

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 2003

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

For Special Tours, Call 253-852-6763 Visit our web site! [Http://mytown.koz.com/community/blackdiamondmuseum](http://mytown.koz.com/community/blackdiamondmuseum)



PICTURES OF THE PAST

Wonder if these ladies did wheelies! We doubt it. Who are these lovely ladies? This photograph is a modern 2"x 4" Kodak glossy. However the image tells us it is many moons gone by.

Handsome fellows Walt Brennon and Glen Rockey look ready to go spin their wheels and kick up some dust in this 1928 photograph. The license plate, #257-215 reads X Washington-28. Like that hood ornament! The Masonic Hall is in the background.

**DON'T MISS YOUR QUARTERLY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING!**

REMEMBER!

**REFRESHMENTS & ENTERTAINMENT
WILL FOLLOW!**

APRIL 13th, 1:30 PM

If you have information or a story about these two photographs please share them with us. Write, call or e-mail your response to us. All information is gratefully appreciated and welcome. **THANK YOU!!**

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:
Steve Israel, Editor BDHS
 P.O. Box 232, Black Diamond, WA 98010
 360-886-2582 stevedee@attbi.com

Please address any changes or corrections to:
Dee Israel, Membership BDHS
 P.O. Box 232, Black Diamond, WA. 98010

Society Officers

President: Don Mason
 Vice President: Darryl Buss
 Secretary: Dee Israel
 Treasurer: Clayton Mead

Directors

Don Botts, Howard Botts, Jackie Buss, Jackie Cedarholm, Steve Israel, JoAnne Matsumura, Anna Morris, Joe Zumek

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Many of the museums of the world have a paid staff. The staff would consist of the Officers; the Board of Trustees; one or more Curators; Managers for the building and grounds; and the list goes on. All of staff would have a formal education in their field, and the most desired employees would have many years of experience. Many applicants would be competing for the jobs.

These museums need a great amount of money for their operating expenses in the form of grants and donations. They also charge the public for admission.

Here in Black Diamond our visitors have commented many times in many ways how great our museum is. They have complemented us on the volume of artifacts on display, and how well we have them labeled. We have had visitors from all around the world, and many of them say this is one of the best, if not the best museum they have visited.

Why does this museum get such high praise? The biggest difference is that we have an all-volunteer staff. We have people who put their hearts into this museum, they don't do it for the money.

With most any volunteer organization, there is about 10% of the membership that will volunteer in some capacity to help keep things running. We are at about ten to twelve percent right now. There is also a turnover rate that can be expected to prevent burnout. This is an ongoing process, so we are always seeking volunteers.

We have our Thursday maintenance days that are well attended. We have rotating cooks for our Thursday crew. Our big need for volunteers is on Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm. We are looking for help one day a month. There are always at least two volunteers on duty together. We know the weekends are family days and social events are numerous, but if you could help it would be appreciated. Don't think you have to know a lot of Black Diamond's history to do this. We need the volunteers to man the front desk - selling items, keeping attendance and greeting visitors.

If you can help us out, let one of the Board Members know or call the Museum on Thursday.
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Don Mason

This Page	Page 2
President's Report	Page 2
From The Editor (poofwreeder)	Page 3
Secretary's Report	Page 3
Membership & Memorials	Page 4
Guests / In Memory / Donations	Page 5
From The Archives	Page 6
Our Members / Franklin Tour	Page 7
The Class of '43	Pages 8 & 9
Show and Tell / Snippets	Page 9
Merryfields (2nd of 3)	Page 10
Fowlers (3rd of 3)	Page 11
1896 Coalmine Report	Pages 12 & 13
Welch Day Celebration!	Page 14



FROM YOUR EDITOR

Greetings to my fellow miners and history buffs. In my previous report I mentioned that I was interested in helping to take care of the building that houses the Museum. Don Mason and I had the pleasure of working with one of our members, John Lynch and his fellow Clampers: **E. Clampus Vitas**.

We got together one Saturday morning to remove the old platform from under the floor of the Museum. The platform was rotting away, and exposing the rest of the building to decay.

The undertaking was very laborious, and took all day. The Clampers were working in shifts to continue the difficult task until it was complete.

Much of the wood was able to be stored for future repairs, and the rest was disposed of. We now have access to the floor joists so we can repair and replace them as needed. We can also install insulation between the joists, as we receive the funding.

We extend our appreciation to the members of **E. Clampus Vitas** for their interest in preserving history, and their willingness to work so hard with us on our museum.

On another subject, due to popular demand, we will continue to run the coal mine reports. This issue is running the 1896 report. We will have a fund raising drive for the newsletter if we find that we cannot keep up with the printing costs.

Steve Israel, Editor

Board Meetings

Board meetings are held the 3rd Sun. of each month at the Museum at 1:30 PM, however in April it will be at 11:00 on the 2nd Sunday (13th) before the Quarterly Membership Meeting. Meetings are open to the Membership, although participation is limited to Board Members. The General Membership may be allowed to join discussions as time permits. To have business placed on the agenda, contact the Secretary at least 2 weeks in advance.

SECRETARY REPORT

January, February & March



Our next Board Meeting was scheduled for April 20th but, with that being Easter, it has been rescheduled to 11:00 on April 13th, in advance of our 1:30 Membership Meeting.

