

# Black Diamond Historical Society Newsletter

## Museum Hours

Thursday	9 - 4
Sat & Sun (Summer)	12 - 4
Sat & Sun (Winter)	12 - 3

Printed Quarterly

July 2007

32627 Railroad Ave, PO Box 232, Black Diamond, WA 98010 360-886-2142 For special tours: 253-852-6763  
E-mail Address: [museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org](mailto:museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org) Website: [www.blackdiamondmuseum.org](http://www.blackdiamondmuseum.org)

## PICTURES OF THE PAST

From the  
Archives



### CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF ORGANIZED LABOR 1907-2007

Many men of United Mine Workers of America's (UMWA) First Local Branch #6481, District #10, gathered together at the first "Union Stump" near the steps of the Black Diamond Depot (Museum) on Railroad Avenue in May 1907. It has been previously recorded that the date of organization of Local #6481 was May 15, 1907.

We may never know the names of the approximate 175 men in this photograph and the two women on the porch to the buildings on the left. "By the end of the first World War, District 10 of the UMW had signed up nearly 5,200 members, almost all of the miners in its jurisdiction, the coalfields of western Washington." (PORTAGE V I N. 1, 1979)

We need your help in developing a Roster of members of Local 6481, District 10, for the Archives. If you are aware of an individual who was a member of the UMWA, District #10, please let us know their name by letter or e-mail at the address shown above.

Thank you!!



**T**he mission of the Black Diamond Historical Society shall be the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of the history of Black Diamond and environs, as it relates to King County and the State of Washington.

**The Black Diamond Historical Society Newsletter** is published by and for the members of the Black Diamond Historical Society, a non-profit 501(c)(3), Washington Corp.

To send material for the Newsletter, address it to:

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**Society Officers**

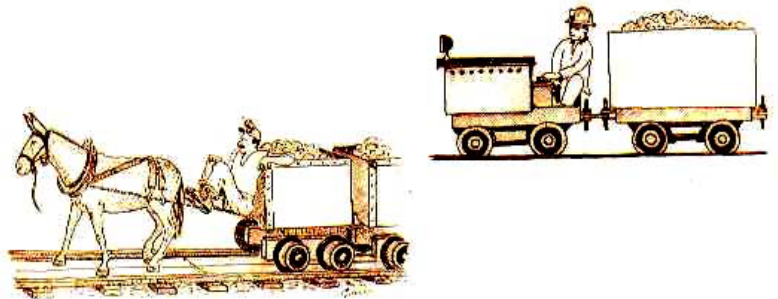
President: Don Malgarini  
Vice President: Kieth Watson  
Secretary: Dee Israel  
Treasurer: Clayton Mead

**Board of Directors**

Don "Doc" Botts, Howard Botts, Jackie Cedarholm, Steve Israel, Don Mason, JoAnne Matsumura, Anna Morris, Conrad "Coke" Roberts

**MY SWEETHEART'S A MULE IN THE MINE**

This post card from a Wallace, Idaho mining museum states the character of the mule. "Being a dependable, intelligent and hard working animal the mule was particularly well suited to hauling in the mine. They quickly learned the haulage level and their job, making reins unnecessary. These hardy animals sometimes stayed underground for up to eight years. They have now been replaced by battery powered locomotives sometimes referred to as "Electric Mules". (Private collection)



**MY SWEETHEART'S A MULE IN THE MINE**

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**We thank 4Culture for the support that helps to keep us operating.**

**We thank the City of Black Diamond for the operations support.**

**EDITOR'S REPORT**  
**Steve Israel**



Dee and I took a road trip in April. It seems like most people fly to their destinations now days, and fly back.

It's the journey, not just the destination. We have always enjoyed road trips.

We visited relatives and friends along the way, most of them we would have never seen if not for driving.

Our first stop was in Oregon to pick up Dee's aunt, yes she enjoys road trips too.

We visited Dee's sister and several cousins; Aunt Ruth's brother, 2 sisters, and a cousin she hadn't seen in years; and my running buddy that used to live in Tacoma and 2 cousins that I hadn't seen in years.

We stopped in Hershey PA to refill our supply of chocolate, then proceeded to Boston where I ran the Boston Marathon, and then crossed into Canada at Niagara Falls.

We took the time to visit some museums and points of interest. We were in awe of the vast open spaces in some parts of the country that still exist. We tried to imagine how the early settlers managed to cross the open prairies, cross rivers and mountains. They were a tough bunch.

We traveled 8,500 miles in 4 1/2 weeks, and our lives were enriched beyond compare.

**BDHS CALENDAR**

**SEPTEMBER**

**3 - Labor Day @ BD Museum & Ball Field**

**OCTOBER**

**21 - Membership Meeting / Election of Officers @ BD Museum 1:30**

**NOVEMBER**

**10 - Veterans Day Program @ BD Museum**

**DECEMBER**

**8 - Christmas Celebration @ Museum**

After settling in for a while at home to reflect on our trip, we know that our most precious time we ever spend, is the time with family and friends.

