



# *Black Diamond Historical Society Newsletter*

## **Museum Hours**

Thursday	9:00 - 4:00
Sat. & Sun.	
Summer	12:00 - 4:00
Winter	12:00 - 3:00

**Printed Quarterly**



**April 2004**

32627 Railroad Ave, PO Box 232, Black Diamond, WA 98010 360-886-2142 For special tours: 253-852-6763  
museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org **Visit our web site!** <http://mytown.koz.com/community/blackdiamondmuseum>

## **PICTURES OF THE PAST**



BDHS Catalog #2003.85.01 Courtesy, John Stewart from the Estate of Ellen Williams Olson from Cardiff, Wales.

### **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM, circa 1900.**

On the front of the photograph in the fading ink we can still read, "Ellen's Schoolmates."

On the back of the photograph the ladies names as written are: "Top Row, Miss Forsyth, teacher in Black Diamond school, Grace Brown, Rachel Davis, Mabel Davis, Mary Booths, Annie Mary Davis (Frances Olson's Aunt), Mabel Ginder, Mrs. Anne B. Stone. Second row, Edna Mills; Mary Jane Wallace, Ellen Williams, Mabel Bussey, Sina Davies, Laura Gwellym, Emily Hutchenson, Mable Ginder, Lottie Davis and Ellen." Also written is, "I was home sick when this was taken." John Stewart states that his grandmother Ellen Williams is not in the photograph, even though her name appears on the back.

The 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: Steve Israel  
Vice President: Darryl Buss  
Secretary: Dee Israel  
Treasurer: Clayton Mead

### Board of Directors

Don Botts, Howard Botts, Jackie Cedarholm, Judy Hastings, Don Malgarini, Don Mason, JoAnne Matsumura, Anna Morris, Bob Thompson

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Please join me in extending a warm welcome to our new members (listed in the Secretary's Report), and a big THANK YOU to our membership for your continuing support. We couldn't do it without you.

We have made lots of progress since my last report.

- 1) Education:
  - a) Judy Hastings is pushing forward with promoting education. She has contacted the schools, became familiar with the education kits, studied the life of the coal mining community, and started putting together some additional "hands-on" items for the kids to touch-and-learn.
  - b) Coke Roberts has finished developing a script that covers coal mining in Western WA, focusing on Black Diamond and our Museum. We are working on pictures to follow the script that can be shown as a slide show at the schools on the TV screen from a CD.
- 2) Securing Artifacts:
  - a) Don Malgarini has secured some of the tools on display in the basement by covering them with plexi-glass. He has also been working on securing display cabinets and setting up new ones.
  - b) The back door now has an alarm on it, and the docents up front know when someone comes or goes through it. We have also installed a bell on another door that previously had none.

These are only a few examples of the progress that our volunteers have accomplished, and I take great pleasure in working with such a fine bunch of folks that so generously give their time to this society and museum. I also want to thank the families of those volunteers for getting along without them while they are busy donating their time.

*Steve Israel*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ior Davies writes:

“I received the newsletter and was very pleased to find the very gracious write-up of my mother - I agree 100%, she was an outstanding lady. Through all her hardships she always had a very positive attitude and a song in her heart.

It's been some time since coming to BD, but I hope to see in the spring.

I've shared the items with my family and friends. It made me extra proud to have had a special lady. Thank you for giving her a place in the Museum.”

Roy Callero of Bellingham, WA writes:

“I am Roy Callero Jr., son of Roy Callero who went to Black Diamond High School.

My mother, Dyllys Merryfield, also grew up in Black Diamond for a while. Her parents were Glyn and Elizabeth Merryfield. I have been told that my grandfather, Glyn Merryfield, was in a mine cave-in and broke his back, and was treated successfully by Dr. Botts.

I spent some early years living in Black Diamond and went to 1st and 2nd grade there.

I still have relatives in that area. I am related of course to Callero, Merryfield, Frank Guidetti, and Jules Dal Santo. I had a buddy - Russel Plass (Jr.). I recognize many of the names in your newsletter.”

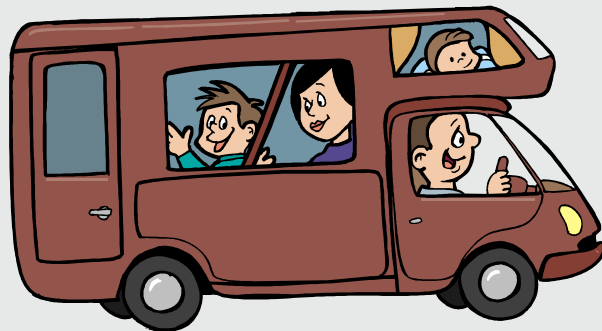
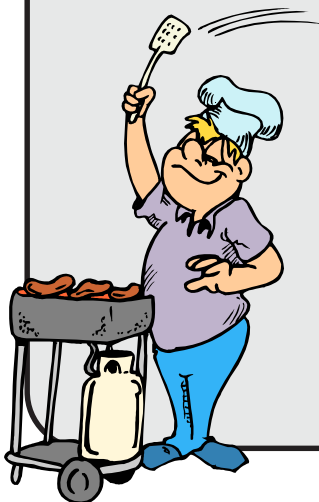
## SPRING EVENT

