

Black Diamond Historical Society



Newsletter

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USPS PERMIT #19

Museum located at 32627 Railroad Ave.
Black Diamond WA 98010

P O Box 232

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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THE FRANZ FAMILY
by Dorothy Corlett

The Franz family came to Black Diamond in Nov. 1930, living at Claymine first and then the Green River Gorge area. We were jokingly called the "Goat Girls or Boys", as we had a large goat herd! That usually caused a few skirmishes with the other kids whenever we thought they were not joking! During the depression years we lived in several small towns in the area before moving to Black Diamond.

We had three boys and four girls; the youngest girl, Betty, was born in Black Diamond. She now lives in Orinda, CA, she and her husband have three children. Betty was a grade school teacher in California. Bob, the youngest Franz, is a retired machinist. He and his wife have five children, they live on Whidbey Island. Margaret lives in Roy, Utah; she and her husband have three children. Louise is a widow and lives in Kenndale; she has two children. Albert lives in Enumclaw; he and his wife have two children. Arthur, the oldest, did not survive World War II. His name is engraved on the new memorial plaque in Enumclaw. Although he has been gone since 1945, we all still feel his nearness.

I am Dorothy, the next to the oldest. I was born in Riverton, which is now within the Seattle city limits. I graduated from Black Diamond High School in 1939.

After several years of working in Seattle I returned to the local area and married Charles. We returned to Black Diamond in 1946. We have three children. Our oldest, Betty Luke, lives in Black Diamond. She and her husband Bill are charter members of the B.D. Historical Society as are we. They have four children. After raising them, Betty went back to school and is a jeweler. She and Bill are active in Mineralogical Societies. Our son Bob is an attorney and has his office in Cheney, WA. He and his wife have three children and one grandchild...Our first Great grandchild!! Our youngest son Charles (Chub) is in electronics. He and his wife live in Wisconsin and have four boys and one grandchild (our second great grandchild). So I guess we "haven't missed the boat" with all these kids!

All our children grew up in Black Diamond and went to school here. They still have friends here that they never forget.

My husband, Charley, a 31 year retiree of Weyerhaeuser, is really active with the Museum. He grew up in Kansas and Eastern Washington. He really found his "niche" in the museum and practically lives for it!! He always was quiet and sort of a loner, and I thank the folks at the Museum for getting him "put of his shell". He is a real HAM whenever he demonstrates his mine exhibit. It took him years to construct it. His hobby is electronics. Now he is busy helping to video-tape and photograph for the museum. They are putting everything on tape to preserve it.

You've got to visit the Museum to see everything that is there! We have people from around the world who say they haven't seen anything like it. Please come and visit us.

My sisters and brothers all say Black Diamond was a great place to grow up. They especially enjoyed the movies twice a week, the sports, and the surrounding area of lakes, rivers, and woods, which are fast disappearing! Progress, I guess.

Dorothy Franz Corlett

A note from the editor ... Both Dorothy and Charlie are active at the museum, serving as hosts on weekends as well as doing those chores which arise from time to time. Charlie is always at the museum on Thursdays as a member of the Thursday Crew. They are very much appreciated!!!

GREEN RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE. ENUMCLAW BRANCH

Black Diamond: Mining The Memories

Green River Community College will be offering this class at the Enumclaw Branch on May 8, 1998 from 7 to 9pm.

The instructor will be Don Mason with the assistance of Carl Steiert.

The following is taken from the college paper:

"Black Diamond is one of the few surviving coal towns that once dotted the Cascade foothills. Enjoy the evening listening to fascinating stories from four experts and see slides of Black Diamond's coal-mining hey-day. What innovative ways were used by miners to avoid danger? What was it like to raise a family in a coal-mining town? Why did the coal companies leave the area? "

No tuition. Fee \$10.00 Call the college for more information.

DARK AS A DUNGEON

Composed By: Merle Travis - 1947

Sung By: Tennessee Ernie Ford.

Come listen you fellers, so young and so fine,
And seek not your fortune in the dark, dreary mine.
It'll form as a habit and seep in your soul,
Till the stream of your blood is as black as the coal.

Chorus:

It's dark as a dungeon and damp as the dew,
Where dangers are doubled and pleasures are few.
Where the rain never falls and the sun never shines,
It's dark as a dungeon way down in the mines.

It's many a man I have know in my day,
Who lived just to labor his young life away.
Where the demons of death often come by surprise,
One fall of the slate and you're buried alive.

Repeat Chorus:

I hope when I'm gone and the ages shall roll,
My body will blacken and turn into coal.
I'll look from the door of my heavenly home,
And pity the miner diggin' my bones.

Repeat Chorus:

Submitted by Charles Corlett

SPRING CLEAN-UP TIME...AND WE NEED YOUR HELP' PLEASE !!!

We've set Saturday May 16 from 9am to noon as the date and time.
Our out buildings especially need some good old scrubbing and
cleaning in general. Bring your buckets, rags, cleaners (like
409, windex, simple green) ceiling dusters, brooms of all kinds,
and even your shop vacs. EVERYONE WELCOME!!!

