

# *Black Diamond Historical Society Newsletter*

## **Museum Hours**

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

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**Printed Quarterly**



**October 2005**

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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!** blackdiamondmuseum.org

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### **PICTURES OF THE PAST**

Courtesy of Robert Mann, BDHS #2005.23

Hunting days with Ted Barner, John Stranz and Slim Garner, is our feature historical image, (circa 1970s), for this issue. In the early days of our ancestors hunting for food was a necessity, never a 'sport'. Now, it is also a time for getting-together, reminiscing, sharing stories, and appreciating the world's wonderful nature.

If you have a picture of the past, please share a copy with us for our archives, and to be held in perpetuity. 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.

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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/EDITOR**

**Steve Israel**



Shortly after my involvement began with the Society, I attended a meeting that Charles Peyton was our guest speaker. Mr. Peyton stressed the importance of setting up policies and procedures, creating board books, outlining our goals and objectives, and much more.

Up until that time, we were very weak in those areas. However, over the past few years we have made great strides in accomplishing these tasks. We have a great staff to thank for our progress. Our current board has worked very well together to form an effective team.

As we grow and evolve, we must also change. Change is necessary to keep from becoming stagnant. This month we are having our elections for Officers and Board Members. Some will be returning in the same capacity, and some will not. Please take the time to come to our Membership Meeting and vote.

*Steve Israel*

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Having lived in Black Diamond only 5 years, 1945 -1950, third grade through seventh grade, I am now, after these many years, proud to become a Life Member of the Black Diamond Historical Society.

Sincerely,

Pat Holmes

## SECRETARY REPORT

By Dee Israel



**EDUCATION:** Chair Judy Hastings has begun distribution of the new education brochures to local schools as of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in September.

### FACILITIES & GROUNDS:

We have gotten bids from some security alarm companies in regards to updating the Museum's alarm system. We plan on applying for a Grant to make this upgrade.

The iron, train schedule display stand that has been standing in front of the Museum had gotten very weathered. A sandblasting company, after giving us a large price-break, has cleaned it up. The display will soon be back in its original location for public viewing.

**MEMBERSHIP:** We now have 282 memberships.

**NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE:** Check out [www.blackdiamondmuseum.org](http://www.blackdiamondmuseum.org) Under PICTURES, hear the train whistle & squeaky jail door.

**PROGRAMS:** Miners Days on July 8, 9 & 10 were a success. Steve Israel demonstrated the use of his old time wood working tools and Clayton Mead built a sawhorse to hold a log that was sawed with a two-man saw and butter churning by Society Members and guests.

The "Memory Lane" event was Sat., Sept. 17th from 1-3 p.m. The theme was "past time activities" - of memories/hobbies. Besides the demonstrations of the "Miners Days" there were embroidering, tatting, wood carving and broomstick crocheting.

The Museum's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is in 2006. With that in mind, we are thinking about having a big celebration for the event in June.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** JoAnne has started a campaign for selling *Black Diamond Mining The Memories* books. She has sent 19 notices to county libraries & city libraries. She eventually wants to

branch out to states with coal mining cities to market the book.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Elsie Parkin and Dorothy Botts are chairing the upcoming election.

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Annual Membership meeting will be held on October 9, 2005 at 1:30 pm. Included in this meeting is election of officers, so be sure to attend so you can vote in person. If you are unable to attend, an absentee ballot may be obtained by requesting one from the Museum. Absentee ballots must be received before the election, to be counted..

The **PROGRAM** after the meeting will include refreshments and story telling by long time Black Diamond resident, Paul Botts. During his life of 90 years, he has encountered many interesting and humorous incidents and will relate some of these experiences to us.

## FRANKLIN TOUR

Join us for the next Franklin Tour

**January 14, 2006 1:00 PM**

Rain or shine! Meet at the Museum!

Everyone is welcome, bring a friend.



## GUESTS

By: Don Botts

In 2005 during the months of **June, July, August & the first 18 days of September** we had **1401** visitors to the Museum. There were visitors from **21** States: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Wisconsin, and here in Washington. There were also people visiting from other places, such as Germany, Canada, England and the United Kingdom.