April 18, 2004

1:30 PM

**We will be having our Semi-Annual Membership Meeting, followed by refreshments and a van tour through Historic Black Diamond.**

**Our route will take us to historic sites as outlined in our new “Riding / Walking Tour Brochure”**



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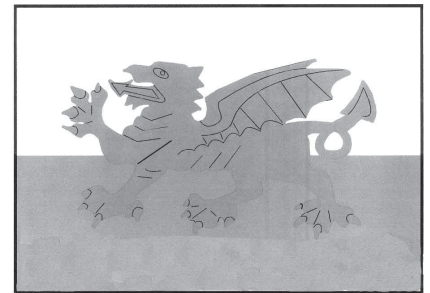
## 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WELSH HERITAGE DAY

The sixth annual Welsh Heritage Day at Black Diamond Museum will be on Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Come and find out how the Welsh contributed to the life of Black Diamond. Also tour the Black Diamond Cemetery and see the Welsh flags on the Welsh graves.

There will be a Welsh craft sales table by Carolyn Bell and refreshments will be served by Gerri Parry & the Seattle Welsh Women's Club from 12:00 noon to 3:30 pm.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

12 noon to 1:00 pm	Socialize and tour the Museum
1:00 pm to 2:00 pm	Program: Welsh Women's dress by Seattle Women's Club Video of Welsh Folk Dance by Robert Smith Welsh songs by Seattle Welsh Choir members
2:00 pm to 2:30 pm	Socialize and tour the Museum
2:30 pm to 3:30 pm	Video of Wales by Don Mason



**Come Join Us In The Festivities**

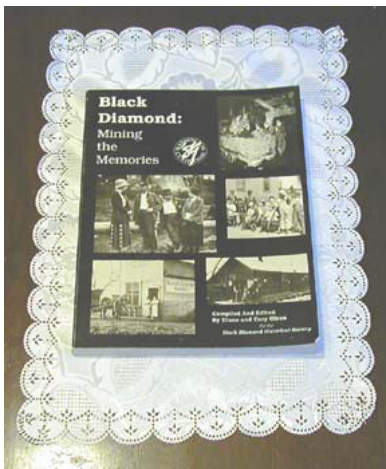
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## ***BLACK DIAMOND: MINING THE MEMORIES***

Our new shipment of ***BLACK DIAMOND: Mining the Memories*** has just arrived! We wish to extend a special thanks to **Dwight and Doris Garrett** for their generous contribution that enabled us to continue to produce this fabulous book.

**Diane and Cory Olson** compiled and edited this book for the Black Diamond Historical Society, and it was released for the Washington Centennial Celebration in 1989. Since that time, this book has continued to be a great success.

Now, our fourth printing of this gem of a book has retained its original contents, but has been enhanced by adding extensive indexing in the back. First, many hours of research and editing have produced an index for all persons and places listed in the pages. Second, many more people were identified from the photos since the first printing, so an index was created for this purpose. And third, an index was created to identify all of the illustrations and photographs that appear in the book. The enhanced indexing is a real handy tool for quick reference and research.



Stop by the Museum and check them out! They make great gifts! It's also another way to support your Museum!



## SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Dee Israel  
Jan, Feb & Mar 2004



**ARCHIVES:** Chairperson JoAnne Matsumura is in the process of obtaining fireproof file cabinets for the archive vault. These file cabinets will be purchased under an existing grant with King County Landmarks and Heritage. The old file cabinets will continue to be used as storage cabinets.

JoAnne is also making a display of pictures showing the evolution of the Black Diamond Schools. She is requesting either a donation or a loan of any Black Diamond School pictures that you might have. Society Member Harry Berry is helping her with the matting and framing of these pictures.

The retro candy (candy of the olden days that was mentioned in the last newsletter) is very popular. Recently, Society Member Marcia Lee Berg donated additional types of retro candy.

**EDUCATION:** Chairperson Rosemary Konoske stepped down from being on the Board. Judy Hastings has now taken over that position and has several ideas to enhance this program.

**FACILITIES & GROUNDS:** We have installed an alarm on the back door so the docents at the front of the Museum can tell when someone enters or exits thru the back door.

The floor joists are still being worked on. Help from anyone that's willing and able will be much appreciated.

