



Black Diamond Historical Society Newsletter

Museum Hours

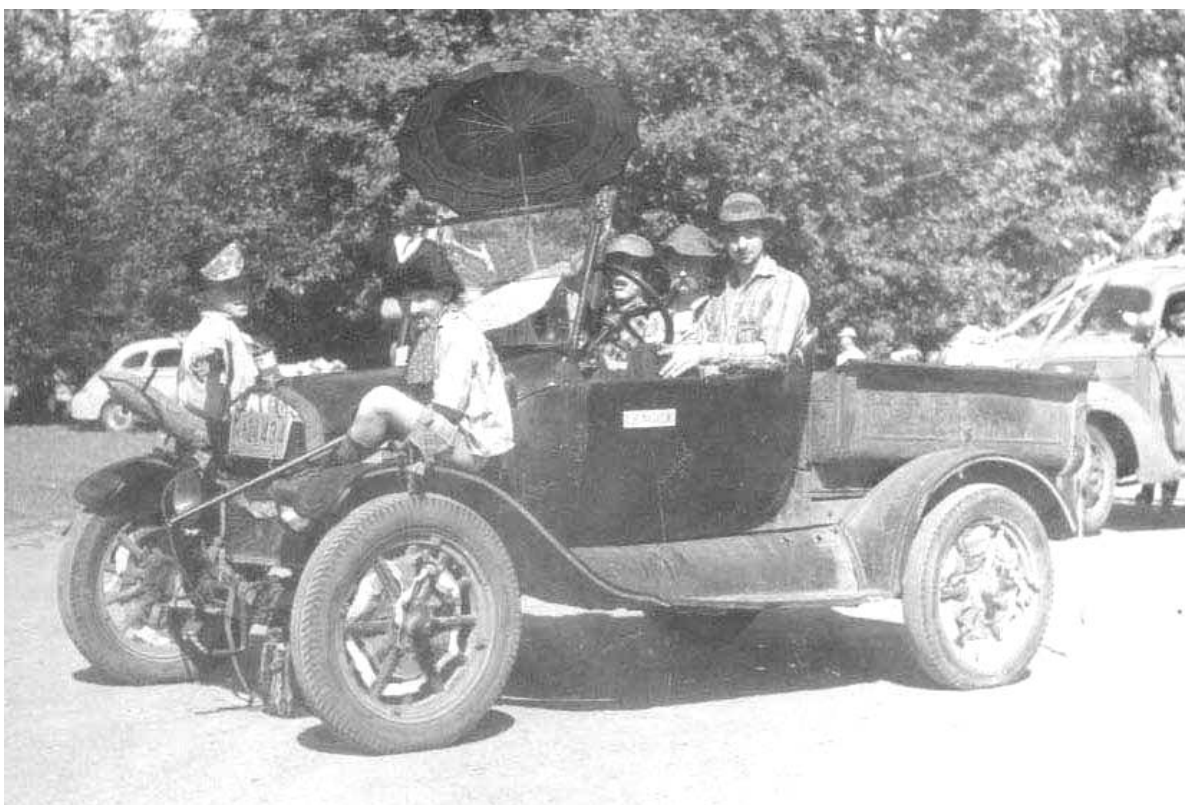
Thursday	9 - 4
Sat & Sun (Summer)	12 - 4
Sat & Sun (Winter)	12 - 3

Printed Quarterly



October 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

THE LAWSON HILL HILLBILLY'S 1947 LABOR DAY PARADE THIRD PLACE WINNERS

The Lawson Hill Hillbilly's, left to right: Jerry Rogers, Don Malgarini, Bob Harvaten, Jerry Barnes, and Howard Botts, took the third prize "best decorated float". Using their imagination their hood ornament was carefully chosen—a Campbell's Beef Vegetable soup can!

(See the article inside this issue)



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

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

To send material for the Newsletter, address it to:

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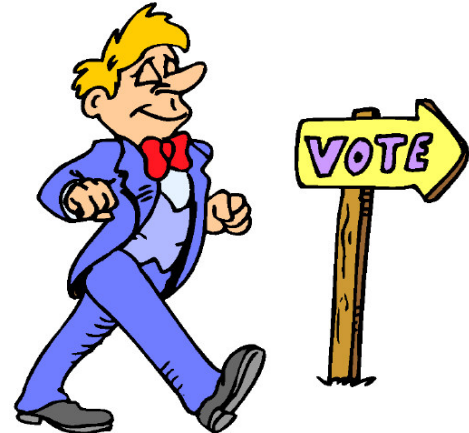
Society Officers

President: Don Malgarini
Vice President: Keith 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

October 28th, 1:30
Elect Officers and Board Members
at the Annual Membership Meeting



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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



Another great year concludes for the Black Diamond Historical Society, and it is time for the changing of the guards. It is time to elect new officers and board members.

I am always amazed at how much progress is made with so few volunteers. As compared to other organizations, with paid staff members and a steady income, our volunteers have done wonders around here without any paid staff, and can always find ways to pay for what is needed. It's a lot of work just to maintain a place like this, with such an old building, but our volunteers have even made improvements as well. The Museum continues to be cleaner, safer and more secure with each passing day.

As for my part, I will continue for another year as Editor, but will not be running for a position on the board.

I want to thank JoAnne, Frank, Dee and Doc for their contributions to the newsletter. It would be pretty sparse without their valuable help.

On that note, in Frank's article, he included pictures of the Union Stump as it is today, Labor Day Buttons and Union Emblems that are on display at the Museum. I was not able to copy them into the newsletter due to technical difficulties, so please go and see them for yourself.

Thank you.

Steve

BDHS CALENDAR

OCTOBER

28 - Membership Meeting / Election of Officers @ BD Museum 1:30,

Octoberfest Feast, (following the meeting) Burgers and sausages.

