

# Black Diamond Historical Society Newsletter

## Museum Hours

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

Printed Quarterly



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32627 Railroad Ave, PO Box 232, Black Diamond, WA 98010 360-886-2142 For special tours: 253-852-6763  
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## PICTURES OF THE PAST

From the Archives

This photograph is featured in our publication *Black Diamond: Mining the Memories*, on page 24. At the time of printing our Fourth Edition, we had not yet learned any of the names of these lovely young ladies.

In mid 2006 we received this original image from Richard M. Jones. His sister Camille Jones Washburn and her husband Hoy brought it in to the Museum.

On the back of the image we find the following: "Those known by me: Sunday school class Black Diamond. Teacher Anna B Stone center without ribbon; back row 3<sup>rd</sup> from rt. Diz Evans; middle row 2<sup>nd</sup> from rt. Sadie Morgan Marion (dau of Black Diamond founder). Fr row 2<sup>nd</sup> from right is Sadie Evans Bowes, sister of above Diz Evans. (real name PEG). Picture taken before 1905."



**T**he mission of the Black Diamond Historical Society shall be the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of the history of Black Diamond and environs, as it relates to King County and the State of Washington.

**The Black Diamond Historical Society Newsletter** is published by and for the members of the Black Diamond Historical Society, a non-profit 501(c)(3), Washington Corp.

To send material for the Newsletter, address it to:

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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



Santa Clause

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

## EDITOR'S REPORT

Steve Israel



As I write this, we have just finished with Christmas. We were so pleased to have been able to travel east of the mountains to visit family. We were not sure the weather would permit safe travel, but it turned out fine.

This year we sent and received many cards and letters to loved ones, and got caught up on all of the news of the family. I have heard some people talk about not wanting all of those letters, they are just looking for cards. I really enjoy the letters.

Sometimes it is the only time some of our friends and relatives really take the time to tell us how things are going, even if it is in the form of a form letter. We all have very busy lives, and to take this time once a year, well it's better than nothing.

To our family of Museum Members, we hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season, and hope you stay in contact all through the year. We will do our best to keep you informed of what is going on with us.

As the hands of time inch forever forward, families change. As does the Membership of our Museum. We have lost many of our older members, and have seen several new members join us. Our family of volunteers is small, thus putting much of the work on a few individuals. If you can help one day per month, it will make a huge difference. Come and join us for lunch some Thursday at 11:30 and see what you can do for us. If you are only available on weekends, we have a job for you!

Send articles to me at PO Box 22, Black Diamond WA 98010, or better yet, e-mail me at [homecareconst@comcast.net](mailto:homecareconst@comcast.net)

Thank you, *Steve*

## CALENDAR DATES TO REMEMBER

### JANUARY

- 1 - New Years Day
- 4 - Museum Re-opens

### FEBRUARY

- 14 - Valentines Day

### MARCH

- 3 - Franklin tour, 1:00 @ Museum

### APRIL

- 22 - Membership Meeting

### MAY

### JUNE

- 6th - All Black Diamond School Reunion



## SECRETARY REPORT

By Dee Israel



A lot of projects have been accomplished this year.

### FACILITIES & GROUNDS:

1. Replacement number plaques were purchased and installed on the railroad ties.
2. A shadow box has been made for the new danger sign and is now on display. Another one is in the process of being made to put the old sign in.
3. A Plumber was hired and we now have hot water in the restrooms, basement & kitchen and hot & cold water to a new sink in the shop.
4. The hitching rail & posts that were rotting have now been replaced.
5. Gravel donated by Palmer Coking Coal has been spread in front of the jail to keep members and guests from walking in mud to get in the Museum.
6. A door closure has been installed on the kitchen door to keep the door from slamming and rattling the pictures on the wall.
7. An Electrician was hired to take care of some wiring up grade that was needed in the vault.
8. There has been several items added to the simulated mine; such as hardhat, tools, danger sign, and telephone.
9. A donated chair has had the seat re-covered and looks very nice in the lobby.
10. The desk that had belonged to Dr. Botts is now in the Museums Dr.'s office.
11. The original Company Store Safe has been donated and is now in the lower level.
12. A lighted "OPEN" sign has been bought and placed in a window to draw more visitors to the Museum during open hours.

### OTHER PROJECTS:

1. The Cemetery photo project is completed now. It was a time consuming project that took Steve Israel & his committee 2 years to accomplish.
2. We have now adopted an Animal Control Policy for the Museum. A "No Animals Except Service

Dogs allowed in the Museum" sign is in the process of being installed.