**MEMBERSHIP:** We now have 275 memberships. That is 129 individual-life memberships, 13 couples-life memberships, 78 individual-annual memberships, 48 family-annual memberships and 7 business memberships. I'm sorry to report that since our last newsletter, 3 memberships have been dropped due to death or non-payment of dues. However, we have had 12 new memberships. These new memberships

are for: **Roy Callero Jr., Sandra Fisher, Alma Freitag, Paul Mlachnik, Marsha Mott, Olive Parkin, Byron & Janie Parkinson, Mike Pennacchi, Robert M. Smith, Lynnett Stevenson, Fred & Patty Weston and Carol Wieltshnig.**

We are happy you have all joined us and hope you are as excited as we are to share knowledge of this area's memories and people. We also want to thank those of you who have recently renewed your membership, for your support is what keeps our Museum alive.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Chairperson Don Malgarini has been keeping local businesses stocked with the very popular riding/walking tour brochure.

We are pleased to announce that the 4<sup>th</sup> printing of the "**MINING THE MEMORIES**" books has now arrived.

Maple Valley/Black Diamond Chamber of Commerce is in the process of having a new map printed. We have bought space on this map for an ad and are anxious to see the results.

We are now in the process of getting a new e-mail address and web site.

**TOURS:** Since the winter wind storms, many trees and branches have fallen on the trail and area around Franklin. Don Malgarini organized a team of about 50 people, consisting of Boy Scouts, Eagle Scouts and some of their parents and did a major cleanup of the area in advance of the March 25<sup>th</sup> Franklin tour.

### SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING April 18, 2004 at 1:30.

#### ARCHIVES WISH LIST

- ◆ Black Diamond business calendars
- ◆ Black Diamond restaurant menus
- ◆ Portable CD Player with earphones
- ◆ Black Diamond School diplomas
- ◆ Photograph of the School Gym
- ◆ Creations by Ann Steiert

## MEMBERSHIP

Look to see if there is a red check on the mailing label of this newsletter. **A Red check on your label indicates your membership is due.** If it has been checked, please send me your membership renewal form and your membership dues; or let me know why you feel it is in error. Otherwise, you may be dropped from our membership and I don't want that to happen anymore than you do. **(2 red checks mean your membership is past due and this is your last newsletter.)**

Are you looking for that special gift for a close friend or relative? If they are interested in the history of Black Diamond and it's surrounding area, you can purchase a membership to the Black Diamond Historical Society as a gift for them. It is only \$10.00 for the whole year, for an individual or \$15.00 for a family membership.

## MONITARY DONATIONS

We wish to thank the following for their generous donations to the Black Diamond Historical Society. Donations to the general fund were made by: **Mr. & Mrs. Chris Pieren, Esther Birch, and K-C Food Corporation.** **Courtney Ashcraft** also made a donation with a matching donation from **Microsoft.**

Donations to the archive fund were made by: **Ior W. Davies, Marsha Mott, Olive Parkin, Henry De Lauro, and Ralph Dockham.**

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. All donations are greatly appreciated.

## MEMORIAL DONATIONS

During this past quarter, The Black Diamond Historical Society has received the following in Memorial Donations:

*IN MEMORY* of **Boots & Meg Pierotti**, a donation was made by Gladys, Rick & Kevin Pierotti.

*IN MEMORY* of **Bill Parkinson**, a donation was made by Chris Nasinec.

*IN MEMORY* of **Frank Zumek**, a donation was made by Jack Thompson.

*IN MEMORY* of **James Norman**, a donation was made by John & Jeanne Norman.

*IN MEMORY* of **Elaine Vera Brown Mead**, a donation was made by Mt. Rainier Rebekah Lodge #106.

*IN MEMORY* of **Rachel Fredericksen Fagnan**, donations were made by Ralph & Lois Estby, Muriel E. Waldo, Beth H. VanBuskirk, Neil & Barbara Balsley, Keith & Dorothy Blackburn, JoAnne Matsumura, Jack R. & Virginia R. Tracy, Ruth A. Kerkes and Jennie P. Johnson.

*IN MEMORY* of **Muriel Berry Downey Barnes**, donations were made by Art Berry & Vera Beech, Rod & Barbara Downey Bradt, Marjorie Staum, Margaret & Mike Mitty, Inez M. Clark, Penny & Morris F. Wade Jr., Mathew J. & Anna L. Rinadli, Betty Warren, Gloria Steberl and Jason & Gail Valian.

*IN MEMORY* of **J.P. (Pat) Sternig**, donations were made by Lennie Witt & Sandra Oviedo, and Inez Aden.

The Black Diamond Historical Society would like to thank those of you that made these donations, and offer condolences to the families and friends of the deceased.



**WE HAVE A NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

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



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

By JoAnne Matsumura

To those who remember the “Confectionery”, we know you will be pleased that the response to the Candy Land display has been heartwarming. The phrase “Oh I remember those!” is heard often. We have added Root Beer Barrels, courtesy of the Snoqualmie Candy Factory. We are hoping to add Walnetto candy soon. The most popular is the licorice pipes.