Welsh Day is scheduled for the 1st Saturday in June (June 7, 2003). Write that date on your calendar, as it should be a great event. Be sure to come and tell your friends to come too.

Have you checked out our website lately? Steve Israel has updated our website and has added the information about our Welsh Day Celebration. <http://mytown.koz.com/community/blackdiamondmuseum>

Don Mason advised that in 2002 we had 29 scheduled tours. These tours included 387 children and 435 adults, making a total of 822 visitors just for the tours. One of our most recent tours was on February 6, 2003. It included 50 students in the A.M. and another 50 in the P.M., all from Sawyer Woods Elementary School. Clayton Mead and Dee Israel were in charge of outside and downstairs, and Don Mason and Jane Jones were in charge of upstairs. Everyone seemed to enjoy the tour. Don Mason had a Tour of the Franklin Town site on February 22nd. There was a nice group of 27 in attendance.

We are making plans to contact Black Diamond teachers about checking out our education kits as well as bringing their students to the Black Diamond Museum for a tour.

A new riding/walking tour brochure is being designed. Chairmen Howard Botts advised us that Designer Laura Olsen from Olsen Creative should have the brochure ready for our review by the next Board Meeting in April.

We have heard the comment, "the new paint job on the Museum looks really good". We agree, do you? The Fire Marshall came by with a Fireman and a Police Officer for our annual inspection. They announced that we are doing a very good job.

The old platform under the Museum was removed on Saturday, February 1st. Members of the Order of E. Clampus Vitas, Director Steve Israel and President Don Mason made up the work crew for the job. The biggest portion of the wood that was re-

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

moved can be stored and used on future repairs and projects. With the removal of the platform, a layer of 6-mil plastic was laid over the ground, under the Museum to act as a vapor barrier. We can now get to the underside of the floor to install insulation and maintain the structure.

Our public relations & hospitality Chairperson, Jackie Buss has sent get-well cards to members Junette Larson who had cataracts removed and Ralph Estby who is recuperating from a punctured bowel.

We are now thinking about what we can do to participate in the Labor Day Parade. Does anyone have any ideas?

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

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

IN MEMORY of Dick Gioui, a donation was made by Robert & Judith Thompson.

IN MEMORY of William Eltz, a donation was made by Helen Manowski.

IN MEMORY of Julia Grens Mann, a donation was made by Kathe & Larry Farrow, Gertrude Partridge, Emma Lindstrm, Gordon, Virginia & Brien Linstrom and Regan & Jason Erskine.

IN MEMORY of Jack & Alma Jones, a donation was made by Michael & Cheryl Sniadoski.

IN MEMORY of William (Bill) & Doris Parkinson, a donation was made by Michael & Cheryl Sniadoski.

IN MEMORY of Ethel Duncan, donations were made by Donald Botts, Beth VanBuskirk, JoAnne Matsumura, Darroll & Jean Thomas, Lynda Maks, Mary Chilcott, and Mt. Rainier Rebekah Lodge #106

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.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

For January, February & March 2003

By Dee Israel

The Black Diamond Historical Society now has 247 memberships. That is for:

127 INDIVIDUAL-LIFE

14 COUPLES-LIFE

63 INDIVIDUAL-ANNUAL

36 FAMILY-ANNUAL

7 BUSINESS

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 5 new memberships. These new memberships are for: **Len Flothe, Jack Hope, Van & Gwen Rhodes, Ernest & Delores Seliger, Jack Thompson.**

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 our museum alive.

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 means your membership is past due.)

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 an individual or \$15.00 for a family membership, for the whole year.

THE BLACK DIAMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY WELCOMES OLD PHOTOS OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR DONATION OR LOAN. OTHER ITEMS ARE ALSO WELCOME, BUT THE PHOTOS ARE BECOMING MORE RARE, AND GIVE US A VALUABLE "LOOK" INTO THE PAST.

GUESTS

By: Don (Doc) Botts

During the months of **January, February and March** we had **172** visitors to the Museum. There were visitors from **6** States: California, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Oregon and here in Washington. There were also people visiting from far off places, such as Bancock, Denmark, Costa Rica, Slovenia, Thailand, and Wales.

REMARKS MADE BY OUR GUESTS

“Very well Maintained”, “The best Museum, so unique”, “Artifacts displayed so appropriately”, Great displays, Fine Museum, Very interesting, Cool, It’s always nice to visit this place, Looks great, A very nice experience, Thanks for the memories, Beautiful Museum, How Great! I never knew it was here!, Wonderful Thank you!, Love it, Glad it’s here! Thank you!, Worth seeing, Love this place!, and Awesome.

MONETARY DONATIONS

We wish to thank **Bill Bremmeyer, Esther Birch, Jeanne Norman, Arlene Parkin, and Jack Thompson** for their generous donations to the Black Diamond Historical Society’s general fund; and **Henry Delauro** for his donation to the Archive Preservation 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.

A BRIGHT MULE

(Coal Age, January 1, 1925, Vol. 27 No. 1)

“Sambo, a driver in a Kentucky coal mine, was able to gather his trips without speaking to his mule. The trick was to lay his hand on the mule and lean his light to the right or left, and the mule turned in the direction that was lighted. Mose, another driver, knew of this but was not able to understand why he was not able to teach his mule tricks of this kind, so he went to Sambo for help. Sambo said all that was necessary was to know more than the mule!”

