



# *Black Diamond Historical Society Newsletter*

## **Museum Hours**

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

**Printed Quarterly**



**January 2006**

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

## **PICTURES OF THE PAST**



BDHS #0000.045, Andy Gorjup Collection, Courtesy of his daughter, Edythe Gorjup

♪ ♪ LET IT SNOW ♪ LET IT SNOW ♪ LET IT SNOW!!! ♪

It was February 22, 1927 when photographer Pickett took this photograph of the “A. Guthrie & Co., Camp at Mill Creek Shaft, with 12 feet of snow, along the G.N.Ry.Co. New 8 Mile Tunnel.” We welcome additional information about the camp; names of workers, photographs, stories clippings, and documents. 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: Don Malgarini  
Vice President: Darryl Buss  
Secretary: Dee Israel  
Treasurer: Clayton Mead

#### Board of Directors

Don Botts, Howard Botts, Jackie Cedarholm, Steve Israel, Don Mason, JoAnne Matsumura, Anna Morris

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Don Malgarini

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. To many of you I am somewhat of a stranger, others have known me my entire life. I was born and raised in Black Diamond, living

here for 26 years and consider Black Diamond my home. After getting married 45 years ago, I moved to Enumclaw and have lived there ever since. My wife Joan is also involved in the Black Diamond Historical Society. We have three grown children and nine grandchildren all of which we are very proud! If you don't think so, just ask us!

I worked in and around the mines for a couple of years just prior to the closing of the under ground operations in the early 1950's, after which I went to work for the Weyerhaeuser Co. for the next 41 years until retirement. While living in Black Diamond I spent nearly 10 years as a volunteer firemen, in the towns infancy (incorporation) volunteered for the police department, and I served on several Labor Day committees. I have been a member of the Black Diamond Eagles, Green River Aerie 1490 for over 50 years

I have been a member of the Board of Directors of the Historical Society since 2003 and now have the honor of serving as the President. Our out going President has done a terrific job, I have some pretty big shoes to fill. We now have some very ambitious projects supported from Grants that will make definite changes in the museum and I look forward to seeing them through.

With each new year brings a fresh opportunity and challenges, our response determines the progress. With the staff and work crew at the museum these challenges can be met. An unknown author wrote. "The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything: they just make the best of everything." This statement is very true of those who volunteer at the museum! I look forward to working with more of our talented membership. The current team has given me a wonderful privilege to work with a great group of people, with their willingness and unselfish cooperation we can accomplish most anything!

Thank you for this opportunity, I will do my best to keep up the progress of the museum.

*Don Malgarini*

## EDITOR'S REPORT

Steve Israel



I wish to extend a warm welcome to our new President Don Malgarini. I am remaining on the Board as a Director, and I will continue with the position as Editor.

I hope to find more time to help out with facilities, now that I am not in the position as President. However, much of my time is consumed with working for a living, remodeling our house, and of course all of that running and biking that I do to stay in shape for racing marathons and the such.

As one of my duties, I have been continuing to keep our office as up to date as I can. We have upgraded our computer again, and added another computer, printer and work station. Trying not to fall too far behind on today's technology keeps us on our toes.

"Thank You" to all of you who contributed to this newsletter, I had to add extra pages to fit it all in. This Museum is blessed with so many good people who help us out.

*Steve*

## WELSH ST. DAVID'S DAY CELEBRATION

By Eileen Wyke

The Seattle Welsh Women's Club and The Puget Sound Welsh Association will host the St David's Day Celebration, Gwyl Dewi Sant, on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 111 N.E. 80<sup>th</sup> Street, Seattle, WA beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Celebrated tenor from Wales, Trebor Edwards will be the guest performer. Richard Lind, Organist.

Come join us for an afternoon of Welsh singing, in Welsh and English; Welsh refreshments, special raffle, getting to know the language, and meeting others of Welsh ancestry. All are welcome. You don't have to be Welsh to attend this celebration.

## CALENDAR DATES TO REMEMBER

### JANUARY

1st - Happy New Year!

**7th - Museum Re-opens**

**14th - Franklin Tour 1:00 PM @ Museum**

**15th - Board Meeting**

16th - Martin Luther King Jr's birthday observed

### FEBRUARY

**11th (tentative) - There has been talk of having a silent auction**

12th - Lincoln's Birthday

14th - Valentine's Day

**19th - Board Meeting**

20th - Presidents Day

22nd - Washington's Birthday

### MARCH

1st - Ash Wednesday

5th - Welsh St. David's Day Celebration (See the article on this page)

**11th - Cook for the Cooks**

17th - St. Patrick's Day

**19th - Board Meeting**

### APRIL

2nd - Daylight Savings Time Begins

9th - Palm Sunday

**9th - General Membership Meeting with guest speaker afterwards**

16th - Easter Sunday

### MAY

1st - May Day

**13th (tentative) - 30 years Anniversary of The Black Diamond Historical Society**

14th - Mothers Day

20th - Armed Forces Day

**21st - Board Meeting**

29th - Memorial Day

### JUNE

**3rd - Welsh Heritage Day**

14th - Flag Day

18th - Fathers Day

**18th scheduled (subject to change) - Board Meeting**



## SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Dee Israel



**ARCHIVES:** A big thank-you to JoAnne Matsumura for being so knowledgeable about the running of museums. If it wasn't for her expertise our Museum may not be as good as it is.

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN OCTOBER:

During the recess coffee, tea, strawberry-lemonade, cookies and bars were available to snack on before going in to the auditorium to listen to wonderful stories told of Black Diamond by Paul Botts.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** After the election, Election Committee Chair Elsie Parkin announced the following Officers and Directors for the year 2005-2006:

**President = Don Malgarini**

**Vice President = Darryl Buss**

**Secretary = Dee Israel**

**Treasurer = Clayton Mead**

**Directors = Don Botts, Howard Botts, Jackie Cedarholm, Judy Hastings, Steve Israel, Don Mason, JoAnne Matsumura, and Anna Morris.**

Thank you, Steve Israel for doing a great job during your time as President.

Although not on the Board, we would like to thank Joan Malgarini for taking over being Corresponding Secretary. This will relieve Secretary Dee Israel from some of her duties.

**FACILITIES & GROUNDS:** The new DANGER sign has arrived. It will be put on display as soon as a shadow box can get made that will display it along with the old one.

We have purchased new railroad tie numbers and they will be installed when the weather permits.

The basement floor in the "Country Store" is in need of repainting and the cement block wall (also in the basement) has been primed and is ready to be painted so Don Malgarini, Clayton Mead & Steve Israel will be getting that done between Christmas and New Years while the Museum is closed for the holidays.

We also want to give a big thank you to Gino Picini for planting geraniums and keeping the landscaping looking good during the summer and the clean up in the fall.

**GRANTS:** Thanks to Society Member Dave Jones, who has been able to understand the grant process & wording, we have recently applied for 2 grants.

1. Sustained Support – This has been available annually to help with operating

Expenses.

2. Special Projects for Facilities – With this we plan to upgrade our security system; replace the existing old hot water tank and add hot water plumbing to the restrooms; and add fan ventilation that will help with the preservation of the artifacts.

