



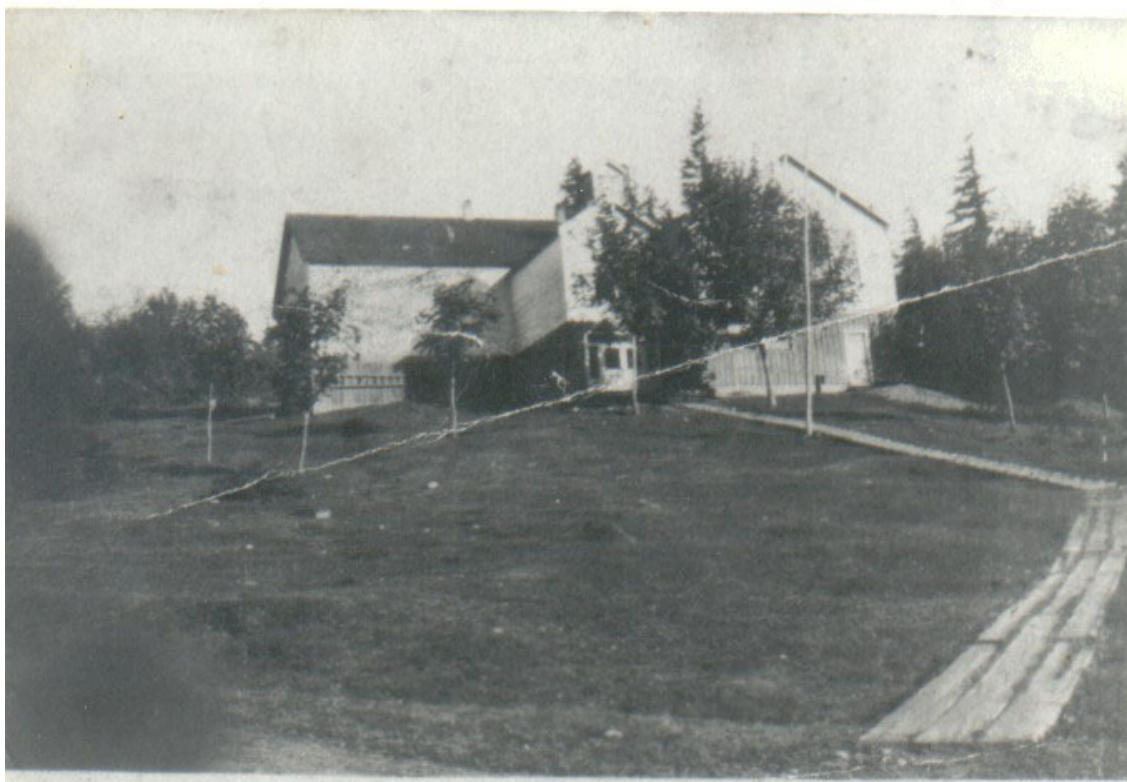
# *Black Diamond Historical Society and Museum*

Printed Quarterly



April 2008

## **PICTURES OF THE PAST**



From the Archives of the Black Diamond Historical Society  
Photograph #F-522, Alma Malatesta Collection

### **MARCKX BROTHERS CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY IN 1917**

The Marckx Brothers who attended school in this Franklin School House provided and planted the five maple trees along with their classmates. It was on Arbor Day 1917. The trees having taken root and grown some are shown in a row in the center of this image.

Today only a portion of the school's foundation remains. However, the beautiful and stately 91-year-old trees still stand, and are marked with signs as preservation trees through the generosity of William Kombol, of Palmer Coking Coal Company.

Read about the April 19, 2008 Arbor Day Celebration at the Museum by Frank Hammock elsewhere in this issue. Come join us!



**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.

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**Society Officers**

President: Keith Watson  
Vice President: Don Malgarini  
Secretary: Dee Israel  
Treasurer: Clayton Mead

**Board of Directors**

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

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

The Museum is located at 32627 Railroad Ave  
Black Diamond, WA 98010

The mailing address is:

**The Black Diamond Historical Society  
PO Box 232, Black Diamond, WA 98010**

360-886-2142 For special tours: 253-852-6763

Email Address: museum@blackdiamondmuseum.?

Website: www.blackdiamondmuseum.?

**(Our web/email address is in a transition from .org to .com, so one or the other should work)**

**Museum Hours**

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

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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.**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Keith Watson

I hope this issue of the newsletter has found you all in good health and spirits. The Society has been working on behalf of its members since 1976 and owes its very existence to people who volunteer their time, money, and donations of artifacts.



We wish to thank you all for your support. Of course, we are always looking for new faces to help us with the continuance of the Black Diamond Historical Society's Mission.