It may cost us a little more time and money to travel the way we do, but there is no comparison to the rewards we reap.

Now it is back to work, pay off the gas cards, and start planning for the next road trip. We have places to go, people to see, and new friends we haven't met.

Stay active, stay young.

*Steve*

## SECRETARY REPORT

By Dee Israel



**ARCHIVES: JoAnne Matsumura, Archivist** - The restoring process of the Morganti cheese cooler is a work in progress.

The Black Diamond disaster siren of the mining era has been donated to the Historical Society. We would like to get it installed on the Museum property and be able to blow it on special days like Independents Day, Labor Day and Pearl Harbor Day. Our idea has been placed before the Black Diamond Planning Commission, and we are waiting for the results.

**EDUCATION/OUTREACH: Chair Coke Roberts** - The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class from the Black Diamond Grade School visited the Museum on Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.

The Black Diamond All School Reunion honoring classes of 1938 & 39 was held on Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center. There was a turnout of over 100 people.

Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, Auburns Mountain View High Schools History Class visited the Museum.

**FACILITIES & GROUNDS: Chair, Don Malgarini** brought & with the help of Gino Picini and Doc Botts, planted 108 geraniums in front of the Museum, along Railroad Ave.

We have a new flag with lights.

We have new “open” signs (some lighted and some not).

The train schedule sign in front of the Museum will be completed soon.

The security alarm system has been successfully updated.

There’s now a ‘dog policy’ in effect at the museum - with the exception of Special Needs Dogs, animals are not allowed in the Museum buildings.

### GRANTS:

We have completed the grant from Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer, through 4Culture, for the reprint of

the Society’s “*A Tour Guide To Historic Black Diamond, Washington*”.

The Society will be finalizing the Heritage Facilities Grant awarded through 4Culture for the Museum building security system.

The 4Culture Sustained Support Grant for 2006 has been completed. The Society has been notified that funding will be awarded for the calendar year 2007.

### MEMBERSHIP: Chair Dee Israel

announced that we now have 284 memberships. She is still planning a membership drive in the near future.

**NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE: Chair Steve Israel** - We now have a counter on our website. As of May 20<sup>th</sup>, it shows that there have been 463 hits.

**PROGRAMS: Chair Howard Botts** - At the Membership meeting on April 22, 2007 JoAnne Matsumura introduced special guest, Dorothy Wilhelm, of Comcast’s My Home Town series. She spoke about her time in Black Diamond while making the program featuring Black Diamond. She mentioned that the Black Diamond Historical Society is the only such organization she’s seen that is run strictly by volunteers. “My Home Town – Black Diamond” was then shown to the audience.

Featured speaker Grover Smail, a retired underground coal miner related stories from his experiences of 44 1/2 years, from 1929-1974. He started in Pennsylvania and came to Washington in 1941 at the Spring Glen mine in Renton, was at the Elk Mine and the Morris Mine in Ravensdale. Grover’s wife & daughter accompanied him. A question & answer session completed his talk.

Heritage Day (previously known as Welsh Day) was an enjoyable day. (See article elsewhere in this newsletter by Frank Hammock.)

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Chair Keith Watson – We will have a ½ page ad in the Labor Day brochure this year instead of just a ¼ page. Also, we will have a booth on the school grounds for Labor Day (Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>).

**TOURS:** Chair Don Mason has taken several tours to Franklin this year. This is becoming a very popular event.

**ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:**

A committee has been formed that's working on the "Direction of the Museum".

We are in the process of getting an Election Committee set up. There will be changes coming up on the Board. One of them will be me. I have advised President Malgarini that I won't be running for Secretary next year. However, I will run for a Director position on the Board.

We wish to thank the following for their generous donations to the Black Diamond Historical Society.

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

Memorial Donations were made:

*IN MEMORY* of **Cleo Balsley**, by Pauline Kombol

*IN MEMORY* of **Lulu Kombol**, by Charles & Ethel Johnson

*IN MEMORY* of **Marylou Flothe**, by Helen Bremmeyer, Jerald Thompson and Paul Mlachnik

*IN MEMORY* of **Bonnie Ray**, by Helen Bremmeyer

*IN MEMORY* of **Joann Stebly**, by Rainier View Angus and Jerald Thompson

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**ADDITIONAL MONETARY DONATIONS**

To the general fund:

**Anonymous Donor thru the Boeing Company & United Way**

**William Bisyak**

**Henry DeLauro**

**Carolyn & Marilyn Donati**

**Estate of Jane C. Gattavara**

**Norman & Lorraine Hope**

**K-C Food Corporation**

**Michael & Bonnie Jo Malgarini**

**Frank & Eleanor Roulst**

**Seattle Welsh Women's Club**

**Louis & Kay Traverso**

**Marjory & David Velthausen**

To the archive preservation fund:

**J. Dene Overman**

These donations are greatly appreciated. The Black Diamond Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the Law.

