

Black Diamond Historical Society



# Newsletter

Spring 1997 Issue #2 Printed Quarterly USPS PERMIT #19

Museum located at 32627 Railroad Ave. P O Box 232  
Black Diamond WA 98010

Membership Fees:

Personal, Annual--- \$5.00  
Family, Annual --- \$7.00  
Business, Annual--- \$15.00

Museum Hours

Saturday & Sunday  
Noon to 3:00 PM  
Thursday  
9:00AM to 4:00PM

Special tours may be arranged by calling 360-886-1168 or 360-886-2327.

This newsletter is published by and for members of the Black Diamond Historical Society, a Non-profit organization.  
Vivian Bainton, Editor 360-886-2074

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Black Diamond Historical Society has just received another King County Cultural Resources Grant in order to upgrade collections management procedures at the museum. Under the grant funding, professional archivist Micki Ryan will assist Ann & Carl Steiert at the museum for one year cataloging and preparing museum collections for exhibit and storage, and renewing some of the older labels. Come in and see the new label style, which incorporates a black diamond in the frame of the laser-printed labels.

Our museum education assistant, Michelle Ferry, has been refurbishing three dynamite boxes for use as traveling education kits in the area schools. Her project is called "HISTORY IS A BLAST", and uses photo reproductions and surplus artifacts for hands-on learning in the classroom.

She recently wrote a grant request with Bob Eaton to King County Cultural Resources for funding to complete the dynamite box kits and prepare a museum educational manual for training docents.

Michelle comes to us from the Nordic Heritage Museum and historic Fort Vancouver, a National Historic Park.

Micki Ryan has been working and volunteering at the museum for much of the past year. She is usually here on Thursday and has become a member of our Thursday Crew. She is also archivist to the Black Heritage Society for Washington State.

She has the cataloging well under way and with her help we should be able to find artifacts and photos a bit easier.

#### SAW DISPLAY

Many thanks to Clayton Meade for the wonderful display he brought in recently, all mounted, labeled and ready to go. It is put together so that we can see exactly how saws were sharpened and what tools were needed to do the job.

Thanks also goes to Valena Burris for her donations. She gave us a beautiful petticoat and gown. They are beautifully hand stitched.

BLACK DIAMOND IN THE EARLY DAYS

By Verna Thompson

My Dad, Morgan Davis, lived with his mother and father in Nortonville, CA. His father was a coal miner who had come from Pennsylvania. The mines in Nortonville had blown up and his father was killed. Morgan, as a boy, had been working with his Dad and he had told him that if anything like a fire ever happened in the mine that there was a creek there with water in it; he should put his head in the creek and stay there until help arrived. That advice saved his life!

The miners in Nortonville had heard of the new mines starting in the coal fields in Washington. They decided to leave for those mines. When Morgan's mother learned of this, she decided that if the miners were leaving, her family would too. That was in 1882.

They left and came to Black Diamond. She was the only woman in camp. There were no houses in camp, everyone lived in tents. There were two men who had built a cabin on the creek between Black Diamond and the prairie. The Company had the men move out and let her have their cabin.

They had an old stove in it -- so she started baking bread and selling it to the miners.

My Dad didn't do much mining as he had bad lungs from the mine explosion in California; so he spent lots of time in the big timber (firs). He said it helped his lungs.

Later he worked in the store and saloon. After that he and Paul Medica started the pool hall. No women were allowed in there.

Then the company had a strike -- and strike breakers were brought in. The strike breakers were first put in shacks down at the mine. Their kids eventually came to school. One day the union kids walked out of school. Mr. Weatherby, the principal, met the kids downstairs and marched them back to their desks and made them check in their books. There were about seven kids in high school.

The "scabs", so called, kicked to the company because they couldn't come to the pool hall on account of the union workers being there. The company told my Dad they would have to let the "scabs" in or move the pool hall off company land. That was impossible, so the company bought the pool hall from my Dad. Kertis and Chambers came in to run it. That was when women first started coming to the pool hall. None had been in before that.

In the meantime lots of hotels had been built; Davis, Habenicht, Vodache, Barkleys, Jones to name a few. Lots of families took in boarders too.