## SALUTING OUR VOLUNTEERS

By Don Botts,  
Volunteer Coordinator

We welcome new and returning  
volunteers.

We salute each of you.

- ◆ Julianna Jones
- ◆ Dolores Orehek Wilkening

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## REMARKS MADE BY OUR GUESTS

Here are a few of the nice comments that were in our guest book this quarter:

**Cool old stuff, Great, Fascinating, I love this Museum, Most interesting, Discover more each time, Absolute, Spectacular, Much larger, We'll be back, Great collection, Historic, Educational, Better than ever, Nice place, Excellent, Love the mining exhibition, Nice Place, Historically very interesting, Gets bigger & better every year, Very impressive, Fantastic, Thank you for saving these old things, Most interesting, Very well kept, Lots of work, My Great Grandfather worked in this mine, Great presentation and extremely well kept, My favorite, Great little town, Thanks for preserving the history, Appreciate the history, Beautifully preserved, Nostalgic, Great place, Very enjoyable, This place is cool, Enjoyed, Clean & organized, Thank you for the history, Wonderful displays, Lots of old things that bring back memories, So well arranged, Just like Grandma's house.**

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## VOLUNTEERS

“Many will be shocked to find,  
when the day of judgment nears,  
that there's a special place in Heaven  
set aside for volunteers.

Furnished with big recliners,  
satin couches and footstools,  
where there are no committee chairmen,  
no yard sales or rest area coffee to serve,  
no library duty or bulletin assembly,  
there will be nothing to print and staple,  
not one thing to fold and mail,  
telephone lists will be outlawed.

But a finger snap will bring  
cool drinks and gourmet dinners,  
and rare treats fit for a king.  
You ask, “Who'll serve these privileged few  
and work for all they're worth?”  
Why, all those who reaped the benefits,  
and not once volunteered on Earth.”

Author unknown.

## CALENDAR DATES TO REMEMBER

### OCTOBER

- 9 - **Membership Meeting and Election 1:30**
- 10 - Columbus Day
- 16 - **Board Meeting - Installation of new Board**
- 30 - Daylight Savings Ends
- 30 - **Winter Hours Begin at the Museum**
- 31 - Halloween

### NOVEMBER

- 8 - Elections
- 11 - Veterans' Day
- 20 - **Board Meeting**
- 24 - Thanksgiving Day

### DECEMBER

- 22 - **Museum Holiday Closure**
- 25 - Merry Christmas!

### JANUARY

- 1 - Happy New Year!
- 7 - **Museum End Holiday Closure**
- 14 - **Franklin Tour 1:00 PM**
- 15 - **Board Meeting**



### WHO AM I?

Courtesy Harry Berry, BDHS #2005.75

This image is of the Black Diamond High School 1941 Reserve Basketball Team of the Junior & Sophomore class. We are in need of the names of these good lookin' fellows. If you recognize yourself or someone else, please let us know. Thank you!!

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

*A World of Thanks*

By JoAnne Matsumura

It is my pleasure to sing praises to the many Stewards who have lent a helping hand to the preservation tasks for the Communities Treasures in the Museum. Also to those who have so patiently labored beyond the walls of this Museum to locate historic materials for the Archives, which will be the grist for future term papers, thesis, family history books and more. The praises of *A World of Thanks* and the song, *Its a Small World After All*, is for each and every one of you.

We are indeed a Society blessed with volunteers who are truly Jacks-of-all-Trades. *A World of Thanks*, to those with a passion for preserving YOUR history, and those of YOUR ancestors. The future generations will know YOU were here!



