

Black Diamond Historical Society



# Newsletter

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Summer 1997    Issue #3                      Printed Quarterly    USPS PERMIT #19  
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Museum located at 32627 Railroad Ave.                      P O Box 232  
Black Diamond WA 98010  
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Membership Fees:

Museum Hours

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

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.

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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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To: The Black Diamond Historical Society  
From. Dr. Paul W. Kravagna, Hollywood, California

Thank you for your latest newsletter, I always like hearing from Black Diamond. I am not certain that this will be of interest to you, but I can't help but being nostalgic about growing - up in Morgansville in the 1940's and 50's. A few remembrances I want to share:

The most exciting event of the year was the annual Labor Day parade and party at the old wood stadium at the ball park. We, as children worked and planned for days how we might decorate our bicycles for the parade. The most common answer to this dilemma was to put crepe paper among the spokes with noisy playing cards attached with a cloths pin to the frame to simulate motorcycle sounds. The climb of the grease pole was the major event of the day. We all knew who were the heroes we expected to reach the top, and claim the prize of cash. As I recall, the prize was from Zumeck's butcher shop located in the Company Store. ( we as children always remember Frank Zumeck drinking a glass of blood behind the counter of the company store. We thought him a vampire and feared him, as we did the steam train across the street in front of the theater and Davis's confectionary store). How many remember the Kaiser- Frasier Car dealership that replaced the old company store?

Another remembrances was the annual box car derby from New Lawson down the hill. I entered a box car with an awning for a top, which caught the wind, and ended in Dr. Botts front yard.

In the winter, who remembers? we closed of the road from Black Diamond to Morgansville and started a huge bonfire at the top of the hill and rode down on sledges, ending at the bridge below. After, we roasted marshmallows and wieners.

In Morgansville there was a swamp behind Dunn's house that froze over in Winter, we used to attempt to play hockey and learn how to skate on the ice. Most of us were poor and couldn't afford skates, so we used our worn-out shoes with paper inside to cover the holes in the soles.

One last memory, for my sake, not yours. Was the old Black Diamond Theater, taken over by Mrs. Turk. The goal was to sit in the only green painted seat in the theater. This was in the first row on the right side aisle. The cost was 10 cents and we all ran for that seat. There were no toilets in those days, and as a child, you had to ask Mrs. Turk for permission to go outside behind the theater to use the bushes. I recall so well as the film was about to begin, how Mrs. Turk would walk down the aisle to hand-open the curtains. The news was the first order of business, we would all duck as huge binoculars appeared on the screen. In those days, the ladies sat on the left side, and the men on the right side. The "biggies" in town sat on the steps leading to the projection booth. The name we had in those days for the steps is not today, PC, people will know what I mean.

I have many remembrances of my childhood in Morganville, and I will always treasure those days. The sound of rain on the roof still excites me and brings back fond memories here in Los Angeles.

Many thanks to Paul Kravagna for his story.... and my apologies for the delay in getting it in the newsletter.

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Juanita Watts recently delivered to the museum an old gas iron which was given to her by her brother-in-law Fred O,Neal . Thanks to both of you for the donation.

.....  
A meeting was held here at the museum on June 24th by the Association of King County Historical Organizations. Approximately 55 people attended. Everyone seemed to enjoy our museum as we do have features which are unique to Black Diamond. Guest speaker for the day was Victor Evans who told his life story including his early days in Black Diamond. He was born here and many of you may remember him. Rose Guidetti, his cousin , was pleasantly surprised to find that Vic was the speaker for the day.

It was nice have the group visit us and we look forward to their return.

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JUNK.....That which lays around for years and then you give away two weeks before you need it. as quoted by Charlie Corlett

NEEDED A MANNEQUIN..... DOES ANYONE KNOW WHERE WE COULD FIND ONE ?

#### VIDEO PROGRAM

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Filming has begun on the video. The fourth grade class lead by Mrs. Weinbrecht has been to the Museum and the camera was also taken to their classroom for shooting . The children came up with some interesting questions. More shots are to be taken and then the editing will be done. We need to get a small television which has the connections for a VCR so that we can see what progress is being made. We have the splicer and editing machine but it would be much nicer on a tv screen. Donations are always welcome.

This project will move slowly as we are all learning as we go but once on the road , we will go full speed ahead. Because of the constraints of using the camera we were originally scheduled for, we decided to purchase our own equipment. Our board members are learning to operate the equipment and once on line we will be able to continue to make as many videos as we would like and in our own time frame. Hopefully this will work out to the best intrests of all concerned.

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The Thursday Crew  
by Ann Steiert

The "Thursday Crew" has been unfortunate enough to have lost some special members these past few months. First it was Gerald Bainton. At Christmas time a special man who had worked on the Depot project since it began and who we all miss very much left us and that was Ted Barner. His wife Lucille passed away just a couple of months ago. The latest worker to leave us is Martin Moore. He worked with us in the early stages of the Museum and after about 15 years had to quit because of his health. He passed away last week.

