

Black Diamond Historical Society Newsletter

Museum Hours

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

Printed Quarterly



April 2007

32627 Railroad Ave, PO Box 232, Black Diamond, WA 98010 360-886-2142 For special tours: 253-852-6763
E-mail Address: museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org Website: www.blackdiamondmuseum.org



PICTURES OF THE PAST

From the Archives

First Aid training and exhibiting their talents was an important event in the contest of May 1926 as this photograph shows of the Black Diamond Midgets, first winners of Division C. These first grade girls are: Left to right, Jessie Malgarini, Doreen Rhodes, Hope Stellplue, Nora Gaffney, Eleanor Wales, and Margaret Lombardi, (patient). We located the names in the May 27, 1926 issue of the Pacific Coast Bulletin. The photograph is on exhibit on the multiplex in the Museum's 'Ticket Agent Room'.



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: Kieth Watson
Secretary: Dee Israel
Treasurer: Clayton Mead

Board of Directors

Don "Doc" Botts, Howard Botts, Jackie Cedarholm, Steve Israel, Don Mason, JoAnne Matsumura, Anna Morris, Conrad "Coke" Roberts

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: APRIL 22 1:30 PM

Showing the movie, *My Home Town*

Speaker: Grover Smail

Age: A member of the "90 Plus Young Club".

Worked as an underground miner in Elkcoal, Franklin, Kummer, and Ravensdale. Worked for the Morris Brothers for over 22 years.

Retired in 1972.



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We thank 4Culture for the support that helps to keep us operating.

We thank the City of Black Diamond for the operations support.

EDITOR'S REPORT
Steve Israel



Letter to the Editor

Dear Sirs;

I enjoy receiving my Blk Dia Historical Society bulletin – Love to hear about the people of Blk Dia – I was born 4/7/13 to Alfonso and Ida Costi.

Lived for 92 years there until my 93 birthday I moved to my son and his wife in Ellensburg.

I enjoy living here but it will never be as the many years I lived in Blk Dia. I still miss it.

Keep up the wonderful work you are doing.
Best Wishes to you all
Inez Aden

LOOKING BACK:
THIRTY YEARS AGO

Society Newsletter, April 1977
From the Archives

Gone but not forgotten are: Mrs. Naomi G. (Thomas) MacFarlane, Monica Chodykin, Mildred Emily Bellack, and Lulu Shircliff Kombol.

Louis Zumek and Ann Steiert travel to Belfair, WA to obtain photographs for copying from Mr. Holden, son of Maude Shorey Holden of Holden Studios.

Plywood skirting installed on the backside of the depot to replace the rotting siding.

Acts of kindness from Garrett Co., for lumber, Copeland Lumber Co., for spikes, and Fisher Brothers Coast to Coast store for stovepipe.

Reminiscences with Harry Rossi and his triumphant at age 10.

History featured is a 1922 Union Record Labor article loaned from Jules Dal Santo on the building of Morganville. Carpenters were Tim Morgan, and Thomas James. J. W. Bartoluzzi, was President of the Black Diamond local.

Photograph featured is Tim Morgan and Family.

New sponsors, still around town, are: Black Diamond Bakery, Palmer Coking Coal Co., and Weeks Funeral Home.

BDHS CALENDAR

APRIL

- 14 - AKCHO's Memory Book Workshop @ Shoreline Museum**
- 22 - BDHS Membership Meeting 1:30 @ BD Museum**
- 24 - AKCHO Awards Meeting @ MOHAI, 5:30 PM**

MAY

- 2 thru 30 - Art Show by Ruth Ayers Hofto, Lakewood Library**
- 12 - History of Black Diamond Schools @ BD Museum**
- 24 - AKCHO's History of Seattle Restaurants @ Ivars, Pier 54**

JUNE

- 2 - BDHS Heritage Day @ BD Museum**
- 6 - Black Diamond All School Reunion @ Community Ctr & BD Museum 11:00-2:00**

