

*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

NOVEMBER 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

Mary Elder....She had lived in the area for 77 years. Wife of the late Fred Elder.

Sutherland 'Suds' McLean.... an active community leader in the Enumclaw, Black Diamond area.

Mary 'Mitzi' Hope.... Born in Hobart and was an area resident all her life. She was involved in several comm. activities over the years.

Lawrence Parkin.... Husband of Olive. Had lived in B.D. since 1945. He had been a miner and was one of our first volunteer firemen.

Frank Potocnik....Born in B.D. Went to school at Kummer. He worked in the mines and in logging.

Jason Lucas.... age 17. He was a resident of BD. and a student at Enumclaw High.



MEMORIALS

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George Savick: Lew & Glee McCauley, Beth VanBuskirk, Charles & Irene Thompson, Linda Maks, Pauline Kombol, Sylvia Manowski, Gail Kuzaro, George Morris, Jewell McCloud, Donald Botts, Carl & Ann Steiert, Joe Kuzaro, Palmer Coking Coal, United Mine Workers 6481, Bill McGloury.

Mary Hope: Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Flothem Lynda Maks, Carl & Ann Steiert, Joe & Evelyn DalSanto, Jewell MC Cloud.



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The Rocco DiJulio Family in Black Diamond

1901 to 1918 - Rocco arrived from Italy and began work in the mine. In 1904 he returned to Italy briefly to marry Filomena Rossi. She joined him in Black Diamond in 1908. Rocco left mining in 1918, last working the 11th level of the New Mine.

1918 -1922 - Rocco turned to his trade as master shoemaker using only a Singer Sewing machine to sew uppers. All other related work was done by hand. The machine is displayed at the museum.

Our family's five room house was on Company land. The Company ordered the house moved or sold to them for a paltry sum of \$200.00. On January 31, 1922, our family of six made the move by train to the Georgetown District of Seattle. It was a sad, heart-wrenching experience for all, but Dad knew there were other choices for his sons than going into the mine.

We were reunited with our Uncle Silvino Rossi and family, who had made the move to Georgetown before us.

Listed are some of the varied experiences and activities in our short stay in Black Diamond,

Fresh Bread - We were privileged to have our own outdoor brick oven. It was not uncommon to see us with a slice of bread covered with fresh blackberry jelly.

Cascara Bark Harvest - Bark was stripped from trees leaving a small vertical strip to keep the trees alive. Buyers bought the bark by the pound after being dried. A common home remedy (laxative).

Games - Hide and seek, Kick the can, Nicks's favorite, Marbles.

Crayfish - Caught in creeks using meat scraps on a string and boiled in water in new fruit cans from the bakery.

Swimming - Lake 14, a No No for the Di Julios. We never learned to swim as kids.

Ice on Lake 14 - Sledding and skating.

Popular use of Pennies - Flatten out on R.R. tracks, spend at Davies.

Target Practice - 2 single shot rifles; Brother Nick's was a gift from Bob Duncan whose firm, Duncan & Sons, supplied my dad with shoe findings. Mine (Denny), a \$2.95 Hamilton was from a catalogue. Dad was good for shells provided we were responsible and attended to our chores.

Fur Trapping - Angelo Banchemo had a trap line along the North Shore of Lake 14, I went with him often to tend the line. One day his dog started barking and I ran ahead and was greeted by a skunk, 'NUFF said. There may be 4 of my traps still set in this area.

Fishing - Crappie, the bait was chamois skin; Trout, we used worms and eggs when available.

Gardening - Expanded our garden in 1921, excellent potato crop. At harvest enjoyed baking them in hot ashes.

Mystery Holes - Front Beach - Lake 14. Loaded with frogs and tadpoles. The water attracted brother Nick (deceased 1990). at an early age, he fell in headfirst and was saved by Clara Balzarini, whose sister, Rose, married Nick on February 14, 1931.

Effects of 1921 Strike - Strikers on duty tending picket lines. Truck loads of misc. relief supplies from donors were distributed. EXODUS of families from Black Diamond.

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Many thanks to Denny DiJulio for the wonderful information he has given us. The letter was most interesting and gives a great idea of life in the early Black Diamond.

Denny, Anthony and Ruby all are still living. The others are buried at the Black Diamond Cemetery.

We also appreciate the check which accompanied the letter. As

Denny stated for the many and varied expenses of the Museum, the donations we receive are always appreciated.

Speaking of thanks for the letter, the check and the added information leads right to another letter we received from Ann Steiert.

Mount Rainier

During the Thanksgiving Season, most of us take time out to think of the many things we have to be thankful for and to count our blessings.

One thing that our family is grateful for is the wonderful view that we have of Mount Rainier. The whole Town of Black Diamond is especially lucky to be situated with this mountain in plain sight.

We have lived in this same house for 53 years, at the foot of Lawson Street. Our kitchen has an 8 foot window which faces the Mountain. We have seen so many beautiful and unforgettable views. We have accepted it into our routine so that we all check the Mountain the first thing in the morning to see what kind of a day we will be having.