3. The Black Diamond Historical Society has become a member of the Maple Valley/Black Diamond Chamber of Commerce, which should give us more public exposure.
4. A 6' x 10', nylon, United States flag has been purchased and a light beams on it during the night as it flies 24-7.

### EDUCATION/OUTREACH: Chair Coke Roberts has brought about the following:

1. "Black Diamond goes to War" which has brought in some nice responses and results.
2. A "Tea" was held on October 13<sup>th</sup>, for the Principal & 14 Teachers of the Black Diamond Elementary School to get acquainted and to introduce them to the Museum. Coke says he is planning another "Tea" and lecture with the PTA Board. He also plans to volunteer to speak at WA State History classes in local high schools.
3. Coke has had colored posters made and distributed around town to advertise Old Town Black Diamond. These posters have been well received.
4. Coke Roberts announced that the All Black Diamond School 2007 Reunion will be held on Wed. June 6<sup>th</sup>.
5. Tour Chair, Don Mason announces that the next Franklin tour will be March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00.
6. A suggestion has been made that we combine Welsh Day with Miners Day and have Miners Heritage Day. We would like to hear what you (the membership) thinks about this.

### GRANTS:

#### #105365H - HERITAGE FACILITIES

(purchase and installation of security system upgrade): is in the process of being completed.

## #106016H - HERITAGE SUSTAINED SUPPORT

- We will be sending in the invoice for 2006 soon.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Membership Chair Dee Israel reported that the Black Diamond Historical Society now has 279 total memberships. Of those, 137=Individual Life, 14=Couple Life, 81=Annual Individual, 42=Annual Family and 5=Business. We are planning on having a membership drive. A suggestion was made that all the current members with grown children should talk to them about becoming members to carry on their legacy & tradition. Also, several members have bought memberships for each of their grown children. Most of those children do keep it up after that.

### OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

1. A motion was made and passed that the Membership meetings be changed to the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in April & October instead of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, because:
  - a. Several members have stated that it should be after the Board meeting rather than before.
  - b. It gives the Treasurer time to get the Bank Statement for his report.
  - c. It gives the Membership a chance to receive and read their April & October newsletter far enough in advance to plan to attend the meetings.
2. The election of Officers & Directors for 2006-07 was held. The Officers are: President Don Malgarini, Vice President Keith Watson, Secretary Dee Israel, Treasurer Clayton Mead. The Directors are Donald Botts, Howard Botts, Jackie Cedarholm, Steve Israel, Don Mason, JoAnne Matsumura, Anna Morris and Conrad (Coke) Roberts.
3. JoAnne Matsumura thanked everyone for their help in keeping the Museum running successfully, Don Mason thanked Beth VanBuskirk and her cooks for their great lunches that are served to the work crew every Thursday noon and Keith Watson thanked Reporter Kathleen Kear for her help in keeping the Black Diamond Historical Society and Museum in the public eye with her articles in The Voice of the Valley.

Our next scheduled Board Meeting will be held at **1:30 on Sunday, January 21, 2007.**

Our next scheduled Membership Meeting will be held at **1:30 on April 22, 2007.**

The DVD, "My Home Town – Black Diamond" will be shown as entertainment for that meeting.

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 Steve & Diane Kitz and Joe & Evelyn DalSanto

*IN MEMORY* of **Paul Botts**, by Judy Young, Muriel Waldo, Inez Aden, Steve & Diane Kitz, Joe & Evelyn DalSanto, Patrick Walsh and Robert & Judith Thompson

*IN MEMORY* of **Mary Chilcott**, by Donald Botts and Lois Estby

*IN MEMORY* of **Marilyn Christensen**, by Helen Manowski

*IN MEMORY* of **Norman Hope**, by Patrick Walsh and Joe & Eileen Zumek

*IN MEMORY* of **Evan Morris**, by Delmer & Blodwen Person, Catherine Sorensen, Lewis & Barbara Kranz, Pauline Kombol, Louis & Diane Criez, Ronald Poleski, Norman & Lorraine Hope, Steve & Diane Kitz and Sara Morris

*IN MEMORY* of **Helen Kupka Poleski**, by Darlene Foulk

*IN MEMORY* of **Mae Savick**, by Palmer Coking Coal Co., Joe & Eileen Zumek, Lynda Maks, Eva

Casper, Joe & Evelyn DalSanto, Ted & Beverly Bolton & family, Pauline Kombol, Lewis & Barbara Kranz, Mary Savick Keehner, Gail Kuzaro and Christopher & Mary Gabanski

*IN MEMORY* of **Ann Steiert**, by Bennie Lapham, Donald & Patricia Garrett, Steve & Diane Kitz, Ronald & Claudia Latham, Karen Kirkmire, Robert & Bonnie Einhaus, Jerald & Maydell Crane, James & Wanda Granquist, Arlene White, Jerry & Billie Steiert, Jim & Carol Franklin, Donald & Sharon Coffield, Chris & Jane Bihary, Clara Lapham and M.M. Short