Committee Member, Jackie Cedarholm cordially invites family historians to submit copies of their Family Group Sheets for our Archive Vertical Files. These family sheets will serve well for those of serious studies and also offers the Society a link to the people’s past and the community.

Committee Member At Large, Conrad ‘Coke’ Roberts continues to offer his knowledge of the Black Diamond School’s history and suggestions towards obtaining documentation. On his priority list is the gymnasium’s early history (ca. 1921). For those who remember, the 1938 Senior Ball was the first to be held in the New Gym.

The High School Room new photograph exhibit now includes the drawings by Harry Berry of the WWII Observation Tower and the “First Gym, 1921”. The vision from Beth Botts Van Buskirk and

Muriel Botts Waldo are to be credited for this exhibit enhancement and to Clayton Mead for the display. Harry Berry has volunteered to mat frame other photographs for this exhibit along with appropriate signage.

The Cultural Development Authority of King County has sent a letter of approval for the purchase of archival file cabinets for the Archives and construction installation costs as needed. We are appreciative for this funding through the Hotel/Motel Tax Revenues. The project will complete one of our grant contracts. It will be a long-term project, as care must be given to the handling and safety of the collections during the process.

The Board of Directors has approved the Archive Policy Guidelines, Collection Handling Policies and Archives Use Checklist that are now a part of our operational procedures. Our goals are simple, to protect the artifacts you have so generously donated that was once a meaningful part of your life. So until next time, Happy Trails. ♦

**Respectfully, JoAnne Matsumura,  
Archivist**

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## GUESTS

By: Don Botts

During the months of **January, February and March** we had **511** visitors to the Museum. There were visitors from **9** States: Alaska, California, Idaho, Iowa, Nebraska, Oregon, Texas, Wisconsin and here in Washington. There were also people visiting from other places, such as British Columbia.

## REMARKS MADE BY OUR GUESTS

Our guest book this quarter had many nice comments. Here are a few of them:

**I like it, Real neat, Very nice, Awesome job, Cool, Wonderful, Great job, Fabulous, Lot’s of History, Looking great, Great history, Great displays, Great museum, Fantastico trabajo, Very interesting, Awesome and Super nice.**

## IN MEMORY

**Muriel Berry Downey Barnes** passed away January 9, 2004. She was born in Regina, Sask., Canada on April 2, 1906. Coming from Seattle in 1925 she remained in Black Diamond until 1958 when she then moved to Enumclaw, WA. Muriel was an employee of the Rainier State School for many years. She was a lifetime member and expressed many times to her family how much she enjoyed our newsletter, as she would ask them to read it to her over and over. Muriel was also a member of the Black Diamond Eagles. Survivors are daughters, Yvonne Christman and Barbara Bradt. Brothers Art and Ray Berry of Canada and was preceded in death by her son Billy. ♦

**Ernest Eltz** passed away earlier this year in California. He left Black Diamond soon after graduating in 1931. Ernest had been a lifetime member since 1982 and was preceded in death by his brother, Archie Eltz. ♦

**Rachel Frederickson Fagnan** passed away December 30, 2003. Born in Black Diamond on December 3, 1917 to Pete and Beatrice Frederickson in a “small house around the corner from the Museum.” Rachel graduated from the Black Diamond High School in 1935 and began her career in Seattle as a switchboard operator. She also began her volunteer work with the USO where she “met and married a dashing young MP, Lou Fagnan.” They married in 1945. Rachel also worked for the Rainier State School, became involved with the PTA and was a Cub Scout den mother. Rachel and Lou traveled to New York and Kathmandu, Nepal where they lived for 5 years. After retirement they lived in Normandy Park. Rachel was a lifetime member and her contributions to the Society were many. Her presence and involvement in the Society will be deeply missed. Survivors include daughter Mary Clayton and son Jim Fagnan. ♦

**Warren Newton Watson** passed away January 20, 2004. Born August 30, 1911 in Lawrence, Kansas he came to Seattle in 1923. Coming from

Cordova, Alaska to be closer to family in Black Diamond, he began teaching high school physics and math and coached basketball and baseball. He was the last principal of Black Diamond High School before it closed in 1943. He then began teaching at Bremerton High School before being drafted to work at Berkeley during WWII. Warren also worked for Boeing for 25 years. His wife Edna Ince of 63 years preceded him in death. In 1999 he married Nancy Kelley White. Warren visited the museum in 2002 spending time with Donald Botts, showing Nancy the treasures in the museum and reminiscing. We are pleased that he was able to visit the museum. Survivors include his wife, brother Lyle, sisters Lola Pettengill and Miriam Watson, sons Keith and David. ♦

The Black Diamond Historical Society expresses condolences to the families on behalf of its membership.

