



Newsletter

Spring (J,F,M) 1999
Vol. XXIII, Issue 1

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The Museum is located at:

32627 Railroad Ave.
Black Diamond, Washington

Museum Hours:

Thursday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Saturday Noon - 3:00 p.m.
Sunday Noon - 3:00 p.m.

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

Museum Report

What Your Museum did in 1998
By Bob Eaton

As always the Thursday work crew completed a few more projects that seem to come up as each year progresses.

The video VCR room was enlarged to accommodate new equipment that was purchased to process film to tape. A 60 inch TV Monitor was purchased to view VCR tapes which were made by transferring slide film to tapes. More to be done in 1999.

Purchased a color copier/scanner/printer for use with the computer, and a VCR for use with 60" TV

Purchased 1500 copies third printing of Mining the Memories. Have you bought yours

yet? They go out fast.

Using the Museums cam-corder, Charlie Corlett filmed old timers

who got library cards way back when the Black Diamond Library was organized. He also filmed the "Winter Story Times" stories, songs, games, and crafts for preschoolers at the Library.

These two items are in preparation of producing the history of The Black Diamond Library.

On the membership side- The museum gained a few new members but also lost a few old timers.

The Museum received a few more items to add to the displays: a full horse harness for wagon or plough pulling, another old washing machine, an ironing machine, old telephone booth used at Lester, miscellaneous small tools, etc.

Michelle Ferry completed, by contrast, two travelling historic item kits and descriptive books for use by schools. Also she completed a Docents Training Manual.

During Museum Month in the Smith Tower Historic Preservation display Gallery, the Museum had a display of 12 large historic pictures of Black Diamond on the wall and an assortment of mining artifacts on a table for the entire month.



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Become a Member
Of the

Black Diamond Historical Society

You are cordially invited to visit, to join



Membership Fees:

Personal, Annual	\$ 5.00
Family, Annual	\$ 7.00
Business, Annual	\$15.00
Lifetime	\$50.00

Payable to:

Black Diamond Historical Society
 P.O. Box 232
 Black Diamond, WA 98010-0232

Society Officers:

- President: Bob Eaton
- Vice-President: Don Botts
- Sec./Treas: Linda Ready
- Trustees: Carl Steiert
 Ann Steiert
 Evan Morris
 Don Mason
 (Open)
 (Open)
 (Open)

Volunteers: (Listed on Page 3)

- Docents
- Thursday Crew
- Thursday Cooks

- Newsletter Bill Luke
- Cookbook Betty Luke

The *Black Diamond Historical Society Newsletter* is published by and for members of the Black Diamond Historical Society, a Non-profit organization.

Bill Luke, Editor
 P.O. Box 237
 Black Diamond, WA 98010-0237
 360-886-2331

Society Report:

The Winter meeting was held on Sunday, February 28, 1999, at 1:00 p.m. This meeting had almost no attendees! This is your Society. All members (and non-members, too) are invited, and urged to attend. The few remaining hard workers cannot be expected to do the work and conduct the business forever.

The meeting was attended by President, Bob Eaton; Secretary/Treasurer, Linda Ready; Trustees Carl and Ann Steiert and Don Mason; members Dorothy Corlett and Bill and Betty Luke, and visitors, Olga and Evie Swann.

President Bob discussed progress

that is being made on various grants, work that has been accomplished during the past year by the Thursday crew, and work to be done during the coming year.

Other items: Cookbook project still active, hope to complete and print before Christmas; need of Trustees, newsletter editor; and set meeting dates.

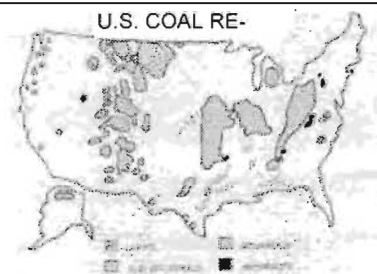
The Spring meeting will be held at the Museum on Sunday, June 13, 1999 at 1:00 p.m. These meetings are for the Members of the *Black Diamond Historical Society*. Members are invited to find out what has been going on in your Society, and to bring suggestions, contributions, and your ideas for the good of the



Editor's Column

By Bill Luke

"So, what happens if I volunteer?", you may ask. Betty and I did, and we found out. After many years, we decided that we would offer some assistance to "our" Museum. We are Charter/Lifetime members. Betty's Dad, Charlie Corlett, is well known to readers of the *BDHS Newsletter* - he has been a member of the "Thursday crew" for many



years. We have made our home in Black Diamond since 1964 (Betty is a life-long resident), raised our family here, and now we have finally volunteered to help at the Museum.