SEPTEMBER

- 3 - Labor Day @ BD Museum & Ball Field**

OCTOBER

- 21 - Membership Meeting / Election of Officers @ BD Museum 1:30**

NOVEMBER

- 10 - Veterans Day Program @ BD Museum**

DECEMBER

- 8 - Christmas Celebration @ Museum**

SECRETARY REPORT

By Dee Israel



ARCHIVES: At our January 2006 board meeting, the members and Chair JoAnne Matsumura began discussing the idea of finding a new home for the Veterinary X-ray machine and Autoclave, (officially a therapeutic machine that is primarily for horses) that had been donated by Dr. Nicholls of Redmond many years ago. This equipment did not meet our mission and goals, and since it was not a Black Diamond artifact it was felt it would be better displayed at another facility. Chair JoAnne Matsumura spent a lot of time trying to locate a new home for it. She first contacted Enumclaw Historical Society, but they didn't have room for it. The Buckley Historical Society was then contacted, but weren't interested. The Redmond Historical Society then showed an interest in getting it, but they changed their mind. The Eastside Historical Society then showed an interest, but then decided against accepting it. JoAnne even checked a second time with Enumclaw before inquiring of WA State University. They were not interested, so she made an inquiry of Seattle/King County Human Society and The Fort Lewis Museum. Still no luck! But, all of this was not a complete waste of time, because a week or so ago we found a message on our answering machine from a lady that said WSU had contacted her that we had an artifact that her father had donated and we no longer could use. We are happy to announce that the Veterinary machine is now at its new home "Blue Spruce Animal Farm" with the daughters of the original owner.

EDUCATION/OUTREACH: Chair Coke Roberts asked the museum workers to participate in a role-playing of activities or jobs that were around in 1905. He handed out a list of what activity or job he wanted each person to play the role of, and scheduled it for February 18th. On that day we all played our parts and had a fun time as pictures were taken of each person in their role. These pictures will let other people of the

Historical Society and the Black Diamond community know who the museum's working crew are, and will show some of the museums artifact exhibits. Mr. Roberts and Keith Watson had a special program on March 31st (Saturday) at the Community Center, about "The Railroad Comes to Black Diamond", and he used the above pictures as part of that program. After the lecture the guests were invited to the Museum.

To help their budget, the Black Diamond All School Reunion committee will be selling refrigerator magnets with a picture of the Museum/depot on them. They will sell for \$1.00 each. The reunion will be on Wednesday, June 6th at the Community Center.

MEMBERSHIP: Chair Dee Israel announced that we now have 281 memberships. A membership drive is being planned.

PROGRAMS: Chair Howard Botts announced that we will be showing the "My Home Town" DVD at the April 22nd Membership Meeting, and Mr. Grover Smail (a mine worker in this area for many years and retired in 1972 from working for the Morris Brothers) will be our guest speaker.

AKCHO REPRESENTATIVE: Chair Jackie Cedarholm announced that Charles Payton has retired from 4Culture of King County. His knowledge and help will be greatly missed, but we wish him well in his retirement.

TOURS: Chair Don Mason took children and adults from the Cedar Heights Middle School to the Black Diamond & Franklin Cemeteries on February 27 & 28 and March 1. On March 3rd was the Franklin tour that was open to the public. These 4 tours included a total of 187 people.

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

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Memorial Donations were made:

IN MEMORY of **David Botts**, by Rick & Joyce Lyons

IN MEMORY of **Paul Botts**, by Rick & Joyce Lyons,
Gertrude Botts, Steve & Donna Casper, Doris
Woodward

IN MEMORY of **Donna Burnside**, by Arlyn & Sandra
Sonsteng

IN MEMORY of **Susan Dodd Rietan**, by Helen
Manowski

IN MEMORY of **May Savick**, by Rick & Joyce Lyons

IN MEMORY of **Joann Stebly**, by Albert & Rosemary
Konoske Bigelow

IN MEMORY of **Ann Steiert**, by Norma Gumser

ADDITIONAL MONETARY DONATIONS

To the general fund:

David C. Walsh

Robert M. Smith

Gertrude Botts

Paula Ordonez

Douglas & Alison Stern

Mrs. Chris Pieren

Green River Eagles Aux. #1490

**Anonymous Donor thru the Boeing Company &
United Way**

To the archive preservation fund:

Marsha Mott

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.

WAITING FOR THE TRAIN

The staff dressed in period costume for a photo opportunity. Of course, some of these folks dress like this quite regularly. They don't need a special occasion.



ART SHOW by

Ruth Ayers Hoffo

(97 year old Black Diamond Historical Society Member)

Lakewood Pierce County Library

6300 Wildaire Rd. S.W.

Lakewood, WA

(253) 582-6040

May 2 thru 30, 2007

10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

(May 17th refreshments from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

Friends Gallery on the 2nd floor



**SELLING BLACK DIAMOND
BRIQUETS**

Drawing by Miss H. Greene, age 16,
November 1922

TELL 'EM SO!