**“THE MISSION OF THE BLACK DIAMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY SHALL BE THE DISCOVERY, PRESERVATION, & DISSEMINATION OF THE HISTORY OF BLACK DIAMOND AND ENVIRONS, AS IT RELATES TO KING COUNTY AND THE STATE OF WASHINGTON”**

The challenge in the years ahead will be to have more people involved with our Historical Society. The City of Black Diamond has forecasted, in their “Comprehensive Plan”, an increase in population from the present population of just over 4000, to a projected population of 10,437 by the year 2015 and by the year 2020 a projected population of 15,770. The City Staff and Administration are working very hard to plan for this influx of people. The Black Diamond Historical Society, an all volunteer staff, would like to hear from you members, any ideas that would help us prepare for these future changes. Please share with us the goals you would like to see us implement. How can we involve the new population with our Society? What would interest these new people? How can we interest the present population to become more involved with the planning for this increase in population? Please feel free to contact any of us with your ideas. The phone at the Museum has a recording device - leave a message - and we will get back to you! If you have access to a computer; most libraries have a public use computer; log on to our website for further information of what the Society is doing at present.

Find the contact volunteers.

Website: <http://www.blackdiamondmuseum.org>  
or <http://www.blackdiamondmuseum.com>

Send us E-mail:

[museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org](mailto:museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org)

or [museum@blackdiamondmuseum.com](mailto:museum@blackdiamondmuseum.com)

Send us snail mail: PO Box 232 Black Diamond, Wa. 98010

Museum Phone: 360-886-2142

**WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP AND  
WELCOME ALL IDEAS AND VOLUNTEERS.**

Keith Watson - President of the Black Diamond  
Historical Society 360-886-0778

[kcwdoc@comcast.net](mailto:kcwdoc@comcast.net)

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## LOCAL HISTORIAN TO SPEAK

By JoAnne Matsumura

We are pleased to announce noted local historian, lecturer and Executive Director, Richard R. Anderson of the Northwest Railway Museum who will give a presentation, on the building of the Northwest Railway Museum and how it relates to local and regional history, at the Black Diamond Museum on **April 27, 2008, after the 1:30 P.M. Semi-Annual Membership Gathering**

Mr. Anderson's 13-year tenure with the Northwest Railway Museum, 25 years as a 'student' of Northwest Rail History, and his prior experience in railroad operating departments, is sure to be entertaining with his presentation.

Newly elected President Keith Watson will be on hand to welcome Members he has yet to meet, and visiting arrivals to the Museum. He will also take a few moments to announce Society opportunities, achievements and goals, as prescribed by our by-laws.

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Anderson, and meeting President Watson at our semi-annual gathering on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 P.M. in the auditorium at the Museum.

We look forward to seeing you!  
Refreshments will be served.

## EDITOR'S REPORT

Steve Israel



Thanks for the articles that were submitted by all of you this quarter. Just so the rest of you know, the deadline for the next newsletter is June 19th, 2008.

For this next quarter, we would like some stories about growing up in

Black Diamond. Tell us how it was different for children then from now. Games, pass times, chores, things you looked forward to, and so on.

I didn't grow up in Black Diamond, but in the 50's I played games only after the chores were done. My chores ranged from feeding and watering the farm animals to weeding and raking the yard. Seasonally we had other chores like picking the field corn for the pigs and loading the dried ears into the corn bin.

Games were the likes of annie annie over, and sardines. Pogo sticks and stilts kept us amused for hours on end, and kept us in good shape as well.

Tell us about your good 'ol days!

One more thing. Please make note of the web and email address extention from .org to .com. This may only be temporary.

We have switched web hosts, and our previous host owned our domain. When it expired, we were not able to continue using it. We have aquired the blackdimondmuseum.com domain, and are working on aquiring the blackdiamondmuseum.org domain. It would be nice to regain the .org domain since that is out there on a lot of literature and other websits, as well as personal computers. Sorry for the confusion and inconviencie.

*Steve*

## BDHS 2008 CALENDAR

- APR 17 THU** 1 PM BDHS Board Meeting  
**APR 19 SAT** 12 to 2 PM Celebrate National Arbor Day event at Museum  
**APR 27 SUN** 1:30 PM Gen. Mem. Meeting with guest speaker Richard R. Anderson of the Northwest Railway Museum  
**MAY 15 THU** 1 PM BDHS Board Meeting  
**MAY 22 THU** 1 PM Memorial Day Program at the Museum  
**JUNE 4 WED** 11 AM Black Diamond School Reunion lunch at the Black Diamond Community Center  
**JUNE 19 THU** 1 PM BDHS Board Meeting  
**JULY 12 SAT** 12 - 4 PM Miner's Day/ Heritage Day event at Museum  
**JULY 17 THU** 1 PM BDHS Board Meeting  
**AUG 21 THU** 1 PM BDHS Board Meeting  
**SEPT 1 MON** 10 AM Labor Lay Parade and Booth/ Museum to open 11 to 4  
**SEPT 18 THU** 1 PM BDHS Board Meeting  
**OCT 16 THU** 1 PM BDHS Board Meeting  
**OCT 18 SAT** Noon to 4 PM Book Signing by the Olsons at the Museum  
**OCT 26 SUN** 1:30 PM Gen. Mem. Meeting  
**NOV 6 THU** 1 PM Veteran's Day Presentation at Museum  
**NOV 20 THU** 1 PM BDHS Board Meeting  
**NOV 27 THU** Closed for Thanksgiving  
**DEC 13 SAT** 1 PM Christmas Party at Museum  
**DEC 18 THU** 1 PM BDHS Board Meeting  
**DEC 25 THU** Merry Christmas