## → TREASURES AND TRINKETS

New Accessions and Acts of kindness  
By JoAnne Matsumura, Archivist

◆ **Dorothy Berard**-Photograph  
Klansnics in Wenatchee

◆ **Harry Berry**-Photographs, reserve basketball team 1941, school students 1930 (class of 1942)

◆ **Howard Botts**-Laundry basket of Mrs. H.L. Botts, book district of Wales, sample slides, book "COAL" by Moore, 1962 Worlds Fair shirt, darner, radio tube, insurance ID coin

◆ **Dennis Boxx**-Paper money for display

◆ **Helen Bremmeyer**-Set of 7 cross-stitched tea towels made of flour sacking by Helen in 1934

◆ **Jackie Cedarholm**-Pictures of Welsh Heritage Day 2005

◆ **Joe Darby**-School photograph 1920s

◆ **Martha Dickerson**-Can of Carbide

◆ **Becky Dodel**-Stock Certificate-Black Diamond Mining & Milling Co., Spokane, WA

◆ **Lois Thomas Estby**-Photograph

◆ **Jack R. Evans**-Steamer Trunk, filing cabinet

◆ **Phil Fowler**-Photographs

◆ **Rex Gavin & Bill Hawthorne**-Photographs of BD school students

◆ **Walter L. Gibson**-Self portrait for the Reunion album

◆ **Frank Grgurich**-Arm patch BD WA & coal car, thermometer of Big 4 Coal Co., Elk Coal, Palmer, WA

◆ **Steve & Dee Israel**-Fabric and tablecloths for museum use, Ghiradelli Cocoa tin, archive storage container, display racks, water pitcher, satin padded clothes hanger, pair of shoes, cabinet for museum use

◆ **Jane Jones**-Sausage grinder pestle

◆ **Dorothy, Sally, & Lorie Klansnic and daughters Karen & Nancy**-photographs of the Klansnic family & Krain

◆ **Bert Lombardini**-First Aid Training card of John B. Lombardini Jr. 1936, photograph of 1929 school students, Fire District #17 Badge and vehicle plate

## ✿ THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES ✿

✿ Ronald D. "Ron" Clark  
1951-2005  
Son of Walter & Joan Clark

✿ Ralph Enstrom  
1910-2005  
Alumni BD Senior Class of 1928

✿ Daryl Kae Harper Jr.  
1934-2005  
Community Member

✿ Joe Webby  
1926-2005  
Community businessman



- ◆ **JoAnne Matsumura**-Single handled jar rack, butter churn container for the school kits, books, “Vitology”, and “The Loggers”
- ◆ **Clayton Mead**-Buck saw-horse for museum use, photographs of Welsh Day & High School Reunion 2005, “Five Star” erasers
- ◆ **Dave Mitman**-Brace, Object of the Past, used to make repairs in the mine
- ◆ **Mary Garner Olson**-Sausage maker, plates and ephemera owned by Jacob & Agnes Rickter
- ◆ **Southeast Glass**-Plate glass for showcase
- ◆ **Rebecca Spearman**-Lithograph of a baseball diamond, circa 1900s
- ◆ **Cynthia Spencer**-Storage bins, doll cradle, chairs, small decorations
- ◆ **Bob Thompson**-Corn Planter
- ◆ **Jerry Thompson**-Photograph of Basketball Team-Ravensdale & McKay Coal
- ◆ **Unknown**-Newspapers, Oregon, Texas and Shanghai, coal from Coal Creek, Enumclaw, photograph of Trade & Labor Convention 1911
- ◆ **Ralph Vanni**-Photographs of Edo Vanni
- ◆ **Carole Watkins**-Two black skirts for Museum’s Welsh costume collection
- ◆ **Richard & Noreen Westberg**-Shoelast, Griddle, RRd spike maul, toy in a bottle
- ◆ **Westfarm Foods**-Pure cream for Miners Day and Memory Lane events for butter churn Demonstration
- ◆ **Judy Young**-Baby bassinet
- ◆ **Joe Zumek**-Wood sign display holders, WW11 Eisenhower jacket, photographs of 1939 high school students

## “PICTURES OF THE PAST” IDENTIFIED

In our July 2005 issue we featured a 1949 Labor Day Parade Float photograph, and asked for your help to identify the young people in the Pictures of the Past. One of the ‘young people’, Carol Steiert Franklin, gave us the pleasure of a visit to the Museum. Yes, it is Carol and her brother Jerry Steiert on the float. Carl Steiert was the Engineer. And yes, he is there, behind, doing his engineering!

## MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Memorial Donations were made:

*IN MEMORY* of **Elizabeth (Betty) Pennacchi Garbini**, by Gino & Ruth Picini.