*IN MEMORY* of **Lenore Stranz**, by Gordon & Virginia Lindstrom

*IN MEMORY* of **William T., Hilda Paulson & Margaret Thomas**, by Margaret Stanley

## ADDITIONAL MONETARY DONATIONS

To the general fund:

**Claudia & John Miniken**

**Ralph Dockham**

**Don & Carmel Camerini**

**Gloria Hill**

**Richard Hoyt**

**Marcia Lee Berg**

**Rainier Classic Chevy Club**

**Jerry & Kristie Mahan**

**Henry DeLauro**

**K-C Food Corp**

**Neil & Janice Currie**

To the archive preservation fund:

**Deborah & John McCallum**

**Palmer Coking Coal Co.**

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.

## WHO AM I?

From the Archives

This photograph is in the Society's collection of unidentified photographs. Our only clue is "SELLECK".

Can anyone identify these handsome fellows? Please contact the Society by phone 360-886-2142, e-mail, [museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org](mailto:museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org), or by letter to PO Box 232, Black Diamond, WA 98010.

Thank you!!



HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!



## COLLECTION COMING IN MEMORY OF PAUL BOTTS

In early 2007 the Society will be the recipient of a collection of copies of the Pacific Coast Bulletins. The donation in memory of Paul Maine Botts is for the Society's Archives, from Society Member and Volunteer JoAnne Matsumura. The collection spans 1914-1930s.

The collection begins in 1914, and was published by The Pacific Coast Company, Seattle, WA. In each issue they published their articles in four languages, English, Italian, Austrian and Swedish. The collection spans into the 1930s, although some issues could not be located.

In 1916 the Pacific Coast Company began a "New Series", as Vol. 1 No.1. They began including photographs and launched their 'Briquet' icon in the first issue. They continued the articles in the four languages.

During several turbulent years before 'the strike' there were no issues published until the first issue of their after the strike series first appearing on October 1, 1921. The publication no longer showed the articles in foreign languages beginning with 1921.

Over the years their publication featured special sections that included information from their correspondents in: Black Diamond, Burnett, Carbonado, Issaquah, New Black Diamond, Newcastle, South Prairie, and West Coast (near Newcastle), Washington. They also included information about the other 'camps' inside and outside of King and Pierce Counties.

The Bulletins include many obituaries of past Black Diamond residents and environs. These will be extracted and included in the Society's Around Town Series, at the Research Center by the Front Desk Entrance.

The Pacific Coast Bulletins will be a welcome addition to the Archives, as the 'Bulletin' served as the 'mining camps newspaper' for Black Diamond families and environs. The collection has been stated for Reference use only.

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Quote-"Poetry is for silly girls and not for boys like me",  
1938, Conrad Roberts

## HUGGING PAID A CHURCH DEBT

By JoAnne Matsumura

In 1926 "A Hugging Social" paid off a church debt, as recorded in a 1926 issue of the Pacific Coast Bulletin. A clipping from the Osborne, Mo., Enterprise stated; "They paid off a church debt down in North Greenfield Church, near Springfield, the other night with a hugging social. Eight hundred people attended and \$75 was raised. The rates were; girls under 15, for a two-minute hug, 15 cents; girls 15 to 20, same for 25 cents; girls 20 to 25, same for 50 cents; other men's wives, same for 75 cents and old maids, 3 cents and no time limit."

For every hug you give and get, put a penny in a jar, and pay off a debt. Pennies *are* still worth a lot!

## THIRTY YEARS AGO

Society Newsletter

January 1977

From the Archives

We lost four "old" friends, Harold "Hal" Halverson, Domenico Agari, Maude M. Botts, and Peter Tost. Mr. J. William passed away as they were going to press. The 1200 calendars for 1977 sold out. Descriptive memories of sledding down Lawson Hill to Manowski's Hill and if conditions and speed were just right, nearly to the cemetery. Mrs. Benedetti's recipe for Italian Christmas Sweet Bread was published in 1913, as well as Maggie Llewellyn's Ginger Snaps. Featured biography was Joseph Metzler, age 93. History featured was more of the Franklin Mines. Of the 15 hometown sponsors, TRM is still around town.