Extracted by JoAnne Matsumura

IN MEMORY

Society loses long time Steward



Ethel Duncan was born in Black Diamond on February 28, 1928 and passed away on February 14, 2003. Some knew her as “Sissy”. She was a lifetime resident and served her community in many ways over the years. She is survived by brothers Robert and Fred Duncan, and a sister Hazel Severson.

Ethel was a Charter member of the Society and was a dedicated and faithful volunteer for many years. She was a good Steward.

She served the Society over the years primarily as a Docent and Cook, but helped in other Museum activities. Her dedication as a Docent was shown in rarely missing her appointed day and her delicious meals for the Thursday crew were welcome and appreciated.

We will miss her. She is with the angels now serving as needed.

Evan David Morris Jr. passed away on March 11, 2003. He was 44 years old. Evan was a lifetime member of the Society and served as Vice-President in 2001.

The Society is appreciative of his contribution as Vice-President and for the knowledge he offered towards assisting us in the Society’s business operations.

Evan’s special interest and expertise was in video work, and had visions of implementation for the Society.

The Morris family is our family here at the Black Diamond Historical Society, and we offer our prayers and sympathy for their loss.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

By JoAnne Matsumura

We are appreciative to have received the final payment from the Office of Cultural Development Authority of King County for the Societies grant, Professionalization of Collection Management. This generous funding from Hotel/Motel Tax Revenues will help us reach our goals and continue with our preservation projects.

The gift of giving that comes to us from the kindness of the heart is welcome and always surprises us. From good folks; like **Steve & Dee Israel** and **Muriel Waldo** with beautiful picture frames and shadow boxes, **Southeast Glass** who provides glass shelving to enhance our exhibits, **Jackie Cedarholm** and **Muriel Waldo** who gave us some old magazines so we could use the advertisements in them. **Dee Israel** has graciously loaned her scrapbook of news clippings so we could make copies for our "Around Town" volumes. **Clayton Mead** came with needed bookends and book shelving.

Then there are those folks who just stop by to offer what they can and those who gave us the following Treasures and Trinkets:

MURIEL WALDO-Anniversary booklet of St. Barbara's Church 1962, \$3 funny money, post card of The Bakery circa 1950's and a chronology document of the Black Diamond United Presbyterian Church, Dedication day, May 28, 1961.

STEIERT FAMILY-Yarn embroidered picture of a train and the Black Diamond Depot, crafted by **THELMA LAPHAM GRIFFITH**, sister of **CARL STEIERT**.

CLAYTON H. MEAD-Chinese Checker game marbles, "Wowie" chewing gum whistle, Velveeta 1# cheese box, wood shaving soap container, two toy croquet mallets, reed sewing basket with two thimbles from his grandmother **ELIZABETH HALLETT**, five old Asian coins, softball, two baseball bats, 9 ten pins, marbles, S&H Green Stamp Book, Linton "Color-Copy" lead pencil box, Mephisto Drawing Pencil box and pencils, tin "Band Aid" box, jar rings/lids and small glass "Bayer" aspirin bottle.

BOB THOMPSON-WPA crafted long handled double blade ax.

HELEN STROM MANOWSKI-Large cup with Black Diamond logo and coal car, prayer cards, booklet about Monarch ranges, clippings and 37 snapshots, circa 1973.

VANCE & DOREEN BALZARINI BAILEY-A book compiled by them titled, "Black Diamond Cemetery Records Through 6/2001."

DONALD BOTTS-Copy of a Real Estate Contract document issued by the Pacific Coast Coal Co., circa 1939.

BENDER'S COLLECTIBLES-Trade token from K. M. Butcher, 5 cents, Kangley, WA.

PALMER COKING COAL COMPANY-Coal car coupler.

UNKNOWN-Book about linotype machines, (the name on the inside cover is **ENOCH HULTGREN**), and one individual medical kit.

ELAINE V. MEAD-Children's and ladie's garments, circa 1900's.

STEVE ISRAEL-"Addressograph" 1967 operating guide, "Rogers Golden Syrup" tin, "Butter-Nut" coffee tin and "Nabob" Baking Powder tin.

RUTH AYERS HOFTO-Book of Mrs. Hofto's artworks, a publication by Northwest Art Publications.

LORRAINE WINSOR-Photographs of Palmer/Kanaskat, WA school and area, spice tins and bottles.

DON MASON-Snapshots of Vera Kidd,

PREVIOUS PICTURE OF PAST

A picture of a young man in a delivery wagon was our Picture of the Past in the August 2001 issue. We have found inscribed on the back of another copy of that picture "Building on the right is the old company store. It burned down in 1907. B.D. Milk Supply." Zumek collection. (We are still wanting to know: "Who delivered milk in 1907?")

ARCHIVES WISH LIST

Black Diamond Centennial Belt Buckle, commissioned by **Jim Vernarelli** in 1982.

Measuring cup style flour sifter for country kitchen exhibit.

Tea towels embroidered with Monday-wash day, Tuesday-ironing, etc., for country kitchen exhibit.

GENEALOGY TIP: Are you looking for information about a female ancestor? Remember to include her maiden name along with married name/s and your SASE.