“If you think your Camp the best,
Tell ‘em so.
If you’d have it lead the rest,
Help it grow.
When there’s anything to do,
Let them count on you,
You’ll feel good when it is through,
Don’t you know?
If you’re used to giving knocks,
Change you style;
Throw bouquets instead of rocks,
For awhile.
Boost your camp and boost your mine,
Knock the knocker all the time;
Make him stand right up in line—
With a smile.
When a stranger from afar
Comes along,
Tell him who and what you are—
Make it strong.
Never flatter, never bluff,
Tell the truth, for that’s enough.
Be a booster, that’s the stuff!”

Pacific Coast Bulletin, 1922

THIS SELLS 'EM.





SALUTING OUR VOLUNTEERS

By Don Botts, Volunteer Coordinator

We welcome Ginger Passarelli Senacal who will be on the team that serves lunches to the Thursday Crew.

Helping in the Business Office from time to time is Linda Hall.

The helping hands from Harry Berry to the Education and Outreach programs are a welcome addition. Harry will also serve as a volunteer host (Docent).

VETERANS

THANKS FOR SERVING

By JoAnne Matsumura

We want to thank Olga Swann and Evelyn Dal Santo for the following additional names of Veterans buried in the Black Diamond Cemetery.

They are:

Dr. Howard L. Botts
Donald Costanzo
Donald Kuzaro
Louis Phillips
Harry Rossi
Everett Swann
Ray Swann
Kirk Williamson
Earl Wysocki
Mike Zumer

GUESTS

By: Don Botts

In 2007 during the months of **Jan, Feb, and March** we had **879** visitors to the Museum. There were visitors from **14** States: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Georgia, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Utah and here in Washington. There were also people visiting from other places, such as Denmark, Ireland, New Zealand and Poland.

REMARKS MADE BY OUR GUESTS

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

Great place – we will be back, Wonderful, Great Job, Nice look back, Great museum, very interesting, Wonderful museum, Great experience, Black Diamond rules, Thanks for letting us take pictures, I got really interested – I loved it, Fantastic Work – Well done, Nice place, See you again soon, I loved it – brought back many memories, Excellent display, Awesome, Thanks for all you have done, It has great history, Neat, So interesting – thanks, Remembered Grandma, I love it – Judy was grrrreat, Cool, Fantastic & Educational, Very nice, Neat stuff, Awesome & Neat, Really great, with lots of interesting items, Very nice – I’ll have to come back w/wife to see the quilts, Lovely, Fun, Interesting, Good program, Great collection, Better than Underground Seattle, Keep it alive, Real good.

COOK’S CUPBOARD

By The Thursday Crew

The Thursday Crew takes this opportunity to express our appreciation and gratitude for the delicious meals served to us from Bill Bremmeyer, Bremmeyer Logging Company, Mike Deicher, Black Diamond Pizza & Deli, Shari Kuzaro, Black Diamond Bakery, and Ginger Senacal, Mama Passarelli’s. You’ll never know how grateful we are unless we tell you! Because of you the ladies, Marlene Bortleson, Marie Freeman, Jane Jones, Joan Malgarini, Nancy Mead, Anna Morris, Elsie Parkin, Beth Van Buskirk and Muriel Waldo, who have served us for many years, are now enjoying a little break. Thank you!

SNIPPETS, AROUND TOWN

By JoAnne Matsumura



◆ We Thank **4Culture, King County Lodging Tax, and Councilmember, Pete von Reichbauer** for the recent grant award. These funds will be used for updating and printing our popular: *A Tour Guide of Historic Black Diamond*.

◆ April is **National Volunteer Appreciation month**. The Board of Directors Thanks all of our Volunteers!

◆ The **Association of King County Historical Organizations** (AKCHO) held their March 2007 monthly meeting in Black Diamond, hosted by the Black Diamond Historical Society with a lecture by Conrad ‘Coke’ Roberts and Keith Watson, titled *Black Diamond: When Coal Was King*.

◆ **MarciaLee Berg** has again favored us with a generous donation towards stocking the Alice Davies Confectionery Store, for those of you with a sweet tooth. We’ll be getting some different varieties soon.

◆ **Black Diamond High School Alumni Roster 1909-1943** is now in the Around Town Series in the Society’s Research Center.

◆ We thank member **Don Camerini** for identifying two photographs in the Archives—of the Camerini sisters!

◆ **Candy** of the nostalgic era is available at the Museum for your Easter baskets. Visit the Alice Davies Confectionery Store for fresh sweet candy treats. The ‘store’ is located at the Museum’s Front Desk.

◆ **Disaster Preparedness** in Black Diamond is a community getting prepared for what we hope we will never need.

◆ **Easter**-A time of renewal.

◆ **Fathers Day** is June 17th.

◆ **Frank Hammock** our reporter at large has been invited to submit an article about Black Diamond for the Northwest Archivist newsletter, *Easy Access*.

