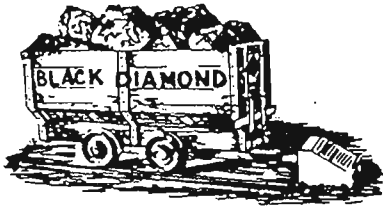


Black Diamond Historical Society



NEWSLETTER

Summer, 1998

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

WELCOME LAKE SAWYER RESIDENTS

The Black Diamond Historical Society wishes to welcome all of our new residences of Black Diamond, Washington. We are sending out this complementary newsletter to introduce you to your local museum and historical society. We look forward to meeting you and hope you visit the museum soon.

HISTORY OF BLACK DIAMOND

The townsite of Black Diamond was established due to the relocation of the Black Diamond Coal Company from Nortonville, California. An ever-increasing market for coal during the late nineteenth century prompted the company to acquire land parcels where they could establish a new company town and mine high grade coal. The company gradually relocated equipment and personnel (primarily Italian and Welsh miners) from California. The workers were housed in temporary quarters while the pain staking task of clearing the forested townsite and establishing the first mine (No. 14). Most importantly, the narrow gage railroad line was extended from Renton to the townsite so that workers and heavy mining equipment could be easily transported into Black Diamond. When the railroad line was completed in 1884, shipments to the coal dock in Seattle could commence and the miners' family members began to arrive.

In 1904, the Pacific Coast Coal Company (PCCC) acquired the entire Black Diamond mining operation and townsite. PCCC operated several coal mines and company towns within the Green River Coal District and initiated more rigid control over the Black Diamond mining operations and the town. Due to labor disputes and safety issues, in 1927, closure to the last and largest Black Diamond mine, No. 11, took place.

Between 1938 and 1939, PCCC liquidated most of their land holdings in Black Diamond and began leasing their remaining mine operations to small independent mine operators. Home owners began to upgrade, improve and personalize their homes once they could own both house and land. In 1959 PCCC sold all remaining company operations and mineral rights to Palmer Coke & Coal Company and the City of Black Diamond was legally incorporated.

(From a Survey by Kate Kraft)

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THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Our Museum is successful because of you. Without our volunteers and monetary donations, we would not be able to maintain this wonderful establishment. We want to send a special thank you to the Black Diamond Eagles Club. They put on a Buffalo Dinner that was fantastic with proceeds donated to our museum.

One thing we do need are more volunteers to assist us in the operation of the Museum. The enclosed questionnaire shows the areas in which we need help. We would also like to encourage our newest residents to share with us any history they have pertaining to the Black Diamond area.

MUSEUM FUNDING

Along with the donations referred to in our thank you message, the Museum receives funds through annual membership fees and grants. Our most recent grant is for fixed assets purchases and facility renovation. The amount of the grant is \$12,000.00. This will help with building maintenance and purchase of necessary equipment for our lecture hall. Our membership fees are \$5.00 per individual and \$7.00 per family.

Another form of income is from the sale of our Book, T-shirts, and general sale items found in our entry to the Museum.

MISSING YOU

This is my first attempt at this newsletter so let me apologize in advance for anything I might overlook. Vivian Bainton has done these letters for the last several years and has done a wonderful job. Vivian is ill right now and we miss her.

MUSEUM HOURS

Please come and visit. Our hours are:

Thursday	9:00 to 4:00
Saturday	12:00 to 3:00
Sunday	12:00 to 3:00.

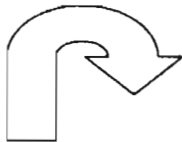
GENERAL MEETING

We wish to invite everyone to a general meeting that will be held August 9, 1998 at 1:00 p.m. in the Showplace.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you might consider being a volunteer please fill out the enclosed form and send to us or better yet come by and see us.

Name _____ Phone: Days _____
Address _____ Eves _____



Positions needing volunteers:

Board Members _____
Welcome guests at main door _____
Newsletter _____
Maintenance _____
Slave Labor _____
Lunches _____

Fill Vacant Offices _____
Guide _____
Writing and Mailing _____
Building and Equipment _____
Any talent you may have _____
Thursdays _____

BLACK DIAMOND
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& SMOKE HOUSE

Ron & Sharon

Store Hours
Monday thru Saturday
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WHOLESALE

RETAIL

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, plastics, contact lenses, Frisbees and the pill.

We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laserbeams, and ball-point pens; before pantyhose, dishwashers, cloths dryers, drip-dry cloths 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 househusbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriages. We were before daycare 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. Making out meant how well you did on your exams. Pizza, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of.

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

For a nickel you could ride a streetcar, make a phone call, buy a Pepsi or enough atoms to mail one letter and two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600.00, 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.

We were certainly not before the differences in the sexes was discovered but we were surely 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)