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February 1995

Black Diamond, WA

R.D.H.S. Newsletter  
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Send dues to:

Black Diamond Historical Society  
P O Box 232  
Black Diamond, WA 98010

Editor--- Vivian Bainton 886-2074

In Memorium

Sylvia (Santi) Iacolucci  
former B.D.resident.Husband  
John. Graduated from BDHS.

Mary Ann Simmons, wife of  
Alva (Bud) Simmons.

Joan Hope Morris, wife of Ewan  
mother of Ewan Jr, Clinton,  
Anna, Jeanine, Kathy, John,  
and Sars.

Edith Rosso, wife of Ray Rosso.

Evgen Lushing, long time  
resident.

Hildegard Berg, long time  
Clay Mine area resident.

MEMORIALS

Robert Kuzaro: Bud Simmons, Mr. & Mrs Charles Falk, Helen Manowski.

Thomas Fyock: Mr. & Mrs. Charles Corlett.

Mary Ann Simmons: Mr. & Mrs. Charles Falk, Carl & Ann Steiert.

Henry Konoske: Mary Chilcott, TOPS Club # 1010.

Frederick Ring (Rintalia): Dr. Lynda Ring Anderson

Mary Ring (Rintalia): Dr Lynda Ring Anderson

Joan Morris; Linds Maks, Joe & Evelyn DalSanto, Carl & Ann Steiert,  
Mr.& Mrs. Walter Clark

GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 1995 Sunday 1P.M.

This is a meeting which should be attended by all members. It has been a very long time since some of you have attended. We need input from everyone. And it's a good time to have a chat with old friends and to meet some new ones. Come, join us.

MUSEUM ATTENDANCE

The Museum has been a very popular place again this past year. we have 7380 plus people come to see what we have here. As ever we have many tours of children and it is great to know that our history is being preserved in this way. Others come just to look and to remember.

FEB 1995

(2)

From the editor:

As I endeavour to put together information for a newsletter such as this one, I am struck at the amount of work which has been done by the past editors. First and foremost of these is Ann Steiert!

We all know Ann if we have anything at all to do with the museum. She is truly the backbone of it. While Carl is the true story teller and the one with the fantastic memory, Ann is the driving force.

She does just about anything that has to be done or she directs the men to do what she cannot.... Just ask the Thursday workcrew.

Along with all that she does here though she still finds time to do other things.. Many of you have probably been seated by her when she is hostess for the Community Center breakfast.

One of the most important jobs she has is that of a volunteer for the school. Ann works with Mrs. Julie Weinbrecht and has done so for the past eight years. This is a fourth grade class. She now has a great many "Grandchildren" here in Black Diamond. She goes beyond just being there in the classroom. She makes Welch cookies for the whole class when they take a tour of the museum.. this class will take more than one trip per year as Mrs. Weinbrecht stresses different points at different times.. such as the architecture one time and the history part another. It is a fun time for them as well as a learning time. It isn't uncommon to find them coming to the museum on their own after their class visits.

She also makes a hand painted ornament or "bauble" for each child each year. Such ambition!

I cannot thank you enough, Ann for all the help you are to me in getting my feet wet with this edition.

Ann is the ULTIMATE VOLUNTEER. And this bring up something else.

Volunteers. They are the only thing that keeps this museum alive.

As we all know one person cannot do the job alone, it takes many. You are needed to help too. There are many ways to be a volunteer. Do you enjoy talking to others about the history of this area? Why not be a host or hostess at the museum.. just once in a while would be a big help. Would you be willing to spend one Sunday afternoon just chatting with friends? That's all it would take if we would all take a little time. As it is there are a few who spend many afternoons doing this task.

The Thursday work crew will be working on the list of items listed by President Bob Eaton. They could use more help too. Then there is always room for another name for the people who do lunches for that Thursday work crew. Once every three or four months isn't much to ask and we could have those who would like to a lunch only once a year and that would be great too. Rose Guidetti is the lady who co-ordinates the lunches.

Many of you no doubt know wonderful stories about the old Black Diamond. We would like to hear from you. I would be especially interested in having stories for this newsletter. Write it down or call me and I will come and talk to you. Carl and Ann are always looking for more artifacts for the museum. Do you have any pictures?