NOVEMBER

10 - Veterans Day Program @ BD Museum 1:30

22 - Thanksgiving, Museum Closed

DECEMBER

8 - Christmas Celebration @ Museum

24 - Holiday Closure through January 2nd

JANUARY

3 - Museum re-opens

**October 28th, 1:30
Membership Meeting
followed by
Octoberfest Feast**



SECRETARY REPORT

By Dee Israel



ARCHIVES - JoAnne Matsumura, Archivist: is interested in getting articles, pictures, etc. that pertain to Morganville & Lake Sawyer.

EDUCATION/OUTREACH - Chair Coke Roberts:

We now have burgundy vests for the Docents & Work Crews to wear at the Museum. These vests will let the Museum visitors know whom they can go to if they have questions.

There are 25 middle schools in this area and Mr. Roberts plans on contacting their Principals and PTA Presidents regarding inviting them to bring the students to the Museum or setting up a time for a lecture at their school. Coke has made up a brochure about Black Diamond and Coal Mining that he plans on handing out to the Principals and PTA Presidents.

FACILITIES & GROUNDS - Chair, Don Malgarini:

The train schedule sign in front of the Museum has now been sandblasted & repainted and the schedules & articles upgraded.

A monitoring system with 4 cameras has been added to the Museum for better security. We plan on adding additional cameras soon.

Steve Israel, Keith Watson and Clayton Mead have replaced the rotting supports for the coal car at the north end of the building.

MEMBERSHIP - Chair Dee Israel: announced that we now have 285 memberships and she is planning to have a Membership Drive in November.

PROGRAMS - Chair Howard Botts: After the October Membership meeting (October 28st) there will be an Octoberfest (a Barbeque with all the fixings), so be sure to come.

PUBLIC RELATIONS - Chair Keith Watson: We had a booth on the school grounds for Labor Day

(Sept. 3rd) where we sold several “Black Diamond Mining the Memories” books, trivets & coal candy.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

The Black Diamond Historical Society is now a member of the Washington Museum Association.

Last newsletter issue, I announced that I wouldn't be running for Secretary next year. However, the BDHS Election committee informed me that they had contacted several members to try to find someone to run for the position of Secretary without any luck. I have thought over the situation and decided that I will run for the Secretary position again for the 2007-2008 year.

Dee Israel

DIET

After starting a new diet I altered my drive to work to avoid passing my favorite bakery. I accidentally drove by the bakery this morning, and as I approached, there in the windows were a host of goodies. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed “Lord, it's up to you, if you want me to have any of those delicious goodies, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery.” And sure enough, on the eighth time around the block, there it was!

Author unknown





U SALUTING OUR VOLUNTEERS

By Don Botts, Volunteer Coordinator
 Volunteers: *YOU are critically important to the health of this Society, so please accept thanks from all of us.*

◆ Returning volunteer Past Vice-President, **Darryl Buss** gave us a helping hand on a hot summer day getting the grass mowed and the grounds spruced up. Thanks Darryl!

◆ Taking out the trash is not everyone’s favorite task, but community member **David Conrad** helped us by taking the rotted wood from the incline coal car posts to the trash pile. Thank you David! It is these types of tasks that help us so much.

◆ **Jean Hutchins** from Eastern Washington was in Black Diamond visiting friends and gave us the pleasure of her company. She quickly joined in with helping hands to get the Society’s July newsletter prepared for mailing. With her help we finished ahead of time. Thanks Jean! Visit us anytime.

◆ With the help of **Sam Logar** we now have an improved wheelchair ramp. Sam now has an additional 8 hours towards his school requirements of community service. Thanks Sam!

◆ The ‘Garden Crew’ came with rakes, shovels, gloves and lots of enthusiasm and was a **Malgarini Family volunteer affair**. A fantastic job well done and a fun way to volunteer ‘Family Style’, from Bonnie, Don, Marissa, Mia, Joan & Don Malgarini, along with Sam Logar, is genuinely appreciated for all the labor and the joy they brought to the Thursday Crew. Thanks Malgarini Family!

◆ **Mark Mattix** from Bolivia was visiting his father-in-law, Gino Picini, and spent some time at the Museum. It wasn’t long and Gino handed him a shovel among other garden tools and off they went to take care of the rose garden and adjoining flowerbeds. We enjoyed Mark’s company during lunch. Thanks for the help Mark!

◆ **George Tantzen** a recent retiree with time available didn’t take long to lend a volunteer hand with our new security system making the job less time consuming for team members **Steve Israel** and **Keith Watson**. Thanks George!

GUESTS

By: Don Botts

In **2007** during the months of **June, July & August** we had **1070** visitors to the Museum. There were visitors from **16** States: Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and here in Washington. There were also people visiting from other places, such as Canada, England, Germany, & Japan.

REMARKS MADE BY OUR GUESTS

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

I loved all this history, great, nice exhibits, Really enjoyed it – thanks, WOW, Great Museum – such friendly people, Fun, Remember many items – makes us feel old, Great history, Remarkable, It was very amusing, awesome collection, Wonderful, Great memories, I like the machines down stairs, neat, This is a wonderful place, Enjoyed all the history, Neat, Very nice, Surprisingly big, Wonderful displays, Cool, I love the museum – so much history, Fantastic place, neat stuff, nice collection, The jail is very interesting, quite a collection of history, Interesting, We loved everything – so much to see, Very fascinating – I learned a lot about our beautiful town, Very illuminating, I’ surprised how much history is here, Very informative, Beautiful – shocked, nice collection.

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out, and in which, an alarm goes off by going on. When the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

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 **Harold Anderson**, by Brad & Betty Tofthagen and George & Eileen Herr.

IN MEMORY of **Gideon S. Bailey**, by Edwin & Shirley Opstad.

IN MEMORY of **Paul Botts**, Bank of America matched the donation previously made by Julia Young.

IN MEMORY of **Richard Chilcott**, by Albert & Rosemary Konoske-Bigelow.

IN MEMORY of **Margaret Thomas Jensen**, by Margaret Stanley.

