



# Newsletter

Aug., 1999 (see p. 4)  
Vol. XXIV, Issue 3

Published in Black Diamond, Washington  
Printed Quarterly

### 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

### Everyone is Welcome!

## Museum Report

What's Been Happening at the  
Museum This Summer - and,  
The Things we Need to do Next  
By Bob Eaton

One major project at your Museum has now been completed. It can be seen by all of you who come down Baker Street and look at the Museum roof. The old roof material was torn off and replaced with 30-year shakes on the front side, and 25-year composition three-tab shingles on the back/west side of the building.

Our expert and efficient roofer, Bob Hall, took advantage of a good-no-rain week in August to replace the bad-potential leaking- roof material on all of the Museum buildings including the

caboose. Your Museum is now ready for the winter rain and snow.

The number of people that visited your Museum so far this year is about the same as past years. Since the last newsletter, there have been visitors from China, Australia, Japan, Panama, England, and Germany as well as from Canada, Mexico and our own 50 states.

With visitors coming from all over the world, guess what your Museum needs?? If you said, "DOCENTS", you were right! A "Docent" is a tour guide, a host, or whatever you wish to call those good people that show visitors around the Museum and answer their questions. You might ask them where they live and about their country. It can be very interesting and educational

If this sounds interesting to you, why don't you come and join us?

Docents are not all your Museum Managers would like help with. If you are a handy person, Jack-of-all-Trades, or just anyone who would

*(Continued on page 3)*



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### **Black Diamond Historical Society Meetings:**

In this issue are reports of two Quarterly Meetings and some special meetings that have been held recently. Also, an announcement of the coming Annual Meeting with elections.

We, who have been there, are all too aware of current problems with our Society. These reports should be of concern to all members who want the Society and Museum to survive and prosper. We need help and participation from everyone who has something to offer!



**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: (open)  
Trustees: Carl Steiert  
Ann Steiert  
Evan Morris  
Don Mason  
(Open)  
(Open)  
(Open)

**Volunteers:** (Listed on Page 3)

Docents  
Thursday Crew  
Thursday Cooks

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

**New Editor, next time:**  
Kelley Sauskajus

Black Diamond, WA 98010-  
360-886-0992

**Society Report:**

BDHS Quarterly Meeting, 6/14/99

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m., by President Bob Eaton. Eleven people were in attendance. The Treasurer was on vacation. No report available. The following topics were discussed:

- The status of the Newsletter
  - A monetary donation to the museum made by Ernesta Van Der Heyden
  - A United Mine Workers picture recently donated by Edith Banchemo, in memory of Modesto Banchemo, has been hung in the Museum
  - Tentative schedule for nomination and election of new officers, and possible candidates.
  - The need to review the societies structure, by-laws, and operating procedures
  - The need to find more active members
  - The status of the county grant for re-roofing the museum, and the schedule for proceeding with the work
  - Traveling museum displays
  - Audit of the books of account in progress
- Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.  
*Minutes taken and report respectfully submitted by Betty Luke.*  
*Complete minutes of the meeting are on file at the Museum.*

BDHS Quarterly Meeting, 8/15/99

Meeting called to order by President Bob Eaton at 1:00 p.m. Thirteen people were present. Treasurer absent; no report submitted. Minutes of previous meeting read by Betty Luke. The following issues were discussed:

- Roof grant and the progress of the work being done
- Membership status
- Nominating Committee appointed
- Election of Officers at Annual meeting- set for Sunday, Oct 17, 1999, 1:00 p.m.

-A "working committee" established to assess administrative and other problems and promote solutions. Meeting time set for next Thursday at 4:00 p.m.

- Costs and schedules for upcoming issues of newsletter
  - Updating newsletter mailing list
  - New book "Mining Camps Speak" for sale at museum as fund/raiser
- Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

*Minutes taken and report respectfully submitted by Betty Luke.*  
*Complete minutes of the meeting are on file at the Museum.*

"Working Meetings" have been held to work on some of the problems identified in the last two quarterly meetings. Bill Luke has chaired them and a list of items have come out of those sessions for member approval at the Annual Meeting.

The Annual meeting will be held at the Museum on Sunday, October 17, 1999 at 1:00 p.m. This Meeting is established in the constitution of the Society, for the election of Officers for the coming year. These meetings are for all Members of the *Black Diamond Historical Society*. The past two meetings have had almost no one in attendance. If no one shows up for the Annual Meeting, then what is the future for the *Black Diamond Historical Society*?