✿ **THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES** ✿

**Gone but not forgotten**

By JoAnne Matsumura

✿ Angelo J. Bulgarelli  
1918-2006

Born in Taylor, WA

✿ Kathleen H. Dunham  
1913-2006

Dunham's Supermarket  
Black Diamond

✿ Patricia Elder  
1934-2006  
Black Diamond School Librarian

✿ George Hammack  
1936-2006  
Black Diamond resident  
1996-2006

✿ Lydia Hanks  
1934-2006  
Black Diamond resident  
1965-1997

✿ Per Jacobsen-Kasa  
1926-2006  
Black Diamond resident

✿ Paul E. Koss  
1907-2006  
Born in Ravensdale, WA

✿ Carol B. Best Seppi Marshall  
1919-2006  
Hilma Seppi buried at Franklin

✿ June E. Middeke Mattern  
1926-2006  
Black Diamond resident,  
44 years

✿ Dorothy P. Pelath  
1921-2006  
Black Diamond resident

✿ Roy Quaale  
1923-2006  
Black Diamond resident



Interview Team.

**SALUTING OUR  
VOLUNTEERS**

By Don Botts, Volunteer  
Coordinator

We welcome new volunteers,  
Bob & Laura Foote, our new

**GUESTS**

By: Don Botts

In **2006** during the months of **Oct., Nov, and Dec.** we had **397** visitors to the Museum. There were visitors from **10** States: California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Vermont, Virginia and here in Washington. There were also people visiting from other places, such as 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:

**You've done a great job, Deep appreciation, Great collection, Thank you, Enjoyed very much, Wonderful, Very interesting, Great place to visit, Reminds me of my childhood, Wonderful exhibit, Fascinating, Keep it up, (Great.Cool.Bomb.Com), Awesome – Thanks, Very interesting, My past life before me, (Cool, Sweet, Good job), Best Museum I've seen, A wonderful collection lovingly put together, Thank you for the free museum, You've done a great job, Nice artifacts, Wonderful memories, Very nice, Keep up the good work, enjoyed going down memory lane, Really enjoyed this museum, So interesting & beautifully displayed, Well done, It was the best place ever, Thanks for making this such a nice visit, The 2 ladies that were working today were charming & knowledgeable, Thank you Volunteers, Wow; lots of things – I couldn't believe how many pieces were here. It was amazing.**



 **SNIPPETS, AROUND TOWN**

By JoAnne Matsumura

- ◆ **Alumni Roster** of survivors who are Society Members is nearing the 50% mark! Thank you!
- ◆ **MarciaLee Berg** gave a generous donation towards our candy land ‘Alice Davies Confectionery’. Thank you!!
- ◆ **Black Diamond** is changing—that we know. Changing Black Diamond’s character——Please don’t let it go!
- ◆ **Black Diamond: AL, AR, AZ, PA, and WA.** Yes, there is 5 Cities named Black Diamond, in the USA. Let’s be sure to use the correct state when writing the name. Do you know anyone who lives in the ‘other’ Black Diamond cities? Is it coal country?
- ◆ **Black Diamond Community Center** held their 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Moon Auction and dinner on November 4, 2006. Proceeds go towards the restoration of the school gym.
- ◆ **Black Diamond Elementary School’s PTA Members** will tour the Museum on January 9<sup>th</sup>, after which they will conduct their regular meeting in the Museum.
- ◆ **Black Diamond Historical Society Newsletter** “Volume 1, Issue 1” was issued in April 1976. Annual membership was \$2.00, and the Roster is over 100. Those who joined before April 1, 1976 became Charter Members. The fourth printing of the Appointment Calendar nearly sold out. Black Diamond had been designated an Official Bi-Centennial Community. April 1976 meeting guest speaker was Mr. Ed Reitan. “Join us in “digging” up the past”, Carl Steiert.
- ◆ **Doris Dodge Carruthers** was selected as one of the “Hometown Heroes” for her work with the USO and was honored at the Puyallup Fair.
- ◆ **Centralia’s** coal mine closes. Some workers having worked there over 33 years, at the 35 year old mine.
- ◆ **Congratulation monetary donations** for special Anniversaries, Birthdays, or a plaque for the Memorial Board are a great way to give special tribute, and support the Society’s mission and goals.
- ◆ **Jerry Fee** stopped by and was pleased to see his donation of the Locomotive Number Light #5099 all lit up!



◆ **First ‘Flash Powder’ image** was taken in 1927 at the 12<sup>th</sup> level in the Black Diamond Mine.

◆ **Flying the US Flag.** Have you saw it yet flying o’er the Home of the Brave. It’s right here—on the Museum Flag

Pole. Check it out and give it a salute as you drive by.

◆ **History House** located in Seattle at 790 N. 34<sup>th</sup> ST., has invited the Society to be included is a special poster board exhibition of museums found in the Greater Seattle area. The exhibition opening is planned for the end of January 2007. Check it out!