IN MEMORY of **Howard Kennedy**, by Mary M. Kennedy.

IN MEMORY of **John Morganti**, by Esther Pennachi Birch.

IN MEMORY of **Ruth Picini**, by JoAnne Matsumura, Steve & Dee Israel, Esther Pennachi Birch and Joe & Eileen Zumeck.

IN MEMORY of **Marshal D. Ponko**, by Michael & Betty Manieri.

IN MEMORY of **Emily Porter**, by William & Jennifer Kombol.

IN MEMORY of **Cameron Rich**, by Palmer Coking Coal Co.

IN MEMORY of **Les VanHoof**, by Palmer Coking Coal Co.

IN MEMORY of **Patricia Walsh**, by Donald H. Botts.

IN MEMORY of **Bill Young**, by Julia Ann Young & Muriel E. Waldo.

ADDITIONAL MONETARY DONATIONS

To the archive preservation fund:

Frank & Rebecca Fosnacht
Ms. Robbin Weston

To the general fund:

Betty Blakeney
Darryl & Jackie Buss
Henry DeLauro
Estate of Jane C. Gattavara
John R. Hope
K-C Food Corporation
Josephine Long
Kim Rancans
R. Marie Theilken

In celebration of the marriage of Keith & Judy Watson, the following additional donations were made to the general fund:

Don Botts
Jackie Cedarholm
Steve & Dee Israel
JoAnne Matsumura
Gino Picini
Conrad (Coke) Roberts
Beth VanBuskirk
Muriel Waldo

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.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Be sure to attend the Annual Membership meeting on October 28, 2007 at 1:30 P.M.

Included in this meeting is election of Officers and Directors for the 2007-2008 Black Diamond Historical Society Board. The Board is comprised of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and eight (8) Directors/Trustees. The Nominating Committee has come up with the following nominees:

President – Keith Watson

Vice President – Don Malgarini (NOTE: Mr. Watson & Mr. Malgarini have traded positions)

Secretary – Dee Israel (NOTE: Dee had previously announced that she wouldn't be running for Secretary again. However, the Election Committee was not able to find someone to run for Secretary so she said she has thought it over and decided she will run for another year.)

Treasurer – Clayton Mead

Director/Trustee – Don Botts

Director/Trustee – Howard Botts

Director/Trustee – Jackie Cedarholm

Director/Trustee – Don Mason

Director/Trustee – JoAnne Matsumura

Director/Trustee – Anna Morris

Director/Trustee – Gino Picini

Director/Trustee – Coke Roberts

Per our By-Laws, if you or someone you know would like to be in a position on the Board, nominations from the floor will be allowed (with prior approval of the nominee).

On Election Day, each BDHS Member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote. Only one representative of a Business Membership may vote for the company. If that person is also an Individual Member he/she may only vote once.

For those of you who are unable to attend, an absentee ballot may be obtained by requesting one from the Museum (by phone (360-886-2142), snail-mail (P.O. Box 232, Black Diamond, 98010) or e-mail, (museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org)). Absentee ballots must be received before the election, to be counted. So don't delay.

You don't have to run for office to be a big help around the Museum. There are many jobs that we need help with from time to time. Here are a few: painting, carpentry, minor electrical repairs, window washing, folding newsletters, dusting, typing, filing and many more. You name it.

WARNING! STEVE WILL BE GRILLING HAMBURGERS AND ITALIAN SAUSAGES!



After the Membership Meeting,
join us for an Octoberfest Feast of
burgers, sausages and such.
October 28, 1:30



10th Annual
Maple Valley Operating
Model Train Show

Saturday, October 20 and Sunday October 21, 2007
Hours: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm both days

Suggested Donation: Adults \$5.00; Children, ages 3-11, \$2.00
child must be accompanied by an adult

Gracie Hansen Community Center
27132 SE Ravensdale Way, Ravensdale, WA
Drive to the intersection of SR169 and SR516. Follow our road signs.

Website: www.freewebs.com/mvtrainshow

For children of all ages who love to watch model trains in action

Featuring large operating model layouts in all the popular gauges

See the newest LEGO display; build your own LEGO train

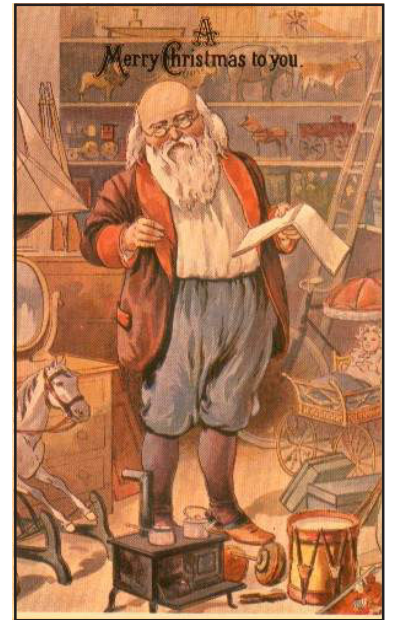
Bring your own trains or run some of our trains

Lots of free door prizes, catalogs and old publications

Sponsored by the Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council
For further information contact: Steve Hiester (425) 432-8391, or Email: hies_skel@hotmail.com

Enter the train building Lego contest. The rules are posted on our website

CHRISTMAS PARTIES ARE ALWAYS GREAT AT THE MUSEUM AND THIS YEAR WILL BE NO EXCEPTION. THE PARTY WILL BE ON SATURDAY DEC. 8TH AT 1:30 AND SANTA WILL BE PROVIDING GOODIES TO EAT. WE INVITE ANY LOCAL MUSICIANS TO COME JOIN USE AS WE SING CHRISTMAS SONGS AND TELL US ABOUT YOUR BLACK DIAMOND CHRISTMAS OF THE PAST. WE ARE TRYING TO HAVE SOME GUEST TALENTS WHO WILL JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON. EVERYBODY IS INVITED! FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR FAMILIES. WE ALSO MAY BE SHOWING A COMCAST VIDEO OF BLACK DIAMOND AS WELL AS A CHRISTMAS MOVIE.