**The agenda will include:**

- Results of "Working Committee"
- Proposed By-Laws revisions
- Defined Committees and Jobs
- Election of Officers and Directors

*Nominating Committee report is on Page 4.*

Following the meeting, at 4:00 there will be a "Thank You Party" for all of the cooks who have prepared such delicious and wholesome lunches on Thursdays and for the volunteers who staff the front desk to greet our visitors. All of their efforts are very much appreciated. Everyone is welcome!

- - - - *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

**Thursday Crew**

**Coordinator:** Bob Eaton

**Crew:**

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

**Thursday Cooks**

**Coordinator:** Beth VanBuskirk

**Cooks:** (June, July, August)

- Muriel Waldo
- Betty Luke
- Charlene Birklid
- Marlene Bortleson
- Jill Sena
- Evelyn Dal Santo
- Ethel Duncan
- Rosemary Konoske
- Ann Steiert
- Eileen Zumek

**Monthly Totals:**

- July - 676
- Aug. - 432
- Sept. - 509
- (through 23rd)

**Visitors have signed our**

**Guest Book from:** California, Alabama, Sweden, Oregon, Arizona, Ohio, Illinois, Missouri, Maine, New York, Florida, Chile, England, Texas, Ukraine, Wyoming, Canada, New Mexico, Indiana, France, Montana, and Oklahoma.

(Reported by Betty Luke)

A **Special Committee** was set up at the last quarterly meeting to address concerns presented by several people. **Bill Luke** was appointed Chairman, and everyone with a problem, question, complaint, or something to offer was accepted as a member of the committee. Everyone is invited to participate.

"**Working Meetings**" have been held on Thursdays at 4:00, after the Museum work is done and our visitors have left. More will follow on Saturdays, Sundays, or whenever acceptable to all participants, as long as they are productive. Results will be reported in the Newsletter and at the Annual Meeting.

This committee will have completed its purpose and cease to exist following presentation of its findings for acceptance, revision, or rejection at the next Annual Meeting.

**Museum Report, concluded**

(Continued from page 1)

like to help keep your Museum working, your Museum Managers can find something for all to do.

Many of our past Jack-of-all-Trades have passed on to perform their work in the Great Beyond. Those of us that are left miss them. Won't you come and join us as their replacements? The association of the group get-together can be very rewarding.

Come and try- Saturdays, Sundays, or even on Thursdays when our lady members furnish lunch for the workers.

-- **Memorial Donations** --

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

**Memorial in the Name of:**

**Donation made by:**

- Theola Estby
- Joe Kuzaro
  
- Nancy Grace Picini
- Ernest Romedo
- Charles "Chick" Freeman
  
- Jenny Lombardi Hovden
- Verna Thompson

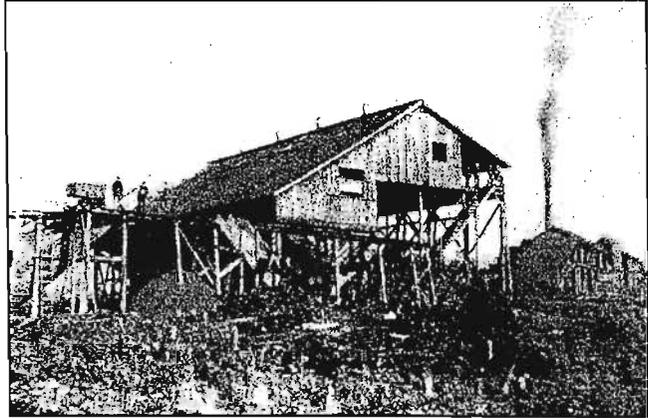
- Don Botts
- Robert Eaton, Don Botts, Fred Weston
- Charlie & Dorothy Corlett, Evan Morris
- Palmer Coking Coal Co., Gail Kuzaro,
- Joyce Duncan, Gerald & Nancy Kuzaro,
- Carl & Ann Steiert, Lynda Maks
- Gino & Ruth Picini (parents)
- Everett & Olga Swann
- Bill & Stella Baker, Elsie Marchetti,
- Margaret Vernarelli
- Margaret Chamberlain
- Charlie & Dorothy Corlett, Don Botts,
- Bob Eaton

## In Memoriam

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

Joe Kuzaro, Jenny Lombardi Hovden,  
Nancy Grace Picini, Ernest Romedo,  
Charles "Chick" Freeman, Theola Estby,  
Verna Thompson

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



Slope No. 2 with sister mine No. 14 in the background, about 1890. This slope, in Black Diamond, was worked to five levels but was never expanded like No. 14 because of rock faults.