◆ **Lloyd Livernash—”still running bases at full speed”**, age 79, mostly softball, yard work and woodwork, walking, and chasing the grandchildren around.

◆ **Members.** We applaud you and Thank You. YOU make what we do possible!!!

◆ **Milkman in BD** M. J. McLeod, auctioned off his stock and equipment on March 21, 1927. He was the dairyman at Kummer.

◆ **S. “Tug” Motes** was the local barber in 1927. Anyone remember him? Got a story? Got a photograph of him? Please share it!

◆ **My Home Town.** A feature COMCAST 76 Television program of various communities, visited Black Diamond, Washington in October 2006. The one-half hour show, which included segments of the Black Diamond Museum, was aired during the month of November 2006. We thank Dorothy Wilhelm and her ‘crew’ of photographers for our more than ‘five minutes in the sun’!

◆ **Palmer Coking Coal Co** generously gave lumps of Coal to shoppers who were looking for a funny gift or gag for friends and family.

◆ **Reexamining the Past: A Different Perspective of Black Strikebreakers in King County’s Coal Mining Industry**, By Ed Diaz, in *More Voices, New Stories: King County, Washington’s First 150 Years*, edited by Mary C. Wright, KCLS 979.777WRI

◆ **Ginger Passarelli Senecal** was selected as a one of the “Hometown Heroes” for her work in helping victims of Hurricane Katrina, and was honored at the

Puyallup Fair. Ginger and the other 'soup ladies' have again returned to the Gulf Coast region to serve.

◆ **Randy Stocker**, Principal of the Black Diamond Elementary School and thirteen teachers visited the museum for a special lecture on Black Diamond history from Conrad 'Coke' Roberts and Keith Watson. It was a pleasure to have them tour the Museum.

Got news? 📣 Send it so we can share it!

### 🔑 TREASURES AND TRINKETS

New Accessions and Acts of kindness  
By JoAnne Matsumura, Archivist

- ◆ **Black Diamond Community Center**-Book, *I Know A Secret*, 1940
- ◆ **Black Diamond Display Board**-Of the early days in photographs by **Sarah Harvey, Haley Larson, and Hannah Swanson**
- ◆ **Howard & Dorothy Botts**-Battery charger unit, telephone ringing device, booklet on coal
- ◆ **Jackie Cedarholm**-Photograph prints of Welsh Day 2006, Miner Days 2006 lecture and World War II & The Cold War lecture
- ◆ **Mildred Dann**-Medical metal kidney pan, ca. 1940s
- ◆ **Florence Nelson Faviani**-Photographs of Cumberland school students
- ◆ **Linda Guidetti**-Red reflectors in casings
- ◆ **Jerry & Kathy Hooser**-Article of Boeing News with cartoon of Black Diamond Coal
- ◆ **Steve & Dee Israel**-Original box "ROEBIC" Drainpipe Cleaner, early era glass light shade, glass door knob set & drawer handle
- ◆ **Bill Kombol**-Copies of books-Place Names of King County, and Washington State
- ◆ **Helen Manowski**-Homestead Declaration document of **Cornell Manowski**, 1932, names of the alumni, Class of 1932 at their class reunion in 1970, painted trivet and leave-a-message board by **Ann Steiert**

- ◆ **John & Debbie McCallum**-Photographs of **John T. Pugh & Family**, Estate papers of John T. Pugh
- ◆ **Jackie McDonald**-CD of the **Patrick McDonald Family**, ca. 1880s & their descendants
- ◆ **Clayton Mead**-Metal "Bake King" pie tin
- ◆ **Evan Morris Estate**-the siren that once graced the top of the Confectionery building, Black Diamond Labor Day Hats, ca. 1970s
- ◆ **Palmer Coking Coal**-CD of photographs of **Joe Ozbolt** and employment history, Photograph of the Durham, WA Mine & Miners, ca. 1900s, "Occasional Paper" by Endel J. Kolde, "From Mine To Market", wood toy logging truck crafted by **Dave Wulf**, article "History of the Discoveries and Physical Development of the Coal Industry in the State of Washington", 1938, scythe, photograph of the PTA visiting the Briquet Plant in 1925, framed photograph of the Museum
- ◆ **Gino Picini** 50 Star US Flag for exhibit
- ◆ **Bill Rack**-Scrapbook of news clippings, and collection of The Confectionery Art Gallery Newsletters 1977-1982
- ◆ **Conrad "Coke" Roberts**-Christmas tree and ornaments, wood candle tower chandelier
- ◆ **Leo Salo**-*Finnish Americana*, books VOL 1 1978 and VOL 2 1979
- ◆ **Joel Schroeder**-Bottles and glass doorknob sets found in the earth-around town.
- ◆ **Shauna Simon, InsideStory, LLC**-Flashcards of Seattle "The World's most interesting way to learn words"
- ◆ **Lou Tantzen**-Birthday Cake for the Society's thirtieth birthday party celebration
- ◆ **Bob Thompson**-Long handled crimping tool
- ◆ **Keith Timm, Jr.**-Early era mustard jar found in a beaver's hole in a local creek
- ◆ **TRM Lumber**-Materials for our wheelchair ramp
- ◆ **Muriel Botts Waldo**-Mannequin
- ◆ **Keith Watson**-Lighted train decoration
- ◆ **Joe Zumek**-The Zumek Store night drop moneybag with lock and key, milk can "Enumclaw 50"

