listen to our invitation to join us when you have time. It is fun and greatly appreciated.



Thank you Bob

We'd like to thank Robert Barry of Edmonds for his donation of 3lbs of Coffee. He didn't say anything just left a large can in the "Kitchen" with his name on it. This is just one of many items he has donated in the past few years. Once again,.....Thank you Bob .....at the price of coffee.....we can use it.

Nov 1994

For the past year or so I have been aware of my need to give up working on the Newsletter and finding someone to take over the job. It has been over 16 years since I began putting it together. I Have truly enjoyed doing it. Years are taking their toll and I am having trouble with my eyes and Arthritis isn't making the job any easier. It takes all the fun out of typing and writing.

A while back I was talking to Vivian Bainton about my situation. I was delighted when she told me she might like to do it. I know she is just perfect for the job. As long as I have known her she has always done a good <sup>job</sup> of things she has tackled. I know she will be just great!!

Vivian will be doing the next Newsletter. I hope that everyone will help her when they can.

I want to thank everyone who has helped me during the past years. I want to thank my patient husband, Carl who used his knowledge of the past to bail me out many times.

"AKCHO MEETING"

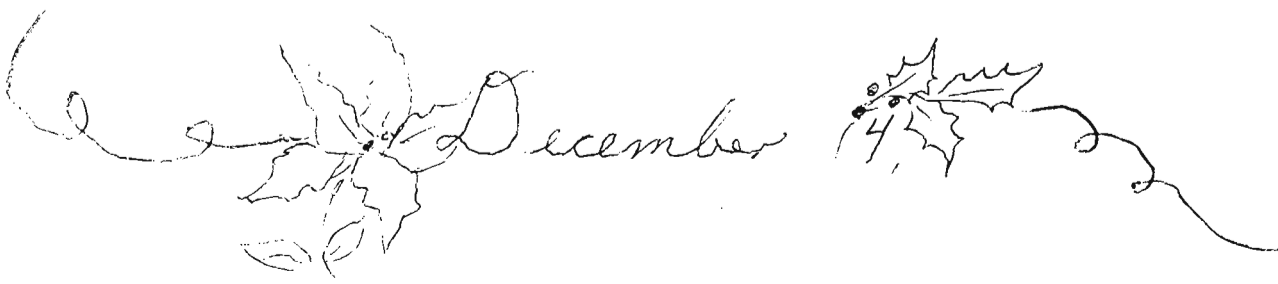
On Oct. 25 a meeting of the AKCHO Organization was held at the Museum/ It is an organization of representatives from the Historical Societies in King County. They hold a business meeting and have a short program. There were about 50 persons in attendance. After they had their meeting, they were given a program concerning coal mining through the years. Carl spoke to them about the very early days. Bruno Ridolfi, an engineer at the John Henry Open Pit mine told them a lot about the operation today. It was a very successfil meeting. Our Policē Chief Rick Luther greeted the Group and introduced them to a few of the things going on in this area. They all seemed to be pleased.

"WELSH VISIT"

On the Labor Day Weekend there was a big gathering of Welsh people from all over the world having a gathering in Bellevue. We were priviledged to have about 100 of them visit us. They were interested in our history because their ancestors played a part in it. They hold this gathering each year in a different part of the world. There were people from all over the world in the Group. We enjoyed them a lot. We received a surprise check from them of \$100 It was much appreciated.

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DON'T FORGET CHRISTMAS PARTY DON'T FORGET



Nov 1994

"TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY"

Once again we are going into the Season that we have all been through during our lifetimes. It is a time of love, gifts and much activity on the part of everyone. It brings back memories of past times and places. One of the most beautiful settings in Black Diamond was when the men from St. Barbara's Church would decorate the space on the altar with a beautiful hillside setting for the Creche. They would use about a third of the altar space on the right hand side of the Altar. The back of the setting went almost to the ceiling sloping down to the Altar rail. It was covered with foliage, ferns and all sorts of greens to simulate a mountain hillside. The Creche with the Holy Family in place was positioned at the bottom.

This was during the 1920's to late 35. The Church Altar was a lovely setting even without the Christmas theme. It had columns, and was painted in blue and white. It had paintings using those colors on a mural between the columns. Once seen it would be hard to forget.

Christmas was a busy time for all in the early days. The Churches all had their special programs. The school their activities too. The big day was when the program was held at the Show Hall. They had gifts for all the children. Many of them were made by the ladies of the Town so that no child was left out. They had trees around the stage. They used candles on the trees and must have been truly protected by the Savior because they tell us that they never had a fire.

The people of Black Diamond conducted themselves like a big family. Of course, as in many families there were disagreements but for the most part they all took part in most of the activities in Town. The other holidays were times when they all took part. Fourth of July, Easter, Valentines Day and of course Halloween. That was the day for the pranksters to shine. Many an outhouse got turned over and fence taken down. Those were fun days.