**MEMBERSHIP:** We now have 286 memberships.

**NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE:** Keep an eye on [www.blackdiamondmuseum.org](http://www.blackdiamondmuseum.org) as it will soon be updated and have links to other sites of interest.

**PROGRAMS:** See the Calendar of Events on page 3

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** It has been suggested that we have a poster made that advertises the Museum open hours. These could be posted at the Bakery and other local businesses. Don Mason and Steve Israel will be working on this project.

**TOURS:** Chair Don Mason reminded us of the Franklin Tour that is scheduled for January 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. at the Museum.

## 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.

## MONETARY DONATIONS

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

To the general fund

**Courtney Ashcraft with  
matching donation from Microsoft  
Rainier Classic Chevy Club  
John Hammersley  
Elsie Vandenberg  
Ted & Leona Myers  
David B. Kirkpatrick  
K-C Food Corporation  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Fosnacht  
Ior Davies**

## MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Memorial Donations were made:

*IN MEMORY* of **Paul Kravagna**, by Ramon Kravagna.

*IN MEMORY* of **Dwight Garrett**, by Ann Stiert, Carol Franklin, Jerry Stiert, Lyle Lovell, Lillian DeGross and Jeanne Jokumsen.

*IN MEMORY* of **Ron D. Clark**, by Harry & Marge Berry.

*IN MEMORY* of **Florence Garrett**, by Joanne Radcliffe, Bremmeyer Logging Co., Mary E. Kell, Cal Bashaw and Pauline Kombol.

We appreciate these thoughtful donations. 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.



## SALUTING OUR VOLUNTEERS

By Don Botts, Volunteer Coordinator

We welcome new and returning volunteers.

We salute each of you.

- ◆ Judy Hager
- ◆ Dave Jones
- ◆ Conrad 'Coke' Roberts

## GUESTS

By: Don Botts

In **2005** during the months of **October, November and December** we had **464** visitors to the Museum. There were visitors from **8** States: California, Delaware, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, and here in Washington. There were also people visiting from other places, such as British Columbia.

## REMARKS MADE BY OUR GUESTS

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

**Enjoyed it, Great, Cool, Charming, Cute, Very interesting, Nice display, Loved all the washing machines, Much interesting history, Incredible, We found Japanese Yen, Wonderful history, Really nice & historic, Amazing collection, Great place, Outstanding collection, Very interesting, Great little Museum, I come with my children to learn about history, Awesome, What a marvelous Museum, Very rewarding, I love it, Wonderful collection, Interesting clothing, 2-year old Madison says, "Pretty neat", Eclectic & fascinating, I like the old things, and impressive collection & knowledgeable Docent.**

## THE COOK'S CUPBOARD

By Beth Botts Van Buskirk

It was June 1998 when Ann Steiert asked if I would take the responsibility of scheduling the committee of cooks who cook and serve lunch for the Thursday Work Crew at the Museum. Rose Guidetti was not able to continue.

At that time we had 18 cooks on the committee who were called every third month. Several having served so faithfully asked to be relieved. Three have passed away and others have moved out of town.

Nancy Mead lives in Enumclaw, one of our original servers. She has recently had back surgery in September, a painful recovery is presently doing fine. Nancy and Clayton are active in the local Senior Citizens Center and find time to do a little traveling.

Muriel Botts Waldo for several years came from Issaquah to bring the lunches. She moved to Enumclaw in 2002 and has continued serving on the committee. She has 5 great grandsons who also live in Enumclaw.

Gil and Marlene Bortleson live in the Flaming Geyser area. Gil comes with Marlene when she brings her very good lunches. Though retired, they are very active, skiing, rafting, and hiking in our wonderful natures backcountry.

In 2001, Bill and Elsie Parkin joined in the committee. Bill's health was very fragile, and was in a nursing home in Federal Way, and has since passed away. Elsie never missed a schedule and is still serving on the committee.

Bill Bremmeyer (that's Bremmeyer Logging, Folks) brings lunch on the third Thursday of every month. His helpers and clean up crew, are Lorraine Winsor, Susie & Jack Thompson.

When Anna Morris first came with her lunches, her pre school children came with her. She's a very busy lady, with her "in home business" and spends time with her father, Evan Morris who is handicapped as a result of a stroke several years ago. Evan was very active in the founding of the Museum, and while able was a member of the Thursday Work Crew, and also served on the Board of Trustees as Finance Advisor.

Marie Freeman has brought authentic Italian food. She is a very busy person, and is active in the local

chapter of the Sons of Italy. In 2006, she will be a 60-year member of the group.

Shari Kuzaro of the Black Diamond Bakery Restaurant furnishes soup, sandwiches and cookies. Someone from the Thursday Work Crew goes down to the restaurant and picks up the food, as Shari is pretty busy about that time.

Mike and Linda Deicher of the Black Diamond Deli & Pizza are always there when called upon. They have several times helped out when due to a sudden emergency the server was not able to come. They brought chili, pizza and other goodies.

Joan Malgarini is a volunteer member of the Thursday Work Crew. She says, "I started hanging around after I had served lunch, looking for something to do, "check with JoAnne—then just do it." She has made new curtains and enhanced many of the artifact signs.

Dave and Jane Jones became interested in the Museum through the Welsh Heritage Day Festival. Jane noticed a painting, and said, "That's my Aunt Elinor Ulman's painting!" Jane and Joan have a good time finding things to do after serving their lunches.

Steve and Dee Israel live in Black Diamond. They served a surprise Mexican lunch to the delight of the Crew as one of their specialties. Steve is Past President of the Society and Editor of the Society's Newsletter, and Dee is the Society's Executive Secretary and whatever jobs no one else wants to do.

Judy Hastings is a retired schoolteacher from Covington. She visited the Museum several years ago and was so impressed with the entire set up that she offered to help. The Museum has a kit made up of information and objects pertaining to coal mining, and Judy takes the kits to schools, nursing homes, and retirement centers in the area.

The Thursday Work Crew is very appreciative of the meals, and are not "fussy" eaters. One time I found a somewhat different recipe and served it. There were no comments either way. As I was leaving, one of the men said, "Beth, that was OK but don't bring it next time." PS. I haven't.

If you can help, even once in a while, I would really like to know. You can leave a message at the Museum, 360-886-2142. The more hands the easier and more enjoyable it is.