Photo courtesy of Mr. Frank Guidetti



## Editor's Column

By Bill Luke

This is the third issue produced by this Editor. I have presented a new format, welcomed participation of contributors, and used a local firm for printing. The quality of paper, of photo preparation, etc. is more costly than other methods. We are now looking at these questions: Is it worth it? Do the members want this sort of thing? Where do we get the \$\$\$? Can we afford a computer and software? (I'm using one that I may not have much longer.) All comments will be welcomed.

I just went through my book which contains all of the *BDHS Newsletters* since Volume I, Issue I, and found that this should be **Volume XXIV**, so am making that correction now. Also, most were published in **Feb., May, Aug., and Nov.**, so we'll continue that tradition, too. This isn't the first time the Vol. has changed. Maybe it will be the last. The same investigation shows that past Editors have been: **Chuck Holtz, Norma Gumser, Ann Steiert, Vivian Bainton, and Linda Ready.** Next issue we'll add another- **Kelley Sauskajus.**

We are very aware that the mailing list has been in bad shape, that addresses may not be current, that members are not currently paid up. **Don Mason** has been working this problem; and hopefully, our list is much improved this time. Your mailing label will contain information that you must pay attention to. If your dues are not paid, this will be the last Newsletter you receive. It is your responsibility to keep current with your status in the Society!

There is much information regarding the state of the Society and Museum in this issue. Again, all members are asked for their reactions to this state of affairs. Will you be part of fixing it? (The May, '84 issue lists new officers- **Bob Eaton** as President, who agreed to accept the position for "a year or two". Since then, some of the other offices have changed- without notice.)

Please come to the Museum and be part of the Annual Members' Meeting and Elections so you can be part of the decision about the future of the Society and the Museum!

*Bill*

## Nominating Committee Report

BDHS President Bob Eaton appointed Bill Luke as Nominating Committee Chairman at the last Quarterly Meeting. Dorothy Corlett and Ann Steiert were selected to fill out the committee.

Their report follows-

For President- **Bill Luke**  
Vice-President- **Don Mason**  
Treasurer- **Clayton Mead**  
Secretary- **Betty Luke**

For Board of Directors-  
Museum Executive Director-

**Bob Eaton**  
Directors-  
**Carl Steiert**  
**Ann Steiert**  
**Don Botts**  
**Joanne Matsumura**  
**Jackie Cedarholm**  
**Kelley Sauskajus**  
**Shelley Aarness**

Nominations can be made, and will be welcomed, from the floor at the meeting- with approval of the person being nominated.

## Labor Day at the Museum

By Bob Eaton

Labor Day at the Museum was well attended by visitors from all surrounding towns. Also from cities in other parts of the country. There was also one party from England.

The counted attendance was 138. Kelley Sauskajus, Museum member, and her children, Mark and Kelsy made a variety of cookies which they sold at the Museum and donated the proceeds (\$22.50) to the Museum.

