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Saturday & Sunday --- Noon to 3:00
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 For special arrangements or tours,
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FEBRUARY 1996 Black Diamond, WA

B.D.H.S. Newsletter
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- Lifetime ----- \$50.00
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- 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

Ruth Bingaman Mother of Vivian Bainton

Emma Knoff (Sissy Darby)

Gerald Bainton Life long resident
 Husband of Vivian Bainton; father of Jerry, Lynn, Richard Bainton & Maralyn Brazeau

Ruby Duncan Long time resident
 Mother of Jack, Robert, Fred, Ethel Duncan & Georgie Zumek and Hazel Severson

Memorials

Memorials

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <u>Mitzi Hope</u> | Pauline Kombol |
| <u>Edythe Lewis Hall</u> | Emmy Lindberg |
| <u>Emma Knoff</u> | Linda Maks, Charles & Irene Thompson, Gail Kuzaro |
| <u>Rome Vernarelli</u> | Margaret Vernarelli |
| <u>Ruth Bingaman</u> | Ann Donati, Lynda Maks, Carl & Ann Steiert, Jessie Landis, Evan Morris |
| <u>George Savick</u> | Mary Keehner, Bud Simmons, Beth Van Buskirk, Muriel Waldo |
| <u>Clinton Morris</u> | Bud Simmons |
| <u>Ruby Duncan</u> | Evan Morris |
| <u>Gerald Bainton</u> | Mr. & Mrs. Tom Zumek, Mr. & Mrs. Arlyn Sonsteng, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Dal Santo, Vernon & Cherie Atkinson, James & Charlene Birkliid, Donald Botts, Robert Eaton, Carl & Ann Steiert, Lynda Maks, Rick & Bev Mathisen, Rose Guidetti, Mary & Dan Robison, Joe Brazeau, Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Wildebour, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Wolfe, Edith Peterson, Jewell McCloud, Darrell & Kathy Stanley, Gaie & Arlene Hendrickson, Bob & Jodine Burke, Verna Thompson, Ester Babb, Maureen & Al Guidetti, Charles & Dorothy Corlett, Rosemary Konoske, Evan Morris, Earle & Laurine Morgan, Rex & Becky Auker |

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GERALD BAINTON

Work has been going on at the Black Diamond Museum ever since it was decided to start the Historical Society and have a Museum. That was in 1976. Ever since that time much has been accomplished thanks to a great number of volunteers. These volunteers have created a bonding which makes them just like one big family. There is sharing by everyone.

This week we had to share a great sorrow in the loss of Gerald Bainton. He has been very ill this past year and death claimed him last week. Everyone is going to miss him very much. Especially the men who come to work on Thursdays. He was a good craftsman and worked hard on each project which he tackled. The Thursday Gang is a very informal group and Gerald always was good for a story and a laugh. Our hearts are filled with much sorrow and no one will ever be able to replace him.

Bob Eaton, Don Botts, Carl Steiert
Charles Corlett, Joe Kuzaro, Don Mason
Ted Barner, Bob Burdick, Ann Steiert
Evan Morris, Rose Guidetti

MORRIS BROTHERS COAL MINING COMPANY, INC.

The Morris Bros Mining Co. was incorporated in 1922 but the history of the Morris family and coal goes back much further.

George Morris emigrated from Wales in 1880. His wife Mary Ann with infant son Abraham followed in 1881. Like many immigrant families they moved across the country settling first in Peoria, Illinois where Jonas, Emily and Elizabeth were born. The family moved on to Idaho where Edward was born. The next move was to Wilkeson WA where six more children were born. George found work in the coal mines in Wilkeson and they raised their large family there.

In 1901 George and Abraham Morris were listed as mine foremen at Wilkeson Coke and Coal Co. in the annual report of coal mines. Abe was 22 years old at the time. He had started work in coal mines as a trap boy at the age of 9.

In 1911 Abe leased from the American Coal Co. it's holdings in Pittsburg-Spiketon which was situated between Buckley and Wilkeson. In 1912 he organized the South Willis Coal Co. with Jonas Morris as President and Frank Merritt as Vice President and manager. In 1917 John Morris was listed as office manager of the South Willis Coal Co.. This was probably the beginning of what eventually became Morris Bros Coal Mining Co.

