

*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

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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  
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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

Elizabeth Grgurich... wife of  
Frank Grgurich

Ted Barner... Husband of Lucille

Elsie Converse... Lived in Franklin

Harry Williams... Long time B.D. res.



MEMORIALS

Felix Sharlock... Ann Rauch, Linda Maks.

Lou Fagnon... Ruth Kerkes, Donald Botts, Glen & Barbara Frederickson, Alvin & June Thornton, Rachel Fagnon, Charles & Harriet Clayton, Anita & Rose Batein, Chris & Betty Peren, Karen Shelton.

Elizabeth Grgurich... Carl & Ann Steiert, Beth VanBuskirk,

Ted Barner... Lenore Stranz, Charles & Dorothy Corlett, Robert Eaton, Don Botts, Carl & Ann Steiert, Beth Van Buskirk, Vivian Bainton.

Gerald Bainton... Vivian Bainton.

## INCORPORATION BEFORE INCORPORATION

In the year 1880, in a small town called Nortonville, located in the hills east of San Francisco there was much excitement. The mining town was owned by the Black Diamond Mining Company and had been in dire straights for quite a while because their coal was of such poor quality that they were having trouble selling it. They were meeting challenges from ships coming into San Francisco harbor with good coal which they used as ballast in the ships and then sold it when they got to port.

The Mining Company had just found out that in Washington Territory to the north of them that there was a tract of land called the Green River Coal Fields and it was available to them. They immediately sent prospectors and others to check it out. They had been told that it was a truly big deposit. These men explored the area and found that it was indeed a very big deposit plus the field contained 80 acres of virgin timber. They decided in 1882 to begin their move.

The first move consisted of 101 persons. It is said that there were 100 men and one woman. There was a tremendous amount of work to be done. The mine had been started and needed workers. There were no houses or dwellings so they turned to the huge forest to the timber to build with.

At that time there was no such thing as an electric saw or the speciality saws that exist now. It took a lot of hard work to produce the living quarters that were needed to house all the people. They persisted and the small settlement grew.

Most of the people were immigrants from Europe and had relatives whom were sent for as soon as they found out how many jobs were available.

We are told that from the time in 1882 when the first group got here until 1900 when the National Census was taken that the population had grown to 3500 people and Black Diamond was the fourth largest city in the state. This is what the Olympia records show.

During the first few days of growth the Town was run by the Coal Co. Morgan Morgan was the name of the man in charge of the miners and the affairs in the New Town. We are told that he was a very strict but fair man. As time went on the people became acquainted and groups emerged such as the lodges, the churches and then the Union men. These were all pretty much self governing: although they kept an alert eye as to what was pleasing to the Company and Mr. Morgan.



It wasn't until 1959 that a true incorporation took place in Black Diamond. Lloyd Hagen was the first Mayor. Through the years he has been followed by: Louis Zumek, Victor Weston, Gomer Evans, Vivian Bainton, and Howard Botts.

After the strike in 1921 and the following depression, the population of the town fell. The Mayors and their fellow workers have had to confront all sorts of situations that have occurred. They have all worked hard to maintain a good place for the people to live. As time goes on the problems are becoming even more serious. In the early days there was not the problem of over-crowding and encroachment by the bigger populations. The problems presented take a great deal of thought and management. The input of the citizens is vital!

This article was submitted by Ann Steiert

Class Reunions; to those who are concerned.

from C.M. (Rip) Johnson

*The best antiques  
are old friends*

In 1963 and 1964 Frank Stebly and myself, living in Olympia worked with Leonard Kuzaro and Georgie Duncan Zumek in Black Diamond for our 25th Class Reunion.

Frank and I travelled to B.D. twice and had two productive meetings. Our reunion turned out to be both successful and fun.

I collected all my classmates names and addresses for future reference. After some time, I turned the list over to a young lady who worked at the Zumek Market and was involved in class reunions. During this time Leonard has passed away, it was he who had provided the initiative and the spunk for our class reunion. That's been over 20 years ago and I haven't heard a word since.

I have heard that there have been some class reunions but I have never received any information or invitations for any.