AA

We welcome Joe Kuzaro back for the summer. He is our snow bird who flies south in the winter but is so good to return to help us each summer.

The Thursday crew could use additional help any time. Even when there is no major project going, there is always regular maintenance work to do.

Just now they are building a video room in the basement to have an area in which work can be done at anytime on the videos. This will be an area which can be secured when no one is working in it.

Carl, Ann, Bob, Charlie, Don, and Bob are the regulars and they do a great job!

AA

COOKBOOK . HISTORY BOOK COOKBOOK

DID YOU FORGET TO SEND YOUR RECIPE ? WITH OR WITHOUT A PICTURE OR STORY? I DID NOT HEAR FROM VERY MANY OF YOU. WE CANNOT DO A GREAT COOKBOOK IF YOU DO NOT GIVE ME THE INFORMATION TO PUT INTO ONE.

Many thanks to those who did respond !!!!!!!!!!!

Please send a favorite recipe to us and a little history to go with it would be wonderful. It would be such fun to have a book which told where the recipe came from and a little bit about how or why it was used . Old country recipes would be most welcome. If we do not get enough we will have to drop the idea of a book. Please send your favorite to:

VIVIAN BAINTON  
32601 ABRAMS AVE.  
BLACK DIAMOND, WA 98010

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TOGETHERNESS  
by Ann Steiert

During the past twenty years there have been many persons who have gone through the Museum. Many of them are people who lived in Black Diamond in it's early days or are offspring of early settlers. We are delighted to welcome them and invariably after some conversation the fact that the town ailsways had such a sense of Family about it comes out. Everyone knew one another and shared their lives with them. Conversations held recently with people who lived here made us all think of the things that went into creating that atmoshpere.

The subject of the Loafing Rail ..... which stood in the area between the Saloon and where the Jail is now. It was a large rail made out of posts like the telephone poles. It was sitting on small posts and made a great place to sit and visit, It was a gathering place for miners waiting to go to work.

Town happenings were discussed and it was a place where all the men had a chance to really get acquainted. It was mostly a male dominatearea. Once in a while men would settle a problem with a fight. Car salesmen liked to stop and show off their cars. Most mothers cautioned their daughters to walk on the opposite side of the road when going to the Company Store. There was no discrimination at all; everyone talked to everyone else.

There were only two churches in town at first. The congregational was located in the area where the fires station now stands. St. Barbara's first church is still standing. There were several Fraternal Lodges where many people spent time and this in general added to the feeling of Family.

Those of us who lived in those days really miss the feeling of belonging . We are all hoping that we can get this same feeling back with the many nice new people who are moving into our town.

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Thanks once again to Ann for her contribution. I'm sure this reminds many of you of some of the things from your Black Diamond past. Why not share it with us? Just a line or two about the Loafing rail, the Show Hall, the Saloon, the Ball field, the

Company Store, the School , or a special activity. It makes for interesting reading, especially for those who were not there, it brings history to life. For those who were there it brings back a happy memory. Sharing is good for everyone!!!!!!

The Thursday Crew has been going thru some of the boxes in storage and I found a few articles on the Labor Day festivities from some years ago , here is one article :

#### BLACK DIAMOND PREPARING FOR BIG LABOR DAY CELEBRATION

Thursday, September 2, 1948

Final preparations are now being made for a big Black Diamond weekend. Festivities will begin Saturday night with a Hard Times Dance at the Black Diamond gymnasium. Bill Bainton's Orchestra will furnish the music. On Sunday, a baseball game between the Old Timers and the Youngsters will start off the program at noon, followed by a soccer game between the Vancouver, B.C. All-Stars and the Black Diamond Soccer Club at 2:30 pm. After the soccer game the visiting team will be entertained at Lake 12. There will also be a Bacci Ball contest on Sunday.

The Kiddies Parade will start at 10:00 am. Monday morning. All entrants must be at the Presbyterian Church by 9:30 am. from whence the parade will begin. Following the parade the crowning of the queen will take place, after which the beard growing contest will be judged. There will be races for the youngsters, and ice cream, candy, and pop will be given to all youngsters free of charge.

A baseball game between Enumclaw and Black Diamond will start at 2:30 pm. and after the ball game more races for the children. A free show will be given for all the children at 6:30 pm. Another dance at 9:00 pm. at the gymnasium will climax the weekend program. Bill Bainton's Orchestra will also furnish the music for this dance.

Miss Betty Malgarini was elected the Queen to rule over the festivities and her two princesses will be the Misses Margaret Henry and Marie Merlini. Mr. Glen Fredericksen will be the master of ceremonies for the day.

As with most of the articles from newspapers this one is from the Enumclaw Courier Herald.

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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 museum? Why not give it a try?

## Enumclaw License Agency

1612 Cole Street  
ENUMCLAW, WASHINGTON 98022  
(360) 825-2711  
FAX (360) 825-2997

Ona L. Smith

Don F. Smith