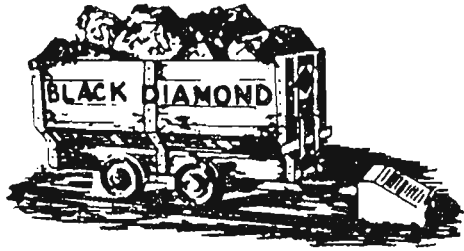


Black Diamond Historical Society



# Newsletter

Fall 1997 Issue 4 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

\*\*\*\*\*

## PALMER COKING COAL CO.



RED CINDERS  
GRAVEL  
• WASHED  
• CRUSHED  
TOP SOIL  
FIREWOOD

PO Box 10 • 31407 Hwy 169  
Black Diamond, WA 98010

360-886-2841 • 206-432-4700  
FAX 206-432-3883

*Call for prices  
U-Haul or We Deliver*

In Memorium

Lucille Barner ..... Longtime resident.

Carl Falk ..... Husband of Betty, operations manager for Palmer Coking  
Coal.

Modesto Banchero ..... Born and raised in Black Diamond.

Otto Mattson ..... Black Diamond coal miner.

Joanne Wieltschnig ..... Former resident.

Thomas Spaight ..... Long time resident who was born in Black Diamond.

Richard Wetton ..... Raised in Black Diamond, his father was a coal miner.

Mary Scatena ..... Born and raised in Black Diamond.

Michael Zumer ..... Born in Black Diamond, raised in Ravensdale.

December 7, 1997 Membership Meeting  
1 P.M. at the Museum

Come meet some old friends and bring some new ones.

**Black Diamond Automotive**

32607 - 3rd Ave.

**Jim Kemmer - Darwin Glaser**

Custom Exhaust

Complete Auto Repair

Tires - Batteries

Arc & Gas Welding

**886-2800**

Now and Then  
by Ann Steiert

I recently watched Eileen Zemek when she brought the "Thursday Crew" their lunch. It was such a good feeling to recall that I have known her since the day she was born.

When I was a small girl about 10 years of age, the Kelly family lived next door to us. Their house was the one now owned by Alice Norton and we had a house on her now vacant lot next door.

There were quite a few children in the neighborhood. My best friends were Anne Eddy and Muriel Wing (Evans).

We had heard the grown-ups talk about the fact that Mrs. Kelly was going to have a baby, at first we just listened to them talk about the event. As time went on we noticed a change in Mrs. Kelly and our curiosity was aroused. One day as the time got closer we were playing together in our yard. The question on hand was .... How did the baby get inside it's mother? After some speculation Muriel said, "I'm going home and ask my Auntie Deb (Mrs. Jenkins). She took off and after some time she returned; She had been crying. "Well, what did she say?" we asked. "I asked her where do they come from? She told me to stop talking dirty and gave me a slap on the head"

Needless to say the children in this time are much more learned !!!!!!!  
That was the day Eileen was born.

DEADLINE FOR COOK BOOK ENTRIES IS FAST APPROACHING

We are still waiting for you to send those recipes. If you have a special story to go with it or a picture that would be great. Please do not hesitate because you think some one else may send a favorite from the old days and it would just be a duplicate. That is not happening. What we have are all different, but we need lots more. It takes quite a few to fill a book and to make it interesting. Send your entry to:

Vivian Bainton

32601 Abrams Ave Black Diamond, WA 98010



## BLACK DIAMOND MUSEUM

While making plans for the State's Bicentennial Celebration, a group of Black Diamond residents wanted to do something for the town. They felt the history of the area should be preserved. This was the start of the Black Diamond Historical Society.

The new Historical Society used a room at the south end of the Railroad Depot for a museum. The Bicentennial was a success and the museum had a lot of visitors. In the days following items for display and preservation were donated. This required more space and ending up filling the entire depot. The building was run down and needed a lot of "tender loving care".

This Historical Society applied to King County for Historic Status for the Railroad Depot. The application was accepted which put the museum in line for county restoration grants. A grant request was sent in to receive funds to replace the platform. Not knowing that work on a project could not start before the grant was approved, the work party started to replace the platform. As a result the grant was lost. The work was completed by donations of cash and material.

