

Black Diamond Historical Society



MUSEUM HOURS

Saturday & Sunday --- Noon to 3:00
Thursday---- 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

For special arrangements or tours,
call: 360-886-1168 or 886-2327

Museum---- 360-886-2142

April 1995

Black Diamond, WA

B.D.H.S. Newsletter
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Membership fees, which includes a subscription to this newsletter are:

Annual Membership---- \$5.00
Family, Annual ----- \$7.00
Lifetime ----- \$50.00
Family Lifetime ----- \$75.00
Business, Annual --- \$15.00

Send dues to :

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

Editor---- Vivian Bainton 886-2074

In Memorium

Vi (Thompson) Campbell

Irene (Fredericksen) Bainton

Amelio(Meg) Pierotti



Memorials

Mary Ann Simmons: Bud Simmons, Dean & Margaret Shute

Joan Morris: Gail Kuzaro, Nette Bellman, Bud Simmons, Carl & Nina Falk, Evan Morris, Lois Zumek, Helen Manowski

Dorothy Simmons: Bud Simmons

Irene Bainton: Ruth, Jim & Penni Kerkes, Lois Zumek, Mike Poloshek, Walter & Joan Clark, Carl & Ann Steiert, Lou & Rachel Fagnon

Meg Pierotti: Betty Garbini, Otto Mattson Family, Everett & Olga Swann

Vi Campbell: Everett Swann, Carl & Ann Steiert

Memorials

Donations

William McLoughry donated three books on mining.

Evan Morris brought in a hand rung bell from the early days.

Gino Picini donated a chopping block which will be used in the country store. He also brought in a wooden drill index box.

Robert Barry donated a carpenter's tool chest with tools, it looks like a suitcase. There is also a pulley block and two large wood augers.

Many Thanks to All of Them.



APRIL 1995

B.D.H.S. Meeting was held on Sunday Feb. 20, 1995. There were 16 people in attendance. Where were you?

Discussion was held on the following subjects: janitorial services for the museum, projected projects for 1995, Video taping of the slides, membership drive.

Treasurer's report shows income of \$7,133 and expenditures of \$7482. for the year of 1994. Bank Balance is \$4,317.

* * * * *

***** Museum Attendance *****
Ann Steiert

For a couple of weeks after Christmas the number of people coming thru the museum was rather scant. Gradually attendance has picked up and we are having a lot of people come thru. There seems to be a lot of them from outside the State as well as from Europe. Wales, Scotland, and France are in the guest register since the first of the year.

There have been 1800 people register since Jan. 1.

Most all of the people who "sit" the Museum, especially on the weekends can tell of the assortment of people who come to visit.

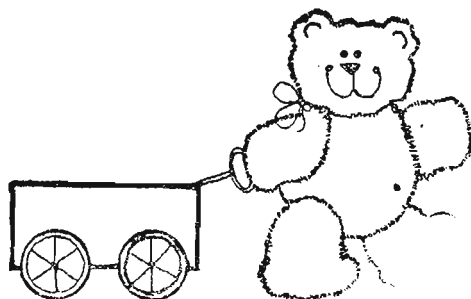
On March 8th we were visited by a group of twenty women from the Seattle Yacht Club. They were a real delight. All were in their 60s plus. They were very interested in what has been accomplished and how we got it going. They asked a lot of questions, told a few stories and concluded their visit by taking their hosts to the Bakery for lunch. It was great.

Another tour which we had was on Sat. Mar 18 was a group of young people and their Guide Dogs. They are members of the Future Vision 4-H Club from Enumclaw. There were 11 kids and their dogs along with several adults.

They were an inspiration to all of us. In this day when the news is full of very tragic things that some of the young people do, it was like a breath of fresh air to see these kids working with the animals and preparing them to be life partners for someone who has lost his vision. The dogs were under perfect control and the kids were very attentive. While Charles Corlett demonstrated his mine exhibit they all circled the display and the dogs sat in a circle too. We can away with a very firm wish that everyone could see these children in action. They certainly need to be a front page story.

We have many school groups, Scout Troops, Retirement homes and such who have been steady visitors for some time now. We ask them all to call ahead and let us know if they are coming. It makes us more certain of ourselves and that someone will be there to take care of them.

We are still looking for stories from any of you to print in this newsletter. We did have several people say they will be getting something to us and that is encouraging. Lets keep our history alive. We did receive one letter, and you will find it on another page. It is about James (Jim) Tonkin. Please be sure to read a granddaughter's reflections. Thanks Wari. It was good to hear from you.



APRIL 1995

This article, about the Franklin Mines, is the second part of articles about the coal mines in our area. The first article was published in the Feb. 1995 issue.