*IN MEMORY* of **Albert L. and Margaret Thomas**, by Margaret Stanley.

*IN MEMORY* of **Bill and Vivian Petchnick**, by Audrey Sellman.

*IN MEMORY* of **Everett Swann**, by Sherrie L. Acker.

*IN MEMORY* of **Dwight Garrett**, by Dr. & Mrs. A. K. Anderson, John Erickson, Joy Emry Johnson, Mary E. Keller, Pauline Kombol, JoAnne Matsumura, Audrey Mendenhall, Palmer Coking Coal Co., James R. Puttman, Deryl K. & Dorothy A. Sleight, Catherine Sorenson, Beth VanBuskirk, Una Waldron, Jim & Kathy Wetton.

*IN MEMORY* of **Livia S. and John B. Lombardini Jr.**, by Bert & John Lombardini.

## “WHO AM I?” IDENTIFIED

We thank the following individuals for their help in identifying the students in our July 2005 issue “Who Am I?” photograph of Mrs. Bisson’s First Grade students of 1962. They are, Rosemary Konoske-Bigelow, Dorothy Corlett, Connie Botts Florence, Rex Gavin and Bill Hawthorne.

The students are, left to right, Front row-Van Poleski, Rex Gavin, Rod Harris, Debby Walker, unknown, John Ross. Second row-Margo Stebly, Marilyn Richmond, Jannie Fredrickson, unknown, Wiggins, Egbert. Third row-Steve McCutchin, Harold McLaughlin, Curt Konoske, Mike Gauthier, Carol Fladgard, Larry Best, Bill Hawthorne. Back row-Danny McBloom, Bruce Flothe, Darrel Palmer, Dick Chilcott, David Botts, Dan Dal Santo, and Bill Helfly.

## MEMORIES OF BLACK DIAMOND

By Mary (Savicke) Keehner

I was born in Brooklyn, New York on June 27, 1910. I was about 2 when we moved to Black Diamond and lived on Lawson Hill for 23 years. We were the only Lithuanian family in town and were often called The Russians. I attended school in Black Diamond from 1916 through high school in 1928. Mr. Weatherbee was principal through all those years. My first grade teacher was Miss Daisy Haslett.

.....Although Black Diamond has changed so much and is so different from the beautiful place where I grew up, it is still beautiful. ....I have so many wonderful memories of my life growing up in Black Diamond on Lawson Hill.

One of my fondest memories is of Mud Lake. This little lake was right along side of our land, it was a beautiful lake surrounded on all sides with trees and shrubs of all kinds. There was only one shore – a small one where one could approach the lake and it was the closes to our land. To get to it one had to cross at the farthest end of our land, which was open to anyone. The other approach was via an old railroad track from downtown. This was not a swimming lake as the bottom was thick with mud (hence the name) and full of leaches. In the winter time the lake froze and we all ice-skated. It was the only lake that froze – skating there was a joy. My father saw to it that there was a huge bonfire to get warm by and to adjust our skates. We sat on logs near the fire and attached the skates to our shoes by using a key to clamp to our shoes – no skate shoes in those days. We kept the skate key on a string around our neck – if we lost the key – too bad!

In the summer time the lake was a paradise. I spent many hours working my way through all sorts of growth, and found flowers and shrubs that I never saw anywhere else in my wonderings in the wild – I found purple violets on moss covered logs and I even found a Blue Huckleberry bush and a Mountain Laurel. There were small animals around, muskrats, skunks, hundreds of frogs and polliwogs in season, also harmless snakes,

which I avoided at all costs. Now this little jewel is gone, drained and replaced by a pit mine.

Other memories are of swimming in Lake 12. It was a crystal clear lake, and a great lake for fishing. It was Crappie fish that we caught with a little piece of chamois skin tied to a hook. In the beginning there was what we called a ladies dam and a men's dam – to swim from. Then came a platform with a diving board that was built in deeper water. There were no houses near the lake. Later there was sort of a resort area and dressing rooms were built – before this it was changing bathing suits behind trees, the reason for ladies and men's dams. We even found cranberries on the bogs at the end of the lake.