☞ **TREASURES AND**

**TRINKETS**

New Accessions and Acts of kindness

By JoAnne Matsumura, Archivist

◆ **Asian American Comparative Collection**-Clipping, Black Diamond Coal Co, 1885

◆ **Dennis Boxx**-Fish for the Thursday Crew

◆ **Helen Bremmeyer**-Walking cane for visitor use

◆ **Myron Davidson**-Photographs of the school band, and park scene

◆ **Thelma Fisher**-Clippings from the Pacific Coast Bulletins & a newspaper of the BD High School Students

◆ **Frank (Foster) Fosnacht**-Original Employment documents with the Pacific Coast Coal Co. of Frank C. (Fosnacht) Foster

◆ **Carol Steiert Franklin**-Photograph, BD Garage pen & bottle opener

◆ **Alma Bahr Freitag**-Photographs of BD School students

◆ **Frank Hammock**-Ladies crochet Irish lace collar

◆ **Issaquah Trophy & Awards**-In-Kind donation of Memorial Railroad Tie numbers

◆ **David B. Kirkpatrick**-Copy of Harry McDowell's business card, McDowell's General Store

◆ **Bill Kombol**-Coal Mine music CDs

◆ **Ray Kravagna**-Photograph of family house in Morganville

◆ **Don Malgarini**-Photograph, Reunion 2005 of BD students Class of 1955 Enumclaw High School

◆ **Clayton Mead**-Box of brass paper fasteners, box of "Linit" starch, display of rulers, Crayola boxes, "Spartan" Steel Desk Pins holder #17, hairpin, compass, The Plateau Rotogravure 2001, BD Townsite Maps 1947

◆ **Ruellene Morganti**-Photographs from the Estate of Margaret Morganti Vernarelli, items from St. Barbara's Church

◆ **Marsha Mott**-Immigration information of Palmyra Thibaut

◆ **Wayne & Linda Nachtsheim**-Wintering over 106 Geraniums from the Museum's flowerbed.

◆ **Palmer Coking Coal Co.**-Mining equipment 1960s-1980s and catalogs

◆ **Elsie Parkin**-Map of Morganville Addition, 1930



◆ **Blair & Barbara Patrick**-Chronology document of the Paul R. Hardy family

◆ **Roslyn Heritage Club**-Book, "From Old Country to Coal Country, 2005"

◆ **Cynthia Spencer**-Childs cradle

◆ **Joanne Stebly**-School student class photographs

◆ **Keith Timm Jr.**-Photograph of Labor Day 1951

◆ **Bob Thompson**-Historic calendars, photograph of John & Verna Thompson

◆ **Unknown**-"ALLWAY SAW unbreakable handle, ULTRA Mfg. Co, USA

◆ **Beth Botts Van Buskirk**-Doll, Bluing, Fels Naptha Soap bar

◆ **Judy Petchnick Warwick**-Ceramics by Ann Steiert, Spaight & Co., receipt books mining textbook, 1923

**Thank you one and all!**

**WHO AM I? IDENTIFIED**

In our October Newsletter we featured a photograph of the 1941/1942 Black Diamond High School Reserve Basketball Team of the Junior & Sophomore class. We thank Walter Clark, Lois Thomas Estby, Don Malgarini, John Malgarini and Marie Theilken Trover for their help in giving us the names to these handsome fellows.

Front row, left to right: Jim Woods, Walter Clark, Harry Woods and John Malgarini. Back row, Dave Tyerman, Harry Berry, Henry Hank Tyerman Steve Sepotz and Coach Mr. Vogel.

John Malgarini wrote, "That team was the Varsity team of 1941-42-43. The Uniforms we had just purchased that year..." "We were proud of the team as it was the first team from Black Diamond to go to a state tournament. These 8 young men met larger schools head on and came out as a representative of the Snoqualmie Valley League to the State Tournament. We tied for a position and we had to meet Snoqualmie for a play-off berth. We played the game at a neutral court, Redmond High School and we won 30-13. I will never forget that game. We went on to play Forks in our first game of the State, Class B and we got our butts bombed. We had a great team, we had fun. I'd be glad to tell you more"...Ok John, tell us more, more!!



**IN MEMORIAM**

✧ Gone but not forgotten ✧

**Florence B. Garrett**-was born November 20, 1910 in Missouri Valley, Iowa, and passed away November 11, 2005 in Enumclaw, at age 94. She resided in the Enumclaw area most of her life.

Florence was a Charter Member of the Society and served as Docent for a very long time. Her contributions were many over the years.

She had a community spirit and served the Enumclaw Parks Board, Calvary Presbyterian Church, and was a certified master gardener. Florence and her late husband Dave owned and operated Dave’s Antique Store.

Florence is survived by her son Don Garrett and family.

**Jane Claire Gattavara**-was born February 26, 1927, to Mr. & Mrs. James Gattavara. She is the granddaughter of Victor and Colomba Bevalague Gattavara, of the Gattavara Store in Morganville, WA. Victor Gattavara first built a small store next to the cemetery and soon built a larger building across the street, which is also known as Mama Passarelli’s Dinner House. Jane was a member of the Society and a frequent donor. The Gattavara Family left Black Diamond in 1929 and moved to Enumclaw.

**Paul W. Kravagna**- passed away November 10, 2005. He was a lifetime member of the Society. Paul graduated from Renton High School and the University of Washington. He served 27 years as a professor of art education at Cal State Northridge. He is survived by his mother Vera Hughes Toman, and brother Ray Kravagna.

**Robert Mann**- passed away in December. The Memorial Service will be in January.

**Angiolo ‘Deno’ Mariotti**- was born November 5, 1905 in Ponte Buggiangse, Italy, and passed away on October 30, 2005, just 5 days short of his 100th birthday. He made Black Diamond his home for 94 years.



He was a Charter Member of the Society and “enjoyed the Newsletter very much.”

He served on the Black Diamond City Council for many years, and as a Black Diamond fireman for 25 years for his community. His years of employment included the White River sawmill, Red and White Grocery, Fischer Brothers, Santi Furniture Store, and Allen’s Furniture. His lodge affiliation was the Black Diamond Eagles.

He is survived by sisters Parma Johnson, and Rose Tokin. His sisters Primo, Mary and Ida, brothers Gus, Parmiro and Joe all preceded him in death.

**Ernie Joseph Tonda**-was born November 30, 1922 in Black Diamond, WA and passed away October 3, 2005. He was a Lifetime Member of the Society.

Some of the Tonda family lived in Company house #42 on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. in 1920 and others lived in Morganville. Ernie also lived in Morganville as an infant before the family moved to Renton.

Ernie attended the Renton schools and graduated in 1940. He served as a Renton fireman, was one of the founders and director of the Renton Historical Society and Museum, on the boards of the Salvation Army, Renton Housing Authority and Renton Senior Center. Ernie was also a talented cabinetmaker offering his expertise to several Black Diamond families.

In early 1987 through the courtesy of Ernie Tonda and the Renton Historical Society they donated a large metal reader board, such as was used in depots, to the Black Diamond Historical Society. It has been on display as our train schedule sign on the Society’s platform since that time.

He is survived by his wife Lila Jean, of Renton, son Todd Tonda, daughter Mary Ann Coles, and brothers Mario and Victor Tonda, of Renton.

*The Black Diamond Historical Society expresses condolences to the families of the passing of their loved ones.*



✧ **THANKS FOR THE  
MEMORIES** ✧

✧ Margaret J. Fisher  
1920-2005  
Community member

✧ Kenneth A. Gruel  
1942-2005  
Community member

✧ Sienna Elise Morris  
1985-2005  
Daughter of David & Melanie Morris

✧ Julia Irene Junevitch Palmer  
1918-2005  
Born in Taylor, WA

✧ Frank J. Primozych  
1922-2005  
Born in Ravensdale, WA

✧ Beatrice Romeo  
1921-2005  
Born in Black Diamond

✧ Brian Jarold Walsh  
1954-2005  
Son of Patrick J & Patricia Walsh

✧ Timothy Michael Weber  
1947-2005  
Community member

**IN MEMORIAM ADDITION**

**Dwight A. Garrett**

The following was inadvertently not included in the original IN MEMORIAM for Dwight A. Garrett, in our October 2005 issue. Please accept our apologies.