I thought I was just getting into some arranging and setting up of the exhibits, a little carpentry and helping Charlie with the video. Then! It's time to get the quarterly Newsletter out! Well, Linda is busy, and I have experience in editing newsletters, understand the computer a little, and so here I am.

The Museum has a computer and a copier/scanner/printer that makes it possible to publish a quality newsletter. This is the first attempt at



Photo by Dorothy Corlett

Betty and Bill Luke

(Continued on page 4)

- - - - Volunteers - - - -

Docents

Coordinator: Don Botts

Host/Hostess:

- Don Botts
- Mary Lou Bovee
- Mary Chilcott
- Charlie & Dorothy Corlett
- Florence Garrett
- Ethel Duncan
- Donna Gouchenour
- Betty Luke
- Don Mason
- Carl & Ann Steiert

We have one lady who travels many miles to be a hostess at our museum. She lives north of Seattle near the King-Snohomish County line. Her name is **Mary Lou Bovee** and she says she enjoys very much coming here to be a part of the Museum staff. The Museum appreciates her efforts very much and wish there were more volunteers like her.

(Contributed by Dorothy Corlett)

Visitors:

(In addition to local visitors from the surrounding Puget Sound area) Since the first of the year, people have visited the Museum from:
Deft, The Netherlands
Cincinnati, Ohio
Thousand Lakes, California
Friends Wood, Texas
Woodburn, Oregon
Alingsas, Sweden
Iowa
Mountain Home, Idaho
Guy, Arkansas
Munich, Germany
Honolulu, Hawaii
Walnut, California
Oldsma, Florida
Logan Lake, British Columbia
Wainae, Hawaii
Port Washington, New York

Monthly Totals:

Jan. 231
Feb. - 215
Mar. - 392

Thursday Cre

Coordinator: Bob Eaton

Crew:

- Don Botts
- Bob Burdick *
- Charlie Corlett
- Bob Eaton
- Betty Luke
- Bill Luke
- Don Mason
- Ann Steiert
- Carl Steiert

(- See Page 7. Bob volunteers for more than just the Museum.)*



Thursday Cooks

Coordinator: Beth VanBuskirk

Cooks:

- Marlene Bortleson
- Ethel Duncan
- Harriette Rossi
- Charlene Birklid
- Eileen Zumek
- Betty Luke
- Nancy Mead
- Evelyn Dal Santo
- Jill Sena
- Rosemary Kanoske
- Beth Deady
- Linda Maks

I believe all of these ladies have provided lunch for the crew since work parties began - with the exception of a couple of "snowbirds". They are available, and we work the schedule around to accommodate their travels.

If all goes well they serve about every 8 weeks. They enjoy doing it, as the men are very appreciative.
(By Beth VanBuskirk)

-- Memorial Donations --

Note: Names are posted on the Memorial Board in the Museum

Memorial in the Name of:

Vivian Bainton

Frank Zumek, Jr.
Lennie Witt

Donation made by:

Mr. And Mrs. Robert Eaton
Rose Jackson
John Niemczyk
Barbara Wilson
Mr. And Mrs. Joseph DalSanto
Frank Grlurich
Palmer Coking and Coal
Hank Barnes
Mr. And Mrs. Charles Corlett
(and cash donations that left no name)
Mr. And Mrs. Robert Eaton
Sandra and Richard Oviedo



Photo by Dorothy Corlett

Betty Luke, Organizing the Files

"What is this, and what do I do with it"? That question has been asked a number of times during the past two months by Betty Luke, who has taken on the task of sorting out the accumulation of paperwork that has piled up in the museum office over the years. Her Thursdays at the museum, plus a few days of some weekends, have been spent organizing the office file cabinets which involves asking many questions of Ann Steiert and Bob Eaton.

Betty commented, "When this job is under control and a workable filing system formulated and in use, I get to start in the archives room downstairs! There are many wonderful documents and other things of historical value here that have been collected over the years. Their value is somewhat diminished if we can't find them when they're needed".

