

This issue of the Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Charles Corlett whom lived from August 23, 1915 until May 16, 2002. We will all miss him at the Museum. His hard work, quick wit and passion for the preservation of the history of this area has inspired many of us, and he will never be forgotten.

## The Museum Is Located At

32627 Railroad Ave P.O. Box 232 Black Diamond, WA 98010-0232 360-886-2142 Bdmuseum@foxinternet.com

Thursday	9:00 AM	- 4:00 PM
Saturday	12:00 PM	- 4:00 PM
Sunday	12:00 PM	- 4:00 PM

#### **Museum Hours**

Special Tours May Be Arranged By Calling 253-852-6763

## Visit our web site!

Http://mytown.koz.com/community/ blackdiamondmuseum

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#### Membership Rates

Individual, Annual	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Organization	\$30.00
Lifetime	\$100.00
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## Payable To

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

#### **Society Officers**

President	Don Mason
Vice President	Darryl Buss
Treasurer	<b>Clayton Mead</b>
Secretary	Dee Israel

#### **Directors**

Don Botts, Howard Botts, Jackie Cedarholm, Bill Luke, JoAnne Matsumura, Anna Morris, Gino Picini, Joe Zumek

#### Volunteers

(Many, but never enough.)

## 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: **Steve Israel, Editor** P.O. Box 22 Black Diamond, WA 98010

360-886-2582 stevedee@tx3.com

The membership mailing list is maintained by **Dee Israel.** Please address any changes or corrections to **Dee Israel** at: Black Diamond Museum P.O. Box 232 Black Diamond, WA. 98010-0232

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Don Mason

Our Historical Society has had the advantage of being in a small town. Many of our old-timers lived here their whole life and knew almost everybody. It won't be long before stories about the depression, dances at the various lakes in the area, working underground in the mines, World War II and many other events will no longer be heard first hand.

One of our Thursday crew, Charlie Corlett, has passed away since our last newsletter. He was one of the old-timers and not only did he add to the stories of those past times but he had a special skill that helped keep our Depot/Museum running. Charlie took care of our electrical system and the video program. We will surely miss him.

Another advantage we have is our "Mining the Memories" book. Many of the stories have been put in writing and their tales will always be with us. When first published, the experts predicted sales would be about 300 books. Well, we have, to date, sold about 3,000 and are planning for another 2,000 soon. We are grateful for all those who have provided us with these past memories and for the support of our membership over the years.

Don Mason

## FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings from the historical town of Black Diamond. I am glad to be back in the Great Northwest. My wife, Dee and I have



spent the month of June in California, and two weeks of that was in the Imperial Valley dessert. My mother lives there, and I made the trip to work on her house. She now has a washer and dryer; a shower; new counter tops; and hot and hot running water. (The faucets marked with a "C" should start producing cold water next winter. For now they are nearly as hot as the ones marked with an "H".)

The temps were well into the 100's every day, and uncomfortably warm at night. We can't figure out why in the world anyone would choose to live there! It's so good to be back home.

This issue of the newsletter is the first one that I have produced with the nonprofit postage. What does that mean to you and me? The bottom line: Our weight limit just tippled! We can now send out a newsletter with more than 12 pages without breaking the bank from buying extra postage!

Now I have no excuses for not including all of your articles, do I? I apologize to **Bill Kombol** for cutting the Coal Mine Report in half in the last issue. I have concluded it in this issue, and will be able to print them in their entirety from now on.

I have received a great amount of material for the newsletter from many of our members, and I want to thank you all. For the rest of you, don't be lift out, send me a story from the past so we can have a good variety of reading material for our members.

Keep those cards and letters coming!

## Steve Israel

## SECRETARY REPORT



April May & June

We now have 3 bids on having "Black Diamond: Mining the Memories" reprinted. A decision will soon be made as to which company will be doing the job for us. Also, we have actually come up with names of some of the unknowns that were pictured in the

book, so that is good.