These are all ways we can all help. Give one of us a call or stop by the museum and talk to one of us. Thursday is a great day as there are usually several people at the museum at that time.

Think about what you can do and then take action.

FEB 1995

## PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR 1995

1. Complete replica of the Old General Store. We will need empty food cans and boxes for display.
2. Paint the main floor of the Museum.
3. Install a light in the jail.
4. Install a catch basin at the south end of the Depot to control rain water run-off from the road.
5. Put sealer on the platform and stairs to preserve the wood.
6. Prepare the old furnace coal stoker for better display.
7. Put slides on VCR tape and make voice track for slide description.
8. Purchase VCR projector.
9. Clean printing press and type for display.
10. Replace horsehitching rail. Horse hitching rail that is.
11. Do grounds work clean up.
12. Clean junk from under the building.
13. Get everyone involved.

Note: this is a list from our President with the following notation, These projects are not listed in order of priority. Some require good weather.

There may be other projects which come up during the year... Any suggestions??

Any help including labor and materials would be appreciated.

Since the meeting for the membership is just around the corner this list should be a good starting point for you. What would you like to see done? Put on your thinking cap.

The following names are those of people wh played an important part in many of our lives in the past. Do you know them and do you have any stories about them which you could pass on to us?

Henry Rabb... Harry McDowell... Dr. Smith...Dr, Mallory... Dr. Botts...

John Davies... Mr. Weatherbee... Florence Potter... Peter Frederickson.

Rill Murphy... Buller Upton... Amos Ungherini... Cheyenne... Gladys

Cobb... George Eipper... Leone Eipper... Alice Davies... Fred Tonkin.

Tom Jardine... do you know more? Let us hear from you.

We have had some stories in the past papers about some of these people as well as others. This is what our history is really all about,let's keep what we know on record... tell others by putting it in this newsletter.

Along that line.. just think of the changes since even the 1930's. We live in a different world almost. What was your childhood like? The youth of today love to hear about it. Let us know.

FEB 1945

## HISTORY

We will cover a section on the mines in this area as taken from some previous articles which have appeared in the newsletter. While this may be repetitious, it will also be new to some.

### The Coal Mines

#14 Mine.... This was the first mine in the Green River Coal fields. It was developed between 1882 and 1884 by the Black Diamond Coal Co. ... the first coal having to wait the completion of the railroad before it could be hauled to market. The first train load was hauled to Seattle from this mine in March of 1885. #14, on the McKay bed, reached ten levels and was mined under the able direction of Morgan Morgans for well over thirty years. The concrete hoist foundation can still be seen just east of highway 169 across from the Senior Housing.

#2 Mine.... This slope was sunk down to the fifth level, a total distance of 1750 feet. The mine, located near where the Presbyterian Church now stands, was never a great producer. As the various levels were developed eastward, the coal became poorer in quality. Westward development ran into rock faulting. A rock tunnel was connected on the 4th level to the 3rd level on #14 which served as an airway and escape tunnel. Slag was later hauled from #14 through this tunnel, raised to the surface on the #2 slope and deposited on the #2 slag pile. This mine was also developed by the Black Diamond Coal Co., and was closed by the P.C.C. in 1904.

Lawson Mine.... was opened by Lawson & Co. and sold to the Pacific Coast Co. in May of 1899. The Lawson mine was located at the end of Botts Dr. below our water reservoir. The slope was sunk to six levels, and a considerable amount of rock faulting was encountered. On November 6, 1910 an explosion occurred in which 16 men were killed and the mine was completely wrecked. The men were left in the mine and it was closed.

Law prohibited working a section of a mine which men had been killed and left in; some say the abandonment period was 20 years.

Although the coal was of excellent quality, it was expensive to mine. The mine reached 800 feet below sea level. The sixth level was under about 2000 feet of cover, the thickest cover of any mine in the state at that time. The upper levels of the mine were worked for a short time after the prescribed period of abandonment, but the lower levels, which were nearly worked out were never reopened.