**Museum closed Dec 20 thru Jan 2**



## SECRETARY REPORT

By Dee Israel

### COMMITTEE REPORTS (standing):

#### EDUCATION/

**OUTREACH:** So far in 2008, Chair Coke Roberts and Keith Watson have been invited to speak about Black Diamond and the Museum at Yarrow Bay's open house at the Sawyer Woods Elementary School, the White River Museum, the Des Moines Senior Center, the PROBUS Group (Professional Business people) in Bellevue, Summit First Hill Retirement Center and The Klondike Gold Rush National Park. Mr. Roberts & President Watson has a speaking event already scheduled at the Hearthstone Retirement Center.

**FACILITIES & GROUNDS:** Chair, Don Malgarini - We are still studying whether we can accommodate having a 1943, 22 ton, diesel, yard-engine on display at the museum. It is being looked at from many aspects and points of view. The costs to the Society seem to be minimal, as most needs would be donated.

The shop sliding door has been very hard to open & close. Recently Steve Israel and his son Shane replaced the track & re-hung the door so it works very well now. Shane Israel power washed the moss from the platform and exterior steps as they were getting slippery.

**GRANTS** Chair, JoAnne Matsumura –

**HERITAGE SUSTAINED SUPPORT: 2008-2009 GRANT APPLICATION** has been approved by 4-Culture in the amount of \$4,000.00. The contract will be coming soon.

**HOSPITALITY:** Chair Anna Morris is helping JoAnne Matsumura locate past Black Diamond Labor Day Royalty. (Can you help us with their location?)

**MEMBERSHIP:** Chair Dee Israel announced that we now have a membership of 291. The Membership Drive Committee has been busy. Watch for a flyer soon.



**NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE:** Editor Steve Israel - We were informed by the post office that we could mail our newsletters without folding them. We tried it for the January newsletter and this one. Did you get yours ok?

**PROGRAMS:** Chair Howard Botts – April 19<sup>th</sup> will be our Arbor Day program. Don Malgarini has been appointed as the Chairperson. He asked for any Arbor Day ideas or suggestions ASAP. Our Arbor Day event will be promoted in the Black Diamond PTA newsletter, the Heritage Advisor and Voice of the Valley newspaper.

April 27<sup>th</sup> will be our General Membership Meeting. After this meeting Richard Anderson, Executive Director of the Northwest Railway Museum in Snoqualmie will speak on building the Northwest Railway Museum.

May 22<sup>nd</sup> we will celebrate Memorial Day with Coke Roberts speaking about his experiences in WWII and Keith Watson's experiences during the Cold War.

This year is the 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of our *Black Diamond: Mining the Memories* book. Since we didn't have a book signing by authors Cory & Diane Olson when the book first came out, the Olsons have agreed to have one this year. The date is set for Sat. October 18<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 4 PM.

President Keith Watson announced that the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Expedition centennial is next year. The Society has been invited to participate. JoAnne Matsumura is looking into whether the people of Black Diamond participated in that expedition. (Can you help her?)

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Chair JoAnne Matsumura - We have been running an ad once a month in the Voice of the Valley for 3 months now. (Have you noticed it?) The Society's lecture at the Klondike Museum has been promoted in the Heritage Advisor and Voice of the Valley. The Puget Sound Welsh Association's recent newsletter carried an article about Black Diamond. The Society was invited to have a free ad in The Roslyn Miner newspaper. The ads first run is March 2008.

**CONTINUED TO NEXT PAGE**



## **U SALUTING OUR VOLUNTEERS** By Don 'Doc' Botts, Volunteer Coordinator

New owners of the Black Diamond Bakery, Moon & Seung Bang, have joined our family of volunteers by providing lunch to the Thursday Crew, once each month. We are very grateful for their generosity, and the delicious lunches. Thanks Moon & Seung!

We also welcome volunteer Ken Jensen, a new Black Diamondite, having moved here from Kent. His expertise is in photography, internet web work, history and writing. He's been helping our Editor, Steve Israel with our new internet website, and talking history! Welcome

aboard Ken!

As busy as Bonnie Ryan is, she still took time to volunteer as a substitute greeter. And while she was doing that she helped Beth Botts Van Buskirk restock our gift shop's nostalgic candy with a new variety of sweet treats.

Thanks Bonnie and Beth!

**VOLUNTEERING ONE HOUR A WEEK CAN BE FUN FOR EVERYONE!!**

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## **SECRETARY'S REPORT CONTINUED**

**REPRESENTATIVE:** Chair position open. Contact President Watson if you are interested in attending meetings such as AKCHO as a BDHS Rep.

**TOURS:** Chair Don Mason – The Franklin tour in February had over 60 participants, good weather, and all appeared to have a good time. In March there were 160 children from Kent, Cedar Heights Middle School on their annual tour of the Black Diamond Cemetery and on to Franklin.

**VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:** Chair Don Botts – JoAnne Matsumura advises that a volunteer scrap-booker is needed at the Museum.

The next scheduled Board Meeting will be held at **1:00 on (Thursday) April 17, 2008.**

The next scheduled Society Membership Meeting will be held at **1:30 on (Sunday) April 27, 2008.**

## **GUESTS** By: Doc Botts

During the months of **January, February & March in 2008** we had **517** visitors to the Museum. There were visitors from **8** States: California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, and here in Washington. There were also people visiting from other places, such as British Columbia, England, Mexico, Russia, and Republic of Marshall Islands.

## **REMARKS MADE BY OUR GUESTS**

**Great trip down memory lane, Neat, Wonderful visit, Very interesting, Diolch Yn Fawr, Awesome, Very cool, Fun & interesting, Great memories, Fantastic museum, Loved it, Nice, I'm coming back every day, enjoyed it, Love this museum, Wonderful experience, Sweet helpful lady, The best, A lot to see, Very well done, Wonderful – Thanks for volunteering, The phone was the best, First visit – lived here 13 years.**

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## **All School Reunion Wed June 4, 11 AM**

Open to all students who ever attended any school in Black Diamond.

Cost of the lunch is \$12 per person.

Send payment made out to the Black Diamond Community Center, and mark the check "Black Diamond School Reunion"

Mail to: Black Diamond Community Center  
PO Box 480, Black Diamond, WA 98010

Attention: Judith Black

The address of the reunion:

Black Diamond Community Center

31605 Third Ave., Black Diamond, WA 98010

"Coke" Roberts is the chairman of the reunion event and would like some of the ex-students to lend a hand.

Please phone him at 253-833-6294 and offer him your help.

## 🕒 LOOKING BACK: THIRTY YEARS AGO

By JoAnne Matsumura

As spring was approaching in 1978 Editor and Curator Ann Milautz Steiert found herself busier than ever. She was greeting the wonderful stream of visitors, thanking donors for the incoming artifacts, and cooking and serving the wonderful meals for the Thursday Crew. Finding time to get the Society's April 1978 newsletter ready just didn't happen that year.



So come along with me as we go down to the Archives and go mining for memories.

While there are others unknown to us to honor the passing of 'Gone but not Forgotten', we remember Alton Richard Botts who passed away on July 29, 1978, and Hubert Kravagna on January 21, 1978.

The Society's 1978 Calendar, their third, is as big a success as the previous two years, with sales having exceeded 2000. The governing board states "The profits realized from the sale of this calendar will be used in restoring the Old Black Diamond Train Depot for use as a Museum and for the preservation of the history of Black Diamond and the surrounding area." Of that governing board, Howard Botts and Dolores Orehek Wilkening are the only two surviving and they continue to serve the Society.

One of the many 1978 donations was an original post card from Verna Thompson of the ballfield and a row of houses, circa 1915. The image appears in "Mining the Memories", Page 172. From the grandstand the houses left to right are company house #110, #109, #108, #107 and #106. A further look at the 1920 Census indicates families living in these houses are, Thomas Williams, Sam Callioan, John Lewis, Peter Boos and C. C. Christiansen respectively.

During this time the Mayor of Black Diamond was Vivian Bainton.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

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### TIPS FOR A SUPERB LIFE

#14 Don't waste your precious energy in gossip, energy vampires, issues of the past, negative thoughts of things you can't control. Instead, invest your energy in the positive present moment.

#20 Don't take yourself too seriously, no one else does.

#16 Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince, and dinner like a college kid with a maxed out charge card.

## 🌸 THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES 🌸

### Gone but not forgotten

By JoAnne Matsumura



🌸 Erik Edman

1908-2007

Born and schooled in Franklin

🌸 Richard German

1953-2008

Grew up in Black Diamond

🌸 Mary Cinkovich Johnson

1915-2007

Born in Cumberland

🌸 Tom N. Mattioda

1932-2008

Born in Ravensdale

🌸 Thomas Maxwell

1929-2007

Resident of Black Diamond

🌸 Margaret Lois Meyer

1927-2008

Resident of Black Diamond

For over 50 years

🌸 Wilda Marie Morris

1917-2008

Wife of George Morris

🌸 Robert Pedrini

1930-2007

🌸 Brent G Ranton

1941-2007

🌸 Ena Gaffi Sorensen

1914-2007

Born in Black Diamond to Iaccopa & Attilio Gaffi





## IN MEMORIAM

✧ **Gone but not forgotten** ✧

By JoAnne Matsumura

✧ **Frank Paul Grgurich.** It is with sadness that we report to you the passing of Frank our long time good friend and Lifetime Member since 1976. His contributions to the Society are immeasurable and we shall always remember his kindness and generosity. Many will remember his polite gentle soft-spoken nature. He will truly be missed.

Frank was born January 10, 1921 in Bowie, Colorado to Frank and Mary Grgurich. Frank passed away on March 1, 2008 in Auburn, Washington at the age of 87.