(Continued from page 2)
 setting up a new format.

We would like to receive some informative contributions from long-time Black Diamond residents whether still living here or out of town. Several of you have written Letters to the Editor over the years stating that you receive and enjoy reading the *Black Diamond Historical Society Newsletter*. Please let us know what you want to see in your newsletter. Hopefully, we will come up with a lot of interesting photos, stories, and historic facts about Black Diamond. I especially invite Letters to the Editor; and would like to know, "Where are they now?" Recent issues had such articles and they are interesting to our members.

In Memoriam

The *Black Diamond Historical Society* offers condolences to the family and friends of:

Vivian Bainton, Mother of Jerry, Lynn, Rich and Maralyn. Vivian was active in Black Diamond with Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Little League Baseball and Black Diamond Labor Day celebration while her children were growing up. She was the recipient of the Golden Acorn award for her work with the PTA. She also served as the Mayor of Black Diamond for two terms.

Recently, Vivian was the Editor of the BDHS Newsletter, chaired the Cookbook Committee, and was an active volunteer in many ways. Her husband, Gerald, another great helper at the Museum, preceded her in death in 1996. Both are missed by all of us at the Museum!

Frances Chilcott, Mother-in-law of Mary Chilcott, who is an active volunteer at the Museum. Mrs. Chilcott was a long-time resident of Black Diamond. (See article on page 5 —>)

Please send notices to the Editor so that we may extend sympathies from the Museum, and that we may inform our members and readers.

Help Wanted

- If you can:
- Greet visitors
 - Office help
 - Cook lunches
 - Carpentry
 - Other things

*Come to the Museum
 Offer to help.*

What are Volunteers?

Volunteers are like Ford-
 They have a better idea.

Volunteers are like Coke,
 They're the real thing.

Volunteers are like Pan Am,
 They make the going great.

Volunteers are like Dial Soap,
 They care more, don't you wish everybody did?

Volunteers are like VO-5 Hair Spray,
 They hold up in all kinds of weather.

Volunteers are like Hallmark Cards,
 They care enough to give the very best.

Volunteers are like Standard Oil,
 You expect more and you get it.

BUT MOST OF ALL

Still going strong at one hundred and nine

English-born Frances Eva Chilcott will celebrate today at the Pioneer Home in Tacoma, where she and her 82-year-old daughter live. She is thrilled to have gotten a birthday letter from Queen Elizabeth.



LUI KIT WONG
/THE NEWS TRIBUNE

Article from the Tacoma
News Tribune, Oct. '98

Mrs. Chilcott passed away
on Jan. 9, 1999.

Frances Chilcott will celebrate with family, a cake and a lot of candles

BY TAMYRA HOWSER

She doesn't look like she's turning 109 today.

Friends agree that Frances Eva Chilcott of Tacoma has aged gracefully over the years. It's hard to believe she's just nine years short of being the oldest person in the world.

Chilcott is a small woman with a cloud of white hair, a surprisingly strong grip, alert blue eyes and a sense of humor.

She has lived through events that most people have only read about in textbooks: World War I bombings that devastated her native England, Queen Victoria's death in 1901, the gradual shift from horse-driven carriage to cars.

Her caregiver, Sandra Fox, will have a birthday party at Chilcott's care home today, which will include a large sheet cake with 109 candles - "a fire hazard," Fox joked.

Chilcott takes a bittersweet view of her birthday. She's glad to be with her daughter Phyllis, 82, her seven grandchildren and her nine great-grandchildren.

But she's sad that all other family members - her 12 brothers and sisters, her two sons, her parents and her husband - have been gone for a long time.

Chilcott was born in the same decade as the oldest known living person today, Sarah Knauss of Allentown, Pa. According to the Guinness Book of Records, Knauss is 118.

How did Chilcott manage to live so long? "Ask the good Lord why," Chilcott said with a laugh. "I really had a wonderful life."

She hasn't given up good food, often enjoying an ample portion of ham or bacon with eggs for breakfast and meat and potatoes for dinner.

"She eats all the eggs you're told not to eat," her daughter said. "Her other secret is, she's not the type to

sweat the small stuff. She's always looking at the bright side of things."

Chilcott was born Oct. 21, 1889, in Blockley, England, a village about 10 miles outside of London. It's the little things she recalls easily: the strawberry fields, the plum trees, the cows she milked and the hams drying in the farmhouse.