We had run out of the book, "Old King Coal", but have now submitted an order for a new supply. At the same time we ordered a supply of "A Glimpse of a Charmed Land 1925". This is a very good booklet. "In compiling this booklet, the publisher has made an honest effort to include pictures and descriptions of all that part of the Great Wonderland which can be easily reached from the Enumclaw Plateau, which follows the foothills, and from which point tourists can easily reach charming Lake Wilderness, only two miles from Maple Valley; Lake Lucerne and Pipe Lakes, Lake Sawyer, Black Diamond; the Flaming Geyser, Lake 12, Diamond Springs, the Green River Gorge, Spoon Lake, the Garden of Eden, Green River Scenic Resort, Deep Lake, Cumberland, Kanaskat, Selleck, Ravensdale, South Prairie, Burnett, Carbonado and other points of interest from Enumclaw."

The Museum has received a letter from Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana requesting one copy of every issue of our newsletter that's ever been published. They would also like to purchase a membership. They will pay costs plus shipping charges to obtain these. We feel this would be a good thing and are in the process of gathering the requested newsletters.

Archivist JoAnne Matsumura advises, we have a form called, "Museum Archive Visitors Research Record" that will be filled out whenever a visitor wants some research done. She also advised that the "Finnish Newsletter" had a 2-page article in it about our Museum. This article has brought to us, at least 4 guests.

Gino Picini has built a wood frame around some of the flowerbeds and has planted some beautiful geraniums. He is now working at getting the weeds removed from the gravel pathway and get more gravel brought it.

Steve Israel has completed the firewalls up-

stairs. This includes self-closing doors, so we don't have to worry that someone might forget to close one of the doors. These make for a great safety feature.

For additional security, we are looking in to installing motion detection lighting around the outside of the building.

Joe Zumek and Don Botts have completed the restoration of the logging sleigh. It looks very good.

We want to thank TRM Wood Products for the lumber they have donated to our Museum.

Our next planned project is to replace a deteriorating board in the platform and repaint the inside of the caboose.

## WE REALLY NEED MORE DOCENTS! PLEASE VOLUNTEER!

We have extended our OPEN hours by 1 hour on Saturdays and Sundays for the summer. Saturday and Sunday Summer hours are now 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

The Museum now has a permit for sending bulk mail (such as the newsletter). This will save us money from our postage fund.

Vice President Darryl Buss advised us that Shawn Davies has applied to put the Pagini house on the National Register. The Museum sent a letter of support for this.

Submitted by Dee Israel, Secretary

## **MONETARY DONATIONS**

We wish to thank Calvin & Wanda Davis, Frank & Eleanor Roulst, Gloria Colasurdo, Ryan Lundeen and William Bisyak for their generous donations to the Black Diamond Historical Society's general fund.

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.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

## **MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

For April, May & June, 2001

The Black Diamond Historical Society now has 245 memberships. I'm sorry to report that since our last newsletter, 4 memberships have been dropped due to death or non-payment of dues. However, we have had 10 new memberships. Our new memberships are for:

Warren & Carol Baumgartner, Harry W. & Marjorie A. Berry, William Bisyak, Henry De-Lauro, Anna Duggan, Philip & Margaret Fowler, Betty & Ruby Lamantea, Christopher & Pamela Morrow, Bunny McKnight, and Ruellene Morganti.

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. The support of the members is what helps keep your museum alive.

On the page of this newsletter that has your mailing label, there is a square that reads: "**Red check on label indicates your membership is due**". Please look to see if your label has been checked. If it has, 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.

Are you looking for a 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.

Membership dues are as follows: Individual = \$10.00 Family = \$15.00 Organization = \$30.00 Lifetime (Individual) = \$100.00

## Dee Israel

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

*IN MEMORY* of Glenn & Liz Merryfield, a donation was made by Conrad Roberts.

*IN MEMORY* of Victor & Marie Roberts, donations were made by Conrad Roberts and Gordon Roberts. *IN MEMORY* of Joe & Jenny Fowler, donations were made by Conrad Roberts and Philip & Margaret Fowler.

*IN MEMORY* of John Carnino, a donation was made by Joe & Eileen Zumek.