Please let us know when you become aware of the passing of a Society member or former member so that we may extend our condolences. Thank you. ♦

## ARCHIVE PRESERVATION TIP

Using tools of the trade. Protect fine china with white paper plates between them. Use natural soft brushes to clean baskets. Use “BIZ” to clean rust spots on fabrics. Wrap ornaments and small objects in coffee filters. Vinegar is a safe cleaning agent. Using a tube? Wrap white cotton/muslin around it, and secure your treasure with cotton twill tape-not rubber bands! Use white cotton pillowcases for large flat objects. Steam pressing is safe. ♦





## BLACK DIAMOND

By Opal Warden  
of Black Diamond  
Age 14

“A first class town  
With a first class name:  
A town of pep  
A town of fame;  
A town of friends,  
A town of joy,  
A town you can’t  
Help but enjoy.  
A place of business  
No better ever found;  
The streets, the homes,  
And take it all around  
The scenery, the air,  
The beauty of it all,  
In Winter and Summer,  
In Spring and the Fall.  
A group of many happy hearts  
You find all gathered there,  
If you come to  
Old Black Diamond  
I’m sure they’ll treat you fair.”  
*Pacific Coast Bulletin,*  
*June 14, 1923*

### GENEALOGY TIP

Always verify the information in a secondary source document. A secondary source document is information from sources other than the original record, (biographies, heraldry, periodicals, etc.). A primary source document is one drawn at the time of the event, (family bibles, military records, wills, etc.). ♦

## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

To Society Members:

- ♦ Inez Costi Aden-April 7<sup>th</sup>
- ♦ Esther Pennacchi Birch-May 27<sup>th</sup>
- ♦ Gertrude Botts-May 11<sup>th</sup>
- ♦ Ralph E Dockham-June 28<sup>th</sup>
- ♦ Leonard Flothe-June 30<sup>th</sup>
- ♦ Steve Israel-June 30<sup>th</sup>
- ♦ Mary Savicke Keehner-June 27<sup>th</sup>
- ♦ Pauline Herbel Lane-June 15<sup>th</sup>
- ♦ Junette Larson-June 11<sup>th</sup>
- ♦ Marsha Mott-April 12<sup>th</sup>
- ♦ Margaret Franz Pearce-June 17<sup>th</sup>
- ♦ Concelia Vernarelli Picini-June 11<sup>th</sup>
- ♦ Jean Sturton-June 26<sup>th</sup>

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

## THE CLASSMATES CORNER

By JoAnne Matsumura

Reunion Committee Chair, Conrad ‘Coke’ Roberts cordially extends an invitation to those who would like to serve on the committee. The more hands involved the less work it is for everyone. Please call the Museum and leave a message for Coke. He will be glad to hear from you! Those who have joined in the planning are Lynda Dal Santo Maks; Pat Walsh, Leasha Tyerman Janet, Donald Botts, Walter Clark, Harry Berry, and Joe Zumek.

Coke is planning a committee meeting to set the date, time and place for the 2005 reunion. He continues to get calls on when the next reunion is going to be!

John Morganti and Concelia Vernarelli Picini still hold the title as the eldest alumni. The youngest so

far located is Ralph Banchemo, but Melvin Hale, Donald Thomas, Louise Harrison, Ann Rogers, and Gilma Tomsich are in the running, if we could only locate them. Can anyone help by providing an address?

Coming the farthest could be Phil Fowler in Alaska, and from Florida, Maude King Jacks, and Frank Tratnik.

Over 898 students that attended the Black Diamond School, as diamonds in the rough, were in grades 9 to 12, for the period 1909 through 1943. Of this amount 161 known surviving students, now polished gems, can return in 2005 for a reunion. What a party you are all going to enjoy!

Can anyone help us in finding the following survivors? They are; Ione Bainton, Gloria Benson, Corliss Bolger, Beverly DeMann, Jack Johnson, Margaret Lombardy Chamberlain, Catherine McTurk, Albert Sanders and Shirley Sanders.

Over one-half of the 161 survivors are Society Members. Awesome! This grand support from you is unique, rare and cannot compare with any other society. We are indeed appreciative to each of you for supporting your hometown Historical Society and Museum.

Keep those cards and letters coming. We love hearing from you! ♦



## IT CAME HOME TO ROOST

By Gino Picini

The Black Diamond Railroad Depot, after the termination of railroad service in 1959, became at different times a tool storage shop, restaurant, phone exchange, library and water department office; and in 1975 a home for the Black Diamond Historical Society and Museum. Fortunately, the building was never used as a chicken coop! The thing that came to roost here recently has 4 legs and is made of cast iron and steel. It is a forge, (the Italian word for it is *forgia*, no doubt derived from Latin.)