She also remembers the bombs that drove the entire town of Blockley to hide in the fields during World War I.

"The planes would come in real low.... They filled the sky," she said. "I remember how frightening it was. The whole town ran into the fields."

The bombs missed Chilcott's home but other houses were damaged.

Another somber memory was of the death of Queen Victoria in January 1901. The queen was special to the family: Chilcott's grandmother once received a plaque from the queen honoring her for midwife services.

Chilcott leaned forward and her eyes lit up at another memory: Her first automobile ride. It was the early 1900s, and her brother was a chauffeur for an English aristocrat. He drove his sister from Blockley to the neighboring village of Camden.

That first drive would be the start of a lifelong obsession. She drove until she turned 97, when she voluntarily surrendered her license.

She and her family lived in Canada and later California before settling in Black Diamond in South King County. After her husband died in 1975, she moved back to California to be with her daughter, Phyllis.

Chilcott and her daughter moved to Tacoma seven years ago. She moved into the Pioneer Home, an adult family care facility in town, in March. She's legally blind and wears hearing aids, but still enjoys picnics at Point Defiance Park, going to the Puyallup Fair and taking drives to Browns Point.

Fox, also from England, said Chilcott "runs circles around her."

Dressed in slacks, a flowered blouse, white sweater and sneakers, Chilcott kept mentioning her latest prized possession: a letter that arrived Monday from Queen Elizabeth wishing her a happy birthday.

When asked about her homeland, tears came to her eyes. Chilcott said she sometimes wishes she'd never left. Her love and respect for the royal family have never diminished over the years spent in America and Canada.

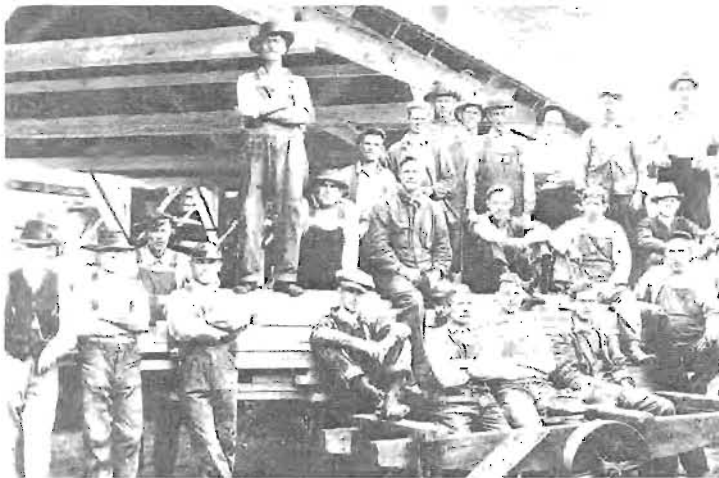
"I can't get over I got a letter from the queen," she said. "Isn't that something?"

Staff writer Tamyra Howser covers Tacoma.
Reach her at 253-597-8695
or by e-mail at tnh@p.tribnet.com

Victorious



The New Black Diamond Mine Rescue Team which took the State Trophy and First Honors at the Second Annual State Meet held in Renton on August 17th. Reading left to right: A. G. Wallace, Virgil Wilkinson, Ace Byers, Harold Lloyd, Dave Taylor and W. F. Evans (Captain). Kneeling is Ted Rouse, who acted as patient. This team also won third place in the First Aid events with a score well bunched with the leaders. (From the Cover of Pacific Coast Bulletin, Volume IX, No. 13, Seattle, Washington, September 1, 1929.)



Crew of the Lake Sawyer Lumber Mill, about 1937. The small mill was located on the north end of the lake a couple of miles northwest of Black Diamond.

Photo courtesy of Frank F. Guidetti

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Have Things Changed in 40 Years?

Voice Of The People **No Ghost Town!**

To The Post-intelligencer:

For many years from time to time there have been articles about our town and other small communities and there's a reference to them as being rural and ghost towns antiquated wide spots in the road. These articles have never set right with me and the last article was the straw that broke the camel's back!

I am not given to writing this type of letter but feel that someone should put you city folks straight about the type of characters we have in these ghost towns. It is true that in the past the miners were the major breadwinners and we have always been proud of them. With the changes taking place in our economy, the greatest majority of our men commute to Seattle. Many of these country bumpkins are in charge of some of their city cousins at Boeing.