◆ Alumni **Ruby Favro Keeny** born on February 4th celebrated her 100th birthday among family and friends at a gala party held at the Black Diamond Community Center.

◆ Member **Gloria A. Hill** has Steiert lineage

◆ **Illusion Winery** located in Black Diamond is represented in the Museum’s Beverage display room with one of their early bottles, courtesy of Member **Ginger Passarelli Senacal**. Illusion’s wine is available in several local markets. www.illusionwine.com

◆ **King County Journal – Final Edition**, January 21, 2007 has an image of a Rope Rider in Franklin, WA with the caption “The Franklin coal mine west of Black Diamond”.

◆ Member **Alma Mattson Malatesta** born on March 12 celebrated her 100th birthday among family and friends at the gala party held at the Black Diamond Community

Center.

◆ Thanks to **Members**-that show their appreciation to the following local businesses that help make this newsletter possible by extending to them your patronage and support, Leih’s Gifts, Mama Passarelli’s, Palmer Coking Coal Company, and Yarrow Bay Development.

◆ **Memorial Day** is May 28, 2007.

◆ If you have missed attending some of our lectures, special events and invitations, you’ve not only missed a fun time, but also the wonderful sweet treats provided by **Anna Morris**, our Hospitality Chairperson. Thank you Anna!!

◆ **Mothers Day** is May 13th.

◆ Thanks to the post card dealers at www.pnpcc.com (**Pacific Northwest Post Card Club**), who provide “The Black Diamond Archivist Lady” the thrill of the successful hunt in chasing post cards and printed material of Black Diamond!

◆ **Ravensdale Towing, Pat Mathews, Eagles Auxiliary Secretary, and CJ’s Bakery** donated a benefit diner at the Black Diamond Eagles Hall, with nearly all the proceeds going to the Black Diamond Historical Society. THANK YOU FROM ALL OF US!

◆ **Sasquatch Bread** as big as a Sasquatch foot can be, is a popular item at the Black Diamond Bakery in 1977.

◆ Member **Robert Morgan Smith** was given honors at the Welsh St. David’s Day event for his contributions to Welsh Heritage, wherever he goes. Congratulations Robert!

◆ **Dr. Yancy Sipes** has opened his dental practice in Black Diamond Square. WELCOME to Black Diamond Doctor!

◆ **Keith Watson**, Society Vice President and Education/Outreach Committee member gave a presentation on the history of railroads in Black

Diamond at the Black Diamond Community Center in March. Thanks to those who attended the event.

◆ Best Wishes to the **VOICE of the Valley**, now celebrating their 39th year.

Got News? ↩ Send it so we can share it!

➦ TREASURES AND TRINKETS

New Accessions and Acts of kindness

By JoAnne Matsumura, Archivist

- ◆ **MarciaLee Berg**-Contribution for 'The Confectionery' historic candy store
- ◆ **Marlene Bortleson**-Cream & Sugar set, doilies
- ◆ **Howard & Dorothy Botts** Piece of signed pottery by Ben Bieri
- ◆ **Dennis Boxx**- "E. S. Farley, Selleck, WN" Trade Token
- ◆ **Clyde Ericksen**-Medal of UMWA, found in the earth.
- ◆ **Judy Hager**-Collection of spice tins and extract bottles
- ◆ **Robin MacNeill**-Photograph
- ◆ **Steve & Dee Israel**- "Denny-Renton" bricks
- ◆ **Helen Manowski**-News clippings and photographs
- ◆ **Don Mason**-Military cemetery markers, spoon holder painted by Ann Steiert
- ◆ **Brian Mead**-Krause Saloon Trade Token
- ◆ **Clayton Mead**- "Ed. Pinaud Inc." hair tonic bottle, ca. 1890, original box of "Linit" laundry starch with contents, glass canning lids
- ◆ **Shirley Mead**-Photographs ca. 1993
- ◆ **Palmer Coking Coal**-Photograph of Pacific Coast RRd car at Mine #11, 1958, Warren Wing photographer, copies of Stockholder's Report, Pacific Coast Co., 1901-1903, information on the housing project of 1942, Portland Cement Company document, booklets of coal facts, UMW Journal, 1973, copy of *Mining in the Pacific Northwest* 1897, 4-drawer wood cabinet, wood desk chair of Pacific Coast Company
- ◆ **Mary Malgarini Peterson**-Pitcher
- ◆ **Conrad "Coke" Roberts**-Hoover upright vacuum cleaner, kitchen wood armchair for Museum use, US Navy pea coat, music CDs *God Bless America*

◆ **Randy Roberts**-Refurbished the original hand painted outdoor building signs, Black Diamond and the Columbia & the Puget Sound Railroad

◆ **Joel Schroeder**-Bottles and jars found in the earth—around town

◆ **Joanne Stebly**-News clipping

◆ **Keith Timm, Jr.** -A special Thank You for shoveling snow from the Museum's walkways

◆ **Andy Wangsted**-Filing cabinet for Museum use

◆ **Julia A. Laine Young**-Carbide light used by her father, Ed Laine

Thank you one and all for choosing this Museum to preserve your treasures!!