OUR MEMBERS

Thanks to the interest of our members we have grown to become the respected historical society that we are today. As Don Mason mentioned in his President's Report, we have had many visitors from all over the world remark about what a great museum this is.

Our success is due to the vision and hard work of our founding members, the many hours of work by our volunteers, and the interest and support of you, our membership.

As many of you read statements about needing volunteers, you may not fully understand the scope of what is involved. I will try to define some of the positions, explain what you need to know, and how much time is involved in helping.

There are some of our members who are too far away to be able to help out around here. There are also some of our members who are not physically able to do much to help. So that leaves the rest of us to take up the slack. Being too busy is not an excuse, as most of the people doing the work around here lead very busy lives outside the Museum.

Right now, Doc (Don Botts, Volunteer Coordinator) says we need cooks and docents. We all know what a cook is, but some may ask "What's a docent?" Here in our museum the docents are the ones that are here during the hours that we are open. There are always at least two docents during each shift, so the new people can learn from the veterans. They basically open up, count visitors, socialize, learn about our history and pass it on, and lock up at the end of the shift.

We need docents for one day per month. Saturday or Sunday from 12:00 to 3:00 or Thursday from 9:00 to 4:00 (lunch provided).

Cooks are on a rotating schedule, and provide lunch for the Thursday work crew. They generally cook for 10-12 people and receive monetary compensation to offset the expenses. An example menu would be: baked salmon, steamed asparagus, rice pilaf, home made bread, vintage wine, and maybe black forest cake for dessert. (I'm joking! If

You don't have to be an expert in your field to be valued around here.

that's for lunch, I'll be there for certain!)

Menus vary according to the cook, but we sometimes have soup and rolls with salad; or a casse-roule with salad and cornbread; or cold cuts and bread for sandwiches with chips; and usually some kind of dessert. Coffee and tea are available at the Museum.

Many other jobs are available for volunteers. We all have special skills and interests. Some of the jobs are hands-on, and some are clerical in nature.

You don't have to be an expert in your field to be valued around here. Stop by sometime, or call or e-mail us to see what you can do. We have special projects that require minimal time commitment, so if you feel like helping us on a one-time-only job, let us know. We have a "honey do" list for various projects, and many more little projects that never make the list.

If you have any questions about how you can help make a difference, please contact us. You will be glad you did.

Steve Israel,
Board Member/Editor



FRANKLIN TOUR 2-22-03

Don Mason conducted a tour of Franklin, WA on February 22, 2003. **27 guests** were treated to interesting stories, photographs of the coal mining town in its prime and awesome views of how it looks today. Sign up now and you will be notified before the next tour departs.

THE LAST CLASS-1943

By JoAnne Matsumura

No more teachers, no more books. No more teachers—well I think you know the rest of it. It was school days and the golden rule ways.

Over sixty years ago 36 students eagerly entered Miss Ruth Eleanor Avery's school room on September 7, 1931 as first graders and as the class of 1943. Little did they know then that they would become decorated as The Last Class to graduate from the Black Diamond High School, June 1943. The school was closed in 1943 due to a drop in student attendance.

There were 34 more students who entered the school's class of 1943 at various grade levels as the years went by.

Through the years the students received quality education, developed life long friendships and helped each other through their years of schooling. Each one continued to excel and followed the Golden Rule ways.

Your hometown takes a moment of silence to remember those who have passed away. To those still with us we cordially invite you to let us hear from you. We were able to locate many of your classmates, however there are many more yet to locate. Please let us know if you have information for the ones indicated as, (**) "where are they now?"

The students who entered the Black Diamond School on September 7, 1931 as first graders are:

Betty Sanford**
Billy Whitney**
Charlotte Kessner Tiedt
Corrine Jones*
Dave Brown**
David Walsh
Denna Mary Harte**
Donald Martin
Doris Hale**
Dorothy M. Susnar Walters* 2002
Emma Marie Darby Knoff* 1996
Ethel Morgan**
Eugene Robinette* 1988
Garrette Van Riper**
George Gregg**
Harry Lloyd Hammond*
Irene Fredrickson*
Jim Elsey
Joe Susnar* 1998

Joe Zumek
John Niemczyk* 1993
Leo Merlino
Lois Archer**
Lois Coady**
Margorie Clark**
Marie Doris Davidson**
Marie Godini**
Marie Trover Theilken
Melvin Tyler*
Myrna Jean McLoughry*
Nada Van Alstine**
Norene Fredrickson Lundberg
Norman Madill*
Roselie DeMan Poggensee
Virginia Besso**
Virginia Crossman**

Those students who entered throughout the remaining years are:

Albert Franz
Alvin Novack**
Alvina Olsen**
Ann McKelvey**
Betty Lois Hiber Martin
Bill Thomas**
Billy Davies*
Bob (Robert) Kertis*
Bob Cassel* 1966
Darrell McKinnon**
Dave Evans**
Dean Billette* 2001
Dorothy Goldsberry Gaines
Dorothy Hiber Oczkus
Earl Benz*
Evelyn Bingman**
Evelyn Sharrock**
Helen Gustin Moisio* 1986
Helen Miller**
Henry "Hank" Tyerman* 2002
John Louis Carnino* 2002
June Miller**
LaVern Scott**
Lawrence Hawkins**
Leonard Flothe
Lorraine Wagner**
Marie Trover
Patsy Jordan**
Patsy McDonald**
Retha Kinkade**