*IN MEMORY* of Norm Gumser, a donation was made by Don & Lynn Mason.

*IN MEMORY* of Lew McCauley, a donation was made by Pauline Kombol.

*IN MEMORY* of Glyn & Elizabeth Merryfield, a donation was made by Ivor & Betty Merryfield.

*IN MEMORY* of Georgia Zumek, donations were made by Joe & Evelyn Dal Santo, Edith Banchero and Ralph & Lois Estby.

*IN MEMORY* of Henry Tyerman, a donation was made by Edith Banchero.

*IN MEMORY* of Nancy Falk & Christine Aalto, a donation was made by Pauline Kombol

*IN MEMORY* of Charles Corlett, donations were made by Edith Banchero, Douglas & Marcia Lee Berg, Mr. And Mrs. Everett Swann, Esther Babb, Bill & Betty Luke, Gino & Ruth Picini, Doris Rogers, Donald Botts, Lynda Maks, John Erickson, Joe & Eileen Zumek, Don & Lynn Mason, Ethel Duncan, JoAnne Matsumura, Steve & Dee Israel, Mary Chilcott, J. Lee & Anna F. Arington, Brett Corlett, Henry Barnes, The Bremmeyer family, Vivian Luke, Ralph & Betty Uhrig, Dorothy Corlett and Sandra & David Lindgren.

The Black Diamond Historical Society would like to offer condolences to the families and friends of all of the deceased that we have mentioned.

## GUESTS By: Don Botts

During the months of **April, May and June** we had **1162** visitors to the Museum. There were visitors from 15 States: Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin and here in Washington. There were also people visiting from England, Germany, Scotland and Sweden.

# ARCHIVES WISH LIST

First Edition of BLACK DIAMOND MINING THE MEMORIES, for the Archives.

Photograph of the interior of Alice Davies Confectionery. Any view will do.

Photographs of "people at work" in Black Diamond.

Hand made Doilies for exhibit, any size. Copies of old Advertisements of Black Diamond Businesses.

The names of flowers and plants native to early days in Black Diamond.

# REMARKS MADE BY OUR GUESTS

The basement is the best part.

Impressed with the amount of items displayed. The Newsletter was quite an edition. Wow! I've got to bring Grandma, she's from Black Diamond, California. Very interesting Lots of memories Lovely Fascinating It was cool I liked it because it tells you facts You have nice things Enjoyed the tour Glad I came back Very educational Outstanding Thanks for the heritage Neat Awesome

# **SNIPPETS 'N SMIDGENS**

By JoAnne Matsumura

Did you know:

THAT-Glenn Frederickson is on the mend and feeling better. THAT-We missed seeing you at the Welsh Heritage Day celebration. THAT-July 4, 1928 the "Goddess of Liberty" Beauty Contestants were Frances Hadley, Rena Banchero, Ada Whiting, Opal Baxter and Catherine Pagani. (Who won?) THAT-Black Diamond will have a new Library. THAT-In 1914 there was a Black Diamond, Ohio and Black Diamond, CA. Currently the cities named Black Diamond can be found in; Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Pennsylvania and, of course, Washington. THAT-The population of Black Diamond, WA. was 1,170 in 1987. THAT-The self-stick album page covers can be easily removed by a quick zap in the microwave oven. (self stick covers discolor and damages photographs and documents.

## **PICTURES OF THE PAST**

The photograph to the right is in the Societie's Archive collection. Can you help us identify who these lovely ladies are? In the fading white ink on the front it reads "Yours Truly, Kay Pagani". Note the miners soft cap hats. On the back of the photograph it reads "From Strnard's Photo Shop, Renton, Wash".

Please write, call or E-Mail your response to us. All information is gratefully appreciated and welcome. THANK YOU!!!

#### BDHS Photo #0000.12.01

## **SALUTING OUR VOLUNTEERS**

By Donald Botts, Volunteer coordinator

They say volunteers are the backbones and body of every non- profit organization. There are; the Wishbones volunteers-wishing someone else would do the work. The Jawbones volunteers-who do all the talking and little else. The Knucklebones volunteersknocking everything others try to do. Fortunately, it's the Backbones volunteers- who get under the load and do most of the work.