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

 **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS** 

To Society Members

By Dee Israel and JoAnne Matsumura

- ◆ Chad M. Abramson Sr.-March 31st
- ◆ Joan Benton Barber-January 16th
- ◆ MarciaLee Berg-February 9th
- ◆ Gil Bortleson-January 19th
- ◆ Marlene Lingle Bortleson-January 16th
- ◆ Dorothy Brown Botts-February 17th
- ◆ Jodine Dal Santo Burke-January 18th
- ◆ Donna Savick Casper-January 5<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Janice Colbo-March 9th
- ◆ Douglas Danley-March 11th
- ◆ Beth Deady-March 5th
- ◆ Michael Deicher-January 31st
- ◆ Rosa Draghi-January 5th
- ◆ Cheryl Dubbs-March 14th
- ◆ Connie Florence-January 31st
- ◆ David Florence-March 6th
- ◆ Edward Foss-February 1st
- ◆ Alma G. Bahr Freitag-January 18th
- ◆ Janice Greggs-March 14th
- ◆ Judy Helland Hager-February 8th
- ◆ Diane Dal Santo Kitz-March 28th
- ◆ Virginia Mann Lindstrom-March 22nd
- ◆ Warren Lippincott-February 28<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Dahni Logar-March 4th
- ◆ Pete Logar-January 1st
- ◆ Janet Lombardini-February 18th
- ◆ Michael Manieri-March 16th
- ◆ Dave Mitman
- ◆ Esther Mumford-January 20th
- ◆ Ed Opstad-January 1st
- ◆ Elsie Parkin-February 9<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Ricky Taff-January 12th
- ◆ Tanya Taff-February 20th
- ◆ Nicole Vickery-January 9th
- ◆ Deloris Orehek Wilkening-January 25th
- ◆ Julie (Judy) Young-February 12th
- ◆ Eileen Zumek-January 19th

 **BLACK DIAMOND'S GOLDEN '80s'**  
**GANG** 

- ◆ Betty Richards Allen
- ◆ Pearl Platt Bowen-March 5th
- ◆ Stanley Celigoy
- ◆ Walter Clark-February 8th
- ◆ Henry De Lauro-March 12th
- ◆ Philip Fowler-January 11th
- ◆ Frank Grgurich-January 10th
- ◆ Lauri W. Jarvela-March 31st
- ◆ Ethel Estby Johnson-January 9th
- ◆ Betty Hiber Martin-February 6th
- ◆ Leo Merlini-January 13th
- ◆ Flavia Picini Meyer-February 23rd
- ◆ R. Marie Trover Theilken-February 3rd

 **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**  
**NONAGENARIANS** 

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

- ◆ Helen Shimmel Bremmeyer
- ◆ Bill Bryant
- ◆ Thelma Fisher-January 26th
- ◆ Mrs. Joseph Fosnick
- ◆ Ruth Mills Kerkes
- ◆ Ruby DiJulio Lamantea-January 8th
- ◆ Melvin Larson
- ◆ Josephine Long-January 30th
- ◆ Audrey Kramer Mendenhall-January 9th
- ◆ Olive Parkin
- ◆ Merle Davies Romedo
- ◆ Catherine Truman-March 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ◆ Ellen G. Olsen Vieg-February 3<sup>rd</sup>
- ◆ Loretta Stella Vincenzi-March 2<sup>nd</sup>

 **CENTERARIANS** 

You've come a long way baby!

- ◆ Alma Malatesta-March 12<sup>th</sup>

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

## IN MEMORIAM

✧ **Gone but not forgotten** ✧

By JoAnne Matsumura

### Corrections

In our October issue we inadvertently stated in the remembrance of Paul Maine Botts that his marriage to Gertrude Haworth was in 1935. They were married September 14, 1939. Please accept our apologies Gertrude.

The date of death for Arthur Clifford Ayers was inadvertently stated as September 20, 2006. The correct date of death is September 21, 2005.