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Robert "Rabbit" Payne**
Robert Heller**
Steve Sepotz (Seapotz)*
Wanda Tyerman*

The teachers as noted in school records for the twelve years are:

Conrad C. Ness, Principal
Ellen Brodie*
Florence M. Ball*
Gilda, Rey*
Gwendolyn McDowell*
Helen Enid Gustin
Helen Hatheway*
Miss Lammie
Ruth Eleanor Avey*
W. N. Watson

*Deceased

**Where are they now?



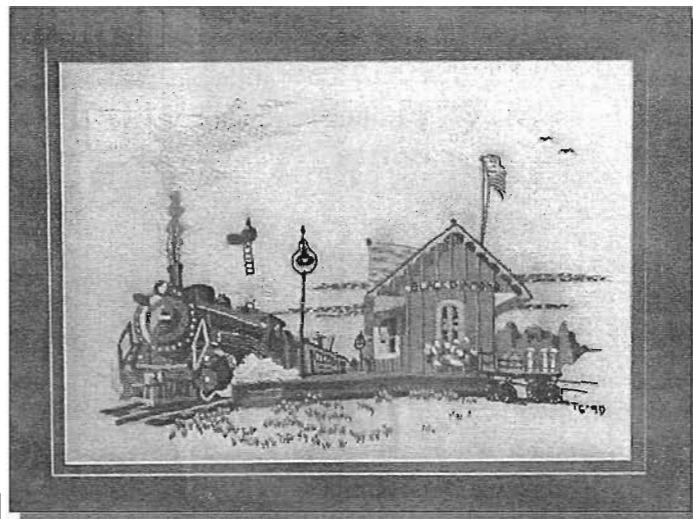
Top row, left to right, Joe Zumek, Doris Hale, Emma Darby, John Carnino

Middle row, John Niemczyk, Irene Fredricksen, Norene Fredricksen, Robert Payne

Bottom row, Bill Thomas, Betti Hiber, Myrna McLoughry, Helen Gustin

SHOW & TELL

This lovely yarn embroidered picture of the Black Diamond Depot and train was crafted by **Thelma Lapham Griffith**, (daughter of **Eldon & Mary Lapham** and sister of **Carl Steiert**), circa 1980's. It was a recent gift to the Society by the **Steiert Family**.



BDHS Catalog #2003.01.01

SNIPPETS 'N SMIDGENS

By JoAnne Matsumura

Did you know

THAT-The Society's Museum exhibits are the best antique road show you'll ever see! Come visit us and bring a friend or relative. We'd enjoy showing you around.

THAT-Home mortgage rates in 1939 with the Pacific Coast Company were 8%.

THAT-A 1937 article about coal miners stated, "that the only leisure day at the command of the working thousands is Sunday, which is the peoples holiday".

THAT-The Black Diamond Whiz Bang Club held regular meetings in 1922.

THAT-The hoist engineers at Black Diamond in October 1922 were; **J.H. Saarella, Charles Gallagher, Frank Harte, Jack Bryant and Alex Dawson.**

THAT-**WE THANK YOU** for your support, which helps us reach our goals.

Glen and Liz Merryfield Come to Black Diamond

By: Conrad Roberts and Betty/Ivor Merryfield
(The second of three articles submitted
by Conrad "Coke" Roberts)

Glen Merryfield and Elizabeth Ann Rodrick were married in London, England on October 24, 1917. World War I started in 1914 with England and France leading the allies in the war on Imperial Germany.

Glen was born in Pontyclun, Wales, England on December 1, 1895. Liz was born in 1896 in Abercan, South Wales. Glen's father was an accountant for a mining company in Wales. Liz's father was a Baptist Minister. Glen tried working in Wales as a tin plate worker and later a butcher apprentice, then finally became a coal miner in a Welsh mine. Liz went from Wales to London and became an office clerk.

Glen enlisted in the British Army in 1916. On leave from the army Glen met Liz in London and started courting. They were married in London in 1917. When Glen was sent over seas to the war in France. After the war ended in 1918 Glen again started working in the mines in Wales.

In 1919 Dyllys was born. By 1922 England (including Wales) was stuck in a deep depression so the Merryfields decided to immigrate to Canada. Liz's Uncle Issac operated a big farm in Saskatchewan and Issac invited them to live with him on the farm. After a short stay in Saskatchewan Glen found work in the mines in Coleman, Alberta Canada in 1922.

It was at Coleman that the Merryfields, Fowlers and Roberts began a lifelong friendship.

While living in Coleman Ivor Merryfield was born April 14, 1922.

After just one year in Coleman and enduring a hot, boiling summer and a below zero winter the three families decided to head to the United States. Word had reached Glen, Vic Roberts and Joe Fowler, that at Black Diamond in the state of Washington the Pacific Coast Coal Company was looking for coal miners. The three men and their families took off for Seattle. While walking down to the offices of the Pacific Coast Company, they were approached by a man who hailed them and asked if they were miners looking for work. They said "yes" and were hired. The next step was to

visit Black Diamond and select housing. All three men were amazed at being hired so quickly and in finding housing available. Little did they know that jobs and housing were available because of a strike. The miners who went on strike were kicked out of Black Diamond by the Pacific Coast Coal Company that owned all the houses. Those who were moved out of Black Diamond moved to Morganville.