He attended the Black Diamond schools beginning with the first grade in 1927 through graduation of the Class of 1939. In 2006 Frank was still using the footstool he made in Mr. Cobb's manual training class. He is a member of the Black Diamond High School Alumni. After high school graduation he attended Polytechnic College of Engineering of Oakland, California with classmate Frank Stebly.

Frank played soccer, baseball and basketball, and received his Letter Award for the season of 1938-1939. A pair of those special shoes he wore is on exhibit in the Museum. He had a musical talent as well, playing the clarinet in the school band during his freshmen year.

Frank worked as an aerospace mechanic and retired from Boeings after 43 years of employment. He was one of the first members of the Black Diamond Fire Department of his 24-year membership. He began serving as an Observer, (Plane Spotter) on February 1, 1943 for several hours each week during World War II.

On November 6, 1948 Frank married Elizabeth Ellen Brown at her parents home in Selleck, officiated by Reverend C. C. Cunningham. Mrs. Ann Steiert was the soloist accompanied by Mrs. James Fell of Selleck. There were many guests at the reception at the American Legion Hall in Renton. Mrs. Warren Watson of Seattle was in charge of the gifts.

He spoke often of his fondest memories of watching the trains coming and going, the old bakery, and movies at the show hall, the Labor Day parades, the old school building, and helping finishing of the school gymnasium 1937-1939.

Survivors include his son Francis Grgurich of Auburn and two grandchildren. His wife Elizabeth Ellen Brown Grgurich preceded him in death in 1997. Frank's remains are buried in Enumclaw's Evergreen Memorial Park.

✧ **Anna Merle Santini-Romedo** the granddaughter of Clarissa Davis, the first women in Black Diamond, passed away on December 27, 2007, in Port Orchard, WA at the age of 93. She was born in Black Diamond on June 14, 1914, and was fondly known as 'Babe', being the youngest of 5 children to Anna and Morgan Davis.

Merle was a Society member having joined in 1979, and was a frequent donor of historic photographs of her family and of Black Diamond. She was schooled in Black Diamond and graduated with the Class of 1932, and is a member of the High School Alumni. She married Elmer Santini and they had one son, Jerry.



Babe Merle grew up spending many summer days helping with chores at the family owned Lake 12 Resort. Elmer and Babe enjoyed family picnics at the lake and made trips to Guam to visit their son and family. Elmer passed away in 1974. After his passing and 25 years of employment with Boeing Babe retired and moved back to Black Diamond.

Later she met and married Joe Romedo. They visited Japan, and Hawaii to visit Jerry's family. After 13 years of marriage Joe passed away in 1992. She spent her later years in Port Orchard to be close to her family.

Her sisters, Evelyn Hart, Verna Thompson, Clara Beers, Jane Hawthorne and husbands, Elmer Santini and Joe Romedo, preceded babe Merle in death. Her son, Jerry Santini of Port Orchard, grandchildren and great grandchildren survive her.

Urn committal at Greenwood Memorial Park in Renton on January 11, 2008.

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



## MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURS CEMETERY AND MINE

The Black Diamond Historical Society has had the privilege of hosting field trips for the Kent District's Cedar Heights Middle School. These students are in the seventh grade and are sharp. Last year we were "blessed" with snow on two of the three field trip days. This year we were really blessed with dry weather all three days.

The field trips consist of an hour visit to the Black Diamond Cemetery where the students examine the composition of the grave markers as well as the printing on them.



The next site they visit is the old town site of Franklin. Franklin was a coal mining town about three miles to the South East of Black Diamond. Part of the town site is a State Park, and the State Rangers accompany us on our tour. The one hundred year plus concrete and stone foundations are visible, but the real hit of the tour is the Franklin Mine. Unlike most of the mines in King County that were slope shafts; this mine is vertical and goes down into the earth 1300 ft, which is deeper than the Empire State Building is tall. The mine is flooded to about the 700 foot level. The students love to drop rocks into the mine and wait the seconds to hear the rocks splash into the water.

The teachers for these students are Stacy Fox and Justin Maier and are top notch. The caliber of children that we've seen on these tours has been wonderful, they listen and ask meaningful questions and are



fun to be around. Don Mason and Keith Watson with the Black Diamond Historical Society are the tour guides. This year we had a beautiful view of Mount Rainier with the sound of the Green River Gorge in the back ground. We had the good company of great kids and their outstanding teachers. All was well with this remote place where people used to live, work, play, and pray.

Keith Watson  
3/14/08

## Memorial Day Event

Thursday May 22 at 1 PM

At the Black Diamond Museum.

**Conrad "Coke" Roberts** to speak about his experience in World War II with a Kamikaze crash into the Aircraft Carrier USS Randolph CVS15.

**Keith Watson** to speak about his experience in the cold war in the near loss of the Submarine USS Wahoo SS565 off the coast of the Soviet Union.