We proudly salute the following volunteers for their dedication, invaluable assistance and contributions to our success. They aren't in it for the recognition, which is exactly why we give it to them. We salute each of you.

If we have inadvertently omitted someone, please accept our apologies.

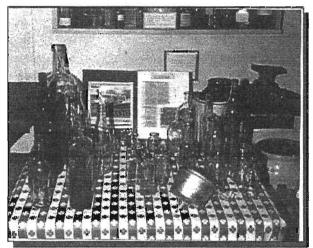
ANNA MORRIS BETH DEADY BETH VANBUSKIRK BETTY LUKE BILL KOMBOL BILL LUKE CHARLENE BIRKLID CHARLIE CORLETT CLAYTON MEAD CONRAD 'COKE' ROBERTS CORY OLSON DARRYL BUSS DAVID JONES



DEE ISRAEL **DENNIS BOXX** DON MALGARINI DON MASON DONALD BOTTS DONNA **GOUCHENOUR** DOROTHY CORLETT EILEEN ZUMEK **ELSIE PARKIN** ETHEL DUNCAN **EVELYN DAL SANTO EVELYN SHARPE** FRANK GRGURICH GERTRUDE BOTTS **GINO PICINI** GORDON ROBERTS HARRIET ROSSI HOWARD BOTTS JACKIE BUSS JACKIE CEDARHOLM JANE JONES JILL SENA JOAN MALGARINI JOANNE MATSU-MURA JOE DAL SANTO JOE ZUMEK JUNETTE LARSON

LINDA LEWIS LINDA MAKS LYNN MASON MARIE FREEMAN MARLEEN BORTLE-SON MARY CHILCOTT MARY LOU BOVEE MIKE DEICHER MURIEL WALDO NADINE HULSEY NANCY HESTER NANCY MEAD PAUL BOTTS **ROBERT CHARLES ROSEMARY KO-**NOSKE SHANE ISRAEL SHIRLEY MEAD STEVE ISRAEL **UNKNOWN VOLUN-**TEER WILLIAM 'BOB' THOMPSON

Since our last communication to you we have had fun with examining and cataloging "Treasures from the Earth". Also, after more than a year of research we obtained a confirmed citation to a photograph in the book Black Diamond, Mining the Memories. And from our faithful members, new friends and long time acquaintances we have received 25 individual accessions totaling over 130 pieces. It has been an exciting and busy few months. But now I'm getting ahead of myself.



The Treasures from the Earth consisted of 67 bottles brought up from a sinking mine timber chute, across the street from the Museum, in the Eagles parking area. It was just a little sinkhole you know, not much bigger than a sheet of paper. But it grew, gurgled and grew some more. Soon the Department of Interior Office of Surface Mining out of Olympia came to investigate. The digging got started and in the digging out came jugs and bottles such as; Lydia Pinkhams, Rader Bros. (Kent) Soda, Welch's (sacramental wine), Friged Fluid (undertaker), Sloans Linament, catsup and many other bottles. Many still had their original corks. The Society is appreciative in having these treasures. Many thanks to Jackie Buss for her hours of helping to cataloging the bottles. To Don Mason for cleaning the big jugs and to Clayton Mead for cleaning the remaining collection.

The photograph in Black Diamond Mining the Memories, page 50 is of drivers and mules. A typical scene in many mines. One of our members felt certain the young boy in the center was her ancestor. Could I come up with proof? There was no citation in the Archives, only the original clipping of the picture from a magazine mat James vematem nau provided to the Society. The hunt begins. Many inquires were made by phone, letter and knocking on doors. Then a clue came from the member, the photograph was held by the Library of Congress. Through the help of the King County Library Interlibrary Loan Department and after the request passed the anthrax testing we received the desired information. The photo on page 50 was photographed in a Gary, West Virginia mine, September, 1908 titled: Drivers & Mules, by photographer Lewis Hine, famous for his photographs of "child labor". While this information was disappointing to our member (her ancestor died pre 1908) it was successful in that we now have historical information for the photograph for future generations. Special thanks to all those in the King County Library System who helped in this project.