**The Black Diamond Historical Society Presents:
A Special Program to celebrate Veterans Day, Sat Nov 10th, at 1:30**

We will be looking at vintage pictures of Black Diamond and World War II and if Black Diamond was changed by the war. Please come and join us at 1:30 for a brief program and kindly bring any pictures that you might have to help us celebrate the lives of the men and women who worked to end World War II.

Coffee, cookies and goodies will be on hand.



 **SNIPPETS, AROUND TOWN**

By JoAnne Matsumura



◆ **Black Diamond High School** gave the first Prom by the Junior Class of 1930 at the Masonic Hall and “we are aiming to make it a big success.”

◆ **Black Diamond Historical Society Newsletter** goes to Bolivia! It’s a small world afterall.

◆ **Black Diamond Museum** was featured as the Museum of the Month in the September 6, 2007 issue of the Seattle Times, Northwest Weekend section.

◆ **Steve Campbell** is the new Interim Assistant City Administrator for the City of Black Diamond. He began his duties on August 6, 2007.

◆ **Stanley Celigoy** has given us the pleasure of his company and stories of the good old days!

◆ Member **Bob Charles** was awarded the Business Owner of the Year award during the Labor Day Festivities. Congratulations Bob!

◆ Thanks for the delicious ‘happy meals’ to our **Cooks support group, Bill; Ginger, Mike, and Sherrie.**

◆ **Electric Mule** arrived at the Roslyn Museum courtesy of Palmer Coking Coal Co. If you are driving by that area, stop and check it out.

◆ **Finnish Genealogy** at www.finlander.eget.net/web

◆ **First Skate Park** is being built in Black Diamond, and is located just North of the ball field off 3rd Ave. (SR169) and Park Street.

◆ **Gymanfa Ganu** presented by the Puget Sound Welsh Association will be held Sunday, October 14, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 111 NE 80th Street, Seattle, WA. Features congregational singing of traditional Welsh hymns in both Welsh and English. “Admission is free & donations are welcome”.

◆ **Judy Hager Watson, Beth Botts Van Buskirk and Muriel Botts Waldo** did a wonderful make over job of the ‘Confectionery’ with new variety of candy, some new containers, display arrangement and new signs. Thank you ladies!! We enjoyed their company at lunch too!

◆ **Larry Johnson** gave us the pleasure of a visit and said his mother **Ann Sharlock Johnson Raub**, Class of 1934, is now 91 years young and currently lives in a care center in Newcastle.

◆ **Life On the Cedar-A Local Area Communities, Magazine** is a new publication by J. Todd Shank who has

just released his seventh issue. While subscriptions are available you can find one of his free issues at various business locations from Black Diamond to Renton.

◆ **Helen Strom Manowski and Julia Laine Young** gave us the pleasure of their company during lunch with The Thursday Crew.

◆ **Daryl & Norine McCauley**-celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 22, 2007. Congratulations! Daryl attended the Black Diamond Elementary School.

◆ New member **Kim Rancans** has **Lyts, Vestnys and Brazell** ancestry. Welcome Kim!

◆ **The Emigration Institute** in Finland “was thrilled” in receiving *Black Diamond: Mining The Memories*. “Just the material they are interested in having”. **Leo & Armi Salo** delivered the book to the Institute on July 4, 2007.

◆ **The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Maple Valley/Black Diamond Post 5052** is offering free membership if you have a mother-father-husband-wife-brother or sister currently serving in Iraq-Afghanistan or Kuwait. For an application, contact Dick Ludwig Quartermaster, VFW Post 5052, at PO Box 1491, Maple Valley, WA 98038.

◆ **Joe Zumek** continues to give a helping hand, and gives us valuable advice

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

If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend. If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? Is it an odd, or an end?

☞ **TREASURES AND TRINKETS**

New Accessions and Acts of kindness

By JoAnne Matsumura, Archivist

- ◆ **Roylene Callero Baker**-Kummer School District accounting books, Warranty Deed of Chas. W. Cordray to William Simmons
- ◆ **Black Diamond Community Center**-T-Shirt *Black Diamond Community Gym*, 2007 Grand Opening
- ◆ **Gil & Marlene Bortleson**-Commemorative plates, large hand drill, sheet metal tool
- ◆ **Dorothy Botts**-Repairing the hands of our occupant in the jail. He's been a little sassy lately! Thanks Dorothy
- ◆ **Dennis Boxx**-Token, "K.M. Butcher, 5 Cents In Trade", fish for the Thursday Crew, Eisenhower and S. B. Anthony coins
- ◆ **Donald & Cheryl Bykonen**-Wheelchair circa 1900
- ◆ **Jackie Cedarholm**-Poster board of photographs of the Museum tour with The Hearthstone group
- ◆ **Ted Chaney**-Radio and TV vacuum tube tester
- ◆ **Mrs. Lee Church**-Book, *The Rayovac Story...the first 75 years* and advertisements of camping lanterns
- ◆ **Walter Clark**-Letterman's sweater 1942
- ◆ **Judy Hastings**-Enumclaw High School Annual, 1939
- ◆ **Al Helfren**-Traveling radio repairman's cases with supplies and tools
- ◆ **Don Henderson**-Enumclaw High School memorabilia, Valentine card
- ◆ **Home Care Construction, Steve Israel**-Wood posts and fence material for Museum use
- ◆ **Steve & Dee Israel**-Post card learning the Welsh language, book, *A First Book of Antiques*, 1957 Saturday Evening Post Magazine cover page (Rockwell), framed, catsup bottle found in the earth
- ◆ **Lynda Dal Santo Maks**-Earthenware containers, iron, barber's shears, tobacco tin, insulators
- ◆ **Don Malgarini**-Copies of photographs of the Bartoluzzi Family, photograph of the John Davies Candy Store during a winter's snow
- ◆ **Don Malgarini, JoAnne Matsumura and Randy Roberts** for our new "Open" sign
- ◆ **Betty Malgarini Manieri**-Potato ricer used by Esther Malgarini in the early 1900s
- ◆ **Helen Strom Manowski**-Prayer cards, graduation cards, news clippings, snapshots of around town, historic Labor Day buttons, *The Hornet*-1960, Frank's retirement