A few years later when the tin roof began leaking, another grant was applied for and received. The tin was removed and replaced with cedar shingles by a roofing contractor as required by the grant. A new heating system was needed. Another grant was requested and a contractor was hired to install a 5-ton electric heat pump.

As display items continued to flow in, the growing museum needed more space. The museum board decided to request another grant for an addition to the depot. The request was approved and a volunteer crew started to work on the Commission Avenue side, south end of the building. Excavation under the building for a lower floor was done with the help of the City backhoe, dump truck, and men as available. This addition was 16' x 16' on the main floor and 11' x 28' on the lower floor. The concrete floor and block wall was done by contract. The volunteers completed the rest of the addition. This area now houses the barbershop, school room and country kitchen, with basement below.

The next project was to replace the track by the platform. It had been gone for many years. To raise money for this, the museum sold railroad ties for \$10. A number on the ties identified each purchaser. The Coal Company donated the rails and other material needed.

The Snoqualmie Railroad Museum was contacted to donate or sell a railcar to the museum for the track. They approved the purchase of a caboose for \$600. Bill Bremmeyer loaned the use of a truck and lowboy for the car body to be moved to Black Diamond. TRM loaned the use of a truck for the wheels. Puget Power loaned a crane to unload the car onto the track at the museum location.

A grant was applied for to rebuild the caboose. As old wood was removed, it became apparent that major repairs were needed. All the wood had rotten and needed to be replaced. It was discovered that the car had been built new in Renton at Pacific Car. With the car number, Howard Botts found the original drawings in Pacific Car's files. Using these drawing the volunteers were able to fully restore the caboose from the wheels up. The Tacoma High School wood class made windows, doors, benches and cut the curved roof parts.

The museum was still expanding and additional space was needed. A grant for another addition was received. This new addition was 41' long by 24' wide on the main floor, and 41' long by 35' wide on the lower floor. The City crew helped in digging out under the building. The concrete work and black laying was contracted out. Volunteers completed the rest of the construction. This area now houses the lecture room and basement below.

The existing heat pumps were not large enough to heat the addition, and were very expensive to operate. Gas was now available on Railroad Avenue and would be less expensive to run. It was decided to change to a gas furnace. The change over to gas from electric would cost less than another electric heat pump. Along with this second addition a full in-house vacuum system was installed to make cleaning easier.

Another improvement made was to replace the obsolete alarm system with an up to date electronic burglar-fire alarm system. These two items were paid for from the museum funds.

The old depot is now on a good concrete foundation, has new electric wiring to meet code, and a good roof. The water supply from the meter will be replaced when Railroad Avenue is rebuilt in 1994. The building should easily last another 100 years.

The museum has just over 7000 square feet of display area, plus the original Black Diamond Jail, two 10' x10' display buildings, an 8'x10' Fire Hose Cart House, an 8'x8' Bell Tower with the old Selleck School Bell, the railroad cabooses and 3 mine cars.

Most of the work done to make the museum what it is today was by volunteers. A work crew of 4 to 10 volunteers meets each Thursday from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Thanks must be given to the ladies who brought in lunch for the workers. There was never a bad meal. There are no specialists in the work crew...just a good gang with common sense. The town of Black Diamond has a lasting memorial to their hundreds of hours of fun.

There are also many "Docents" who spend their free time helping to keep the museum open to the public on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. The names of all the volunteers, docents, companies donating time equipment, and materials, all of which put the museum together are far too numerous to mention.

The Historical Society has one person who must be remembered by name, Ann Steiert who is the maid/housekeeper. She faithfully does 99% of all the cleaning of the artifacts and building. She also puts out the 6-Page Historical Society Newsletter, answers the letters received, is secretary at meetings, and many other odd jobs.

Carl and Ann Steiert have also spent numerous hours taking tour groups and school children through the museum, and putting on slide shows at schools and for other organizations. The museum is known throughout the area as a homey-family-friendly museum and is a "must to see".