Dwight is survived by his wife of 65 years, Doris Fraser Garrett, daughters, Debbie Mitchell, Penny Waddell, and Cindy Garrett, 3 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

**A TRUE STORY**

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog.

There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. "I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life." "No, I can't accept payment for what I did," the Scottish farmer replied waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel. "Is that your son?" the nobleman asked. "Yes," the farmer replied proudly. "I'll make you a deal. Let me provide him with the level of education my own son will enjoy. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll no doubt grow to be a man we both will be proud of."

And that he did. Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and in time, graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years afterward, the same nobleman's son who was saved from the bog was stricken with pneumonia. What saved his life this time? Penicillin.

The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill. His son's name?

Sir Winston Churchill.

(As Paul Harvey would say, "Now you know the rest of the story. Good Day!")

 **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS** 

To Society Members

- ◆ Joan Barber-January 16<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Marcia Lee Berg-February 9<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Marlene Bortleson-January 16<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Gil Bortleson-January 19<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Dorothy Botts-February 17<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Pearl Bowen-March 5<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Jodine Burke-January 18<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Walter Clark-February 8<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Douglas Danley-March 11<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Henry De Lauro-March 12<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Beth Deady-March 5<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Rosa Draghi-January 5<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Cheryl Dubbs-March 14<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Connie Florence-January 31<sup>st</sup>
- ◆ David Florence-March 6<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Philip Fowler-January 11<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Frank Grgurich-January 10<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Lauri W. Jarvela-March 31<sup>st</sup>
- ◆ Ethel Estby Johnson-January 9<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Alma Freitag-January 18<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Diane Kitz-March 28<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Warren Kelly Lippincott-February 28<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Janet Lombardini-February 18<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Michael Manieri-March 16<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Betty Martin-February 6<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Virginia Mann Lindstrom-March 22<sup>nd</sup>
- ◆ Audrey Kramer Mendenhall-January 9<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Leo Merlini-January 13<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Flavia Picini Meyer-February 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ◆ Evan Morris, Sr.-January 27<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Esther Mumford-January 20<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Bruno Nedergard-January 10<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Ed Opstad-January 1<sup>st</sup>
- ◆ Ann Milautz Steiert-February 12<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ George Tantzen-March 13<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Marie Trover Theilken-February 3<sup>rd</sup>
- ◆ Catherine Evans Truman-March 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ◆ Nicole Vickery-January 9<sup>th</sup>

 **BIRTHDAY** 

**CONGRATULATIONS CONAGENARIANS**

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

- ◆ Paul Botts-March 5<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Thelma Fisher-January 26<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Mrs. Joseph Fosnick
- ◆ Ruth Mills Kerkes
- ◆ Ruby DiJulio Lamantea-January 8<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Melvin Larson
- ◆ Josephine Long-January 30<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Alma Malatesta-March 12<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Olive Parkin
- ◆ Merle Davies Romedo
- ◆ Ellen G. Olsen Vieg-February 3<sup>rd</sup>
- ◆ Loretta Stella Vincenzi-March 2<sup>nd</sup>

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

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**WHO AM I?**

Courtesy Joanne Stebly BDHS #2005.101

School Days, school days, Read'n, Write'n,  
Rithmetic', and the Golden Rule Days. This image was given  
to Gregory Stebly by his teacher, Mrs. Rundlett, of the  
Kindergarten class of 1955-56. If you recognize yourself or  
someone else, please let us know. Thank you!!



## SNIPPETS, AROUND TOWN

By JoAnne Matsumura

- ◆ **Around Town**-now 28<sup>th</sup> on the States Population estimate list of 2005, is 4,080.
- ◆ **Black Diamond: Mining The Memories**-was recently featured in the University of Idaho's Asian American Comparative Collection Newsletter; the NINNAU, The Eagle and the Dragon, and the Washington State Genealogical Society publications. The book can be purchased at the Museum's gift shop; Baker Street Books, Leih's Gifts, Mama Passarelli's Dinner House Mtn. Magic Treasures, and The Smoke House and More.
- ◆ **Mayor Howard Botts**-appointed Jason Paulsen to assume the position of Director of a new Large Development Review Team. Black Diamond is growing!
- ◆ **Warren Bruckner**-who lived in the cabin of the John Davies Candy Store for many years, is a cabin no longer. In its place will be new housing.
- ◆ **Louis & Rosa Draghi**-are settled in their new home in Redmond, Oregon.
- ◆ **Gomer Evans and daughter Sherrie Evans**-gave a presentation to Masonic Lodge Members about the history of the Black Diamond Masonic Hall.
- ◆ **Frank Hammock**-our reporter at large, became a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knight with the Knights of Columbus, Council 10664. CONGRATULATIONS!
- ◆ **Judy Hastings and Bob Thompson**-have passed the gavel and we THANK THEM for all their past help.
- ◆ **Jennie Parkinson Johnson**-has moved to her new home in Arlington, WA
- ◆ **David B Kirkpatrick**-son of Phyllis McDowell gave us the pleasure of a visit recently.
- ◆ **Lake Sawyer Park** is now under the leadership of the City of Black Diamond, and has been accepted to receive a National Park Service grant.
- ◆ **Helen Strom Manowski**-shared a Museum transcription of the 1886 Rebecca Lodge notes and members names to a recent special Rebecca Lodge gathering.
- ◆ **Clara Metzler Murphy**-identified an unnamed photograph on our multiplex. It was the wedding picture of her parents. THANK YOU!
- ◆ **New sidewalks**-and wheelchair ramps have been installed on Baker Street across from the Museum and

through the gully to Morganville. Parking space on Baker Street too!

- ◆ **Conrad 'Coke' Roberts**-gave a presentation about Black Diamond History when Coal Was King at the BD Senior Center and will be back again for more presentations.
- ◆ **Christmas Tree Lighting**-amid the recent snowfall, and a visit from Santa took place at the BD Community Center on December 2nd. It was cold and everyone had a good time.
- ◆ **Surprise Lake Middle School's**, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade class in Milton, WA will present Black Diamond history for the Washington State History Fair.
- ◆ **Beth Botts Van Buskirk**-a talented woodcarver, contributed a four-panel block with salmon etched in each side for the Friendship Staff that was used in the "Walk Across Washington" October 2005 event.
- ◆ **Judy Petchnick Warwick**-is now in her new home in Graham, WA
- ◆ **The Weyerhaeuser Company**-recently stated, "A fourth printing [Mining the Memories] is very impressive. Glad to learn that the book and local/labor/business history are so well received".
- ◆ **Delores Oeherk Wilkening**-has left BD for Utah for short a time. We look forward to her return. She served the Society as a Docent.