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**LABOR DAY BUTTON UNVIELED**  
**Celebrating A Century of Organized Labor,**  
**1907-2007.**

The Labor Day Committee has unveiled the 2007 Labor Day Button. The image dedicating the Union Stump is from the private collection of Frank Guidetti. In a previous recorded written works it was noted that the date of organization was May 15, 1907.

Winner of the first prize will receive \$500.00. There are three prizes in all. Get your Button at the Society's Gift Shop, still only \$1.00, that goes to help support the Labor Day activities. Be a part of this historical event by getting your Button.





## SALUTING OUR VOLUNTEERS

By Don Botts, Volunteer Coordinator

*Volunteers: YOU are critically important to the health of this Society*

**Brittney and Kayla**

**Myers** performed such an excellent job of cleaning windows and showcases that we didn't think there was any glass there! Thanks young ladies for a job well done! They are earning their hours towards high school graduation requirements.

**Jeanne Maier**, an experienced hostess (Docent) having given interpretive tours in Utah, has joined the Society's volunteer family. She will serve at the Front Desk as a host as needed. Welcome Jeanne!

**Judy Hager**, our friendly and gracious host at the front desk during the noon lunch is recovering from hip surgery. We miss her!

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## ✧ THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES ✧

### Gone but not forgotten

By JoAnne Matsumura

✧ JoAnn Harris Bales  
1949-2007

Former resident of Selleck  
Black Diamond School Alumni

✧ Robert C. Bergum, Jr.  
1912-2007

Raised in a train depot  
At Kanaskat, WA

✧ Mary Lou Brown Flothe  
1921-2007  
Widow of Len Flothe

✧ Leona Mae Forler  
1923-2007  
Raised in Black Diamond

✧ Anne Poleski Hawthorne  
1913-2007  
Black Diamond Class of 1932

## GUESTS

By: Don Botts

In **2007** during the months of **March, April & May** we had **828** visitors to the Museum. There were visitors from **15** States: California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania and here in Washington. There were also people visiting from other places, such as Belgium, Finland, Italy, S. Africa and S. Australia.

## REMARKS MADE BY OUR GUESTS

From our guest book this quarter:

**Extremely interesting history, Friendly guides, The old time things are cool, Holy hanna, Franklin Walking Tour was great, Great exhibits, Wonderful collection, Very nice, Cool stuff, Very interesting, A lot of tools in common with what I have at home, Lots of fun, Awesome candy, Learned a lot, History is a wonderful thing, It would be fun to live in older times, Loved the phone booth, Very interesting – even for the young, Great artifacts, Keep up the great work, Excellent history lesson, Bless you for preserving our history, I really enjoy visiting the Museum, Interesting exhibit, Great collection, Impressive.**

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✧ Toni German Heddrick  
1952-2007

Black Diamond School Alumni

✧ Pauline Stella Gaglia Robertson  
1920-2007

Born in Black Diamond

✧ Albert Tost  
1925-2007

Born in Cumberland

✧ Edo Joseph Vanni  
1918-2007

Born in Black Diamond



**SNIPPETS, AROUND TOWN**

By JoAnne Matsumura



- ◆ **Nancy Adkins** a descendant of the **Pardini** family was a recent Museum visitor.
- ◆ Do you know a Society Member who is or will be 100 years of age, fondly called a **Centenarian**? Please let us know. We would like to send a greeting.
- ◆ The **Centennial of Washington Women’s Suffrage** will be celebrated in 2010. The Washington Women’s History Consortium is helping museums and historical societies to prepare for its commemoration. Black Diamond’s women were busy in 1910!
- ◆ **Bob Charles** at **Baker Street Books** offers a contact firm name that can reconstruct, rebind or repair books, albums, and bibles, in their entirety. Charles can be reached at 32709 Railroad Ave, Black Diamond, 360-886-2131, e-mail [bakerstbks@tx3.com](mailto:bakerstbks@tx3.com). Visit his website [www.tx3.com/~bakerstbks/](http://www.tx3.com/~bakerstbks/). Charles says, “You can’t put a price tag on history.”
- ◆ The **Finnish Finlandia Foundation Seattle Chapter** is celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> year in 2007 and has a call out for any Finnish information, as they are writing a history and need help. Contact Mia Spangenberg at: [spangm@u.washington.edu](mailto:spangm@u.washington.edu) or call 864-905-6830.
- ◆ Readers with **Finnish** heritage the 2007 **FinnFest** will be held July 26-28. Learn more at: <http://www.finnfestusa2007.com>.
- ◆ **4Culture** is celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> year. Congratulations!
- ◆ Have you seen the Society’s exhibit at the **History House**, located in Seattle’s Fremont District (206-935-8981)? The History House “34 Unique Museums of King County” exhibits will be open until Labor Day, Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 5 P.M. Visit <http://www.historyhouse.org/>.
- ◆ New member **Jackie L. Holmes** has **FAVRO** ancestry.
- ◆ **Labor Day** theme 2007, *Celebrating A Century of Organized Labor 1907-2007*.
- ◆ **Neil Moloney** has written his third book, *Class of Twenty-Eight*.
- ◆ A **Motorcycle Endorsement** will be a requirement beginning July 22, 2007, and that includes Black Diamond!
- ◆ The Black Diamond Municipal Code will soon include **noise control** through Ordinance No. 07-826.