There was lots of entertainment in camp. There were lodges, church events, school programs, etc. Seems there was always something going on. In the summer it was swimming. In the winter, when Lake 14 froze over, there was ice skating. Seattle ice skaters came out here to practice.

Soon the women came and they had a thing called "around the world". There were a lot of Welch, English, Italians, and Austrians here, so they had a variety of foods. For the event you bought a ticket. The women would prepare a dinner dish in their home, some of their national favorites. You could take your ticket, go to the home you wanted to eat at and taste their food. They would make a whole meal, something of their national dish; such as maybe a waffle, patitsa, scones, etc. Everyone made something different.

There were a lot of good singers here too. They would get together and put on entertainment, sometimes even plays. The school would put on plays too. The Seniors always put on plays for graduation. I still remember my own class play. That was in 1925.

After selling the pool hall, my Dad, Doc Mallory, (our dentist) Mr. Jensen, (section boss for the railroad) and Pete Frederickson, (meat market owner) bought the land at Lake 12 and started the resort. It turned out to be the thing around here. People came from all over to picnic, swim and such. The owners built a platform for dancing, cabins to rent, and a small store. They ran the resort until they got too old to do the work. Then they sold to real estate people, who sold lots for private homes, as it is today.

Every Christmas they had a big tree in the showhall. The parents were supposed to bring a present for their kids -- only one present for each kid. That went on for a long time; but when times got hard and some were not able to do it, others would bring stacks of presents for their kids so that had to stop. Babb was sure a good guy for the kids. He was kind of strict with them, but he wouldn't see them hurt either.

There was always sports played here... soccer, baseball, boxing and such. We always had good teams, as most mining towns had. The competition at the games was real tough at times. It was always a good passtime.

We had dancing in the old Masonic Hall, Petches orchestra mostly-- then Rufe Weston. That was Saturday night and special times. We always had a good band in camp.

Black Diamond was a rather remote town, but every need of the people was met. They had stores, hotels, photographers, a bank, a gas station; a railroad, a bus line, and even a funeral parlor. There was a house called "The House Of Blazes". For those who didn't know what that was--- it was a house where the "painted ladies of the evening" plied their trade !!

When the strike came in 1921, it was pretty tough for a while. The Union built houses for their members in Morganville, and also a dance hall.

We had many good times there. The striking miners moved to Morganville. We didn't belong to either side-- so were kind of left out -- but still we stuck with the striking miners. The strike was never really settled. After quite a while the miners just went back to work. To this day there are still a lot of hard feelings between striking families and the "scabs". They are nearly all gone now. Some of the miners decendants are still here. Most of the "old timers" moved away or have died.

We had several Doctors here over the years, Dr.Bowles and Dr.Smith to name two. There were also Baby Nurses (mid-wives); Mrs.Boose and Mrs.Reynolds are two who come to mind.

We always had a church. In the beginning it was the Catholic and the Congregational Churches. Rev. Bushell came up here from Kent on horseback. The Congregational Church was where the fire station is now. When Bill Hann, a boss for the company came, he was Presbyterian, so the followers built a church for him. That was the last of the Congregational Church as the town couldn't support three churches.

Old Tim Morgan, who lived in Morganville, went to the Congregational Church with his family -- he didn't want to go to the Presbyterian Church. He said if he went to the Presbyterian Church it would fall down. When he died they took him to the Presbyterian Church as the Congregational Church had been torn down. After the funeral services as they were taking the casket down the steps (which were real high) the casket got away from the pall bearers a slid right to the bottom! The step had broken. The Presbyterian Church burned down years later on a cold and stormy winter morning.

Many thanks to Verna for this wonderful story!!! I truly appreciate hearing the stories from those who were there.

Thanks too to Dorothy Corlett who helped Verna put this all together and submitted it to us. Hope you two ladies get together again for some more recollections!

Special note:

Verna was born Verna Davis on October 15, 1907 in Black Diamond.  
She now lives just a few feet from the lot where she was born.  
We think she is the oldest person still living who was born in  
Black Diamond.

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Let's hear from some of you others who were born here or lived here in your youth. Each of us has a story to tell and we have many who want to hear those stories.

Don't forget to also send a receipt for our book.

SPECIAL ATTENTION PLEASE!!!!  
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Recently I attended a workshop held by the Postal Service and learned all the things I must do to meet all federal requirements for sending a newsletter. As you have already noted, the format is somewhat different.