Thank you to the following individuals for your gift donations of artifacts and memorabilia. We appreciate your generosity and contributions that continue to enhance the Societies collections:

Robert Charles-Book "The Welsh Society of Cleveland, 1914".

Olga Swann-Barrel ink well, for the country school desk, treasure from her garden.

Lorie Kenyon-Temporary loan of a framed picture of the Green River Gorge Bridge.

Allen Kuppler-Small mining map of Black Diamond, 1897.

Unknown donor-Books, Facts about Coal in the 1990's.

Beth VanBuskirk-Small 48 star USA Flag that was given to her husband Bob. BD High School Girls Club Pin and 1938 High School Class memorabilia.

Evelyn Erm-Book, "DuPont, the story of a company town".

David Sprau-Video, "Millwaukee Everett Branch-It's People".

Roy Swain-Miners hat & lamp, lunch pail and picture of brother Bill Swain & wife, Clora, 1930's. Dorothy Corlett-Snapshot picture of John B. Carnino.

Lois Thomas Estby-Photographs and memorbilia of Frank Zumek, copy of a photograph "Franks Meat Market Opening Day, September 1, 1939", with Frank Zumek behind the counter.

(Continued on page 9)

#### (Continued from page 8)

Mary Isham-Calendars and sections of Saturday Evening Post of early automobiles.

Jackie Cedarholm-Medicine bottles, live mouse

trap, wooden toy, tatting shuttle and lace piece . Also, 25 linen and cotton tea towels from Wales, a

four volume set of "The New Students Reference

Work", 1909, originally issued in 1893. Welsh

capes and hats and several photographs.

Muriel Waldo-BD Coal Car souvenir plate, BD

United Presbyterian Church plate of 1961 and her 1937 BD High School Class ring.

Gavin P. Williams-Two Sanford's Ink Wells, clear glass, treasures from the garden.

Steve & Dee Israel-"FANTA" soda pop bottle. Elaine Mead-Wedding dress, evening dress with jacket and a mesh shopping bag.

Gordon 'Coke' Roberts-1941 High School Diploma, military documents, photographs of class of 1941 from the first grade and mounted on a display board.

Bender's Collectibles-Eight merchant coins for exhibit, Carbon Coal Co., Carbonado & Enumclaw Trade Coins.

Frank Grgurich-Copies of Brown Family Documents and personal journal.

Mr. & Mrs. Allison-Long term loan of four bound volumes of the Auburn newspaper.

John Lynch-Barrel ink well, beer & wine bottle, treasures from another sinkhole.

Ann Sharlock-Senior class photograph of 1932 & 1934. Also, beautiful drawings by Esther Vernarelli Babb.

We also want to acknowledge and thank the following individuals for their special contributions:

Muriel Waldo-BDHS Historic Calendars and Labor Day buttons for a special project.

Jackie Buss-For her many long hours in the transcription of the 1920 Federal Population Census for Bayne, WA.

Dennis Boxx & Joe Zumek-To Dennis for the telegraphers signal device and to Joe for designing to make it work.

Clayton Mead-Easel for exhibits, matching bench for the auditorium and a supply of wood signage holders.

Gordon 'Coke' Roberts-For his time to provide a list of names and addresses of the surviving Black Diamond High School graduates for a special project.

Joe Zumek and Donald Botts-For their labor of love in restoring the log sleigh. Also to Dorothy Corlett for lettering the new sign. (Don't wait for winter to come and see it.)

Steve Israel-For his labor in the work of the attic fire walls. Protection feels so-o-o good!!

Issaquah Trophy-For the nine engraved Memorial Plaques.

Southeast Glass-Glass shelving for a display cabinet. Dennis Boxx- For preservation sleeves for coins.

Beth Van Buskirk-BDHS Calendars for a special project.