This year has been an especially good year for spectacular sunsets. We watch the great displays of color reflecting from the west onto it's slopes. The sunrises are something to behold! I was up at 4 am recently and looked at the Mountain and was awestruck!! It looked as though someone had taken and covered it with black cardboard. The sun was just rising and sending streaks of yellow, pink, blue, and white across the face of the black Mountain. It was really something to behold. I hope that everyone will take another look at it and give thanks for letting us see it.

Each of us has something special to be thankful for and it is the time of year when special emphasis is put on being thankful and remembering so many things. We hope each of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and will continue to celebrate the holiday season with good cheer for everyone you meet.

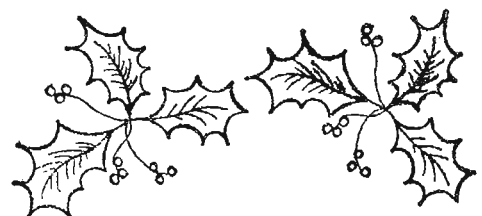
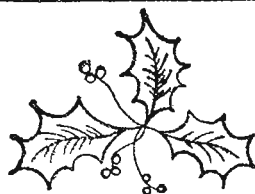


CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE MUSEUM ON DECEMBER 3 at 1 PM BE SURE TO BE THERE. SEE SOME OLD FRIENDS AND PERHAPS MEET SOME NEW ONES.



A reminder to all advertisers. January is renewal time.

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This Town (Black Diamond)

Robin Boschert

This town holds many memories,  
of days so long ago.  
The only work here to be found  
were the coal mines down below.

Times were tough for many then,  
they had to do their best.  
Their money went to feed their kids,  
and housing took the rest.

Mom stayed home and baked her bread,  
Dad worked hard all day.  
The kids all had their chores to do,  
before they went to play.

The Saloon was always full of fun,  
the men would gather here.  
A place to go relax a bit,  
and maybe have a beer.

a

Labor Day was really great.  
It still goes on today.  
Everyone in town comes out  
to play the day away.

Lots to do for young and old.  
Lots of games and food.  
A parade will start a 9AM and  
get you in the mood!

This town holds many memories,  
of days so long ago.  
The perfect place to raise your kids,  
And sadly watch them grow.

Note: This poem was written in memory of Irene Bainton. She passed away last February and is missed by many friends and family. She often told me stories of "the good old days" here in Black Diamond. So, for Bruce, Brad, and Bob, I feel your pain also. Here's to Mom!

Robin Boschert



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Good News Department!

Miner's Cabin is approved by the Landmarks and Heritage Commission!!!

Last week the Commission met in Black Diamond to hold a hearing concerning the proposal of Kelly Saukojus for restoration of the cabin which sits at 24317 Morgan Street.

Kelly and her Grandfather Bob Eaton want to restore the cabin and have the pictures and information at hand to be able to do a great job of it. It will look much as it did when it was originally built. There will be improvements to the inside to make it a habitable structure.

This is the first property to be reviewed by the committee as far as Black Diamond is concerned. We hope it will encourage other owners of historic buildings to seek funds for restoration or rebuilding. There are of course many restrictions and there are a number of criteria which must be met before a structure will be qualified for this program. We do however have many such buildings in town.

This was only the first step in the process and the funding has not yet been considered, only the fact that the building does qualify as historic and that what is proposed is possible.

We still need more information on this process and Bob Eaton is leading the way so that more will know what and how to do.

I am now a member of the King County Landmarks and Heritage Comm. and I will be seeking as much information as possible for us. This is a wonderful opportunity and there is an indication that funds are available for many projects. We need to get busy and make sure we preserve what we have.

All meetings which concern Black Diamond will be held at Black Diamond. This gives all of us an opportunity for input.

If you are interested in the program please let me know so that I may work on those projects. We will be working on seeking funds for the cemetery and Union stup to begin with and will move on from there.

Congratulations to Kelly and Bob !!!!!!! Good Luck with all that is to come to make this dream a reality!

Vivian

With this issue I will have completed one year as the editor. I hope that each of you has found something in these newsletters that has been of interest to you.

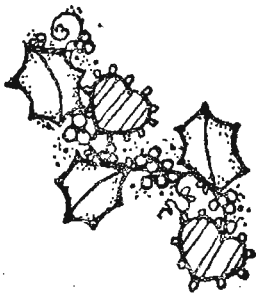
I will continue to look for stories from you as you are the ones who hold the key to the past in Black Diamond. It is such an interesting place and has such a rich history that we need to keep working to keep that history alive. I have not forgotten those who have offered information as soon as I can get to you. It has however been a very busy year for me. For those who find it difficult to write, tapes make a wonderful way to record your stories.... and it usually goes faster for you too.

Pictures, Pictures. do you have any? Looks like we may be doing a program to record many of the old photos. This will be for those private pictures as well as the ones we already have in the Museum. More to come about this later.

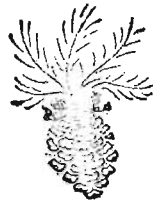


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peace joy love



Wishing you a  
holiday you'll  
always  
remember



peace joy love



"Faith is the  
substance of  
things hoped for  
the evidence of  
things not  
seen..."

Best Wishes To all  
Vivian