This story started with another Board Member, Jackie Cedarholm, a violinist. I mentioned to her an interest in music, especially the accordion and was advised of the Northwest Accordion Society Meet in West Seattle. There, I was introduced to an outstanding accordionist, Bonnie Birch; the daughter of Esther Pennacchi Birch, born in Black Diamond and a member of the Black Diamond Historical Society. Upon contacting Esther I was told that her father's (Abramo Pennacchi) forge might be in possession of her nephew, Vince Muscolo (son of Fernanda), of Camano Island. She called Vince and indeed he had it, having stored it for over 30 years. He was pleased to offer it to the Society and when I picked it up he remarked: "It's going home to roost."

This piece of equipment does what the name implies. It shapes, forms, or forges steel. Involved is a bed of burning coal and forced air. This unit, as virtually all the forges of early black smiths, has a hand-cranked blower. Forges are still used today and now generally use an electric motor driven blower. A forge advertised in a current catalog has a motor rated at one-fifth horsepower and is priced at \$910.00.

Incidentally, an average man is also rated at one-fifth horsepower capability.

The development of the forge followed the advent of steel. Steel is basically iron (ferrous) but with a measured/controlled content of carbon. Iron is brittle and is cast in a mold but steel is ductile and malleable. Steel in some form is then subjected to the heat produced on the forge, and brought to a suitable

temperature; usually indicated by a color ranging from reddishness to near white. The forging is usually done by laying the heated metal, generally held with a tong, on the anvil and forged with hammer blows.

Some important products are horseshoes, tools, hinges, and wagon wheel rims. The ends of a rolled steel rim are actually welded together by heating the ends to a white-hot temperature and hammering the connected ends on the anvil. It goes without saying that to use the forge required considerable skill, even artistry, as well as muscle. The black smith provided a valuable service to the community.

The forge coming back to Black Diamond was owned and used by Abramo Pennacchi a resident of Black Diamond and Morganville before WWI and until WWII. A man of several skills and jack-of-all-trades came from Italy trained as a tailor. As did many immigrants, he came leaving his wife Adele (Giannotti) and daughter Fernanda in Italy, until financially ready to bring them to America. Abramo was born in 1881 and Adele in 1871, both in Garfagnana, Italy.

Abramo worked in the Black Diamond Coal Mines for a short time and then became self-employed as a carpenter, builder, and terra cotta (ceramic tile) craftsman. The unique concrete curbing and enclosures of gravesites at the Historic Black Diamond Cemetery were the work of Abramo Pennacchi. Abramo, according to his daughter Esther Pennacchi Birch, "fixed things." He also made things to order, like the large cheese storing/aging cabinet made for the Morganti Family. The Society has acquired the cabinet and is preparing it for display.

The Pennacchi family moved to Morganville, one mile north of Black Diamond, following the miner's strike of 1921. Abramo built a new house and with Adele, an expert with herbs, raised the family of four children- Fernanda, Natale 'Nat', Elizabeth and Esther. The house in Morganville still has the terra cotta floor on the

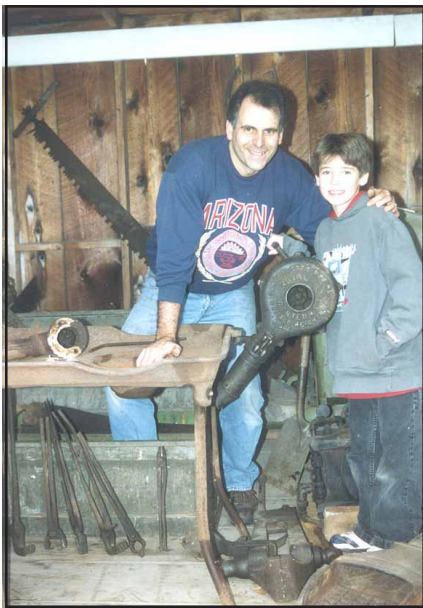
front porch complete with a unique “star” design and curved stair banisters.

Along with the forge were a variety of six hand-made forging tools (tongs) as well as Abramo’s carpenter tool chest and a timber saw, or docking saw used to cut mining tunnel support timber and a post vice. In addition, Vince’s wife Ceci offered a workhorse harness complete with chains, collar, and some fancy trim. It was originally used in the Midwest, and she had saved it for many years.

All of these items will be on display at the Museum to further show how things were done in earlier days in the area of work ethic and energy. The Museum is involved in gathering, displaying and providing information about artifacts, and also learning about the people who populated and built Black Diamond, WA. To accomplish this requires searching of records and connecting people who have any kind of reference to Black Diamond.

Recently visiting at the Museum, Mike Pennacchi (grandson of Natale) and his son, Michael, were directed by JoAnne Matsumura, Archivist and Docent, to quite a surprise: the display of the tools of Great Grandfather and Great Great Grandfather Abramo Pennacchi. Michael offered to help complete the display set up on a Saturday. That was accomplished, finalized with the youngest Michael Pennacchi’s hand to the forge blower crank.

“But as for me and my house, We will serve the LORD.”