### My PC Spelling Checker

Be careful as this poem shows:

I has a spelling checker  
 It come with my PC.  
 It plainly marks for my revue,  
 Mistakes I cannot sea.  
 I've ran this poem threw it,  
 I'm sure your please to no.  
 Its letter perfect in its weigh,  
 My checker tolled me sew.

By Don Holt

Contributed by J. Matsumura



## A Story of Two Friends – A Window to the Past

By Frank Hammock

Have you ever taken a two-hour trip into the past to a forgotten era of time? A trip like this is a lot like visiting a grandparent, or a childhood friend who gladly shares the warmth of memories and fun. I had the pleasurable experience to do just that when I recently paid a visit to two long time Enumclaw residents Dr. John Ulman and Mr. George Kranc, who shared with me their stories of the past that owe some of their humble beginnings to the early days of Black Diamond not long after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

The interview took place in Dr. Ulman's quiet and well-manicured residence only two blocks from his childhood home in the heart of Enumclaw. Outside, trees stood in somber silence sporting beautifully colored red, yellow, and brown leaves, and rain fell steadily in the gray daylight hours of an Autumn afternoon in November. A light wind rustled up the fallen leaves as the conversations began in the dining area with occasional laughter breaking out of the stories from a lifetime of golden memories that flowed like honey from the vine.

Dr. John Ulman was a long time dentist in the area, now retired, and Mr. George Kranc was a butcher who ultimately had his own business, and is also retired. Together, they have been friends since childhood. But, since their reuniting many years ago after a 40-year gap in their lives, they have been virtually inseparable and their bond shines through like long lost brothers. Yet, their personalities are quite distinct and different. John is a learned man who acquired a college education and carefully ponders his words before speaking yet speaks with a lighthearted reservation of humor that is as soft as a Winter sunrise and just as warming. His dear friend George grew up by the labor of his hands and is quite free and open about his thoughts and loves to share; quite an open book and full of energy and surprises. At times, he was wonderfully comical; he always had a story to tell, and was as equally as warm as his dear and trusted friend John. The good doctor stands about six foot one, towering over George with a stature of about five foot six. But, don't let size fool you because from the pleasantries of this courteous, jovial and often joking duo – a powerful team charisma emanated that, combined with a witty character and sharp memory, proved worthy of a continual atmosphere of fun and enjoyment to anyone with

the time to listen. I can honestly say that in spite of the cool and wet November weather outside, these two gentlemen certainly warmed my heart.

So, sit a spell with me and listen as they share a few sketches in time of a little history and growing up in Black Diamond and Enumclaw nearly a century ago.

**John:** "He's smarter than I am," pointing to Mr. Kranc. "He's got a better memory than I do."

**George:** "Oh no," he said interrupting John, "he went to school, had an education and I didn't. I went to workin' – worked hard in the meat business all my life. I was a butcher for 40 years. ...we moved to Enumclaw in 1921 when I was 10 years old. My dad was a miner, came there about the turn of the century and worked in that mine. Came there when he was 15 years old from Vienna, Austria, him and another kid and that's how they went to work in Black Diamond. Of course that's what the young fellas did in Austria. They were coal miners, ya know, that's about all they had there. But that's where he came to work. Of course, married my mother who lived outside of Enumclaw here and the reason he did marry her – can you visualize you goin' to Vienna, Austria and couldn't speak a word of their language and converse with the people? They found out all these people lived out at Krain. You know where Krain Corner is? – well those were all Austrian people that came and one of my grandparents homesteaded out here – 1860 – right across from the Krain Tavern, 160 acres, the homestead — and I was on that farm 1921 for two years when we came from Black Diamond to Enumclaw; they dumped me off. I could milk a cow and I helped with the chores there, they wanted me to help milk cows – didn't even have electricity on that farm there at that time. But anyway, my dad found out about all these Austrian people and him and this other kid worked six days a week and they had Sunday off, and they would walk from Black Diamond over to Krain they called it, see, and that was there before Enumclaw was ever started too. They use to have a grocery store there, and a dance hall and everything. But anyhow, they'd come over and visit the girls over there and the people and they got married. They married sisters, and that's how our family started."

**Interviewer:** "Dr. Ulman, your folks, where did they originate from?"

**John:** "My mother was born in Germany, but she came over here, she was about ..." pause, "five or six or so, and they settled in Iowa; northeast corner of Iowa."

**Interviewer:** "And eventually worked their way over here?"

**John:** "No"

**Interviewer:** "Did you come on your own?"

**John:** “She did, she was a nurse. Went to nursing school in Dubuque, Iowa, then to New York City, graduated a nurse. Her father and mother died. Her father was killed in an accident, and the kids, there was five of them, the two older were boys and the three girls, younger ones, were all adopted. The middle girl was adopted by some people who came out to Salem, Oregon and then to Portland, and my mother communicated with her and after she got through graduation school she went and got a job at Multnomah County Hospital and she became a Superintendent of Nurses. And my dad, he was born back in Michigan, his father was a Canadian (‘Ulman’). His brother was named ‘fox’ and he was from Ohio, and they came out to Sacramento, California and lived in a small town outside of Sacramento. But then he was on his own, before they got through medical school in Portland and his residency in the county hospital, and that’s where he met my mother.



Dr. John Ulman - Retired Dentist

**Interviewer:** “Do you know what year that was?”

**John:** “He graduated in 1905.”

**Interviewer:** “...that’s a long time ago, one hundred years ago.”

**John:** “...when he got through, they were married and he got a job with the Milwaukee Railroad over in Cle Elum, building the railroad over the mountains. Then he went from there up to Pacific Coast Coal Company in Carbonado, and my older brother was born there, in 1907 ...there was three in my family; my older brother, Frederick, he was – oh we all went to school there. He was killed when he was 20 years old in an airplane accident. And my sister, Eleanore, she died, oh five years ago, something like that.”

Talk shifted to coal and coal mining in the Black Diamond area.

**George:** “You know that coal mine, you see it when ya – the mountain of slag. Do you know how deep that mine is there? That coal mine? The original Black Diamond Mine?”

**Interviewer:** “Mine Number 11?”

**George:** “Well, no I don’t know the number, but they call it the old Black Diamond Mine. That’s a mile deep, and I’ll tell ya a little bit about that coal mine. I happen to know that that’s the only coal mine in this area or in this state that has hard coal in it. There’s soft coal and hard coal. You take the soft coal, it’s not good coal, you put a shovel of coal in a stove off the soft coal and you take three shovels of ashes out but you put three shovels of hard coal and you take one shovel of ashes out.”