We express our apologies to the families.

✧ **Mary Chilcott**, was born in Red Lodge, Montana, September 28, 1923, and passed away October 30, 2006 in Tacoma, WA at age 83.

Mary a Lifetime Member since 1977 served the Society as a faithful Docent every second Sunday of the month for more years than anyone can remember. Only severe illness kept her from her post at the Museum. Mary was also a member of the Mount Rainier Rebekah Lodge No. 106 in Black Diamond, WA.

We don't know when the Black Diamond US Postmaster issued her PO Box #1, but she has had it every since.

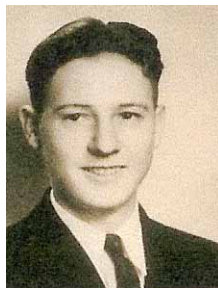
Mary is survived by sons Michael Chilcott and Richard Chilcott, and daughter Patti Diambri.

We will miss Mary's presence and happy spirit.

✧ **Myron Davidson** was born November 22, 1919 in Portland, and passed away on October 29, 2006 in Centralia, WA.

Myron was a Society Member since 2001. A graduate of the Black Diamond High School Class of 1938, and is also a member of the Black Diamond High School Alumni.

Myron is survived by his wife; three daughters; Mary Jean, Patti and Janet, and one brother Robert.



✧ **Norman Hope** was born December 13, 1917 in Roslyn, WA to James Hope and Anna Farrington. He passed away on October 21, 2006 in Seattle.

Norman joined the Society's membership family in 2005, and was a frequent donor.

A graduate of the Black Diamond High School Class of 1935 Norman is also a member of the Black Diamond High School Alumni.

Norman was a Veteran, having served in the Army during WW II.

His wife of 56 years, Lorraine Hope, sons Curtis, and Robert, daughter Judy Maus, survives Norman. Also his sister Marlynn Molnar, and his brother, Tom Hope.

✧ **Marian R. Langston**, was born May 6, 1918, and passed away on September 27, 2006. Marian was a Lifetime Member having joined the Society's membership family in 1977.

✧ **May Miller Savick**, a recent society member, and community resident most of her life, passed away on October 29, 2006, at the age of 87. She was born November 26, 1918 in Spokane, WA to Roy and Carrie Miller.

Her husband George, sisters Wilma Bolton, Mary Carstensen and brother Orville Miller, preceded May in death. Her daughter Donna Casper, and sister Maxine Fleming survive her.

May was a lifetime member of Lady Eagles.

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



## CLASSMATES CORNER

By JoAnne Matsumura

The Black Diamond all schools reunion time is near. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, June 6, 2007, at the Black Diamond Community Center. Program starts at 10:30 A.M.; lunch will be served at noon. Be True To Your School. Everyone's planning for a great celebration.

Conrad 'Coke' Roberts is again Volunteering to head the committee and has a call out inviting volunteers to join in the committee. Call Coke at 253-833-6294 or the Society at 360-886-2142. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2007 at 1 P.M. at the Black Diamond Museum.

The more alumni invited, the more who will attend, the more fun everyone will have so check your address book for classmate address information and spread the word.

Ruby Favro and John Morganti still hold the card for the eldest living Alumni. The classmate who lives the farthest away is probably still Phil Fowler in Alaska. The closest are all those who still live in Black Diamond.

Bring your camera. Share your memorabilia with others.

The Black Diamond Historical Society welcomes issues of the "Sparkler", and any school related memorabilia for their collection. Commencement programs, Graduation announcement cards, dance cards and programs, programs for plays, skits, sports related items, manual training class items, class pins and rings, and photographs are just a few of what relates to School Days.

Check out our next issue.  
See you there!!

## ARCHIVES/COLLECTIONS WISH LIST

- ◆ Miners waist belt for demonstrations
- ◆ Piece of signed pottery by Ben Bieri
- ◆ Sheet music, *Black Diamond Mines* by Daniel Palmer, 1986
- ◆ Print Makers Embossing by Mary McDowell, 1979
- ◆ Photograph of the BD High School Cheerleaders & Yell Squad, any year
- ◆ Menu, advertisement, or photograph of "Bread Plus", opened 1982 next to the Bakery
- ◆ Memorabilia of "The Ancient Order of Goblers, a BD organization re-organized in 1927
- ◆ Telephone Directories for Black Diamond pre 1960
- ◆ Christmas ball hand painted by Ann Steiert
- ◆ News clippings, photographs, and stories of the BD Housing Authority Project, 1942

Thank you!  
JoAnne, Archivist

## VETERANS

THANKS FOR SERVING

By JoAnne Matsumura

In our October 2006 issue we listed names of veterans buried in the Black Diamond Cemetery. Upon close review of photographs of grave markers in the cemetery and other records, we discovered there were more veterans buried there. The names of those individuals are listed below.