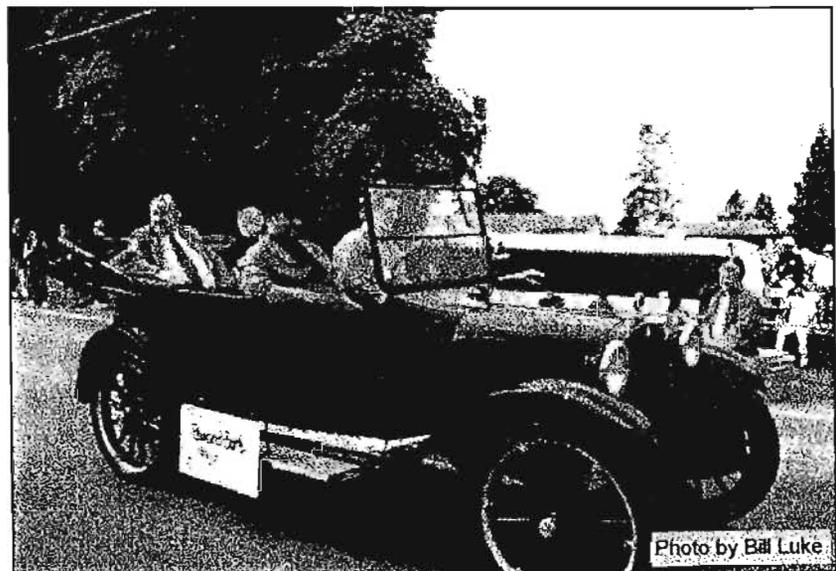
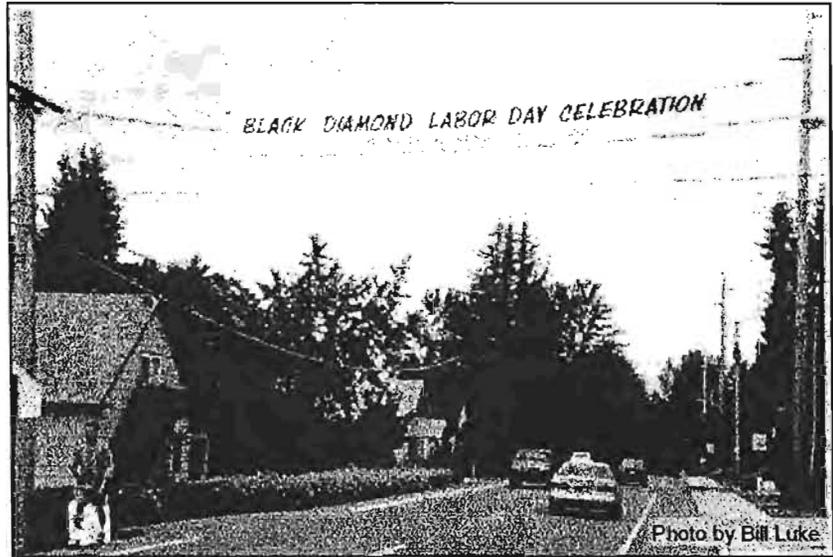
Everyone liked the home baked cookies, even asking if they could have seconds. The Museum was opened at 9:30 a.m. with visitors waiting to get in. It was closed at 4:30 p.m. as the crowd had thinned out when the old cars left the Eagles lot.

---

From Volume III, Issue 4  
(20 years ago)-

### Labor Day

*Our float in the Labor Day Parade was a larger-than-life replica of our famous 1980 Calendar. It was beautifully done by our team of member-artists. Les and Elaine Griffin. It was wrapped in plastic against the rain and is sturdy enough to use again by simply changing the year. It was awarded a trophy. The rain held off for most of the parade, but the rest of the celebration was rained out.*



## VERNA THOMPSON, 1907-1999



Photo by Dorothy Corlett

Verna Thompson was born in Black Diamond October 15th, 1907, where she resided virtually all of her life. She passed away peacefully July 9th, 1999, at a private care home in Buckley.

Verna is survived by her beloved sister, Merle Romedo, of Black Diamond, and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in passing by her parents --- Morgan and Ann Davis; her husband, John; and her sisters: Evelyn Hart; Clara Beers; and Jane Hawthorne.

Verna will always be remembered by her family and friends for her *genuine* character. There was something unique about Verna that made one feel more like her relative than just a friend. Most children who got to know her, thought of Verna as their aunt, or another grandmother. You always knew where you stood with Verna, and where she stood on a given subject. She either kept quiet about a matter, or had a definite feeling about it.

Verna was an excellent cook. Her love was expressed, not so much in what she said, but what she did, --- sharing her wonderful baked goods such as cookies, (Welsh cookies at Christmas), and wonderful cakes, pies, and so forth, and..... her handiwork which she did so well --- crochet and knitting. She also had a green thumb. Plants in her garden or house always flourished. And music was a definite interest. In mid-life she took up the accordion and spent many hours playing old time favorites.

In earlier days not many weeks passed without friends and relatives dropping by to partake of Verna's cooking: fresh and preserved delicacies from John's garden, and the beef he raised on their land. That land was located

right in the center of Black Diamond!

Black Diamond was always a special love of Verna's. Her roots there, go way back. Her father's mother was the *first* woman to settle in Black Diamond. Even when Verna worked for the phone company in Seattle early in life, she stayed with relatives there during the week, but always returned to Black Diamond on the weekends and holidays. It pleased her to still be able to spend her last years in her "new" home in The Diamond ---as she so often referred to her town.

Verna kept abreast of the activities and politics of Black Diamond over the years, and always had definite opinions, --- quite practical ones, --- regarding issues at hand. All of her life community activity was important to her. Many summers were spent in the late 40's and early 50's, overseeing activities at the Lake 12 Resort (... of which John and Verna were part-owners), and Verna hardly ever missed the Black Diamond Labor Day Celebrations, or the Old Timers picnics. Family reunions were always a must!