**John:** “Is that the McKay Mine?”

**George:** “Well that’s the McKay vein they call that, that’s the McKay vein. And, my dad, he was a fire boss in that mine when he came there in the turn of the century. So he didn’t have to belong to the union, and that’s how he worked till everybody started calling him ‘scab’, and he didn’t want to go to Morgansville. You know about Morgansville don’t ya? Well, that’s where 1918 when they kicked all the miners out, of course they owned the town and owned the company store and everything, and they kicked ‘em

out of town. They bought that land from Morgan, was their name, who owned all that land out there and bought the land and that’s where they built homes for their men. A majority of them went there and others drifted away, we moved to Enumclaw instead of movin’ there see. There was a couple of – and my dad was in two or three big accidents there in the mine. One time, I can remember distinctly, and I had to be about eight years old, he would go down the mine to check the mine before the miners go down and he went down in the mine to check it and happen to hit a wire on his light and he got shocked – heavy. I don’t know what the voltage is there but it’s heavy and he just about bit his tongue off. And

another time he worked in one of the other mines there and he was gonna go down in a mine and of course they go down in car loads, eight or ten guys, and a fire boss always stands in the back and goes down. Well, he wouldn’t have been here as long as he lived. He was suppose to go down in the one car that went down and they just got down about half way and an explosion came and blew them right out of there and broke everyone of those guys’ necks and he was standin’ outside ready to go on the next car but he was suppose to go on the one that went down when that thing came and pertineer tore all his clothes off of him... that had to be, I don’t know the year, it had to be maybe 1916 or 17, somewhere around in there.”

Dr. Ulman spoke briefly about his father, and Mr. Kranc about his mother. At one moment, Mr. Kranc got a little emotional when we broached the subject came up and we sat in silence as he collected himself, giving him the respect this gentleman deserved.

**John:** “My father had a contract with a lumber company to take care of their people, for so much a month per person. He also had a deal with the mines up the line Cumberland, Palmer, Vain, and a couple of other mines up there. He had the same deal with them, pay about 50 cents a month or something like that.”

**George:** “My mother was born right out of Krain here, like I told ya my grandparents homesteaded there, that’s where she was born. Now I don’t know what year she was born but my mother passed away quite young, [becomes very emotional – time passes], excuse me [sobbing – more time passes], 53 years old [more emotion], and had seven kids.”

When Mr. Kranc was ready, we moved on with more sketches in time about their lives many years ago.

**Interviewer:** “You guys obviously didn’t work together in Black Diamond. [laughter]

**John:** “Noooo, I was a dentist.” [more laughter]

**Interviewer:** “You were pulling teeth at the time right, working on people. And sir, you said you started in the meat business?” (directed towards Mr. Kranc)

**George:** “Well, yeah, I started working downtown Enumclaw here in 1925 when I was 14 years old; peddling meat on a bicycle. For three years I did that. Any kids that did that before I did never lasted over two or three months and stupid me, I did it for three years [laughter] and the last year in High School they got me a Model T Ford Truck. Man, I was in beat city!”

**John:** “But it was a bicycle before that.”

**George:** “Yeah...”

**Mr. Kranc continued.**

**George:** “I sold ground beef in this town that was good enough for anybody for three pounds for 25 cents. Now you can buy ground beef anywhere from a dollar to three dollars a pound.”

**Interviewer:** “Did you start your own meat business eventually?” (directed towards Mr. Kranc)

**George:** “Well, I was – worked for a meat company here who had a meat market in every small town like Black Diamond, Enumclaw, Auburn, Sumner, and Puyallup and about 50 retail markets in Seattle who had a big packing plant and that’s when I went to work for Fry’s. And of course they went out of business in the early 30’s who had a big packing plant in Seattle and one of the Boeing’s airplanes flew into it and that’s how they closed it down. But that Frying company was a big institution like Swift or Armour or any of those as big as them...but anyhow, when Frying company sold all them meat markets to different people that ran ‘em, their managers you know, their meat markets they wanted to buy them when their plant was burned out, and so that’s how a lot of these guys bought them. But anyhow, I went to work for them and then I opened a meat market here for a fella that put in and had a grocery store that had a meat market in it in 1933 and I was his first butcher there then, and then I got into business for myself and had a real successful store here in Enumclaw. We took over a company that was gonna go broke in 1956 called Enumclaw Food Center, and then I retired. I am one of the few guys, of course like John he had his education everything, but he had his holidays and everything and I can truthfully say that when I went to work, when I was 14 years old, and I was never out of a job in my life, and during the depression there was 70% unemployment you know that, 1929, that’s the year I graduated from High School in 1929. And, anyhow, I worked for this Frying, and I always tell everybody I worked for 40 years in the meat business, hard, and I’ve been retired for 35 years. Now how many guys get to



Mr. George Kranc

do that? Not very many. So I was pretty lucky in that respect.”

**John:** “George invested his money wisely and doesn’t spend it...” Pause “...recklessly.”

**George:** “No, I never – I am like the thrifty tomcat, I put a little in the kitty every night.” [lots of laughter]

“But anyhow, this [more laughter] – I was pretty fortunate. I retired when I was 59 years old and felt like I was 29 and in some respects I was hurtin’ then and I’m hurtin’ now like I was when I was 39 years old. I’m lucky to live and done what I’ve done and if I have to go tomorrow why I can’t, well you know, I got no regrets like John.”

**I paid a compliment about their age and Dr. Ulman gave a humorous response. Both of these gentlemen looked well for being in their 90’s. I listened intently while Dr. Ulman followed with a bit more about his background.**

**Interviewer:** “Neither one of you gentlemen look in your 90’s – you don’t. And I’m not trying to stereotype that people need to look a certain way in their 90’s but...” “...I never would have known, ...”

**John:** “Well, inside we’re not so good.” [lots of laughter] [more laughter]

**Interviewer:** “And your background sir, was dentistry, you were in the dentist field for a while?”

**John:** “Well, I had an office down in California for about six months and was lonesome for the green hills of Washington. I came back and had a place out in Lake City and uh, the Korean War came along. I was invited to join their Dental Corps. I was stationed at Fort Lott and then down at the Port of Embarkation. When I was through with that I came up here and a dentist died, and my mother was getting pretty old – to keep an eye on her.”

**Interviewer:** “Where did you go to school?”

**John:** “Dental School? Portland – North Pacific College of Dentistry. After the war it was owned by some people, I don’t know, one family, or two or three but they gave the whole thing to the University of Oregon.”

**Interviewer:** “But you had a career for how – spanned how many years – your Dentistry, how many years?”

**John:** “1945 to 1980”

We talked a lot about sports from their era and their feelings about good food and good drink. Dr. Ulman was into basketball and Mr. Kranc was, and still is, an avid golfer. Together now they play golf as often as the weather will allow and enjoy every minute of it. Dr. Ulman mentioned that people should



stay away from red meat, or at least eat it sparingly, and load up on as much fruit and vegetables as one can tolerate. Both men agreed as well that an occasional shot of Scotch or Vodka does a body good. From that, I settled into a little more of their childhood.

**Interviewer:** “Tell me about the games and the fun you guys did as kids. What kind of games did you play, what kinds of things kept you occupied as kids?”

**John:** “Oh, marbles...use to have coal-fired stoves up the street. They’d dump the ashes out in the alley and they got kinda hard, up at the school too...had different games with marbles, and had duck on the rock, Pee wee; had a stick from kindling wood for a bat, about that wide and that long with a handle on it [he demonstrated a size comparison] – and in pee wee was a broom handle cut off short like that and shaved down on each end like a pencil and ya hit with one end and it goes up in the air and you bat it.”

**George:** “I never did do any of that maybe I never played much of that because I was workin’ and that’s what the kids did.”