Arnold B. Dahl  
Dan'l Downey  
Rex R. Esping  
John B. Evans  
James Charles Ferree  
Anton M. Fritz  
Albert Floyd Jones  
John Clinton Jones  
William B. Jones  
Ernest McGibbon  
Fodoro Meneghini  
Charles Miller  
Jack Roulst  
William M. Thomas  
Harry Woods



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

By Frank Hammock

The bustling staff wearing lab coats, stethoscopes, and smiles gave Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burke a very warm but caring reception as they arrived at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. They had been summoned to the room of their neighbor, a distant friend and acquaintance from Black Diamond, known to the locals only as "Miner" Mike. At times he lay catatonic in his hospital bed, unresponsive by product of some distant past, revealing nothing to no one of who he really was or where he came from. The hospital chart labeled him as "John Doe" and the Burkes knew him only as "Mike." His diagnosis was grim and complications grew from pneumonia, emphysema, sepsis, and acute renal problems. With each subsequent visit, the face of death grew closer and closer to becoming Miner Mike's only next of kin. The Burkes stayed in the room for a while and watched as he breathed with quiet, shallow breaths. They could only think back on what little they knew about this reclusive but simple man and imagine the nuances of his life.

They met Miner Mike one day back in 1990, when he had walked up to the Burkes' home in Black Diamond, just a few blocks to the north and up a hill from his own house. With a quiet but carefully guarded voice, he had asked for some wood to heat up his small wood stove. From that seemingly shy encounter, a distant but quiet relationship had formed. The Burkes gave their unconditional friendship and support to Miner Mike and were always glad to assist in whatever he needed. They brought him dinner on many occasions and since he rarely offered them into his home, they randomly checked to insure that his fireplace chimney was active – a tell-tale sign of the hopeful presence of warmth during those often frosty and snow-filled winters. Mr. Burke recalled that Miner Mike made a few trips to Maple Valley to dine and socialize at Caruso's Restaurant and Lounge, returning home on many evenings with a fictional magnet tied to the front bumper of his old Chevy pickup that seemed to attract things like fence posts, garbage cans, and more. Miner Mike trusted no one but the Burkes for his needs and in the four short years they had known him, he was very

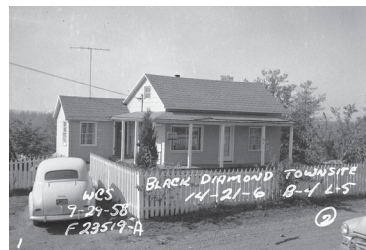
much a loner, had few visitors if any, and gave no allowance to anyone hoping to gain a deeper relationship with this illusive man. He did things according to his rules and when *he* wanted to do them. He was a rebel, and seemed quite distant to others except during those roaring nights at Caruso's.

Back in the quiet room at Harborview, Miner Mike coughed a bit then opened his eyes. The Burkes sat motionless at his bedside to see if he was responsive. They tried to communicate with him and at times, asked if he knew where he was. They tried tending to his affairs by asking if he'd be willing to draft up a Will, or if he had any family in the area, as the remaining time of his life grew ever shorter. He continued to be unresponsive. They continued to reflect a little more on what they knew about this man.

Miner Mike lived in a small wood house at the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Park Streets in Black Diamond. In the few visits they made to his place, the Burkes remember a house that was relatively untidy, dusty, unfurnished, and ice cold except for a small living room downstairs, where he spent most of his time when at home. He slept in a very small bedroom behind a nearby wall off from the living room. Within the living room were a small wood stove, a small chair, a radio, possibly a TV, and a couple of bookcases that stored miscellaneous things and numerous National Geographic magazines. The upstairs maintained the look of emptiness but did

harbor a few furnishings, but was mostly used for storage.

Throughout the house, the air was stale, musty, and damp. His only live-in companion



was a very large and intimidating black dog that kept vigilance near him and barked incessantly at everything that approached the house – like a sentinel appointed to keep watch over this pride-filled man of few possessions.

*(To be continued in our next BDHS Newsletter)*



## 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

## IN THE MUSEUM

The Museum was decorated inside and out for this past Christmas celebration. The tree was decorated with many decorations from yesteryear.

On the last Thursday before Christmas, the volunteers were treated to a Christmas party instead of having a work day.

Later in the day, the volunteers were treated to live music performed by a couple of our members.

We are looking forward to an even better celebration next time.





**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!  
Elect your new officers!**

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**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.**