The clean up will be a prelude to our celebration.
June 6 is birthday time again. It's the date that commemerates the
journey by the Black Diamond Coal Co from California to Black
Diamond to search for the coal they had heard about.

COME JOIN US ON JUNE 6 FROM 10am to 4pm

There will be a raffle, any ideas?

"The Survivors"
For All Born Before 1935

We are survivors! Consider the changes we have witnessed:
 We were born before television, before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, Frisbees and the pill.

We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laserbeams, and ball-point pens; before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, drip-dry clothes and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together...and we wore our underwear on the inside... How quaint can you be?!

In our time, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of." Bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens. Designer jeans, were scheming girls named "Jean" or "Jeannie" and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with our cousins.

We thought fast food was what you ate during lent and outer space was the open area behind the drive-in theater.

We were before house husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriages. We were before day care centers, group therapy and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt and guys wearing earrings.

For us, "time-sharing" meant togetherness- not computers or condominiums; a "chip" meant a piece of wood; hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word.

In 1940, "Made in Japan" meant junk, and the term "Making out" referred to how you did on your exam. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of.

We hit the scene when there were 5 and 10cent stores. Dairy Queens sold ice cream cones for a nickle or a dime.

For one nickèl you could ride a street car, make a phone call, buy a Pepsi or enough stamps to mail one letter and two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600, but who could afford one; a pity ,too, because gas was 11 cents a gallon.

In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mowed, coke was a cold drink, and pot was something you cooked in. Rock music was a Grandma's lullaby, and AIDS were helpers in the principal's office or a candy appetite suppressant.

We were certainly not before the differences in the sexes was discovered but we were surly before the sex change SURVIVED! We made do with what we had. And, we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think you needed a husband to have a baby!

No wonder we are so confused, and there is a generation gap today! But we have survived! What better reason to celebrate!

From a California Paper

MEMORIALS

Charles "Chick" Thompson ... Irene Thompson

Genevieve "Babe" Rossi ... Lynda Maks, Carl & Ann Steiert

Charles Freeman ... Margaret Vernarelli, Carl & Ann Steiert

Naomi Barnes ... Carl & Ann Steiert

Edwin Konoske ... Rosemary Konoske

DONATIONS

John G Parker recently brought in a bronze sculpture of a blacksmith at his anvil, it stands 24" high and is beautiful.

It belonged to his grandfather, John S Parker whose trade was setting up furniture making machinery for Carmons in Tacoma. Circa 1920.

ADVANTAGES OF COAL OVER OIL

Toward the end of every winter, oil burner salesmen become very active in pressing their wares on the public. Their arguments against coal heat are understood because everyone is familiar with furnaces. But the facts against oil heat are not mentioned, or hastily passed over.

Using oil for home heating involves the use of complicated machinery--- called oil burners --- and presents problems which are serious and not apparent at first glance.

1. Oil does not burn. It explodes in a series of continuous tiny explosions. This noise cannot be overcome.
2. There are over 2,200 different oil machines on the market today. How many were in business five years ago or will be in business five years hence?
3. Oil burners, complete with outside storage tanks, pipes, all fittings, etc. cost from \$600 to \$1,000 when ready for use. The average life is about five years. Interest at 7 per cent, and depreciation at 20 per cent, make a yearly charge of \$162 to \$270, in addition to the cost of the oil used.
4. Burning oil raises temperatures rapidly and cools the same way. No furnace built of cast iron or steel can stand such rapid expansion and contraction without injury. Oil heat will cut in half the life of the furnace.
5. Oil machines are neither perfect or fool-proof. They are carefully adjusted pieces of machinery that need the expert care of a mechanic when they go wrong. One burner factory "maintains 70 field men". Why maintain them and advertise it if the machine is perfect?
6. Explosions and fires from oil machines are common. The machines in the average home are a distinct fire hazard.
7. Every oil machine at times throws off a greasy soot such as formerly came from kerosene lamps. This soot floats on rain water and sticks to all toilet enamelware. It comes in open windows to soil draperies and furnishings.

One thing CAN be done to make furnace operation much easier --- and that is to put a thermostat in every home, or better yet, an Automatic Coal Burner. It is the thermostat that regulates the oil burner. It will also regulate coal. It costs but little and is well worth it in comfort and fuel saving.

High grade coal plus a good thermostat or automatic coal burner are better than any oil burner yet on the market.

This article was taken from the weekly bulletin of Pacific Coast Coal Company, Seattle, Washington, dated May 20th, 1927
We hope you enjoyed it.

The recipe book is now under way. We are sorting and reviewing your entries. This will take a little time and we then must find pictures to match at least part of the recipes. If you have a favorite photo, why not send it in? It isn't too late if you have a recipe that you think we could use; but send it now please.

There are some families that we did not hear from and it would be nice to have a greater representation for the book.

The Thursday crew is working on the video but could still use someone with expertise in that field. Volunteers welcome.

Mt. Rainier Bank has now opened a new branch in Black Diamond. It is located in the area of the Pacific Coast Coal Office.

We are happy to welcome them. It is a great treat to see the pictures which are on display there. They are from the old days in Black Diamond and the mining era. If you have not seen them, stop by and take a look.

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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

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Ona L. Smith

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