.....We spent many times swimming and fishing in the Franklin area. I remember a very busy resort there at one time.

Of all the wild animals that were in the woods near our Lawson Hill home, there were bears and deer. I think people tried to scare me with talks of cougars, but no one ever saw one and neither did I. The bears and deer came to our apple orchard when apples were ripe and falling to the ground. We knew they were there during the night, they always left a calling card.

My happiest activity during these times was searching and picking wild flowers. Lilies, Trilliums, Bluebells, yellow Violets, Bleeding Hearts and flowers I have no names for. Also berry picking was a busy time. There were a variety of Blackberries, Blackcaps, Thimble berries, red Huckleberries, Gooseberries, and my favorite Salmonberries. I did a lot of mushroom hunting – Chanterelles mostly.

I hope that what I have written here in a small part will be of interest to all who love Black Diamond as I do.



## MONETARY DONATIONS

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

To the general fund

**Courtney Ashcraft**

**Laurie L. Bahr**

**Greater Maple Valley-Black**

**Diamond Chamber of Commerce, Inc.**

**Black Diamond Merchants**

**Partnership**

**Paul & Gertrude Botts**

**Henry DeLauro**

**Ralph Dockham**

**Jane Gattavara**

**Dick & Lori Hoyt**

**Mary M. Kennedy**

**Josephine Long**

**Ann Sharley**

**Laura E. Woodward**

Historic Candy Fund:

**Marcia Lee Berg**

Welsh Day Fund

**Seattle Welsh Women's Club**

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

## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

To Society Members

- ◆ Miriam Del Duca Adlum-November 21<sup>st</sup>
- ◆ Margaret F. Bisiack-November 9<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ William G. Bisyak-November 5<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Carmel Camerini-October 19<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Dorothy Franz Corlett-November 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ◆ Don Covey-October 3<sup>rd</sup>
- ◆ Evelyn Dal Santo-October 26<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Joe Dal Santo-November 20<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Myron E. Davidson-November 22<sup>nd</sup>
- ◆ Tamie Deady-October 24<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Marie Merlini Freeman-December 12<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Faye Green-November 21<sup>st</sup>
- ◆ John Herbert-October 8<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Dave Hester-November 16<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Norman Hope-December 13<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Mary Malgarini Kennedy-December 25<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Barry Kombol-December 19<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Ray Kravagna-October 2<sup>nd</sup>
- ◆ John Malgarini-October 6<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ John Lombardini-October 22<sup>nd</sup>
- ◆ Nancy Mead-November 14<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Betty J. Merryfield-December 16<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Joann Nichols-November 3<sup>rd</sup>
- ◆ Paula Perkins-November 4<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Gino Picini-October 5<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Marian Short-October 31<sup>st</sup>
- ◆ Sandra Zumek Sonsteng-December 12<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Mrs. Tony Susnar-October 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ◆ Olga Swann-October 1<sup>st</sup>
- ◆ Lou Tantzen-December 25<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Steve Thompson-December 1<sup>st</sup>
- ◆ Anne Thorsett-December 27<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Mary Lou Toth-November 10<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Virginia R. Mills Tracy-November 12<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Betty Uhrig-December 6<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Muriel Botts Waldo-December 13<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Lillian C. Tennio Widner-November 24<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Thomas Wieltschnig-November 14<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Joe Zumek-December 30<sup>th</sup>

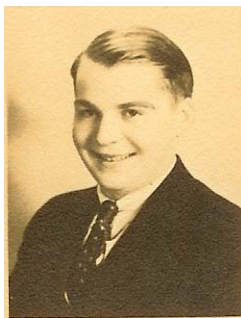
Have you sent us your date of birth?  
We love sending you greetings!

## IN MEMORIAM

Dwight A. Garrett Passes

✧ Gone but not forgotten ✧

Born May 28, 1916 in Black Diamond, Dwight A. Garrett passed away August 4, 2005 in Enumclaw, at the age of 89 years young.



Dwight's grandparents, Fred & Susannah Hughes Garrett came to the US in 1900 from Pontypridd, South Wales with their four children. Susannah had relatives in the Covington area and so they decided to settle at Hughes Lake. Fred walked the 12 miles to work at the Black Diamond mines.