REMEMBERING STEVE & EVA'S

By JoAnne Matsumura

On a recent cold and windy day sorting through some old 'stuff' from a sales dealer of post cards at a local show, this business card of "Steve & Eva's Auto Court" caught my eye. I added it to the growing pile of cards and other paper goods, and purchased them all from the well-known dealer.

It didn't take long of asking 'around town' if anyone remembered "Steve & Eva's", when Joan Nachtshiem Malgarini suggested that I write to Steve & Donna Mae Savick Casper. Several people remembered the good hamburgers they ate at Steve & Eva's.

About a week later Steve Casper wrote me a letter and shared his memories and a bit of history of Steve & Eva's, owned by his parents Steve and Eva Casper. The elder Steve Casper has passed on, but Eva had her 90th birthday during the summer of 2006, and currently lives in the Puyallup area.

Steve & Eva operated the small grocery store, service station, little drive-in restaurant, known as the "Chatterbox", and a large cabin court that also included trailer parking spaces known as "Alton's Auto Court". They lived there from 1947 to 1952.

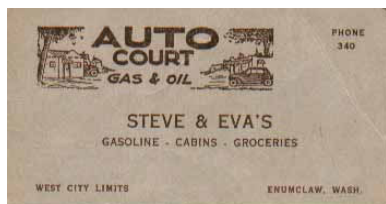
The scenery and the landscape have changed over time. Steve tells us, "There currently is a small, modern convenience store located at the original site of my parents store on the north side of Griffin Ave. on the west side of Enumclaw heading towards

Auburn. During a recent drive-by-visit, I've noticed that all the original buildings are no longer there. At the time we lived there, Enumclaw's west city limits sign was across the street from the store as indicated on the business card".

Thank you Steve for sharing your memories with us, and bringing fond memories to those among our membership who frequented Steve & Eva's establishment. Please express our regards to Eva.



Ruby Favro Androsko Keeney and Alma Mattson Malatesta celebrate their 100th birthday.



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

To Society Members

By Dee Israel and JoAnne Matsumura

- ◆ Beth Barber-June 1st
- ◆ Ted Barber-May 1st
- ◆ Howard Botts-April 12th
- ◆ Bob Burke-June 2nd
- ◆ Roy Callero Jr.-April 23rd
- ◆ Jack Cartwright-May 2nd
- ◆ Joan Zita Clark-April 12th
- ◆ Marilyn Bradford Covey-June 24th
- ◆ Mary Darby-June 1st
- ◆ Quentyn Deady-June 22nd
- ◆ Ralph E. Dockham-June 28th
- ◆ Lou Draghi-April 1st
- ◆ Frank Fosnacht-June 11th
- ◆ Steve Israel-June 30th
- ◆ David Jones-April 3rd
- ◆ Jane Jones-May 19th
- ◆ Steve Kitz-May 22nd
- ◆ Jake Logar-June 14th
- ◆ Betty Malgarini Manieri-April 6th
- ◆ Brian H. Mead-May 24th
- ◆ Anna Morris-June 18th
- ◆ Marsha Smith Mott-April 12th
- ◆ Mama Passarelli's-June
- ◆ Audrey Petchnick Sellman-June 3rd
- ◆ Jerry L. Thompson-May 5th
- ◆ Joan Malgarini Traylor-April 2nd
- ◆ Ralph Uhrig-April 16th

- ◆ Kenneth W. Unick-May 13th
- ◆ George Vetter-May 11th
- ◆ Keith C. Watson-June 27th
- ◆ Mark Witman-April 20th

BLACK DIAMOND'S GOLDEN '80s' GANG

- ◆ Gertrude Haworth Botts-May 11th
- ◆ Joe Darby-June 29th
- ◆ Glenn Fredericksen-April 12th
- ◆ Gloria A. Hill-June 6th
- ◆ Leasha Tyerman Janet-April 16th
- ◆ Junette Larson-June 1st
- ◆ Bunny McKnight-June 14th
- ◆ Ivor Merryfield-April 14th
- ◆ Margaret Franz Pearce-June 17th
- ◆ Gino Picini-May 3rd
- ◆ Patrick J. Walsh-June 24th
- ◆ Lois Gormley Wieltschnig-May 4th