- ◆ New member **Darwin Myers** has **Miller** lineage in Franklin.
- ◆ The **Puget Sound Welsh Association** will represent the Welsh for the 5<sup>th</sup> year at the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Pacific NW Scottish Highland Games in Enumclaw, July 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> at the King County Fairgrounds. Visit <http://www.sshga.org/home.htm>.
- ◆ Members **Grover & Ruby Smail** tied the knot 71 years ago. Congratulations!
- ◆ Congratulations to the **Sedro-Woolley Museum** now celebrating their 15<sup>th</sup> year, and with two of the original volunteers who have remained, Dale Robertson and Carolyn Freeman. They have an obsession——its called Passion and loving what they do!
- ◆ **Thanks** for reading this article and sending us Snippets-from Around Town.
- ◆ Tenth annual **Train Show** in Maple Valley opening October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.
- ◆ The **Welsh in Washington State** traveling exhibit panels by the Puget Sound Welsh Association can be viewed on their site at, [http://pugetsoundwelsh.org/wa\\_stories.html](http://pugetsoundwelsh.org/wa_stories.html). Check it out. You’ll find Black Diamond on the panels!
- ◆ Classmates **Rudy & Anita Zinter** are nearing 64 years of togetherness. Congratulations!

Got News? 📣 Send it so we can share it!

**DOING GOOD**

By John Wesley

Do all the good you can,  
 By all the means you can,  
 In all the ways you can,  
 In all the places you can,  
 At all the times you can,  
 To all the people you can,  
 As long as ever you can.

Contributed by  
 J. Matsumura

## LOOKING BACK: THIRTY YEARS AGO

Society Newsletter, July 1977, and Around Town  
From the Archives

Gone but not forgotten are; Kristena Turk, Peter Tost, Mary J. Brudevold, Amy Deane Burk, Carl Omana, Fannie T. Ramshak, Cecil Hunter, Primo C. Vinci, Jalmar E. Johnson, and James W. Norman.

Elaine Griffin was appointed to the King County Arts Commission.

The Society sold calendars, posters of the Bakery, and Black Diamond Coal stickers at the Labor Day Celebration. (A few stickers and posters still available)

Ed Banchero and other Black Diamond soccer players hosted 140 players to the first outing of the Pacific Northwest Soccer old timer's Association, at the Eagles Hall. Hughie Hughes won the 'oldest present' prize as it was his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday.

The annual "old-timer's" picnic was held at Lake Sawyer Resort.

Frank Costi donated an oak filing cabinet. Was refinished by Ann Steiert, (now exhibited in the "Doctors Room"), and school photographs donated from Mr. & Mrs. Homer Norman.

School paper featured was the "Sparkler, March 1939".

And from the Archives was an extraction of a 1906 letter from the Pacific Coast Company about a train accident, Engine #12 with 36 cars loaded with coal coming down the hill from Black Diamond striking a tree over the track due to the heavy wind storm. Six cars were completely wrecked at a value of \$4,500. They'll gather the iron; burn the wood and sack as much of the coal as possible. Conductor Watkins and Engineer Major were okay.

Another letter featured from the Archives of August 1919 states that the Franklin Hotel of about 28 rooms was totally destroyed by fire, cause suspected by the kitchen range. They may rebuild with a boarding house.

Obituary featured is of Mr. James W. Norman, teacher and principal 1928-1936, of the Black Diamond grammar school.

Photograph featured was the Faculty of Black Diamond School, 1932-1933.

Featured History article is series one on a thesis titled *Washington's Green River Coal Company* by C. William Thorndale, on the community of Franklin, Wa.

## AROUND TOWN:

Mary Malgarini received honors for swimming 30 miles in the Dolphin Swim Club competition.

OSCEOLA Pickle factory closed in the Spring of 1977 having started in 1929.

Cindy Lynn Darby is King County's Dairy Princess, 1977/1978. (If you have a photograph of Cindy as Dairy Princess, please share it with us. Thank you!)

All automobiles are to have air bags or passive belt systems by 1984 as specified by law.

"Tavern's trademark stolen"-Thirty years ago June 10, 1977 Black Diamond police are looking for the most expensive bar in town. Twenty two feet long, 400 silver dollars one dated 1878 was imbedded in rich wood with the donors names alongside, is still on the loose. In 1977 the estimated value was \$8,000.

If we forgot something please let us know!