But more importantly... I need to be sure that I have all proper addresses... or face a \$10,000. fine. So please check your mailing label. If anything on it is incorrect, let me know as soon as possible. Many of you now have an additional four numbers on your zip code; I need to know what they are. Send all address corrections to:

Vivian Bainton  
32601 Abrams Ave.  
Black Diamond, WA 98010

Your response will be most appreciated! Thanks.

\* \* \* \* \*

Noni Coby is now our new treasurer. Thanks for taking on the job Noni and good luck with it.

Roberta Falk is the retiring treasurer. She has done a great job for a long time; we appreciate all the time and effort she has given in doing that job.

GIVE HER A HAND!!!!!!

In Memoriam

Jack Duncan --- Longtime B.D. citizen.

Dr. J. Tate Mason

Lorraine Draghi --- wife of Louis Draghi

Rose Mae Lewis --- wife of Bill

Maxwell 'Max' Bagby --- husband of Anne Orehek

Birda (Owens) Hoselton --- long time resident



Memorials

Elizabeth Grgurich --- Frank Grgurich, Carl & Ann Steiert, Beth VanBuskirk

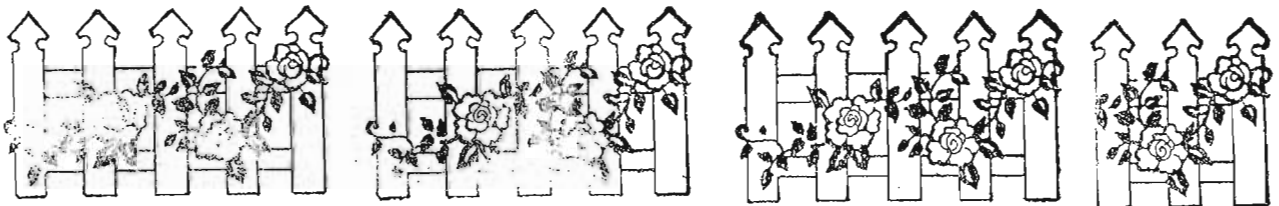
Ted Barner --- Emma Sigmund, Janet Dodd, Olive Parkin, Helen Manowski, Gary Confer, Vivian Bainton, Janice Ranton, Evan Morris, Bud Simmons, James & Tracy Trover

Rose Mae Lewis --- Lynda Maks, Stanley Celigoy, Harold Anderson, Carl & Ann Steiert

Jack Duncan --- Charles & Dorothy Corlett, Lynda Maks, Carl & Ann Steiert

Lorraine Draghi --- TOPS Club, Donna Gauthier

Lou Fagnon --- Charles & Dorothy Corlett, Donald Botts, Glen & Barbara Fredericksen, Anita & Rose Bateau, Chris & Betty Pieron, Karen Chelton, Alvin & June Thornton, Bud Simmons, Rachel Fagnon, Ruth Kerkes, Carl & Ann Steiert



WHERE COAL IS USED

No matter where you live, chances are coal use affects your life in some way, shape or form. That is because coal is used in all fifty states and the District of Columbia.

In some regions coal provides the vast majority of electricity. In others, it is used directly by industries and manufacturing plants; especially those who make chemicals, cement, paper, ceramics and various metal products. Even residential use of coal for heating is still evident in parts of the country, although that is not as prevalent as when coal was the primary heating fuel fifty years ago.

Coal by-products serve as the basis for many useful items used by millions of Americans everyday.

Some of these items include linoleum for floors, counters and wall coverings, creosote is a preservative, phenol is a compound used in medications, detergents, perfumes, flavorings, and varnishes, insecticides and disinfectants. Cresylic acids are used for powerful adhesives and some plastics. Benzene is used in the production of synthetic rubber, nylon, photography plastics and dyes as well as solvents.

Pitch is a widely used substance in paving and roof construction. Naphthalene is used to make mothballs, fungicides, insecticides, plastics, and explosives. Toulene is a basic ingredient of common aspirin and saccharine but is also found in paints and laquers.

Eylene is used in the productions of paper and cloth, protective covering for autos and boats, and tough chemical sutures. Anhydrous ammonia is essential in petroleum refining and the production of certain kinds of steel and the processing of gold and silver and sulphur used in fungicides and insecticides as well as sulfuric acids.