Verna's last major interest, outside of her family and friends, was working for the Black Diamond Museum project which gave her an opportunity to see old friends and share memories of the past with museum visitors. She was vitally interested in helping to preserve Black Diamond's history which played such an important role in her own history.

Though Verna's sense of home was always in Black Diamond, her interest was not confined there. Her travels with John, and later with family and friends, took her to many interesting places. Hardly a Fall or Spring came and went without Verna and John making a few trips to Okanogan in Eastern Washington --- hunting, and fishing, and visiting loved friends, and often staying at the "Hotel d'Gink"! That was a cabin in the hills at the ranch of friends. During hunting season or fishing season it might be full of friends from the Coast. Verna's and John's lives were filled with many good friends and happy days. Verna also travelled all over the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii. Travels overseas took her to Australia, Guam, Japan, Italy. If you asked Verna to go-- she was usually ready!

A long rich life of nearly 92 years has come to a close, and this dear lady (a Black Diamond "old-timer") leaves many friends, and relatives, and her community enriched for having known her. A number of items from her families' history remain with the treasures at the Black Diamond Historical Museum and will always remind us of **Verna Davis Thompson**.

(shared by Paul Mlachnik, a lifetime friend)

# Where are They Now?

## The Dal Santo Family

By Lynda Maks

My father, **Joseph Dal Santo**, was born in 1885 in Schio, Italy, and came to the U.S. around 1911. My mother, **Anna Respleux**, was born in 1896, in Wilkeson, Washington. They met at a boarding house in Black Diamond, which was run by my mother's Aunt and Uncle, Joe and Mary Favro. They were married in August of 1914. They had 8 children- **Jules** was born in 1916 in B.D., **Angeline** (1917) in Cle Elum, **Alice** (1918) in B.D. passed away with the flu in 1919. They then moved to Renton where they had **Lynda** (1920), **Leo** (1922), **John** (1924), and **Joe** (1925). They moved back to Black Diamond in 1930 so my dad could work for Pacific Coast Coal Company- you had to live in Black Diamond and live in their houses to work for them. You all know the song, "You Owe Your Soul to the Company Store"- that's the way it was. My brother **Roy** was born in 1931.

My father got hurt in the mines in 1935 and couldn't work any more. He helped in getting the Union Stump that is down in Morganville.

Jules had to quit school and for awhile he worked for Jack Jones milking cows and his pay was the milk he brought home. Then he went to the mines. My Sis and I worked at Green River Gorge for Mr. and Mrs. Trethway. We would get up at 5 a.m. on Sundays and walk to the Gorge. We made apple and berry pies. A lot of people from Seattle would come out there for a

day of hiking down to the river. My brothers used to park cars there. We all stayed close to home and worked to help my folks.

Jules married Gertrude Callero in 1939 and they had 3 girls. Gert passed away in 1979 and Jules in 1985.

Ang married Fred Goldsberry in 1939 and they had 2 children. Fred passed away in 1980 and Ang in 1984.

Lynda married Richard Robertson in 1940, moved to Renton and had one son. Her husband was killed in World War II in 1944. Later, she married Tom Maks in 1970. Tom passed away in 1985. Me, I'm still in B.D.

Leo married Ellen Swope in 1944, had 2 girls. Later he married again in 1968. He lives in Hillsboro, Oregon, with his wife, Barbara.

John married Evelyn Desmond in 1950, had 2 girls. John passed away in 1987 and Evelyn in 1998.

Joe married Evelyn Romberg in 1952, had 2 girls and 2 boys. They both are very happy and still live in Black Diamond.

Roy married Shirley Harper in 1958. They had 3 girls. They live in Enumclaw.

Every year we have a Christmas party. All the Aunts, Uncles, Grandchildren, Cousins, etc. get together and have a great time. We have an auction and all the money goes to charity.

My brother, Joe, and my niece, Janice Ranton, keep the coal car as you enter Black Diamond clear of weeds.

## A STORY OF FOUR PEOPLE

This is a story of four people named **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody** and **Nobody**.

There was an important job and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when actually **Nobody** accused **Anybody**.

*{Original source unknown. This has made its way through many Exchange Bulletins over the years so it is a story that appeals to a lot of Editors. This copy came from a bulletin board in an Edmonton, Alberta Community Rink}  
Trudy Martin, Editor, The Calgary Lapidary Journal - October 1984*

*(The Editor would like to get more of these stories. Do you have one you could write and contribute?)*

*Dorothy Corlett has been contacting people and has a couple lined up for future issues. If you would like to tell your story, contact Dorothy at 360-886-1162*

Why is it that if someone tells you that there are one billion stars in the universe you will believe them, but if they tell you a wall has wet paint you will have to touch it to be sure?