Their son David and wife Lillian Steiert had three sons, one of which was Dwight. They lived in Company house #178 on Railroad Avenue, near the 'Confectionery', where the Black Diamond Pizza Deli and Mountain Magic Treasures is now. They moved to Wabash from the Company house in January 1922.

Dwight was an early entrepreneur, having business acumen when at age 13 he offered coal and wood for sale and delivered it too! He learned early and well from his humble beginnings in Black Diamond. And from those who encouraged him, helping him along the way, he never forgot and gave many more times in return. He remembered 'his hometown' of Black Diamond.

Dwight attended the Black Diamond schools, graduating in the class of 1934. During his school years he drove the school bus at age 15 to out of town games with athletes and fans. He served on the Senior Class play Committee. The play, "Aunt Jerushy On The War-Path", under the direction of Miss Sylvia Stub, Dwight was Hiram Fish as The Constable. Dwight is in the back row, far right in this photograph of the Cast, courtesy of Lois Estby.

In 1953 Dwight again remembered 'his hometown' with a LaFrance fire truck, which he purchased from Enumclaw and presented it to the

City of Black Diamond. They promptly made him an Honorary Fire Chief. Through Dwight and Doris Garrett's generosity to this Society for the 4<sup>th</sup> printing of the ever popular book, *Black Diamond: Mining the Memories*, their legacy will live forever and be perpetual in that the Society is investing the income from the sales of the book for future printings.

Dwight remembered his roots and growing up in Black Diamond, and favored his hometown, in many ways. In honor of his parents, Dwight & Mrs. Garrett donated the large standing multiplex in the Museum, among many other objects.

The wisdom of Dwight seems to have passed on to his eleven year old great grandson, Jeffrey Wetton, when he commented that Dwight had the longest and greatest story he knew.



Senior Play: Aunt Jerushy on the Warpath  
Front row: Ann Sharlock, Alvera Malgarini, Donna Johnson.

2nd row: Bill Wieltschnig, Cleo Bryant.

3rd row: Sylvia Stub, Lois Thomas, Frances Zumek, Audry Kramer, Hannah Davis.

Back row: Jack Chilcott, John Ruppert, Dwight Garrett.

## Black Diamond Historical Society Hosts First Annual Memory Lane Event

By Frank Hammock

Somewhere in the quiet recesses of our mind, a memory lies dormant. A thought, a smell, a feeling from a bygone era of one's past – waiting to be reborn, relived, and enjoyed. Is this possible in today's day and age? Can memories come back in full bloom with the relevance and strength deserving of their humble origins? On Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005, the Black Diamond Historical Society took me on a walk from 1 to 3 PM down memory lane to experience once again a few joyous parts of the past that brought warmth to the heart and a smile to the face of time.

### Memories Begin

Inside, Black Diamond Historical Society Member and Archivist, Ms. JoAnne Matsumura, adorned in a pastel hat and long flowered dress, greeted me admirably at the front desk. She appeared to be an echo from the past and beamed brightly as she sat comfortably on a stool, weaving yellow crocheted loops of 4-ply yarn wrapped tightly around a broomstick handle.

"Welcome," she said, taking the time to greet every visitor as they entered the historical realm. The smells of the past, such as dust of age and coal, began to arouse the interests of imagination and I couldn't help but ask what she was making.

"It's a baby blanket for a cradle here in the museum," she answered joyfully, weaving a few more loops of yarn during our brief social encounter. "Please, enjoy your visit," she added, and thus my subtle trip down memory lane was invoked.

The nostalgic event began amongst the densely populated displays of historical paraphernalia marking Black Diamond's busy yet significantly

entertaining past that at one time involved mining, logging, and much more. Scattered throughout the museum were tables harboring static displays as well as a few artisans who sat ready to greet the visitor with an interest in their craft. Such crafts as crochet, tatting, embroidery cross stitch, darning, butter churning, wood carving, wood cutting, music, and tools were displayed for explanation and admiration. Various types of creativity abounded and the level of involvement laid only within the depth of interest displayed by the would-be passerby.