"METHUSALAH"

Methuslah ate what he found on his plate  
and never, as people do now,  
did he note the amount of the calory count;  
He ate it because it was chow.  
He wasn't disturbed as at dinner he sat,  
devouring a roast or a pie.  
To think it was lacking in granular fat  
or a couple of vitamins shy.  
He cheerfully chewed each species of food  
Unmindful of troubles or fears  
Lest his health might be hurt  
by some fancy dessert:  
And he lived over nine hundred years.

Nov 1994

Emil Rossi was born in Gibiana, Comune de San Romano Province of Lucca, Italy, in 1907. He lived with his maternal grandparents until the age of twelve. His mother came to the United States when he was five years of age. When she had enough money she sent for him and his sister, who was sixteen at the time.

The four of them started on their journey to their new home experiencing many difficulties along the way and too numerous to mention. Language was a large barrier. Finally they reached Ellis Island. Five days later they departed for Black Diamond. All in all it took them twenty five days to complete their journey. Their father was waiting for them at the Seattle Station but the Conductor said that Maple Valley was closer to Black Diamond and that is where they went. More confusion! Finally an Italian-speaking person came to their rescue and drove them to their wanted destination.

Here they had a great reunion with their parents, two brothers, Albert and Harry and a sister, Artie.

School was very difficult not knowing the English language. He left school very early. At sixteen he decided to go on his own. He started to work in the mines and stayed until 1945 when he went into business for himself; fuel and trucking and also, was the proprietor of Palmer Mill.

He married Harriette Manowski Hudina. They have one daughter and three granddaughters. He retired in 1972 but that wasn't for him. He has been going strong ever since.

Emil loves and excelled at playing Bocci Ball, Bowling, Pitching horseshoes Fishing and Hunting. He loves his garden which he shares with so many. He still loves to fish and garden, his farm and animals.

He is always up at the crack of dawn with a coffee Royal in his hand. Ready for whatever the day might bring

Salute, Emil !!!

We want to thank Had for the above information. Emil has been supportive of the Museum project. We always feel that we can call on him.

NOTE: In earlier issues we have mentioned the many nicknames that were around in the early days...Emil had the nickname of "Ash Can". This was because as a young boy he used to go up to the Big Hotel and bring home leftovers in a wheel barrow and ash can. They helped feed the pigs that his parents raised



Nov 1994

NAMES FROM THE PAST

Do you remember these people?

Henry Babb: For many years he was Town Maintenance man for the Pacific Coast Coal Company in Black Diamond. He was both loved and feared by many of the Citizens. He was very strict and would really shout when anyone disobeyed his orders. He was the husband of Esther Vernarelli Babb.

Harry McDowell: He was the manager of the Company Store. He was very much interested in all the Town. He helped many people when times were tough. He lived in the yellow house on the right on 169 as you go north;

Frank Carroll: He was the Town's Band Leader. He was a good musician and really inspired his players. They went to many State Tournaments and won prizes.

Albert Weatherbee He was the school superintendent. He was a large man who could wield a mean paddle if <sup>kids</sup> didn't behave. Quite a few people still recall seeing him with a paddle in one hand and a kid under his arm headed for the basement.

Florence Porter: She was a Grade School teacher. All the kids enjoyed her class. She was artistic and made school fun. She was always helping with plays and shows. That's where most of us learned about crepe paper and how to make costumes out of it. She was a special lady!

Frank & Gladys Cobb: They were both teachers At the Black Diamond School. They were nice people to know. They had both traveled a lot and had endless stories to tell. Mr. Cobb taught history and wood shop. She was the more social of the two. She attended most functions in Town.

Arvid Larson: He drove the bus into Seattle for many years. He used to take some of the young people roller-skating. He was a friendly man who worked very hard.

Evan Thomas: Eve, (as he was usually called) He worked at the Diamond Garage of which he was part owner. His wife Florence was a very nice and sociable lady. She enjoyed working with lodge and church groups.

Fred & Annetta Tonkin: They were Post master and Mistress for many years. They both liked to work with Lodges and Church groups. They were the parents of Jim who was an interesting man in his own right.

Dr. H.L. Botts: There is hardly anyone who lived in Town during this time that hadn't been touched by his medical knowledge. He helped miners who were injured, delivered babies and dispensed medicine to almost everyone. He was special to all of the Town.

Frank Costi: Frank was a longtime resident of the Town. Frank was always very much interested in everything. He was Post Master for many years.

Amos Ungerhini: He was the Town's Depot station master. He knew every one and everyone knew him. He was a well liked man.