In the Franklin Series of coal mines, lying generally between the Green River Gorge Bridge near old Franklin and the Black Diamond waterline bridge where the old railroad turned north toward Black Diamond, there are twenty-seven coal and boney beds, as well as fifteen concealed areas some or all of which may contain coal or boney beds. The seams in this series in which most of the mining has been done are, the Harris, or #18, the Gem or #17, the McKay or #14, The Fulton or #12, the Big Dirty or #13, #11, and #10. The other beds are distributed throughout the series. The better beds occurring near the central part. A massive strata of sandstone 210 feet thick occurs at the base of the series and is called Franklin sandstone. This sandstone dominates the scenery on a walk along the Green River below the old town of Franklin.

It is difficult to refer to a single Franklin mine without involvement in another mine. Between the old workings of the Oregon Improvement Company and the later mining of the Pacific Coast Coal Company, there are many different mines and slopes. A great deal of tunneling from one seam to another through the same mine in order to reach more coal while still utilizing the working machinery of the existing mine was done.

The Oregon Improvement Company opened the Franklin coal fields in the later part of 1885, after they had extended their railroad lines from Black Diamond. There were several openings to the main seams made just above the river level where the coal outcroppings showed the seams. The Thomas, Sullivan and #1 slopes were the main three. The #11, #12, and to a slight extent, the #10 seams were mined from these slopes.

The Franklin McKay was the first tunnel mine dug from above the near rail line. Franklin mines were not managed well in the early development, and a great deal of coal was left unrecoverable through faulty mining techniques. It was in the McKay mine that the Franklin mine disaster occurred in 1894. Thirty-seven miners were suffocated by smoke when a fire broke out and the mine ventilating fans were turned off, cutting the only escape route. The mine was closed down and sealed due to the fire.

The Franklin #1 Mine was opened in 1900 by the Pacific Coast Coal Co. to replace the closed McKay mine. The McKay seam and the Fulton were worked from this mine.

The Franklin #2, Or the Gem Mine, was opened in 1893 by the O.I.C. just below the rail line about a half mile south of the main Franklin workings. When first opened, only seven miners were employed in the mine. However P.C.C.C. developed another opening to the Gem mine near the river level in the early 1900's and a great deal of coal was taken from this mine on the Gem seam. The coal was hauled down river on an extension track to a point near where the Black Diamond water pipe crosses the river, then hauled up the incline to a large bunker where it was loaded into rail cars to be shipped to Seattle on the Columbia & Puget Sound, later, the Pacific Coast Railroad.

Development was started on the New Franklin, or Cannon Mine in 1911. Located on the south side of Green River, just above the Black Diamond water line bridge. The Cannon mine was opened to reach the McKay and the Gem coal seams lying southeast of the river. The mine was worked for many years, opening and closing as the demand for coal fluxuated. There were references to this mine also as Pacosco, short for Pacific Coast Coal Company, although the name was not used much, Cannon Mine was the preferred name.

The last Franklin Mine, operated under that name, was opened about 1939 by the P.C.C.C. and only stayed open about four years, probably to help meet the war demand for heating fuel. This mine was located near the old #7 on the Franklin hill above Lake Twelve.

This article was taken in part from an article in the January 1977 Newsletter by Chuck Holtz. We thought it was worth a repeat.

APRIL 1995

Memories of a Granddaughter..

Fred Tonkin was my **great** grandfather and the father of James W. Tonkin who was his one and only child. Jim was raised in Black Diamond. I didn't know Fred but I have gathered information about him.

James W. Tonkin was my grandfather who I cherished until his death in September of 1973 and continue to think about him as time goes by. My memories of Grandpa Jim are from a young age, but memories of joy, love, and thank God for Grandpas. Grandpa Jim owned Tonkin Logging Company and he worked very hard with a strong sense of ethics and the highest of work conduct.

As a child I had many opportunities to spend many summer days of logging with him and his crew. Of special memories is Sam Zinter who was his foreman and responsible for the day to day business until he retired.

Grandpa was the person who listened to me in rough times, he hugged me, and genuinely showed his concern for my well being. He was Grandpa, the grandpa I loved, the grandpa I miss, the grandpa who let me talk and ramble, the grandpa who took me logging and on many vacations, the grandpa who showed he cared, the grandpa who let me **help** make wine and sometimes drink it even though my mother didn't want me to, the grandpa who would spray me with the garden hose, the grandpa I loved with all my heart. He was the grandpa who used to be the big tease and also would tease his friends by throwing firecrackers under the ballpark bench seats!

Jim Tonkin had a presence in Black Diamond, maybe not the presence of doing so much for the town, such as being chairman of many community activities, but the presence of a businessman and a supporter of people. He was a strong supporter of people and their projects and with this support many close friends come to mind. The wonderful people like Jules DalSanto, Lyle Bremeyer, Billy Bryant Sr., Sammy Zinter, Frank Grgurich, Carl Steiert, John Thompson, Max Ferlich, Andy Callero, the Zumek brothers, Ernie Romedo and many others who semed to be the force behind Black Diamond. These men, just to name a few, were like brothers and all had a tremendous amount of respect and trust for each other. They were the ones that instilled memories! These are the memories I cherish and will never forget!