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS NONAGENARIANS

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

- ◆ Inez Costi Aden-April 7th
- ◆ Esther Pennacchi Birch-May 27th
- ◆ Lois S. Thomas Estby-June 23rd
- ◆ Ruth Ayers Hofto-May 13th
- ◆ Mary P. Savick Keehner-June 27th
- ◆ Pauline Herbal Lane-June 15th
- ◆ Jeanne McBurnse Norman-May 27th

✧ **THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES** ✧

Gone but not forgotten

By JoAnne Matsumura

✧ Robert "Brett" Celigoy
1971-2007
Grandson of Hank Celigoy

✧ Jack Costanich
1912-2007
Husband of Georgia Mae
Brother of John & George
Sisters Mary & Jean

✧ Regina Czaplinski
1927-2006
Resident of Black Diamond

✧ Richard Joseph Donckers
1939-2007
Black Diamond Volunteer Fireman

✧ Philamena Silvestri Dziedzic
1915-2006
Born in Black Diamond

✧ Bonnie F. Ray (Bremmeyer)
1917-2007
Raised in Black Diamond

✧ Rose Knott Hubl
1921-2007
Born in Taylor, WA

✧ Elmer William Manning
1918-2006
Former resident of Black Diamond

✧ Joyce M. Roberts
January 2007
Wife of Gordon Roberts

✧ Gertrude Castagna Smothers
1918-2007
Born in Cumberland, WA

✧ Carla F. Gibson Urban
1961-2007
Resident of Black Diamond

✧ Roshell Darlene Volkmar
1940-2007
Ravensdale Postmaster 1983-1995

~

IN MEMORIAM

✧ **Gone but not forgotten** ✧

By JoAnne Matsumura

As we go to print with this newsletter we have just received notice of the passing of three of our members. Our July 2007 issue will have more information on the following members.

- ✧ Cleo Bryant Balsey, the sister of Bill Bryant.
- ✧ Marshall D. Ponko, the son of Jesse Malgarini Ponko.
- ✧ Joann Stebly

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



The Life and Legacy of Black Diamond's "Miner" Mike

By Frank Hammock

(Continued from our last issue, from January, 2007)

Mr. Burke tells a simple story about how Miner Mike had asked if he would accompany him in the purchase of a new pickup and relinquish the old one that had worn out its service. Mr. Burke recalls:

"I am at home one day in my yard and Mike comes walking up the hill and he says to me, 'Bob, I am gonna go look at buying a new truck. Would you go with me?' So, I said, sure. So we go into Fugate Ford [in Enumclaw] because he wanted a Ford. So, I asked him what kind of a truck he wanted and he said 'Well I want a ¾ ton, two-wheel drive, don't need a four-wheel drive.' So, I said okay, let's go look. So, we go in there and we get a salesman and they take us out to the car lot, and they only had three of them on the lot for what he wanted. We start looking at these three and the salesman is doing his sales pitch and going on and on and on and Mike doesn't want to hear any of this stuff, he just wants to look at these trucks. So, finally I am standing by Mike and looking at the trucks with him and remember that there was a tan colored one, a blue one, and a green one. After about 15 minutes of looking, I am just kinda following Mike as he is looking through these different trucks and he is not really asking any questions, and the salesman is talking the whole time. Finally, Mike looks at me and says, 'Bob, which one do you like?' And I said, well Mike, it really doesn't make any difference to me because it's your choice and your truck, you choose whatever you want, whichever one you'd like to have. So, all of a sudden Mike says, 'No, no, which one do you like?' Well, I said, if it was me, I kinda like the tan one. So, Mike looked at the salesman and said 'I'll take that tan one right there.' We went into the dealership and Mike asked, 'How much is the price on it?' The salesman told him the sticker price and Mike wrote out a check for the full sticker price of the truck, and that was it. We got the temporary license and the keys and out the door we

went. He didn't dicker around with the price at all and was more interested in what my opinion was. ... the truck was completely different than what he was use to [driving] so the salesman had asked him if he wanted to test drive the thing and Mike says 'No, no, I'm fine, I can drive. I don't need a test drive.' This was a fancier truck, more horsepower and power brakes and power steering so the salesman insisted that he go for a drive just to show Mike how to operate the new features. So Mike and the salesman get in the truck and take off and it was lucky there were no cops around because by the time he got to the Fairgrounds he must have been doing about 65 mph, he was out of control, he was everywhere, and all over the place. The salesman said he was just hanging on hoping to get back alive...but for him not to dicker with that salesman and just write him out a check for the full price and I'm sittin' there thinking, Mike how can you do this, you can save yourself four or five thousand bucks – just tell the guy, hey, what's my best deal. He just wanted to write out the check and get back home."