I don't know why every reporter feels compelled to speak in such a disparaging way about small communities. We are no different than any of your suburban areas. We have a high caliber of citizens and a low rate of crime. Our kids aren't being hauled into court over a multitude of crimes as in the city. I have raised my children to be proud of their town and do not appreciate any form of low journalism. Which makes them the target of gibes from uninformed persons.

As for this town being a ghost town, that is a laugh! We don't have an empty house in town.

I know that the article was written by a man from Enumclaw so don't feel that the blame is yours. However, we feel that any publication is responsible for the articles printed in it. I hope, that this will give you some food for thought and perhaps in the future we will be dealt with more kindly.

MRS. CARL STEIERT,
Black Diamond



And, He's one of our Volunteers! We Know this Guy!

Article from the *South County Journal*, Monday, January 11, 1999

(Bob is one of our Thursday crew.)

Volunteer grandpa

**Nearly every Wednesday,
87-year-old greets and
helps students and staff**

By Linda Woo
Journal Reporter

BLACK DIAMOND – Bob Burdick's three children are grown with grandchildren of their own, but many students in South County schools love him like a grandfather.

Every Wednesday, Burdick and Schautze, his black Scottish terrier, faithfully shows up at Sawyer Woods Elementary School to greet and help students and staff members.

"Hi, Mr. B," teachers and students call out as Burdick walks down the hallway with Schautze at his side. Students heading to class reach out to give the pooch a pat.

"He's been with us for a long time," principal Dennis McClellan said. "They're an inseparable pair."

Burdick, 87, began volunteering about seven years ago at Grass Lake Elementary School, where his daughter, Diane Olson, taught kindergarten.

"I lost my wife and I was alone, so Diane said after a while, 'Dad, why don't you come and help me?'" Burdick recalled. "Whatever they wanted me to do I tried to do, then Diane retired."

When Sawyer Woods opened in 1994 and many of the students from Grass Lake, including principal McClellan, was reassigned to the new school, Burdick decided to move as well.

"I kind of knew the teachers and

I liked them," he said. "I didn't feel like going anywhere else."

Donna Morasch, an instructional assistant who works with special education students at Sawyer Woods, said Burdick has a knack for working with kids. He also fills a grandfather role for some of the students.

"We find he's really good one-on-one because he's so patient and non-threatening," she said. "He can get some students to do things we



would never be able to do no matter how hard we tried."

Student Sara Martin, 11, often reads with Burdick.

"He's really cool," Martin said. "I really look forward to seeing him."

Teacher Kelli Shaner welcomes the individualized attention Burdick can give her students.

"The kids just respond to him wonderfully and the kids love Schautze," she said. "It's a reward for the kids to play with Schautze or read with Mr. B."

Burdick says he's glad to help.

"Math help. Reading help. Mental arithmetic," he said. "It's fun. I did it with my own kids."

When he's not at Sawyer Woods, Burdick likely is working on business for the Rio Verde Kiwanis Club in Auburn.

Burdick has helped coordinate and develop an annual Christmas party for grade-schoolers in self-contained special education programs at Auburn's Chinook, Hazelwood, Lake View and Terminal Park elementary.

Six years ago, Burdick, an Auburn resident, learned about a holiday party Renton Kiwanis put on for students. He said he rounded up a couple fellow members the following year and they bought gifts for children.

A year later, the Rio Verde Kiwanis, whose members are senior citizens, decided to start their own party in Auburn.

Last December, four Kiwanis clubs of Auburn and Algona collected lunches and gifts for 82 students for the holiday party held at United Methodist Church.

Lynn Brogan, director of curriculum, instruction and staff development for Auburn schools, said teachers have used the event to teach skills: how to ride a school bus, how to greet people and act in a social setting.

"It's an opportunity to go on a field trip and it's something the kids really look forward to," she said. "Bob is so precious."

Morasch said she's glad Mr. B has stayed with the school. She'll keep him in her classroom for as long as he'd like to come.

"I wouldn't give him up," she said. "I like the presence he brings with him."