Kari A. Sawyer-Rankins

Kari has mentioned several names in her letter, names which I think will stir a few memories for many of you. Why not jot them down and send them to us so we may all share. It was fun to read about Jim and think of him again. You have someone we should remember too, just take a little time, in their memories, to remind us.

* * * *

Bits and Pieces taken from the Pacific Coast Bulletin May 3, 1923

Radio next.

Get ready folks, to don head pieces and tune in on the concerts daily being broadcast via the radio route. Burnett is soon to become the headquarters for a radio agency of Kilborne & Clark, the big Seattle manufacturers, as J.A.Maltby has been named a dealer for them in Burnett, Carbonado, Fairfax, Wilkeson, and South Prairie as his territory. Maltby plans to install one of the most modern sets available, with which he can pick up messages from half way around the world. In addition, he will be prepared to install and equip any size or type of radio apparatus, as well as charge radio batteries. He will also assist anyone desiring to build their own set. Watch now for JAM broadcasting.

April 1995

Bits and Pieces continued...

Black Diamond Grows

A complete stock of confections, tobacco, ice cream, bottled drinks, etc., is being installed by Chambers & Kertis in a stand just erected at the corner of the main highway through Black Diamond, where during the summer season thousands of automobiles pass every week. At the same corner a gas, filling station has been installed by the Black Diamond garage, where passing autoists may obtain gasoline and oil.

O.D. Kendall, cager's helper, suffered a bruised leg in an accident on the trip on the 7th level last week.

NEW CARS IN CAMP

As a result of the activities of W.D. Starkey and G.B. Sanders, the hustling automobile agents of Issaquah, several Black Diamond men are today piloting gas buggies around camp. Among the motorists are Jack Emanuel, shift boss, with a Chevrolet; Bolin brothers with a Buick; Al Robinson, also a Buick. B.F. Harris a Dodge, and D.D. Jones a Ford. Larry Emery has secured a Nash and Bob Elliott a Lexington, the two latter machines not being sold by Starkey & Sanders.

** ***** **

Miss Isabel Keary of Issaquah is now staying in Black Diamond with Mr. & Mrs. Fred Cunningham who have established their home in the camp.

+++++

Coming from St. Louis, MO, to visit her son, Frank Bergman, the mother of Black Diamond's mine storekeeper is expected to arrive soon. Mrs. Bergman has never been west before and Frank is looking forward to showing her around.

* * * * *

Frank Savage has bought about six acres of land at New Lawson and several of the old homes and barns, and expects to shape it into one of the finest little ranches in the district. He will raise chickens, geese and ducks.

The Lake 12 Outing Resort Assn. (Pete Frederickson, Gov. Jensen, Doc Macoolry, and Morg Davis) have concluded the purchase of 26 acres at Lake 12, which they will immediately improve as an outing resort, expending \$10,000. to \$20,000. on suitable buildings and other conveniences.

John Luccessi has leased 17 acres of ground beyond Mine 14 opening, for pasturage for his herd of cows.

J.L. Meirmon of Old Lawson raises 15 sacks of potatoes per year on a 50 by 100 plot.

The store is selling some of the fine potatoes at Black Diamond.

Black Diamond lump coal to the amount of 220 tons was shipped this week to Barrow, Alaska, on the schooner C.S. Holmes. This is the farthest point north to which the Company has ever sent a shipment of coal. It is to be used by the Presbyterian Mission at that place.

NEW STENO

If Orva Byers, the stenographer in the mine office at Black Diamond, is able to satisfy the requirements of all the office force, he'll be a wonder.

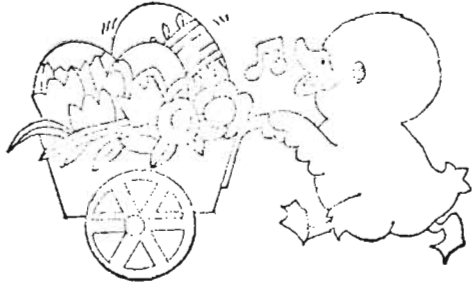
Byers accepted the job on May 1, and is now trying to meet Harry Scott's demands for a bo-haired blonde, while the rest of the office is divided between brunette and auburn haired models for ideal steno.

The United States Bureau of Mines has just issued Bulletin # 217, containing information regarding the preparation, transportation, and combustion of Powered coal. Copies of the Bulletin may be had upon application of the Bureau of Mines.

As we see their paper was a variety of informati on!

APRIL 1995

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL



Don't forget it's tax time.



*April is also
Earthquake
preparedness
month!*

Mother's Day is May 14. Do it up right.



Memorial Day Monday May 29. Honor all those who have gone before.

Recollections, articles, questions, corrections,
and comments are welcomed by the editor.

We'll be back in June.



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