## Black Diamond Historical Society Celebrates Arbor Day

By Frank Hammock

The Black Diamond Historical Society (BDHS) will celebrate Arbor Day at the Black Diamond Historic Depot Museum on Saturday, April 19, 2008, from Noon to 2 P.M.

Arbor Day, a national tree-planting and preservation event, was celebrated in the Black Diamond area as early as 1914 and originally started in Nebraska back in 1872. Over the years the local school children have planted trees at the historic Black Diamond Cemetery, and on the school grounds in both Black Diamond and the once neighboring town of Franklin.



This photo is of the Franklin School near Black Diamond where on Arbor Day in 1917, school children planted maple trees in a kind of row (seen across the middle of the photo). By the time this photo was taken, some growth had occurred. The town of Franklin no longer exists, but the maple trees still stand in the forest on that hillside in quiet testimony to the rewards of Arbor Day. (*The photograph is Courtesy of the BDHS, Photograph #F-522, Alma Malatesta collection.*)

The BDHS is extending a cordial invitation to the public, as well as members of the Black Diamond PTA, and their children to participate and celebrate Arbor Day by bringing a flowering plant or shrub from either their yard or a purchased one, and help their child plant it at the Community Flower Garden on the grounds of the Black Diamond Historic Depot Museum. Please do not bring any trees.

Children can place a plant marker with their first name next to their plant, and come back anytime to see how it's growing, and maybe give it some water now and then, as weather permits.

Parents and children will have an opportunity to be introduced to the Museum and what it has to offer for a historic learning experience. Black Diamond was a highly prosperous coal mining community from the late 1800's to the mid 1900's, and a wealth of displays and artifacts can be enjoyed at the Museum.

There will be light refreshments and plenty of opportunity for social engagement. Sunshine is on order, but in case it arrives in liquid form, the young visitors' plants will be stored, with the child's name, and then planted as soon as the weather permits. A coal miner's son, "Hard Hat Harry," might even surprise the young visitors too!

Come and meet the all-volunteer staff of the BDHS and take a free journey back through time into an exciting past while helping to secure a share of your community's future at the Black Diamond Historic Depot Museum. The Museum is located at 32627 Railroad Avenue in beautiful, historic downtown Black Diamond. For further details, you may contact the Museum at **360-886-2142**

Participation and contributions are always welcomed, and volunteering can be fun!

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This event is partially funded by 4Culture, King County Lodging Tax Revenues ([www.4culture.org](http://www.4culture.org)). For those who would like to know more about Arbor Day, go to [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org). Your local Library is also a great source of information and reference material. Need some ideas on how to celebrate Arbor Day? The Washington Arbor Day Council has many ideas at <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/arbort/>

### Historical Note:

In 1989, Palmer Coking Coal Company was preparing to log the area where the Franklin School once stood. The area had completely reverted to forest without a trace of the old school, save for five 70-year old, big-leaf maple trees which stood tall and proud. At the time, Gerry Hedlund and Mark Vernon of the Green River Community College were working on their archeological study of the historic coal mining town of Franklin, which eventually resulted in the

book, "From Smoke to Mist". When Gerry learned that PCCC was ready to log, he came to Bill Kombol, Manager of the company and told him the story of the school children planting those maple trees on Arbor Day in 1917. The logging contractor was informed that the trees needed to be saved, and bright orange signs were posted on each tree so they could be preserved. After logging, the entire area was planted in Douglas Fir with five maple trees towering above the small seedlings. Today, those maple seedlings, first planted more than 90 years ago, still stand. (Courtesy of Bill Kombol, Palmer Coking Coal Co., Inc.)

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### CORRECTION

Article: "Archie Eltz – Reminisces About the Past" published in the January 2008 BDHS Newsletter.

Page 14, last paragraph portion, left hand column, is corrected to read as follows:

**"He is survived by his four children, Janet Eltz Chavanu of Bainbridge Island, Archie Jr. of Enumclaw, Carl of Black Diamond, Gary of Covington, 2 grandchildren and 1 great grandchildren, as well as the many friends and coworkers who were fortunate to have shared in the pleasure of his delightful company."**

RBKN171 - Archie Eltz at the portal to the Rogers #3 mine, circa 1974. Photo by Barry Kombol from the Palmer Coking Coal Co. collection.



### THE LOST RING

My dad, Gomer Evans, asked me to pass along this information to you.

Both my cousin, Diana Evans, and I attended Black Diamond Elementary. Diane left in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and I came in the third grade. Mary Ellen Rupert was in our class.

In August, 2007 I attended my high school class reunion (40<sup>th</sup>). In talking with Mary Ellen she was asking me about my cousin Diana and whatever happened to her. I shared that my Uncle Dave Evans and wife Babe, had moved with the family (Diana and David, Jr.) to Marysville and Diana had lived there ever since.

Mary Ellen then told me that many, many years ago she found a class ring at St. Barbara's Church and it had the initial DE on it and it was from Pilchuck High School, Marysville. She was wondering all these years if it might actually belong to Diana. The only time I could remember that Diana would have been at St. Barbara's was when I was married there in June, 1968.