Linda Woo covers education. She can be reached at 253-872-6726 or linda.woo@southcountyjournal.com

Black Diamond Historical Society Cookbook
DEADLINE EXTENDED TO **SEPTEMBER 1, 1999**
By **Betty Luke**

About 18 months ago, I presented an idea to the Black Diamond Historical Society Board, about creating a Historical Society Cookbook which would be a fun project, and could be sold as a museum fundraiser. It seems that this idea had been discussed in years past, but never got beyond the talking stage. So, it was decided to proceed with the plan of collecting recipes, photographs, and stories to be included in the book. The plan was that the book should include old time favorite recipes, along with some photographs and stories about the origins of the recipes, and also about the lives of the families who submitted them.

Vivian Bainton volunteered to take the cookbook project on and was the person who was collecting and sorting the recipes, up until she became too ill to continue with the museum duties. Subsequently, I have taken the project on, and hope to see it to its completion, sometime toward the end of this year - hopefully in time for the Christmas holidays.

So far, about 100 recipes came in, but the project is noticeably short of the stories and photographs. If you have been thinking that you really intended to send in a recipe, and a little short story or note with it, but didn't get it done, it is not too late. We are putting out a nother

call for the recipes, photographs, and stories. You can help make this a project to be proud of with your contribution.

Lacking ideas for what to send? In addition to old favorite recipes, does anyone have a recipe for soap making the way it used to be done in the old days? Can someone tell what it was like to light the old wood stove in the mornings, and how it was to cook for a large family or for a group of boarders that way? What about food preservation and storage? Do you remember your mother or grandmother making cheese or butter? How did the women ever get the miners clothes clean? Can anyone write about a day in the life of a miners wife?

Recipes and stories can be sent in any form, whether it be handwritten, or typewritten. Typewritten submissions can be scanned in on the computer, and do make our work much easier, but the important thing is that you send in your contribution, before **September 1, 1999**. We will make every effort to see that any photographs are safely returned to you. **Yes**, what you do write will be interesting reading for others!

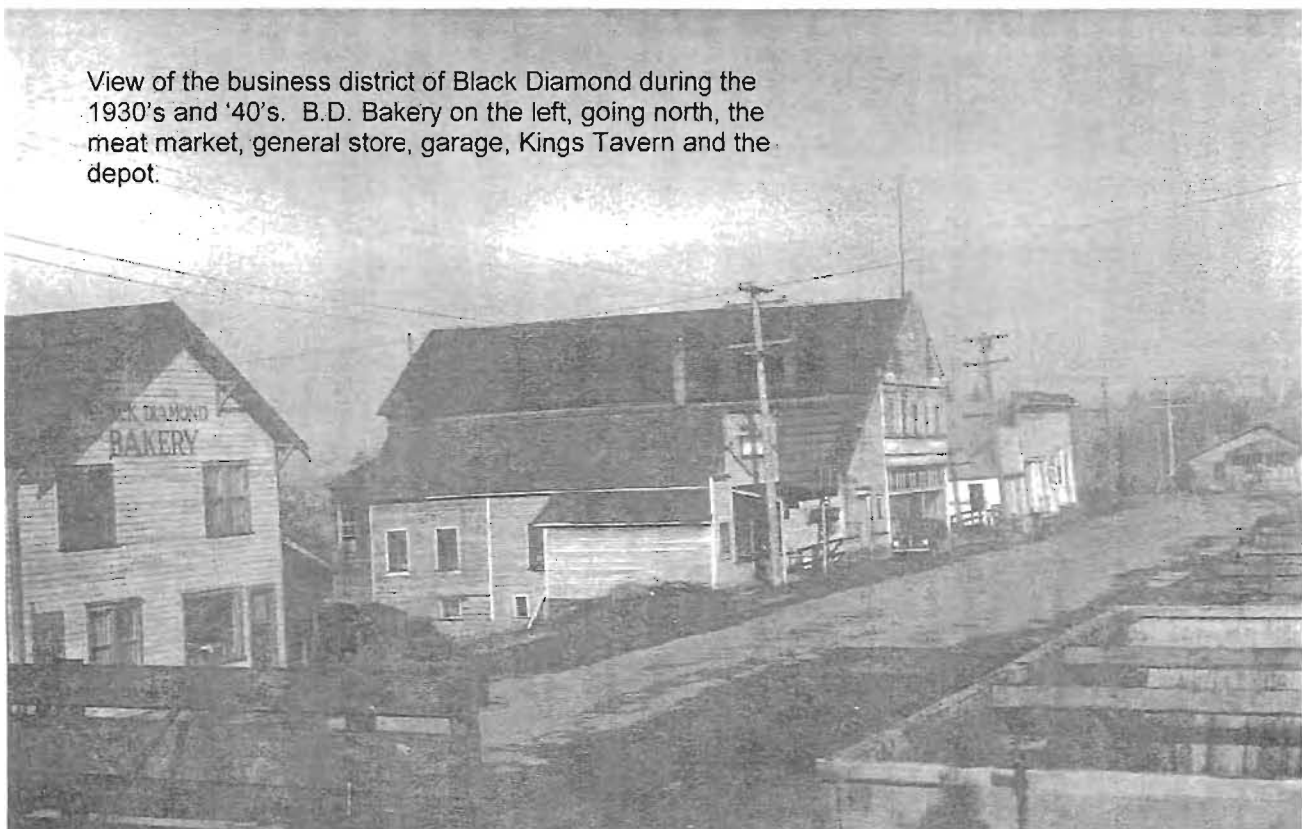
Please mail contributions to:

Betty Luke
P. O. Box 237
Black Diamond, WA 98010-0237

Phone: 360-886-2331

E-mail: bluke@foxinternet.net

View of the business district of Black Diamond during the 1930's and '40's. B.D. Bakery on the left, going north, the meat market, general store, garage, Kings Tavern and the depot.



From the Archives:

20 Years Ago – *BDHS Newsletter*, Feb, 1979

Our now-famous slide show was shown at the Tuesday evening Kiwanis meeting in Enumclaw. Carl Steiert and Norm Gumser, BDHS members, both received Certificates of Appreciation for providing the entertainment at this meeting.

Two double-hung windows were replaced at the Depot

We still have 1979 calendars left. There are also a few 1977 & 78 left. Our first calendar in 1976 has been sold out for some time.



How good is your memory? The time will soon be here when the weather improves and work has progressed far enough for us to begin to think about painting the Depot. What color stands out in your memory – was it grey, or a sort of mustard color, or can anyone remember it painted a beautiful shade of red? The men volunteers working the Depot have uncovered layers of paint – all different!

15 Years Ago – *BDHS Newsletter*, May, 1984

If you haven't seen the old baggage room recently, you will be pleasantly surprised. The men have worked very hard, and accomplished much. The storage cupboards in the meeting room are completed.

Ted Barner, aided by Herman Trover, has been excavating and leveling space under the building. A floor of old boards will be put down and articles which are not affected by the elements will be stored there. Much banter is exchanged when the men ask Ted about putting in the "charge" and filling the "chute". It is hard work and he is to be complimented on it.

10 Years Ago – *BDHS Newsletter*, Feb, 1989

"Black Diamond, Mining the Memories" is proving to be a big hit. Every report we get has been good thus far.

The inside of the fireproof vault has been painted and shelves built.

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& Smoke House

Ron and Sharon

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Sunda
7:00 AM – 9:00 PM

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WHOLESALE


From the (October)
Centennial Edition
Appointment Calendar
1882-1982



Early Depot work party: kneeling against the building, Frank Guidetti, left to right, Louis Zumek, Deno Mariotti, Ted Barner, Tom Maks, Carl Steiert, and Charles Corlett

Photo 1978

Please Support our Advertisers


 The Spring, 1999 Meeting
 Of the
Black Diamond Historical Society
 Will be held at the Museum
Sunday, June 13, 1999 at 1:00 p.m.

All Members, and everyone interested
 in Black Diamond and its History
are Invited and Encouraged
To attend !!

Enumclaw License Agency

1612 Cole Street
ENUMCLAW, WA 98022

360-825-2711
FAX 360-825-2997

Ona L. Smith

Coming Events:

The **Black Diamond Historical Museum** and the **Puget Sound Welsh Society** will sponsor a special **WELSH HERITAGE PROGRAM** from noon to 3 p.m. at the Museum on May 22, 1999. There will be a number of special exhibits. Many persons of Welsh heritage were involved in the coal mining communities in the King County.

Contact the Museum at (253) 886-2327
or the Society at (206) 282-5680.




Help Wanted



 See information
 On Page 4


Your Museum Needs You!!






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Black Diamond Historical Society

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