The three families quickly moved into the Black Diamond social circles by joining the Mason's and Eastern Star lodges. Phil and Dyllys started school. Vic and Joe played on the Black Diamond town soccer team and Glen became the team trainer.

Doreen was born into the Merryfield family on May 20, 1924.

Glen and daughter Doreen were both to become favorites at social and entertainment events because of their beautiful singing voices.

Dyllys was to become the Valedictorian of the Black Diamond High School class of 1938. Ivor was to become an outstanding soccer and baseball catcher for BDHS and in later semi-pro teams after he left school as a member of the class of 1940. Liz was to become a noted seamstress (she made all of her daughters clothes.)



**GRANDPA MUST BE THE BEST
FARMER IN THE WORLD.
GRANDMA SAYS HE IS OUT-
STANDING IN HIS FIELD!**

Joe and Jenny Fowler Come to Black Diamond

By: *Conrad Roberts and Phil Fowler*

(The third of three articles submitted
by Conrad "Coke" Roberts)

Joseph Fowler and Sarah Jane Wilby both lived in Yorkshire, England. They began courting in 1913 and married in 1915. Joe served with the British forces in France during WWI. He received several medals for fighting in some of the bloodiest campaigns of the war. His knee was injured in France and when discharged at the end of the war in 1918 he was given a 5 pound monthly monetary pension for the rest of his life. In 1918, 5 pounds equated to about 30 dollars per month. This served as quite a help during the great depression of the 1930's. During the war their son Phil was born. Jenny, when able, worked as a maid and cook for a wealthy family in Bradford, England.

After the war, Joe went to work in a coal mine for a short time in a town called Little Houghton located in the county of Yorkshire. Later he found a job in a textile mill in the city of Bradford. This job involved taking care of the mills coal fired furnaces. Because of the job change they moved their home to a rental house on Fanny St. in Bradford. Joe worked at the job until 1920.

As with a great many soldiers who fought in WWI, Joe developed drinking and gambling problems. As a result Jenny gave an ultimatum that they must move or she was leaving. The result was a decision to immigrate to Canada. Joe left first to find work and setup living quarters. He found coal mining work in Coleman, Alberta Canada. He found a rental house then sent for Jenny and young Phil.

Jenny had a very good friend by the name of Marie Coulson, who when she heard Jenny was leaving for Canada decided to join her.

In those days traveling was slow by both train and boat. Jenny, Marie and Phil left from Liverpool, England on the steamship "Andania." The voyage took eight days. During the voyage the weather was rough and both Jenny and Marie were seasick for most of the trip. Baby Phil turned out to be quite a handful as he did a bit of crawling and walking where he shouldn't have been.

Landing in Montreal Jenny, Marie and little Phil took the train across Canada to Coleman, Alberta. Coleman is located on the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountains in southern Alberta. The weather was se-

vere, hot in the summer and as low as 50 degrees below zero in the winter. The weather affected Jenny and she soon developed pneumonia which affected her health for the next 20 years.

In 1923 when the families heard of coal mining job openings in Black Diamond, Joe and Vic Roberts and a new friend Glen Merryfield along with their families traveled to Seattle to the "Pacific Coast Coal Company" to seek employment. The three men were immediately hired. After journeying to Black Diamond they moved into company housing.

The houses were located on Lawson Hill. They consisted of two bedrooms, dining room and kitchen. With running water, electricity and an outhouse rent was \$6.40 per month.

"Mine 11" was about a mile from the houses on Lawson Hill. The men had to walk to and from work. After about 6 months the Fowlers moved to a duplex on the main road. The Roberts family moved into the other half of the duplex and the Merryfields moved into a house about a block away on the other side of the road.



JOE, JENNY AND PHIL FOWLER

(Continued on page 13)

1896 COAL MINE REPORTS

by: Bill Kombol

Beginning in 1887, Washington's State Inspector of Coal Mines began issuing an annual report of their inspection of the coal mines and ventilation of coal mines. This series of articles for the Black Diamond Historical Society Newsletter is a verbatim transcript of those portions of the annual reports dealing with the coal mines of Black Diamond and Franklin.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COAL MINE INSPECTORS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1896

by David Edmunds, Coal Mine Inspector, First District

CONDITION OF MINES

BLACK DIAMOND COAL COMPANY'S MINES

No. 14 Mine.— Only one seam is being worked at present. The mining of the coal is confined to the fifth level. The other levels are kept open and in repair. Each side of the level is ventilated by a separate split of the air current. The volume of air measured on each side was as follows: West, 11,492 cubic feet per minute; east, 6,240 cubic feet per minute. A good volume was found at the face of gangways, and it was well distributed through the rooms. A new airway was being made from the face of the east side to the third level, in order to increase the quantity of air on that side, although they had ample. The working places are well timbered and kept in good condition. The drainage is good, and the roadbeds are kept dry and clean, which is necessary for good haulage.

Morgan's Slope.— This is a new mine. It is down twelve hundred feet, on a pitch of 22 degrees. It is well timbered and in good condition. They commenced to turn off gangways at a distance of four hundred feet, but they were afterward stopped. The local management decided to continue to sink the slope to the boundary before mining any coal. This certainly is a step in the right direction. If other companies had adopted this method a great deal of valuable coal that now is burning in the bowels of the earth, in this state, could have been mined and shipped. Fire damp (CH₄) is given off very freely. A large volume of air is forced down..