Gino Picini-Flowers and wood border for the flower bed around the jail. Beautiful Color!!

Rachael Fagnon-Early labor day buttons.

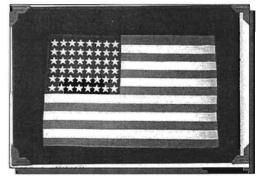
Stan Celigoy & Jim Elsey-for providing names to "unknowns" in several photographs.

Mike Deicher & Linda Lewis-For a delicious kettle of chili for the Thursday crew.

Jackie Cedarholm, Darryl Buss, Don Mason & Gino Picini- For their time in representing the Museum at the AKCHO Heritage Expo.

John Morris of TRM Wood Products Co., Inc.-For lumber to repair a section of the Depot board walk at a critical point.

BDHS Catalog #2002.14.01



**THIS BEAUTIFUL** small silk flag was donated by **Beth VanBuskirk**. It was given to her husband, **Bob**, when he joined the **Port Townsend Elks Lodge** in 1942. It is being framed and prepared for exhibit in the school room. It is a fitting example of the era.

The 48 Star Flag has had the greatest longevity of any design, 1912-1959. President Taft executive order accepted New Mexico on January 6, 1912 and Arizona on February 14, 1912 as the 48<sup>th</sup> State and redesigned the National Flag to six horizontal lines.

## **1894 COAL MINE REPORT**

(Continued from the April 2002 issue)

#### FATAL ACCIDENTS, 1894

August 24 - The following named persons were suffocated by smoke from a mine fire in the Franklin mine: Frank Willis, age 57, married; Edward Maxwell, age 21, single; R. Jones, age 33, single; John Grantilla, age 19, single; Joseph Dawson, age 19, single; H. R. Roberts, age 27, single; John Irwin, age 25, single; Joseph Connell, age 19, single; Joseph Gibson, age 26, married; Edward Johnson, age 23, single; Andrew Engdahl, age 33, widower; John T. Pugh, age 39, married; John Q. Anderson, age 30, married; Wm. Secor, age 26, married; Andrew Greer, age 26, single; Jos. Bossi, age 27, single; Isaac Clemmens, age 58, married; Peter Perig, age 19, single; Robert McCaskey, age 18, single; Evan D. Jones, age 18, single; Peter Hay, age 38, married; Louis Farr, age 30, single; Joseph Standridge, age 16, single; Phillip de Mari, age 25, married; John E. Johns, age 49, married; John Morris, age 49, married; John Hall, age 20, single; Chris Dunkers, age 19, single; Chas. Stevens, age 24, single; Jacob Olson, age 27, married; Frank Larson, age 30, single; Evan Hughes, age 48, married; Rocco Tetti, age 31, single; David D. Jones, age 38, married; Evan John, age 19, single; W. P. Jones, age 25, single; A. J. Jones, age 24, married.

#### NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

February 1 - D. M. Griffith, leg broken by fall of coal at Franklin mine.

May 27 – Albert Rose, Franklin miner, injured by a fall of coal.

June 10 – Paul Bassen, Franklin; severely injured by a fall of coal.

July 12 – Howard Salter, Franklin; skull fractured by falling from scaffold.

July 25 – J. M. Phillips, Black Diamond, No. 14; seriously scalded by falling in the sump.

September 14 – Peter Bowden, Franklin; seriously injured by falling down the slope.

October 2 – John Swanson, Franklin; slightly burnt by igniting the gas.

October 4 – Henry Sutti and Martin Gambetti, Franklin; seriously burnt by an explosion of gas.

December 27 – Frank Owens, Franklin; fell down a chute and broke his shoulder bone.

December 29 – Fisher Brown, Franklin; skull crushed by falling underneath the mine cars.