**John:** “Hockey – we’d get a vine maple that curved like a hockey stick and bat a can up and down the alley.”

**George:** “You know when we were kids I told ya that you could skate on any lake around here in the month of January and February – ice skate on any lake – that’s how cold the weather we use to get here. That’s how it’s changed that much.”

**John:** “Run sheep run...divide a gang up and then one group has to stay where the base is and the other group goes off and hides somewhere. And then one of the hidden group goes back to one of the guys and then they crossed their fingers like this – see which way they were gonna go – and that’s as far as they went. And now the finder group had to find them and then they say ‘run sheep run’ and run back to base.”

During their youth, Dr. Ulman and Mr. Kranc enjoyed dancing. Here’s what they had to say about this fun-filled activity that for many of that era, it was the thing to do with the wives and gals.

**George:** “I gotta tell ya about the dancin’...You know I tell guys I am a better dancer than I am a golfer I says I know what I’m doin’ on a dance floor but a lot of times when you hit a golf ball you don’t know what you are doin’. [laughter] I gotta give ya a little history about that. My wife was a great dancer; loved to dance. She was Norwegian and Swede. Use to polka and shottish and all that stuff. But anyhow, we got married in 1935 so before that we went together for three or four years and did a lot of dancin’. And we use to go – that was a ritual for us we went to dance every Saturday night – didn’t go to Church much I guess I’m lucky I’ve lived so long as I am, the Lord doesn’t want me. [laughter] But anyhow, we went to dance every Saturday night like I say a ritual. We had a group, the whole family of us, like well, seven or eight or ten couples generally together. They use to – when they went to these dances they had big orchestras, you know, like ten or twelve piece band and played all – real music – it wasn’t no jitterbuggin’ or any of that – ballroom music they called it. They always gave a prize. So

this one time out at the Farmers Picnic ground, my wife, before we were married – we always went as a group like I told ya, eight or ten of us, twenty people. We won the prize so at intermission, they gave me five dollars, that’s what they gave me for the prize. You know what I did with that? Prentice, he owned a hamburger stand ya know, outside of the Farmer’s picnic ground, remember that?”

**John:** “Yeah.”

**George:** “And, uh, so I took ‘em all across the street and bought ‘em all a hamburger and a bottle of pop and out of the five dollars, I had two and a half dollars left. It was 10 cents for the hamburger and nickel for the pop. How’s that for the books?”

George added more on this delightful subject that brought a smile to his already happy face.

**George:** “Yeah. I gotta tell ya about dancin’...one time, and I’m not bragging about my dancing but I probably was as good a dancer as I was and in my young days, that was in the back of my mind, I wanted to be a song and dance man. But I never – it didn’t turn out that way. But, anyhow we was dancin’ with Russ Morgan [spelling]...well by the time I danced with Russ Morgan’s [spelling] orchestra he was to had a son too, when intermission came his son played and Emma and I were dancing to polkas and shottish’s – she was great for that – I like to enjoyed it, and doin’ lots of dancin’ we were in this one great big dance hall and there wasn’t very many dancin’. You know how they were just sittin’ around drinkin’, fancy hotel. You’ve been to those places hadn’t ya? So, when we danced around and this Russ Morgan [spelling] says ‘Well, I’m sure somebody enjoys my music.’ For one thing, but I gotta tell ya about another place we went and it was this same similar thing and it was Liberace’s brother’s orchestra was playing there. Of course my wife and I was dancin’ up a storm and having some drinks and there was a woman standing oh, about 10 or 15 - 20 feet by one of them big pillars ya know – about half hour – she was there for about a half hour and pretty soon she come over to the table and she says to my wife ‘Do you mind if I dance with your husband?’, and of course my wife was tickled to death if I danced with somebody else. She was that type of woman wasn’t she John?”

**John:** “Yep.”

**George:** “And anyhow, so I danced with her and she was a pretty good dancer and you know what she told me after she got through and I tell people this story – she said ‘I had my satisfy for the night.’ So, I can always say that I satisfied a woman on a dance floor.”  
[Lots of laughter].....

(Editor’s note: Due to the length of this wonderful article and our limited space, the remainder of this interview will be published in the April 2006 Newsletter.)

## **THE WORST COAL MINING DISASTER IN THE HISTORY OF THE BLACK DIAMOND – FRANKLIN COAL FIELDS**

by Bill Kombol

The worst coal mining disaster in the history of the Black Diamond and Franklin coal fields occurred on August 24, 1894 in the Franklin coal mine when thirty-seven miners perished from suffocation and smoke. While researchers have long known the names of the deceased, a recently uncovered map lists the name of all the miners who were working at the mine at the time of the disaster. The detailed map also shows the location of each miner in the mine on the day of the accident. Gathered together for the first time is a description of the Franklin mine in 1894, a recitation of the cause of the accident, and the list of all the miners, both deceased and alive, from that infamous day in local coal mining history.

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COAL MINE INSPECTORS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1894**

by David Edmunds, Coal Mine Inspector, First District

#### **FRANKLIN MINE**

The north gangway was poorly ventilated during the fore part of the year. The ventilation was produced by natural means; the up-cast air way being at a much higher elevation than the downcast, a very good current was obtained during the winter season, but as the weather became warm the air current became weak, and, to overcome this, they placed stoves in the up-cast, a very primitive method of ventilating mines. As the law prohibits the use of furnaces, I concluded that it would apply to stoves as well, and requested that they be removed, and a fan substituted, which was done, and the result was very beneficial. The ventilation of the south side was good, it being ventilated by a separate fan. The air is well conducted through the face of the workings. Considerable firedamp is given off in that part of the mine. Drainage is very good.

#### **FRANKLIN MINE DISASTER**

One of the most deplorable accidents that has ever occurred in the history of mining, by which thirty-seven persons lost their lives through suffocation by smoke from a mine fire in the above mine, occurred on August 24<sup>th</sup>. The fire originated in breast 62 of the north sixth level; how it did occur will remain a mystery. Two theories were advanced – incendiarism and spontaneous combustion. I believe in the latter. The gobs or refuse, which is kept in the breasts, are known to have been heated before and after the fire. Each of the old worked out levels have had fires from that source. The coroner's jury returned a verdict ascribing the cause to incendiarism without any evidence of that nature. The testimony of those that escaped proved that the men could have all gotten out safely, but it seems that they stopped for the purpose of extinguishing the fire; some of them had come from the south side with buckets so as to throw water on it. They would have been perfectly safe in doing so, had the fan remained in operation; but some one stopped it, thus compelling the men to retreat towards the bottom of the slope, and when they reached the rock tunnel leading to the fan way they encountered the smoke which came into the gangway when the fan stopped, thus their only means of escape was cut off, and they were suffocated in trying to go through it. Had this mine been worked by double entry system, or had two levels been connected at stated distances, this loss of life would not have occurred. This would have afforded another means of escape. This is a matter that should be provided for by statute. This disaster emphasized the need of having competent men in charge of the ventilating apparatus, when so many lives are dependent upon them. Fourteen wives were left husbandless and thirty-eight children fatherless by the mistake or ignorance of the person who stopped the fan.