In the coming years, the Historical Society will need more people to take over the duties of operating the museum, including maintenance. The existing members are getting on in age and will not be able to continue indefinitely.

The City can not let the museum fall by the wayside. It has become one of the major attractions in the area and is as well known as the Black Diamond Bakery. One solution may be to hire a manager/historian as the cities of Auburn and Renton have done.

### **A Few Facts on the Financial / Operational side of the Museum**

- The membership is 300+
- Average number of visitors per year for the least 5 years – 10,000+ (visitors signing the guest book are from countries all over the world)
- Total grants received to date (1990) - \$72,000
- Total construction costs to date - \$190,000
- Cash donations received (yearly average) - \$4000-\$5000
- Docent volunteer hours to date (based on 11 years of operation) – 4500+
- Volunteer work party man hours to date – 35,000+

### **1997 Update:**

- Vivian Bainton now writes the newsletter
- Nadia now helps Ann with museum cleaning
- Grants since 1990 - \$68,500 for video production, collections management, walking tour and restoration of the John Davies Candy Store

### **Enumclaw License Agency**

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

*Ona L. Smith*

*Don F. Smith*

BLACK DIAMOND  
NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET  
& SMOKE HOUSE

Ron & Sharon

Store Hours  
Monday thru Saturday  
7 am to 9:30 pm  
Sunday  
7 am to 9 pm

Phone 886-2611



## Carl Gustav Falk 1920-1997

*A native of Sweden, Carl was born in the village of S. Lindberg in Dalarna parish on March 18, 1920. The oldest child of August and Elin Falk, Carl and his sister Anna came with the family to the Enumclaw area in 1927. Known as Charlie throughout his school years, he was an outstanding student at EHS and the University of Washington. He married his high school sweetheart, Betty Morris, in December, 1942. Carl's work at Boeing kept him out of the service building B-17's. In 1947, Carl began his lifetime career working in varied capacities for Palmer Coking Coal Company of Black Diamond, WA. He loved the challenge of exercising his considerable engineering skills and inventiveness in contributing to the family business. He retired as Operations Manager for Palmer on June 30, 1981. His retirement years were filled with activities he loved: travel with Betty all over the world, and many visits to Sweden where, after 45 years, he came to know his family in Dalarna. Betty and Carl enjoyed many activities with Skandia Folkdance Society. Carl thoroughly enjoyed people and cheerfully gave of his time and talents to providing a home for two foreign exchange students from Germany and Argentina. He lovingly provided time and support for his own four daughters and son by building wonderful backyard play equipment, going on camping trips, serving as a 4-H club leader for many years. His daughter Nancy's love of horses led Carl and Betty into an interesting involvement with the Morgan Horse Association. It gave him great pride to serve as an elections worker; he was a proud American. He and Betty faithfully followed the Huskies, traveling to games for years and enjoying the trips and victories in Pasadena. A perfect fall Saturday for him would include listening to classical music while driving in to Husky stadium and coming home after a hotly contested victory. Though he loved the Huskies and celebrated their victories, when the chips were down Carl was known to exclaim, "It's just a game the boys play after school." In the early 1960's, one of his greatest pleasures was the hands-on construction of the family home in Renton. Carl was a practical man, talented at design, and brought to fruition many handy ideas and inventions often made of discarded industrial materials. If he could imagine it, he could build it. The family has enjoyed all their lives the cabinets, bookcases, barns, leather and harness items, horse carts, the Lake Sawyer gazebo and Majstång and countless other treasures he constructed. They are grateful that his last days were at home, blessed to have supported Betty in her tender care of him and pitching in to help with nursing him in the final weeks of his life. His bravery in facing death held them together and the nobility of his spirit shone forth. He remained responsive, lucid and alert, and left this life the way he lived it, with peace and honor.*

Carl spent many hours hosting at the Museum; he is missed.



Wood Products Co., Inc.

4 CORNERS

(206) 432-1222

WHOLESALE      RETAIL

Black Diamond Historical Society  
Box 232 Black Diamond, WA 98010



Address Correction Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BLACK DIAMOND, WA  
PERMIT NO. 19