# THE QUANTITY OF AIR MEASURED IN EACH MINE

Name of mine	Cu. ft. per min.
Franklin, north fan	12,600
Franklin, south fan	23,000
Black Diamond, No. 2	17,500
Black Diamond, No. 12	21,470
Black Diamond, No. 14	28,500

Number of mines that mined and shipped coal in the various counties in the district:

Name of county	No. of mines
King	14
Kittitas	6
Skagit	1
Whatcom	<u>1</u>
Total	22

#### NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

Name of mine	Inside	Outside	Totals
Franklin	286	75	361
Black Diamond No. 2	38	15	53
Black Diamond No. 12	94	16	110
Black Diamond No. 14	116	36	152

#### COAL MINED DURING THE YEAR

Name of mine	No. of tons
Franklin	99,180
Black Diamond	120,694



# **IN MY OWN WORDS**

By Charles M. Corlett 1915-2002

A visit to another Museum brought back memories I would like to share with you.

My grandfather was a part time farmer and coal strip miner when I was growing up in Kansas and Missouri in the 1920's. I can remember, when I was 8 or 10 years old, my Father working at the coal pit. Being a farmer himself, he had a team of horses he used at the pit for stripping the soil from the coal seam. From this work he took his pay out in a winter's supply of coal. He also did some of the drilling and blasting.

I grew up in this environment and learned a lot in the use of blasting materials. In those days they used mostly black powder for the coal seam. When I came to hard rock, dynamite was sometimes used.

My father spent some time as a powder man for a larger coal mining company. From this I learned more about blasting materials. Moving to the State of Washington in 1928, my Father went to work as a powderman for a road building contractor. At times the work was close to home and I had a chance to go to the job with him. That was a great experience for me at a time I was old enough to help with some of the work, (packing powder, carrying drill steel and tools and at time "flagging" on an end of the project while my Father set off the shots).

About 1947 I went to work as a powder packer for the White River Lumber Company at Enumclaw, Washington, later the Weyerhaeuser Company, building rail road right-of-way. At that time it was mostly blasting huge fir, hemlock, spruce and cedar stumps. I worked my way into a part time powder man, doing everything there was to do, (blasting stumps, drilling rock, loading and blasting.).

Many a "powder headache" I have had from handling dynamite in a damp or rainy atmosphere!

I retired from there in 1977 with a lot of memories from this great experience.

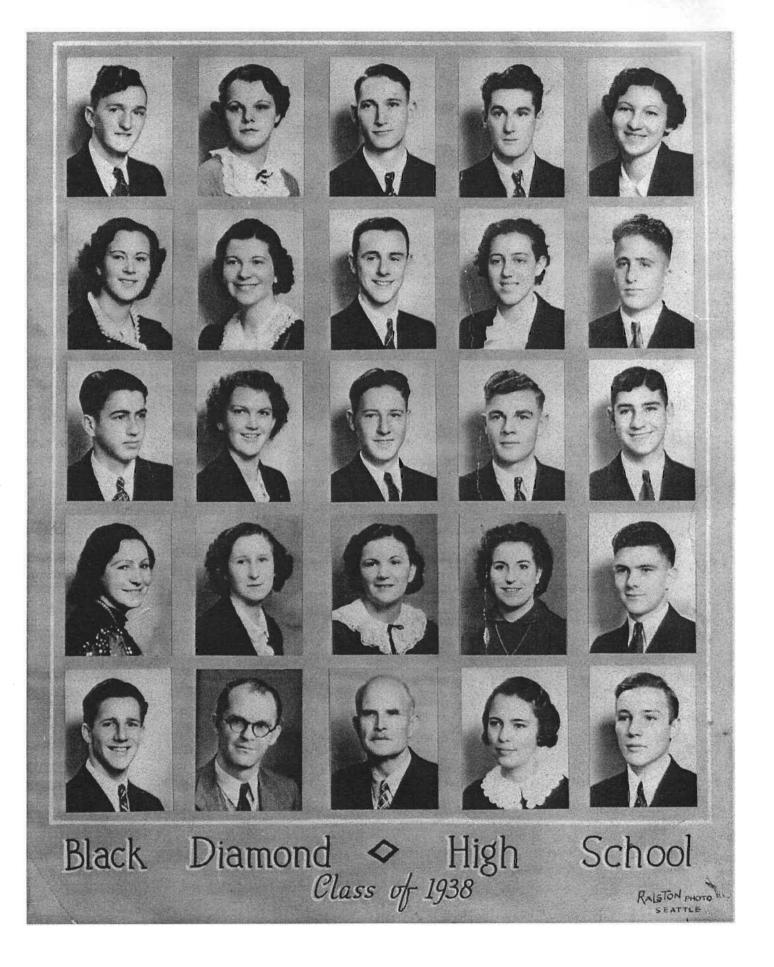
I hope you will come to Black Diamond, Washington and visit our Museum sometime.