### Memories Form

At one table sat Ms. Jean Guiou-Curtis, who is originally from Northern Maine, and a member of the Northwest Carvers Association. With a Masters Degree in Art, her craft displayed was



that of wood carving. Sitting quietly on the table in front of her were numerous toy tops of various colors as well as a

carving destined to hold a mirror, showing birds and flowers carved down into the wood in three dimensional splendor. I watched her as she carved icicles for the upcoming Christmas holiday. Wood carving, she told me, was necessary for making a lot of things like spoons, bowls, containers, chests, furniture, spice cabinets, and more. "It was only limited to one's imagination," she added. "The carver had to have such skills as math, painting, and an ability to visualize." Her talent was obvious and she took great care to explain her work as well as the upcoming *Toys of the Past* event at the Puyallup



Pavillion to be held at the Puyallup Fairgrounds on November 12, 2005, where numerous artisan wood carvers will be attending. Across from Jean sat Ms. Muriel Botts Waldo performing the craft of darning as it was done in a bygone era using a wooden ball attached to a handle that was inserted into such things as socks. She was using large sewing needles to close up the wears and tears and holes.

The next table I came to was a static display of various items in crochet. A variegated blue afghan



draped quietly over the back of a nearby wooden pew which cast a feeling of warmth on those cold, wintry nights of someone's past. Also displayed were a couple of table place mats, a coaster and cup, doilies, skeins of yarn, a spool of thread, and various sizes of crochet needles poked a presence out of work yet to be completed.

At another table sat Ms. Beth Botts Van Buskirk doing embroidery cross stitch on white cloth held taut within a silver hoop. Patterns formed as counted or uncounted, and designs were put on such things as tea towels, pillow cases, table cloth edging, and more. Such pieces were given in sets as gifts for weddings, birthdays, and



socials. Across from her sat Ms. Joyce Magnusson performing the tedious art of tatting. A book in front of her entitled *Dillie Delights in Tatting – Booklet 1* by Adrienne



Rice (1981) gave a definition of tatting as the “art of weaving thread into rings, semi-circles, picots, and chains to make designs of knotted lace.” Tatting began back sometime in the 1800’s as knotting and has evolved since. Few people do it anymore. A teardrop shaped shuttle is used as the tool of the craft to manipulate the thread into the double stitches and picots seen in this familiar needlepoint craft that like crochet, could also make doilies and things of use around the house.

Outside next to the boardwalk was Mr. Clayton Mead, sporting an orange felt hat and red suspenders. His past included a 22 year tenure with Weyerhaeuser working as a Timber Faller and Bucker, and from his experiences he shared with me the skillful use of axes and saws for wood cutting. In a static display log, several kinds of axes and wedges were seeded as well as an old two-man saw blade with large, jagged teeth.



Timber Falling was the art of cutting trees down and ensuring they laid along the hillside in such a way as to be easier to buck (cut logs to the desired length) and remove for haulage to the mills to make boards for building homes and places of business. Logging was dangerous work and many privately owned (jippo) companies existed giving jobs to many men in those early days of forest harvesting.

Also outside and in the background, melodious music played from speakers in the back of a truck bed with such sounds as polka, Lawrence Welk, the Roaring 20's, the Mills Brothers, Andy Williams, the music of Dr. Zhivago, Bobby Vinton, and many more. Joe Zumek, a white-haired man of gentle nature, who worked in a Franklin coal mine in his youth before a stint in the U.S. Army's 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division during WWII, rolled and unrolled his reel-to-reel tapes on a pair of F4460



Recorders by Ampex. He kept a continuous vigilance of joy in expressing to passerby's his extensive musical collection from a bygone era of the big bands. I listened for a while, mesmerized by the sheer quality of the sound from a medium no longer in use today.



Visitor churning Butter

Back inside the kitchen, folks had gathered around the table as Ms. JoAnne Matsumura produced churned butter in a glass jar from cream donated by Westfood Farms (Darigold) of Issaquah. Everyone awaited a chance to sample the fresh taste of butter or the butter



milk left after the hardened butter was removed. The flavor certainly wasn't the same as it is today.