\*\*\*\*\*

One day an elderly member came to church and he said, "Mrs. AllWorld, I am so glad to see you, how are you doing?"

She said, "Preacher, I can't walk, I can't see, and I can't hear, but Thank God I can still drive!"

From the July, 1977, Black Diamond Historical Society Calendar



The Town of Black Diamond, looking east from the bottom of the hill on Morgan Street, about 1910. The old wooden bridge across the creek was torn down in the late '20's.

*Photo courtesy of Verna Thompson*

## For the Archives:

By: *JoAnne Matsumura*, Technical Researcher,  
BDHS Life Member

The Archives--you know the place! It's where we put things to save, to do some day "when we retire, get time, etc." That same day came for our Distinguished Curator, Carl Steiert, when on a sunny day he dreamed and said to me he wanted to honor Ann Steiert's many years of preparing the Societies Newsletters. Ann's informative material and stories make the newsletter historical and worthy of retention.

His dream is to assemble a permanent collection of each of the newsletters issued for preservation in our vault. Another set would be available in the museum for public viewing.

This is where YOU, the reader gets to volunteer and "show your stuff,"---all in the comfort of your home!! Please go to your archives and see if you have any of the old newsletters. Complete issues or portions does not matter, I will accept whatever you send me -- (1110 Wildwood Blvd., SW, Issaquah, WA, 98027-4503) AND I will reimburse you your postage and return your documents, if you so specify. I'll reply to each of your letters and stories personally. YOU the reader-are our treasured members and I look forward to your help in making a dream come true.

### From Volume III, Issue 3 (20 years ago)-

SSSSSSSSSS

The HUD funding has been approved and plans are moving ahead to reconstruct the bay window on the platform side of the depot. Grant Griffin tells us we can expect the wiring to be done by the end of June. Plans are being considered to hold our monthly meetings at the depot when the electricity is in and the lights go on.

*And-*

#### Special note to 80 and over members

At a recent meeting it was decided to have anyone who reaches the age of 80 automatically becomes a life member of the Society. If you are already 80 and now a member, let the Secretary know and you will be issued a new card and money will be refunded.

*If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?*

*Black Diamond Historical Society*



**Please Support our Contributors**

*From Volume I, Issue 1, April 1976-*

**WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

A Constitution has been written and adopted, a Charter drawn up and sent to the office of the Secretary of State, and we are now a bonafide Domestic Non-Profit Corporation of the State of Washington.

The town has designated the old Railroad Depot as the town Museum and work is underway to repair and restore the Depot to its original condition. Ted Barner is in charge of this project and work on replacing the foundation of the building is progressing well. The new foundation will be of concrete, and local contractors, society members, and other interested parties have volunteered their time, material, and expertise to complete the work. The Town Council approved the disbursement of \$500 to purchase concrete and other materials needed for the foundation. If anyone is interested in donating time, material, or know how for the Depot restoration, please contact Ted. The more the merrier! We need all the help we can get. The Depot will have to be rewired electrically heated, plumbed, finished inside, wall papered, and secured before it is ready to house artifacts.

As you are probably aware, judging from the overwhelming success, we have published a 1976 Appointment Calendar containing old Photos of Black Diamond and surrounding areas. The fourth printing is now out, and nearly all of those have been sold.

*JoAnne D. Matsumura*

*Technical Researcher  
1110 Wildwood Blvd. SW  
Issaquah, WA 98027-4503  
425-392-7673*

*Black Diamond  
Neighborhood Market  
& Smoke House*

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**MEETING NOTICE !**

The Annual, 1999 Meeting  
Of the  
*Black Diamond Historical Society*

Will be held at the Museum  
Sunday, Oct. 17, 1999 at 1:00 p.m.

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

Election of Officers are held at this time,  
So be there for this one!

See more details within! The Society NEEDS  
some members to come forward and hold of-  
fice or help in other ways if there is to be a fu-  
ture for "OUR MUSEUM"



**"Thank you Party"**

(Following the Annual Meeting,  
At 4:00 p.m., Sunday Oct. 17, 1999  
in the Museum.)

For all of the Cooks of the  
Thursday Lunches;  
And for the Greeters who  
have staffed the Front Desk.

From the "Thursday Crew"  
And the Museum

*Your Museum Appreciates You!!*