Sure enough the story is true! Mary Ellen, now living in Wenatchee, has since mailed the ring to me and I have returned it to Diana, who is very happy and very thankful. So after 39+ years, the ring is now with its owner. What a wonderful thing Mary Ellen did by keeping the ring all these years. I would say that was very typical of any Rupert child because I remember them all being very, very polite.

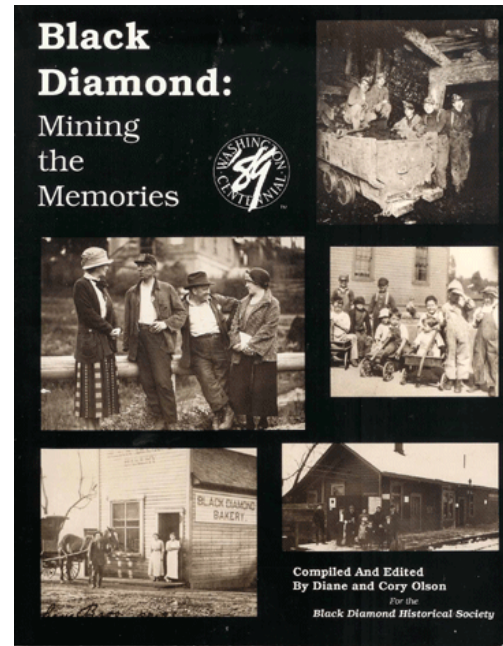
Sherrie J. Evans





## SPECIAL BOOK SIGNING EVENT

**Diane and Cory Olson**, authors of *Black Diamond: Mining the Memories* will be at the Black Diamond Depot Museum Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup>, from Noon to 4 PM for a “Twentieth Anniversary Book Signing Event”. There will be coffee and soft drinks available as well as some goodies. Please plan to drop by and greet these wonderful authors and other friends of the Historical Society.



**\$27.00 INCLUDES TAX  
\$30.00 INCLUDES SHIPPING**

### FATHER WAS A MINER

*A Poem by William Holman*

My father was a miner, He worked deep underground;  
The rush of tubs and clanking chains. They were his daily sounds.  
He worked so far below the ground, Where coal was hewed by pick,  
The work so hard and wages small He didn't dare go sick.  
He crawled upon his belly. In drifts so low and narrow,  
The wind it whistled down the shaft. It chilled him to the marrow.  
He ate his food from a metal Tommy box, Shaped like a slice of bread,  
While squatting down upon the ground, Where spit and crumbs were shed.  
His water, it was in a Jack leg drill, to wet down clouds of dust,  
That gathered in his throat and lungs. Where it formed a deadly crust.  
We would listen for his footsteps, He then come into sight:  
This man, our Dad, as black as black, just like the darkest night;  
His bath was always ready, Set down in front of fire,  
My mother then would wash his back, and tell us to retire;  
Right down his back white rivers ran amongst the dirt and grime,  
But you cannot wash away blue scars. That you get down in the mine.  
Years now have passed. My father gone, But I am proud to say,  
MY FATHER WAS A MINER, UNTIL HIS DYING DAY.



## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

To Society Members  
By Dee Israel

Apr. 01	Louis Draghi	May 27	Esther Pennacchi Birch
Apr.02	Joan Malgarini Traylor	May 27	Jeanne McGurnse Norman
Apr.03	David Jones	May 29	Arlene Guidetti Hendrickson
Apr.05	Paul Goldsberry	Jun 01	Beth Barber
Apr.06	Betty Malgarini Manieri	Jun 01	Mary Darby
Apr.07	Inez Costi Aden	Jun 01	Junette Larson
Apr.08	Clyde William Johnson	Jun 02	Bob Burke
Apr.09	Kay Traverso	Jun 03	Audrey Petchnick Sellman
Apr.12	Howard Botts	Jun 05	Julianne DalSanto McNeeley
Apr.12	Joan Zita Clark	Jun 06	Gloria A. Hill
Apr.12	Glenn Fredericksen	Jun 11	Frank Fosnacht
Apr.12	Marsha Smith Mott	Jun 12	Anthony DiJulio
Apr.14	Ivor Merryfield	Jun 13	Virginia E. Vernarelli Close
Apr.16	Leasha Tyerman Janet	Jun 13	Virginia Givens Kessner
Apr.16	Ralph Uhrig	Jun 14	Jake Logar
Apr.20	Mark Witman	Jun 14	Bunny McKnight
Apr.23	Roy Callero Jr.	Jun 15	Pauline Herbert Lane
Apr.24	David Zumek	Jun 17	Margaret Franz Pearson
May 01	Ted Barber	Jun 18	Anna Morris
May 02	Jack Cartwright	Jun 19	Tom Taff
May 03	Gino Picini	Jun 23	Lois Thomas Zumek Estby
May 04	Lois Gormley Wieltschnig	Jun 24	Marilyn Bradford Covey
May 05	Jerold L. Thompson	Jun 24	Patrick J. Walsh
May 11	Gertrude Haworth Botts	Jun 26	Conrad Coke Roberts
May 13	Ruth Ayers Hofto	Jun 27	Mary P. Keehner
May 13	Kenneth W. Unick	Jun 27	Keith C. Watson
May 16	Gale Hendrickson	Jun 28	Ralph E. Dockham
May 19	Jane Ulman Jones	Jun 30	Steve Israel
May 22	Steve Kitz	Jun, 2004	Mama Passarelli's opened
May 24	Brian H. Mead	Jul 4	Robert O. Doyer
		Jul 5	Betty Johnson Blakeney
		Jul 5	William Kombol
		Jul 6	Keith Deaver
		Jul 6	Jean Mitchell Kelly
		Jul 7	Laura J. Trover Shipley