(Continued on next page)

## Memories Come Alive

I took a moment to pause in the quiet stillness of my thoughts as Ms. Muriel Botts Waldo handed me a cup of her tasty coffee. I suddenly remembered a time that I had spent with my grandmother watching her do crochet needlepoint. She would sit in the semi-darkness of the early evening hours when supper was done and life was quiet. Only the crackle of a nearby fire would awaken the night. Other memories occupied my mind like the warmth of the afghans as I lay beneath them as a child; my breath seen visibly in the cold winter air of my bedroom. I slept wonderfully in spite of the cold. I remembered my mother teaching me the joyous art of crochet at the very young age of seven. Other memories shared some time in my thoughts such as the days of being on the landing watching my stepdad and his coworkers during a logging operation, and listening to music on old plastic LP records in speeds of 33, 78, and 45 from such singers as Kate Starr, Patsy Kline, Faron Young, and Bing Crosby. And, on some evenings I was asked to contribute time to sitting in the living room shaking a capped gallon glass jar until the cow's milk inside had hardened into the fattening delight we call butter today.

### The Memories Subside – Final Thoughts

During this bygone era of crafts, hopes and dreams were fostered and now its time somehow labored only in one's thoughts and the quiet beating of the heart. Things were mended because people didn't have the funds to acquire new things, so they made due with what they had at the time. Survival was often accomplished because a household had many skill sets and everyone in a given family did their part to the overall success of daily life and growing up. Yet, in spite of the hard work, values, and the differences in technology, memories were formed and some lasting ones still remained to be enjoyed.

*"Waste not, want not"* was the bygone slogan of yesterday's daily life. Thanks to the Black Diamond Historical Society and these volunteer artisans, I was able to remember again as they happily shared with me the beauty of the past indelibly left in the echoes of their crafts displayed as I walked down memory lane.

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Pacific Coast Company  
Pacific Coast Bulletin  
December 21, 1922

"The Pacific Coast Company will be serving Christmas Dinner at the Black Diamond, McKay, Newcastle, Burnett and Issaquah Hotel's. There will be plenty for everyone.

### MENU, December 25, 1922

Ripe Olives, Salted Almonds  
Cream of celery soup  
Roast young turkey, chestnut dressing  
Cranberry sauce  
Roast young pork with baked apple  
Mashed potatoes, banana fritters  
Creamed corn  
Lobster salad  
Pumpkin pie, mince pie  
Plum pudding, hard sauce  
Assorted cake, cheese, fruits, nuts  
Coffee"

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### "TIMES HAVE CHANGED"

#### PACIFIC COAST BULLETIN

Vol. 6, April 15, 1926, Page 12

"On Monday morning of this week the Post-Intelligencer in its "20 Years Ago Today" column, carried this item: "To accommodate Seattle anglers, the Columbia and Puget Sound Railroad ran a Sunday fisherman's excursion to Franklin, giving sportsmen a chance to fish the otherwise inaccessible Green River Gorge."

Contributed by J. Matsumura  
Private Collection





## Membership and Renewal Form

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Annual Membership Fees

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

- New
- Renewal
- Cash
- Check

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

Make Check Payable to:

**BDHS**

Mail to:

**Black Diamond  
Historical Society**

**PO Box 232**

**Black Diamond, WA 98010**

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

For Museum Use Only	Date	Initials	File
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## IN THE MUSEUM

Carol Watkins generously donated for Museum use this lovely showcase. Now we can display needlework of crafts from the past. The fancy needlework was not only for necessity but also gave pleasure, and a chance to use creative talents. Many of the items made in those early years were for gifts as well.

The showcase needed only a sight bit of help to set it in what was once a doorway to another room. For display in this showcase we would like a Speed-a-Weave loom, pot-holder loom and pot-holder, wood embroidery hoop and thread, wood knitting needles, unusual wood darners and knitted socks, pin-cushion with the measuring tape in the center, fancy pins, carded buttons, beads, lace, and other early day sewing objects and handwork items. Thank you!





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

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

**Annual Membership  
Meeting**

**Sunday October 9th  
1:30 PM**

**Come and join us for fun and food!  
Election time again!**

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**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  
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.**