Left:  
Mike and  
Michael  
Pennacchi  
with the  
Pennacchi  
forge

## SNIPPETS ‘N SMIDGENS

Contributed by JoAnne Matsumura

Did You Know:

- ◆ THAT-H. H. Hill, Accountant for the BD Company Store was succeeded by, D. C. Czerwenka, in 1923
- ◆ THAT-Al & Rufe’s Orchestra officiated the Senior Ball of 1933
- ◆ THAT-Members Ray Kravagna and Laura Trover Shippley have returned to live near hometown, BD
- ◆ THAT-Young Michael Pennacchi volunteered to clean up the grounds around the Museum
- ◆ THAT-In 1904 the first safety razor with disposable blades was made by King Camp Gillette
- ◆ THAT-Jas. E. Ash owned the first Rickenbacker sedan in BD (1923)
- ◆ THAT-Dr. F. L. Ankrum relieved Dr. Botts at BD during the latter’s vacation (June 1923)
- ◆ THAT-We are grateful to those who make our progress possible



Pictured above: The Black Diamond High School circa 1929. Visit the Museum and see our new display of pictures of the school.

## TREASURES AND TRINKETS

### New Accessions

We thank the many people who think of the Museum with their donations of treasured heirlooms and memorabilia. We appreciate your generosity. The stories you convey with your donated object are also treasured. For without your information it is an object with a story waiting to be told. Every artifact has a history and a story behind it and documenting what you know about it is important to us. Sometimes during a walk through the museum the inner voice will speak, saying if only the artifacts could talk just think of the stories that could be shared. The labors of love from individuals that come to us are equal in our appreciation. Thank you so much!

- ◆ **Dan Anderson**-”Iron Fireman” coal fired boiler with auger hopper
- ◆ **Benders Collectibles**-Trade token, “K .M. Butcher, Kangley, WA 5 cents In Trade”
- ◆ **Paul Botts**-”The Diamond Sparkler”, 1928-1929 issues, “Black Diamond Huggers” 1988 Directory, photograph of **Paul Botts** and **Bob Bailey** at the Ravensdale Mine, 1948, antique drawer handles
- ◆ **Jackie Cedarholm, JoAnne Matsumura, and Gino Picini**-Snapshots of the July 2003 “Walk in the Cemetery”, and 2003 Labor Day Train float
- ◆ **Jackie Cedarholm**-Post card of the BD Bakery, circa 1950s
- ◆ **Ior W. Davies**-Photo post cards of **Evan & Alice Davies** at the “house in B. Diamond at the end of the ball park”
- ◆ **Louis Draghi**-Framed painting of **Angelo Draghi**, circa 1917
- ◆ **Lois Thomas Estby**-Photograph of the home of **Dr. McCormick** and the **Thomas Family**, situated above the meat market, circa 1930s
- ◆ **Alma Bahr Freitag**-Copies of pictures of the **Bahr** family
- ◆ **Florence Garrett**-Post card of Railroad Avenue, pre 1920, lodge “By-Laws of Court Energy No. 10, Black Diamond, Wash., 1913”, (Foresters of America)

- ◆ **Frank Grgurich**-Newspaper clippings, “Ansonia” mantle clock from the **Tonkin** Estate
- ◆ **Frank Grgurich, Jr.**-Books
- ◆ **Dee Israel**-Dome showcases
- ◆ **Issaquah Trophy & Awards**-In-kind donation for our Memorial Boards
- ◆ **Charles & Virginia Givens Kessner**-”Watkins Salve” tin, “Hires Root Beer” extract bottle in original box & instructions, “Montgomery Ward” catalogs, 1922 & 1936, “Country Home Magazine”, 1939, child’s hanky
- ◆ **Bill Kombol**-Tee-shirt with Hyde’s Saloon logo, 1991
- ◆ **Ray Kravagna**-Books from the **J. J. Smith** Estate
- ◆ **Jane Shaffer Lamka**-1898 BD Diploma of **Inez Calhoun**, framed painting by **Anna Stone**, portrait of **Anna Stone**
- ◆ **Don Malgarini**-Framed glass cover to secure our tool dye set
- ◆ **Helen Manowski**-Christmas caroler figurines painted by **Ann Steiert**
- ◆ **Don Mason**-Books, snapshot of **Frank Grgurich**, e-photo of **Ernie Seliger**
- ◆ **Clayton Mead**-”Rice” Penmanship books, darning yarn, tatting thread, map marking pencils, 1928 Washington State map, nailpowder box and tin
- ◆ **Gino Picini**-Tork Clock #115 Single Pole
- ◆ **Dan, Gino, and Terry Picini**-Preparing flowerbeds at the street guard rail
- ◆ **Merle Davies Santini Romedo**-Photograph of the September 2003 reunion honoring Merle, the granddaughter and the descendants of **Clarissa Davies**, the first woman in Black Diamond
- ◆ **Snoqualmie Falls Candy Factory**-In-kind donation of retro candy
- ◆ **Unknown**-Oxen yoke
- ◆ **Beth Botts Van Buskirk**-Nostalgic design curtains for the Candy Land exhibit
- ◆ **Joe Zumek**-”Basketball Score Book”, 1942

Thank you one and all.