One of the most frequently asked questions asked by visitors to the Museum is, "What is coal being used for?" It is used for many things which we do not think about or realize is true. This article lets us know what some of the uses are.

Submitted by AnnSteiert

Thanks, Ann .



Don Mason is one of our volunteers who often works as a host for us. He spends some of his time browsing through the many items we have in the Museum. Recently he was interested in the book from the Mt. Rainier Rebekah Lodge #106 and he ran across the following article.

February 1907

Resolution:

Where as:

The Grim Reaper, Death, has again visited this lodge and taken from our midst one well beloved Sister Ann Harris.

It is becoming, therefore, at this time, that We most kindly and sincerely unite in expressions of warmest sympathy toward those to whom this great grief has come.

Be it Resolved:

That a copy of the foregoing be sent to the husband of our deceased Sister, and that a copy also be spread upon the records of our Lodge and a copy be sent to the Washington Odd Fellows for publication.

We'll deck her tomb with flowers,  
The rarest ever seen,  
And with our tears as showers  
We'll keep them fresh and green.

Submitted in Friendship, Love, and Truth,  
Sisters Mary J. Thomas  
Annie W. Davis  
Anna B. Stone

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Washington Commission for the Humanities held two workshops at the museum recently. March 14 Lorraine McConaghy taught oral history techniques and March 21 video recording techniques were taught by Terry Simpson. A few of us from our museum attended and we hope to be able to put the information to work soon on our own videos.



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WHOLESALE      RETAIL

Would you be interested in contributing to a cookbook which would also include pictures and stories about the recipes, the cooks, and their families? Would you be interested in buying such a book?

At our annual meeting in February we discussed publishing a cookbook and we need your input to make it successful.

At this time we cannot give any details as to price or time of publication as this depends on the information we receive from you.

I have contacted some publishers and we will have no problems getting the book published. We just need to be sure we have enough recipes and other information to make it worthwhile.

So..... you are hereby invited to submit your recipe along with a picture of you or your family or someone else to whom the recipe is important. We want a story to go with each picture. These must be brief little tidbits. Space will be somewhat limited if we are going to put all of this into one book.

This can and should be a successful fund raiser for the Museum as well as a fun venture for all of us.

Send your information and recipes to:

Vivian Bainton  
32601 Abrams Ave.  
Black Diamond, WA 98010

You may want to submit only a recipe and that's okay too. It will be interesting to see what kind of foods are the favorites. Old country recipes are especially encouraged.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT YOUR RECIPE. INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AS WELL AS A PHONE NUMBER.

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It's Born In Them

Janet's Grandmother, visiting at the little girl's home, one  
Sunday morning gave her a dime for the Sunday school collection.  
When Janet returned home, her grandmother asked her if she put  
the dime in the class contribution.

"No, I didn't, grandma."

"But, my dear, why didn't you?"

"Because I found a wonderful bargain, grandma. You see, it  
was this way: I met a poor old man pushing one of those ice  
cream carts, and I stopped and asked him if he ever went to  
church, and he said he did, every Sunday. Then I said, "Mister,  
if I give you this dime for two ice cream cones, will you give it  
to the church?" and he said, "Sure, kiddo!" So I gave him the  
dime and he gave me two cones. Now, how's that for a bargain?"

\* \* \* \* \*

<p>BLACK DIAMOND NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET &amp; SMOKE HOUSE</p> <p>Ron &amp; Sharon</p> <p>Store Hours Monday thru Saturday 7 am to 9:30 pm Sunday 7 am to 9 pm</p> <p>Phone 886-2611</p>
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Volunteers are needed for the  
Thursday work party as well as  
cooks to feed them. Call the  
museum for more information.

Don Botts is always ready to  
welcome a new host or hostess  
Wouldn't it be fun to spend a  
Saturday or Sunday afternoon  
showing others around the mus-  
eum? Why not give it a try?

<p><b>Enumclaw License Agency</b></p> <p>1612 Cole Street ENUMCLAW, WASHINGTON 98022 <b>(360) 825-2711</b> <b>FAX (360) 825-2997</b></p> <p><i>Ona L. Smith</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Don F. Smith</i></span></p>
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