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## WAITING FOR THE TRAIN: PASSENGERS IDENTIFIED

From the April 2007 issue, Page 5

For those of you we have yet to meet, and those of you who haven't recognized the passengers, they are from left to right: Keith Watson, Judy Hager, Gino Picini, Steve Israel, Conrad Roberts, JoAnne Matsumura, Don Malgarini, Clayton Mead, Dee Israel, Don Botts is behind Dee, then Jackie Cedarholm, Joan Malgarini, and Harry Berry.

☞ **TREASURES AND TRINKETS**

New Accessions and Acts of kindness  
By JoAnne Matsumura, Archivist

- ◆ **Dennis Boxx**-Fish for the Thursday Crew Lunch
- ◆ **Virginia Vernarelli Close**-Photographs of Duda Vernarelli & his vegetable truck, and Concelia Vernarelli Picini on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- ◆ **Consignments Inc.**-Mirror for a special project
- ◆ **Joe Darby**-Photographs of Black Diamond sports teams
- ◆ **Sisters Marilyn & Carolyn Donati**-Photograph of themselves for the Alumni Album
- ◆ **Phil Fowler**-His Letterman's Sweater 1937-1938 and glass ring
- ◆ **Rex Gavin**-Historic Labor Day Buttons, hand operated addressograph machine
- ◆ **Geraniums**, 108 of them, **planted by Don Botts, Gino Picini and Don Malgarini**, along the guardrail
- ◆ **Albert Guidetti**-1939 map of Black Diamond, WA
- ◆ **Arlene Guidetti Hendrickson**-Photographs of the 1946/1947 Labor Day Parade by Frank Guidetti, with news clipping
- ◆ **Mary Holsen**-Showcase, barbershop sterilizing containers and small cabinets
- ◆ **Ethel Estby Johnson**-Photograph of Selleck's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade class of 1937
- ◆ **Kathleen Kear**-Snapshots of Black Diamond Historical Society's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party
- ◆ **Charles and Virginia Givens Kessner**-Their photograph for the Alumni Album
- ◆ **Don & Joan Malgarini and JoAnne Matsumura** for flowers along the guardrail
- ◆ **Helen Strom Manowski**-Perfume bottle 1930s, BD school group pictures 1948-1954, prayer cards and obituaries, news clippings, historic Labor Day program, snapshots
- ◆ **Don Mason**-Photograph of Morgan Slope Mine, Leather "Ration Book and Token Holder" with tokens and Ration Book Four for Hoffman and Hetzer families
- ◆ **JoAnne Matsumura**-Sheet music of German and Italian songs, *Royal Crown* pop bottle copyright 1936, metal soap container
- ◆ **David McCrindle**-School photograph
- ◆ **Clayton & Nancy Mead**-Bookmark from Pedersen Agency, Inc., celebrating over 50 years in Black Diamond (2003)
- ◆ **David Morgan**-Welsh books for the Society's Library
- ◆ **Darwin Myers**-Copies of photographs and news clippings
- ◆ **Theresa L. Pennacchi & Rosetta Santini Scavilla**-Photographs and family history documents of the Bartolomei, Pennacchi and Santini Families
- ◆ **Gino & Ruth Picini**-Snapshots of the Museum & flowers, and some of the Thursday Crew
- ◆ **Randy Roberts**-For painstakingly refurbishing the handcrafted out door signs by Ann Steiert
- ◆ **Joel Schroeder**-"Little Falls Paver" brick, perfume bottle
- ◆ **Snoqualmie Candy Factory**-Nostalgic candy for the 'Confectionery' gift shop
- ◆ **Lynnett Stevenson**-Man's tie-railroad engine design & musical,
- ◆ **Anne F. Remshe Thorsett**-Her picture for the Archive Alumni Album, embroidered and crocheted linens
- ◆ **Tiger Cub Scouts, Pack 459**-For their artistic booklet of Thanks to Keith Watson "for a great tour of the Black Diamond Museum!! We learned a lot!!"
- ◆ **Keith Timm Jr.**-Table top magnifier with light
- ◆ **Muriel Botts Waldo**-For providing her ironing skills
- ◆ **Keith Watson**-Exhibit boards of photographs from his lecture on the history of the railroads in Washington State and King County to Black Diamond and around town!
- ◆ **Joe & Eileen Zumek**-Wood shelving and brackets

**Thank you one and all for choosing this Museum to preserve your treasures!!**

## IN MEMORIAM

### ✧ **Gone but not forgotten** ✧

By JoAnne Matsumura

#### ✧ **Cleo Bryant Balsley**

a lifetime member of the Society was born September 19, 1915 to John & Emma Bryant, and passed away on February 28, 2007. She is also a member of the Black Diamond High School Alumni, having graduated in 1934.



The family arrived in Black Diamond in 1924 where her father worked as an engineer in the coalmines.

Cleo was a member of St. Charles Circle, and served her community by volunteering with the Civil Air Patrol, Fourth of July and Christmas parades, a Republican precinct chairwoman, and chairwoman of the Park Board in the 1960s. She was instrumental in the acquisition of the Forward Thrust pool, Chinook Park and Martin Johnson Park.