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

***TO THE GENERAL FUND:***

Don & Carmel Camerini  
Rainier Classic Chevy Club  
Henry DeLauro  
Thelma Fisher  
Charla Herlitz  
Pat Holmes  
K-C Food Corp.

Alice J. Morris  
Sara E. Morris  
Robert M. Smith  
David C. Walsh

***TO THE TOUR FUND:***

Carlton A. K. McDonald  
PROBUS Group  
White River Valley Museum  
E. M. Wyke  
Yarrow Bay

**CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE**

## OWEN GRIFFITH

Interred at Black Diamond (WA) Cemetery  
By JoAnne Matsumura

To those who study family history know the importance of searching for the Family Bible for those important names and dates. Some Family Bibles might reveal more than you expected. It happened to us here at the Black Diamond Historic Museum.

The Society has on display several large old Bibles in a showcase. In our work of preservation an examination of the 1874 Welsh Bible revealed the Prayer Card “In Loving Remembrance of Owen Griffith, Died September 20, 1905, Aged 62 Years, Interred at Black Diamond Cemetery, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1905.” The Prayer is printed in Welsh.

Through the kindness of Professor Wyn Thomas at Swansea University in Wales, secured by Louise McNally and her parents, the Prayer was translated. We learned the prayer is of the old Welsh dialect. The prayer in Welsh and English follows.



### Welsh

“Ffarwel I chwi gynt gerais,  
Ni ddaw’ch cwmni, ni ddaw’ch gwedd,  
Ni ddaw’r goreu o’ m cygeillion  
Ond I’ m danfon hyd y bedd.  
Pan ddel angeu, chwi ffowch ymaith.  
Da I mi fod genyf dduw:  
Ffrynd a lyn pan fyddwy’n marw,  
Hwnw garaf tra f’ wyf byw.

### English

“Farewell to all of you whom I previously loved  
Neither your company nor your visage  
Nor the best of all of you my friends  
Can do more than escort me to the grave.  
When death comes you will flee  
It is good. I have God.  
A friend who will stick by me when I die  
It is he I’ll love whilst I live.”

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### CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

#### ***TO THE ARCHIVE PRESERVATION FUND:***

Marsha Mott  
Anna Storrs

#### ***MEMORIAL DONATIONS WERE MADE:***

***IN MEMORY of Anne Welshnig Brennan, Frank Brennan & Monica Brennan*** by Lennie Witt.

***IN MEMORY of Charles Johnson***, by Ethel Johnson.

***IN MEMORY of Mary Cross & Roberta Baltazor Salinas***, by Nancy Baltazor.

***IN MEMORY of Jack Morris***, by Keith & Lois Hamilton.

***IN MEMORY of Wilda Morris***, by Alan & Anna Fern, Keith & Lois Hamilton, Gerald & Nancy Kuzaro, Alice Morris, Palmer Coking Coal Co. and Fred & Patty Weston.

***IN MEMORY of Majorie Dolly Capponi Shuck***, by Audrey Cooky Petchnick Sellman.

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.



## 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 Honorable Mayor, Howard Botts and Mrs. Botts donated Dr. H. L. Botts' desk to the Museum. (This desk belonged to his father.) In our doctor's office display in the Museum, we made room for the desk that Dr. Botts used for many years as he practiced medicine in Black Diamond. (However, it may not look as cluttered as when he used it. Just a guess.)

Lots of folks remember Dr. Botts as he practiced medicine from 1922 until 1963. He was a country doctor that made house calls. Do you remember him?

Please let us know if Dr. Botts treated you for any illnesses or accidents. We would love to hear your stories of the past.





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

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**Look at your address label for  
membership expiration date**

## **Semi-Annual Membership Meeting**

**Sunday April 27th  
1:30 PM**

**Richard R. Anderson of the  
Northwest Railway Museum will  
give a presentation, on the building  
of the  
Northwest Railway Museum**

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**MONTHLY BOARD  
MEETINGS**

**1:00 PM  
3rd Thursday of each month**

**Our email and web address is in  
a transitional state. If the .org  
extension does not work, try .com**

**[blackdiamondmuseum.org](http://blackdiamondmuseum.org)**

**or**

**[blackdiamondmuseum.com](http://blackdiamondmuseum.com)**

**By our next issue of the newsletter,  
we will know which extension we  
will be staying with.**