No. 12 Mine.— This mine is sealed up since the slope caught on fire. Number of inspections during the year was five.

LAWSON COAL COMPANY

Light Ash Mine.— This mine is on the adjoining land to Black Diamond No. 14. The coal is of a fine quality, and is no doubt the McKay seam on the opposite dip to Franklin. It was idle for several months in the fall, but they have again resumed operations. A new fan was erected but it is not used in the cold weather, as a large volume of air is produced by natural means. Upon my last visit I requested the superintendent to stop the gangway until the chutes that were then driven were connected by cross cuts, so that the air current could be conducted nearer the face. He complied with my request. Air measured at intake, 11,400 cubic feet per minute; at the inside cross cut, 3,744 cubic feet per minute. Fire damp (CH₄) is given off freely. I advised them to be careful in regard to it, as I was informed that the men were careless about the matter. The working places are well timbered. Drainage is good. New bunkers have been built and they are shipping coal. A number of houses have been built by the employees, and a new mining camp is added to the list in the state. Number of visits to the mine during the year was five.

OREGON IMPROVEMENT COMPANY'S MINES

Franklin Slope.— This mine has been abandoned, owing to the fires in it. The pumps, pipes, rails and cars were taken out, and the mine allowed to fill up with water.

No. 7 Mine.— Work is prosecuted in two levels. The west gangway of the first level has been stopped, as the coal did not prove very good. The distance not being very far to No. 12 mine of the Black Diamond Coal Company, it was thought best to stop it and leave a good barrier pillar between both mines. A very poor method of conducting the air had been adopted, the current returning to the fan before circulating to the innermost places. Upon three occasions during the year I requested the removal of the men from the gangway and some of the inner chutes until the air current would be brought nearer to the face. Upon my last visit, I found a change being made that would conduct the air directly into the face of the gangway. The volume of air at the downcast was 25,000 cubic feet per minute. A number of

rooms on the west side of the lower level had caved, a crush had been brought on; the pillars were made too small. A large quantity of timber had been put in, but would not hold it. A new hoisting slope has been made, the other slope is to be used as an auxiliary. New hoisting engines, boilers and fan have been put in place. Drainage is good. Number of visits made was seven.

Gem Mine. – This mine is a small one. From two to six men are employed in it. It is ventilated by natural ventilation, which is ample for the number of men. No fire damp given off in it.

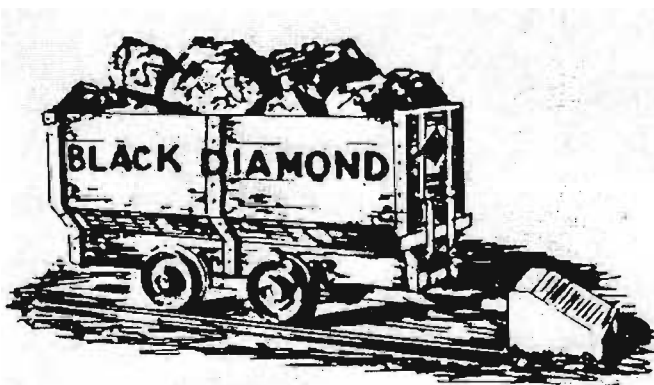
FATAL ACCIDENTS

January 9.—Marcelleno Plaino, a miner, age 35 years, single; fatally injured by rock falling upon him in the west gangway of mine 14, Black Diamond. He and his partner had fired a blast and they had retreated to a place of safety until the shot went off, when he immediately returned to see the results of the blast. A piece of rock fell upon him. He died two hours after. His partner stated that he warned him not to return until everything had settled from the shock caused by the blast, but he insisted upon going. Coroner's jury rendered a verdict of accidental death.

NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

November 18. – Chas. McKinnon, a driver boss, was severely injured by being caught between a car and a chute in mine 14, Black Diamond.

December 9. – Frank Lawson, a mine foreman, and Louis Lavati, a miner, were burned by igniting the fire damp in the Light Ash mine. The first slightly, the last severely.



NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED

<i>Name of mine</i>	<i>Inside</i>	<i>Outside</i>	<i>Totals</i>
B D No. 14	133	45	178
B D, Morgan Slope	12	9	21
Light Ash	24	4	28
Franklin No. 7	148	56	204
Franklin Gem	6	1	7

COAL MINED DURING THE YEAR 1896

<i>Name of company</i>	<i>Tons coal</i>
Black Diamond Coal Company	100,337
Lawson & Co.	11,000
Oregon Impr. Co., Franklin	56,663
Oregon Impr. Co., New Castle mines	125,337

(Continued from page 11)

The duplex is where Ronald Fowler was born on January 28, 1924* and Phil started first grade.

Joe along with Vic Roberts became members of the Black Diamond Soccer team. Both men were great players having learned and played the game in England and Canada.

Social life for the Fowler family was centered around lodge activities. Joe became a Mason and an "Odd Fellow" lodge member while Jenny joined the Easter Star and the Rebeccas. Joe was a well coordinated athlete. He was not only a good soccer player but an excellent boxer. In lodge activities he could tap-dance and sing.