Sincerely, (signed) **Charles Corlett** Submitted by permission, JoAnne Matsumura.

TWO JAIL BIRDS, MOANING THE FACT THAT THEY WERE BEHIND BARS-One says, "We can get out of here." "We kin? How?" "I'll shine my flash light up the wall and you climb up the beam!" "You must think I'm stupid. I know what you'd do. I'd get half way up, you'd shut it off!"

Contributed by Charlie Corlett. THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES CHARLIE.





## **CLASS OF 1938**

Students and Historical Facts

By JoAnne Matsumura

ROW 1

ROBERT 'BOB' DAVIDSON DOROTHY ETHEL CLARK\* EVERETT C. SWANN RICHARD JAZBEC\* JULIA GRENS MANN

#### ROW 2

DYLLYS L. MERRYFIELD\* HARRIET LEONA HAMMOND\* EARL MORISON\* LYNDA DAL SANTO MAKS VICTOR MALGARINI\*

#### ROW 3

MODESTO BANCHERO\* BETH BOTTS VAN BUSKIRK MYRON DAVIDSON GLENN L. NOEL LEO C. FRANCHINI\*

#### ROW 4

KATHLEEN ANNA SEPOTZ FRANCHINI NORA THERESA SEPOTZ MARY ELSIE THOMPSON MARCHETTI EVELYN MARY PAOLUCCI\* PHILIP E. FOWLER

#### ROW 5

BILL PARKINSON C. M. NELSON (SUPT)\* F. W. COBB\* DOREEN ELLIOTT\* WILLIAM "BILL' O. MCLOUGHRY \*

\*Deceased

# THE CLASS SONG, 1938

Hi Ho! Hi Ho! We've worked so quick with arithmetic. Hi ho! Hi ho! Hi ho! Hi ho! Hi ho! 1-9-3-8 must go. We leave with regret But we're glad we met Hi ho! Hi ho!

Hi ho! Hi ho! And now they're here, we shed a tear. Hi ho! Hi ho! Hi ho! Hi ho! Hi ho! We dread so much to go! Our goal we've won And we've had fun! Hi ho! Hi ho!

## THE CLASS MOTTO-WORK AND WIN

THE CLASS COLORS-LAVENDER AND GOLD

THE CLASS FLOWER-TEA ROSE

The class ring cost \$6.12. Announcement and calling cards were \$3.91.

The all High School Cast in YIMMIE YONSON'S YOB, on May 6, 1938. Did you attend?

The Senior Picnic was May 23, 1938 at Gaffney's Lake Wilderness.

EDUCATION CHAIRMAN-B. T. PLASS, CLERK-D. K. PORTER, TRUSTEE-FRANK STRANGE.

June 3, 1938, COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES, High School Auditorium:

Mr. Norman played the March. Rev. R. A. Walmsley gave the invocation. Gordon & Conrad Roberts, piano and violin selection. Elsie Thompson, Salutatroy address. Doreen Merryfield, song, accompanied by Muriel Evans. Dyllys Merryfield, Valedictory address. Prof. Nelson, Awards. Bill Parkinson, Farwell address.

(Continued on page 14)



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

Address correction requested

Red check on label indicates your membership is due.

## QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

1:30 PM Sunday July 14

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

1:30 PM 3rd Sunday Of each month The Black Diamond Historical Society

is a non profit organization. Our funding comes mainly from donations, dues, and some grants. The restoration and main-

tenance 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 our history.

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