**LIST OF NAMES FROM THE MAP OF THE FRANKLIN COAL MINE, SHOWING SCENE OF ACCIDENT OF AUGUST 24, 1894**

The following names were listed on the above referenced map titled. The numeral corresponds to the map and shows where the miner was located in the mine at the time of the disaster. The spelling immediately after the numeral is how the miner's name was spelled on the map copy. The spelling on the following line in \* (*parenthesis*) is how the miner's name was spelled in the Annual Coal Mine Inspector's Report from 1894:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Andy Greer-deceased<br/>* (<i>Andrew Greer</i>)</li> <li>2. David Mason-alive</li> <li>3. Rocco Tetti-deceased</li> <li>4. Phil De Mari-deceased<br/>* (<i>Phillip Di Mari</i>)</li> <li>5. D.E. Bowes-alive</li> <li>6. Sam Stevens-alive</li> <li>7. Elisha Brown-alive</li> <li>8. Frank Willis-deceased</li> <li>9. H.R. Roberts-deceased</li> <li>10. John T. Pugh-deceased</li> <li>11. Israel Stevens-alive</li> <li>12. Chas Scott-alive</li> <li>13. Oscar Miller-alive</li> <li>14. Joseph Gibson-deceased</li> <li>15. W.P. Jones-deceased</li> <li>16. Joseph Scott-alive</li> <li>17. Peter Hay-deceased</li> <li>18. Jacob Olson-deceased</li> <li>19. John Q. Anderson-deceased</li> <li>20. R.W. Jones-deceased</li> <li>21. John Irwin-deceased</li> <li>22. Evan Hughes-deceased</li> <li>23. Wm. Secor-deceased</li> <li>24. David D. Jones-deceased</li> <li>25. John Morris-deceased</li> <li>26. Edward Johnson-deceased</li> <li>27. Frank Larson-deceased</li> <li>28. J.W. Sneider-alive</li> <li>29. Ike Clements-deceased<br/>* (<i>Isaac Clemmens</i>)</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30. John Hall-deceased</li> <li>31. Joseph Dawson-deceased</li> <li>32. Evan D. Jones-deceased</li> <li>33. Chris Dunkers-deceased</li> <li>34. Robert McCluskey-deceased<br/>* (<i>Robert McCaskey</i>)</li> <li>35. Joseph Stanridge-deceased<br/>* (<i>Joseph Standridge</i>)</li> <li>36. John Grantilli-deceased<br/>* (<i>John Grantilla</i>)</li> <li>37. Evan Johns-deceased<br/>* (<i>Evan John</i>)</li> <li>38. Pete Perry-deceased<br/>* (<i>Peter Perig</i>)</li> <li>39. Chas. Stevens-deceased</li> <li>40. Joe Cassell-deceased<br/>* (<i>Joseph Connell</i>)</li> <li>41. Joe Dominick-alive</li> <li>42. Dom Francisco-alive</li> <li>43. Joe Bassio-deceased<br/>* (<i>Jos. Bossi</i>)</li> <li>44. Louis Ghiardi-alive</li> <li>45. Lorenzo Carvallo-alive</li> <li>46. Louis Farr-deceased</li> <li>47. D.W. Griffiuchs</li> <li>48. Archie Jones-alive</li> <li>49. Jos. Greene-alive</li> <li>50. George W. Smalley-alive</li> <li>51. James Cave-alive</li> <li>52. Benjamin Gaston-alive</li> <li>53. Thos Jackson-alive</li> <li>54. Frank Hall-alive</li> <li>55. Ed McDonald-alive</li> </ol> |
|---|--|

The following names were listed in the Annual Coal Mine Inspector's Report from 1894 as fatalities, but these names did not appear in the list of names on the map:

- Edward Maxwell-deceased
- Andrew Engdahl-deceased
- John E. Johns-deceased
- A.J. Jones-deceased



## PICTURES OF THE PAST



**Inside the Landsburg Mine, Big Seam, circa 1950's.** Front Row: (unknown), Tom Dobson, Roy Danielson. Back Row: Alva "Bud" Simmons, John Skulas, and John H. Morris, (unknown), Archie Eltz, (unknown), Stan Hubber. This photo was taken as part of a tour for members of the Renton Housing Authority, one of Palmer Coking Coal Company's customers.

Photo and Caption Courtesy of Bill Kombol, pcc055



## Membership and Renewal Form

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Annual Membership Fees

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

- New   
 Renewal   
 Cash   
 Check

Make Check Payable to:

**BDHS**

Mail to:

**Black Diamond  
 Historical Society**

**PO Box 232**

**Black Diamond, WA 98010**

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

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

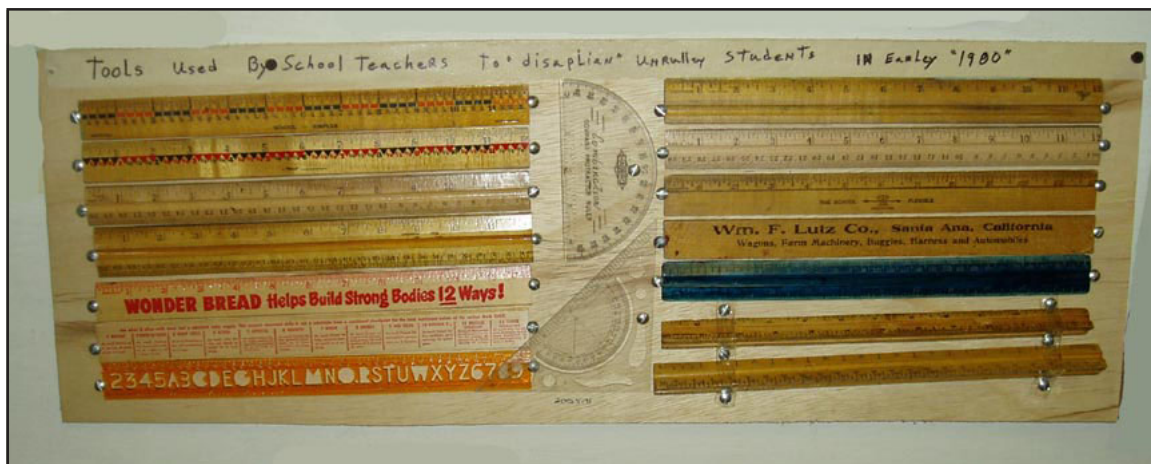
For Museum Use Only

Date

Initials

File

## IN THE MUSEUM



BDHS Catalog #2005.88, Courtesy of Clayton Mead

### RULERS AND RULES

**WHACK!! Sit up straight. WHACK!! No talking. WHACK!! WHACK!!**

This collection of rulers, the “Tools used by teachers to discipline unruly students in the early 1900s”, was assembled and mounted for display by Clayton Mead. It is displayed in the Museum’s Country School Room. Please share your stories with us.



**Black Diamond Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 232**  
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**Red check on label indicates  
your membership is due.  
2 checks indicate your  
membership is past due**

**Spring Membership  
Meeting**

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

**Come and join us for fun and food!**

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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.**