- party flyer, 1906 booklet on Niagra Falls, "Betty Brite" paper bake cups in original box
- ◆ **Don Mason**-"Knit for Defense" knitting pattern book #172, Price 10 cents
- ◆ **JoAnne Matsumura**-Business card from Enumclaw Sales Pavilion, office supplies
- ◆ **Clayton & Nancy Mead**-Butter-churn and large wood butter mold, "Consumers Glass" 'Mason' jar, Labor Day photograph 1949 "BD Champs" float, student class picture circa 1942 Mrs. Hallett, Teacher, two Coke bottles
- ◆ **Richard Mendenhall**-Railroad switch lantern used by Clyde (Walter) Mendenhall in 1939 on the Pacific Coast Railroad when he was a fireman
- ◆ **Edwin Opstad, Author**-Booklet, *Gideon S. Bailey-A Mason Who Made a Difference*
- ◆ **Palmer Coking Coal**-Booklets: Report of Investigations of Coal and Coal Mining in WA, 1943 and 1947, slides of Black Diamond Around Town
- ◆ **Janice Goldsberry Ranton**-Linens and books from the Estate of Angelina & Fred Goldsberry
- ◆ **J. Todd Shank**-Computer photograph paper
- ◆ **Bob Thompson**-Fruit for the Thursday Crew, miners belt used by his father
- ◆ **Trover Family**-Video of the Labor Day Parade 1959, Coleman camp stove circa 1950s
- ◆ **Keith Watson**-Photographs of Lake 12 circa 1922
- ◆ **Michael Wick**-Locksmith services
- ◆ **Beth Botts Van Buskirk**-Shoe shine brush and polish strap

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

Teenage Code:

"Avoid the crowd. Be an engine—not a caboose."
The Hornet, December 9, 1958.

 **LOOKING BACK: THIRTY YEARS AGO**

Society Newsletter, October 1977
By JoAnne Matsumura

From the Archives:

Gone but not forgotten are; Cecilia Shannon Puttman, Bert Conklin, William C. Bainton, Amelie Anna Bertelli, Diane Louise Bertagni, Stephanie Sigmund, and Jack Ranard, all formerly of Black Diamond, and Angelo E. Cavaletto, formerly of Franklin and Black Diamond.

Plans are in the making to build a platform in front of the Depot, as the old platform was torn down years ago and was used to unload freight from the trains.

Guest speaker for the October meeting was Ernie Moore, formerly of Franklin and Black Diamond, with a slide show and refreshments. The November meeting featured Mr. & Mrs. Koch who presented an old type glass slide show titled "Magic Lantern".

The Society received a \$300 grant from the King County Arts Commission, which they decided to use the funds to develop a slide presentation from old photographs.

The October 1937 *Sparkler* was featured. Modesto was known as Bunky, the Juniors Diamond Skating Party was a success, Ivor Merryfield was Vice-President of the Sophomore class, Emmett Brennan is attending Gonzaga U, Bud Sanders is at the Indian Mine, Orlando Santi working at Dan's Meat Market, and three WPA workman were back on October 20th at the gym completing the floor only and should be done in a week or two. "Mr. Nelson said he is going to get a contractor from Enumclaw to finish the balcony and painting and a few more jobs needed to complete the gym."

In an-undated news clipping it was reported that Pacific Coast Coal Company announced the figures for the Fourth Liberty Loan subscriptions made through the company's pay roll, with a grand total of \$212,550.

A letter from the Pacific Coast Company of 1924 was included. They gave a clean "bill of health" of the conditions at Black Diamond (mine) and reported the loss of a life on July 11th. (Research of the Mine Inspection Report shows the loss of life is Ed Louttit, age 39.)

The history featured in the October 1977 Newsletter is a continuing series story about Franklin.

Photographs featured were the Black Diamond Garage and the 'Company Store'.

Sponsors still 'Around Town' are: Mutual of Enumclaw (now under a new name), and Flothe's Insurance Agency.

 **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS** 

To Society Members
By Dee Israel and JoAnne Matsumura

"You may be older today than you have ever been before, but you are younger than you will ever be again!" By Barbara Johnson

- ◆ Miriam DelDuca Adlum-November 21st
- ◆ Carmel Shaver Camerini-October 19th
- ◆ Don Covey-October 3rd
- ◆ Dan Dal Santo-October 13th
- ◆ Evelyn Dal Santo-October 26th
- ◆ Joe Dal Santo-November 20th
- ◆ Tamie Boxx Deady-October 24th
- ◆ Ray DuBois-November 16th
- ◆ Alison English-November 3rd
- ◆ Marie Merlini Freeman-December 12th
- ◆ Maureen Guidetti-October 21st
- ◆ Carolyn Donati Henderson-October 8th
- ◆ John Herbert-October 8th
- ◆ Dave Hester-November 16th
- ◆ Jim Hewson-December 19th
- ◆ Mary Malgarini Kennedy-December 25th
- ◆ Barry Kombol-December 19th
- ◆ Ray Kravagna-October 2nd
- ◆ John Lombardini-October 22nd
- ◆ Frank MacNeill-October 17th
- ◆ Nancy Dodge Mead-November 14th
- ◆ Shirley Mead-November 20th
- ◆ Paula Botts Ordonez-December 31st
- ◆ Paula Perkins-November 4th
- ◆ Mary Peterson-December 28th
- ◆ Scott Peterson-October 14th
- ◆ Randy Roberts-October 13th
- ◆ Robert Morgan Smith-December 7th
- ◆ Sandra Zumek Sonsteng-December 12th
- ◆ Lorianne Taff-December 11th
- ◆ Steve Thompson-December 1st
- ◆ Marylou Carl Toth-November 10th
- ◆ Dale Traylor-November 6th
- ◆ Betty Franz Uhrig-December 6th
- ◆ Rose Vetter-November 5th
- ◆ Carol Wieltschnig-October 20th