On February 3rd, 1994, Miner Mike passed away as a result of his medical complications. He was 75 years old. The Burke's obtained legal permission to handle his affairs and began a search of his home to determine who he was, if he had any surviving family, and what to do with what little he had. From a simple collection of newspaper articles, pictures, notes, papers, and things found in his home, as well as a few local records and residents who could remember anything at all, a few details became clear about some of Miner Mike's life like the wake of an archeological dig.

Miner Mike was born on September 24th, 1919, as Michael Donald Bathavic, and was one of four children with a Catholic upbringing to Joseph and Beatrice (Gravish) Bathavic. His sister, Anna, who later lived in Cahoes, NY, maintained an interest in gardening with Mike, as correspondence found in his home had revealed. As a young man, he became a pick miner for bituminous coal in Broad Top City, in Pennsylvania's south central coal mining region. In 1943, at the height of the United States involvement

in World War II and at the age of 23, he entered into military service as a Private First Class. He worked as a Jackhammer Operator and served faithfully in the U.S. Army's 246th Engineering Combat Battalion, Company A. His older brother Thomas, who served in the Army at the same time he did during the war, was also a coal miner. His other brother Anthony, also older, was a machinist for Boeing and had worked here in Washington for 10 years before he retired in 1965 and returned to Pennsylvania. Of the four siblings, neither Mike nor Anthony ever married.

While in military service, Mr. Bathavic fought in four campaigns – Central Europe, Normandy, Rhineland, and Northern France. He was a qualified Rifle Marksman, and his few decorations and citations were as follows: Distinguished Unit Badge, World War II Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and a Bronze Arrowhead awarded to his entire Battalion for the following citation, found from a copy in his home of the General Orders specifically for this award dated 23 August, 1945 – “for having participated in the initial amphibious assault landings with Forces ‘O’ and ‘B’ on the Normandy Coast, France, 6 June 1944.” After a faithful tenure and with only a 7th grade education, he returned to his grass roots in Broad Top City, PA after being honorably discharged from active duty in December of 1945 at the convenience of the Government due to demobilization.

In the Autumn of 1948, Mr. Bathavic traveled to Black Diamond in search of work in the coal mines and joined the Local Union 6481. Employment records from Palmer Coking Coal Company, and other sources, show that he worked as a miner from October of 1948 until September of 1957 in Black Diamond's #12 Mine, and also in the Landsburg Mine near Ravensdale.

From the few possessions found within his home not long after his passing, the following perhaps held some meaning to him: a Veterans of Foreign Wars membership card of 1948 in Huntingdon, PA; a dog license dated 1943 for a 4 year old Beagle; military discharge papers; a few newspaper clippings and pictures from his Pennsylvania origin as well as local to Black Diamond (such as the Black Diamond volunteer Fire Department District No. 17 from 1954 Seattle Times showing the siren box with Mrs. Alice Davies of the Davies Confectionary sounding the alarm, and

another showing firemen Tom, Joe, and Frank Zumeck running from their store still wearing aprons in response to the siren); black and white pictures of some of his family members from 1966; newspaper obituaries of his two brothers; Bituminous Miner's Certificate of Competency and Qualification dated in 1941 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Mines; draft board registration card dated December 19th, 1945; a Winchester model 94 carbine 30-30 rifle; and an early map of Black Diamond Townsite, page 2, showing various lots around Baker and Park streets and from 5th street to Railroad Avenue. Also found sitting serenely on a shelf in one of the bookcases were two very thick wallets and held captive within their deteriorating leather folds was approximately \$8,500 in cash in one-hundred dollar denominations – perhaps his only trusted method of banking.

Also found was an interesting small handwritten note in cursive, undated, and spelled exactly as he wrote it, that read:

Evidence

how was i in N.Y. wen i was in Pa tring to find work and was on 20 Dollars a Weak until i found work.