Her employment life for many years was with Beyer Heating Oil and at Rochdale.

Children, Robert, Grace, Mike, and Glenn, and brother Bill Bryant survive Cleo.

✧ **Marshal D. Ponko** was born May 31, 1938 to Marshall & Jesse Malgarini Ponko, and passed away February 11, 2007. He is the grandson of Victor & Esther Bartoluzzi Malgarini.



Marshall was a recent member just short of one year with the Society. In his short time with us he gave a lasting legacy of a large monetary contribution. We shall always remember his generosity.

He was skilled at his work as an engineer testing the earth's stability before bridges could be built. He received his education and degrees in Alaska. He had experience working in the coalfields near Cook Inlet as a Geologist.

Marshall served his country with the U S Army, and upon retirement from the military he went to work for Civil Service as an Engineer.

At an early age Marshall experienced an adventure few of us could have had. In 1947 with his mother and sister they traveled to Alaska over the Alcan Highway to join their father. They were one of the first civilian families to travel this highway after WW II. His mother drove from Tacoma to Anchorage, over potholes and mud. There were very few services of gas stations, sleeping quarters and small grocery stores. It took them ten days.

Marshall is survived by his mother, Jesse Malgarini Ponko, son Stefan & (Cindy) Ponko, two grandchildren, Lea and Ian, and one sister, Marilyn Tressler.

✧ **Joann Dobson Stebly** was born January 23, 1924 to Walter & Margaret Dobson, and passed away on March 10, 2007. She was 83 years young.

Joann married John "Bud" Stebly while she was enlisted in the U.S. Navy. They were married on October 12, 1946. Not long after John was sent to Pearl Harbor, Joann moved to Black Diamond. They raised their family here.

Joann was community spirited having served over 45 years as past president and member of the Black Diamond Eagles Club, attending and serving at the senior center, and was resident council vice president at the Cascade House in Enumclaw.

As an Avon Lady for more than 30 years, she was always enthusiastic.

Joanne is survived by sons Dennis, Greg, and Mike, and daughter Margo Stebly.

She was preceded in death by here husband in 1992, sister Diane Wingate in 1996, and son Stacey Stebly in 2005.

✧ **George Vetter** passed away on March 5, 2007 and was a recent Society member. Having joined us for one of our tours of the historic site of Franklin we were just getting to know one another. His memorial was at the National Cemetery, and being an active member of the Eagles, a gathering was held at the Black Diamond Eagles.

 **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS** 

To Society Members

By Dee Israel and JoAnne Matsumura

“You may be older today than you have ever been before, but you are younger than you will ever be again!” By Barbara Johnson

- ◆ Sherrie Acker-August 19th
- ◆ Ernie Ammons-July 9th
- ◆ Betty Johnson Blakeney-July 5th
- ◆ Bill Bremmeyer-August 25th
- ◆ Robert Burke-July 19th
- ◆ Annamarie Burke-August 27th
- ◆ Don Camerini-July 27th
- ◆ Carolyn Christopher-July 31st
- ◆ Brock Deady-August 20th
- ◆ Linda Lewis Deicher-July 18th
- ◆ Robert Doyer-July 4th
- ◆ Sara DuBois-August 14th
- ◆ Albert Guidetti-September 19th
- ◆ Judy Shook Hastings-September 24th
- ◆ Mark Hasselbach-July 28th
- ◆ Nancy Hester-September 1st
- ◆ Eileen Roberts Hewson-September 16th
- ◆ Pat Holmes-September 7th
- ◆ Lorraine Hope-July 11th
- ◆ Dee Robertson Israel-August 4th
- ◆ Jean M. Mitchell Kelly-July 6th
- ◆ Marilyn Donati Kienke-August 18th
- ◆ Joey Kitz-July 31st
- ◆ William ‘Bill’ Kombol-July 5th
- ◆ Norm Hilde Leen-September 26th
- ◆ Peter Logar-August 14th
- ◆ Sam Logar-September 21st
- ◆ Bert J. Lombardini-July 22nd
- ◆ Don Lombardini-August 15th
- ◆ Robin MacNeill-July 16th
- ◆ Don Malgarini-September 13th
- ◆ Joan Malgarini-August 14th
- ◆ Clayton Mead-July 29th
- ◆ Leona Johnson Myers-August 17th
- ◆ Ted Myers-September 15th
- ◆ Mike Pennacchi-August 7th
- ◆ Kristi Roberts Satterlee-July 14th
- ◆ Lynnett Vasicko Stevenson-July 25th
- ◆ Keith B. Timm, Jr.-August 6th