#12 Mine.... Called Cornwall's Mine, was sunk on the McKay bed prior to 1889 by the Black Diamond Coal Co. and eventually reached the 5th level. The Columbian and Puget Sound Railroad was extended from the #2 mine up 5th Ave. to Mud Lake and around the south side of the lake then east to a point near the east limit of Section #12, across the Green River Gorge Road from a point which lies about the middle of Lake 12. (Mud Lake no longer exists). The cost of the railroad extension to this mine was estimated at \$20,000. The bunkers were located on the rail line and the coal was hauled down the side of the hill on coal cars to be dumped into the bunker for loading on the rail cars. The coal bed was very disturbed in this area and was difficult to mine. In April 1894 a fire broke out in the pump room in the mine and soon spread throughout the entire mine. The mine was flooded with water and was never entirely reopened.

A new mine...#12.. was later developed by the P.C.C. in 1910 and 1911. It was located on the Green River Gorge Road about halfway to Lake 12 from Black Diamond. A small slag pile can be seen north of and just below the level of the road. The mine ran into a great deal of faulting and due to the poor coal market and economic conditions at that time, the mine never really amounted to much.

#7 Mine.... The Pacific Coast Coal Company opened this mine on the McKay bed in 1893. It produced coal continuously until it was worked out and closed in 1907. The mine was located on the south side of the Green River Gorge Road just past the east end of Lake 12. Some of the slag piles can be seen near the entrance to the road which leads up to the Franklin strip pit. #7 was mined to eight levels before the slope struck a fault. The #12 spur of the C.&P.S.R.R. had been extended to this point and was taken up when the mine was abandoned.

#11 Mine.... Or Morgan Slope.... Was opened by the Black Diamond Coal Co. in 1904 and was located just behind what is now the Black Diamond Red Apple Store.

#11 Mine continued... The red cinder workings behind the area are from the #11 slag pile. The mine was on the McKay bed and was of excellent quality. The mine was worked to twelve levels and at one time was the deepest coal mine in the world; almost a mile deep. More coal was extracted from this mine than any other on the McKay bed. In the peak years of its 23 year production it produced almost 1000 tons of coal per day. #11 connected to #14 on the fifth level for air and escape. The mine closed in January of 1927 because of excessive bumping (mine shifting type earthquakes), labor problems, and a declining market. "B" Mine.. or Skunk Cabbage Mine... was located about a quarter mile north-east of the #11 mine and was used to mine the upper branch of the McKay seam in the area. The mine was opened in 1910 and was mined for six to seven years. Peak production was about 150 to 200 tons per day.

Kummer Mine... This mine was opened by the Denny Clay Company in 1889. Three beds were opened at that time but only enough coal was mined to operate the company's clay plant at VanAsselt. Labor problems in 1891 forced the closing of the mine. The Clay company and mine changed hands and was renamed the Denny-Renton Clay and Coal Company. The mine was again operated on a limited basis, most of the coal being supplied to the clay plants from the Taylor mines. Mostly fire clay, sewer pipe clay, and shale were mined from the Kummer mine. When coal was mined, it was hauled out of the gangways to the foot of the incline by the river then hoisted to the top of the bluff and dumped into the bunkers which were located on the spur of the C.&P.S.R.R. The spur left the main line behind what is now the Black Diamond Gun Club, crossing the highway near the Boondocks Tavern and on to the bunkers which were located near what is now the gravel pit of Flintstone Sand & Gravel Co.

This coal mine series will be continued in the next issue.

#### Noteworthy:

Stephen Clutter of the Seattle Times has been out talking to people and getting pictures to do an article or two on the history of Black Diamond and the Museum. We wish him well and hope to see some interesting articles in the future.

This is the month for annual renewal of dues... if you haven't sent yours yet, the address is on the front cover.

The Thursday <sup>CREW</sup> has the whistle working at the museum again. They are now concentrating on the store to be installed in the basement. Donations are needed to fill the shelves.

The Thursday work crew is a little short handed in the winter with some of the fellows enjoying the sunny south. Don Botts is out of commission for a while due to surgery, we wish him a good recovery.

Some of you may have seen or heard this one before but just for fun;

I come before you to stand behind you  
to tell you something I know nothing about.

One dark night in the middle of the day  
two dead boys went out to play,

They stood back to back and faced each other  
drew their swords and shot each other.

The deaf policeman heard the noise  
and went to save these two dead boys.

If you don't believe this story is true,  
just ask the blind man, he saw it too.

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