In 1919 the Morrystown or Spiketon mines were sold by the American Coal Co. It was about this time that the Morris brothers began looking for coal opportunities in King County. The annual report of mines for this year listed Abe Morris as manager of the Eureka mine in Cumberland and many family members were working there also. Edward Morris purchased the Durham property in 1921. Morris Bros Coal Mining Co. was incorporated in 1922 and commenced coal mining operations at the town of Durham.

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The Durham Colliery Co was originally organized by Peter Kirk in 1886 to supply coal for the projected Kirkland Steel Mill. Durham was named for a town in Kirk's native north England. Production was started in 1888 but coal was only mined until 1889. In 1910 the mines were started again and coal was produced throughout World War 1.

Durham was a typical mining camp. It consisted of a brick two story hotel to house bachelor miners and a cluster of small houses for miners with families. Jonas Morris and his wife Maggie operated the hotel and small store which served the miners. By 1926, the year of George and Mary Ann's 50th wedding anniversary, almost every member of the large extended family lived in Durham. Morris sons and sons-in-law worked in various capacities for the Company.

Between the hotel and the county road was the railroad track which ran to the milltown of Selleck. This spur line was used by both the Northern Pacific and Milwaukee railroads. It carried lumber from Selleck and coal from Durham and other mines to their markets. Some of the markets for Morris Bros coal were: Washington Gas and Electric in Tacoma, some of the State institutions, Seattle schools and retail yards in Seattle.

In 1928 Morris Bros took over operation of the Occidental Coal Co in Bayne. The years following the stock market crash in 1929 were difficult ones for Morris Bros. as they were for the entire nation. The Morris Bros. continued coal mining at Durham until the early 1930's when operations were assumed by Palmer Coking Coal Co. Inc. Occidental coal production continued until 1946. In total, the Morris Bros. Coal Co. was responsible for almost one half million tons of coal in the fifteen years between 1922 and 1937.

A dwindling coal market and the passing of Abe Morris in 1933 motivated the principals of Morris Bros. to organize a new mining company under the name of Palmer Coking Coal Co. which acquired the remaining assets of Morris Bros Coal Mining Co. Inc. in 1937.

Note: George Morris, father and Grandfather, was involved with the company as an officer or trustee until shortly before his death in 1936 at the age of 80.

Submitted by Betty Morris Falk

The Thursday Crew is working on "The General Store" - an old-time store with butcher block and all. Any items you have that we could use would be greatly appreciated. As usual it is what the membership gives that makes the museum so successful.

Do you have any ideas for the store? Let us know.

Thanks to Betty Falk and Ann Steiert for their contributions to this issue.

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OUR LIBRARY

The people of Black Diamond have a Library of which they can be very proud. It is located in Morganville on Roberts Drive across from the Dinner House. It is part of the King County Library System and provides a very large selection of materials. Alice Norton and her co-workers are always helpful and informative. The Friends of the Library Group works hard each year to earn funds with which to provide many good programs for children and others who attend the Library. The Library has a history all of its own.

The Pacific Coast Coal Company built a large hotel on the property now owned by the Fraternal Order of Eagles. It covered what is now the parking lot and the Hall. This was in 1917/18. It contained 68 rooms and was mostly used by miners who came from distant places. Someone decided that there needed to be a space for books so a small room was designated as the Library. It was stocked with mostly donated books.

After a few years it was decided that more space was necessary and the books were moved across the street into the Depot building. It was well used and kept growing. Victoria Niemczyk was librarian.

During this time a small house on Lawson Street was being used as a Teachers' Cottage. As new space was provided for the teachers, the Cottage was converted to a Library and the contents were moved from the Depot into the new area. Ruth Zumek and Jewell McCloud were the wonderful librarians during that time.

The Presbyterian Church stood on the ground which is now used by the City for their Hall. In 1959 The Church burned down. The City Hall was built where it had been. A room was designated for the Library.

Attendance kept growing. When Mario Sorci built his new business in Morganville he provided space to house the New Library. Everyone should be very proud of what is being done there in the way of educating both children and adults.

When that first room was designated at the Hotel no one ever imagined that it would last for so many years and grow into the great service that it is now.

Ann Stewart

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO The Enumclaw Courier, December 17, 1920

For Sale: 37 acres between Enumclaw and Auburn on good county road. Considerable timber. \$750 cash will get clear deed to this. Frank P. Anderson, Rainier Garage.

Editor's Note:

While this is out of the ordinary - BUT - I'm going to take a little space here to thank everyone for all the acts of kindness and the memorials for my husband Gerald. Your support has been greatly appreciated.

Vivian

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