**JoAnne Matsumura, Archivist**



## HISTORY BENEATH OUR FEET

With the rising cost of energy, the Black Diamond Historical Society decided it was time to insulate the floor of the old train depot that has been the home of the Black Diamond Museum since 1982.

With the help of a grant from Maple Valley Rotary, we are moving forward with this project. Our first concern was some decay in a few of the supports under the floor, and we wanted to address this before insulating. Upon further examination, most of the rotted wood was supporting a platform beneath the floor. It seemed that the platform was not connected to, or supporting the floor in any way, even though it was right up against it. As we researched this “double floor” we discovered that this platform was the first loading dock that was built next to the tracks before the depot was erected. So, it was decided that we would remove the platform to enable us to have access to the floor joists for installing the insulation.

With help from John “Bottlehound” Lynch and the Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus, we were able to remove the platform and save much of the wood that was not decayed. The platform was nailed with the old style square nails, and the boards and beams were milled from old growth fir. Our research brought us to the conclusion that the platform was built in about 1884 with the arrival of the first railroad: The Columbia and Puget Sound Railroad. Shortly after that, the depot was built right over the platform.

Our next step in the insulation project was to address the damaged floor joists. Some of the joists

were decayed on the end, and some were broken. We have been using the salvaged wood from the platform to do our repairs. After removing the decay from the existing joists, we have been splicing in the good lumber with carriage bolts for added strength. As we have been pulling this lumber out of storage, we can only wonder what stories could be told if the wood could talk.

As an estimated time line: this wood was used to build the platform in about 1884; was

milled in about 1883; the trees were cut down in about 1882; if the trees were 150 years old (estimated by studying the grain), they sprouted in the forest in about 1732, 44 years before this country was established. So as we handle this lumber, we think about all



of the events that have taken place while these trees have grown up in the forest, and then after being milled, the lumber served as some of the finest examples of structural wood that anyone could hope for. Awesome, huh?

We are continuing to repair the floor joists as time permits and the labor is available. The building is 100 feet long, and nearly every floor joist is in need of some work, so it will be a while before we are ready to install the insulation. In the mean time, the old lumber that has served us so well for so many years is continuing to provide us with much of the material we need for this project.

Steve Israel



## WINTER STORM DAMAGE NO MATCH FOR THIS CREW

The past winter storms raised havoc in the Franklin area leaving many downed trees and limbs on the roads and trail. Peter Logar and Brett Wollen, scouts from Troop 474 in Kent, took on the task of cleaning up the mess as an Eagle Scout project. To get the job done, they had to work with the State Park Ranger, organize a work crew, get necessary permits and permission from land owners, etc.

It took two adults with chainsaws nearly six hour to cut everything small enough to be moved by hand. Along with the clean up of trees and limbs there were also some signs to be refurbished, welding and repainting on the coal car. Work on the trails included water redirection as well as installing a water bar.

Phase one of the project was completed on March 20th. This took care of the roads and trail to the cemetery, phase two will be clearing a small section of trail to the cemetery and clearing around the headstones in the cemetery. Phase two should be completed by April 24th.

An added side note during lunch was a picture presentation from BDHS Member Don Malgarini, grandfather of Peter Logar, that put the entire project into prospective for the volunteers.

A group of approximately 50 helpers showed up for phase one. The group consisted of Boy Scouts, family and friends.

The boys would like to give a special thanks to all who helped; they considered it a job well done!

Submitted by Society Member Don Malgarini





## 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

Make Check Payable to:

**BDHS**

Mail to:

**Black Diamond  
 Historical Society**

**PO Box 232**

**Black Diamond, WA 98010**

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

*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

During our ice storm in early January, the icicles were hanging on everything. All of the cars, houses and trees alike were covered with ice. Many of the trees around the area were damaged from the weight of the ice. A small tree at the Museum was broken off at the ground from a car sliding down the hill and hitting it, and damaging the guard rail.

The day before this photo was taken, we had to thaw frozen pipes under the Museum. We were fortunate to have little damage from this unusually cold blast from old man winter.







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

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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BLACK DIAMOND, WA  
PERMIT NO. 17

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

## **SPRING EVENT**

**Sunday April 18  
1:30 PM - Membership Meeting**

**Come and join us for fun and food!  
Tour Historic Black Diamond!  
Vans will provide transportation!  
Visit points of interest as outlined in  
our new TOUR BROCHURE!**

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**NEXT MONTHLY BOARD  
MEETING**

**10:00 AM  
Sunday, APRIL 18  
(Before the Membership Meeting)**

## **The Black Diamond Historical Society**

**is a non profit 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 volunteers.**