Michael Bathavic

A small rectangular tin box was found with faded color and a design depicting scenes from the Middle East. Inside, was a United Mine Workers of America receipt card for dues for Local Union 6481 of Black Diamond and signed by the Financial Secretary, Harry English. Also contained within the tin were numerous yellowed article clippings and pictures from the Seattle Times and Intelligencer depicting a devastating mine cave-in at the 500-foot level on January 7th, 1954, in the Landsburg Mine, that involved Mr. English. Deeper within the tin box, a full-page pictorial article was found about Robert T. Montgomery, age 80, from Enumclaw, entitled “Reminiscent Judge Mixes Wit and Wisdom.” (Seattle Times, Sunday, December 27th, 1953)

His body and what few possessions he had were shipped back to Pennsylvania to be laid to rest with those in his family who had gone before him. His house and truck were sold, what few bank accounts he had were liquidated and the money was split between his nephews and one niece in Pennsylvania.

What little time the Burke's could spend with Mr. Bathavic, since he was so private, had revealed no lasting friends who remained in Black Diamond. As a result, no memorial service could be held in his honor. No family ever came forward from Pennsylvania to assist in the settlement of his estate. Thus, from the history of Black Diamond, a miner will be silently remembered for his faithful military service to his country, his service in the coal mines of Washington and Pennsylvania, his uniqueness, honesty, and a simple way of life with a seemingly deep-rooted pride for whatever little things in life that meant a lot to him.

But, before we depart, let me at least take a moment to lay to rest a rumor that has circulated through the years about the illusive "Miner" Mike. It was at one time thought that from deep beneath his home on 5th Avenue, a mine shaft was dug where he had acquired his own coal for monetary gain and personal use – which spawned the nickname "Miner" Mike. From a careful examination of the house not long after his passing, no such shaft was ever found and the only things found within his basement were a loosely packed dirt floor, a few miscellaneous things, some hand and garden tools, and the dampened, musty smells of an old house.

May he rest in peace, "Miner" Michael Donald Bathavic, who lived in Black Diamond from 1948 until his death in 1994 – a citizen of 46 years.

The reunion committee announced that Phil Fowler, a graduate of the class of 1938 is Master of Ceremonies for the "Reunion" program, assisted by Lynda Dal Santo Maks, also of the class of 1938.

Gordon Roberts of the class of 1939 is Master of Ceremonies for that class and will also have an assistant.

Phil and Gordon will introduce members of their graduation class and review the major events and programs that happened during the 1938 and 1939 classes in their twelve-year journey at Black Diamond's elementary and high school.

Valedictorian in 1938 was Dyllis Merryfield, and Bill Parkinson gave the Farewell Address. In 1939 the Valedictorian was Dorothy Franz Corlett, and Margaret Clark gave the Farewell Address.

The word around town from the alumni 1943-1963 is the joy of attending a reunion with their elder relatives who also went to the same school! This is truly unique and rare.

If you are unable to attend the reunion please send a picture of yourself for the Alumni Photograph Album to JoAnne Matsumura, Archivist at the Black Diamond Historical Society, PO Box 232, Black Diamond, WA 98010-0232.

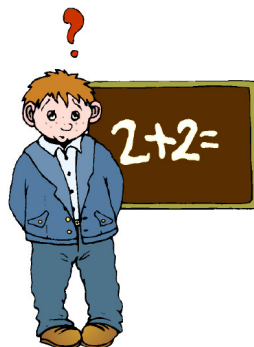
The Black Diamond Historical Depot Museum will be open, with a tour of the Museum from 2-4 P.M.

We're going to have a grand time, so don't miss out; get your registration in early. See you there!

CLASSMATES CORNER

By Conrad 'Coke' Roberts, and
JoAnne Matsumura, Archivist

Coming Together in 2007 is the theme for this years Black Diamond all School Reunion. That means those who went to school in Black Diamond, elementary and/or the high school are cordially invited to attend. Over 160 registration forms have been sent out, to elementary and high school alumni, including some schoolteachers and directors. So get your registration in early.



What: Black Diamond All School Reunion

When: Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Where: Black Diamond Community Center, 31605 Third Ave, Black Diamond, WA 98010, 360-886-1011, bdcc@qwest.net

Time: 11 A.M.

Mail Registration and your check to: Black Diamond Community Center, PO Box 480, Black Diamond, WA 98010. (\$10.00 per person).



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

The company safe, donated by Joe and Eileen Zemek, is on display in the lower level of the Museum.

The safe was used in the grocery store for many years, and is being guarded here by the local law.

This safe was in the front of the store, where every one could see it, including the police as they drove by the front of the store. This was a common practice in those days.





**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 April 22nd
1:30 PM**

**Come and join us for fun and food!
Guest Speaker: Grover Smail,
retired coal miner!**

**MONTHLY BOARD
MEETINGS**

**1:30 PM
3rd Sunday of each month**

**The Black Diamond
Historical Society
is a nonprofit 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 wonderful volunteers.**