Jenny was noted for her baking of cookies, pies and cakes. Phil was not only a good student in school he was an outstanding basketball player and an outstanding goalie in soccer.

The Fowlers left Black Diamond in 1942. They moved to the Rainier Valley District in Seattle. Phil later became a business man in Alaska.

Ronald passed away from a home accident in 1925

WHO:

**The Black Diamond
Historical Society and
The Puget Sound
Welsh Association
Present:**

WHAT:

**FIFTH ANNUAL
WELSH HERITAGE DAY
CELEBRATION**

WHEN:

**SATURDAY JUNE 7, 2003
12:00 (NOON) TO 3:30 P.M.
(PROGRAM STARTS AT 2:00)**

WHERE:

**THE BLACK DIAMOND MUSEUM
32627 RAILROAD AVENUE
BLACK DIAMOND, WA 98010**

WHY:

**Meet Welsh descendents, share stories,
pictures and memorabilia. Hear Welsh music
and enjoy Welsh cakes. Handcrafts will be
for sale. Many people of Welsh heritage
were involved in the coal mining of the
Black Diamond area.**

Application For Membership or Renewal



Annual Membership Fees

Cash Check
 New Renewal

Name (s) _____ Day Phone _____ - _____ - _____

_____ Eve. Phone _____ - _____ - _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Individual \$10.00

Family \$15.00

Organization \$30.00

Lifetime (Individual) \$100.00

**Make Checks Payable To: BDHS
 Mail To:
 Black Diamond Historical Society
 P.O. Box 232
 Black Diamond, WA 98010-0232**

Donations for _____ \$ _____

(For our bookkeeping records, on all checks please note what the check is for: Dues; Donation; Memorial; Etc.)

For Museum Use Only:

Date:

Initials:

File:

Rev. 10/01/01

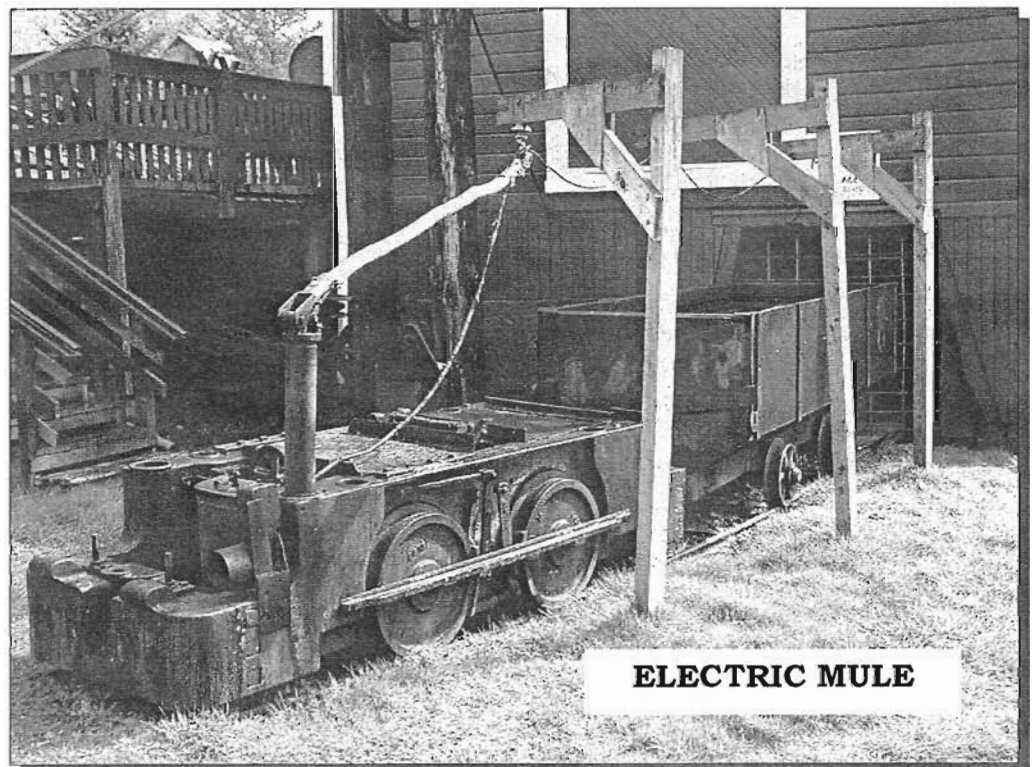
ON THE GROUNDS

At the north end of the Museum is an electric mule. In the old days the miners used mules to pull the coal cars in the mines to the slope.

Later on they developed an electric motor on wheels that could do the same job. In the photo you can see the wooden arm that holds the electric lead in contact with the overhead wires.

Modern busses and trolleys use the same principle today.

Our volunteers have recently replaced the arm that had broken off.



ELECTRIC MULE



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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

**QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP
MEETINGS FOR 2003**

1:30 PM, Sunday

January 12th

April 13th

July 13th

October 12th

**MONTHLY BOARD
MEETINGS**

1:30 PM

3rd Sunday

Of Each Month

**(Except April will be on the
13th at 11:00 AM)**

**The Black Diamond
Historical Society**

is a non profit organiza-
tion. 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 pre-
serve your history. Find
out more on page 13 of this
issue!