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



- ◆ Margaret F. Repovz Bisiack-November 9th
- ◆ Dorothy Franz Corlett-November 23rd
- ◆ Donald J. Greggs-December 31st
- ◆ John Malgarini-October 6th
- ◆ Betty J. Merryfield-December 16th
- ◆ Mrs. Tony Susnar-October 23rd
- ◆ Anne Remshe Thorsett-December 27th
- ◆ Virginia R. Mills Tracy-November 12th
- ◆ Louis Traverso-November 4th
- ◆ Muriel Botts Waldo-December 13th
- ◆ Joe Zumek-December 30th

 **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

NONAGENARIANS 

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

- ◆ William G. Bisyak-November 5th
- ◆ Maxine Niles Gamba-December 30th
- ◆ Ernest Seliger-October 3rd
- ◆ Marian Albaugh Short-October 31st
- ◆ Olga Grady Swann-October 1st
- ◆ Lillian C. Tennio Widner-November 24th
- ◆ Thomas Wieltschnig-November 14th

BELATED GREETINGS

Thanks for letting us know!

- ◆ Vera Hughes Kravagna Toman-July 29th
- ◆ Stanley Celigoy, August 4th

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



PICTURES OF THE PAST

(Picture on the cover of this issue)

From the Archives

**THE LAWSON HILL HILLBILLY'S
1947 LABOR DAY PARADE THIRD
PLACE WINNERS**

The Lawson Hill Hillbilly's, left to right: Jerry Rogers, Don Malgarini, Bob Harvaten, Jerry Barnes, and Howard Botts, took the third prize "best decorated float". Using their imagination their hood ornament was carefully chosen—a Campbell's Beef Vegetable soup can!

A very large crowd attended this first big Labor Day celebration in 1947 on Labor Day. In earlier times Labor Day, a day off for the miners was celebrated in the month of July. "Many former residents were seen at the celebration."

Other parade float winners were awarded for the Lake 12 float, first prize, and second prize went to the Franklin Gem Coal Company. "The Ladies Auxiliary F. O. E. were the largest organization present in the parade and was awarded the prize."

Miss Bernice Gibson was crowned Queen. Princesses were Joyce Dearden and Betty Johnson. Mr. Dearden was chairman of the celebration. Judge Bill Murphy was King for the day, and Glen Fredericksen was master of ceremonies for the day.

The Black Diamond Wildcats defeated the Issaquah Baseball team by a score of 12 to 3. Albert Rossi wins the greased pig contest, and winners of the Beard Growing contest were, Louie Luchessi, Bob Marangum, Bud King and F. P. Lawrence.

The children had all the ice cream, candy and pop they could eat with a free show. A dance concluded the festivities.

This successful program all started with enthusiasm when in June 1947 Labor Day Celebrations was reorganized. Peter Dearden, first Chairman, Lew McCauley, Willie Franchini, Bill Hawthorne and Frank Manowski threw in \$10.00 each in the pot to start it off". Their 'field of dreams' continues to live bringing joy to many every year.

IN MEMORIAM

✧ **Gone but not forgotten** ✧

By JoAnne Matsumura

✧ **Harold Anderson** a Society Lifetime member since 1988 passed away on September 3, 2007.

Harold was born on July 1, 1913 in Pacific Coast Coal Company house #141 that can be seen in the accompanying photograph taken in 2000.

Harold also attended the Black Diamond High School.

Harold is preceded in death by his brother, Hilmer Anderson and is survived by companion, Ethel Swanson.



✧ **Warren Baumgartner** a Society member passed away on August 14, 2007.

✧ **John Morganti** was born January 25, 1910 to Joe & Carolina Morganti in Black Diamond. He was the eldest of three children. John was schooled in Black Diamond.

John was a lifetime member of the Society and is a member of the Black Diamond High School Alumni having graduated in 1929. In a 2004 interview at his home with his wife Susie, he shared that he delivered milk for 7 cents a quart, worked at the Indian Mine for two summers, and that his family looked forward to reading the Italian newspaper from San Francisco titled "Voice of People", each day. They shared it with other Italians in the community when they were finished with it. He also worked at a cement plant and at Dahl Island, Alaska working in the lime rock.



He remembered that the Post Office Box in Black Diamond (#205) was .25 cents a year, and had a metal combination. The postmaster was Mr. Whitlock.

He remembered the jewelry store in the old 'bank building' but did not remember the jeweler. He loved the row of walnut trees planted in 1937 on the Morganti property in Black Diamond.

John became a proficient machinist and retired in 1975 from Boeings as a Supervisor, Manufacturing Engineer.

His talent in the works of wood is sprinkled throughout the Historic Museum's artifacts that began in his manual training classes with Mr. Bone at the Black Diamond High School. In later years he challenged himself by building a most intricate model of the Flagship of Sir Walter Drake, in Museum specifications. He also made the encasement. It took him 7 years to complete the project. The flagship is beautiful.

John is survived by his wife Susie of 73 years, and leaves a sister Margaret Morganti Vernarelli.

✧ **Florence Ruth Picini** was born October 5, 1920 in Victoria, B.C., Canada to Arthur Knight and Winifred Kelsey Knight, and passed away on July 4, 2007. She was a member of the Society and her gracious and caring nature to all to whom she spoke will truly be missed.

The Knight Family moved to Seattle before Ruth started her schooling. Like many in Black Diamond known by a nickname, Ruth had one too. Her father called her "Poppy". Ruth attended Lawton school then Queen Anne High School.