I know a number of my classmates have died. I do not know who or how many. It would be nice to see the living and do some reminiscing. Personally I feel cheated in not seeing some of my classmates and friends. Whatever happened to the communication??

\*Note from the editor: anyone interested in getting a group together to work on a reunion? Drop Rip a line at  
410 East T Street  
Tumwater, WA 98501



Now is the time to start the plans for a great summer reunion.



MEMBERSHIP MEETING FEBRUARY 9 at 1 PM

All members are invited to attend, your input is needed.

We also invite non members to come and see what the Museum is all about.

"FIRE IN THE HOLE!"

By popular consensus, the title of the first of the Black Diamond Historical Society's six community history videos will be "Fire in the Hole!"

Thanks to Evan Morris, Carl Steiert, Bob Eaton, Charlie Corlett, Don Botts and other clever Thursday Crew regulars who pondered over a catchy title that captured the intensity of work in the mines. According to those historians this was called out loud and clear to all within range when a charge was set to loosen the coal-face down in the tunnel.

Lights, Camera, Action!! We will soon begin shooting the community history videos, beginning in the Museum with Carl's commentary, archival still pictures, and mining artifacts. Quilting scenes, voices, and music together, the finished version of "Fire in the Hole!" will open with Carl inviting the viewers to come into the Museum and learn about Black Diamond's coal- how it was formed, found, mined, and used. David Morris, President and geologist of Pacific Coast Coal and several Black Diamond Elementary school students from Julie Weinbrecht's classroom will take part in the first video as well.

Background music will be the sounds of Welsh choirs and Celtic string and penny whistle music. Voices of those who contributed to the book "Mining the Memories" which were recorded by Diane Olson and Ann Steiert will also be used.

The Washington Commission for the Humanities has purchased a Toshiba TSC-200 camera with mounted and lapel mikes for our use. David Williams of Virtual Video and Multimedia is working as our technical director and videographer. Mickey Ryan is production supervisor.

Washington Commission for the Humanities is sponsoring a two part workshop at the Black Diamond Museum on March 14 and 21.

March 14 Lorraine McConaghy will teach Oral History techniques.

March 21 Terry Simpson will teach video recording techniques.

More info later as to price, materials and lunch.

From the editor.....

Have you read the articles which have appeared in several of the local newspapers in recent months? There seems to be a kind of renewed effort and resurranace of curoosity concerning the local historical sites in King County. And that is great.

We have been fortunate enough to have been the subjects in a few of those articles and it does generate more interest from those who have not until this time know what is available to them.

Charlie Corlett's train display as well as the truck display he has put together have both been featured. Of course the Museum always seems to make itself popular also. How fortunate we are to have so much history preserved right here in Black Diamond.

Speaking of what we have always reminds me of the people who make all of this possible. VOLUNTEERS!!!! Remember every one of us who working at the Museum, in whatever capacity, is a volunteer. We do what we can and welcome others to join us.

Special thoughts go to the family of Ted Barner. Ted has been a regular Thursday Crew member for a long time and he is missed.

Remember to attend the meeting on Sunday Feb. 9th.

ATTENTION

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Shown below is a small box. If it has an X in it, you are past due with your annual dues. We realize that it's easy to forget especially since it is such a small amount and we do not bill you. But the money generated by your membership fees are important to the ongoing efforts of the Museum.

This will be the last issue you will receive if the dues are not paid by our next issue.

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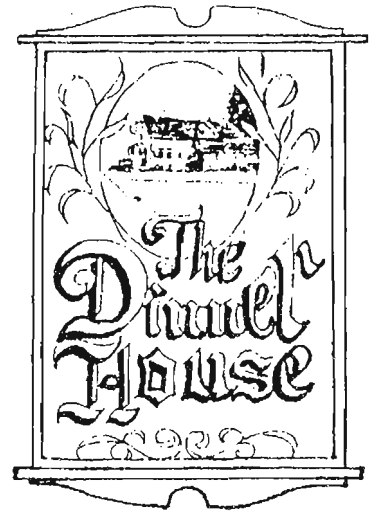
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