Nov 1994

We are happy to report that we get many nice things said about the Museum.

This year we have again had a good attendance which consists of people from all over the world. Almost without exception they see something that pleases them and they tell us so. It makes for good conversation with our visitors. The following letter was in the Enumclaw Courier Herald and it made us feel good

The letter read as follows:

A big thank you to the people of Black Diamond for all the volunteer hours you put in to keep your Museum open. Although it may not be the size of the Smithsonian, it is a very impressive and unique Museum. From a beautiful hand-carved picture of an old building in town to hand made quilts to the other little things it took to make life possible in those times, it's all there to enjoy.

Even a working model of a coal mine complete with a live demonstration added to the afternoon. This is a great place to get a history lesson about the hard working people of the area that goes back 100 years to the present times.

For those who love to journey back in time, stop by and sign the guest book (along with other names from all over the world. Strike up a conversation with the people working there that day and have a look around. It'll be something you will be glad you did.

The sign outside says "Free Admission" and inside next to the Guest Book is an old jar that is a great place to leave a donation to help keep the Museum going. It's more fun than watching the same movie twice!!

Lorrie and Michael Maras

Thank you...Thank you...Thank you..

#### CHURCHES BEGINNINGS.

The following was told to the Olsons for their Book: By Matt Paschich

There used to be priests in Enumclaw that took care of Black Diamond, Krain, Franklin and Cumberland. About once a month they would go to each place. Blener was an Austrian. The last place he was, was in Black Diamond. He built that church.

I hauled the lumber for Black Diamond's church. I did it as a volunteer and I boarded with some people named Dodash. The lumber came in on the flat cars. The miners loaded it for me and then I hauled it up Lawson Hill. Two of us Pete Verhonick was the other team. That was pretty rough road in those times. Bagby kept our horses at the stable. The miners paid the Bagbys. The miners loaded and unloaded the lumber for nothing because that was what they could do to cut the costs. That's why they built it for \$2,227.20.

Nov 1994

- 8 -  
THE DAYS OF MORGAN MORGAN

The following is taken from Thorndale's "Washington's Green River Coal Co.

Note: Morgan Morgan was the superintendant that came from Nortinville with the settlers who came north in 1882.

Evidence suggests that Morgan Morgans held an extraordinary position, one that future superintendants found difficult to equal. He, for all his dictatorial ways, was an expert engineer and ran his mines with an efficiency that the Oregon Improvement Company and later the Pacific Coast Coal Co., could not copy. In the 1891 strike he had been very tolerant of the secondary boycott of the miners and had avoided the drastic measures of the OIC. But the PCCC was different. As soon as it bought Black Diamond the management began calculating how to increase the rent profits and milk more out of the store owners. Later they introduced a Company Store and even Company Coupons. Never had the Black Diamond Company sought to drain away every cent of the miners' pay but the PCCC did. The Company got a bad name among the miners, especially for poor management of its mines. In one instance in the 1920's people claimed the Company deliberately dynamited a leased mine--Elk--to end the competition with the PCCC mine. An indication of the hatred between the Company and the men came in 1911 when the Superintendant's house was bombed.

Naturally the superintendant held a somewhat aloof social position. Morgan Morgans lived in a large white two-story house and had the Town's only daily servant help. He had no social equals. Traditionally in a town the doctor, Preacher, and merchants joined with the well-to-do farmers to form a middle class, but that did not happen in Black Diamond. Even the mine bosses below Morgans were not distinctly on the social scale.

Social status did not cut between the Welsh and Americans and the Slavs and Italiens. Those nationals who came in increasing numbers in the 1900's and the 1910's. They gathered at the west end of Town behind the stores. That became known as Dagotown. The uneasiness between the ethnic groups was soon revealed during World War one when all foreign languages were forbidden in the mines and all Slavic-Italian miners were broken up and mixed with new national teams. Before the the great influx of new immigrants at the Union meetings required translators at the Union meetings. The war hysteria put a stop to that. Presumably all treason would have to be done in English. But the immigrants in spite of their Catholicism and their languages, did slowly enter the Town life through Company jobs and lodges if not through marriages.

Happy New Year to all.



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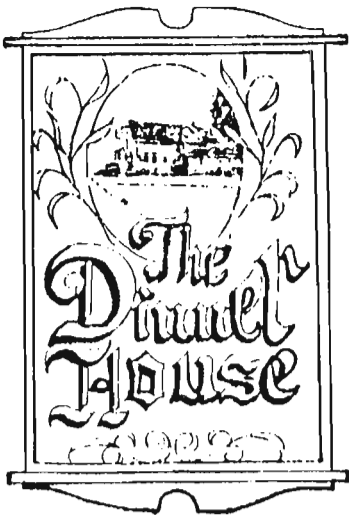
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