Her career included serving as secretary for the "Seattle Christian Business Mens Committee", and arranging daily radio broadcast from the 1930s to 1950 when she married Gino Picini in January's heavy snowfall of 1950. She felt honored to escort Billy Graham from the train to the radio studio and meeting many prominent Christian leaders.

Ruth's remembrances of acknowledging birthdays, anniversaries, graduations and special



occasions will not be forgotten. She always thought of others first, her gift of hospitality.

She is survived by husband of 57 years, Gino Picini. Daughters: Carol Mattix, Jane Lopez, and son John Picini. Brother, Wil Knight and sister Noni Wineland. Daughter Nancy Picini preceded Ruth in death.

“Ruth exhibited godliness, goodness, and friendliness to all.”

✿ **Ada Rogers Hawthorne Royce** passed away on June 20th, 2007. She was one of 13 children born to Joseph & Elizabeth Rogers, on July 4, 1922 in Enumclaw, WA.

Ada was a lifetime member of the Society, having joined in 1981.

In 1943 Ada married Mathew “Fitter” Leroy Hawthorne. They lived in Black Diamond during the 1940s and 1950s. After ‘Fitter’ died from an on the job accident, Ada returned to Enumclaw, working as a dental assistant for Dr. Ulman, and Dr. Thompson of Auburn. She spent many years working at the First National Bank of Enumclaw.

Ada is survived by daughters, Sharon Lofthus, LaVerne Hawthorne, and Sandy Hyppa, along with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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

✿ **THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES** ✿

Gone but not forgotten

By JoAnne Matsumura

✿ Amelia Mary Grady Kravagna
1922-2007

Widow of Charles ‘Jazz’ Kravagna
Sister of Olga Grady Swann

✿ Donald Randall
1933-2007

Born in Bayne, WA

✿ Cameron A. Rich
1916-2007

Former employee of
Palmer Coking Coal Co., 1950s and 1960s

✿ Charles B. Theilken
1954-2007

Son of R. Marie Theilken

✿ Herman Trover
1921-2007

Brother of Laura Shipley and
R. Marie Theilken

✿ Les Van Hoof
1926-2007

Former employee of
Palmer Coking Coal Co.,
Gem, McKay #12, & John Henry #1

✿ John F. Walsh
1914-2007

Brother to
Patrick J., David, and Jim Walsh

✿ Patricia L. Walsh
2007

Wife of Patrick J. Walsh

✿ Bill Young
2007

Brother of Jeanne Maier



Back at the Stump ... A Labor Day Reflection

By Frank Hammock, 2007



The first Union Stump encasement 1921-1922 (Photograph courtesy: Black Diamond Historical Society #2005.018, Gattavara Collection.)

Back at the stump ... the miners discussed the bad working conditions in the mines.

Back at the stump ... the miners demanded an eight-hour work day.

Back at the stump ... the miners fought for higher pay.

Yes, **back at the stump** ... a 100-year journey began for Black Diamond's United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local Union 6481. Out of necessity, and part of a nationwide movement, a new era of change

grew from the spark of diversity and struggle, and the voices who gave it life. Springing up all over the nation in those early years of the 20th Century, the echoes that started from a whisper, joined to a crescendo like the waters of many rivers that merge into the sea. And, on May 15th, 1907, Local Union 6481 first formed and became a gallant part of that blended energy of transformation.

Ever since Congress voted it into a federal holiday in 1894, Labor Day has been a celebration of struggle, work, change, and prosperity. Yet, all throughout history, workers have been waging a war for the betterment of labor and the conditions of life that support it. In our great nation, making a productive mark is the standard of economic progression and it was only a matter of time before that standardization was prompted to be redefined by the very forces that give it synergy. Even regionally, such energy was felt from the gold mines of Alaska, to the silver mines of Northern Idaho. Tensions in and around the Seattle metropolitan area at the time were rising and in late 1914, for example, 38 delegates from various locales including Black Diamond met at a convention for a contract draft to include such changes as free tools to the miners, a wage increase from \$2.90 to \$3 per day for Mine Firemen only, and regular mine inspections every 60 days for safety. Three days later, the Post Intelligencer reported that the miners did get their free tools, and the Mine Firemen did get their pay increase. In the dawn of Black Diamond's history, strikes were formed and in spite of dark negotiations, settlements, at times, were achieved. Patience, perseverance, and even lawlessness had their time in court. Thus, coal in Washington was no exception and carried its own weight in gold – black gold that is – as a valued member in the redefinition process of labor.¹

Back at the stump ... Local Union 6481 gathered in numbers to be heard in downtown Black Diamond.

The men and officers of Local Union 6481 wore emblems as symbols of pride, devotion, and dedication to the cause. Such symbols, which can be viewed in the Black Diamond Museum, denoted the

ideals of freedom from the tyranny of labor and its seemingly unsympathetic nature. Emblems such as reversible badges, cuff buttons, rings, charms, and fobs were a testimony to the need for unions and the protective role they would be required to perform. And, on these emblems, the light of hope was drawn by the symbolic joining of two hands in the handshake of agreement – a positive end to an often bitter struggle or debate.

Back at the stump ... the voices were being heard and change was in the air.

But, why gather at “the stump”?

The stump provided an ideal platform that represented those who did not have a more permanent and neutral place to meet. A speaker could stand atop the stump in order to be heard and seen by everyone gathered around them.

In the era that surrounded 1907, the miners were not allowed to organize on any property owned and operated by The Company, which at that time, was the Pacific Coast Coal Company. The first stump, which was on Railroad Avenue near the Train Depot where the present day Museum now stands, became the honored place of choice. But, the company owned the town of Black Diamond and such gatherings were strictly forbidden; even the town halls were closed to the men. Forced to meet elsewhere, the miners reassembled on a farm belonging to Timothy (aged 80 years) & Esther Jane Morgan, not far to the northwest in an area that later became known as Morganville. A new platform to gather was chosen at another stump about a hundred feet from where the Black Diamond Cemetery is now situated. It was there that the newly formed union members took their first roll call and the addresses of the first meeting were heard. Now, sitting quietly encased in concrete, a monument stands, alongside an information board, that describes the stump and its role in the history of coal mining in Black Diamond. It is a silent reminder of the struggles and achievements of Local Union 6481 and others like it, and the men who filled its ranks in that early era of change.