- ◆ Carole Watkins-August 8th
- ◆ Palmer Coking Coal-August 14th

 **BLACK DIAMOND’S GOLDEN ‘80S’ GANG** 

- ◆ Dick Allen-September 6th
- ◆ Harry Berry-September 23rd
- ◆ Donald Botts-August 18th
- ◆ Jackie Cedarholm-August 2nd
- ◆ Leo Dal Santo-July 23rd
- ◆ Keith Deaver-July 6th
- ◆ Norma Bradley Gumser-August 29th
- ◆ Dorothy Ferrell Laird-September 27th
- ◆ Lynda Dal Santo Maks-August 31st
- ◆ Helen Strom Manowski-August 1st
- ◆ Conrad ‘Coke’ Roberts-July 26th
- ◆ Eleanor Roulst-July 27th
- ◆ Laura J. Trover Shipley-July 7th
- ◆ Richard Toth-September 7th
- ◆ Beth Botts Van Buskirk-August 30th
- ◆ David Walsh-September 3rd

 **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS NONAGENARIANS** 

Society Members of the 90 plus young club, and still going strong!

- ◆ Louise Davies-July 16th
- ◆ Charles Kessner-September 27th
- ◆ Mrs. Chris Pieren-August 5th
- ◆ Walter Riverside-August 9th
- ◆ Frank L. Roulst-August 23rd
- ◆ Margaret Morganti Vernarelli-August 26th
- ◆ Lennie Sternig Witt-July 21st

Have you sent us your date of birth?  
We love sending you greetings!

## **Black Diamond Holds First Annual Heritage Day**

By Frank Hammock

At noon, on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007, the doors of the Black Diamond Museum opened to entertain the visitors who would be coming to attend the simple festivities in celebration of the first annual Heritage Day hosted by the Black Diamond Historical Society.

Past celebrations during this same time of year were specific to the Welsh who played a major role in Black Diamond's coal mining history from its humble beginnings in the late 1800's and throughout the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. They were at one time, the largest ethnic group living in Black Diamond. But, the Welsh were not the only people to have lived and worked in this humble municipality. Other nationalities who immigrated to Black Diamond were represented as well, such as the Germans, the Italians, the Finns, the English, and some 24 others, comprising at one time, a total of 30 ethnic origins that made up the diverse population during Black Diamond's coal mining boom in the early 1900's. As a result, it seemed fitting to carry the tradition one step further and honor those whose rich and colorful diversity contributed in their own simple way to the dawn of a prosperous era.

Stepping through the door, the visitor was greeted by JoAnne Matsumura, of the Black Diamond Historical Society, who wore a simple flavor of traditional Norwegian dress from the era. She smiled brightly and whisked their curiosity to the various displays within the museum that depicted much of Black Diamond's history and events whereby diverse ethnicity played a role. As the visitors mingled, they enjoyed the desserts and punch, which included some surprisingly tasty Welsh cakes, baked by Phyllis Jones, Historian for the Puget Sound Welsh Association and member of the Seattle Welsh Women's Club, that alarmed the palate with flavor that often beckoned one back for a second or even a third helping.

By 1 PM, all the visitors were asked to be seated in the main auditorium. Mr. Don Malgarini, President of the Black Diamond Historical Society, gave a short but delightful introduction. This was followed by a comical but interesting presentation on the history of Black

Diamond given by the life long prior resident, Mr. Conrad "Coke" Roberts. Mr. Roberts spoke of how the various and diverse groups interacted together, and that many people often had to learn just a few lines of a different language in order to communicate out of respect for one another. Communication was necessary in the social circles, but especially in the dangerous mines when expression and experience often meant the difference between life and death. He shared some cultural learning of that era by telling a few colorful stories that depicted one of many ways in which people learned about one another – such as when someone was offered over to another family's home for dinner, only to come back with sauce still on their face from the spaghetti they had eaten, a food they had never heard of before. Mr. Roberts skillfully blended the simple living situations of the past to where its people ended up today, and how from this tough and challenging way of life, many still made valuable contributions to society as a whole.

For example, various families produced not only good coal miners, but fine soccer players as well, who were known throughout the various soccer teams on the West Coast. Sports and coal mining went hand in hand, and if one could play well, it often guaranteed a job in the mines. In fact, at one time, sports was Black Diamond's official pastime. One gentleman, who started as one of Black Diamond's High School Principal's later went on to work in the famous Manhattan Project that produced America's first Atomic Bomb. Mr. Roberts himself contributed to 52 years in education having taught at both the High School and University levels, specializing in history. Mr. Roberts' own father, Vic Roberts, was on the early school board, became a champion soccer player for the area, and began his own life as that of an indentured servant, which is a laborer who worked under a contract for a specific period of time to an employer to pay off a debt, usually one of passage to a new country or home. Also, Mr. Roberts' brother did experimental work on the B29 bombers during the second World War, which carried the most advanced technology of that era like pressurized cabins, a central fire-control system, and remote controlled machine-gun turrets. Finally, many

went off to serve in the war when the war effort demanded America's best. Thus, contributions were made in areas like science, engineering, education, labor, and the military to name a few – all from one coal mining community that boasts of having a population larger than that of Seattle during its boom time.