Back at the stump ... the men of Local Union 6481, through worker unity, argued the labor issues that were prevalent to that time in history. Working arrangements and conditions were one-sided – The Company’s side.

Why form a union?

Karol Wojtyla, who later became Pope John Paul II, was no stranger to hard labor and in order to avoid deportation and imprisonment by Nazi Germany, earned a living in the early 1940’s as a stone cutter in a quarry followed by time in a chemical plant. Born out of this environment in occupied Poland, he grew to become a strong defender of the rights of workers and fair treatment of labor. In his Encyclical, *Laborem Exercens* (On Human Work), paragraph 20, he writes: “In the final analysis, both those who work and those who manage the means of production or who own them must in some way be united in this community.” He continues: “. . . their union remains a constructive factor of social order and solidarity, and it is impossible to ignore it.” He goes on to write that unions are an instrument, through the voice of political activity, to foster “prudent concern for the common good.” Unions helped to stop the degradation of the worker and the violation of the dignity of the work itself. Man was meant to subdue the earth, and in so doing, extract its natural resources, such as coal, in order to adapt them to his own use. Unions had, and still have, “the power to build a community.”^{2,3} Thus, the union became a vital force in the enactment of change for the good of all.

The aptitude of Local Union 6481 was challenged back in 1921 when a strike ensued not long after two miners, who were called union agitators, were fired. Local Union 6481 sprang into action. Mr. Timothy Morgan, who was portrayed earlier in this article, became a respected instrument of unwavering demeanor when in 1922, decided to sell his farmland in Morganville for a total of \$2,500 to the local union miners who had been evicted from their company homes. Numerous methods of persuasion by local barons were utilized to convince Mr. Morgan not to allow the sale to the miners. A steep price of \$30,000 was offered to Mr. Morgan in hopes of further persuading him but he remained steadfast, and as a result – and some one million board feet of lumber – a colony of 200 four-room homes equipped with sewage and water were built in that area on 16 acres to house the miners and their families. And, in further defiance, Mr. Morgan actually nailed in the first plank. Thus, it was dubbed

the “miners first house colony in America.”⁵ Neither side reached a full agreement and, in about 1923, miners went elsewhere to find work as the nation was moving into yet another era of change where coal was being replaced by oil as the primary source of fuel. Also, in 1922, a union hall was built in Morganville in the center of the colony to provide a more permanent place to gather and debate, but was torn down in mid 1945 when mining had long since vanished from the Black Diamond area.⁴

In 2002, the now late Mr. Paul Botts, a long time resident and miner of Black Diamond who passed away in 2006, told the South County Journal that he was still a six-dollar-a-month dues-paying member of Local Union 6481, which at the time, had relocated to Ogden, Utah.⁵

Back at the stump ... the voices of the past were falling silent.

The first Labor Day parade of our nation was held in New York City back in 1882 and workers carried the following banner, which read: “**EIGHT HOURS FOR WORK, EIGHT HOURS FOR REST, EIGHT HOURS FOR RECREATION.**”⁶ On the emblems the union members wore here in Black Diamond, a shorter version was displayed with the following: “**8 HOURS.**” These became some of the many slogans that gave reference to the rising need for change.

Locally, there appears to be little on record with reference to Labor Day celebrations in and around Black Diamond prior to 1922. After the 1921 strike, the first Labor Day celebration was held in Black Diamond on July 4th, 1922. Henceforth, the annual celebration was held in different ‘camps’ on July 4th until WW II. Then in 1947, a small group of local town’s folk nourished the holiday to its normal September weekend that remains a time-cherished tradition today in honor of the many miners who toiled and labored throughout Black Diamond’s mining history.

From an article about the analysis of the struggles of coal mining in history in the background of the Sago Mine disaster, January 2006, the following fact was revealed: “In 1950, more than 90 percent of the nation’s 483,000 underground coal miners belonged to the UMWA. Today more than 80 percent of the nation’s underground coal mines are nonunion, with little more than 14,000 unionized miners still working underground, according to the US government’s Energy Information Administration.”⁷

This Labor Day, let us call to mind a time of struggle and transformation that Local Union 6481, and other like it, helped to usher in. Let us celebrate its contribution to Black Diamonds’ history that was spawned from the sparks of injustice 100 years ago. The embers of struggle still exist today as we pause to rest from the toils of labor where the future holds a promise to tomorrow for equality and fairness to all. So many before us have laid the foundations and paid the price of such change by the sacrifices of their jobs so that we could live in the fruits of their nobility.

Back at the stump ... the energy of time lies dormant but its memory lives on in peace this Labor Day for all workers, their families, and their jobs that keep America moving today and long into the future.

Meanwhile, **BACK AT THE STUMP ...**

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Special thanks to the Black Diamond Historical Society & Museum for their contributions to this article, and to all those who labor, and rest – the past, the present, and the future.



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

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ON THE GROUNDS

Outside the Museum on the boardwalk is a train schedule sign. The sign frame is made of cast iron, and is very heavy. It was in need of some restoration, so our work crew dismantled it and fixed it up.

It has been put back together now, and looks like new. Even though the train doesn't run through town any more, when you stand on the boardwalk and study the train schedule, you can almost hear the whistle blow in the distance. Imagine the many people who have stood in that very spot and read the schedule as they were waiting for the train to take them into Seattle.

The credit for the donation of the train sign is The Renton Historical Society and Ernest Tonda.





**Black Diamond Historical Society
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**Come and join us for fun and food!
Elect new Officers and Board
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**MONTHLY BOARD
MEETINGS**

**1:00 PM
3rd Thursday 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
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out more by talking to one of
our wonderful volunteers.**