The presentation ended with a 20 minute film, Comcast's *My Home Town* series (filmed in October 2006 and aired during the month of November 2006) on the history of Black Diamond. Visitors then mingled and talked of old times, perused the Museum, forged new friendships during the gathering, and told stories. Some who were present were related to someone of the past. For example, two gentlemen arrived who were both related to a miner who had perished in one of the Franklin mines, a sister town not 3 miles away that also harbored an ethnically diverse population, where a noted fire claimed 37 lives from smoke inhalation in August of 1894. It is known that some of Black Diamond's citizens often walked to Franklin to work in one of its mines when work was not available in the various mines that were in operation in Black Diamond at the time. It was also in Franklin where in 1891, African American strikebreakers were brought in from the Midwest to quell the labor unrest that grew out of contract wages and rights disputes. Finally, in about 1919, Black Diamond became one of the absorption points for the various nationalities in need of work when the town of Franklin was disband. Ethnic diversity played a major role

that affected two communities and their contribution to the overall scheme of a changing era in history.

Thus, Black Diamond owes its existence today from the prosperity and hard work of the many nationalities that flourished there. Its Museum is a tribute to those individuals of various ethnic origins to preserve their rich heritage through stories, artifacts, and documents for generations to come who have a thirst for knowledge of their heritage and place in history. The people of Black Diamond are proud of their vivid and dramatic past and from henceforth, will honor all of its citizens and their ethnicity that contributed their individual and collective talents in the making of America. And, from this celebration, the rewards of their trials and tribulations will live on as a reminder to future generations that the price for freedom and the definition of equality was spawned from well-grounded roots that began from the seeds of existence once born, nourished, and gave life along Black Diamonds' now quiet streets.

One truly should get the recipe for those Welsh cakes. They were so tasty.

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The Black Diamond Historical Society is appreciative of the 4Culture's Operational Funding Program through the Hotel/Motel Tax Revenues, which helps provide these, and other events, free to the public.

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## WHO AM I?

Private collection

The above photograph was brought in to the Society in hopes that we could help identify the individuals and location. They had found an undeveloped roll of film recently and this photograph was included in the roll.

If you can identify any of these good-looking fellows or the location, please contact the Society by phone, 360-886-2142, by letter, PO Box 232, Black Diamond, WA, 98010, or by e-mail,

[museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org](mailto:museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org).

Thank you!



## BLACK DIAMOND: MINING THE MEMORIES GOES TO FINLAND

By JoAnne Matsumura

Leo & Armi Salo from Finland visited the Museum on April 18, 2007 and were presented with *Black Diamond: Mining the Memories*, which they will present to a University in Finland.

The Salos have generously contributed their time in translating documents and inscriptions on many Black Diamond Cemetery grave markers for the Society over the course of about seven years. We learned there are more Finns buried in the cemetery than we realized. We gratefully appreciate this work, and thank them for their time and assistance.



### KOAL

The Oregon Improvement Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S., corner of King, Seattle WA offers KOAL in this advertisement from the Seattle Directory of 1897, Page 883. In the alphabetical listing we also find; Black Diamond Coal Mining Co., 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S., at the SE corner of Jackson, and Seattle Coal & Iron Co, foot of Madison.





## Membership and Renewal Form

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Eve Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

If this is a gift, who is it from?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Annual Membership Fees

Individual	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organization	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lifetime Individual	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donation	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Enclosed	\$ _____	

- New
- Renewal
- Cash
- Check

Ck # \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check Payable to:

**BDHS**

Mail to:

**Black Diamond  
Historical Society**

**PO Box 232**

**Black Diamond, WA 98010**

***For our records, on all checks please note purpose of check. (Dues, Donation, Memorial, etc.)***

For Museum Use Only

Date

Initials

File

## ON THE GROUNDS

Left to right: Steve Israel, Keith Watson and Clayton Mead have replaced the rotted wooden support that was holding up the coal car on the slope. They decided to use 2 steel poles, bolted and welded to the rails, so it won't rot away again.



### IN THE MUSEUM: Correction

In the April 2007 issue we inadvertently did not include The Zumek Family as donors. Our apologies to the Zumek families.



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

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**Red check on label indicates  
your membership is due.  
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membership is past due**

**Annual Membership  
Meeting**

**Sunday October 21st  
1:30 PM**

**Come and join us for fun and food!  
Elect new Officers and Board  
Members**

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**MONTHLY BOARD  
MEETINGS**

**1:30 PM  
3rd Sunday of each month**

**The Black Diamond  
Historical Society  
is a nonprofit organization. Our  
funding comes mainly from  
donations, dues, and some  
grants.**

**The restoration and  
maintenance of the Museum  
and its contents are done by  
volunteers.**

**To donate your time or money  
would be a great way for you to  
help preserve your history. Find  
out more by talking to one of  
our wonderful volunteers.**